

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

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www.dailyindependent.com.pk Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vt XXVI No 24, Rabi-ul-Awwal 09, 1446 AH Saturday September 14, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

Army chief reiterates resolve to comprehensively defeat hostile terrorist nexus

COAS visits troops in Orakzai District conducting counter-terrorism activities in Tirah; Commends efforts of police and LEAs in K-P and highlights importance of further enhancing their capabilities

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Friday visited troops in the Orakzai District who had participated in the recent counter-terrorism actions in Tirah Valley and surroundings. The COAS was given a comprehensive briefing on the overall security situation, ongoing intelligence-based counter-terrorism actions and multi-prong measures being undertaken to ensure stability in the merged districts, an Inter Services Public Relations news release said.

In his interaction with officers and troops, the COAS appreciated their high morale and readiness

to give an effective response against all types of threat.

He reiterated the resolve to comprehensively defeat hostile terrorist nexus and eliminate activities in illegal spectrum.

Paying rich tribute to Shuhada and Ghazis of the Army, and LEAs, the COAS said that the hard earned peace achieved with the nation's great sacrifices would be maintained at all costs.

"The sacrifices of our martyrs strengthen our resolve to fight with utmost dedication and spirit of sacrifice."

The Army Chief lauded the contributions being made by the police and law enforcement agencies

(LEAs) in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"The Pak Army will continue to provide all-out support to the KP Police and other LEAs in enabling them to perform their duties in the newly merged districts."

The COAS emphasised the need of continued capacity building of the LEAs.

He also appreciated the support of local population in assisting security forces, noting that their positive role was essential in sustaining peace in the area.

Earlier upon his arrival, the COAS laid the wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada and was received by the Corps Commander Peshawar.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir interacting with the troops, who had participated in the recently conducted counter-terrorism actions in Tirah Valley and surroundings, in Orakzai District.

FIA to probe posts from PTI founder's social media accounts against national security: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Friday said the Federal Investigation Agency would probe into the handling of the PTI founder's social media accounts which were being used to create chaos and anarchy in the country, and undermining the national security.

"He (the PTI founder) should be ashamed of undermining the national security, inciting people for anarchy and committing the sedition," said the minister while talking to the media.

Tarar said the FIA had decided to investigate into the handling of the social media accounts of the jailed PTI founder. It would be ascertained that who is the handler of his social media accounts, and whether such

posts were being made on his behalf or it was done on directives of someone else, he added.

He said a botch attempt had been made to conspire against the sitting chief justice and heads of other institutions. Through these posts, he tried to mobilize the people against two major state institutions which is highly condemnable.

The minister said this conspiracy is destined to fail as his accusations against the interior minister and others had nothing to do with the reality.

The PTI founder had all the facilities like a presidential suit in the jail, but yet he still resorted to attack the state institutions, he said, adding nobody would be allowed to do so at any cost.

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PM Shehbaz stresses Int'l cooperation to address global challenges ahead of key UN summit

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday joined 48 world leaders virtually, to outline their expectations for this month's Summit of the Future in New York, underscoring "effective" international cooperation to address global challenges, including the developing nation's rising debt burdens.

"The Summit of the Future represents a great opportunity. We must not lose it," the Pakistani leader told the virtual live event as part of a global call to action to support the once-in-a-generation UN summit, which begins on 22 September at UN Headquarters.

Over 130 Heads of State and Government are expected to attend the land-

mark event, which will be held just ahead of the annual high-level debate in the UN General Assembly, which opens on Sept 24.

The Summit brings together countries from around the world, marking a critical opportunity for far-reaching agreements on international collaboration for a safer, more sustainable and more equitable world.

At Thursday's live event, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was joined by the President of Namibia, Nangolo Mbumba, and the Chancellor of Germany, Olaf Scholz, as co-facilitators of the preparatory process.

During the two-day Summit, member states are expected to conclude negotiations ahead of adopting the Pact for the Future, which aims to chart a path

toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and respond to emerging challenges and opportunities. It will include a Global Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations.

The SDGs are an internationally agreed set of targets to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

In a video call from Islamabad, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, called for collective efforts to deal with acute world problems, saying, "Today, in times of unprecedented global challenges and escalating conflicts, we are at risk of permanently damaging the notion of 'we'."

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding Monkey Pox.

We want to connect Quetta with big cities of country and abroad: Governor pleased with PIA's initiative of increasing number of flights from Quetta to other big cities of country

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has expressed pleasure over increase in the number of flights from Quetta to Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore by Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

In a statement issued here on Friday, the Governor said that he is pleased to know that PIA is going to increase the number of flights from Quetta to other big cities of the country including Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore as a result of his struggle and wholehearted attention.

He said that the number of flights are being in-

creased to existing four to six between Quetta to Islamabad from September 17, 2024 every week. Similarly, the weekly flights are being increased to four from two for Karachi from Quetta while for Lahore, the flights are being increased from two to three every week.

The Governor maintained that it was in addition to the direct Umrah flights operated from Quetta to Jeddah recently.

He said that we want to connect Quetta with big cities of the country and abroad through continuous flights on cheaper fares, and for the purpose, we are making endeavours.

He said that the basic

objective behind his constant coordination with the federal and provincial authorities to provide relief to the people of Balochistan besides reducing the air fares.

The Governor said that the passengers would get double advantage of the launch of flights from Quetta to other big cities of the country.

They would not only get travelling facilities but it would also help save their precious time and energy, the Governor maintained.

He also said that we are determined to make air travel accessible and easier for the people of Balochistan.

PM chairs high-level review meeting on Mpx situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the current situation and precautionary measures being taken to prevent the spread of Monkeypox (Mpx) in the country.

The prime minister emphasized the importance of vigilance and preparedness, directing authorities to adopt all necessary measures to prevent the virus from spreading within the country. "All necessary precautionary measures should be adopted," the prime minister said directing the officials concerned to raise public awareness about preventive steps.

He said that in 2020, construction was hastily started without proper financing, which further compounded the problems.

The Planning Minister said that during the tenure of the previous government, the cost of the project was estimated at Rs600 billion and even Rs750 billion in various meetings of the standing committees, while on paper, an estimate of Rs480 billion was being shown till date.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, presides over a review meeting on the progress of the Diamer Basha Dam project.

Ahsan Iqbal highlights delays and cost escalation in Diamer Basha Dam Project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Friday chaired a review meeting on the progress of the Diamer Basha Dam project.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary of Planning, Chairman WAPDA, and senior officials of other relevant departments, according to a press release.

During the meeting, Ahsan Iqbal said that the Diamer Basha Dam is a crucial project for Pakistan's water and food security and must be completed expeditiously in the national interest.

He said that in 2018, the estimated construction cost of the Diamer Basha Dam was Rs. 479 billion,

and Rs. 120 billion had already been spent on land acquisition.

However, due to delays and unnecessary postponements during the previous government, the cost of the project has increased significantly.

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KARACHI: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti and central President BNP Awami Mir Israrullah Khan Zehri holding meeting. Provincial Ministers Haji Ali Madad Jattak, MPA Nawabzada Mir Zafarullah Zehri and Mir Sajid Dashti are also present

Mir Sarfraz Bugti Ahmed meets Mir Israrullah Zehri

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti held meeting with the central President of Balochistan National Party (BNP-Awami) and former Federal Minister, Mir Israrullah Zehri in Karachi on Friday.

Also present on the occasion were the Provincial Minister Agriculture, Mir

Ali Madad Jatak, Member Provincial Assembly, Mir Zafarullah Zehri, Mir Sajid Jan Dashti.

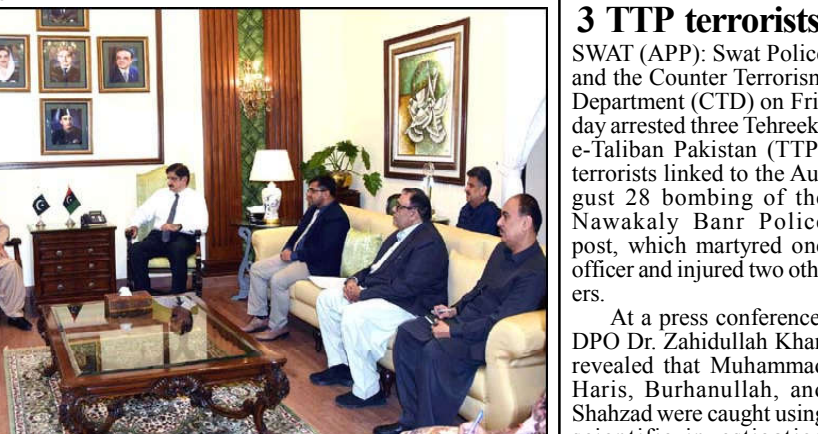
The Chief Minister inquired from Mir Israrullah Zehri and Mir Zafarullah Zehri about the health of their mother.

During the course of meeting, the political and overall situation of the province were also discussed.

Balochistan's Fisheries dept delegation meets Sindh CM

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a meeting with a Fisheries department delegation of Balochistan government led by its parliamentary secretary Barkat Rind discussed collaborative projects aimed at boosting the fisheries sector to improve the livelihood of local fishermen. The delegation members included the Secretary of Fisheries Govt of Balochistan Javed Shehvi and the Director of Fisheries Technical Dr Allauddin. The CM was assisted by his Advisor Livestock & Fisheries Najmi Alam, Secretary Livestock & Fisheries Kazim Jatoti and Secretary to CM Rahim Shaikh.

The fisheries department officials from both provinces highlighted that the use of Gujo-Bulo fishing nets for catching fish was destroying fish seedlings, depleting fish stocks, and leaving fishermen unemployed.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah in a meeting with a delegation from Balochistan Government Fisheries Department led by Barkat Rind, Parliamentary Secretary held at CM House in Karachi.

CM greets Makhdoom Tahir on winning bi-poll of NA-171

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has congratulated the candidate of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Makhdoom Tahir Rasheed on his victory in the bi-election of election constituency of NA-171, Rahim Yar Khan.

In a felicitation statement issued here on Friday, the Chief Minister said that the victory of Makhdoom Tahir Rasheed is actually the success of jiyalas of President Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and those who believe in democracy.

He said that the people not only strengthened democratic process by voting to Makhdoom Tahir, but they also reposed confidence on policies of the party.

Swat Police nab 3 TTP terrorists

SWAT (APP): Swat Police and the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on Friday arrested three Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terrorists linked to the August 28 bombing of the Nawakaly Banr Police post, which martyred one officer and injured two others.

At a press conference, DPO Dr. Zahidullah Khan revealed that Muhammad Haris, Burhanullah, and Shahzad were caught using scientific investigation methods and modern technology, including CCTV footage.

Mobile phone service to remain suspended on 17th: Security arrangements finalized for Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW) in Quetta

Emergency to remain enforced in public sector hospitals; leaves of QMC & district administration employees cancelled; shops & business concerns to be sealed on routes of procession

Independent Report

QUETTA: The security and other necessary arrangements were reviewed and finalized for the processions and gatherings of 12th Rabiul Awwal, Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW) in Quetta city.

In this context, a meeting was held with Deputy Commissioner, Lt. (Retd) Saad bin Asad in the chair the other day.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), SP Security, officers of the Frontier Corps (FC), high ups and representatives of the Quetta Metropolitan Corporation,

WASA, Health Department, traders as well as the religious leaders and representatives of the civil society.

The Deputy Commissioner was briefed about the security of the processions and gatherings to be organized marking the Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW) celebrations in Quetta.

It was informed that the ambulances would be made available by the Health Department along the route of main Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW) procession.

Moreover, a medical camp would also be set up

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QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Education Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani meeting with Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Nausherwani

Six parliamentarians from Balochistan to be honoured for outstanding services

Independent Report

QUETTA (APP): Six parliamentarians from Balochistan would be honoured for their outstanding services and to discuss this, Chairman of Balochistan International Think Tank, Awais Jadoon, met with the Speaker of the Balochistan Assembly, Captain @ Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, in his chamber.

The meeting discussed awarding outstanding parliamentarians with the Quaid-e-Azam International Award, Nelson Mandela Award, and Imam Khomeini Award.

It may be recalled that these awards will be given to members of the assembly for their parliamentary services, human rights efforts, dedication to upholding the rule of law and constitution, establishing de-

mocracy, and working towards solving public issues.

The final selection of names for the awards will be made soon and the selection committee members are currently being considered. Once the committee is formed, nominations will be required to be submitted within a week.

The chairman of the Balochistan International Think Tank, Awais Jadoon, will announce the committee.

These awards are part of the Heroes of Earth series, specifically the Balochistan chapter, aimed at highlighting the outstanding services of parliamentarians to showcase their efforts towards the development and prosperity of the province on an international platform.

President grants relief worth Rs 15.2 m to nine policyholders

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday upheld nine decisions of the Federal Insurance Ombudsman (FIO), directing two insurance companies to pay a collective sum of over Rs 15.2 million to insurance policyholders or their family members.

The president gave these directions while rejecting six representations of EFU Life Assurance Ltd and three representations of Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Ltd, filed against FIO's decisions.

As per the details, it was alleged before FIO that the agents of EFU Life Assurance allured Muhammad Shafiq and Adeeb Roshan, whereas Muhammad Mumtaz Malik, Muhammad Shabbir, and Abid Hussain Khokhar were enticed by the agents of Pak-Qatar

Family Takaful Ltd to invest their monies in profitable schemes, assuring them of monthly returns on their investments.

When they approached the companies concerned for returns or reimbursement of their amounts, the companies rejected their claims.

In other cases, EFU Life Assurance Limited repudiated the death claims filed by the family members of late Ali Haider, Shaikh Ali Hassan, Chand Ali, and Ali Akbar.

Feeling aggrieved, the complainants separately approached the FIO for the redressal of their complaints. The Ombudsman, after hearing their cases, directed the companies to pay a total of Rs 15.2 million to the complainants.

Later, the insurance companies filed separate representations against the

decisions of FIO before the President of Pakistan.

