

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vt XXVI No 26, Rabi-ul-Awwal 11, 1446 AH Monday September 16, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

CM Bugti says

Democratic parties consider masses and parliament as source of power

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that it is priority of all of us to resolve issues of the province.

He said that the democratic parties consider masses and parliament as the source of power.

The Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of the dinner hosted by him for the members of national and provincial assemblies

and Senators in Islamabad on Sunday.

The members of national and provincial assemblies, Senators and provincial ministers belonging to Pakistan Peoples Party, Pakistan Muslim League, National Party and Balochistan Awami Party participated in the dinner.

The Chief Minister said that joint stance on the national and regional interests reflects the sustainable democratic thinking.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi leaving Mulana Fazulrehman residence after the meeting with JUI(F) chief Mulana Fazul Rehman

PM reaffirms Pak commitment to ozone layer protection

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has reiterated Pakistan's strong commitment to the preservation of the ozone layer, marking World Ozone Day.

In his message, the prime minister emphasized the crucial role of global collaboration in addressing ozone depletion and highlighted Pakistan's significant contributions to international efforts.

Acknowledging the damage caused by human activities, the prime minister expressed concerns over the depletion of the ozone layer, which resulted in the formation of the ozone hole, posing severe risks to life on Earth.

However, he praised the positive impact of global initiatives such as the United Nations Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, which had facilitated the recovery of the ozone layer.

"Pakistan has been an active participant in these UN agreements," PM Shehbaz Sharif noted,

pointing out that the country ratified the Montreal Protocol in 1992 and has since made considerable progress in phasing out ozone-depleting substances (ODS).

The establishment of the National Ozone Unit (NOU) in 1996 has played a pivotal role in driving these efforts, working in collaboration with customs officials, the refrigeration and air conditioning industry, and other key stakeholders.

He highlighted that Pakistan successfully phased out the first generation of ODS by 2009 and achieved a 50% reduction in HCFCs by 2020.

"The country is on track to meet its target of a 67.5% reduction by 2025, with many industries having already transitioned to ozone-friendly technologies."

The prime minister also stressed Pakistan's preparedness for the phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Kigali Amendment.



ISLAMABAD: PTI delegation arriving for meeting with JUI(F) chief Mulana Fazulrehman at his residence, in the Federal Capital.

Friendly nations to invest \$27b in Pakistan in coming years: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has said the government is committed to bringing socio-economic and judicial reforms to put the country on the fast track economic development.

In his televised remarks today, he categorically stated that nobody will be allowed to play with the peace and stability of the country. Strongly criticizing the politics of PTI, he said the party should play its role in the parliament instead of taking to the streets.

Ahsan Iqbal said friendly countries have extended assurance of investing twenty seven billion dollars in Pakistan in the next five years. He said

Saudi Arabia has announced to invest five billion dollars, while the UAE and Kuwait will each invest ten billion dollars and Azerbaijan will invest two billion dollars.

He said these are the external opportunities that are knocking at our doors. He said it is our responsibility to take full advantage of these opportunities through continuity of policies and reforms.

Ahsan Iqbal said China has also shown willingness for the second phase of CPEC. He said China has given assurance for the establishment of five new corridors including that of growth, livelihood, innovation, green economy and open regional inclusive development.



ISLAMABAD: MNAs, MPAs and Senators belong to Balochistan attending a dinner hosted by Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti

Pakistan to secure fresh IMF bailout package on 'September 25'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that the country will secure an extended International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme on September 25.

Speaking at the CFA Society of Pakistan's 21st Annual Excellence Awards, Aurangzeb expressed hope that it will be the country's final IMF programme. However, he warned that failure to sustain reforms might lead to a 25th programme.

His remarks come as Islamabad reached an agreement with the Washington-based lender on a \$7 billion 37-month loan programme in July earlier this year. However, the future of the bailout package is subject to the approval of the Fund's executive board which is set to convene on September 25 with Pakistan included in its meeting agenda.

The country was required to secure external financing of \$2 billion from bilateral and commercial lenders as a pre-requisite for the IMF board's approval.

It is to be noted that Pakistan owes \$5 billion to Saudi Arabia in the form of cash deposits, along with \$4 billion and \$3 billion from China and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), respectively.

Speaking on the occasion, the finance minister stressed the need for macroeconomic stability and said that Pakistan has previously experimented with various economic models, none of which yielded the desired results.

Turkmenistan first Central Asian country to reach Gwadar port

ISLAMABAD: (INP) Turkmenistan is set to become the first Central Asian country to gain access to Gwadar port under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Pakistan and Turkmenistan will soon sign an agreement in this regard.

The government has constituted a committee to examine the draft agreement between Gwadar Port and Turkmenbashi Port under CPEC.

The two countries are already working on various joint projects including TAPI pipeline, rail track and fiber connectivity to connect the regions of South and Central Asia.

150 Pakistani business delegates attended WTC in Beijing

ISLAMABAD (APP): As many as 150 business delegates from Pakistan have participated in the World Trade Conference (WTC) in Beijing in which Federal Minister of Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and Federal Minister for the Investment Board Abdul Aleem Khan addressed the conference via video link.

They highlighted that Pakistan's Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif's June-2024 visit to China had begun yielding results.

Constitutional package in limbo as Fazal opposes judges' extension, retirement age hike

NA session to be postponed till today as govt, opposition fail to reach consensus on constitutional amendments

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Amid the government's efforts to introduce a 'constitutional package' that reportedly gives it greater control over judicial procedures, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has taken centre stage, with both the ruling coalition and the opposition vying for his support in Parliament.

"We haven't received the draft amendment bill yet [...] How can we vote before analysing it?" JUI-F General Secretary Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri said speaking to journalists outside Fazl's residence.

He said that the government delegation had been

asked not to rush in tabling the bill. "We will participate in the [special parliamentary] committee's meeting and present our stance," he added.

Haideri stressed that the opposition parties should also review the amendment bill, saying they have sought "some time" before making a decision.

After a slew of meetings with the ruling coalition and opposition, Maulana Fazlur Rehman arrived at the Parliament House to attend the special parliamentary committee meeting. "Stay tuned," the veteran politician responded to a journalist's question in the parliament corridor.

Both sessions of the National Assembly (NA) and the Senate — originally scheduled for earlier in the day — have been delayed multiple times as both the government and the opposition were holding consultations.

However, sources told that the federal cabinet meeting — summoned for the approval of the draft amendment — has been postponed until tomorrow.

The government has been tight-lipped on the proposed amendments to the Constitution, but clarified that the package will not be a person-specific and would give the authorities ingress in the judicial procedure.

Mengal demands release of missing persons in return of supporting bill

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Balochistan National Party Mengal (BNP-M) chief Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal has demanded the release of missing persons in return of supporting the ruling coalition in passing the constitutional amendment bill.

Mengal got much importance in the current political landscape as the ruling coalition is desperate to pass the constitutional amendment bill at any cost.

He was approached by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and former Senate chairman Sadiq Sanjrani on Sunday. The sources said that the Baloch veteran has refused to vote till the recovery of missing persons.

The ruling coalition is struggling to meet the required numbers in both houses of the parliament to pass the legislation and BNP-M has two votes in the Senate.

The sources said that Mengal has sought the draft of proposed legislation from Sadiq Sanjrani.

Govt slashes petrol price by Rs10 per litre

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD — The federal government slashed the petrol price by Rs10 per litre for the next fortnight.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif approved the new prices of petroleum projects.

The federal government reduced the price of petrol by Rs10 per liter. Additionally, the price of high-speed diesel has been decreased by Rs13.06, kerosene by Rs11.15, and light diesel oil by Rs12.12 per liter.

Following the Rs10 reduction, the price of petrol is now set at Rs 249.10 per liter. The price of high-speed diesel, after a Rs 13.06 cut, is now Rs 249.69 per liter.

Similarly, the price of light diesel oil has been lowered by Rs12.12 per liter to Rs141.93, and kerosene has dropped by Rs11.15 to Rs158.47 per liter.

CM pays homage to martyrs of democracy including Shaheed BB on Democracy Day

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has paid homage to all martyrs of democracy including Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto on eve of the World Democracy Day.

In a message issued on the World Democracy Day observed on Sunday, 15th October all over globe including Pakistan, the Chief Minister said that there is a long history of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) for stability of the country.

He said that from the party leaders to a common worker have rendered sacrifice of their lives for nurturing democracy.

The Chief Minister said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto had termed the democratic form of system as best revenge in political perspective. Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that strengthening democ-

racy is our aim and the coalition government in the province is best combination of democratic process, he maintained.

He also said that taking all political parties with their respective ideologies for public service is democracy.

He said that strengthening democracy is necessary for sustainable stability and development of the country.

He also said that democracy is the only way of stability and bright future of the country. He said that democratic system allows common men the mandate to elect their representatives. The elected public representatives can serve the masses in best manner in democratic system.

It may be mentioned here that the International Day of Democracy is observed on 15th October all over the world.



ISLAMABAD: Balochistan Minister Mir Asim Kurd Gailo meeting with Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan Nassar

Three more cases of monkeypox virus detected at Karachi Airport

KARACHI (INP): The signs of the monkeypox virus were detected in three passengers who arrived from Jeddah and Dubai at Jinnah International Airport (JIAP) Karachi in a single day, reported on Sunday.

Sources said that monkeypox was detected in a woman who reached Karachi from Jeddah while another man aged 18 arrived from Dubai.

Sources further said that monkeypox was also found in a 44-year-old passenger who touched Karachi airport via Saudi Airlines Flight SV-708.

After the detection of the monkeypox virus, all these patients were immediately shifted to the Infection Diseases Centre Hospital for further treatment.

PM actively working to address challenges facing Pakistan: Syedaal Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman of the Senate, Syedaal Khan Sunday said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is actively working to address the challenges facing Pakistan and is committed to fostering prosperity and development in the country.

He urged all coalition parties to fully support Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in the current political scenario.

Syedaal expressed these views during a meeting with key political figures, including Parliamentary Leader of PML-N Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee

Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Senator Mir Aslam Abro, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Federal Education Senator Bushra Anjum Butt, Provincial Minister for Revenue of Balochistan Asim Khan Kurd Gailo, JUI Parliamentary Leader in the Senate Senator Maulana Atta-ur-Rehman, and Senator Haji Shakoor Ahmed Achakzai.

He also expressed gratitude to the political leaders and coalition partners standing in solidarity with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and former Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, working together to resolve the nation's issues.

Reforms imperative to provide speedy justice to masses: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Sunday that reforms were essential to provide speedy justice to the people.

Talking to the journalists here, the minister assured that any legislation to be done in the collective interest of the nation.

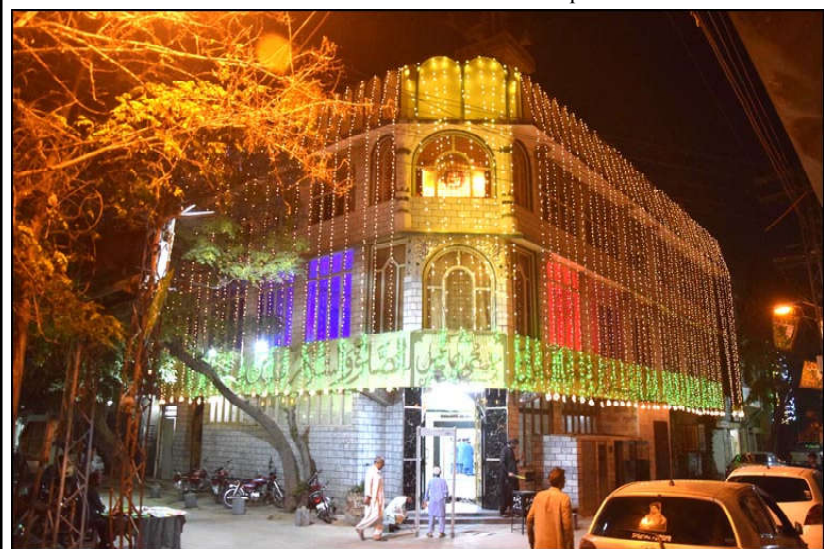
The minister remarked that many decades were passed to solve the cases in the judiciary and it was imperative to take measures for providing speedy justice to the people.

He said that all coal-

ition parties had representation in the special committee constituted for this purpose.

He said that Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar had talked about the Charter of Democracy to reform judicial system.

"Any amendment in matters of national concern should benefit the entire Pakistani nation," he opined. He maintained that due to legal lacunae, many times the cause list was not issued, notices were not served and orders were issued.



QUETTA: A beautiful view of Mian Ismail Masjid decorated on eve of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW)



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing Special Convocation 2024 of Jinnah University at Governor House



Time to revitalize Quaid's vision for a prosperous Pakistan

PESHAWAR (APP): As 76th death anniversary of founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah passed a few days back, nation is still struggling to revitalize his vision for making the country a prosperous welfare state.

With more than 77 years down the road after Pakistan came into being, the country passed through different phases on way to the destination envisioned by 'Father of the Nation.' But hurdles after hurdles hampered this journey and the country is still confronting gigantic issues like political harmony, speedy dispensation of justice, economic revival and internal and external security threats.

No doubt that Quaid's personality, vision and struggle is recognized globally but materialization of his vision still seems like a dream as the nation is waiting miracles to happen for rectification of the time lost on way to progress and prosperity. So, the time is passing fast and limited clues are left.

Stanley Wolpert, a renowned academic, historian and writer had stated in his famous book 'Jinnah of Pakistan' that 'few individuals significantly alter the course of history. Fewer still modify the map of the world. Hardly anyone can be credited with creating a nation-state. Muhammad Ali Jinnah did all three.'

No doubt it is a great acknowledgement for the leader and his unflinching struggle for a separate

motherland for the Muslims of Sub-Continent. But seeing through the annals of history, we find that we remained lost somewhere in the dust oozing out from our own follies as well as conspiracies of our evil wishers, still looking for a way to rush out of this dust storm.

Lot of experiences made time and again by different regimes and rulers to hammer out our problems dashed down to ground due to one reason or the other and once again we are on crossroads of history seeking a clue to reach our destination. Can it be the noble principles of governance envisioned by our great Quaid?

"Wolper's remarks signified the political stature of Quaid e Azam who was a leader of par excellence and commitment. It was his undefeated courage that kneed down his treacherous opponents like Nehru and colonial rulers," remarked Younas Khan, Chairman Pakistan Studies Department University of Peshawar.

"It was unfortunate that intrigues starting from the very beginning against a nascent state posed serious challenges to our rulers. Traps after traps kept us dragging away from our destination," Younas Khan said.

But, still he was hopeful to find a way out for our success in Quaid's vision as he stated, "If we still follow his vision diligently and in letter and spirit, we can emerge to highest pinnacle from bewilderment."

