

Independent

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Public rejects politics of chaos, endorses government's sound economic policies: PM Sharif

Shehbaz reaches UK, set to address UNGA on Sept 27

LONDON (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that the public had rejected the politics of chaos and instead prioritized the need for sound economic policies that directly address inflation, solutions to their problems, and economic betterment, the prime minister said in a statement issued by the PM Office.

"The people want a reduction in inflation, solutions to their problems, and economic betterment," the prime minister said in a statement issued by the PM Office.

The prime minister, stressing the urgency of addressing the public's economic concerns, called for a shift in political priorities, arguing that instead of focusing on rallies and political gatherings, the immediate need was to improve the economic condition of

the masses.

"We will hold rallies in 2028; but right now, it is time to work hard to fulfill the pledges made to the people."

He linked the success of the country's economic recovery directly to political stability, warning that political chaos would disrupt efforts to provide relief to the public. "Economic recovery is tied to political stability; political chaos means affecting the process of providing relief to the people," he said.

He praised the people for their role in supporting economic growth by promoting political stability and emphasized that national unity was crucial for sustaining this progress.

"National unity for political stability will prove to be the guarantee of

Pakistan's bright economic future and relief from inflation," he remarked.

To address the country's ongoing economic and security challenges, the prime minister called for collaboration between political parties, institutions, and provinces. "To tackle economic challenges and terrorism, the nation, political parties, institutions, and provinces must work together," he urged.

Recalling the past political instability, PM Shehbaz Sharif lamented that a lot of time had been wasted in political chaos therefore wasting more time was not in the interest of the country and the nation.

On the economic front, the prime minister

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: DIG Police ATF Balochistan Sarfraz Ahmed Falki and other Senior Police Officers offering funeral prayers of ATF official martyred during attack on ATF vehicle at Zhob area.

Conscious nations protect cultural, values, historical heritag: Chief Minister terms bravery, veracity and hospitality as hallmarks of Pashtoon tribes

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that Balochistan is a bouquet of people belonging to different nations and tribes.

"The unique culture, traditions and civilization of the people living in Balochistan are the hallmarks of this part of the country."

This, he stated in a message issued on the Pashtoon Culture Day being observed today (Monday).

The Chief Minister said that the objective behind observance of the Pashtoon Culture Day is to make an attempt to better understand all traditions,

culture and unique living style and keep them alive.

He said that the Pashtoon poets, writers, historians and writers have made representation of culture, civilization, history and traditions in literary history of the province.

He said that all poets and writers have given lesson of positive and constructive thinking of national harmony, bravery, unity and consensus remaining above every kind of prejudices.

He termed the bravery, veracity, and hospitality as a hallmark of the Pashtoon tribes. "Culture day of any tribe and nation teaches us to fully follow all positive principles that particular nation has fol-

lowed since their origin," he said.

The CM said that Balochistan is a cluster of people belonging to different nations and tribes.

The CM noted that living and conscious nations protect their cultural and traditional values and historical heritage. He, however, underlined the need for understanding the learning points of celebrating any event as saying "the purpose of celebrating culture day is to understand all positive traditions and principles better and to keep them alive forever". Giving due credits to Pashtoon poets, writers, historians, and authors, he said they have

Diplomats unhurt in blast near Mallam Jabba: FO

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Foreign Office Spokesperson on Sunday confirmed that the diplomats traveling with the convoy that was hit by an improvised explosive device (IED) near Mallam Jabba, Swat remained unhurt and have safely returned to Islamabad.

In a press release, the spokesperson said that a police convoy escorting a group of diplomats near Malam Jabba, Swat, was hit by an improvised explosive device (IED) today, resulting in the martyrdom of one policeman and injuries to three others. The group of diplomats was traveling to Islamabad after their trip to Malam Jabba and Swat. "Our sympathies are with the families of the Shaheed policeman and three injured in the incident," the spokesperson said.



QUETTA: Director BECT Muhammad Nawaz Soomro presenting Research Report to Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani.

Over 5,500 students appear in MDCAT for four Medical Colleges of Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: Over 5,500 male and female students appeared in the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) 2024 conducted at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) here on Sunday.

The MDCAT, it may be mentioned here, was conducted by the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PDMA).

According to the Vice Chancellor of Bolan University of Medical and Health Sciences (BUMHS), Professor Dr. Shabbir Lehri, in all 5,806 candidates had registered them for the MDCAT.

The MDCAT was conducted for admission in

four medical colleges of the province including Bolan Medical College, Loralai Medical College Loralai, Jhalawan Medical College, Khuzdar and Makran Medical College Turbat.

Special arrangements were made for conducting the MDCAT at BUITEMS. However, over 50 students were caught on charges of cheating in the MDCAT, Professor Dr. Lehri informed.

Different devices and gadgets were recovered from the students, which they were using for cheating in the entry test, he added. Necessary action is being taken against the students who were caught while cheating in the medical entry test, the Vice Chancellor of BUMHS informed.



XIAN: Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik witnessed the MOU signing ceremony between OGDCL and Chinese company CCDC in Xian, China.

Three ATF cops martyred in terror attack at Zhob

Governor, PM express sorrow on martyrdom, injuries of police in Zhob firing incident

ZHOB (INP): A tragic terrorist attack on the Zhob-DI Khan National Highway has claimed the lives of three Anti-Terrorist Force (ATF) personnel deployed to protect the polio workers.