The hearings of the cases were held at Aiwane-Sadr, and since, no legal infirmity was found in the impugned orders of FIO, the representations were rejected.

Consequently, EFU Life Assurance Ltd was directed to pay Rs 3 million to Nazara Bibi, Rs 3,077 million to Noor Hassan, Rs 2,508 million to Naik Muhammad, Rs 796,000 to Kamila Ali, Rs 1,612 million to Muhammad Shafiq, Rs 933,992 to Adeeb Roshan.

Similarly, Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Ltd was also directed to pay Rs 636,456 to Muhammad Mumtaz Malik, Rs 1,319 million to Mr Muhammad Shabbir, and the highest cash value of Rs 1,328 million to Mr Abid Hussain Khokhar.



ORAKZAI: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir is saluting to pay tribute at Yadgar e Shuhada after laying floral wreath at Yadgar e Shuhada at Orakzai District.

FIA to probe posts from PTI...

Continued from page 1

He said the FIA would inquire into this issue and the PTI founder would be investigated in this regard.

The minister said the message posted on the social media from the account of the PTI founder was tantamount to sedition, and creating an anarchy in the country.

He said the PTI founder, in the post, had once again related himself with Sheikh Mujeeb-ur-Rehman, but he seemed to be elusive about the current situation in Bangladesh where the latter's statues were demolished by the people after realizing the truth about history.

The minister said the examples quoted by the PTI founder in his social media

posts were condemnable. "There will be an investigation as to who is running the accounts of the PTI's founder on social media," he noted. The PTI has always targeted journalists, attacked them, launched smear campaigns against them on social media, said the minister, adding this party had completely resisted and discouraged the difference of opinion during their government's tenure.

He called the PTI as "Tehreek-e-Intishar" which always encouraged its workers to resort to accusations, attack and abuse if anybody disagreed with them in any case whatsoever.

The minister recalled the harassment of a female journalist by the PTI during one of its public gatherings in Lahore. Another journalist Sadaf which was hit by a container and got killed during one of the rallies of the PTI founder.

There are multiple instances which reflected their dirty mindset of harassing and assaulting the female journalists, he said, pointing out the most recent badmouthing by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister in a public gathering.

"Being the Information Minister, I believe this is very inappropriate and the entire PTI should apologize unconditionally for the slogans raised in the PTI's recent public gathering, as well as the statements made by KPK CM Ali Amin Gandapur against the female journalists.

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GWADAR: Deputy Commissioner Hamood ur Rehman presiding over review meeting on last date of anti-polio campaign.

PM Shehbaz stresses Int'l...

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The prime minister added, "A collective 'we' requires a degree of equality and justice. The plight of the people of Gaza is a mockery of this 'we'."

"This 'we' becomes marred amidst rising debt burdens for the poor, increasing poverty, growing inequality, intolerance, terrorist violence, illegal foreign occupation, and a skewed approach to climate adaptation."

In this regard, prime minister stressed the need for significant reform of international financial institutions to achieve SDGs, saying it required enhanced concessional financing, increased Official Development Assistance (ODA), and greater lending from Multilateral Development Banks.

"Above all," he added, "we need innovative financial solutions to address debt challenges, including climate debt swaps and equitable debt relief mechanisms."

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif emphasized that technological advancements should be accessible to all, particularly the citizens in the Global South, adding that "Open access to innovations can empower our people."

"At the same time, new technologies require new and effective safeguards to prevent the world from their possible misuse."

Injustices and inequalities, he said, create avenues

for malign actors, particularly in nations grappling with climate vulnerability and high debt, which also face terrorism and disinformation.

"To counter these harms, effective international cooperation is more urgent today than ever before," the prime minister added.

At the outset, Gutierrez, the UN chief, said, "We need greater global solidarity today and with future generations, better management of critical issues of global concern and an upgraded United Nations that can meet the challenges of a new era."

While the summit is just days away, it has taken years of effort to get to this point, he said.

Today's challenges are moving at speeds far too fast for the current tools to solve them due to outdated institutions that are designed for another era and another world, the UN chief warned.

"The Security Council is stuck in a time warp, international financial architecture is outdated and ineffective and we are simply not equipped to take on a wide range of emerging issues," he stated.

Gutierrez underscored the world's ongoing ferocious conflicts, deepened geopolitical divides, the rise of populism and extremism and the crisis levels of poverty among the most pressing issues at a time when the SDGs continue to slip

out of reach.

"Twenty-first-century challenges require twenty-first-century problem-solving institutions," he emphasized, adding that the summit also provides an opportunity to reform the Security Council and international financial architecture.

To achieve the summit's goals, the UN chief is calling on member states to act swiftly, with vision, courage, solidarity and a spirit of compromise to get the three draft agreements "over the finish line."

He praised the UN as a unique platform to convene key stakeholders, especially in times of global upheaval.

The need to address the changing nature of warfare, manage the risks of new technologies and recognize the ongoing climate crisis as a "threat multiplier of insecurity" was also brought to the forefront.

"I appeal to all governments to make sure they are as ambitious as possible to restore the hope and trust we need to address the dramatic challenges of our time with a new global consensus."

Both Namibia's President Mbumba and Germany's Chancellor Scholz helped promote the event as an opportunity to hear member states voices on the highest political level about their aspirations for the Pact for the Future and the summit while also reiterating their hopes for the next generations.

EU Special Envoy on FoRB concludes official visit to Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Envoy for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) outside the European Union (EU), Ambassador Frans van Daele concluded his week-long visit to Pakistan.

FoRB is a key priority for the EU, including in the context of the strategic engagement with Pakistan, said a press release on Friday. During the visit, he met federal and provincial government officials, the Parliament, religious leaders, non-government and civil society organisations, human rights defenders and local communities, to engage and exchange on the state of freedom of religion.



QUETTA: Activists of Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TLB) are holding Jashan-e-Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) rally in connection of 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal coming ahead, at Mannan Chowk in Quetta.

Govt to ensure implementation of minimum wages for nurses, paramedical staff in private hospitals: Attaullah Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Friday informed the National Assembly that the government would fully implement a minimum wage of Rs 37,000 in private hospitals for nurses and paramedical staff.

Responding to a question during the session's question hour, he said that the Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA) had issued directives to all private hospitals to ensure 100% compliance with the minimum wage for nurses and paramedical staff.

The minister said, "At present, nurses are draw-

ing between Rs 30,000 and Rs 50,000, while paramedical staff receive between Rs 20,000 and Rs 30,000."

He assured the assembly that the government would enforce the wage directive within one month following the IHRA's orders and warned that hospitals failing to comply would face strict action.

In response to another question, Tarar mentioned that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had instructed the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NVTTC) to train nurses to meet the growing demand in domestic markets, as well as in the Middle East and Europe.

He said that the NVTTC had been directed to ensure international-standard training and to enhance its capacity for training nurses. He also supported the suggestion to introduce nursing as a subject in educational curricula.

In response to another question, the minister said, "The government has taken significant steps to comprehensively address women's health challenges. These measures include establishing Postpartum Family Planning (PPFP) guidelines and the Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS), which focus on family planning and addressing complications related to pregnancy and

childbirth, to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality."

"Basic Health Units (BHUs) have been upgraded to provide Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC) services around the clock," he added.

"The government has also launched national screening and awareness campaigns for breast and cervical cancer among women. The LHW Strategic Plan (2022-2028) particularly focuses on strengthening primary healthcare services in marginalized, remote, rural, and urban slum communities," he said.

He said, "Pakistan Maternal Nutrition Strat-

egy (2022-2027) is another significant initiative aimed at improving maternal health. The Pakistan Adolescent Nutrition Strategy addresses challenges adolescent girls face, including anaemia, micro-nutrient deficiencies, underweight, and obesity, by promoting healthy eating habits, targeted supplementation, physical activity, hygiene practices, and overall healthy lifestyles."

"The government has also strengthened laws to combat harassment, such as the Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act (2010), helping to prevent mental health crises resulting from harassment," he said.

DC transferred officers on public complaint in Kohlu

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Kohlu, Aqeel Karim Baloch had taken notice of the public complaint and sent a letter to the higher authorities against three heads of different departments being transferred.

DC said that public problems could be solved on a priority basis only by restoring the administrative infrastructure saying that no discount would be given to anyone who was negligent in their duties.

He said that it was the responsibility of department officers to address legal issues of the public in the area so that they could not suffer difficulties.

Security arrangements...

Continued from page 1

at the Bacha Khan chowk, as was informed in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Quetta announced that the mobile phone service would remain suspended on 12th Rabiul Awwal falls on September 17, in Quetta.

In addition to this, all the shops and business concerns would be sealed on the routes of Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW) processions including Shahrah-e-Iqbal, Liaquat Bazaar, Prince road and Fatima Jinnah road.

The FC and police personnel would perform their duties and keep patrolling on the routes of processions.

The walk through gates would also be installed at the main routes of the processions of Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW).

Moreover, the emergency would also remain



HUB: Secretary Law Kaleem Ullah in a meeting with Additional Deputy Commissioner General Ali Raza Khosa regarding revenue affairs during his visit to Hub

DC chairs revenue staff meeting

Independent Report.

MUSA KHEL: A meeting of the revenue staff was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Captain (R) Juma Dad Khan Mandokhel. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Musa Khel Najebeullah Kakar, Tehsildar, Revenue Officer, and representatives of the Patwar circle.

The meeting discussed various matters and made decisions, including:

1. Monthly revenue collection and submission of reports
2. Monitoring of government lands and buildings, and action against illegal occupants
3. Registration of women's rights in inheritance cases
4. Collection of Ushr and agricultural income tax
5. Completion of revenue records and submission of reports
6. Payment of transfer fees through bank challans
7. Holding of revenue courts and submission of monthly reports to the Deputy Commissioner's office

In his address, Deputy Commissioner Captain (R) Juma Dad Khan Mandokhel directed the revenue staff to provide prompt and courteous service to the public, avoid delays in legitimate work, and work with dedication and honesty.

EXTENSION OF OPENING DATE OF TENDER

refer to PRQ No.822/2-09-2024 published in Daily newspapers dated 03.09.2024. Due to Public holiday of Eid Milad-un-Nabi on 17.09.2024, date extension of opening tender for Purchase of Stationery Items for District Police, Quetta (TSE-242508536371) may be advertised/published i.e, Wednesday, 18.09.2024

Please provide one copy of advertisement of news papers to this office for record. 081-9201264/9202356

SSP/Admn: for Dy: Inspector General of Police Quetta

PRQ No.1043/13-09-2024

www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dpr_gob

CANCELLATION

Reference to advertisement published in daily Newspaper under PRQ no 983/10.09.2024. It is informed all the contractors & General Public that NIT called by undersigned and published in daily newspapers vide PRQ no 983/10.09.2024, as well as uploaded on B-PPRA website Tse:242509545903 & Tse:242509545733 is here by cancelled due to Miscalculation in Bill of Quantities

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION ZHOB

PRQ No.1031/13-09-2024

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TENDER NOTICE

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The DIRECTOR ELECTRICITY NORTH, invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates on Percentage Rates, Tender Fee Rs.500/- and Bid Security 2% for each work

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/ Cost
1	HOME SOLAR SYSTEM FOR UC-05 CHINA, UC-06 PONGA, LORALAI PSDP # Z2023.1521 (2024-25) TSE-242509548743	45,000,000
2	HOME SOLAR SYSTEM FOR UC 10 KUCH AMAOZAI UC 11 ZAR KAREEZ LORALAI PSDP # Z2023.1563 (2024-25) TSE-242509548703	45,000,000
3	HOME SOLAR SYSTEM FOR UC 14 ORYAGAI NASRANI, UC 15 ORYAGAI NASRANI-II LORALAI PSDP # Z2023.15635 (2024-25) TSE-242509548753	40,000,000
4	SOLAR HOME SYSTEM FOR UC 01 AZGHARLOON, 02 ZANGIWAL JOGEZAI LORALAI PSDP # Z2023.1559 (2024-25) TSE-242509548693	40,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 40,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-5 and above (Upto 65 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is EE11(I) (Solar). Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee/Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 500 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 03 October, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 03 October, 2024 till 10:30 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:30 AM Address: H#108 shah Nawaz kurd street, sarab link road Phone no: 0812442007 Fax no: 0812442007 Email: ishfaqpr@gmail.com

PRQ No.1033/13-09-2024

DIRECTOR ELECTRICITY NORTH ENERGY DEPARTMENT

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The procurement of works listed below for which Notice Inviting Tender on sealed percentage rates based on CSR 2023 Govt. of Balochistan are invited from interested contractors/Firms with detail terms & conditions given below. The tender fee Rs.1500/- will be deposited through green challan in National Bank of Pakistan Ziarat Branch under the head of account C-02716 (Communication Receipt), EARNEST MONEY 3% of Bid cost in shape of call deposit, DATE OF COMPLETION Up to 30th June 2026 from the date of start and Category C-5 & above for each work.