As the desire for following Quaid's vision is still alive at top level, we may have hope for a better future as stated by President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in their messages on Quaid's anniversary.

"I am sure that by acting upon his (Quaid-e-Azam) teachings and advice, we can make Pakistan strong and prosperous," said President Zardari. "Quaid-e-Azam's vision for Pakistan was fundamentally democratic as he firmly believed in a state where all citizens, irrespective of religion, would be equal before the law."

"Muhammad Ali Jinnah's struggle not only laid the foundation of Pakistan's democratic system but continues to influence our aspirations for parliamentary democracy and communal harmony," the President said. "Jinnah had envisioned a Pakistan based on Islamic principles of democracy and socio-economic justice."

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also remarked that the Freedom Movement serves as a testament to Quaid's political acumen and visionary leadership, reflecting his dedication to the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

"The Quaid's unwavering commitment to principles of democracy, social justice and equality laid the foundation for a nation where every citizen could aspire to thrive despite diverse cultures," the Premier said.



KARACHI: Turkiye Fayha Zanaib in action against Pakistan Aroba, Hijab Fatima and Mustafa during Fencing match on the eve of World Fencing Day in Karachi.

Pakistan's butterfly guardian:

Photographer Tahir's stunning 4000 butterfly collection

ISLAMABAD (APP): Butterflies, nature's delicate brushstrokes, have inspired poets across cultures for centuries. Their fleeting beauty and graceful movements captivate even animals like dogs, who often chase them in wonder.

English poets call them "winged jewels," French poets "papillons de lumiere" (butterflies of light), German poets "schwebende Blumen" (floating flowers), and Urdu classical poets liken them to "parwaaz-e-nagham" (the flight of melodies). This universal fascination highlights their allure as symbols of beauty and transformation.

In this poetic context, photographer Tahir, based in agri-industrial city Faisalabad, captures the wonder of butterflies through his lens, portraying them as symbols of change and elegance. His collection of 4,000 pictures, featuring 350 species, underscores their ecological and aesthetic importance. Tahir's work aligns with poetic traditions, showing how these enchanting beings continue to inspire art and literature.

Muhammad Tahir's journey began with a love for nature's wonders. Pakistan, with its rich flora and varied climates, hosts 350 butterfly species. His fascination led him to explore from Punjab and

Sindh to the lush regions of Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Armed with a camera and patience, Tahir captures moments when butterflies land on flowers. His collection is a visual narrative of the delicate balance between beauty and ecological preservation.

"Photography has always expressed my love for color and life," says Tahir in an exclusive interview with APP. "Butterflies, with their iridescent wings, are perfect subjects. Each photo tells a story of their world and the need to protect it."

"In one of my most memorable encounters," Tahir recounts, "I spent an entire day waiting in the misty highlands of Gilgit-Baltistan for the perfect shot of the elusive Apollo butterfly. As the sun set, I captured its delicate wings shimmering against the fading light. That moment symbolized the very essence of why I do this work."

His efforts go beyond beauty, raising awareness of threats facing butterflies, vital pollinators threatened by habitat loss, climate change, and pollution.

Through exhibitions at institutions like the University of Agriculture Faisalabad and Government Collage University Faisalabad, he educates the

public on butterfly conservation.

"Breeding and farming butterflies are crucial," Tahir emphasizes. "If we don't act, we risk losing these incredible creatures" he warns.

His exhibitions at Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan and other venues serve as both artistic showcases and calls to action. By highlighting the intricate details and vibrant colors of butterfly wings, Tahir hopes to inspire a new generation of environmental stewards.

Tahir's recognized achievements include the UN Peace Award, the PCB Photography Award, and the IPC International Photography Council Award. He also teaches photography, furthering his impact on conservation and art.

His journey reflects the power of passion and art in conservation. His images offer more than visual delight; they remind us of the interplay between beauty and preservation.

"Gul se lipTi hui titli ko gira kar dekho,

Añdhiyo tum ne dara?htoñ ko girayao ga."

In these evocative lines from Kaif Bhopali's renowned Urdu poem, Bhopali challenges the ruthless winds that have been toppling trees to separate the butterfly clinging to the flower.

ED IBCC meets CM Balochistan to discuss education & exams reforms

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Executive Director of the Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC) Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah met with the Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Sunday to discuss the latest educational reforms introduced by the Federal Ministry of Education and the exam reforms proposed by IBCC.

During the meeting, the ED IBCC also presented a copy of the IBCC Annual Report and a commemorative shield to the Chief Minister as a gesture of partnership and mutual commitment to education. The Chief Minister appreciated the wider-ranging efforts by

IBCC and expressed his support for enhancing the education system and exam processes in the province.

As part of the meeting, the Chief Minister agreed to hand over a government building to the IBCC, aimed at providing improved public access to IBCC services. This new facility will offer easier access for students and educational institutions across Balochistan.

This collaboration reflects a shared vision between the federal and provincial governments to uplift educational opportunities and streamline examination systems, ultimately benefiting the youth of Balochistan.

Junior athletic team returns empty handed from SAAC championship

ISLAMABAD (INP): The 12-member Pakistan junior athletics team returned home without any medals after a disappointing performance at the South Asian Junior Athletics Championship (SAAC) held in India.

Pakistan ranked last among South Asian countries, failing to secure a single medal out of the 90 available medals.

Host India dominated the competition, winning the championship with 48 medals, including 21 gold, 22 silver, and 5 bronze. Sri Lanka followed in second place, securing 9 gold, 9 silver, and 17 bronze medals. Bangladesh finished third with three bronze medals, while Maldives and Nepal earned 2 and 1 medals, respectively. Unfortunately, Pakistan's athletes were unable to reach the podium.

Pakistani athletes struggled across various events, with none advancing to the finals. In the men's 800-meter race, Muhammad Shahid finished last with a time of 2:10.17. Aiza Ahmed, competing in the women's high jump, failed to clear the opening height of 1.50 meters, resulting in her early elimination. In the men's 100-meter heats, Ammar

Ibrahim Afridi came in last in his race, clocking 12.69 seconds, while Muhammad Husnain placed fourth in his heat with a time of 11.32 seconds.

Concerns were raised regarding favouritism in the selection process for athletes, coaches, and official staff for the trip to India. Figures like Iqbal Akhtar, Miss Abida and Saif Afridi were appointed as coaches and team officials despite reportedly lacking the necessary qualifications.

Notably, experienced coaches such as Asghar Gul, Rafiq Ahmed, and Seemi Zaidi, who had trained the junior athletes at the Islamabad athletics training camp, were excluded from the team for the championship. The camp was organized with the support of the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB).

Additionally, the PSB allocated a significant budget of Rs. 93 million to the Athletics Federation of Pakistan (AFP) over the past two years. However, PSB officials did not scrutinize the selection criteria for the team and staff, even after implementing new requirements for sports federations seeking NOCs (No Objection Certificates) for international events.

Academies' role commended for hockey revival

KHANEWAL (APP): At the grassroots level, hockey academies are providing excellent services. Hockey is our national sport, and academies are playing a commendable role in its revival.

This was stated by Chaudhry Ashfaq while addressing a friendly match between the Under-16 teams of the Sports Department Multan Hockey Academy and the Al-Farooq Club Hockey Academy Khanewal as the chief guest.

The match was organised by the chief organiser of the Sports Department Multan Hockey Academy Safer Hussain Naqvi.

At the event, Al-Farooq Hockey Academy Khanewal's organizer Farooq Alam, Amjad Muhammad Asad, Chaudhry Azmat, and Khurram Naqvi were also

present. He stated that efforts must be made at the grassroots level for hockey, and it is encouraging that academies are playing a significant role in this regard.

The establishment of a high-level hockey academy for boys and girls at the Sports Department Multan's astroturf Hockey Stadium is commendable. Under Safer Hussain Naqvi's supervision, children will have better training opportunities. Farooq Alam, the organizer of Al-Farooq Academy Khanewal, mentioned that it is our duty to provide children with opportunities to play hockey in an excellent environment so they can make Pakistan proud.

Meanwhile, the match played between the Sports Department Multan Hockey Academy and Al-Farooq Hockey Academy Multan ended in a 3-3 draw.

Multan to host historic Women's T-20 series between Pakistan, SA

MULTAN (APP): The picturesque Multan Cricket Stadium is set to host its first-ever T-20 international series as Pakistan and South Africa (SA) women's teams clash in a three-match, Bank Alfalah T-20 series, starting from Sept 16.

This marks a significant moment in the stadium's history, having previously hosted only ODIs and test matches. The Multan Cricket Stadium had hosted 11 ODIs and six test matches so far. The series will be crucial for both teams as they prepare for the ICC Women's T-20 World Cup scheduled in the UAE next month.

Pakistan, captained by Fatima Sana, will be up against South Africa, led by Laura Wolvaardt. The second and third T-20s were scheduled for 18 and 20 September, with the first two games starting at 7:00 PM PST and the final match at 10:00 AM.

To encourage maximum fan participation, entrance to the stadium will

be free, with spectators required to bring their original ID cards for access. Fans in Pakistan can also watch the matches live in HD on A Sports, while global audiences can follow the action via the PCB's official YouTube channel.

South Africa, runners-up of the last ICC Women's T-20 World Cup, were visiting Pakistan for the second time in two years. During their last tour in September 2023, Pakistan whitewashed South Africa with 3-0 in a T-20 series held in Karachi. This time, South Africa will be looking for redemption ahead of the World Cup.

Pakistan's captain Fatima Sana expressed her excitement about playing in Multan: "The series against South Africa will be a great test for us ahead of the World Cup, she added.

She maintained that the players have been working hard in training, and the series against South Africa is a great opportunity for us to pre-

pare ourselves well before the ICC Women's T-20 World Cup scheduled next month. South Africa was a strong side and playing against them will help us assess our game under pressure situations.

"We are excited to play at the picturesque Multan Cricket Stadium, especially as the stadium is hosting its first-ever international women's T-20 series. The support from the fans in Pakistan is always incredible and with free entry to the stadium, it was a great opportunity for people to come and cheer for both sides," Fatima added.

After the series, South Africa will depart for the UAE on 21 September, while Pakistan will leave on 23 September. Pakistan were in Group A of the ICC Women's T-20 World Cup 2024, along with Australia, India, New Zealand, and Sri Lanka, while South Africa were grouped with Bangladesh, England, Scotland and the West Indies.

WMF holds task force meeting

QUETTA (PR): The Women Media Forum Pakistan (WMF) recently held a task force meeting and a panel discussion with working journalists at Quetta press club. The primary focus of these events was to delve into the opportunities, challenges, and advancements women face in the media field.



The key takeaways from the meeting were as follows: Advocacy: Developing strategies to advocate for women's rights and representation in the media.

Training and Development: Identifying training needs for women journalists and exploring opportunities for professional growth.

Establishing mentorship programs to support women in their careers.

Facilitating networking opportunities among women journalists.

Conducting research on the experiences and challenges faced by women in the media.

Overall, these events likely aimed to raise awareness about the issues faced by women in the media, promote gender equality, and empower women journalists. By bringing together key stakeholders and fostering dialogue, the WMF can contribute to creating a more inclusive and equitable media landscape for women in Pakistan.

NCRC appoints Sarwat Gilani as Brand Ambassador to Champion Child Rights

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC) has announced the appointment of renowned actress, social activist, and dedicated mother, Sarwat Gilani, as its Brand Ambassador.

Sarwat Gilani, recognized for her commitment to child rights and advocacy for social justice, will collaborate with NCRC to raise awareness and drive meaningful action toward the protection and promotion of child rights across Pakistan, said a news release.

Sarwat Gilani known for her versatile acting skills has graced Pakistani screens for almost two decades working in numerous television plays, web series and feature films. As an activist Sarwat advocates Women's Rights, Law Awareness and has spoken against child abuse on various platforms globally. She is an Ambassador for Special Olympics Pakistan & Indus Hospital health network and Search for Justice to name a few.

At an event held in Islamabad, the NCRC formally welcomed Sarwat Gilani into her new role, highlighting the alignment of her personal values with the Commission's mission to safeguard every child's rights.

Speaking at the event, the NCRC Chairperson

Ayesha Raza Farooq said: "We are honored to have Sarwat Gilani join the NCRC family. Her commitment to advocating for the rights of children has inspired millions, and her influence will undoubtedly bring much-needed attention to the critical issues facing Pakistan's children. With Sarwat as our Brand Ambassador, we aim to broaden our reach, foster greater public engagement, and create a more child-friendly society."

Sarwat Gilani has been a prominent advocate for social justice, consistently using her agency to speak out on issues affecting women and children. As a mother of three, she understands the challenges children face and is deeply committed to using her influence to ensure their rights are upheld.

Sarwat Gilani expressed her gratitude and commitment, stating: "I am truly honored to take on this role with NCRC. The rights of children should be at the center of our national discourse, and I believe that through this partnership, we can bring lasting change. Every child deserves to live in a safe and nurturing environment, free from abuse, exploitation, and neglect. I look forward to working with NCRC to raise awareness about the vital importance of protecting our children."

Children from the Pakistan Girls Guide Association had the opportunity to interact directly with Sarwat Gilani. The girl guides openly shared their concerns, recommendations, and expectations from the newly appointed Brand Ambassador, shedding light on the critical child rights issues they face in their communities. Their voices echoed the urgency of addressing pressing challenges such as child abuse, lack of access to education, child labor, malnutrition, street children, child marriage and issues being faced by minority children.

These young advocates expressed the need for safe

spaces for children, better enforcement of laws against child labor and abuse, and enhanced efforts to ensure that every child in Pakistan has the opportunity to pursue an education, free from fear and discrimination. They also stressed the importance of engaging more children in decision-making processes that affect their lives, highlighting their expectation that Sarwat Gilani would be a strong advocate for their concerns in her new role.

Sarwat Gilani, in response, praised the courage and determination of the children, reassuring them of her commitment to raising their voices at every platform. "Listening to these brave young girls today was a powerful reminder that the future of our nation lies in the hands of children who are aware, vocal, and determined to create a better world. I am here to ensure that their concerns are heard and acted upon," said Sarwat. "We are committed to ensuring that children's voices are central to our work. The insights shared by the members of Pakistan Girls Guide today will undoubtedly inform our strategies going forward," said the Chairperson.

Sarwat Gilani expressed her gratitude for the appointment, stating:

"It is both an honor and a responsibility to serve as NCRC's Brand Ambassador. These children's stories, their concerns, and their recommendations are at the heart of what we must address as a society. Every child deserves to grow up safe, educated, and empowered, and I will work tirelessly to ensure that these voices are amplified across the country."

Towards the end of the event, the Chairperson NCRC emphasized that the Commission cannot achieve its mission alone and that public-private partnerships, community engagement, and media outreach are essential to driving change.