The incident occurred when terrorists opened fire on polio vaccination security teams. According to police officials, Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Gohar Khan was martyred on the spot due to the gunfire.

Two other police personnel, Amir Muhammad and Muhammad Shafiq, were critically injured and immediately shifted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH). Sadly, both succumbed to their injuries during treatment.

All three officers—ASI Gohar Khan, Amir Muhammad, and Muhammad Shafiq—were part of the Anti-Terrorist Force tasked with protecting polio teams in the area. The number of ATF person-

nel martyred in the Zhob attack has now risen to three.

Authorities are continuing their investigation into the incident, and security forces have launched a search operation in the area to apprehend the attackers.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has strongly condemned the recent attack on an Anti-Terrorist Force (ATF) vehicle on the Zhob National Highway, which resulted in the martyrdom of three police officers. Naqvi paid tribute to the fallen officers, honoring their bravery and sacrifice while on duty.

The minister extended his deepest sympathies and condolences to the families of the martyred personnel, emphasizing that their eternal sacrifices are a source of national pride. Naqvi also prayed for the swift recovery of the injured officer involved in the incident.

"The officers who achieved the highest rank of

martyrdom in the line of duty are our true heroes," Naqvi said, adding that he stands in solidarity with the grieving families during this difficult time.

The Interior Minister reiterated his unwavering support for the families of the martyrs, assuring them that the nation shares their sorrow and will not forget the sacrifices made by these brave officers.

Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandukhail on Sunday expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom and injuries of ASI and other personnel in firing incident on Police Anti Terrorist Force (ATF) in Zhob the other day.

In one of his condemnation statements, he said that the blood of the martyrs would never go in vain.

He directed the law enforcement agencies to use all available resources to arrest those elements in-

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: JI's MNA Maulan Hydaat ur Rehman leading the rally of the relatives of missing persons outside Quetta Press Club.

Chairman Pullain Baloch vows to end backwardness of Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting Pullain Baloch Sunday reiterated the government's resolve to uplift women and propel development in Balochistan, narrowing the developmental divide with other provinces.

In an exclusive talk with PTV news channel, Chairman has made a commitment to tackle Balochistan's longstanding development challenges and promote women's empowerment in the region, adding, it will not be neglected under any circumstances.

He expressed deep regret over the historical neglect of Balochistan, emphasizing the urgent need to prioritize development programs and improve the province's condition.

Chairman has also emphasized the importance of empowering women in Balochistan to utilize their capabilities for the development of the province and the country.

Baloch has reaffirmed the importance of gender equality in Balochistan, emphasizing that women in the province are not lagging and are equally capable as their male counterparts.

He highlighted the significant progress made in women's education, underscoring that women are actively pursuing educational opportunities and excelling in various fields.

Responding to a query about standing committee scheduled meetings and progress, Chairman Pullain Baloch has announced plans to hold meetings in all four provinces to prioritize and resolve issues faced by employees in the information and broadcasting sector.

Pullain Baloch has committed to enhance transparency and accountability within the information and broadcasting sector, adding, this move aims to promote good governance and empower organizations such as APP, Radio Pakistan and PTV with cutting-edge technologies to enhance their services.

PM strongly condemns firing incident in Zhob

LONDON (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday strongly condemned the firing on Anti-Terrorist Force personnel in Zhob. The prime minister, offering his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, prayed for the elevation of ranks of the martyred in Jannah.

5 injured in Kharan hand grenade blast

QUETTA (APP): A devastating hand grenade blast rocked the Kharan district in Balochistan on Sunday afternoon, injuring at least five people and sending shockwaves through the community.

According to Police sources, the explosive device was detonated remotely which caused significant damage to surrounding structures and injured five persons, a private news channel reported.

Law enforcement personnel rushed to the site and launched efforts to trace the suspects out.

OGDCL, Chinese CCDC sign MoU for shale, tight gas exploration

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's Oil and Gas Development Company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Chinese company CCDC for exploration of shale and tight gas potential in Pakistan.

Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik witnessed the MOU signing ceremony at Xian in Shaanxi province of China during the ongoing 8th Silk Road International Expo for Investment and Trade, according to a news release received here.

The MoU highlights the commitment of both countries to developing Pakistan's shale and tight

and tight gas potential of Pakistan with an aim to alleviate energy needs of the country through indigenous resources.

Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik, in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, China, witnessed the MoU signing ceremony during the ongoing 8th Silk Road International Expo for Investment and Trade, according to a news release received here.

The MoU underscores commitment of both the brotherly countries for the development of Shale

Continued on page 2



NAROWAL: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal talking to media persons.

Political, military leadership to resist conspiracies: Ahsan

NAROWAL (APP): Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal says political and military leadership will resist any conspiracy to destabilize the country.

Speaking at a ceremony in Zafarwal today, he said enemies of Pakistan want to destabilize the country politically, economically and socially.

He raised concerns about an ongoing international media campaign supporting PTI founder. The Minister said a prominent

Israeli journal, the Jerusalem Post, has published the third article favoring PTI founder. He said this series of articles was part of a larger campaign orchestrated by pro-Israel and Zionist lobbies to promote PTI founder.

Ahsan Iqbal said PTI had previously staged a sit-in to sabotage visit of the Chinese President to Pakistan and now PTI is organizing protests again forthcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization conference.