S.#	NAME OF WORK.	E/COST
1	BT ROAD FROM MAIN QUETTA ROAD TO BARHAMAN TO AHMADOON DISTRICT ZIARAT PSDP NO.1377 Z2024.0308 TSE-242509549023	46.618 M
2	CONSTRUCTION OF BLACK TOP ROAD MANA CROSS TO SASANAK MANA DISTRICT ZIARAT TSE-242509549083	47.619 M
3	CONSTRUCTION OF BLACKTOP ROAD FROM SINJAWI BYPASS TO MAIN ROAD TSE-242509549183	47.619 M

Procurement shall be made under BPPRA Rules 2014 Eligibility of bidders: -Registrations with relevant taxation department i.e. (NTN), Income Tax / Sales Tax Department, Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA) updated. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in Relevant Category Noted Above and Above category and Discipline Code valid for the FY 2024-2025. Experience/Technical soundness required for each work is uploaded on BPPRA web site rate analysis of offered rates. CDR and rate analysis in case of rate offered below 10% of the total cost. JV is Not Allowed. Method of procurement: Single stage, two envelope procedure. Bid Security: The bid must accompany Bid Security in the form of Call Deposit of amount specified above in the name of undersigned from a schedule bank from Contractor title account. If any Fake Call Deposit provided by the firm, the firm will be recommended for blacklisting. Bidding/ Tender Documents. Issuance: Bidding documents will be issued on submission of request by the contractor on his original letter head from the date of publication of advertisement in Newspapers on presentation of requisite documents as required in basic eligibility criteria i.e. Tender Fee (Nonrefundable in shape of green challan under head C-02716, Bid Security / Earnest Money (in the shape of call deposit from the account of firm, the call deposit amount must be deposited by contractor's Firm / Title account), valid Pakistan Engineering Council Certificate, Income Tax Certificate (NTN), registration from BRA etc. (In original). The tender form will not be issued to any attorney holders of the contractors in any case. However, the partners and representatives of firm by producing their legal documents i.e. partnership deed or firm certificates that he is the office bearer and is on the pay role of firm (duly attested by 1st Class Magistrate only) can participate. The power of attorney will be acceptable for specific work only. Submission: - Last date of submission of bids (Technical / Financial) will be 30th September, 2024 at 12:00 PM Opening: - The Tender (Technical Bids) will be opened on 30th September, 2024 at 1:00 PM before procurement committee in the presence of Contractors or their authorized representatives online on BPPRA web site and for (Financial Bids) opening date will be announced at that time. The bid security (CDR) of technically non-responsive bidders shall be returned within 30 days of declaration of their bid as non-responsive. Bid validity Period: Ninety Days (90 days) Downloading of bidding documents from BPPRA website, the bidder / firm must provide required document separately uploading on web site of this office BPPRA ID before submission of bids. An affidavit shall be provided on non-Judicial Stamp Paper of Rs.100/- that the applicant has never been black listed. The applicant shall also provide an undertaking to the effect that all documents / particulars / information given with this bidding document are true / correct. All documents / proof provided by the Contractors / Firms will be verified from concerned authorities / department.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (ROAD) CW PP&H District Ziarat

PRQ No.1045/13-09-2024

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ISLAMABAD: A delegation of young parliamentarians calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

SSDO organizes capacity building workshop on migration governance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO), with support from the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), successfully conducted a two-day intensive workshop focused on strengthening migration governance and combating Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) including trafficking in person and smuggling of migrants.

The training brought together around 40 participants, including parliamentarians and policymakers from Punjab.

This initiative aimed to foster a deeper understanding of the legal and policy frameworks surrounding migration, Trafficking in Persons (TIP), and the Smuggling of Migrants (SOM) while enhancing the

capacity of key stakeholders to develop and implement robust legislative and governance strategies.

The training began with an opening session led by Executive Director of SSDO, Syed Kausar Abbas who warmly welcomed participants and outlined the objectives of the workshop. He set the stage by highlighting the importance of a coordinated approach in tackling irregular migration and organized crime.

He highlighted the critical role of parliamentary oversight in ensuring the effective implementation of legal frameworks, urging lawmakers to hold the government accountable for upholding migration governance standards. Abbas further called for

strengthening collaboration between parliament, civil society, and enforcement agencies to address these complex challenges.

The session was graced by remarks from Director General of the Anti Money Laundering Authority, Dr. Ehsan Sadiq and Deputy British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Andrew Dalgleish.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Ehsan Sadiq highlighted the complexities surrounding Transnational Organized Crime and Irregular Migration in Pakistan, outlining the key issues and challenges. He stressed the urgent need for stronger enforcement mechanisms and enhanced international cooperation to dismantle criminal networks preying on vulnerable populations.

Ayaz Sadiq inaugurates calligraphic exhibition

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Friday inaugurated the calligraphic exhibition of the names of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Serat Mahal Book Corner in the Library of National Assembly at Parliament House.

Addressing the participants on the occasion, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said, "The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is the Mercy for the whole universe, Humanity and other creature."

He added that the noble model and unmatched nobility of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) are a beacon of light for all of us.

The Speaker said that success in this world and the hereafter is dependent upon following the excellent deeds of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

He also underscored that the teachings of the Prophet teach us brotherhood, peace, justice, and service to humanity.

Ayaz Sadiq said, "In this blessed month, we need to remember the teachings of the Prophet and implement these teachings in our lives."

PPP chief felicitates Makhdoom Tahir on his victory in by-polls

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has congratulated Makhdoom Tahir Rashiduddin on his resounding victory in the NA-171 Rahim Yar Khan by-election. In a statement issued by the Media Cell Bilawal House, he expressed his delight over the victory and praised the people of Rahim Yar Khan for placing their trust in the leadership of the PPP.

He also thanked the PPP workers, local leadership, and supporters for their tireless efforts in securing this success.

"This victory reflects the people's confidence in the PPP's vision for a progressive, inclusive, and democratic Pakistan," he said. Bilawal Bhutto said that Makhdoom Tahir Rashiduddin's win was not just a triumph for the party but also for the people of Rahim Yar Khan, who have chosen progress over regression and development over hollow promises.

"This mandate reminds us of our responsibility to serve the people with honesty, integrity, and transparency," he added. He also emphasized the party's commitment to addressing the needs of the people, ensuring good governance.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Calligraphy Exhibition in connection to celebrate the Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) at Parliament House.

HEC, Pink Ribbon join hands to create breast cancer prevention awareness

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan and Pink Ribbon Pakistan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on raising awareness about breast cancer in educational institutions across the country.

Pakistan has the highest prevalence of Breast Cancer in the whole of Asia with over 10 million women are at risk of Breast Cancer while more than 40,000 women die from this disease every year in Pakistan. The situation presents an alarming picture with a dire need to create mass awareness of breast cancer.

HEC and Pink Ribbon Pakistan will celebrate the whole month of October marked as 'PINKtober' to create awareness on the prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of Breast

Cancer across the country. An awareness campaign will be launched to educate university students on Breast Cancer. A wide range of awareness activities will be conducted in educational institutes as part of the campaign to mobilize the youth and help them become the torchbearers to spread the word in society.

HEC aspires to save every mother, sister, wife and daughter in Pakistan from the havoc of Breast Cancer and urges everyone to play their role in the fight against this deadly disease.

The signing ceremony was held at HEC Secretariat in Islamabad. Managing Director, National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE), Noor Anna Malik and CEO of Pink Ribbon Pakistan, Omer Aftab signed the agreement. Executive Director of HEC, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum

graced the occasion as chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum said, "We believe that by engaging educational institutions, we can significantly reduce the stigma associated with this disease and promote a culture of awareness and prevention."

Noor Anna Malik emphasized the importance of this partnership, stating that cases of breast cancer are increasing in the country and it is essential for our higher education sector to play an active role in promoting awareness.

"Through this MoU, we aim to equip students, faculty, and communities with the knowledge needed to fight this disease," she added. Pink Ribbon Pakistan also agreed to provide breast cancer diagnostic and treatment support to the staff of HEC at both the head office and regional offices in their respective cities.



ISLAMABAD: Syed Ahmad, CEO, DPL and Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry, CEO, NPO in a group photo with participants of international workshop.

Space technology essential for socio-economic stability of country: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said the development in space technology was essential for socio-economic stability of the country.

Economy of the future depends on technology and continuity of policy was necessary for national development, he said.

He said this while visiting the SPARCO Pakistan Space Program here.

He said this project is a milestone in countries history and continuity of policies is indispensable for a stable economy.

He said that economic stability in the country was the top priority of the government and Space technology had a key role in the

country's development. Ahsan said the government should take steps to bring innovation in technology in the country and space technology is associated with all spheres of life.

He said that space technology helped reduce the cost of projects and complete them on time. Pakistan has not been able to achieve the economic goals that other countries have achieved due to the continuity of their policies.

He said that geo-spatial technology helps in dealing with natural disasters and space technology has an important role to play in meeting the challenges faced by sectors like climate change, resource monitoring and disaster management.

Senator Abro seeks justice for Jacobabad polio worker

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Saifullah Abro of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf on Friday urged the Senate Deputy Chairman to issue directions to the quarters concerned to ensure justice for a polio worker who was allegedly raped after being abducted in the Jacobabad District.

Speaking in the Senate during the question hour, Senator Abro said the polio disease was surging in the country and the workers had to visit far-flung areas for vaccinating the children against the disease.

IRSA releases 215,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 215,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 190,700 cusecs.

The Prime Minister's Focal Person on Polio Eradication Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq Friday launched an unrelenting war on polio, vowing to leave no stone unturned in the quest to vanquish this debilitating disease from Pakistan's soil once and for all.

In an exclusive talk with a Private news channel, she reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to eradicating polio from the country as aggressive steps were being taken to achieve this goal, including intensified vaccination campaigns, enhanced surveillance and strengthened coordination with provincial authorities.

Senator Farooq also reiterated the crucial role of public cooperation in this endeavour, appealing to citizens to join hands with the government in its efforts to wipe out this debilitating disease.

Green-I, II, Sky Garden housing projects be completed by December 2025: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Housing and Works, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, informed the National Assembly on Friday that the Green One, Green Two, and Sky Garden housing projects are progressing well and are expected to be completed by December 2025.

During the question hour, he invited assembly members to visit the project sites, assuring them that arrangements could be made for them to accompany ministry officials during such visits.

Addressing another query, the minister clarified that no final decision has been made regarding the future of Pakistan Public Works Department (PWD) employees.

He assured the assembly that these employees remain government servants and that their jobs are not at risk. There will be no unjust treatment towards them.

He also mentioned that a legislative amendment is being prepared to address any changes concerning the PWD. He said that no definitive decision will be made until the bill is presented and approved in the Assembly.

Action against alms-seeking in ICT; 23 arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP): The district administration of Islamabad, led by Assistant Commissioner Rural, has arrested 23 persons from different areas of the Federal Capital involved in professional begging. The arrests took place within the jurisdictions of Lohibir, Sahala, Kural, and Hamak police stations, said the spokesman of ICT administration. The arrested beggars were taken to the police station. Meanwhile, minors found begging were sent to the Edhi Center for care and rehabilitation. DC Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, emphasized the need for stronger measures against professional beggars.

Three arrested for acid attack on woman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police have on Friday successfully arrested three suspects, including a woman, in connection with an acid attack on a young woman within the jurisdiction of Shalimar Police Station.

According to a police spokesperson, the incident occurred on September 4 in the F-10 area, where the three accused threw acid on the victim and subsequently went into hiding.

He said Inspector General (IG) police, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, responded promptly by forming a special police team.

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ISLAMABAD: A health worker administers a polio vaccine drop to a baby girl during the door-to-door campaign of the Pakistan Polio Eradication Program in the federal capital.

'Legal reforms' vital for country's progress: Aqeel

ISLAMABAD (APP): Advisor to the Prime Minister on Legal Affairs Barrister Aqeel Malik Friday emphasized that "legal reform" is a constitutional right of the government which is essential for driving positive change and progress where opposition should support this endeavor instead of making it a political issue.

In an exclusive talk with Private news, the Advisor to the Prime Minister on Legal Affairs pointed out that the government's legal reform agenda is designed to promote national betterment and improve the lives of citizens.

He encouraged all stakeholders to work together to support this initiative and create a more just and equitable society.

Barrister Aqeel Malik

has called upon the opposition to play a constructive role in the legal reform process.

He suggested that instead of politicizing the issue, the opposition should offer suggestions and ideas to improve the reform agenda.

Malik emphasized that the government is willing to use the parliamentary platform to bring about reforms.

He encouraged the opposition to utilize this platform to propose amendments and improvements to the reform bills, rather than resorting to politicking.

Malik urged all stakeholders to prioritize the national interest and work towards a common goal of strengthening the country's legal framework.

Suspect killed during shootout while attempting to free accomplices

ISLAMABAD (APP): A suspect was killed during a shootout on Japan Road, in the jurisdiction of Karpa Police Station, while trying to free his accomplice escape last night.

According to police spokesperson the incident occurred while police team were taking the accused Hamidullah Afghani, for recovery who was under custody and facing multiple charges.

He said when the police team were getting out of the vehicle with Afghani, four assailants on two motorcycles suddenly opened fire.

During the surprise attack, two police officers came under fire but were protected due to their precautionary measures, he said.

Ayesha vows to leave no stone unturned in polio fight, urges parents to cooperate

ISLAMABAD (APP): "By working together, Pakistan can overcome the challenges posed by polio and ensure a healthier future for its children," she stressed.

Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq emphasized the urgent need to re-educate people about the critical importance of polio vaccination. She stressed that hiding children from polio drops is a significant obstacle to eradication efforts.

"To address Polio, this year's first nationwide polio campaign will continue until September 17th. Two additional national emergency drives will be conducted before the end of December," she announced.

"Intensive efforts will focus on re-educating parents and caregivers about the safety and efficacy of polio vaccines. This will involve addressing misconceptions and concerns that lead to vaccination hesitancy."

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ISLAMABAD: A view of heavy shipping containers removing from D-chowk with the help of heavy machinery, in the Federal Capital.



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Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Saturday September 14, 2024

Monetary easing

Continuing ongoing monetary easing, the State Bank has slashed its key policy rate by 200bps from 19.5pc to 17.5pc for the third time since June. Cumulatively, the bank has sliced the interest rates by 450bps from the decade-high of 22pc in three months.

The fresh reduction in the borrowing costs shows the central bank's confidence over recent economic stability amid hopes that the IMF Board would approve the new loan programme by the end of this month. The rate cut was widely anticipated amid a sharp drop in headline inflation to a single digit in August, and growth in the delta between the current CPI reading and the SBP's policy rate to 10 percentage points.

The surprise in the policy decision was the quantum of the rate reduction. The bank said its decision was informed by the sharp fall in both headline and core inflation. The faster disinflation, resulting from a delay in the implementation of the planned increase in the administered domestic energy prices, as well as the decline in global oil and food prices has somewhat exceeded SBP expectations.