QUETTA: Police official removing the wrongly parked vehicle with fork lifter from "No Parking Area."

Eid Milad-un-Nabi's celebrations kick off with religious reverence, traditional fervor nationwide

ISLAMABAD (APP): Eid Milad-un-Nabi, marking the birth of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), is to be observed with religious reverence and traditional fervor across the nation on 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal falling on September 17, Tuesday.

The day is celebrated to express deep love and respect for the last Messenger of Allah Almighty, whose teachings of peace, tolerance, and compassion continue to inspire billions on the globe.

Since the advent of the

blessed month of Rabi-ul-Awwal, homes, businesses, mosques, and public buildings across Pakistan have been adorned with vibrant lights and colorful flags. Major cities such as Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, and Peshawar are glowing with grandeur, as streets, alleys, and markets radiate with green and white decorations, symbolizing devotion to the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him).

The government buildings and public spaces have also joined the celebra-

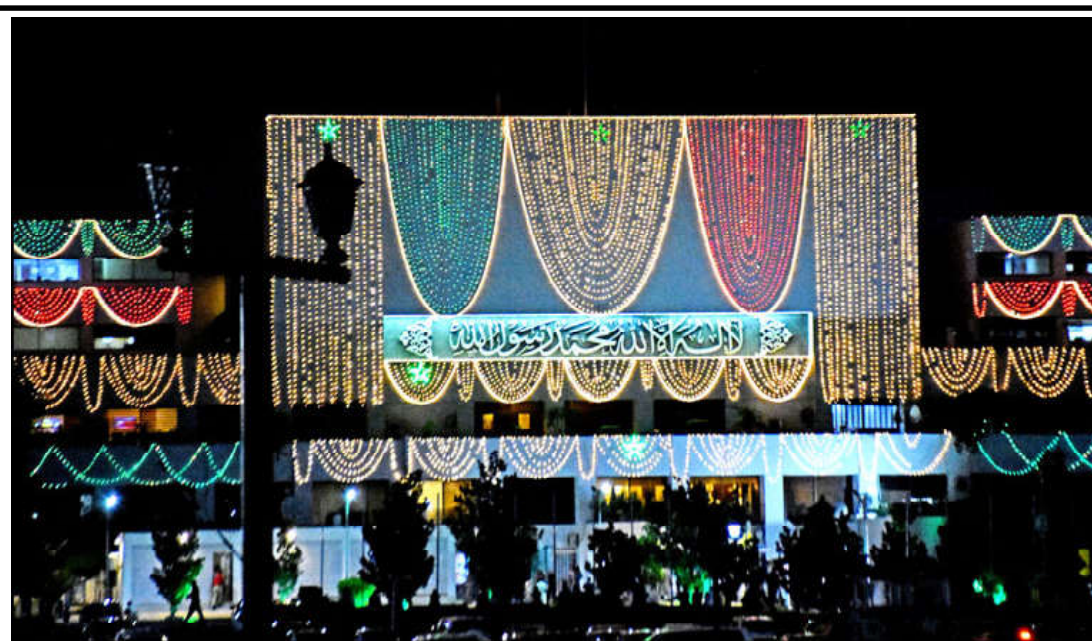
tion, as the nation unites in an atmosphere of joy and spiritual reflection.

The vibrant display is a testament to the deep-rooted love and respect the faithful hold for the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) and his teachings.

As part of the celebrations, Mehfil-e-Milad (gatherings of praise and remembrance) are being organized in mosques, community centers, and private homes across the country. These events serve as op-

portunities for the faithful to gather in reverence, recite Naats (poetry in praise of the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him)), and reflect on the Seerat (life) of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him).

Special gatherings have been arranged at various religious and cultural centers, where renowned scholars, Ulama, and Mashaykh deliver sermons to highlight the teachings and legacy of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).



ISLAMABAD: A view of lightings in connection with Eid Milad un Nabi SAW, in the Federal Capital.



DIG emphasizes zero tolerance for corruption and crime

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Syed Ali Raza on Sunday emphasized a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption and abuse of authority, stressing that the protection of life, property, and citizens' dignity was of paramount importance. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting at his office, attended by all Station House Officers (SHOs).

He said that he formed crime control teams to prevent the incidents of robbery, snatching and theft. DIG directed all SHOs to form dedicated teams and work closely with them to effectively combat crime. Raza highlighted the importance of officers remaining vigilant against criminal activities. Ali Raza instructed all officers to increase patrolling in their respective areas to control crime and ensure a visible police presence.

Additionally, DIG directed them to compile lists of absconders, proclaimed offenders, and individuals involved in serious crimes, and to locate and apprehend them. "Any kind of negligence will be dealt with strictly against the officers," DIG said. "Safety of life and property of the citizens is the first priority and any kind of violence is unacceptable," Raza concluded.

QAU Alumni contributes towards alma mater's guest house

ISLAMABAD (APP): In keeping with the longstanding tradition of supporting Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), the alumni of QAU have once again stepped forward to assist in the renovation of the university's Guest House.

Essential items, including an electric water cooler, air-conditioner, and a dead body freezer box, were handed over to the university administration, alongside various materials necessary for the renovation of the facility.

Muhamamd Murtaza Noor, Secretary General QAU Alumni Association Founders Group thanked to the support of the alumni, the QAU Guest House, located on the scenic campus, now offers an enhanced experience for visitors.

At the request of the

QAU Alumni Association, the guest house is available to alumni at a very nominal rate, making it a convenient option for Quaidians and their families, he added. Numerous alumni have already availed of this facility and enjoyed the beautiful surroundings of the campus.

He said we are especially grateful to Muhammad Asif Sahib, Tahir Masood Sahib, and Dr. Samina Yasmeen for their generous contributions in arranging these much-needed items. Their dedication and commitment to the university's welfare are truly commendable.

The QAU Alumni remains committed to contributing positively and constructively towards the betterment of our alma mater.



ISLAMABAD: Workers busy repairing cemented blocks at center path of Islamabad Highway.

Public awareness about importance of ozone layer protection vital for human, environmental sustainability

ISLAMABAD (APP): Raising public awareness about the importance of protecting the ozone layer on health and environment and encouraging them to avoid use of ozone-harmful chemicals and unsustainable practices is unprecedented for human and environmental sustainability, Muhammad Saleem Shaikh, climate change education specialist and media spokesperson of the climate change and environmental coordination ministry, said in a press statement.

layer is gradually recovering, the continued use of harmful chemicals and unsustainable practices in various parts of the world still threaten the progress made over the past few decades regarding restoring the ozone layer that shield earth from harmful impacts of ultraviolet rays of sun," the ministry official Muhammad Saleem Shaikh said.

He said that the present government has joined the global community in celebrating World Ozone Day today, September 16, 2024, under the theme: "Montreal Protocol: Fixing the Ozone Layer, Healing the Earth." This year's observance commemorates the 37th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol, a historic global agreement designed to protect the ozone layer and mitigate climate change, the senior ministry official said.

"Although the ozone

PIDE proposes modernization of overhauling governance system

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) on Sunday proposed modernization and overhauling of the governance system and highlighted Pakistan's governance bottlenecks for sustainable economic development.

A new report titled Modernizing Governance: Challenges and Solutions in Pakistan's Rules of Business and Secretariat Instructions, authored by Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque, Vice Chancellor of Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Prof. Nadeem Ahmed Khan, Dr. Khuram Ellahi Khan, and Prof. Hassan Rasool, has been released by PIDE highlighting key inefficiencies within Pakistan's government framework, said a release issued here.

This report comprehensively addresses the challenges and provides actionable solutions to im-

prove governance and modernise the country's administrative structures, using best practices from global governance models.

The report reveals that while Pakistan's Rules of Business 1973 and Secretariat Instructions are the backbone of federal governance, they have not sufficiently evolved to meet modern administrative needs.

For instance, over 80% of federal processes still rely on outdated, manual systems, significantly delaying decision-making and policy implementation and centralized approval mechanisms alone account for up to 60% of these delays, creating bottlenecks across ministries.

Furthermore, the report shows that more than 50% of all federal decisions are delayed due to excessive bureaucracy, with less than 10% of officials held accountable for inefficiencies.

CDA chairman inspects Jinnah Convention Center renovation ahead of SCO meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, conducted a thorough inspection of the ongoing renovation work at the Jinnah Convention Center.

According to CDA spokesman, the visit aimed to ensure the center's readiness for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting.

Randhawa was briefed on the progress of the renovation work, which is being carried out under the supervision of top architects.

The center is being upgraded to international standards, with a focus on transforming it into a smart building.

The upgrades include, installation of SMDs, digital boards, and modern

conferencing facilities, provision of high-speed internet and excellent lighting.

Similarly, renovation of the main hall, committee rooms, and complete flooring, repairs, painting, and glasswork, upgraded furniture and carpets, besides beautiful landscaping through tree planting and horticulture.

The chairman expressed satisfaction with the progress but emphasized the need for further improvement in the quality and speed of work.

Meanwhile, Randhawa visited Park Road Project, which has been affected by recent rains. He directed the completion of ongoing work on the road as soon as possible.

KLESF International Challenge to be held from Nov 08-10

ISLAMABAD (APP): The KLESF International Challenge 2024 will be organized in conjunction with the Kuala Lumpur Engineering Science Fair (KLESF) from November 08-10 in Kuala Lumpur.

The KLESF International Challenge will be held at the Mines International Exhibition and Convention Center (MIECC), Kuala Lumpur.

The challenge is aimed at encouraging young minds to explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Organized by the Kuala Lumpur Engineering Science Fair (KLESF), this challenge offers primary and secondary school students a platform to showcase their creativity and problem-solving skills through innovative STEM-related projects.

According to an official of the ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF), Pakistan, the challenge has been designed to enhance school students' interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics

(STEM) and unleash students' innovative potential via their STEM projects.

This competition will help promote students' skills in problem-solving, communication, thinking, and innovation and foster greater interaction for schools, educators, industries, and public and private sectors to share information and experiences on projects in STEM. The schools students from Malaysia and overseas including Pakistan with STEM projects may participate in the KLESF International Challenge 2024 by demonstrating their projects to the public.

The competition will be held in two categories including Primary School (12 years old or below) and Secondary School (13-18 years old).

The project must address the sustainable development goals "Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3)" and "Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11)".

The prize-giving ceremony for the KLESF International Challenge will be held on November 10.

Imparting modern education to seminaries students great service to nation: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Sunday that introduction of latest knowledge in seminaries and imparting latest education to their students was a great service to the nation.

Addressing a ceremony at Jamia Darul Uloom Al-Islamia in Lahore through video link, he congratulated the management of the Darul Uloom for introducing new degrees in various educational sectors in many seminaries.

He said this would help equip the students of religious seminaries with

modern education and they would be able to join the national mainstream.

He expressed the hope that among the students of seminaries will emerge leading scholars, intellectuals, legal experts, doctors etc.

He said imparting modern education to all was need of the hour and steps taken by Jamia Darul Uloom Al-Islamia would prove a milestone in this mission. Tarar hoped that in the near future, graduates from seminaries would come forward and play an important role in making Pakistan an ideal Islamic welfare state as envisaged by the Quaid-

e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Poet of the East Allama Iqbal.

He said once there was a time when leading scientists, intellectuals, and experts of mathematics were Muslims and their books were taught all over the world and the time had come to revive the past glory.

He said his family had been affiliated with service to Islam and Tehreek Khatam-e-Nabuwat since 1953 when his grandfather Justice (ret'd) and former president Muhammad Rafiq Tarar actively participated in this movement and remained steadfast in serving this mission till his last breath.

Iqbal Jhagra calls for unity on 'Democracy Day'

ISLAMABAD (APP): On Democracy Day, a senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Iqbal Jhagra Sunday called on the nation to unite in their commitment to democratic norms and the rule of law, emphasizing the importance of following the Quaid-e-Azam's principles for a prosperous and progressive Pakistan.

Talking to PTV news channel, Jhagra stressed that institutions are the backbone of democracy and their respect is vital for the smooth functioning of the government.

Rubina Khalid lauds Sindh Govt decision to abolish birth certificate fee

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid Sunday expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Minister of Sindh and the cabinet members for approving the abolition of the birth certificate fee for children in Sindh.

She welcomed this decision, which was made during a recent Sindh Cabinet meeting, recognizing its positive impact on the province's underprivileged families.

On Chairperson Rubina Khalid's instructions, Director General BISP Sindh, Zulfiqar Ali Shaikh, engaged in various discussions with key figures such as Provincial Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani, Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah, and Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab.

These meetings focused on resolving the challenges hindering the issuance of birth certificates and B-forms to the registered beneficiaries of BISP.



ISLAMABAD: Work in progress of reconstruction of road.

Polio drive success: Over 98% of ICT children vaccinated

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the anti-polio vaccination drive concluded in the Federal Capital, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon highlighted the dedication of polio workers, security personnel, and parents in achieving a major milestone in the fight against polio. Chairing a meeting, the DC praised the efforts of polio workers and security personnel for their key role in the anti-polio campaign's success.

The DC informed that more than 98% of the targeted children received the anti-polio vaccine during the drive, marking significant progress in the district's efforts to eliminate the disease. Memon also recognized the vital role played by parents in ensuring their children were vaccinated, saying their support had been crucial in the success of the campaign. He acknowledged the hard work of both the polio workers and security teams who ensured that the campaign went smoothly.

SUPARCO gears up to mark World Space Week through series of activities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Maintaining its previous traditions, Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO)-the national space agency has planned a series of activities to mark the upcoming World Space Week, to be held from October 04-10.

According to an official of SUPARCO, the Space Week will be marked under the theme of using space technology to fight climate change.

The SUPARCO has announced various contests for the general public in different categories revolving around the theme.

The first category is "Reuse, Reduce, Recycle for Climate Action: Show how small steps can make a BIG difference!" while the second category is, "Planting for a Greener Pakistan": Let's work together to plant a sustainable future!"

The third category of the contest is "Space form limited: Video Challenge": Share your creative ideas on how space technology can help save our planet!"

The students, professionals or climate enthusiasts can participate in the contests to create a better world for future generations. World Space Week is an international celebration of science and technology, and their contribution to the betterment of the human condition.

General Assembly declared in 1999 that World Space Week will be held each year from October 4-10.

These dates commemorate two events including 'October 4, 1957: Launch of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, thus opening the way for space exploration' and the other is 'October 10, 1967: the signing of the treaty on principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies'.

World Space Week consists of space education and outreach events held by space agencies, educational institutions, planetaria, museums and astronomy clubs around the world in a common time frame under the ambit of the United Nations to enhance awareness about space and related technologies and to highlight its role towards national development.

SUPARCO being the National Space Agency annually organizes World Space Week (WSW) in Pakistan as WSW national coordinator since 2005.