One Police officer martyred, 3 injured in blast targets police vehicle in Swat

President, PM strongly condemn blast near police van in Swat

ISLAMABAD (APP): One police officer was martyred and three others injured on Sunday due to an explosion on Malam Jabba Road, in Swat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Deputy Inspector General of Swat, Muhammad Ali Khan, said that a substantial police presence was dispatched to the scene, and rescue operations were underway, reported a private news channel.

The Jerusalem Post declares Imran Khan an advocate of Pak-Israel relations

TEL AVIV (INP): Israel's newspaper, The Jerusalem Post, has claimed that despite the fact the former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has denounced Israel in public, the truth is that he is in favour of the normalization of relations with the Jewish state. The newspaper has backed claims made by the Times of Israel stating that Imran Khan despite his public anti-Israel stance has internally expressed a desire to normalize relations between Pakistan and Israel.

According to the article, Imran Khan would play a crucial role in building ties with Israel as he could change public opinion

and military policy on this matter.

The paper is of the view that Imran's and Israel's viewpoints are identical. The Jerusalem Post has proved the claims of the Times of Israel right.

The report labeled Imran Khan as a "like-minded politician" for Israel and suggested that his political success in recent elections offers an opportunity to re-evaluate Pakistan-Israel relations.

Furthermore, the paper writes that the former prime minister's party, PTI's reasonably good performance in the February 8 general elections provides an opportunity to review the relations between Pakistan and Israel afresh.



CHAMAN: Chairman Pakistan Railways and Federal Secretary Syed Mazhar Ali Shah inspecting the construction work of Khojak Tunnel and Railway track affected due to heavy rain and flood.

NAB KP rescues of Rs168.5b in BRT project

ISLAMABAD (APP): NAB KP successfully rescued the Government of KP from the contractor's claim of 31.5 billion rupees in the International Court of Arbitration (ICA).

According to a press release, in 2018, NAB initiated an inquiry into the allegations of illegal award of contract, misappropriation of government funds and submission of bogus performance guarantees by the contractors in Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project Peshawar.

Progress in the case remained stationary for few years; however, the investigation was paced up under the command of the present DG and saved Rs168.5 billion through effective and efficient conclusion of investigation into a large scam of corruption.

Sources claim that this huge success could have been possible due to active collaboration of NAB with the Provincial Cabinet, Provincial Administration and the PDA and their posi-

tive role throughout the process of settlement agreement. NAB investigation revealed that 6 contracts of civil works were illegally awarded to 04x Joint Ventures (JVs), consisting of 2 Pakistani firms and 3 international firms for 3 contracts of Roads (Reach-I to Reach-III) and 3 contracts of Buildings (Lot 1 to Lot 3).

According to the record submitted by contractors to Peshawar Development Authority (PDA), 03x international firms had 60 to 70 percent shares in the 04x JVs. However, NAB investigation revealed that the local firms have transferred the amount to the bank accounts of the international firms on the same dates as mentioned in the supplementary contract agreements. It is pertinent to mention here that PDA paid a 20 percent premium on the schedule rate to the contractors in order to complete the contract on international standards within a period of 06x months.

to which the actual work was carried out by the local firms while the international firms were paid 2% of the total tender value in return for leveraging their names and financial capabilities.

In this way, these 3 foreign firms not only played their part in cheating a government agency (PDA) but also received about one billion rupees without doing any work.

Hence, NAB widened the scope of investigation and thoroughly analyzed more than 400x bank accounts related to the firms wherein it was corroborated that the local firms have transferred the amount to the bank accounts of the international firms on the same dates as mentioned in the supplementary contract agreements. It is pertinent to mention here that PDA paid a 20 percent premium on the schedule rate to the contractors in order to complete the contract on international standards within a period of 06x months.



FAISALABAD: Players are in action during cricket match between Dolphin and Lions teams during champion's one day cup 2024 Iqbal Stadium in the city.

CM Murad calls for mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, even amid religious differences

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the birth of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is a divine blessing for all of humanity and his life serves as a model of obedience to Allah, justice, compassion, and love.

"The Holy prophet (PBUH) exemplified these virtues and also demonstrated the importance of mutual respect and peaceful coexistence, even amid religious differences."

This he said while speaking at the 'Seerat Conference: The Importance of Interfaith Respect

and Cooperation' organised by the Religious Affairs Department at Liaquat Memorial Library on Sunday evening.

Minister Auqaf & Religious Affairs Syed Riaz Shah Shirazi, the host of the conference, Zulfikar Shah, provincial ministers, religious scholars Hafiz Abdul Rehman Salfi, Maula Baqar Hussain, Alhaj Ghulam Mohammad Soho, Secretary Auqaf & Religious Affairs Mureed Rahimo, provincial secretaries and others attended the conference in a large number.

Murad Shah said that the life of the Holy Prophet

Muhammad (PBUH) offers profound lessons on mutual respect and unity.

"The birth of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is a divine blessing for all of humanity, he said and added that he was sent as a mercy to the worlds, and his life exemplifies obedience to Allah, justice, compassion, and love."

He added that the teachings of the Prophet (PBUH) remain a guiding light for resolving modern-day challenges, providing a framework for peace, harmony, and societal unity.

OGDCL..

Continued from page 1

gas potential, aiming to address the country's energy needs through indigenous resources.

Mumtaz Ali Soomro, Executive Director (Production) of OGDCL, and Mr. Zhang Zhidong, Vice President of CNPC Chuanqing Drilling Engineering Company Ltd., signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations.

Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi also attended the event.

Dr. Musadik Malik expressed hope that cooperation in the energy sector between both nations will continue to strengthen in the future, benefiting both countries mutually.

Dr Musadik meets Shaanxi Coal and Chemical Industry Group to enhance energy cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr Musadik Malik Sunday visited Shaanxi Coal and Chemical Industry Group Co., Ltd in Shaanxi Province China, to explore enhanced cooperation between Pakistan and China in the fields of energy, petrochemicals, and sustainable industrial development.

According to a news release, Dr Malik was welcomed by Zhao Futang, General Manager of Shaanxi Coal and Chemical Group, along with senior executives.

During the visit, the minister was given a comprehensive overview of the company's operations, including coal mining projects, petrochemical

processing plants, and advancements in clean energy technologies.

Shaanxi Coal and Chemical Industry Group is one of China's largest state-owned enterprises, with major investments in coal, chemicals, and new energy sectors.

The visit aimed to strengthen bilateral cooperation, particularly in coal, and both parties engaged in productive discussions about potential partnerships, such as coal-to-chemicals technology and joint ventures.

Representatives from the Thar Coal Board, Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company, and Sindh's Energy Department were also present at the meeting.



MUZAFFARABAD: Children of all Adhoc Contract employees of Azad Kashmir are protesting by lighting candles for their rights at Azadi Chowk.

Dr. Zakir confirms Pak tour, sparking excitement among followers

LAHORE (INP): World-renowned Islamic scholar Dr. Zakir Naik has confirmed his highly anticipated visit to Pakistan, where he would deliver a series of public lectures in major cities.

The announcement that was made on his official Facebook page on September 20 has generated significant excitement among his followers.

Dr. Naik's tour is set to begin on October 5 in Karachi and would conclude in Islamabad on October 20. Alongside him would be his son, Dr. Fariq Naik, also a respected Islamic scholar, who would participate in the lectures across all three cities: Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad.

The Karachi event is scheduled to take place at Bagh-e-Quaid, located directly opposite the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

This choice of venue highlighted the importance of the event and its connection to Pakistan's heritage.

The news of Dr. Naik's visit has been met with enthusiasm on social media, with many followers expressing their joy and eagerness to attend the lectures.

Dr. Naik, who currently resides in Malaysia, had previously expressed his desire to visit Pakistan in a podcast, revealing that he had planned a trip in 2020 but was thwarted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public rejects..

Continued from page 1

was optimistic about the country's progress, noting that inflation had returned to single digits and that Pakistan's overall economic situation was improving. "Thank God, inflation has returned to single digits, and the economic situation is improving," he said, highlighting key indicators such as rising exports, the stability of the rupee, increasing remittances, and declin-

ing interest rates.

Looking forward, the prime minister underscored that the current International Monetary Fund (IMF) program should be the last one for Pakistan, saying "if it is so, it will be a true success".

He warned that abusive language, violence, and chaos would not lead to progress, urging every province and institution to play its role in solving the public's problems.



XIAN: Minister of Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik held meeting with Shaanxi Coal and Chemical Industry Group to expand partnership in coal.

Crackdown against unfit PSVs continue, 696 vehicles impounded

RAWALPINDI (APP): In an ongoing crackdown against unfit Public Service Vehicles (PSVs), 696 vehicles have been impounded over the past 28 days.

On the special directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Mahmood Hamdani, focuses on ensuring vehicles meet safety standards, checking for valid route permits, and verifying driver licenses.

As part of the crackdown, police have issued fines amounting to Rs.

58,07 lakh to violators. Legal action has been taken against 456 drivers who were operating without valid licenses, and the licenses of 27 negligent drivers have been revoked. Police have also registered 41 cases against drivers and vehicle owners for safety violations.

The police spokesman added that Police is targeting not only vehicle owners but also bus terminal managers, aiming to ensure public safety and hold accountable those who risk the lives of passengers.

Shuttle ambulance service for patients launched

LAHORE (APP): A shuttle ambulance service was started for convenience of patients in the General Hospital here on Sunday.

The administration started the shuttle service under the direction of Principal PGMI Professor Dr. Muhammad Al Farid Zafar.

MS Dr. Farid Hussain said that in the first phase, two ambulances have been allocated, while the shuttle will transport patients from the emergency to the other block. He said this facility will be available round the clock, under the guidance of Prof. Farid Zafar and re-

sources are being used for the convenience of the patients. In this connection, more measures will be taken in the light of the positive suggestions of the citizens.

He said that the instructions of the Chief Minister of Punjab Implementation is being followed, and a monitoring committee has also been formed to solve the problems of the patients.

It may be mentioned here that the committee will visit the beds of the patients to find out their problems and ensure the solution.

7-year old Sufyan honored for setting world record

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Commissioner Dera Ismail Khan Division, Syed Abdul Jabbar Shah honored a seven-year-old Muhammad Sufyan Mehsud, who set a world record in martial arts.

District Sports Officer South Waziristan Upper, Noorullah Wazir informed that Muhammad Sufyan achieved his record by hitting the target in just seven seconds on June 19, 2024, thus securing a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

The previous record was held by an athlete from India.

The commissioner appreciated Sufyan's outstanding performance and presented him with equipment worth Rs150,000 along with a cash prize, and a certificate of appreciation.