Additionally, the rate cut is driven by a sharp fall in global oil prices despite market volatility, stable SBP forex reserves at around \$9.5bn in spite of weak official inflows and continued debt repayments, and improvement in inflation expectations and business confidence. Still, the quantum of the latest rate cut is believed to have been dictated by a large decline in the secondary market yields of government securities.

While there is no uncertainty about continued monetary easing over the next few reviews, experts are divided on the extent of future rate cuts and the pace at which these should be done. The delta between inflation and policy rate suggests another couple of sharp rate cuts in November and December. But if future monetary policy is to continue focusing on maintaining positive real interest rates to lower inflation to the 5pc-7pc target by the end of next September and ensure macroeconomic stability, the pace of future rate cuts would have to be slowed down.

The SBP itself has underlined that the near-term inflation outlook is susceptible to risks. Core inflation is still high and consumers' inflation expectations increasing further. Also, there is uncertainty stemming from the timing and magnitude of adjustments in administered energy prices, the future course of global commodity prices, and any additional taxation measures to meet the shortfall in revenue collection.

On balance, the bank's view is that average inflation will fall below the forecast range of 11.5pc-13.5pc for FY25. But this will depend on targeted fiscal consolidation and the timely realisation of planned external inflows. Thus, it would be prudent to first evaluate how enduring the plunge in inflation is before slashing the rate further.

Shahab Usto

The government seems to have developed a firm belief in the efficacy of a 'military solution' to every malaise that afflicts state and society. No wonder, then, that the military's footprints are increasingly visible in every area, be it policymaking or execution. The outsourcing of core government functions has been the norm for many years now, but it has consistently failed to help bring political stability, economic sustenance or even a measure of internal security or regional peace. How will it work this time around, when the state seems to have been sucked deep into a whirlwind of all-round crises?

Historically, militaries played a major role in times when international codes and municipal laws were secondary to imperial or nationalistic ambitions. The armed forces were critical to empire-building projects, for example. They conquered foreign lands and earned glory and booty for the realm. But later, as human societies progressed through a host of evolutionary milestones — including

the Enlightenment, Reformation, Industrial Revolution, political freedoms, adult franchise, and constitutionalism — the concept of a national democratic state evolved and the role of the armed forces was constitutionally confined to national security and strategic matters.

This did not mean the state's military component became irrelevant. On the contrary, the most powerful democracies remained great military powers. However, their military was made subject to civilian control. In fact, the very nature, role and functions of the state underwent a 'course correction'; first in Europe, and then in North America and elsewhere. The modern state is no more a mediaeval monolithic structure, but a composite of many conceptual and structural ingredients, such as fixed territorial boundaries, a representative political system, citizens as political sovereigns, the separation of powers, civilian supremacy, and a rules-based classification of institutional functions.

A rules-based, representative political order, peaceful and smooth trans-

fer of power, and civilian control over the armed forces are now the three distinguishing features of a functional democracy. Besides the West, a host of other developing countries — particularly in Latin America and Asia — have successfully established such democratic polities.

Unfortunately, we, as a state and society, are still struggling to affect this long-due course correction. Our political and state elites continue to obsess over a rusty and disastrous model of statehood cast in Praetorian tradition. The resulting overlap of, and incompatibility between, the civil and military power centres has led to a string of conflicts and failures — constitutional, economic and societal.

Our course correction became due in the 1950s, when our fledgling democracy's core functions first began to slip from the hands of an embattled body of politicians to a well-organised military-bureaucratic power base.

True, the civilians' failure was due to their infighting, myopia and opportunism, but the ambitious generals also played their hand

well. They used the 'Red Scare' to win over Western patrons, and 'Indian hostility' to build and run a 'security' state. Thus, barring some 'civilianised' interludes, the military was able to dominate state and governance, either directly or indirectly.

However, the country has paid a heavy cost for this aberrant order. Half of it was lost to a fratricidal war, and the other half is virtually grounded with a divisive polity, broken economy, spiralling violence, and an increasingly disillusioned citizenry. It badly needs a leadership that can rise to the occasion, forge a new vision, galvanise its intellectual and political assets, and navigate society out of fear and despondency. Alas, the mainstream leadership — which has virtually dominated national politics for more than four decades — stands hopelessly divided. Ironically, their political divisions are not rooted in some irreconcilable ideological or conceptual divergence; in fact, rival leaderships have formed an unspoken consensus on broader economic and political fundamentals. For instance, both have embraced

the virtues of a neoliberal economic agenda, and both have vied to be more 'acceptable' to the security establishment, which they consider to be the 'real' fountainhead of power. Their mutual antipathy is traceable only in the reality of their respective relationships with the establishment. While the ruling coalition is enjoying a blissful stint in power after outsourcing the system to the establishment, its principal rival, the PTI, notwithstanding its founder's 'revolutionary' rhetoric, remains in a state of animated suspension. It has been keeping its doors open for some kind of rapprochement with the powers that be to get itself out of its present predicament.

Thanks to a perfidious leadership — political and institutional — the state's physical and moral foundations are in peril. It is beset with complex institutional, structural, and identity- and faith-related problems which are beyond 'military solutions'. It must restore its constitutional dispensation to its true form and substance. Only a genuinely representative, cleaner, accountable, and legitimate

political order can usher in political stability, public security, economic progress and, above all, a fresh breed of modern-era politicians. Recycling old brands and reusable ideas won't work. Things have gone too far.

For a start, the political leadership must bury the hatchet and focus on at least three areas of immediate concern. First, the faltering economy, which is fatally affecting the common citizen and generating anger and a sense of alienation among the people. Second, the rule of law and social justice in the country, particularly in KP and Balochistan, where people are facing the brunt of the state's misguided policies. Last, the judiciary, which has once again come under attack. Efforts are afoot to 'dilute' the strength of independent judges and create a compliant and toothless court.

Let us forget, countries have both fallen and risen at the hands of their political leadership. Our country is also standing on the cusp. Let us see whether our political leadership's prudence and gravitas can salvage it, or if their myopia and opportunism take it under. -- Courtesy Dawn

Course correction

Trapped in a cul-de-sac

Faisal Bari

Pakistan is currently facing many crises. Some have even referred to these times as a period of 'polycrisis'. The economic situation has been bad for a number of years now and there seem to be no short- to medium-term solutions. The political crisis is more deeply entrenched. Institutional degradation makes it difficult to find tools to address some of the crises. Poor outcomes in health and education imply that our ability to respond to crises and move to a 'sustained high-growth' path is that much more unlikely. Climate change and environmental degradation are also posing serious threats to the country.

But even more alarming is the fact that we have a very divided citizenry. Geographic, ethnic, religious, political, social and economic differences and inequalities have deepened over the decades, making it very difficult for 'common ground' to exist. The holding of parades and the re-

lease of patriotic videos/songs does not mean 'one nation'. Forcing people to study Pakistan Studies or Ideology of Pakistan as compulsory subjects does not address the issue either. On the contrary, it speaks to the desperation being felt in some quarters about divisions and differences.

Institutions have lost the trust of a large number of people. Partisanship trumps citizenship and the commonalities of experience and being. And it is no longer restricted to minority groups and/or geographical peripheries. It is the story of most people, and people who used to provide the bulk of support to the mainstream narrative previously.

People used to think that press conferences were a way of individuals/institutions giving their side of the story and information to people, while journalists could force some accountability through their questions and probing follow-ups. Is there anyone around who still thinks

that? Are interactions with the press taken at face value, as information and narrative dissemination mechanisms anymore? And by anyone? People do not follow press interactions anymore. If they do, they see them as indicating the latest moves in partisanship. No institution or individual is believed to be telling the truth. Journalists who ask questions are either planted 'friends' or 'enemies', who have been able to sneak into the interaction, depending on whether he/she asks a 'friendly' or 'hostile' question. Public office is the bully pulpit for getting the state narrative out.

Given the lack of trust that most have against most, if not all against all, it is hard to see how Pakistan is going to move forward to address the polycrisis. For the last year or so, we have seen that most political players, parties or state institutions that are involved in the political fray, cannot even bring themselves to talk to each other let alone work out

common ground or move towards mutual collaboration. If people cannot talk to each other, do not talk to each other, and do not want to talk to each other, how are solutions, for the substantial and existence-threatening crises we face to be thought about, worked out and tried out?

Collaboration and cooperation are not the only way of moving forward, of course. And this is, in many ways, becoming an issue now. Different collectives have different levels of power, and their power varies by issue as well. Besides, the perceptions of power of different groups, their own perceptions of their power, and the perceptions of other people and groups about the power that various groups have also vary. If a group or some groups feel they have enough power and/or legitimacy to force their point of view, their incentives for collaboration and cooperation go down. This is as true for families and corporate settings as it is for groups. If people feel they do not

need the cooperation of others for a certain outcome, they will be less willing to look for cooperation; forcing the issue will be acceptable to many of them.

The establishment has had the power to force things in Pakistan so far. Whether they did so openly through martial laws or from behind the scenes, by managing other institutions and political parties and leaders (this has been lately described as a 'hybrid regime'), they have had the power and have been using it. But over time, they have also lost a lot of power and legitimacy. Where in the past, most groups felt they had to compromise and adapt to or adopt what was being offered by the establishment, some groups and political parties as well as other entities now think they do not have to compromise and can try and resist the establishment's power to force things. In some ways, this has created the situation in which we find ourselves today.

But the problem seems to be that where

other groups have doubts about the power of the establishment and see possibilities of being able to resist its will in some areas and on some questions, most of the top players in the establishment still seem to think they have the power to force issues, and therefore, do not see the need to explore collaboration or cooperation. Which squarely puts us, the nation, into a cul-de-sac.

The polycrisis needs cooperation and collaboration involving a wide array of actors and interest groups if we are to be able to address it. But levels of trust, across groups, seems to be at an all-time low. It is also true that the establishment still seems to think it can force some groups to compromise and others to conform and acquiesce, and so does not see the need for collaboration. But some groups believe they can resist the pressure from the establishment. This leads to a stand-off, making it hard to see how Pakistan and Pakistanis can move forward from here.

Privatisation myth

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

Beyond sensational late-night arrests of opposition MNAs, impunity for abductors and unending intrigue, there is a remarkable degree of continuity and consistency in how the Pakistani ruling class rules.

Working people and ethnic peripheries are of secondary importance to all who occupy the corridors of power; their primary concern is to appease big creditors and foreign investors.

Which is why former finance minister Ishaq Dar's unveiled dig at the IMF is somewhat amusing. Let's be honest: all bourgeois parties seek only to secure a share of the piece in the debt-ridden, militarised structure of power, so much so that policymaking is akin to farce. Whoever is in the seat of government reproduces the same tired economic policy prescriptions. There is no bigger example of this than the privatisation mantra.

The present turbo-charged hybrid regime has followed the previous one in depicting privatisation of 'sick' state-owned enterprises as a panacea for our economic woes, an initiative, Mr Dar should be reminded, is entirely consistent with the IMF's agenda.

The argument is simple: SOEs offer poor quality services while draining the public exchequer, so sell them off to the private sector and all will be well.

PIA is at the top of the chopping block. But there are many government departments either slated for sale or touted for a rechristening. Take PWD for example, which is to be abolished and replaced by a new infrastructure authority which will likely be a handmaiden of FWO. There are dozens of other

public institutions that will, to use established policy-speak, be downsized or rightsized.

Let's start with big fish like PIA. While airline travel is not the best example of truly public transport, it is nevertheless true that PIA used to offer highly subsidised fares to destinations like Gilgit and Gwadar.

Did this represent a burden on the public exchequer? It did, but then public services are not supposed to be subjected to the logic of profit-maximising capitalist firms. More generally, PIA's performance and finances have not nosedived because it is state-owned; it can be argued that its financial plight is at least partially explained by the short-termism of the highly paid foreign consultants and executives hired over the past two decades precisely to fix the airline's woes.

In the case of Pakistan Railways, financial woes are even easier to trace: until the 1980s, PR had a monopoly on freight traffic. In 1982, the National Logistics Cell was created, and a road-building frenzy was initiated that continues to this day. The NLC has now totally displaced PR in freight. The Railways' passenger service was always subsidised by its cargo revenues.

Moving on to PTCL: when the enterprise was forcibly privatised under the Musharraf dictatorship, it was one of the most profitable enterprises in the country. In almost 20 years since, there has never been a marked improvement in PTCL's services, nor has its share value recovered to what it was in 2005. Arguably, the most notable fact is that it was sold to Etisalat, the UAE's state-owned telecom company.

I could give more examples — of private sector IPPs that have run riot

in the power sector, or local commercial banks that dole out cheap credit with reckless abandon, fuelling conspicuous consumption in cars and real estate, thus reinforcing jobless growth that accompanies the 'privatise everything' mantra loved by both our own economic czars and omnipotent creditors.

But I will save the last word for the long-suffering ethnic peripheries, where a hybrid privatisation of land, forest, water and minerals — a true enclosure of the commons — takes all manner of hybrid forms, depriving indigenous populations of even a modicum of the benefits of what our rulers call 'development'.

Reko Diq, Saindak, Gwadar, Sindh's coal islands, Thar, the mountains of Gilgit-Baltistan, the Pakhtun tribal districts, Swat, Dir, Kohistan and so many more are literally up for grabs; the nexus of foreign firms, the establishment and local big men pillage at will, sometimes by signing formal contracts and at other times through sheer gangsterism.

The case of Reko Diq is astonishing — a reckless contract award to one multinational company resulted in a fine of \$6 billion, only for the government to turn around and promise a concession for the mine to another multinational company.