Pakistan has managed to make its mark each year with the greatest number of events conducted globally.

Pakistan stood third in the year 2023 for conducting 7,836 space events in the country during the festive week which is an honour for the country.



Senator Hidayatullah Khan, presiding over a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Narcotics Control after being elected as Chairman of the Committee at Parliament House Islamabad.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
Monday September 16, 2024

Amendment furore

The inter- and intra-institutional battles continue apace. With rumours and speculation at fever pitch, the National Assembly and Senate convened late Saturday afternoon, ostensibly to debate amendments to the Constitution.

However, soon after sessions commenced in the two Houses, it became clear that nothing dramatic was planned for the day. The opposition and treasury benches seemed more interested in trading barbs and attacking each other's democratic credentials, while there was little discussion on the 'constitutional package' that was supposed to be tabled. As the day wore on, speculation picked up that the government had failed to lock down the votes it needed. Even with its allies, it seems to be short of the required two-thirds majority in both Houses. Furthermore, a Supreme Court judgment in the field on Article 63-A ensures that even if opposition legislators are induced to vote against their party lines, their votes will not count.

While these debates and discussions were playing out in parliament and on television talk shows, a bolt landed from the blue. The Supreme Court issued a long-awaited clarification in connection with its earlier ruling in the reserved seats case, directing the Election Commission of Pakistan to immediately notify all remaining PTI lawmakers as members of its parliamentary party. This gave finality to the status of 41 lawmakers that the government had been describing as 'independents', whose votes were up for grabs.

As things now stand, making constitutional amendments while remaining within the bounds of propriety and the law seems like an increasingly difficult task. The government should be asked why it set about attempting to change the Constitution in such a furtive manner. Few seem to know what is in its legislative package, and with the opposition accusing it of pressuring lawmakers to vote for it, it seems like a thoroughly undemocratic exercise overall.

Lastly, a word too on the ECP, one of the primary actors responsible for the growing political mess in Pakistan. Yet again, its actions have been found to be in bad faith and violative of the law. Not only that, the Supreme Court has also slammed its attempt to delay implementation of the July reserved seats verdict by seeking 'clarification' on the PTI's organisational structure. The "attempt by the ECP to confuse and cloud what is otherwise absolutely clear as a matter of the Constitution and the law must [...] be strongly deprecated," the court has noted, warning it of consequences if it tries to delay issuing the notifications any longer.

Perhaps it is time that the institutions propping up the current regime realised that the state is sinking deeper in crisis not just because of the PTI, but also because their own actions are gradually robbing it of all legitimacy.

Muhammad Amir Rana

The PML-N-led coalition wants to introduce a judicial reform package through a constitutional amendment in order to extend by three years the retirement age of the judges of the Supreme Court. Meanwhile, a country in North America is making waves by revolutionising its own judicial appointment mechanism and coming up with unique reforms.

The appointment of judges in our country has been a contentious issue for decades, but particularly before the Judicial Commission of Pakistan was established in 2010. This forum was created to nominate judges to the high courts and the apex judiciary. However, the appointment process remains a subject of debate within the superior judiciary: should the judges be appointed on the basis of the 'seniority principle' or simply on the basis of merit? The formalisation of objective criteria for assessing judges' merit is still under debate.

It is easy to under-

stand why both the executive and judiciary seek to reform the judicial appointment mechanism. Whatever the reasons behind these reforms, they could be a blessing in disguise if they serve the broader public interest and ensure timely justice.

On the same day that a press release was issued by the chief justice of Pakistan's secretary, Muhammad Mushtaq Ahmad, clarifying a misunderstanding about the CJP's off-the-record conversation with journalists, Mexico introduced landmark judicial reforms in its parliament. The press release explained that during the Sept 9 discussion, the chief justice had stated that he had informed the law minister that if a proposal for an extension in his tenure were intended to be individual-specific, he would not accept it. Newspapers and TV channels had widely misquoted the chief justice as saying he would refuse an extension to his tenure.

On Sept 11, Mexican senators approved a judicial overhaul spearheaded by the outgoing President Andrés Manuel López

Obrador. The changes would mean that Mexico would become the first country to allow its voters to directly elect judges at all levels, including to the apex court. Hitherto, the appointment of supreme court judges in that country had been confirmed by its senate from a presidential shortlist.

The reform will see the election of more than 6,500 judges, magistrates, and ministers, while lowering the number of supreme court judges to nine from 11, and reducing their tenure to 12 years. It will additionally abolish a minimum age requirement of 35 years, and halve the required work experience to five years.

While the debate on the judicial reforms was underway in parliament, hundreds of protesters stormed the chamber, chanting, "The judiciary will not fall." According to them, the plan would undermine judicial independence beside threatening the system of checks and balances. In fact, the elected judges could be in a position to be easily exploited by criminals in a country where powerful

drug cartels routinely turn to bribery and intimidation to influence judges. Those favouring the reforms claim that the Mexican judicial system had become corrupt and only served the interests of certain power elites.

It is lucky that Pakistan doesn't have powerful drug cartels that can influence the judiciary as in the case of Mexico. But there are others who are often perceived as doing so. While the motives of Mexico's ruling party are debatable, they do carry some weight: a democratically elected judiciary would likely act in the public interest, as it would be held accountable by the voters.

There's no knowing how long the reforms will last or if other states will follow suit. But suppose the system were introduced in Pakistan — how would it function? The implications of a democratically elected judiciary in Pakistan are intriguing.

The primary concern would be the holding of free and fair elections for an elected judiciary, requiring neutral institutions and an independent Election

Commission — the latter itself might require a democratically elected leadership. If Pakistan were to have an elected judiciary, it could spark a debate about the supremacy of parliament versus that of the apex court. The current chief justice firmly believes in the supremacy of parliament, and he proved it by attending the golden jubilee of the 1973 Constitution in parliament. However, the question will remain as to the sentiments of an elected chief justice on the issue. And what about another powerful institution in the country holding veto power — how would that institution react to such reforms?

People will always dream of an ideal system, especially at times of critical challenges. In times of chaos, unconventional ideas tend to emerge. Recently, I had a conversation with an official dealing with Afghanistan, who said that the TTP issue cannot be resolved without establishing the rule of law.

His perspective suggests that there may be no military, political, or diplomatic solution to TTP terrorism in Pakistan. Even

in the unlikely event that the Afghan Taliban refused to support the TTP, the group could thrive by exploiting sociopolitical fault lines within Pakistan. A similar dynamic can be observed in the case of the Baloch insurgency. The TTP has built its ideological and social capital by offering a tribal-style, speedy justice system, and in Swat, the main demand of fundamentalist elements has consistently been the establishment of an Islamic judicial system.

In this context, the official's views are noteworthy. However, the panacea he suggested implies that the 'mother of all solutions' lies in fully implementing the rule of law — without which all other efforts are bound to fall flat. As we observe Mexico's experiment with a democratically elected judiciary, the key question is whether it can truly ensure the rule of law, meet public expectations, and remain immune to criminal influences. If successful, it may offer a model for Pakistan, a country which is in dire need of fresh ideas to address its own internal challenges. -- Courtesy Dawn

The ever-elusive stability**Abbas Nasir**

The two concurrent sessions of the National Assembly and the Senate called over the weekend suggest that the government feels confident of reaching the two-thirds majority required in each House to pass a constitutional amendment bill aimed at making possible what it sees as a more sympathetic judiciary.

The million-dollar question that will remain unanswered is whether these changes in the Constitution, side by side with changes in the rules governing the Supreme Court such as those encapsulated in the Practice and Procedures Act, will lead to the sort of stability seen as a pre-requisite to economic development.

Such stability has eluded the country ever since the Nawaz Sharif government was destabilised around a decade ago and continued through the ushering in of the Imran Khan government in 2018 and then his ouster and the abnormally long tenure of the caretaker government. There has been little change in the ground reality since last

February's election.

As things stand, the civilian politicians in power and their backers in the military both believe that the superior judiciary (excluding the chief justice) is placing roadblocks in the path of whatever they have planned for the country and, therefore, the judges' wings have to be clipped so they can't do, as the hybrid set-up perceives, all that they do to help Imran Khan and his party.

For years, under the various military rulers, the superior judiciary remained largely compliant and instances of individual defiance in upholding the rule of law and the Constitution were few and far between. Therefore, they had minimal impact on the decision-making environment which remained arbitrary, whimsical and mostly driven by the autocrat's desires.

However, when military ruler Gen Pervez Musharraf tried to get rid of the man he had hand-picked earlier to be chief justice in 2007, the latter refused to resign and was suspended. This triggered a lawyers' movement for his restoration and political parties

also joined it.

There is no point in writing many paragraphs recalling what happened as events are too recent to forget. On the face of it, the chief justice's institution rallied behind him and he was restored. This weakened Musharraf who had to hold elections that saw PPP forming a government in Islamabad and the PML-N in Lahore — though not before he sent the entire judiciary home and installed puppets in 2007; the judiciary was restored again after public protests led by the PML-N in 2009.

Post-elections, faced with an impeachment threat, Musharraf left the presidential office and was replaced by PPP's Asif Zardari who got the most votes in the electoral college, comprising all elements of the country's parliament including the provincial assemblies. Although it wasn't clear then, it was not just the popular movement that saw Musharraf's ouster; an influential faction within the military also, quietly, supported that change.

In his new life, CJP Iftikhar Chaudhry, a seem-

ingly small man got enormous powers, and started to run all but a parallel administration and put obstacles in the path of the running of a smooth government by the PPP. His hostility to the PPP was intense and led to the ouster of elected prime minister Yousuf Raza Gilani.

Many of Mr Chaudhry's decisions cost Pakistan dearly such as the one on Reko Diq. His critics also cite his decision on Pakistan Steel, which stopped its privatisation and eventually led to its demise. These are just a few in a plethora of judgments.

But as this particular CJP tightened his grip on the Supreme Court, he won the support of the entire bench and it stood as one behind his decisions and transgressions alike. It was surprising to see justices of immense merit, competence and credibility also agreeing with him even in cases where the opinion among the top legal experts was different.

It was during his heyday that he threatened parliament with striking down any legislation which included a meaningful role for elected lawmakers in judi-

cial appointments, and monopolised all such elevations. This threat fitted in with his high-handed behaviour with all who appeared before him, whether politicians or senior civil servants or police officers.

If Chaudhry lowered the bar for both judgments and conduct, one of his successors, Saqib Nisar, obliterated all standards. He seemed to dance to the tune of the powerful intelligence bosses and acted obnoxiously in public with a large number of people, many of whom were left wondering as to what they'd done to deserve such treatment by the man tasked with delivering justice to all Pakistanis.

It may have been Saqib Nisar and his cohorts who finally ended up spoiling the establishment to the point that they started to take as normal total compliance with their 'requests'. Now when the establishment has put its money on a different horse, it has been troubled by many senior members of the judiciary not playing ball. Hence, the hybrid set-up's 'need' to control some outcomes by controlling who gets or keeps the top job and other key positions

in the high courts and the Supreme Court.

As these lines were being written, the apex court issued a clarification on the ECP's request to clearly spell out that 41 elected members who did not submit their affiliations after the short Supreme Court order be treated as PTI members. It isn't clear if some of them were among those the government was relying on to reach a two-thirds majority in the National Assembly and could stymie the move.

Whatever happens, two things won't change. The first is that the judiciary seems gung-ho in safeguarding its right to adjudicate as it deems fit. And the second is that Imran Khan and his party can't be wished away. They remain defiant and seem even more relevant after their performance in the last election. Against this backdrop, it is very difficult to see how Pakistan will attain the stability it so desperately seeks. If that stability remains elusive, its impact on the economy and the people can only lead to more upheaval. Could it be time to pull out the drawing board again?

Women in trouble**Muna Khan**

Every day is a terrible day for women everywhere in the world. I'm loath to rank crimes from most horrendous to least because there's no such thing, so I'm writing about some especially horrific stories in no particular order. Although I have been covering gruesome acts against women for at least two decades and consider myself desensitised, I was stunned by the following.

Dominique Pelicot is on trial in France for the mass rape of his wife, the 72-year-old Gisele, whom he drugged; he enlisted 80 men to rape her in her own bed for a decade. Gisele only found out about these unimaginable crimes when her husband was arrested for inappropriate filming of young girls and police confiscated his computer. There he had kept meticulous records of the repeated sexual abuse of his wife, which he organised and filmed. Police say it is not possible the man did not know she was unconscious. One man charged with the crime told police he thought she was asleep and it was "part of the play".

Dominique has admitted to drugging his wife with sleeping pills before inviting men he met on an online platform to abuse her. "I put her to sleep, I offered her, and I filmed," he told the police when he was arrested, according to French media.

I salute Gisele for her bravery in waiving her right to anonymity, attending the trial which she asked be made public and sitting through the images and videos.

Dominique and 18 men are in custody while 32 are attending the trial as free men while one man, who remains at large, will be judged in

absentia. He and the 50 men could face up to 20 years in prison if found guilty. Thirty men, however, are still at large.

Gisele told the court she was worried she had Alzheimer's because her memory and concentration were poor. The toughest part was telling her adult children what their father had done. Their daughter, who published *And I Stopped Calling You Dad* in French in 2022, described him as "one of the worst sexual criminals in the last 20 years".

Gisele has been hailed for her calm demeanour during the trial but she was quoted in the BBC as saying her face "masked a field of devastation". The Guardian reported her saying "I no longer have an identity ... I don't know if I'll ever rebuild myself."

While Gisele has the support of her children and European social services, what can we expect for the woman scrap collector in Madhya Pradesh who was raped on a busy street last week as bystanders watched and filmed the incident. It was uploaded on social media and went viral. A man has been arrested for luring the woman and plying her with alcohol before raping her in broad daylight. He has admitted to the crime. Police say they are looking for those who filmed the incident.

Her case will not get the attention it deserves perhaps because Indian media is numb or this woman's rape did not receive the outrage the rape of the trainee doctor in Kolkata did. It is a reminder of the challenges India faces with high rape cases and low conviction rates — 27 per cent between 2018 to 2022 according to official figures.

A criminal lawyer told Reuters rapists still

think they can get away with the crime.

We've made getting away with crimes an art form in Pakistan.

You can say the most odious of things about women — on TV (dramas and news), in parliament or political rallies — and not face serious consequences. Women journalists are especially vulnerable. We saw it on Sunday when KP's Chief Minister Ali Gandapur laun-ched into a diatribe against women journalists using highly objectionable language. Reporters at this rally said they felt the crowd's hostility turn towards them. This is so dangerous as increasingly people are being whipped into a frenzy and turn violent. Who would be held responsible if women journalists were attacked that night?