Speaking on the occasion, the commissioner said there was no shortage of talent in Pakistan and added that despite limited resources Pakistani athletes have proven their capabilities on the global stage.

He said that the achievement not only reflected Sufyan's hard work but also brought honor to the country.

Shahzaib Rind receives heroic welcome after winning world title

LAHORE (INP): Shahzaib Rind, the newly crowned World Karate Combat Light Heavyweight Champion was accorded a hero's welcome upon his return to Pakistan from Singapore on late Saturday.

Secretary Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination Nadeem Irshad Kayani, Additional Secretary Zahoor Ahmed, Deputy Director General Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) Shahid Islam, officials of Prime Minister's Youth Programme, former Deputy Mayor Islamabad Zeeshan Ali Naqvi and a large crowd of enthusiastic fans greeted him at Islamabad International Airport with warm applause and cheers.

Shahzaib won Karate Combat KC-49 Championship, overpowering Brazilian fighter Luiz Victor Rocha in Singapore in an intense bout on Wednesday. He remained unbeaten throughout the tournament, making history as the first Pakistani to win a major world championship in the martial arts.

Shahzaib has previously won the Combat League in the United States. He is also a six-time national champion. His victory has sparked national pride, with fans waving flags and chanting slogans in celebration of his remarkable achievement.



KARACHI: A large number of students are gathered outside the Dow Ojha Campus to attend the Entry Test of Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) in Karachi.

Three ATF cops..

Continued from page 1

involved in the terrorist incident as soon as possible.

The Governor prayed Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in ternal abode with peace and granting courage to bereaved family members and early recovery of the injured officer.

The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has condemned the incident of firing on the Anti-Terrorist Force (ATF) in Zhob.

In a condemnation statement issued here on late Saturday night, the

Chief Minister expressed deep grief and sorrow over martyrdom of the personnel of ATF in the incident of firing.

He directed to the concerned authorities to get the terrorists involved in the incident to the logical end.

The Chief Minister also expressed grief and condolence with the bereaved families of those martyred in the incident of firing.

He prayed for the departed souls of martyrs. He also prayed that may Allah grant patience and strength to the bereaved families to bear the loss of their dear ones.

One Police officer..

Continued from page 1

where rescue operations were launched to assist the injured and secure the area.

President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday strongly condemned the bomb blast near a police van in Swat.

In a statement issued by the President House, he paid tribute to the police officer who was martyred in the incident.

He also expressed condolence to the bereaved family and prayed for the swift recovery of those injured in the explosion.

Terrorist elements are enemies not only of the country and nation but of humanity itself, the president said. He reaffirmed his

commitment to continue efforts for the complete eradication of terrorism.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a police mobile near Mallam Jabba, district Swat. He also prayed for the swift recovery of those injured in the incident.

The prime minister prayed for the elevation of ranks of the martyred policeman in Jannah and offered his heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family members.

He also prayed for the swift recovery of those injured in the incident.

The prime minister directed the relevant authorities to provide all possible medical assistance to the injured.

Education is necessary for the development of country: Kakar

Teachers should pay special attention to the education of female students: Hamid Longo

Independent Report

QUETTA: Education is essential for the development of the country and the society. The country and the nation have given importance to education. Today, they are among the devel-

oped nations in the world. While speaking on the occasion of the exhibition organized regarding "Natural Scenery and Technology".

He asked the female students to focus on education along with extra-curricular activities so that they can shine the name of the country and the nation. He also asked the teachers to pay special attention to

the education of children and female students. Teach diligently and complete the syllabus on time.

Abdul Malik Kakar praised the performance of the teachers including the headmistress. Khalid Kasi,

students with hard work. The students have to take charge of the country in the future. Grami took out her valuable time to make the event colorful.

The headmistress also appreciated the efforts of

Zahra Ibrahim and said that organizing such exhibitions and competitions increases the awareness and vision of the female students.

PTSMC members also participated in the event. And assured their full support. At the end of the ceremony, the honored guests distributed certificates among the students who got positions in the exhibition.



Program Manager of Merici Core praised the efforts of Zahra Ibrahim regarding the exhibition and the students who won the first, second and third positions in the exhibition. A cash prize was announced for them.

District Officer Education Hamid Longo emphasized the importance of education and said that the teachers should educate the

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CONDOLENCE



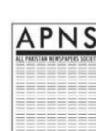
APNS expresses profound grief over the sad demise of veteran publisher and senior colleague

Mr. Usman Arab Saati

Publisher and Chief Editor of

Daily Vatan (Gujrati) and Monthly Vatan Mag.

May Allah the Almighty rest his soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the family to bear the loss.



All Pakistan Newspapers Society

“Ishq e Payambar e Azam Markaz Wahdat Muslimeen” conference held

ISLAMABAD (Online): On the auspicious occasion of the blessed birth of Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (PBUH), Milli Yakjehti Council (MYC) and Majlis Wahdat Muslimeen Pakistan, jointly organized an annual grand gathering titled “Ishq e Payambar e Azam Markaz Wahdat Muslimeen” in the Federal Capital.

A large number of women and men of all schools of thought participated, the leaders of the religious and political parties of the country, scholars and elders and central leaders addressed the conference.