They call it privatisation to make it sound like the state and private sector are somehow at odds. In fact, both are engaged in what Marx called primary accumulation, an inherently violent process that is becoming more brazen by the day. Neither our own ruling class nor its foreign patrons have any interest in taming the particularly exploitative and brutal nature of the beast that is Pakistani capitalism. -- Courtesy Dawn

Community service

Amin Valliani

Throughout Pakistan's history, we have experienced numerous crises. We have fought wars on different fronts, and faced natural calamities, political upheavals, displacements and economic meltdowns. During these crises, the nation as a whole has come forward to help those affected directly and indirectly. The nation has shown an immense sense of community service during these trying times. However, this spirit remains transitory and limited; we lack the sense of community service in more 'normal' times.

Community service is one of the fundamental requirements of Islamic teachings. Islam enjoins believers to remain active in serving the community. The Holy Quran mentions "...And do not forget liberality between yourselves. Truly, Allah is All-Seer of what you do" (2:237). Therefore, there remains a constant need to inculcate a sense of community service.

The Holy Quran exemplifies the role of Hazrat Yusuf when Egypt faced a long-term famine situation. Hazrat Yusuf distributed food to his people. This example underlines the importance of social service.

Life is admittedly difficult and busy nowadays, with everyone trying to make two ends meet. But one can spare a few moments for community service. Working for the welfare of others is a sure key to improving oneself.

We can address many problems through community service. One such problem that needs immediate attention is the problem of climate change. Human activities are the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fos-

sil fuels like coal, oil and gas, etc. We can mitigate the effects of climate change by growing more and more trees in all the big and small cities of Pakistan under the umbrella of community service.

Growing more trees and making our land greener is a fit answer to climate change. Trees provide safety in heatwaves and harsh weather. They are amongst the greatest signs of nature. They protect creatures from extreme heat, while providing essential ecosystems. Trees release large amounts of oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide, reduce risks from floods and landslides, and increase environmental resilience to climate change. Beyond sequestering greenhouse gases, they offer multiple services vital for planetary health and human well-being, including water, clean air, food, biodiversity habitats, and recreational spaces.

Tree plantation can be linked to the education system of the country. The federal government has recently launched the Green Pakistan Initiative to mitigate the adverse effect of climate change. If students are engaged and assigned a role to make the country greener by planting more and more saplings everywhere, it would be a great service to Pakistan. They may be encouraged with an award or extra marks appreciating their efforts in nation-building. This needs to be made a permanent feature of the curriculum.

Our students spend a number of years in school, college and university, where they learn about many subjects. Along with theoretical knowledge, they need to be involved practically in nation-building. It is obvious that many students are under pressure during examinations and are

made to run behind marks and grades, leaving little or no room for community service. In essence, academic learning must be interwoven with meaningful community service so that classroom knowledge can be implemented in a real-world setting.

On a visit to rural Sindh, I found a school where students were busy in a plantation drive. Each student has been allocated a particular space to plant coconut palm trees. All students wholeheartedly participated in the drive. I was told that once the trees are mature and fruit-bearing, the school will reap sufficient funds from them.

Such schemes can be tailor-made and replicated as a part of the state-sponsored Green Pakistan Initiative in all schools. Schools may be assigned certain areas, streets or localities to plant trees with care till they are fully mature and self-supportive. At the end, the schools may be declared successful if they have achieved their target of plantation. In this way, the students would become a part of the plantation drive.

This is one form of community service which students can offer under the patronage of their respective schools. This will make students realise that they are caretakers of the earth and are responsible for safeguarding its beauty.

They will also be mobilised against environmentally unsound and unhealthy practices that are detrimental for the planet. Planting trees will prove a memorable feature of these students' lives. This will also be an opportunity for schools to declare the exercise a part of extracurricular activities, thus creating a lasting impact on the minds of students. -- Courtesy Dawn

CM Murad, UNRC discuss ongoing, future support to meet climate change challenges

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and a delegation of the United Nations in Pakistan, led by its Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (UNRC) Mohamed Yahya discussed ongoing and future collaboration and support between the provincial government and the UN to meet the challenges of climate change in their meeting at the CM House.

The UN Coordinator acknowledged the contributions of the Sindh government in providing an enabling environment to UN agencies and their partners in carrying out interventions in the province by the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, which is an agreement

between the UN in Pakistan and the government to work on key areas aligned with the country's development.

The CM said that the Sindh government has recently notified a Provincial Steering Committee to oversee and guide the implementation of the framework at the provincial level.

The UN in Pakistan has allocated \$4.7 billion, as well as its expertise and resources, to working in five key priority areas – Basic Social Services, Climate Change and Environment, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Inclusive Economic Growth, and Governance.

The CM and the UN coordinator discussed the long-term strategic

visioning and proper implementation of the Sindh Comprehensive Growth Strategy and Poverty Reduction Strategy. The UN has a significant presence in Sindh with interventions encompassing health, education, livelihoods, poverty alleviation, nutrition, enterprise development and climate-resilient agriculture and water management, Shah said.

UNRC Yahya expressed appreciation for the housing project for flood-affected people. He mentioned that he had visited the houses constructed in Sujawal and emphasized the need for donor agencies to provide more facilities for the inmates of flood-resilient houses.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Secretary General International Maritime Organization Arsenio Antonio and other officials cutting the cake during the International Maritime Sustainability Exhibition & Conference Pakistan-IMSEC2024 at a local hotel.

Governor KP emphasizes agriculture's role in provincial development

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Friday highlighted the crucial role of agriculture in the development of the province.

The Governor said this during dinner organized by the All Pakistan Fruit and Vegetable Market Association here, that was attended by President Malik Sohni, MPA Arbab Zarak, and other notable guests.

Governor Kundi said that fruits and vegetables are not only beneficial for health but also play a significant role in the country's economy.

He emphasized that Pakistan, being an agricultural country, relies heavily on its agricultural sector, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where a diverse range of fruits and vegetables are grown. Unfortunately, Kundi remarked, those in charge of the province seem more concerned about their own interests rather than the welfare of the agricultural sector.

He further said that the integration of traditional farming practices with modern techniques could enhance agricultural productivity and stabilize local markets. This diversity is also vital for local culture and food security.

The Governor assured that he would play a key role in addressing the issues raised.

Earlier, President Malik Sohni presented several demands, including the need for development work in markets where traders and commission agents are paying taxes without seeing corresponding improvements.

He also demanded the reopening of the Pak-Afghan border at Torkham, which has been closed for a month, causing significant financial losses. Additionally, Sohni called for the relocation of the fruit and vegetable market in Lahore, which is affecting traders from Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, to a more suitable location.

He also requested that the salaries of market committee staff in Peshawar and Dera Ismail Khan be processed through the Accountant General of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

KP waiting for Center's reply on regularization of NCP vehicles: Saif

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor on Information Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif on Friday said the province was waiting for a reply from the Federal Government over suggestions to regularize the non-custom-paid (NCP) vehicles.

In a statement issued to the media, he said the matter of regularization of NCP vehicles in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was waiting for a decision from the Federal Government adding that as soon as the suggestions forwarded by the KP government were approved, work on regularization of NCP vehicles will start in the province.

Saif further said that there were proofs that NCP vehicles have also been used in terrorist activities, adding that with the registration of these vehicles the owner of the vehicle, used in subversive activity, will easily be identified. The registration of these vehicles, he added, will also generate a hefty revenue for the provincial government.

Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur had approved the suggestions for the regularization of NCP vehicles before sending them to the Center for approval.

Barrister Saif informed that the KP government had suggested regularization of over 0.2 million NCP vehicles plying on roads in Merged Districts and Malakand Division. Besides, he said the provincial government had also forwarded suggestions for not regularizing the stolen and tempered vehicles.

Talking about the suggestions and documents released regarding the registration of such vehicles.

FIA arrests 3 for fraud, human-trafficking

LAHORE (APP): The FIA Anti-Human Trafficking Circle Lahore has arrested three proclaimed offenders involved in fraud and alleged human-trafficking.

According to a spokesperson, two proclaimed offenders were arrested in major operations of FIA Anti-Human Trafficking Circle. The accused were identified as Akhtar Cheema, Abdul Qadir and Muhammad Usman. Akhtar Cheema was arrested from Gujrat in a raid for illegally sending people abroad. He received Rs 200,000 from the victim in 2015. The arrested accused was wanted by FIA Lahore Zone since 2015. In the second operation, Abdul Qadir and Muhammad Usman were arrested from Sheikhupura. They were found involved in illegally sending people abroad for employment. Two Pakistani passports with Malaysian visa stickers were recovered from the accused.

Khawaja Salman says: Foolproof security arrangements finalized for Eid Milad-un-Nabi

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Health Minister, Khawaja Salman Rafiq chairing a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order on Friday said that foolproof security arrangements have been finalized for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBHU).

Provincial Finance Minister, Mujtaba Shujaur Rahman; Sports Minister, Faisal Ayub Khokhar; Special Assistant Zeeshan Malik and the parliamentarians from Rawalpindi Division attended the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the law and order situation and the arrangements for Eid Milad-un-Nabi in detail.

Interior Secretary Punjab, Noor ul Amin Mengal and Inspector General of Police, Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar gave a briefing on law and order.

On the occasion, Chairman Cabinet Committee and Provincial Health Minister, Khawaja

Salman Rafiq said that the Punjab government had made arrangements to provide drinks and sweets to the people on Eid Milad un Nabi across Punjab.

Eid Milad un Nabi (PBHU), the birth of the Holy Prophet would be celebrated with full devotion, Khawaja Salman Rafiq said adding that no innovation would be allowed for the peaceful celebration of Eid Milad, he added.

All the arrangements were completed in consultation with peace committees across the province, he said and informed that the best possible security arrangements were finalized for Milad celebrations. Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Engineer Amir Khattak, Regional Police Officer, Rawalpindi Babar Sarfraz and City Police Officer, Syed Khalid Hamdani briefed the meeting about all the arrangements.

On the occasion, Chairman Cabinet Committee and Provincial Health Minister, Khawaja



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi presenting Sponsorship Cheque amounting Two Million Five Hundred & Fifty Thousand to Asian Boxing Champion Shoaib Khan Zehri in ceremony at Governor House.

Quality of food prepared for Eid Milad to be checked: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yaseen has said that the food which will be distributed at 12th of Rabulul Awwal procession, congregations and Mehfil will be checked. Punjab Food Authority (PFA) Director General (DG) Muhammad Asim Javaid met Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yaseen and discussed checking of centres where 'Langar' [free food] is prepared for distribution at Eid Milad processions and congregations. He said that complete focus was on traceability of available items at food preparing centres, and a ban had been imposed on the use of prohibited items.

Bilal Yaseen directed the relevant authorities to ensure checking of food as per laws before its distribution among the Eid Milad participants. Milk should be checked with modern lacto-machines, he said and added that no compromise would be made on the quality of food for Eid Milad participants.



PESHAWAR: A health worker administers polio-vaccine drops to a child during anti-polio immunization campaign, at a School in Peshawar.

KP CM hatching conspiracies against federation: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari on Friday alleged that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was a 'chaos' party and it was hatching a conspiracy to repeat the sequel of the sit-in staged during 2014.

In a statement issued here on Friday, she alleged that Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur was hatching conspiracies against the federation. In which capacity, a chief minister could talk to a country, she questioned. She said, "We know it very well on whose behalf Ali Amin Gandapur is doing all that." She alleged that PTI's recently held public meeting in Islamabad and Ali Amin Gandapur's meeting with Afghan ambassador were part of planning for an 'adventure' in coming month.

Life of Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) a cradle for entire humanity: Speakers

KOHAT (APP): In light of the directives of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur, the divisional level Qirat and Naat Khawani competitions in line with the Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) concluded at Divisional Headquarters here on Friday.

Member Provincial Assembly Daud Shah Afridi Advocate was the chief guest while the ceremony beside the Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah, Deputy Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah, Deputy Commissioner Kohat Division Anbiya Sayyidina Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (SAWW) came to this world as Rahmatul-Lil-Aalameen (SAWW).

attended by the renowned Ulemas, Mashaikh, Hufaz, Naat Khawans and students of schools and madrasas in large number.

The 1st prize of Qirat and Naat-Khwani compensation was Rs.80000 while the second prize carried Rs.60000 and the third prize was Rs. 40000. Daud Shah Afridi MPA, Commissioner Kohat Syed Motasim Billah Shah and Deputy Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah, Deputy Commissioner Kohat Division Anbiya Sayyidina Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (SAWW) came to this world as Rahmatul-Lil-Aalameen (SAWW).



JEHLUM: Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja offers dua following the curtain-raising and inauguration of the District Election Commission Office in the city.

Cybercrime case: Court confirms interim bail of Swati, others

LAHORE (APP): A sessions court on Friday confirmed the interim bail of Azam Khan Swati, Ali Zaidi, and Mussarat Jamshed Cheema in a cybercrime case registered by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and ordered them to furnish surety bonds of Rs 100,000 each to avail the relief.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Salman Ghumman conducted the proceedings on three separate bail petitions for Azam Swati, Ali Zaidi, and Mussarat Jamshed Cheema, who also appeared upon the expiry of their interim bail.

The defense counsel argued that the FIA had registered a baseless case against his clients, adding that the agency failed to

submit any evidence. He submitted that the sections of the PECA Act included in the FIR were bailable and requested the court to confirm his clients' interim bail.

However, the FIA's prosecutor opposed the plea and requested the dismissal of the bail petitions. The court, upon completion of arguments by both parties, confirmed the interim bail of all three and ordered them to furnish surety bonds for it.

The FIA had registered a case against Azam Swati, Ali Zaidi, and Mussarat Jamshed Cheema under sections of the PECA Act for making tweet against the Inspector General of Police, Punjab, and state institutions on X, formerly known as Twitter.

LHC acquits murder accused

LAHORE (APP): A Lahore High Court (LHC) division bench on Friday acquitted a condemned prisoner for lack of evidence in a murder case against him.

Mamu Kanjan police had registered a case against Zafar Iqbal under Section 302 of the PPC on charges of stabbing his brother-in-law to death. A Tandlianwala sessions court had handed down death penalty to the accused in 2021. He had filed an appeal in the high court, challenging the trial court's verdict.