At the time of writing Gandapur had not apologised for those comments and after condoning them, Imran Khan told journalists in prison that Gandapur went too far. But it is because journalists protested. This is what we need to see more of: collective action like refusing to cover events where women are targeted. There must be consequences for dragging women down.

Earlier this year the World Health Organisation published a report showing that "globally about one in three ... women worldwide have been subjected to either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or sexual violence by a non-partner in their lifetime." It is a major public health problem. I don't know how policymakers can redress this issue but I know our attitudes — especially certain politicians' — need a major overhaul. -- Courtesy Dawn

Bangladesh renewal**Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry**

Forty days after Sheikh Hasina Wajed fled Dhaka, Bangladesh is slowly recovering from the after-effects of her government's violent crackdown on the students-led protests, that reportedly cost over 1,000 lives. The intellectual community worldwide is curious to understand why Hasina, who cultivated her image as the 'iron lady', lost her grip on power so rapidly, as well as the nature of the change in Bangladesh. Since 2009, Hasina ruled Bangladesh like an autocrat, crushing all opposition ruthlessly. She also built a cult around the figure of her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Her ouster pacified widespread concerns in the country regarding the erosion of multiparty democracy under her and the attempt to impose one-party rule.

It has certainly been a peoples' moment in Bangladesh, with terms such as 'Monsoon Revolution' being used to describe the change. However, it is not clear if this change is permanent and if political stability will return to the country soon. Hasina's party, the Awami League, has lost considerable ground, but will endeavour to make a comeback, arguing that it represented the country's secular ethos. Her 15-year rule enabled the party to spread its tentacles to every aspect of national life. Under her, the country saw notable economic development, though this was not inclusive and inequalities sharpened amidst unemployment and inflation.

In foreign policy, Hasina chose to capitulate to Indian dominance, which for the freedom-loving Bangladeshis was suffocating. For now, India's space in Bangladesh has been

squeezed, but it is evident that it will make every effort to preserve its influence. Of crucial interest to India is border security, given the 4,000-kilometre-long porous border and active insurgencies in India's north-eastern states. However, the immediate challenge for India's leaders is how to handle the presence of Hasina in their country. As long as she is in Delhi, the latter's relations with Dhaka are not likely to improve. Given that the two countries signed an extradition treaty in 2013, many in Bangladesh have called for seeking her return to stand trial for the over 90 criminal cases lodged against her and her aides.

India is trying to manipulate the narrative that brought about the change in Bangladesh. Indian researchers and media are advancing a narrative that the change would nudge Bangladesh towards Muslim fundamentalism, and that the Hindus in Bangladesh were being targeted, which according to the BBC were mostly rumours. Ironically, it is India where religious persecution has risen to alarming levels. India is also desperately projecting the possible involvement of a foreign hand in the change, which appears to be totally indigenous. This is intended to discredit the change brought about by the sacrifice of the students who stood up to Hasina's tyranny.

Meanwhile, the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus is struggling to address the politically charged environment and reboot the economy, which was slowing down even before the protests began. The country's garment industry has taken a particular hit due to the weeks-long protests. The government has set up a task force called 'Re-strategising the economy and mobilising

resources for equitable and sustainable development'.

Politically, a healing touch is required. The student leadership wants fundamental reforms in the judiciary, police, and election commission before the polls. It appears that elections may be delayed for some time.

As for the regional setting, Muhammad Yunus has underscored the need to revive Saarc, which was established in Dhaka in 1985. He wants Bangladesh to be-co-member of Asean and then serve as a bridge between Saarc and Asean.

How should Pakis-tan respond to this change? Pakistanis care for the people of Bangladesh, and should fully respect their right to determine their political destiny in whatever way they want. However, Pakistan can take satisfaction from the fact that Hasina will no longer be able to falsely accuse it or manipulate the sad events of 1971. The poisonous propaganda against Pakistan might also stop.

Hasina's exit from power provides an opportunity for Pakistan and Bangladesh to reset bilateral ties. However, Pakistan must have realistic expectations of what the new interim government can do at a time when it is endeavouring to set matters right internally.

Pakistan has done well by expressing solidarity with the people of Bangladesh in the face of the devastating floods that recently hit the country's eastern region.

The two countries could also encourage people-to-people contacts and youth exchanges that Hasina had blocked. It would be appropriate for both countries to move towards each other at a measured pace with realistic expectations. -- Courtesy Dawn

CM Marriyam lauds PM Shehbaz for bringing economic stability

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) Information Secretary Marriyam Aurangzeb praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for bringing economic stability to the country after several years. She said that the youth must understand why the economic indicators begin to improve as soon as the PML-N government comes into power. With the PML-N's governance, inflation starts to decrease historically, and the public begins to receive relief. She noted that the

historic reduction in inflation from 38% to 9.6% is nothing short of a miracle. The decrease in the interest rate (policy rate) from 22% to 17.5% is proof of successful economic policies, while, for the last five years, incompetent, inefficient, and conspiratorial mafias played with the economy, causing its destruction and making the country more expensive.

The senior provincial minister stated that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, with the help of God, made decisions in the national

interest that saved the country from default. Whenever Pakistan Muslim League-N comes into power, God bestows His blessings. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is turning the tide of economic storms, Alhamdulillah.

Successes on all fronts, including the economy, foreign affairs, and public relief, are proof that the PML-N and its leadership are the ones who bring progress to the country and its people. Marriyam Aurangzeb remarked that every

decision made by Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif, and Maryam Nawaz Sharif is aimed at reducing inflation, and every decision by the Chief Minister of Punjab is for public relief.

After the decrease in inflation, the 4% reduction in the interest rate is a testament to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's hard work, honesty, and sound economic policies. She further added that the PML-N had promised to bring inflation to single digits in the first year, a goal they achieved in just six months.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi called on by faculty staff of the department of Arts & Design of Iqra National University Peshawar at Governor House.



MIRPUR: Prime Minister AJK Chaudhry Anwarul Haq presiding over a meeting regarding AJK University

AJK PM assures all possible financial resources for uplift of state-run AJK University

Independent Report
MIRPUR: Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the government would provide all possible resources to solve the problems faced by the state-run university of Azad Jammu Kashmir.

The PM made this assurance while addressing an extraordinary meeting held with him in the chair to discuss the ensuing financial challenges faced by the varsity at the Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis on

Sunday. The meeting was attended among others by Minister of Higher Education Malik Zafar Iqbal, Chief Secretary Dawood Muhammad Barich, Secretary to the President Muhammad Idrees Abbasi, Secretary of Higher Education Chaudhry Muhammad Tayyab, Vice Chancellor Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, and others.

Stressing the need for strengthening the institutions, the PM said that the financial problems

of the university would be addressed on a priority basis.

The Prime Minister directed the concerned authorities to submit a comprehensive report regarding the problems of the university so that comprehensive measures could be taken to solve them.

Earlier, Secretary Higher Education of AJK Muhammad Tayyeb Chaudhry briefed the Prime Minister of the financial challenges being faced by the university.

Governor confers awards on individuals for excellence in diplomacy

KARACHI (APP): The Governor of Sindh Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori awarded honorary doctorate degrees to several distinguished individuals for their exceptional contributions to successful diplomacy and the promotion of international relations.

Among the recipients were Iran's Consul General Hassan Nourian and Bahrain's Consul General Abdullah Ahmed Bughous, a Governor House communique said on Sunday.

Addressing the special convocation of Jinnah University for Women, Karachi, held at Governor House, Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori commended the unwavering efforts of these individuals in

advancing diplomacy and development. He emphasized that encouraging those who serve the nation is vital to inspire others to follow suit, stating that active participation in all sectors is key to national progress.

Tessori congratulated the honorary doctorate recipients, which also included Farhan Hanif, Arshad Wali Muhammad, Ms. Akram Khatoon, Haji Hanif Tayyab, and Syed Nadeem Raza Sarwar, for their remarkable achievements in various fields.

He acknowledged their outstanding efforts in enhancing international relations, successful diplomacy, and driving development, noting that their steadfast dedication deserves high praise.

Democracy only way for Pakistan's bright future, stability: Sindh CM

Democracy has become stable, strong in Pak: Governor Tessori

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that Democracy is the only way for Pakistan's bright future and stability.

In a message on the occasion of International Day for Democracy, he said that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was the pioneer of democracy. He said, 'We have made numerous sacrifices for the survival of democracy and our leaders and workers sacrificed their blood for the

democracy.' The CM Murad said that democracy was a wonderful system, where people choose their representatives.

Shaheed Benazir Bhutto called democracy the best revenge, he said adding that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was the best system to serve the people.

He said that the Pakistan People's Party made sacrifices for the restoration of democracy. He further said that

the PPP had never surrendered to dictators.

The Chief Minister said that the restoration of democracy was our motto and that democracy made institutions strong.

Meanwhile the Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Sunday said that democracy has become stable and strong in Pakistan today compared to the past. In his message on the occasion of International Democracy Day,

IGP pins ranks on 28 officers promoted as DSPs

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar pinned new rank on 28 officers promoted from inspector to DSP.

A ceremony was held at the Central Police Office in this regard, here on Sunday. Parents, children, and families of promoted officers attended the ceremony.

The IGP, along with senior officers, pinned ranks on the newly-promoted DSPs and extended congratulations to both the promoted officers and their families.

In his address, the IGP said that over 1,500 departmental promotions across various cadres and ranks will take place this year.



SARGODHA: A beautifully decorated Rescue 1122 building in celebration of 12th Rabi-ul-Awal.

Journalist problems to be solved on priority: Azma Bukhari

Provincial Minister orders tight security on Eid Milad

FAISALABAD (APP): Provincial Minister for Information & Culture Azma Bukhari visited Faisalabad Press Club (FPC) here on Sunday and promised to redress the problems being confronted by the journalist community on top priority basis.

During her visit to Faisalabad, she also went to FPC where she accorded a rousing reception. She said that journalism was a noble profession and the government would resolve problems of this sector on urgent basis. She also assured an annual grant of Rs.2.5 million for FPC in addition to addressing the issue residential colony for local journalists.

President FPC Abdur Rehman briefed the

information minister about role of press club and highlighted various issues. Parliamentary Secretary for Information & Culture MPA Shazia Rizwan and others were also present on the occasion.

Meanwhile Provincial Minister for Information & Culture Azma Bukhari directed the police and local administration to ensure tight security and administrative arrangements on Eid Milad-un-Nabi.

Addressing a briefing at DC Office here on Sunday, she said that Eid Milad was a prestigious occasion and the Punjab government had chalked out a comprehensive strategy to facilitate the faithful at maximum extent to celebrate the event.



KARACHI: Lady Health Workers protesting in favour of their demands in the Provincial Capital.

Khawaja Imran announces evening OPDs at THQ, DHQ hospitals

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare, Khawaja Imran Nazir, has announced the initiation of evening outpatient departments (OPDs) at Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) and District Headquarters (DHQ) hospitals in Lahore starting from next month.

This decision comes following directives from Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif as part of the government's ongoing efforts to improve healthcare services in the province. The announcement was made during a meeting held on

Sunday at the Health Department, where the minister discussed the enhancement of healthcare facilities at Raiwind and Ghaziabad THQ hospitals. Several key decisions were taken to ensure the performance of these hospitals is improved. Imran Nazir also revealed plans to implement a Queue Management System (QMS) in all hospitals across the province, starting in phases, to streamline patient management. He instructed that all beds at Raiwind Hospital be replaced immediately with new ones.

Saving a precious academic year Provincial Ombudsman rules in favor of Owais Ahmed Bhayo

Independent Report
KARACHI: Provincial Ombudsman Dr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput has announced a significant decision in favor of Owais Ahmed Bhayo, a student of Shah Abdul Latif University, safeguarding his precious academic year.

Owais Ahmed, a second-semester student of Clinical Pharmacy, was declared as having failed by the university administration, despite his exemplary academic record. In response to this injustice, Owais Ahmed filed a petition with the provincial ombudsman, prompting a full investigation. The investigation revealed that

the university administration had made a grave error in declaring the student as having failed.

Following the inquiry, Provincial Ombudsman Dr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput issued strict instructions to the university administration, including the Controlling of Examinations, to rectify the mistake and ensure justice in the matter. Acting on the ombudsman's directives, the university administration reversed its decision and declared Owais Ahmed Bhayo as having passed the Clinical Pharmacy examination, saving him from losing an academic year.

CPO directs beefing up security at Iqbal Stadium

FAISALABAD (APP): City Police Officer (CPO) Kamran Adil visited the Iqbal Stadium Faisalabad here on Sunday and directed officials to beef up security in the stadium to provide fully secured atmosphere to cricket lovers and teams of the Champions Cup Tournament.

He also checked the presence of security personnel at all gates, inside and outside the stadium and directed them to ensure a thorough search of people before their entry into the stadium.

He also directed the police officials to deal the public politely and perform their duties vigilantly by keeping an eye on the movement of suspected elements.

Medical facilities inspected at DHQ Dera

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Assistant Commissioner Muhammad Faseh Ishaq Abbasi visited the District Headquarters (DHQ) hospital and inspected medical facilities being provided to patients.

According to the district administration, the hospital's director briefed the AC on various wards, including the ICU, children ward, general wards, and surgery.

The AC also inspected cleanliness and instructed that immediate measures be taken to enhance the hospital's services and to utilize all available resources for patient convenience.

13 dead, 1,366 injured in Punjab road accidents

Independent Report
LAHORE: At least 13 people were killed and 1,366 others injured in 1,294 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 585 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 781 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams. The data analysis showed that 738 drivers, 43 underage drivers, 168 pedestrians and 473 passengers were among victims of road accidents.

The statistics showed that 246 accident were reported in Lahore, which affected 258 people, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by Faisalabad with 105 accidents and 106 victims, and at third Multan with 83 accidents and 92 victims.

According to the data, 1,185 motorbikes, 66 auto-rickshaws, 119 motorcars, 23 vans, nine passenger buses, 27 trucks and 111 other types of vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the road traffic accidents.



FAISALABAD: Punjab Information and Culture Minister Ms. Uzma Bukhari inaugurates the Islamic calligraphy exhibition for Rabi' Al-Awwal at the Arts Council.

Minister announces upgradation of Ahmad Wala Agricultural Research Station Karak

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Agriculture Major Retired Sajjad Barkwal announced upgradation of Ahmad Wala Agricultural Research Station of Karak District and the cultivation of saffron on an experimental basis in Karak district.

He expressed these views as a special guest at the closing ceremony of the Honey Project at Ahmad Wala, Agricultural Research Station in Karak district. Director General Agriculture Extension Abdul Qayyum Khan, Senior Director Dr. Dil Fayyaz Khan, Project Director Muhammad Younis Khan, Station Director Tahir Sajjad, Research Officers Dr. Muhammad Ejaz Khan and Ashfaq Khan participated in the ceremony.