Muslimeen, Senator Allama Raja Nasir Abbas, condemned the government’s approach to hinder the conference was a reprehensible move. No one can stop the program of remembrance of Holy Prophet (PBUH). The government should correct its Qibla. We support the oppressed people of Gaza and will continue to do so. Government want to spread chaos through terrorism in Parachinar. The Messenger of God will be happy that the oppressed people of Gaza remained steadfast despite suffering oppression.

Mujahideen of Lebanon also proved that they are lovers of the Messen-

ger of God by giving sacrifices. And there is a need to support the people of Lebanon and show proof of being a real Ummah. Addressing the conference, President MYC Sahibzada Abul Khair Muhammad Zubair said it is the blessing of the unity that the decision of Mubarak Sani case was returned. We should raise our voices unitedly on all the problems. Sahibzada Muhammad Hamid Raza, the head of Sunni Ittehad Council Pakistan, said that the cruelty is reaching its peak in Gaza, but if you look at it today, we are also facing the situation of Gaza in Pakistan, there can be neither a protest for Gaza

nor it is allowed to celebrate the birth anniversary of Rasool Akram.

MYC should meet at D Chowk to free the people from this siege, it seems our state has officially recognized Israel. Liaqat Baloch General Secretary MYC said that it is surprising that the government did not allow Milad-ul-Nabi at the designated place in Islamabad. Allama Hasnain Gardizi, Allama Syed Ahmad Iqbal, Khawaja Mudassar, Muhammad Abdullah Gul, Syed Fida Bukhari, Allama Arif Wahidi, Syed Nasir Shirazi, Pir Atiq Chisti, Syed Asad Naqvi, Syed Ali Abbas, Maysam Kazim, Sabz Ali.



ISLAMABAD: A large numbers of parents stands outside Islamabad Model College for Girls G-10 as waiting for their children during the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) 2024, in the Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: A large numbers of heavy trailers parked in front of factories for waiting loading iron at Industrial area sector I-11, in the Federal capital.

MDCAT test being held amid strict security

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, under the special direction of Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, have implemented tight security arrangements at Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) centers across the district.

According to a police spokesperson, the MDCAT is currently being held across Pakistan under the supervision of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC).

Students are prohibited from carrying mobile phones, wallets, or any electronic devices during the exam, as per a notification issued by the department.

He said mobile phone signals will also be blocked, with jammers installed at the test centers to ensure security.

Additionally, mobile and internet services within a 500-meter radius of the exam centers have been suspended from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM to facilitate the smooth conduct of the examination, he added.

He said robust security measures are in place at examination centers throughout the ICT Police District. “The police urge the public to refrain from participating in any illegal activities during this period,” he added.

Gilgit-Baltistan sanitation project to be functional by 2025: Project director

ISLAMABAD (APP): Gilgit-Baltistan’s long-standing demand for improved sanitation and sewerage infrastructure is finally completed where approximately 16% of the work has been completed, Project Director Engineer Shafiq Ali disclosed on Sunday.

In an exclusive interview with PTV news channel, he assured the residents of Gilgit-Baltistan that the sanitation project will be fully functional by 2025 and this milestone project will mark a crucial step towards addressing the region’s long-standing sanitation challenges.

He explained that the sanitation project aims to improve the quality of life for Gilgit-Baltistan’s residents by providing modern

sanitation infrastructure. Upon completion, the project will significantly reduce the risk of waterborne diseases, mitigate environmental pollution and boost public health, he mentioned.

“We are committed to delivering this critical infrastructure project, he said, adding, which will transform the lives of Gilgit-Baltistan’s residents. We ensure timely completion, optimal quality and safety.”

“We believe that with public support, we can overcome any obstacle and deliver a world-class sanitation system for Gilgit-Baltistan”, he expressed satisfaction. Responding to a query, he said the Gilgit-Baltistan government and federal government has earmarked a substantial budget for its flagship sanitation project.



ISLAMABAD: CDA workers repairing the roadside area under the beautification work ahead of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), scheduled in the middle of October.

Jaberi Ansari appointed new CEO of IRNA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Seasoned diplomat Hossein Jaberi Ansari has been appointed as the new CEO of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

According to IRNA, Jaberi Ansari has worked in various roles in the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the past three decades, including as Deputy Minister for Arab and African Affairs.

He has authored and translated several books on foreign affairs issues, including the latest publication entitled “Spark on One’s Chest” which is a translation of the Palestinian writer Munir Shafiq’s Arabic book “From a Spark to Another Spark”.

The new IRNA CEO said during a speech at his inauguration ceremony on Sunday that he would closely follow the national unity lines set by the administration of President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Jaberi also hailed IRNA’s 90-year history as a main source of news in Iran and the region.

Women and children facing exploitation in brickkilns work

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least 20 thousand workers work at brickkilns and most of them are women and children facing exploitation which stirs the need for proper implementation of existing laws towards the most neglected sector, said Human Rights activist Ayub Malik here on Sunday. Talking to APP, in the world’s poorest countries, slightly more than 1 in 5 children are engaged in child labour and 87,000 children of brickkilns workers had been enrolled in different government-sponsored schools for free education, while these workers were largely deprived of their legal rights and entitlements and forced to work in unhealthy and unsafe environments. The working conditions, he added there are no better than the workers’ own living conditions. A majority of the workers at the brick kilns were working due to poverty.

PM’s Focal Person vows to leave no child behind in polio vaccination efforts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Prime Minister’s Focal Person for the Polio Eradication Programme Ayesha Raza Farooq Sunday announced that two nationwide polio vaccination drives are scheduled to take place in October and December this year to immunize millions of children across Pakistan, particularly in high-risk areas.