During the proceedings, the counsel for the accused argued that the police implicated his client in the case despite lack of solid evidence. He argued that there was no eyewitness to the incident, yet the trial court handed down a guilty verdict without applying judicial mind. The counsel pleaded with the court to set aside the verdict and acquit his client. Opposing the appeal, a prosecutor argued that the appellant was nominated in the FIR.

PDWP approves 2 development schemes worth Rs 4.48b

LAHORE (APP): Planning and Development Board Chairman Barrister Nabeel Ahmad Awan chaired the 27th meeting of the Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) for CFY 2024-25 in which two development schemes worth Rs 4487.543 million were approved. The approved schemes are:

- 1- Induction of Eco-Friendly Buses in Cities of Punjab (DLI-6 PGDP) at the cost of Rs 3,534 million and Rehabilitation and Up-Gradation of Shujabad Canal System at the cost of Rs 953.543 million.

The meeting also saw the participation of Chief Economist Masoud Anwar, Members P&DB and other senior officials.



LAHORE: Members of Sawt-ul-Gaza Forum are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at Lahore press club.

Protection and promotion of culture top priority: Shazia

RAWALPINDI (APP): Parliamentary Secretary Information and Culture Punjab, Shazia Rizwan on Friday reiterated government's resolve to protect and further promote the culture and information.

She visited Public Relations Department Rawalpindi during which she was given a detailed briefing about the performance of the department and under construction Information Complex Rawalpindi.

Speaking on the occasion, Shazia Rizwan said that it is the vision of Chief Minister Maryam

ANF recovers 419 kg drugs in 10 perations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 10 operations across the country managed to recover 419 kg drugs worth Rs 190 million and arrested 10 accused including two Afghan nationals and two women, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday.

He informed that 70 grams ice was recovered from two suspects going on a motorcycle near a university on Laltrar Road Islamabad. 2.4 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Wapda Town Peshawar and an accused was arrested. 50 grams heroin and 16 grams ice were recovered.



HYDERABAD: Shiite Muslims attend the Last Procession (Chup Tazia) at Qadam Gah Mola Ali (R.A.), while a large number of security officials escort the procession.

PM calls for SMEs capacity building to enhance profitability

Also briefed about the measures to make SMEs profitable, their access to easy loans, promotion of SMEs exports, facilitation of women in SMEs and their cohesion with the climate change

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the authorities concerned to take measures for the capacity building of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to enhance their profitability. The prime minister, who chaired a meeting of the steering committee of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), said that steps to boost SMEs exports was inevitable for national economy, according to a PM Office press release.

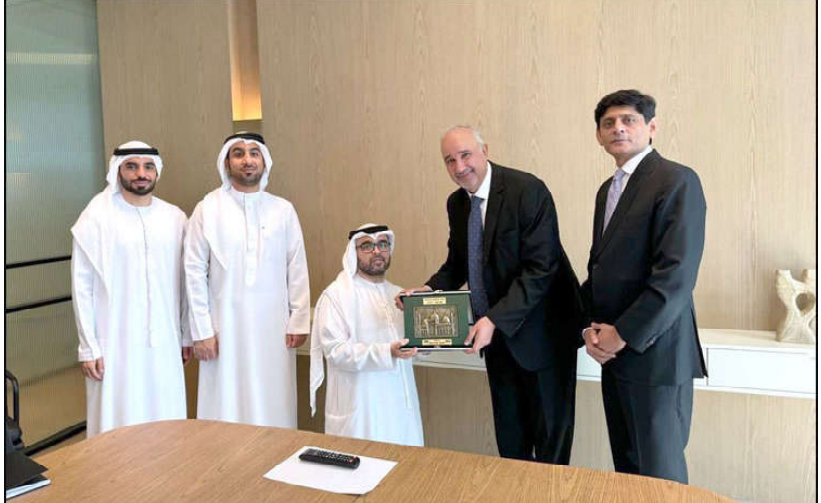
The prime minister, who was briefed about the strategy for uplifting the SMEs, called them the engine of national development and instructed the immediate operationalisation of the SMEDA Board. Prime Minister Shehbaz highlighting the role of women in national economy, asked the authorities concerned to include women entrepreneurs in the decision making related to the SMEs. He also called for raising the standards of export products at par with international practices and engage the experts of international repute to uplift the SMEs sector.

The prime minister was also briefed about the measures to make SMEs profitable, their access to easy loans, promotion of SMEs exports, facilitation of women in SMEs and their cohesion with the climate change. It was told that climate change would be tackled by introducing technology of manufacturing textile products using the recycled material. The government would assist the SMEs to have an access to easy loans to make them start new business. The meeting was told that the new policy for uplift of SMEs institutions would be formulated on the basis of latest statistics.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Ahad Khan Cheema and Rana Tanveer Hussain, PM's Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal, State Bank governor, FBR chairman.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the first session of the steering committee of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA).



UAE: Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi held a productive meeting with H.E. Mohamed Al Hawa, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Investment, UAE. They reviewed the progress of seven MoUs signed between Pakistan and UAE across various sectors, noted positive momentum from recent high-level exchanges, and discussed ways to further enhance bilateral trade and investment ties.

US-Pakistan economic ties strengthen through 'Pakistan Investment Roadshow'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The longstanding partnership between the United States (US) and Pakistan continues to grow stronger, as innovative economic initiatives take center stage in the evolving relationship between the two nations. The recently concluded Pakistan Investment Roadshow, organized by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under its Investment Promotion Activity, showcased the potential of Pakistani businesses to prominent US investors.

The events, held in New York, San Francisco, and Washington DC, highlighted Pakistan's burgeoning technology and innovation sectors, said a press release on Friday.

As part of USAID's broader mission to promote economic growth in Pakistan, the roadshow aimed to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and increase bilateral trade. The initiative focused on raising \$15 million in FDI commitments by connecting 27 select Pakistani firms with US investors eager to explore emerging markets.

The featured companies represented sectors such as artificial intelligence, health tech, fintech, ed-tech, agri-tech, climate-tech, and software as a service, captivating investors with their innovative solutions and global potential.

In New York, the Founder's Panel Discussion brought together leading Pakistani CEOs and entrepreneurs to discuss the growth of Pakistan's tech ecosystem, along with trends and investment challenges in the sector.

The San Francisco event, a major hub for technological advancement, saw Pakistani firms present cutting-edge solutions in AI, fin-tech, health tech, and other sectors to Silicon Valley investors. In Washington DC, a symposium placed a special emphasis on women entrepreneurs, highlighting their pivotal role in driving social and economic change in Pakistan. Michael Schiffer, USAID's Assistant Administrator for Asia, said, "We are cultivating deeper, more lasting relationships with private sector partners."

SPI witnesses nominal increase of 0.01%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed a nominal increase of 0.01 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on September 12, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 319.28 points as compared to 319.24 points during the past week.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 14.36 per cent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

Likewise, SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732 witnessed increase of 0.58 per cent and went up to 312.14 points from last week's 310.35 points.

The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732 to 22,888 and Rs 22,889-29,517 increased by 0.69 percent and 0.05 percent whereas for consumption groups from Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, it decreased by 0.12 percent and 0.30 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 15 (29.41%) items increased, 14 (27.45%) items decreased and 22 (43.14%) items remained stable.

The items, which recorded major decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included bananas (6.04%), pulse mash (1.33%), wheat flour (0.97%), LPG (0.96%), eggs (0.91%).



BEIJING: The Pakistan Pavilion at the prestigious China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) 2024 was inaugurated by Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi accompanied by Zhang Yanqing, Deputy Secretary-General of the People's Government of Pingdingshan City.

Ali Pervaiz says: Economic reform agenda underway to bring stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Finance, Revenue, and Power Ali Pervaiz Malik said on Sunday that the government chalked out economic reforms to seek long-term stability in the country. Talking to a private news channel, he said that the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) government worked hard to resolve economic problems. Through the positive and consistent economic policies, the inflation was brought down from 40 percent to a single digit, he added. Today, all the economic indicators were on a positive trajectory, as Fitch and Moody's were also given positive ratings to the economy of the country, he added.

Ali Pervaiz said that the government is going to finalize a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) very soon.



BAHAWALPUR: Laborers gather wheat to sell on the roadside at Galla Mandi Bahawalpur.

PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 315 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Friday, gaining 315.44 more points, a positive change of 0.40 percent, closing at 79,333.06 points against 79,017.62 points on the last working day.

A total of 916,053,875 shares were traded during the day as compared to 584,276,012 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 21.236 billion against Rs 16.364 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 438 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 184 of them recorded gains and 211 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 43 companies remained unchanged.

The top three trading companies were WoldCall Telecom with 87,808,556 shares at Rs 1.38 per share, Pervez Ahmed Company with 75,919,967 shares at Rs 2.03 per share and Kohinoor Spinning with 63,753,533 shares at Rs 8.41 per share.

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 102.50 per share price, closing at Rs 17,542.50, whereas the runner-up was Ismail Industries Limited with a Rs 93.97 rise in its per share price to Rs 1,700.00. Hoechst Pakistan Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 49.00 per share closing at Rs 1,951.00.



FAISALABAD: Activists of Pakistan Labour Faqani Movement hold a banner during protest rally in favor of their demands, in the city.

CCP approves two acquisitions in packaging, renewable energy sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved two acquisitions, reinforcing its commitment to promoting competition across sectors.

The transactions involve M/s. International Paper Company acquiring M/s. DS Smith Plc, and M/s. Pakistan Pencils (Private) Limited acquiring M/s. YDE SA (SMC-Private) Limited, said a press release issued here on Friday.

M/s. International Paper Company, a US-based global leader in renewable fiber-based packaging and pulp products, is acquiring 100% shareholding of DS Smith Plc, a public limited company in England and Wales and the parent of the DS Smith Group. DS Smith operates primarily in corrugated packaging across the European Economic Area.

The indirect subsidiary of the group namely M/s. TMS Pakistan (Private) Limited, supplies point-of-sale display stands to a single customer in Pakistan.

The relevant market for this transaction has been identified as "Point of Sale Display Stands."

The second transaction involves M/s. Pakistan Pencils (Private) Limited acquiring 100% shareholding of M/s. YDE SA (SMC-Private) Limited through a Share Purchase Arrangement. Pakistan Pencils is a leading Pakistani manufacturer and distributor of stationery products.

Shaza Fatima says: Pak inclusion in top tiers of Global Cybersecurity Index good news for IT industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): State Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja said on Friday that Pakistan's inclusion in the top tiers of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) 2024 Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) report is good news for the country's IT industry.

Addressing a press conference she said that Pakistan's position in ITU-2021 Global Cyber security was at 79 while in the current report, Pakistan ranked among the Top-tier 46 countries.

She said that the report indicated that Pakistan's legal, technical, capacity development, skill development and organizational advancement are role models.

"The Global Cybersecurity Index 2024 shows significant improvements by countries that are implementing essential legal measures, plans, capacity building and cooperation frameworks, especially in strengthening incident response capabilities," the report said.

The report placed 46 countries in Tier 1, the highest of the five tiers, reserved for "role modelling" countries that demonstrate a strong commitment in all five cybersecurity pillars.

"Pakistan has performed exceptionally well in the latest ranking and has been placed in Tier 1, alongside countries like the United States, Japan, Singapore, Australia, Saudi Arabia, and Malaysia," she said. She said, "It is an honor for the nation and the IT industry that Pakistan is now included in the top tiers of cybersecurity."

Shaza Fatima also acknowledged the collective efforts of various departments, including Pakistan Telecommunication, the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), the Ministry of Planning Commission, the Ministry of Defence, law enforcement agencies, and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), in achieving this milestone.

She expressed gratitude to the provinces and all stakeholders for their contributions and support in strengthening Pakistan's cybersecurity infrastructure and promoting digital advancement across the country.

Shaza Fatima Khawaja expressed her gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for his pivotal role in achieving the historic goal. She highlighted his unwavering support and keen interest in the IT sector, emphasizing that his leadership has been instrumental in advancing Pakistan's position in the global cybersecurity landscape.

She also acknowledged his efforts in ensuring policy continuity, which played a crucial role in this remarkable achievement. She noted that the continuity of policies during both the PDM and interim governments.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanging views with Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

Rupee gains 28 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Friday appreciated by 10 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.16 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.44.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279.00 and Rs 280.85 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by Rs 2.06 to close at Rs 308.52 against the last day's closing of Rs 306.46, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

PARC introduced 10 high-yielding pulses seed varieties during current year

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Variety Evaluation Committee of the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) during the current year has approved ten high-yielding pulses varieties to boost the output of pulses in the country and reduce the reliance on imported leguminous vegetables.

"The pulses play a crucial role in global food security and nutrition of the country, whereas Pakistan needs 1.56 million tons of pulses annually," said an official of the council.

Talking to APP here on Friday, he said, "The country has become self-sufficient in mung production during 2021-22 which was 0.263 million tons against the total requirement of 0.180 million tons."

"These ten high-yielding pulse varieties are poised to revolutionize the pulses output."

"Now the country is focusing on increasing the production of other pulse crops, such as chickpea, lentil and mash bean."

Petroleum Div working out fuel cost equalization mechanism for fertilizer companies: Musadik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Energy Senator Musadik Masood Malik on Friday said the Petroleum Division was working out the cost equalization mechanism for a fixed gas tariff to be offered to all the fertilizer manufacturing industries with same price for all to enhance competitiveness and benefits for the farmer community.

Responding a query of Senator Dr Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur during the question hour in the Senate, the minister said all fertilizer companies were not being sold gas at the same prices.

The gas prices for the 10 fertilizer companies operating in Pakistan varied from Rs 170, Rs 580 and Rs 1,597 per MMBTU but all of them sold fertilizers at the same price and were also making profits, he added.

"The difference of tariff goes into their balance sheets and all their profitability is listed in the Exchange Commission because these are all listed companies," he said.