The Provincial Minister for Agriculture was briefed regarding the ongoing activities of the agriculture department and especially honey training and production. Speaking at the closing ceremony,

Provincial Minister for Agriculture Major Retired Sajjad Barkwal said that a new agricultural policy is being prepared at the provincial level to increase agricultural production per hectare.

From Chitral to Khyber and from Khyber to DI Khan, full attention will be paid to increasing the production of local crops. The development of agriculture can make the province self-sufficient in food needs. Under the vision of Founder Chairman Imran Khan and leadership of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, steps are being taken for the development of agriculture and the welfare of farmers.

Provincial Minister Major Retired Sajjad Barkwal also announced the establishment of Dhaki Khajoor Sub Station and the establishment of Olive Nursery. Provincial Minister Major @ Sajjad Barkwal distributed honey cats and certificates to the trained people.

Info. minister inaugurates calligraphy exhibition

FAISALABAD (APP): Provincial Minister for Information Azma Bukhari has said the government is concentrating to protect the Islamic culture and historic values in order to disseminate it in the coming generations for promoting healthy and noble society.

She was talking to media persons on the occasion of inaugurating calligraphy exhibition at Faisalabad Arts Council in connection with the celebrations of Rabi-ul-Awwal here on Sunday.

She said that a comprehensive strategy has been chalked out to utilise social media for promotion of soft image of Punjab. In this connection, arts councils were also directed to prepare out-of-box programs whereas the universities would arrange various events in collaboration with dramatic societies to include the young generation in art and culture programs.

She said that Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz was taking keen interest in the public welfare and betterment programs besides focusing on health and education

Ashra Rehmat-ul-Alameen competition to be held today in Peshawar

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: On the instructions of the provincial government, the Auqaf Department is organizing the Ashra Rehmat-ul-Alameen Competition, which will take place today, Monday, at the Auqaf, Hajj, and Religious Affairs Department on Charsada Road, Peshawar.

The event will be presided over by Provincial Minister Sahibzada Adnan Qadri. Participants include divisional-level position holders in speech, recitation, and Naat Khwani competitions,

along with religious scholars.

These participants will now compete at the provincial level, with winners in each category set to receive cash prizes, certificates, and shields.

The Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, along with Provincial Minister Auqaf Sahibzada Adnan Qadri and other dignitaries, will present the awards to those securing first, second, and third positions in the provincial-level Recitation and Naat Khwani competitions.



KARACHI: Madrassa students participate in a Jashn-e-Eid Milad ul Nabi rally organized by Jamaat Ahle Sunnat and Madrassa Darul Uloom Qasmia Rahmania at Lines Area.

CIFTIS 2024:

Global enterprises showcase interest in China's expanding market as UAE, Pak debut national pavilions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) 2024 has once again demonstrated China's high level of openness by fostering international cooperation and mutual benefits.

According to the information, over 450 Fortune 500 enterprises and leading companies, along with representatives from 85 countries and international organizations, are participating in the event.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) debuted its National Pavilion at CIFTIS this year, showcasing a keen interest in exploring the vast Chinese market.

The pavilion, featured a completely open design, prominently displays the national brand 'Halawah', one of the best Marathi sweets. "We are really excited to introduce our products here in China. Our sweets, representing a unique flavor from the Middle East, will bring a whole new taste for Chinese consumers," Marilou Malacaste, staff of Halawah, told China Economic Net.

Business Development Manager Amer Tolba added, "In just two days, several companies have expressed interest in cooperation. We are optimistic about finding distributors in China to expand our presence in this expansive market." Pakistan, having inaugurated its National Pavilion, seeks collaborations in various sectors, including textiles, chemicals, and agriculture.

Muhammad Barbar Khan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Multinational Export Bureau, a knitted garment manufacturer and exporter, attended the fair to seek potential buyers and investors. "Our company has operated successfully for 30 years, serving clients globally. This platform offers a great opportunity to expand our business in China," he said.

Barbar emphasized the cost-effectiveness of doing business in Pakistan, which could attract Chinese investment and technology transfer, benefiting both economies.

Swiss company IQAir, which has sold air purification systems in China since 1998, views China as a crucial market.



KARACHI: Japanese Ambassador Mr. WADA Mituhiro in a group photo with honorary Advisor Board of Investment Syed Farooq Alam Shah and others.

SACM emphasizes investors to invest in Chitral instead of Islamabad, other cities

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Special assistant to chief minister KP for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Abdul Karim Tordher has said that Chitral to Chkudara and Swat is the corridor from where cheap electricity will be supplied to the country and at this time, we can change our fortunes by using this cheap electricity and develop small industries in which we are autonomous in our province. Addressing the 'Chitral Economic Development Conference 2024' on the second day of the Chitral Expo, he said that the economic activities in an area did change the fates of the local people for better as the example of the Gadoon Industrial Estate is in front of us where the outsider investors left after ten years, then 55 to 60 percent of the factories are owned by the people of Swabi.

He emphasized to the investors of Chitral that they should invest in Chitral instead of Islamabad and other cities to set the wheel of progress and prosperity to rotate. He explained the economic policy of the PTI government and said that it has given priority to make maximum use of local resources, while partnership is the main element in this regard and the provincial government will welcome any proposal that the basis is commercial cooperation.

Regarding the economic development in Chitral, he said that the fruits, vegetables, minerals and other products here can be made more expensive and increase their demands in the market through value addition.

Significant reduction in solar panels prices

LAHORE (APP): The rates of solar panels have shown a decline lately, as the price of five to fifteen kilowatt systems has recorded a decrease of Rs 200,000, to 300,000.

Sources told APP that for five kilowatt system, the price has been fixed at Rs. 650,000, while for the seven kilowatt system, the price has been fixed at Rs. 725,000. Similarly, the price has been set at Rs 950,000 for 10 kW system, Rs 1,100,000 for 12 kW system, and Rs 1,250,000 for 15 kW system.

Sources said these prices have been fixed for the on-grid system, but for the hybrid system, additional cost of batteries would have to be paid.

PFC CEO backs PIAF-Pioneers Progressive Alliance in LCCI Elections

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq has announced its support to PIAF-Pioneers Progressive Alliance in the upcoming Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) elections.

He made this announcement at a meeting with leading businessman Mian Anjum Nisar here on Sunday. He said the alliance has garnered backing from various industry stakeholders, including the PFC. This endorsement is seen as a strategic move to bolster the alliance's position and influence within the LCCI.

He said PFC's support reflects a broader trend of industry groups rallying behind candidates and platforms they believe will best represent their interests and drive economic growth. He said Mian Anjum Nisar and his team would exclusively focus on key issues impacting the business community, aiming to address challenges and promote development.

Livestock sector gets boost with new ultrasound technology

MULTAN (APP): Director Livestock Dr. Mahmood Ejaz said on Sunday that introduction of advanced ultrasound machines at the tehsil level would be a best health facility to promote healthy cattle.

"This project, costing Rs. 150 million, will transform livestock healthcare," he said while talking to APP. "The ultrasound machines will allow early detection of animal diseases," he added. Dr. Mahmood emphasized that this would significantly improve the treatment of livestock. "The initiative will be completed within two years," he assured. "It will modernise veterinary services and enhance operational capacity," he remarked.

Dr. Mahmood also spoke about the Livestock Farmer Card, saying, "This card offers farmers easy access to loans for essential supplies." "With an investment of over Rs. 4 billion, it empowers livestock farmers financially," he continued. He stated that the program would boost productivity by enabling farmers to buy fodder and other supplies. "Once loans are repaid, farmers can access more credit," he explained.

Additionally, Dr. Mahmood said, "The government has allocated Rs. 2 billion to support underprivileged women in livestock farming." He mentioned that it would help marginalised women, particularly widows and divorcees. "These women will receive assets to start their livestock businesses," he remarked.

Regarding improving local breeds, Dr. Mahmood stated, "Rs. 500 million will be spent on providing 5,300 high-quality goats and sheep to farmers."



LAHORE: Citizens busy in shopping at Shadman Sunday market in the Provincial Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister AJK Chaudhry Anwarul Haq along with Iftikhar Naseem in a group photo with a delegation of Chinese companies led by Vice President China-Pakistan Commerce Alliance International Bilal Janjua.

Usman Shaukat elected as RCCI's President, Khalid Qazi SVP

RAWALPINDI (APP): A renowned businessman Usman Shaukat has been declared as the next President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) for the term of two years; 2024-26. The poll to elect the RCCI president was scheduled for 16th September, however after being elected unopposed for the top executives seats, the election process has also been declared completed.

According to the details, a three member election commission comprising Tariq Mughal, Syed Rizwan Haider Mashadi and Zahoor Ahmed Malik announced the results of scrutiny of nomination papers for the posts of President, Senior Vice President and Vice President.

As per the results, Usman Shaukat, Khalid Farooq Qazi, and Fahad Barlas stand elected as President, Senior Vice President and Vice President respectively. All three executives remained unopposed in the RCCI Elections 2024-26. Whereas on Reserved Seats for Women Entrepreneurs, Falak Anjum and Naureen were elected uncontested.

President RCCI, Saqib Rafiq along with Group Leader RCCI Sohail Altaf, Vice President Faisal Shahzad, former presidents, EC members and newly elected Executive Committee members, Secretary General Irfan Manan Khan and distinguished RCCI.

Iftikhar Ali Malik urges SCO members to enhance trade cooperation, regional integration

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik called on Sunday for enhanced cooperation among Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) members to boost trade facilitation, reduce tariffs, and eliminate non-tariff barriers, aiming to deepen regional economic integration.

Hailing here today holding of 23rd SCO ministerial meeting successfully in Islamabad, he said recognizing the challenges posed by unilateral trade barriers, SCO ministers emphasized that collaboration through multilateral platforms is essential to addressing these issues. He said meeting emphasized the urgent need to counter rising protectionist trade measures globally and they stressed that such practices hinder international trade and undermine global economic growth, calling instead for a strengthened, inclusive, and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system based on the World Trade Organisation (WTO) framework. The meeting also highlighted the importance of upholding the core principles of the WTO, particularly in ensuring free, fair, and predictable trade rules that apply equally to all member states.

He said SCO ministers also underlined the need for modernizing trade rules to reflect current global economic realities, particularly in areas like digital trade and sustainable development.

Project to empower rural women with transfer of livestock soon

LAHORE (APP): The Livestock Department is going to launch 'Transfer of livestock assets to widows, divorced women' project soon in order to empower rural women.

According to official sources, the one cattle heifer or buffalo heifer would be given to each woman free of cost for one year. The widows and divorced women with maximum age of 55 years and who did not get animals from any government scheme during the last five years would be eligible for the scheme. The women would be bound to take care of these animals for one year. The purpose of the project was to empower the rural women financially so that they could run their businesses and earn livelihood.

MPA visits Kisan card distribution centre Dunyapur

LODHRAN (APP): Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) Punjab Shazia Hayat Tareen paid a visit to Kisan card distribution centre in Dunyapur to review arrangements.

She inspected the Kisan card delivery centre and distributed Kisan cards among farmers. Nasrullah Khan Tareen, Deputy Director Agriculture Extension Lodhran, Muhammad Zafar Malik, Assistant Director Agriculture Dunyapur, Shahid Iqbal Cheema and others were present.

The Agriculture (Extension) deputy director briefed the MPA about the Kisan card distribution centre. He informed her about the process of information desk, biometric verification and the Kisan card delivery desks. As part of the "Plant a Tree for Pakistan" campaign, she also planted a sapling. She stated that over 850,000 farmers across the province have got registration for Punjab CM Kisan card so far, and 250,000 cards were being distributed after printing. She announced that 500,000 Kisan cards would be delivered by October 15. Furthermore, she mentioned that 134 chief minister Kisan card delivery centres have been established at the tehsil level across the province, and the distribution process will continue until October 15. The Kisan card will also be used for purchasing agricultural inputs for wheat cultivation. She highlighted that there were a total of three Kisan card delivery centers in the Lodhran district, with one center in each tehsil.



Chief Executive Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Zubair Motiwala shaking hand with Honorary Consul General of Japan Syed Nadeem Shah.

Channar for resolving farmers' problems

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Zaheer Iqbal Channar urged all departments concerned and stakeholders to play due role for resolving issues confronting the farming community. He stated this while talking to several delegations which visited his residence here, says a news release issued here on Sunday.

The Deputy Speaker told the delegations that the provincial government had been taking practical measures to resolve the problems of common people. He said that agriculture was backbone of national economy, and added that special steps were being taken to boost agro-economy, especially in Punjab province.

"Punjab is an agro-economy province which has been contributing a lot in the national economy by producing agri products," he said.

He said the Punjab government had also introduced several schemes for the development of agriculture sector and to support local farmers.

"The Punjab government has introduced and implemented schemes for farmers of the province including green tractor, solar tube-wells, agricultural machinery and loans," he said and added that 500,000 farmers of Punjab province would get loans to boost agro economy. He termed the issuance of Kisan Card, a revolutionary step by the Punjab government.



QUETTA: Saleem Raza Advocate, Anwar Ali and Faiza Mengal inaugurating a stall in Women Expo organized by Balochistan Women Business Forum

CIFTIS opens new avenues to boost China-Pak banking ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Shaikh Muhammad Shariq, Vice President of National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) and Chief Representative in China Sunday said that China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) had emerged as a pivotal platform, fostering enhanced financial cooperation between Chinese banks and their international counterparts.

Addressing a seminar titled 'Investment in Pakistan', he said, "This year's fair not only showcases innovative financial services but also facilitates meaningful dialogues and partnerships to strengthen global financial ties, particularly for NBP." "As the National Bank of Pakistan seeks to navigate an increasingly interconnected world, CIFTIS offers a unique opportunity to explore collaborative ventures that can drive mutual growth and stability in the financial sector," he added.

He said, "NBP can leverage the opportunity to showcase its services, connect with potential business partners, and explore new avenues for collaboration with Chinese financial institutions." "We are constantly working on technology upgradation to position ourselves as a digitally competitive, agile,

Punjab Govt to distribute 600,000 Kissan Cards by October 15

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani visited the Card's Distribution Center in Sahiwal today and reviewed the arrangements.

Speaking on the occasion, he said 250,000 cards have been distributed and the remaining 600,000 cards will be delivered by October 15. The minister said that 134 centers at the tehsil level have been established for the distribution of the Punjab Kisan Cards. He said that the Punjab Kisan Card will be used for the purchase of agricultural inputs.

The Minister said Punjab government will also provide a subsidy of 1 million rupees per tractor to the farmers.