Talking to PTV news channel, she reaffirmed Pakistan’s commitment to eradicating polio, pledging to leave no child behind in the country’s vaccination efforts.

She said it is a dire

As Pakistan gears up for dual nationwide polio vaccination campaigns in October and December, she added.

She issued a clarion call for collective action against polio as Pakistan confronts an unprecedented rise in cases, underscoring the need for swift and decisive action. Ayesha Raza Farooq highlighted the government’s efforts to enhance community engagement and awareness, a crucial component of Pakistan’s polio eradication strategy.

The government has reaffirmed its commitment to eradicating polio, allocating substantial resources to vaccination campaigns.

warning at a critical juncture and emphasized the imperative of collective action to safeguard Pakistan’s future generations from the debilitating disease.

In a call to action, she rallied parents, teachers, religious scholars and media representatives to join forces to combat the alarming rise of polio cases, adding, religious scholars can help dispel misconceptions about vaccines.

The government has reaffirmed its commitment to eradicating polio, allocating substantial resources to vaccination campaigns.

100 ICT rural schools being solarized

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has commenced work on solarizing 100 rural ICT schools, providing a reliable and sustainable power backup for quality education. According to the Education Ministry, this initiative ensures uninterrupted learning experiences and supports modern education ecosystems.

Sharing the key highlights, the ministry said that 100 rural ICT schools to be solar-powered. Reliable renewable energy for schools and labs will be provided. It is stated that project cost recovery is expected within 20 months.

The ministry is committed in enhancing educational outcomes through technology integration, it added. This sustainable energy solution reduces carbon footprint, minimizes power outages, fosters digital literacy, and supports Pakistan’s vision for a technologically advanced education system.

“By harnessing solar energy, we’re empowering future generations with access to quality education, bridging the digital divide, and contributing to a greener tomorrow” it added.

14 outlaws arrested; drugs and weapons recovered

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police apprehended 14 outlaws from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a public relations officer said. He said that, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Police has exaggerated crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city.

Security officials briefed for effective duty

ISLAMABAD: According to details, following the special directives of the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, SP Industrial Area zone Ali Raza visited various checkpoints of Industrial Area zone and briefed the officers regarding the better performance of their duties. Moreover, officers were briefed regarding the duty in view of the current situation, to be alert during checking and keeping a watchful eye on suspicious persons, strict orders were issued.

DIG Islamabad orders crackdown on criminals

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza, conducted a briefing for all police station muharrars, readers, Dolphin Squad, Ababeel Squad, City Watchers, and Patrol Unit officers.

On the occasion, senior police officials, and a large number of police officers were also present, a public relations officer said.

During the briefing, the DIG Islamabad emphasized the importance of briefing and said that our

will respond promptly to every call.

Additionally, individual performance reports of all officers will be compiled daily. Officers stationed at checkpoints will ensure effective monitoring of criminal elements.

Each officer will be held accountable for their individual performance as well as the crimes occurring in their areas. Corruption and negligence in duties will not be tolerated, he added.

DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza further said that,



duty is to ensure the safety of citizens’ lives and property and to enhance the reputation of our department”, he added.

Moreover, DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza mentioned that special beat officers will be deployed alongside the Dolphin Squad to make patrolling more effective in the federal capital. These beat officers will remain in their designated areas 24/7 and

the welfare of all officers is my top priority. You must conduct effective crackdowns on criminal elements. All police officers are urged to enhance patrols in the federal capital to prevent crime, ensure immediate response to emergency calls to the helpline Pucar-15, and serve citizens promptly. Protecting the lives and property of citizens is our foremost responsibility, he maintained.

Spaceacademy Society offers interactive learning activities for students

ISLAMABAD (APP): To celebrate the World Space Week from October 4-10, the Spaceacademy Society has planned an exciting series of interactive space science activities for students from different schools.

Spaceacademy Society will arrange various activities under the theme “Explore the Universe – A Journey to the Cosmos” in coordination with the Space Education and Awareness Drive of Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco).

According to an official source, the program is aimed at engaging the students with hands-on learning experiences that explore the mysteries of the universe through telescope

observations, virtual space journeys, and more.

The organization has invited educators to engage their students in a series of hands-on, interactive activities designed to foster a deeper understanding of space science.

The program will feature a variety of learning experiences, including telescope observations of celestial phenomena, both during the day and at night.

Students will also have the chance to participate in expert-led sessions on celestial objects such as planets, stars, and black holes, delving into the mysteries of the universe.

Another highlight of the initiative is a virtual space journey.



ISLAMABAD: CDA workers busy sapling plants at greenbelt along with Expressway in the Federal Capital.

Structural Reforms – A way forward to macroeconomic stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): As Pakistan struggles to achieve sustainable growth, the federal government is firmly resolute in its commitment to tax reforms and the rightsizing to achieve macroeconomic stability and secure a prosperous and progressive future for the country.

For ordinary citizens, the impact of tax reforms and rightsizing may seem distant, but government is clear in its thinking that everyone must contribute to country’s economy and play their respective role in economic uplift.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a message termed the structural reforms as crucial for achieving macroeconomic stability, which he called a “basic hygiene”

for sustainable growth. “Structural reforms are pivotal for ensuring sustainable economic growth and stability, forming a cornerstone of the government’s policy agenda,” the finance minister said while reacting on the issue.