The minister said that the difference in gas prices was mainly due to their contracts as after discovery of every gas well a specific tariff set was adopted, whereas the old gas wells discovered prior to the 2012 regime offered cheaper rates whereas after 2012 new discovery of wells were offering \$6 per unit tariff.

The government was working on the cost equalization framework so that all fertilizer companies should operate in a uniform regime with those more profitable, producing at a large scale and more efficient to remain in the market and phase out of inefficient plants, he added.

North Korea gives a glimpse of a secretive uranium-enrichment facility as Kim pushes for more nukes

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea offered a rare glimpse into a secretive facility to produce weapons-grade uranium as state media reported Friday that leader Kim Jong Un visited the area and called for stronger efforts to "exponentially" increase its number of nuclear weapons.

It's unclear whether the site is at North Korea's main Yongbyon nuclear complex, but it's the North's first disclosure of a uranium-enrichment facility since it showed one at Yongbyon to visiting American scholars in 2010. While the latest unveiling is likely an attempt to apply more pressure on the U.S. and its allies, the images released by North Korean media of the area could provide outsiders with a valuable source of information for estimating the amount of nuclear ingredients that North Korea has produced.

During a visit to the Nuclear Weapons Institute

and the facility producing weapons-grade nuclear materials, Kim expressed "great satisfaction repeatedly over the wonderful technical force of the nuclear power field" held by North Korea, the official Korean Central News Agency reported.

KCNA said Kim went around the control room of the uranium enrichment facility and a construction site that would expand its capacity for producing nuclear weapons. North Korean state media photos showed Kim being briefed by scientists while walking along long lines of centrifuges. KCNA didn't say when Kim visited the facilities or where they are located. KCNA said Kim stressed the need to further augment the number of centrifuges to "exponentially increase the nuclear weapons for self-defense," a goal he has repeatedly stated in recent years. It said Kim ordered officials to push forward the introduction of

a new type of centrifuge.

Kim said North Korea needs greater defense and preemptive attack capabilities because "anti-(North Korea) nuclear threats perpetrated by the U.S. imperialists-led vassal forces have become more undisguised and crossed the red line," KCNA said.

South Korea's Unification Ministry strongly condemned North Korea's push to boost its nuclear capability. A ministry statement said North Korea's "illegal" pursuit of nuclear weapons in defiance of U.N. prohibitions is a serious threat to international peace. It said North Korea must realize it cannot win anything with its nuclear program. North Korea first showed a uranium enrichment site in Yongbyon to the outside world in November 2010, when it allowed a visiting delegation of Stanford University scholars led by nuclear physicist Siegfried Hecker to tour its centrifuges.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un tours facilities during a visit to the Nuclear Weapons Institute and the production base of weapon-grade nuclear materials at an undisclosed location in North Korea.

14 killed in Afghanistan attack; IS claims responsibility

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: Gunmen killed at least 14 people in central Afghanistan on Thursday, the interior ministry said, in an attack that was claimed by the local chapter of the militant Islamic State group.

"Fifteen Shias were killed and six others wounded in an attack carried out by the soldiers of the caliphate in central Afghanistan," the group's Amaq media wing said in a statement.

Attacks in Afghanistan have declined markedly since the Taliban came to power in 2021, but a number of armed groups, including the regional Islamic State-Khorasan, remain a threat.

"Unknown gunmen opened fire and killed civilians," Abdul Matin Qani, spokesman for the interior ministry, said.

A source in Daykundi province said 14 people had been killed and four wounded.

Trump rules out another debate with Kamala

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Donald Trump said on Thursday he would not participate in another televised debate with his Democratic rival Vice President Kamala Harris.

"There will be no third debate!" the Republican candidate wrote on his Truth Social platform, including in his tally the earlier debate with US President Joe Biden in June and his Tuesday showdown with Kamala Harris.

UN chief says lack of accountability on UN staff killings in Gaza 'unacceptable'

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: A lack of accountability for the killing of United Nations staff and humanitarian aid workers in the Gaza Strip is "totally unacceptable," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told Reuters in a wide-ranging interview. Guterres also said that establishing a UN peacekeeping force would not be the "best solution" for Haiti, where armed gangs have taken over much of the capital and expanded to surrounding areas, fueling a humanitarian crisis with mass displacements, sexual violence and widespread hunger. Ahead of the annual meeting of world leaders at the UN General Assembly later this month,

Guterres summed up the past year as "very tough, very difficult."

It has been dominated by the war in Gaza, which began just two weeks after leaders left New York following last year's assembly when Palestinian Hamas militants killed 1,200 people and took about 250 hostages in a cross-border rampage into Israel, according to Israeli tallies. Describing Israel's retaliation against Hamas in Gaza — where local health officials say some 41,000 Palestinians have been killed since the war began — Guterres said there have been "very dramatic violations of the international humanitarian law and the total absence of an effective protection of civilians."



People wade through flood waters in Thagaya in Myanmar's Bago region.

Sri Lanka's opposition leader says the rich will pay more if he becomes president next week

Monitoring Desk
COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's opposition leader contesting the presidential election next week said Thursday that if he comes to power he will renegotiate with the International Monetary Fund the 2022 economic reforms package to ensure that the rich pay more taxes and the poor see their conditions improve. The reforms were introduced after Sri Lanka defaulted on its foreign debt creating the worst economic crisis in its history.

Sajith Premadasa, the opposition leader in Parliament told The Associated Press in an interview that his party has already started discussions with the IMF to find ways to ease the tax burden on the people.

"We will be embarking on the third path, the

middle path, the path is where wealth is created, the country grows and the wealth is equitably distributed," Premadasa said.

He said there needs to be "fundamental changes" to the current agreement between the IMF and Sri Lanka's government but those should be in a more "humanistic manner" to ensure that the burden on the people is lessened.

"And if there are burdens that have to be imposed, the super-rich and the rich have to disproportionately take a bigger share of the burden rather than the working men and women of Sri Lanka."

Sri Lanka is in the middle of reforms and a debt restructuring program under an IMF agreement whereby taxes have been increased to boost state revenue.

Germany arrests Syrian man accused of machete attack plot on soldiers

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: German authorities said on Friday they had arrested a 27-year-old Syrian man accused of planning an attack on army soldiers using two machetes.

The suspect, an "alleged follower of a radical Islamic ideology," was arrested on Thursday on charges of planning "a serious act of violence endangering the state."

The man had acquired two heavy knives "around 40 centimetres in length" in recent days, prosecutors in Munich said.

He planned to "attack Bundeswehr soldiers" in the city of Hof in northern Bavaria during their lunch break, aiming "to kill as many of them as possible", they said.

Sweden offers immigrants \$34,000 to leave country

Monitoring Desk
STOCKHOLM: Sweden plans to boost payments to up to \$34,000 to immigrants who leave the nation that has been a haven for the war-weary and persecuted, the right-wing government said on Thursday.

The Scandinavian country was for decades seen as a "humanitarian superpower", but over the years has struggled to integrate many of its newcomers. Immigrants who voluntarily return to their countries of origin from 2026 would be eligible to receive

up to 350,000 Swedish kronor, the government, which is propped up by the anti-immigration Sved-democrats, told a press conference. "We are in the midst of a paradigm shift in our migration policy," Migration Minister Johan Forsell told reporters, as the government presented its latest move to crack down on migration.

Currently immigrants can receive up to 10,000 kronor per adult and 5,000 kronor per child, with a cap of 40,000 kronor per family.

India's top court frees jailed Modi opponent Kejriwal on bail

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: A top political opponent of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was granted bail on Friday after months behind bars on accusations his party took kickbacks in exchange for liquor licences.

Arvind Kejriwal, chief minister of the capital Delhi and a key leader in an opposition alliance that battled Modi in national elections earlier this year, was first detained in March over the long-running corruption probe.

Russia expels 6 British diplomats it accuses of spying but the UK calls it 'completely baseless'

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Russia on Friday accused six British diplomats of spying and said it decided to expel them. The U.K. said the "completely baseless" move came weeks ago and was linked to its action in May to revoke the credentials of an attaché at the Russian Embassy and limit Moscow's diplomatic activities in London.

The latest East-West tensions unfolded as British Prime Minister Keir Starmer visits Washington for talks that will include Ukraine's request to use Western-supplied weapons to strike targets inside Russia. President Vladimir Putin has warned that Kyiv's use of long-range weapons would put NATO at war with Moscow.

Russia's Federal Security Service said in an online statement that the Foreign

Ministry withdrew the British envoys' accreditations, and Russian TV quoted an FSB official as saying it was decided to expel them.

The FSB said it received documents indicating the diplomats were sent to Russia by a division of the U.K.'s Foreign Office "whose main task is to inflict a strategic defeat on our country," and that they were involved in "intelligence-gathering and subversive activities." It did not identify the six diplomats.

The FSB warned that if other diplomats are found to be carrying out "similar actions," it "will demand early termination of their missions" to Russia.

Russian TV said the six diplomats had met with independent media and rights groups that have been declared "foreign agents."

EU's ticking demographic timebomb to focus minds at Budapest talks

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: An inexorable decline in the number of working age Europeans will put a huge strain on welfare systems and public finances in coming decades, according to a report that will form the basis of EU discussions later this week on the demographic timebomb.

The presentation, prepared for senior finance ministry and central bank officials from the EU's 27 member states by the Bruegel think tank, said Europe's ageing society will cut the number of people with jobs and paying taxes while boosting the number of those drawing pensions and needing more health care.

Even allowing immigration to continue at current rates — already an unacceptable solution for many Europeans, as shown in growing support for far-right parties — will not be enough to offset the decline in the working age population, it said.

Hungary, which holds the EU's rotating presidency and will host the discussions on Friday and Saturday, is strongly opposed to increasing immigration and is expected instead to propose remedies such as raising fertility rates through more support for families and boosting labour force participation.

Bruegel said that in the absence of net immigration, the number of people in the 20-64 working age bracket in Europe will fall by about a fifth to 207 million in 2050 from 264 million in 2022.

Even if the 450-million-strong European Union accepted slightly more than one million immigrants a year — broadly the average from 2016-2020 — this would make up for less than half of the decline in the working-age population, Bruegel said.

Other possible actions to help alleviate the impact of an ageing population include better management of healthcare and long-term care costs as well as reform of the pension and health systems, according to the documents under discussion.

Millions in southeast Asia battle floods, death toll passes 250

Monitoring Desk
BAGO: Millions of people across Southeast Asia struggled on Thursday with flooded homes, power cuts and wrecked infrastructure after Typhoon Yagi swept through the region, as the death toll passed 250. In worst-hit Vietnam, the number of fatalities rose to 226, with nine confirmed dead in northern Thailand — where one district is suffering its worst floods in 80 years.

Myanmar's national fire service confirmed the country's first Yagi-related deaths after 17 bodies were recovered from flooded villages in the Mandalay region, while more than 50,000 people have been forced from their homes.

Yagi brought a colossal deluge of rain that has inundated a swathe of northern Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar, triggering deadly landslides and widespread river flooding.

One farmer on the edge of Hanoi told AFP that his entire 1,800 square metre peach blossom plantation was submerged, destroying all 400 of his trees. "It will be so hard for me to recover from this loss — I think I will lose up to \$40,000 this season," said the farmer, who gave his name only as Tu.

"I really don't know what to do now, I'm just waiting for the water to recede."

The United Nations children's agency (Unicef) said the typhoon had damaged more than 140,000 homes across 26 provinces in Vietnam.

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Greek court cuts prison sentences in major cocaine trafficking case

Monitoring Desk
ATHENS: A Greek appeals court on Friday reduced the prison sentences of 11 men involved in trafficking 1.2 metric tons of cocaine from the Caribbean into Europe and Africa, in one of the biggest drug busts in Greece's history.

Greek police said in 2020 it had dismantled the criminal group after a months-long investigation with assistance from the United States' Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Albanian and Spanish police.

A court in 2021 had handed the defendants, nationals of Albania, the Netherlands and Greece, multi-year sentences including life imprisonment.



Ukrainian prisoners of war (POWs) are seen after a swap, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, at an unknown location in Ukraine, in this handout picture released.

European politicians say migration is out of control

Monitoring Desk
BARCELONA: Unauthorized migration to European Union countries dropped significantly overall in the first eight months of this year, even as political rhetoric and violence against migrants increased and far-right parties espousing anti-immigration policies made gains at the polls.

There was, however, a spike in migrant arrivals to the Canary Islands, a Spanish archipelago close to the African coast that is

increasingly used as an alternate stepping stone to continental Europe.

Irregular migration dominated the European parliamentary elections in June and influenced recent state elections in eastern Germany, where a far-right party won for the first time since World War II. The German government this week announced it was expanding border controls around its territory following recent extremist attacks.

China concerned about US manipulation of Hong Kong issues, says foreign ministry

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China is concerned about the United States' manipulation of Hong Kong issues and suppression of its development, a spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry said on Wednesday.

The remarks come after the US House of Representatives passed a bill that could lead to the closure of Hong Kong's economic and trade offices in the United States.

Murdoch succession battle to play out in Nevada courtroom

Monitoring Desk
RENO: A closed-door court battle over control of Rupert Murdoch's media empire begins Sept. 16, and could determine the future of Fox News and the Wall Street Journal.

Murdoch, 93, is attempting to change the terms of the family's irrevocable trust to ensure his newspapers and television networks remain under control of his eldest son and chosen heir, Lachlan Murdoch, according to the New York Times, which obtained a sealed court document detailing the succession drama.

Reuters and other news organizations are attempting to gain access to

sealed court records, and to open the court hearings in Reno, Nevada, before probate commissioner Edmund J. Gorman Jr.

The trust lays out a scenario on how a potential takeover could occur, according to a source who has seen the documents. The trust is the vehicle through which the elder Murdoch controls News Corp and Fox, with roughly a 40% stake in voting shares of each company. Murdoch also holds a small amount of shares of the companies outside the trust.

Upon Rupert Murdoch's death, News Corp and Fox voting shares will be transferred to his four oldest children.