3-day int'l carpet exhibition from Oct 9

LAHORE (APP): The 40th International Exhibition of Handmade Carpets is set to kick off on October 9 at a local hotel bringing together industry experts, buyers, and enthusiasts from around the globe. The Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA), in collaboration with the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), presents a highly anticipated three-day event, showcasing Pakistan's vibrant carpet-weaving legacy and poised to propel exports to new heights. PCMEA Senior Vice-Chairman Usman Ashraf told media here Sunday that the registration process is currently underway for the upcoming global exhibition, where manufacturers and exporters will showcase their products. "A diverse group of more than 100 foreign buyers from around the world is expected to participate in the upcoming global exhibition, with the final list being finalized in collaboration with TDAP," he added. In a groundbreaking move, he said, an international conference will be held for the first time as part of the exhibition, featuring esteemed foreign delegates who will share their insights and expertise on the hand-woven carpet industry, with a special focus on exports.

Russia threatens Ukraine, West as long-range strikes decision looms

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Russian officials threatened the West with an uncontrolled escalation of war and Ukraine with the destruction of Kyiv as Western leaders discussed whether to allow Ukraine to use their weapons for strikes deep into Russian territory.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said late on Friday that his plan to achieve victory depended on Washington's decision, a clear reference to the authorisation for long-range strikes that Kyiv has long sought from NATO allies.

Andriy Yermak, head of Zelenskiy's office, said on the Telegram messaging app on Saturday: "Strong decisions are needed. Terror can be stopped by destroying the military facilities where it originates."

Kyiv has said such strikes are critical for its efforts to restrict

Moscow's ability to attack Ukraine, but allies have so far been reluctant to permit them, citing fears Moscow will treat them as an escalation and doubting their efficiency.

While no official decision on the matter has been announced so far, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov alleged it had already been made and communicated to Kyiv, and that Moscow would have to respond with actions of its own.

"The decision has been made, the carte blanche and all indulgences have been given (to Kyiv), so we are ready for everything," the RIA news agency quoted Ryabkov as saying.

"And we will react in a way that will not be pretty."

Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, who now serves as deputy chairman of the country's security council, said the

West was testing Russia's patience but it was not limitless.

Medvedev said Ukraine's incursion into Russia's Kursk region, which Zelenskiy described as a successful operation slowing Russia's advance, already gave Russia formal grounds to use its nuclear arsenal.

He said that Moscow could either resort to nuclear weapons in the end, or use some of its non-nuclear but still deadly novel weapons for a large-scale attack.

"And that would be it. A giant, grey, melted spot instead of 'the mother of Russian cities'," he wrote on the Telegram messaging app, referring to Kyiv.

Ukraine's Yermak, in turn, said of Russian President Vladimir Putin: "Loud threats of Putin's regime testify only to his fear that terror may come to an end."



Haiti Prime Minister Garry Conille looks on, as an injured victim who was evacuated to receive medical care following a fuel truck explosion exits a helicopter, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Haiti confirms 24 killed in 'horrible' gas truck blast

Monitoring Desk

PORT-AU-PRINCE: A fuel truck explosion on a road in Haiti's southern peninsula on Saturday killed 24 people and left half of the 40 injured survivors with third-degree burns, the government said.

Haiti Prime Minister Garry Conille visited the site, near the coastal city of Miragoane in the department of Nippes, and said some of the most seriously injured victims were evacuated by helicopter to receive

specialized care. Ambulances were also being sent as quickly as possible to attend to others with severe burns and to relieve overcrowded local hospitals.

"It's a horrible scene we've just lived through. Many dozens of victims, wounded, severely burned," Conille said in a video distributed by the government.

The injured were mostly men, as well as three women and a child, according to a report from Haiti's emergency services.

Iran's President to attend BRICS summit in Russia

Monitoring Desk

DUBAI: Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian will attend the upcoming BRICS summit in Russia, state media cited Tehran's ambassador in Moscow as saying on Sunday, amid tensions with the West over military cooperation between the two countries.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Tuesday that Russia had received ballistic missiles from Iran and was likely to use them in Ukraine within weeks.

Biden is taking on cheap products from China

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: The Biden administration is cracking down on cheap products sold out of China, expanding a push to reduce U.S. dependence on Beijing and bolster homegrown industry, but that could trigger higher prices for U.S. consumers who flock to popular shopping sites like Temu and Shein. President Joe Biden's proposed rule says foreign companies can't avoid tariffs simply by shipping goods that they claim to be worth \$800 or less. Sellers mainly from China have used the so-called de minimis exemption to flood the U.S. market, shipping dresses.

North Korea's Kim meets Russia's Shoigu, vows more cooperation, KCNA says

Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met with top Russian security official Sergei Shoigu and discussed deepening strategic dialogue between the two countries, state media KCNA said on Saturday.

They had a "wide exchange of views on regional and international situations", and reached a satisfactory consensus on issues including more "cooperation to defend mutual safety interests," KCNA said. Kim said North Korea will continue to expand cooperation with Russia in accordance with the strategic partnership between the two countries, KCNA said. The

United States and Ukraine among other countries, as well as independent analysts, say that Kim is helping Russia in its invasion of Ukraine by supplying rockets and missiles in return for economic and other military assistance from Moscow.

Moscow and Pyongyang have denied the accusations, but pledged to boost military cooperation and signed a comprehensive strategic partnership at a summit in June. Shoigu, previously Russia's defence minister until May, now secretary of the Security Council, signalled the beginning of closer ties between North Korea and Russia with his visit to Pyongyang.

Israeli strike kills 11 from one family in Gaza City

Monitoring Desk

GAZA CITY: An Israeli air strike hit a house in Gaza City and killed 11 members of a single family, including women and children, according to the civil defence agency.

"We have recovered the bodies of 11 martyrs, including four children and three women, after an Israeli air strike hit the house of the Bustan family in eastern Gaza City," agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal said.

The strike took place near the Shujaiya school in the Al Tuffah neighbourhood of Gaza City, he said.

"Rescuers are continuing to search for the

missing."

The Israeli military had no immediate comment on the strike.

Mahmud Bassal, the spokesman, said Israeli forces carried out similar strikes in some other parts of the Hamas-run territory, killing 10 people.

Five people were killed in north-western Gaza City when an air strike hit a group of people near Dar Al Arqam school, he said.

Three others were killed in a strike in the Al Mawasi area of the southern Khan Yunis region, where tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians have sought refuge, Bassal added.

Biden, Starmer defer Ukraine missiles plan to UNGA session

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and US President Joe Biden on Friday delayed a decision to let Ukraine fire long-range Western-supplied missiles into Russia, a plan that sparked dire threats from Moscow of a war with Nato.

On Saturday, Moscow and Kyiv swapped 103 prisoners of war each in a deal brokered by the United Arab Emirates. UK PM Starmer told reporters at the White House that he had a "wide-ranging discussion about strategy" with Biden but that it "wasn't a meeting about a particular capability." Before the meeting, officials had said Starmer would press Biden to back his plan to send British Storm Shadow missiles to Ukraine to hit deeper inside Russia as allies become in-

creasingly concerned about the battlefield situation.

But the Labour leader indicated that he and Biden would now discuss the plan at the UN General Assembly in New York the week after next "with a wider group of individuals." During the meeting at the White House, Biden played down a warning by Russian President Vladimir Putin that allowing Ukraine to fire the weapons would mean the West was "at war" with Russia. Biden is understood to be reluctant to grant Ukraine's insistent demand to be able to use long-range US-made ATACMS missiles against Russian territory. US officials believe the missiles would make a limited difference to Ukraine's campaign and also want to ensure that Washington's own stocks of the munitions are not depleted.

Trump sharpens anti-migrant attacks as both candidates visit key states

Monitoring Desk

RANCHO VERDES: Donald Trump doubled down on Friday on his anti-migrant attacks despite facing criticism for amplifying a conspiracy theory targeting Haitian immigrants, as he and election rival Kamala Harris took their presidential campaigns to swing states on opposite sides of the United States.

Trump, 78, promised "large deportations" from the Ohio town at the centre of the racially charged row, as the Republican former president prepared to head to a rally in the western battleground of Nevada.

Democratic Vice President Harris, 59, meanwhile hit the stump in Pennsylvania — arguably the most crucial of the half dozen states that are set to decide a desperately close election on Nov 5.

Pope Francis weighed into the issue on Friday — equating Harris's support of abortion to Trump's "sin" of turning away migrants. "One has to choose the lesser of two evils," Pope Francis told report-

ers. Coming off a strong performance in Tuesday's televised debate against Trump, Harris gave her first solo sit-down interview since her nomination to an ABC television affiliate in Philadelphia, the state's largest city.

"I offer a new generation of leadership," Harris said in the interview, as she spelled out her policies on tax cuts and credits for new parents, homeowners and businesses. Harris also appealed to moderate American voters, telling them she herself is a gun-owner who wants to preserve the right to bear arms while maintaining common-sense gun safety laws.

Later at a raucous rally in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, she again pushed her economic plans and bashed Trump on his debate performance.

Polls show a near dead heat with only seven weeks until election day, in an incredibly dramatic campaign that has seen Harris suddenly replace the ageing Joe Biden and Trump survive an assassination attempt.

Italy's prosecutor seeks 6-year jail sentence for Salvini on migrant kidnapping charges

Monitoring Desk

ROME: An Italian prosecutor on Saturday asked a judge to sentence right-wing League leader Matteo Salvini to six years in prison over his 2019 decision to prevent more than 100 migrants from landing in the country.

The then interior minister, who is currently serving as deputy prime minister and transport minister in Giorgia Meloni's government, has been charged with kidnapping and is awaiting sentencing following his decision that left the migrants stranded at sea. Prosecutors had then ordered the seizure of their ship and the evacuation of the people on board.

On Saturday, the prosecutor asked for Salvini's imprisonment at a hearing in the Sicilian capital of Palermo. The final decision rests with a senior judge at the end of a three-stage judicial process.

A definitive conviction could bar Salvini from holding government office.

"I would do it all again: defending borders from illegal immigrants is not a crime," Salvini said in a post on X on Saturday.

During his 14 months

as interior minister, Salvini stopped several boats from docking in Italy in an effort to halt migrant flows. He regularly accused migrant rescue charities of effectively encouraging people smuggling.

Salvini's League is part of Meloni's centre-right government.

"It is unbelievable that a minister of the Italian Republic risks six years in prison for doing his job of defending the nation's borders, as required by the mandate received from the citizens," Meloni said in a post on X.

"Turning the duty to protect Italy's borders from illegal immigration into a crime is a very serious precedent. My full solidarity," she added. Meloni, who rose to power in 2022, has vowed to clamp down on unauthorised arrivals from North Africa with harsher immigration laws, restrictions on sea rescue charities and plans to build migrant reception camps in Albania. At the same time, she has opened the door to hundreds of thousands of migrants to work in Italy legally in tough labour gaps in the country and stopped migrant smugglers.



Flames and smoke rise from the Greek-flagged oil tanker Sounion, which has been on fire after an attack by Houthi militants, on the Red Sea.

34 Iran women prisoners go on hunger strike: jailed Nobel peace laureate

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Thirty-four women prisoners went on hunger strike in an Iranian prison on Sunday to mark two years since protests erupted against clerical authorities, the foundation of Nobel Peace Prize winner Narges Mohammadi said.

"Today, on the 15th September 2024, 34 female political prisoners in Evin Prison have gone on a hunger strike in commemoration of the second anniversary of the 'Woman, Life, Freedom' movement and the killing of Mahsa (Jina) Amini," it said.

Amini was a 22-year-old Iranian Kurd whose death in custody after her arrest for allegedly violating the strict dress code for women sparked the demonstrations.

The prisoners had abstained from food "in soli-

arity with the protesting people of Iran, against the government's oppressive policies," the foundation added.

Mohammadi, who has campaigned against the compulsory wearing of the hijab and the death penalty in Iran, has been in Tehran's Evin prison since November 2021. She has spent much of the past decade in and out of jail and has staged repeated hunger strikes.

"On the second anniversary of the 'Women, Life, Freedom' movement, we reaffirm our commitment to achieving democracy, freedom, and equality and to defeating theocratic despotism," Mohammadi said in a statement on her official X account. "Today, we raise our voices louder and strengthen our resolve."

US to give Bangladesh \$202 million more in aid

Monitoring Desk

DHAKA: The United States is committed to supporting Bangladesh's inclusive economic growth, institution building and development and will provide an additional \$202 million of aid, a US delegation said during a visit to Dhaka on Sunday. The six-member delegation, led by Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury Department Brent Neiman, is the first from the US since the interim government headed by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus took office last month following the ousting of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after deadly protests.

In a televised address last week, Chief Adviser Yunus said the government was appealing for \$5 billion in aid to help stabilise an economy that has been struggling since the Ukraine war sharply increased the cost of fuel and food imports.

Shanghai braces for direct hit from Typhoon Bebinca

Monitoring Desk

SHANGHAI: Shanghai halted transportation links, recalled ships and shut tourism spots including Shanghai Disney Resort on Sunday as it braced for Typhoon Bebinca, in what could be the strongest tropical cyclone to hit the Chinese financial hub since 1949.

The Category 1 typhoon, packing maximum sustained wind speeds near its centre of around 144 kilometres per hour (89 miles per hour), was about 500 kilometres southeast of Shanghai as of 1:00 pm (0500 GMT). It is expected to make landfall along China's eastern coast after midnight on Monday.

Thousands in France protest 'rape culture'

Monitoring Desk

PARIS: Thousands took to the streets across French cities on Saturday to demand an end to rape and support the main plaintiff in a mass sexual assault trial that has shocked the country. Gisele Pelicot, who is using her married name, has requested the trial of her ex-husband and 50 co-defendants since September 2 he made public to raise awareness about the use of drugs to commit abuse.

Dominique Pelicot, her partner of around five decades, has admitted to drugging her for years to

rape her or watch her being raped while unconscious by several strangers he recruited online.

The case has horrified France, especially as many of the co-accused are seemingly ordinary men with everyday jobs, and several of the suspects remain at large. "We are all Gisele," a large crowd chanted in the capital Paris. "Rapist we see you, victim we believe you."

In the southern city of Marseille, activists hung up a banner on the city's court building calling for alleged perpetrators.

India removes floor price for basmati rice exports to claw back global share

Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: India removed a floor price for basmati rice exports on Friday, according to a government order, to help farmers struggling with debt and higher costs boost overseas sales of the premium grade just weeks ahead of the arrival of the new-season crop. Last year New Delhi set a floor price, or minimum export price (MEP), of \$1,200 a metric ton and later cut the MEP to \$950 a ton.

As supplies picked up since then, exporters urged the government to either cut or remove the MEP to ensure that farmers do not get saddled with large stocks when the new crop arrives in a month's time.

Reuters in July reported that India was likely to cut the floor price for basmati rice exports.

"The decision to do away with the MEP will help India export basmati rice in large quantities, and that is going to ensure good returns to our farmers," Satish Goel, president of the All-India Rice Exporters' Association, told Reuters. Thousands of impoverished and indebted farmers complain about falling incomes and soaring fuel and fertiliser prices. India and Pakistan, the only growers of basmati, both try to promote the premium grade of rice in a manner similar to French Champagne or Darjeeling tea.



People gather next to a placard that reads: "Gisele for all women, all women for Gisele", during a demonstration in support of Gisele Pelicot, who was allegedly drugged and raped by men solicited by her husband Dominique Pelicot, and of all rape victims, as the trial continues, near the courthouse in Marseille, France.

Parliamentarians mark 'World Democracy Day' with pledge to uphold democratic values

ISLAMABAD (APP): On World Democracy day, parliamentarians reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to the fundamental pillars of democracy, including respect for institutions, transparency, accountability and the recognition that democratic norms which are vital for fostering trust among citizens and ensuring the efficient operation of governments.

In an exclusive talks with PTV news channel, Parliamentarians emphasized that democracy serves as a robust pillar, bridging the gap between citizens and governments.

Member of the National Assembly Mirza Ikhtiar Baig emphasized that democracy is not merely a system of governance but a way of life that fosters inclusivity, diversity and equal opportunities for all citizens.

Baig urged continued efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, promote democratic values and ensure the active participation of citizens in the democratic process.

MNA Aftab Ahmad Sheikh stressed that a robust democracy is essential for addressing the challenges facing the nation, driving social and economic progress and upholding the principles of justice, equality, and human rights.

By reinforcing democracy, he believes that Pakistan can unlock its full potential and create a brighter future for generations to come.

"Democracy is the backbone of a progressive society and we must work tirelessly to nurture and strengthen it," said Senator Rubina Khalid.

Shehla Raza, a prominent parliamentarian also paid a heartfelt tribute to the iconic leaders Benazir Bhutto and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, recognizing their unwavering struggle for democracy in Pakistan.

She acknowledged the significant sacrifices made by the Bhutto family, highlighting their unrelenting commitment to democratic values and principles.

Raza praised Benazir Bhutto's courage and resilience in the face of adversity, noting her pioneering role as the first female Prime Minister of Pakistan. She also honoured Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's vision and leadership which laid the foundation for democratic reforms in the country.

By paying tribute to the Bhutto legacy, Shehla Raza reaffirmed her dedication to upholding democratic ideals and continuing the fight for a more just and equitable society.

Her words served as a poignant reminder of the importance of learning from the past and honouring the sacrifices of those who have shaped Pakistan's democratic journey.

"We must continue to uphold the principles of democracy, ensuring that every citizen has an equal voice and opportunity to participate in the democratic process," stressed MNA Syeda Shehla Raza.

These parliamentarians also reiterated their commitment to protecting and promoting democratic norms, recognizing the importance of democracy in driving positive change and progress in Pakistan.

As per the report, highest number of road accidents were reported on the N-50, Quetta-Zhob-Dera Ismail Khan highway. Four passengers lost their lives while 77 persons got injured in 33 accidents occurred on the N-50 highway.

The bodies of deceased and injured passengers were shifted to different trauma centers located along the highway that connects Quetta to Dera Ismail Khan via Killa Saifullah and Zhob. Similarly, in all 23 road accidents were occurred on the N-25, Quetta-Khuzdar-Karachi. In all two persons died and 56 got injured in the road accidents.



QUETTA: Mama Qadeer and Sultana Baloch leading a rally for recovery of Zaher Baloch organized by Voice for Baloch Missing Persons

Report exposes surge in arrests under draconian laws in IIOJK

MIRPUR (APP): A disturbing trend of arrests and legal actions against journalists, students, lawyers, and civilians in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir has raised serious concerns about fundamental rights and democratic norms.

According to a report by the Forum for Human Rights, over 2,700 Kashmiris were booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Public Safety Act (PSA) between 2020 and December 2023.

The report highlights the particularly harsh treatment of journalists, with four out of seven journalists jailed in India hailing from IIOJK. Notable cases include the cases of Majid Hyderi, detained under the PSA on charges of criminal conspiracy and defamation, Irfan Mehranj, arrested under the UAPA in March 2023, Sajad Gul, arrested in January 2022 under the PSA and Fahad Shah, owner and editor of the banned 'Kashmir Walla', released on bail after 600 days in prison.

The report also notes the broad application of UAPA and PSA against students, lawyers, and religious procession participants, suggesting a pattern of suppressing dissent and controlling the narrative in the disputed region.

Experts warn that this trend undermines democratic norms, human rights, and freedom of the press in IIOJK, creating a chilling effect on independent journalism and civil society. The report concludes that the international community must take notice of these alarming developments and press for the protection of fundamental rights in the disputed territory.

PTI frustration over Bilawal's question reveals its desperation: PPP

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is showing signs of mental desperation in response to Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's critical questioning, according to Shehzad Saeed Cheema, Secretary Information of PPP Central Punjab.

In a statement issued on Sunday, Cheema lauded Bilawal for his impactful speech in parliament, which, he said, had effectively cornered PTI and its leadership.

He further highlighted the role of PPP Central Punjab President and former Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, stating that he has brought the PTI founder and his party into a difficult position, scrutinizing their actions and rhetoric. "The PPP will not allow institutions to be made controversial, nor will we let anyone benefit from tweets," Cheema said, referencing the PTI's reliance on social media for political narratives.

He asserted that the PTI founder is now entangled in his own tweets and must decide whether his political ambitions or the state are more important. Cheema warned that failure to choose wisely would result in consequences.



QUETTA: Officer of Health And Rural Development (HARD) Balochistan Ambreen Zameer awarding certificate to a participants of two day training workshop of Young Women Councilors.



LAHORE: Participants of the Eid Milad-ul-Nabi rally passing through Queen Mary Road.

18.39 percent households undernourished with majority in urban areas of Pakistan: Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): Head of Policy and Advocacy, The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Faiz Rasool has said that the increasing population of undernourished households is driving the nutritional and health crises in the country amid policy gaps and the absence of proactive legislation in line with rapidly changing environment.

He was addressing a media session jointly organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and GAIN to explore critical aspects around communicating food security, healthy diet and food system and its impact on public health and sustaining the food systems.

Faiz Rasool said almost of the country's population is persistently facing a threat to their health due to poor access to healthy diet, whereas 18.5% of them were undernourished.

"Malnourishment and obesity as health risks are simultaneously existing in the country, as Pakistan is facing a double burden of malnutrition resulting into aggravated disease burden due to unhealthy diet. Moreover, 6/10 of population diseases are related to food-related problems and poor quality diet," he said.

Since the country is facing nutrition and food safety challenges there is no nutrition policy in the country as there has been no focus of the quarters concerned on establishing such document, he added.

The GAIN official underscored that there are serious policy gaps and no guidance available to address nutrition challenges in the National Food Security Policy approved in 2018.

Globally, he said 3.1 billion people almost 42% of the total world population are unable to afford healthy diet. He pointed out that there were food authorities in all the four provinces of the country, whereas food safety was the most serious issue after nutrition in the country.

"Food security policy lacks gender aspect to counter food safety challenges faced by women, whereas no youth the largest part of the country's population is addressed in the policy which is contributing in almost every sector," he said.

Faiz Rasool mentioned that food security is a provincial subject after devolution, whereas the input of the provinces.

67 road accidents occurred in Balochistan on single day; 6 dies, 149 injured: MERC

Independent Report

QUETTA: As many as 67 road accidents were occurred on different national highways in Balochistan in the single day, revealed in a report shared by the Medical Emergency Response Center (MERC) on Sunday.

According to the MERC's report, in all six persons died while 149 injured were brought and provided treatment in different trauma centers located on the highways fall in the province.

As per the report, highest number of road accidents were reported on the N-50, Quetta-Zhob-Dera Ismail Khan highway. Four passengers lost their lives while 77 persons got injured in 33 accidents occurred on the N-50 highway.

The bodies of deceased and injured passengers were shifted to different trauma centers located along the highway that connects Quetta to Dera Ismail Khan via Killa Saifullah and Zhob. Similarly, in all 23 road accidents were occurred on the N-25, Quetta-Khuzdar-Karachi. In all two persons died and 56 got injured in the road accidents.

Hidayatullah elected as chairman of Senate body on Narcotics Control

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Hidayatullah Khan was elected unopposed as the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Narcotics Control. Senator Hidayatullah Khan was nominated for the position by Senator Ashraf Ali Jatoi and seconded by Senator Bilal Ahmed Khan. In his remarks, the newly elected Chairman thanked the committee members for their confidence in him and assured them of his commitment to work as a team to combat the growing menace of narcotics in the country.



GWADAR: Director General GDA Shafqat Anwar Shahwani alongwith Assistant Commissioner Mir Jawad Ahmed Zehri inspecting under construction sewerage line project under Master Plan

Chairman Senate nominates members for special committee

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, on Sunday, approved the nominations from both government and opposition benches for the members of the Special Committee.

According to the Senate Secretariat, the nominated members include the leader of the Opposition Senator Syed Shibli Faraz, Parliamentary leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party Senator Sherry Rehman, Parliamentary leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-N Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui, Parliamentary leader of PTI Senator Ali Zafar, Parliamentary leader of BAP Senator Manzoor Ahmed, Parliamentary leader of JUIP Senator Atta Ur Rehman, Parliamentary leader of ANP Senator Ajmal Wali Khan, Parliamentary leader of MQM-P Senator Syed Faisal Subzwari, Parliamentary leader of BNP Senator Muhammad Qasim, Parliamentary leader of MWMP Senator Raja Nasir Abbas, Parliamentary leader of NP Senator Jan Muhammad, Parliamentary leader of PML Senator Kamal Ali Agha, and Parliamentary leader of SIC Senator Hamid Khan.

Atmosphere of talks between PTI, establishment developing: Raof Hassan

ATTOCK (INP): PTI spokesperson Raof Hassan has said a breakthrough is likely with regard to holding talks between the PTI and the establishment, adding an atmosphere of negotiation is developing.

He expressed this in a private TV program. PTI leader said he always supported negotiations between the party and the establishment, adding, "I am among those party members who always advocated for holding negotiations between the PTI and the establishment."

"We want our mandate to be returned to us. The government has not taken us on board in connection with the constitutional amendment bill."

"This is not the appropriate time for the bill. I hope Maulana Fazlur Rehman will remain firm on his stance."

Commenting on the constitutional amendment bill, Raof Hassan said all amendments by the government are only for benefiting individuals. To a question pertaining to the bill, the PTI leader said, "We are sure that none of our party members will leave, we will accept whatever decision comes but we will not fight. No fear, our planning is complete."

ADB President observes BISP initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): The President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Masatsugu Asakawa, visited the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) office to observe its initiatives aimed at providing cash assistance to the deserving families, supporting enrolment in schools and maternal and child health in Pakistan.

During the visit to the BISP Tehsil Office in Taxila and the Benazir Nushonuma Centre at Wah General Hospital, the ADB President was briefed on BISP's programs and their impact on the education, health and well-being of the poorest households.

Accompanied by an ADB delegation, including Haruto Takimura, Chief Advisor to the President, Yevgeny Zhukov, Director General, Yong Ye, Country Director PRM, Ms. Azusa Sato, Senior Advisor to the President and others, President Asakawa received a briefing from BISP Director General Naveed Akbar. The briefing covered BISP's key initiatives, such as Benazir Kafalaat, Taleemi Wazaif, Nushonuma, and the Undergraduate Scholarship Program.

DG Akbar also discussed new measures being implemented, including the New Payment Model, Mobile Registration Vans, Digital and Financial Literacy programs, and the extension of the Nushonuma Program to include adolescent girls.

At the Tehsil office, Taxila and Nushonuma Facilitation Center in Wah General Hospital, the ADB delegation interacted with beneficiaries and observed the registration process for the National Socio Economic Registry, the Taleemi Wazaif and Nushonuma Programs.

The visit also provided insight into the operational procedures of the BISP office and the facilitation center.



Sato, Senior Advisor to the President and others, President Asakawa received a briefing from BISP Director General Naveed Akbar. The briefing covered BISP's key initiatives, such as Benazir Kafalaat, Taleemi Wazaif, Nushonuma, and the Undergraduate Scholarship Program.

BCPC concerned about use of children as human shields in political protests

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan Child Protection Commission (BCPC) expresses its profound concern regarding the troubling trend of using children as human shields in political protests and sit-ins.

This practice is a grave violation of children's rights and poses significant threats to their safety and well-being.

The Commission condemns these actions by irresponsible elements who manipulate minors for political purposes. Such exploitation directly undermines the fundamental rights of children as enshrined in national legislation and Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In light of these serious concerns, the Commission strongly recommends that the Government take decisive action against those responsible, in accordance with relevant laws. It also calls for the implementation of stringent measures to safeguard children's rights, ensuring their protection and well-being.

Furthermore, the BCPC urges all political and social organizations to desist from involving minors in any activities or protests that jeopardize their safety and integrity.

The focus must remain on protecting and nurturing children, ensuring they are provided with a safe and supportive environment.

941 patients so far provided free treatment in CENAR through Health Card Program

Independent Report

QUETTA: The free of cost treatment of the cancer patients is being provided in CENAR under the Balochistan Health Card Program.

In all 941 patients have so far been provided free treatment in CENAR since November 3, 2023 through Health Card Program.

The treatment of the cancer patients costs around Rs. 6 crore.

This was stated in an official press release issued by the administration of BMC Hospital here on Sunday.

In the press release, the video gone viral on the social media was contradicted and explained terming it baseless.

According to the press release, allegation of non-provision of treatment and anti-cancer treatment has been levelled in the BMC Hospital under the Health Card Program.



QUETTA: A group photo presidential candidate of High Court Bar Mir Attaullah Lango, Zafar Mulazai and others

ECP has no other option but to implement apex court order: Kanwar

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a significant development, former Secretary of the Election Commission, Kanwar Dilshad, has emphasized that the Election Commission must adhere strictly to the Supreme Court's recent decision concerning specific seats. The Supreme Court's explanatory ruling on September 12 clarifies its stance and demands immediate compliance. He stated this while addressing a private TV channel.

Dilshad asserted that the Election Commission's prior request for clarification was an attempt to delay the implementation of the court's ruling. According to the Supreme Court, the Election Commission's stance that PTI (Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf) is not a registered party was erroneous. The court's explanatory decision has underscored that PTI's legal status as a registered party has already been established, and the Commission's previous admission of Barrister Gauhara as the party chairman reinforces this.

The Supreme Court's ruling addresses the allocation of reserved seats, specifying that these seats should be distributed between PTI and the Sunni Ethad Council. The Commission, therefore, faces the imperative to execute this decision without further delay. The court's explanatory decision has criticized the Commission's request for clarification as a deliberate attempt to obstruct the execution of judicial ruling.