Australia to strip medals from veterans after alleged war crimes

Monitoring Desk
SYDNEY: Australia will strip military awards from a group of war veterans over allegations those under their command committed war crimes in Afghanistan, Defence Minister Richard Marles said on Thursday. A four-year inquiry chaired by Major General Paul Brereton concluded in 2020 there was credible information of the alleged unlawful killing of 39 people by or involving 25 Australian Defence Force members, as part of a culture of forcing junior recruits to kill defenceless captives to "blood" them for combat.



Palestinians exercise in an outdoor gym which was reopened after the owner recovered equipment from under the rubble, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip.

Secretary General assures IMO's support for development of maritime sector in Pakistan

KARACHI (APP): The Secretary General International Maritime Organization (IMO) Arsenio Antonio Dominguez Velasco stressing on compliance of UN conventions on Friday assured continued support of IMO to Pakistan through development projects and technical co-operation for capacity building and efficiency enhancement of the maritime sector in the country.

He was addressing the inaugural session of International Maritime Sustainability Exhibition and Conference IMSEC 2024 here. The 3-day long IMSEC 2024 is being held under the theme "Catalyzing Pakistan's Maritime Transformation" as part of World Maritime Week celebrations.

The event was attended by Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Secretary Maritime Zafar Shah, DG Shipping Alia Shahid, Commandant Pakistan Marine Academy Commodore Rizwan Munawar and Chairmen of KPT, Port Qasim, PNSC, Gwadar Ports as well as

diplomats of different countries and other stakeholders of the maritime sector.

The secretary General IMO, addressing on the occasion, emphasized the significance of leveraging the technology advancement and implementation on international conventions for promotion of blue economy, conservation of maritime eco system and enhancing ports and shipping efficiencies.

He said that digitization and automation help enhancing the efficiency of ports and shipping and it results into increased volume of international trade.

He said that IMO was an international organization with 176 members who share the same goals and work in coordination to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) while sharing of experiences and the best practices among the member states provides the opportunities of enhancing efficiencies and framing strategies to deal with encountered challenges.

Emphasizing the importance of conservation of marine eco system by ad-

ressing the major environmental concerns for sustainability of shipping he said that IMO has framed a comprehensive strategy for avoiding plastic pollution from ships and land and measures were underway by taking all the stakeholder on board for achieving the set goals.

To address the issue of shortage of qualified sea farers across the globe, IMO was working to enhance the training opportunities of qualified and skilled labour force and Pakistan could also benefit from it as there were vast employment opportunities in the sector, he said and also stressed on encouraging the women to join the maritime sector.

The Secretary General also offered cooperation to Pakistan for framing national strategy and action plan for sustainable development of the maritime sector. Pakistan is a leading country in ship breaking and recycling and IMO was ready to extend its cooperation for further development of the sector in a sustainable and environment friendly manner with focus on enhanced safety, he further stated.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Secretary General International Maritime Organization Arsenio Antonio and other officials inaugurate the International Maritime Sustainability Exhibition & Conference Pakistan-IMSEC 2024 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at a local hotel.

ADB approves \$320 mln to improve climate-resilience, safety of roads in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$320 million loan to support the rehabilitation of roads in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan, enhancing safe and all-weather connectivity in rural areas.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Roads Development Project will upgrade around 900 kilometers of rural roads in the province that are susceptible to floods and are in poor condition, according to ADB press release received here on Friday.

These cover key routes that link remote communities to education, health care, and markets, it said adding the project in-

cludes measures to incorporate climate-resilient design, road safety enhancement, and sustainable maintenance practices.

"Road transport is both a lifeline to the people and a key component of socioeconomic development in Pakistan. This vital infrastructure project will reduce travel time, lower transportation costs, and increase access to economic opportunities for millions of residents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov.

"By providing better access to markets and services, we are empowering local communities and driving inclusive economic

growth in one of Pakistan's most underserved regions," Zhukov added.

Annual rainfall and temperature patterns have significantly increased in parts of the province, and the lack of resilient infrastructure escalated the impact of disasters on people and livelihoods. Flooding events since 2010 have substantially damaged the road network, hampering connectivity and escalating transportation costs.

The project will offer technical and financial support to assist the government in preparing long-term targeted interventions that will enhance the climate resilience and sustainability of the province's road network.

Pakistan committed to strengthen ties with European Union: Ayaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Friday said that Pakistan highly valued its relationship with the European Union and was committed to strengthening that bond into a robust strategic partnership.

"Pakistan is a multi-cultural, multi-religious and multi-national country, where citizens enjoy fundamental rights as guaranteed by the Constitution," he said during a meeting with the EU delegation, led by Frans van Daele, Special Envoy of the European Union, at the Parliament House.

Dr Reena Kavinka, EU's Ambassador to Pakistan was also present in the meeting.

The speaker further highlighted that the Parliament had consistently undertaken initiatives to safeguard the rights and welfare of all Pakistanis.

Ayaz Sadiq acknowledged the significant role

that minorities play in Pakistan's national development and prosperity.

He reiterated that the Parliament was committed to promoting religious harmony and had ensured full representation of minority communities in the legislative body.

"The international community should recognize the severe human rights violations occurring in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, and Gaza," he said, urging the global community to take action to halt the ongoing atrocities in the regions.

EU's Special Envoy Frans van Daele acknowledged Pakistan's importance on the global stage and expressed the European Union's desire to further strengthen ties with the country.

"The European Union is keen to enhance both bilateral and multilateral cooperation with Pakistan," he added.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani meeting with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai

'Targeting Black Magicians Bill' to crack down on witchcraft with 7-year imprisonment: Samina

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri of the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) on Friday emphasized the need for implementation and awareness of the "Targeting Black Magicians Bill", a legislation aimed at preventing witchcraft and related activities in the country.

Talking to a Private news channel, she explained that the bill, which has been passed by the parliament, stipulates that black magic practitioners shall face a 7-year imprisonment term and a fine of Rs. 1 million.

Zehri stressed that the implementation of this law is crucial to protect vulnerable individuals, particularly women, who are often targeted by black magic practitioners. She called for a nationwide awareness campaign to educate people about the dangers of black magic and the legal consequences of practicing it.

Zehri also called for strict enforcement of the law, saying that black magic practitioners should be brought to justice and punished according to the law.

She emphasized that the implementation of the "Targeting Black Magicians Bill" is essential to create a safe and secure environment for all citizens, particularly in rural areas where black magic is prevalent.

By pushing for the implementation of this law, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri aims to protect the rights of vulnerable individuals and promote a society free from superstition and fear.

Replying to a question, Zehri revealed that the "Targeting Black Magicians Bill" was initially passed in 2017, but due to certain limitations, it was presented again to incorporate suggestions from all stakeholders. She assured that after thorough deliberation and consultation, the bill will be finally implemented and black magic practitioners will face strict penalties. With the implementation of this bill, black magic practitioners will face severe consequences, including a 7-year imprisonment term and a fine of Rs. 1 million, she highlighted.



QUETTA: Peoples Party (PPP) Balochistan Secretary Information, Sardar Sarbuland Jozezai addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

BHBA ends boycott of medicines tenders

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Health Secretary Saleh Muhammad Baloch on Friday assured the delegation of Balochistan Health Bidders Association (BHBA) to resolve their demands on which the delegation announced to end boycott of medicine tenders.

He made this assurance while talking to delegation of BHBA which called on him at his office here with aim to address their demands for ensuring availability of medicines in respect of hospitals of province. It should be noted that earlier the Balochistan Health Bidders Association had boycotted the tenders and supply orders of medicines to the Health Department due to their past arrears bills.

The meeting was attended by Director General Health Services Balochistan Dr. Amin Mandukhail, Deputy Secretary Health Department, State Ali, Balochistan Health Bidders Association President Syed

Jamilur Rehman Khan, General Secretary Taswur Shakeel, Chairman Javed Ashraf and Staff Officer to Secretary Health Shabbir Ahmad Shahwani.

During the meeting, the Cabinet President General Secretary and Chairman of Balochistan Bidders Association presented demands and issues being faced by them in the area.

Health Secretary Saleh Muhammad Baloch assured them that Balochistan Bidders Association would soon pay all the outstanding arrears and the budget of the supply order of the first medicine was provided to the bidders in the 1st half and 2nd half.

He said that this time they would be paid in lump sum instead of 1st half and 2nd half.

Apart from this, RHCs, Rural Health Centers no longer have any role whatever the supply order or demand will be, it will be only through the District Health Officer of the concerned district, he said.

Important research, consultative programme on climate change and fisheries held in Gwadar

GWADAR: A significant research and consultative programme was held in Gwadar to discuss the impacts of climate change on coastal fisheries and the livelihoods of fishermen. The programme was organized by the RCD Council in collaboration with the South Asia Partnership Pakistan.

The programme was attended by experts, researchers, and local fishermen leaders. Senior Re-

search Officer NIOP Ali Jan Baloch, Deputy Director Environment GDA Abdul Rahim, Deputy Director Irrigation Pazir Ahmed, Geologist and Climate Expert Hafiz Jaffar, and representatives from the Fisheries Department and Village Organizations of Union Councils Ganz, Pishukan, and Sarbandan participated in the programme.

The programme discussed the severe impacts

of climate change on fisheries in coastal areas, including the decline in fish production, the effects of sea level rise on fish species, and the impacts of sea temperature on fisheries. The programme also aimed to identify solutions to address these challenges and ensure the livelihoods of fishermen.

The programme was also attended by media representatives and other stakeholders.

PR decide upgradation of Quetta-Taftan Rail Section

QUETTA: The Pakistan Railways has decided to upgrade the Quetta-Taftan railway section in due course of time. According to the sources of Pakistan Railways, the tenders have been called from the national and international companies for upgradation of the 638-kilometer-long Quetta-Taftan railway sec-

tion. The PR authorities told that the tenders for the work would be opened on October 22, 2024. It has been learnt through the sources that the Quetta-Taftan railway track would be upgraded and developed at the international standard. The authorities said that the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul transit train would be restored after upgradation.



HUB: Secretary Local Government Abdul Rauf Baloch being briefed by Chief Officer Syed Saleem Shah about development projects and tuff tiles schemes in Komal city during his visit to Hub

PPP delegation meets CM Advisor

QUETTA: Advisor to Chief Minister for Labour and Manpower Barrister Sardar Baba Ghulam Rasool Khan Umrani met with Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leaders, including Provincial Senior Vice President Parveen Mengal, Provincial Deputy General Secretary Sakina Abdullah Khan, Provincial Media Coordinator Fiza Popalzai, Quetta Division President Khadija Zahri, and District President Balqis Awan.

The meeting discussed the registration of labourers and their children in educational institutions

in Islamabad under the Workers Welfare Board. The advisor assured the PPP leaders that the project aims to provide quality education to the children of deserving labourers and workers, who will become future leaders and make the province and country proud.

The PPP leaders appreciated the advisor's efforts and commitment to the welfare of labourers and workers, especially women, and expressed confidence that the project will benefit the children of labourers and workers in Balochistan.

Pak, UAE review progress on MoUs to expand cooperation

ABU DHABI (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Faisal Niaz Timizri on Friday held a productive meeting with the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Investment of the Emirates Mohamed Al Hawi.

Both sides reviewed progress on the seven Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) signed between Pakistan and UAE in different sectors.

They noted positive momentum following high-level exchanges between leaders of both countries and also exchanged views to further deepen bilateral trade and investment ties.

IHC orders Adiala Jail superintendent to follow PTI founder list for visitors

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday directed the superintendent of Adiala Jail to adhere to the list of visitors provided by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder for meetings.

Hearing the case, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan of the IHC issued the directions after Superintendent Abdul Ghafoor Anjum expressed confusion over receiving multiple lists, leading to uncertainty on how to proceed.

In response, the court made it clear that the list submitted by the PTI's founder should be followed.

Secretary directs to timely complete projects for facilitating people in Hub

QUETTA: The Secretary Local Government Department, Abdul Rauf Baloch has directed to the concerned municipal officers to play their role for making Hub an exemplary city by improving the service delivery. The Secretary said that we are planning to provide better facilities in limited resources as compared to the proportion of increasing population in Hub.

He was presiding over

the meeting about issues and development projects in Hub on Friday. The Deputy Commissioner Hub, Ms. Rohana Gul Kakar and other concerned high ups were in attendance at the meeting. The Secretary visited the birth and death registration certificate centers. It was informed that 10,000 births have been registered at the center so far. Meanwhile, the Taxation Officer of Local Government Adil Bashir also briefed the Secretary.

Standing body irked over non formation of Zakat Council

QUETTA (APP): Chairman Standing Committee on Zakat, Ushr, Hajj & Auqaf, Minority and Youth Affairs Fazal Qadir MandoKhel on Friday took serious notice of the non formation of zakat Council. A meeting of the Standing Committee on Zakat, Ushr, Hajj & Auqaf, Minority Affairs, and Youth Affairs was held in the Committee Room of the Balochistan Assembly here.

The session was chaired by Fazal Qadir MandoKhel, with members Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, Safia Fazal, and Parliamentary Secretary Sanjay Kumar in attendance. During the meeting, secretaries from the departments of Minority Affairs, Hajj, Zakat, and Ushr provided briefings on their departments' responsibilities, performance, and the challenges they face.

Naqvi praises Punjab CTD for foiling terrorist plot in DGK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has lauded the Punjab Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) for its swift and effective action in foiling a terrorist plot in Dera Ghazi Khan.

He praised the CTD for conducting a highly successful intelligence-based operation that led to the elimination of two terrorists linked to the extremist group Fitna Al Khawarij. In a statement, Minister Naqvi emphasized the professionalism and dedication of the CTD team, congratulating them for their timely intervention, which prevented a major terror attack.



QUETTA: Fazal Qadir MandoKhai, Chairman Standing Committee for Zakat, Ushr, Hajj, Auqaf and Minority Affairs presiding over a meeting