Since respective governments have been endeavoring to broaden tax base by bringing more eligible into tax net, the efforts could not generate desired results. Therefore, the present government has once again embarked on an agenda to improve tax collection and bring the most needed reforms in this regime.

As per the official data, country’s 43% of sectors in the economy pay less than 1% tax, resulting in a tax-to-GDP ratio of just 8.8% which is unsustainable

and no country in the world could be run with these meager resources. The consequence is very much evident that Pakistan had to depend on external financing to bridge the fiscal gaps.

In order to reduce dependence of external financing and improve revenue collections, the government eyes on lifting the tax-to-GDP ratio up to 13% as envisaged in the budget document for current fiscal year (2024-25).

The way forward is clear and needs to broaden tax base and bring potential taxpayers into tax net to boost income of the national exchequer and help reduce dependence on external financing besides encouraging investment and economic growth.

In addition to tax generation, the government has

been seriously taking measures to reduce its expenditures and slash fiscal deficit. The federal budget 2024-25 predicted a headline deficit of 5.9% of GDP and a 2.0% primary surplus against 7.4% and 0.4 percent respectively during 2023-24.

Currently Federal Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb is heading the High-Powered Committee on Rightsizing of the Federal Government to reduce size of different ministries and autonomous bodies. Six ministries were asked to prepare an implementation plan for rightsizing, considering their employees, resources, properties and litigation matters. Once this process is complete, further ministries would be considered for reforms and rightsizing.

However, the government would need to bring legislative changes in Civil Servant Act 1973 to carry forward the rightsizing process smoothly. Experts believe that rightsizing would help reduce expenditures and slashing fiscal deficits; improve efficiency and productivity in the government ministries and autonomous bodies; reducing size of the federal government and improving governance besides encouraging private sector growth and investment.

Although the ride is bumpy, yet the efforts look sincere as ever since the incumbent government had assumed power, the economy is gradually coming on the right track as demonstrated by various economic indicators.

According to Economic Update and Outlook the country’s economy started Fiscal Year 2025 with positive developments, setting an optimistic tone for the months ahead. “Both the fiscal and external sectors have shown resilience, attributed to improved management,” revealed Economic Update and Outlook and noting that the current account has improved and FBR tax collection exceeded the target.

Meanwhile, a drop in Consumer Price Index based inflation to single digit (6.9), as per the data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) suggested that the economy is on track. The drop in inflation would help bring the policy rate by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) down accordingly, hence helping businesses to flourish.

The prudent policies

introduced by the government brought about various positive developments on economic front. Currently, foreign exchange reserves exceed \$9 billion, covering over two months of imports while the country has a stable currency. Twin deficits, particularly the Current Account Deficit is under control whereas remittances have increased. Based on the rich performance of economy, international recognition from rating agencies Fitch and Moody’s have increased Pakistan’s rating by one notch.

President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Atif Ikram Sheikh has also expressed satisfaction over declining inflation and up-gradation in credit rates by rating agencies.

“These were the clear indication of correct policies adopted by the government.” He said, as the government vows to continue with tax reforms and rightsizing, Pakistan’s journey towards macroeconomic stability seems promising. “With the government’s commitment to simplifying the tax system and reducing size of the federal government, the country may finally be on the path to sustainable growth.” As the government is toiling hard to steer country out of economic turmoil, there is dire need for all stakeholders especially the political parties and business community to cooperate with it for fulfillment of much needed reforms agenda to pave way towards economic stability and welfare of people.

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TTP's reach

Though the banned TTP is principally a threat to Pakistan's security, the terrorist group's wider ambitions should not be ignored by the world. In this regard, Pakistan's ambassador to the UN, Munir Akram, recently told the Security Council that the TTP is an "umbrella organisation" for militant actors, with the potential to destabilise the region. Moreover, indicating the state's dissatisfaction with the Afghan Taliban regime, he added that the TTP operates with "full support ... of the Afghan interim government".

There are, of course, justified reasons for the state's frustration with the Afghan Taliban's inability to crack down on cross-border terrorism. In attacks on Thursday and Friday, several security men were martyred, mostly in areas close to the Afghan border. In one incident, terrorists were prevented from crossing into Pakistan, while in another, Pakistani forces traded fire with Afghan security men.

Expanding on the TTP's potential to cause havoc beyond Pakistan, Mr Akram cited the terrorist group's ties with Al Qaeda, saying that the TTP — by joining forces with the multinational terror franchise — could become a "spearhead" for regional and global terrorist goals. The TTP is already on the UN's radar, as the multilateral body has affirmed that the outfit is currently the largest terror group in Afghanistan, enjoying close bonds with the Afghan rulers. While there are strong ideological and doctrinal links between the Afghan Taliban and the TTP, the former are satisfied with implementing their rigid system internally, while the latter group has a wider 'vision', working as it does with transnational terror concerns. Therefore, as this paper has mentioned before, there is a need to pursue the anti-TTP campaign on two fronts: the domestic and the foreign.

Domestically, the state must ensure that TTP fighters and allied groups are not able to hold any territory or freely cross the Afghan frontier. Our demands for international action will lack conviction if we are not able to keep our own soil free of terrorist groups. Secondly, as the ambassador pointed out, the TTP — particularly its activities inside Afghanistan — should be a matter of global concern, specifically for regional states.

The TTP is not the only violent outfit operating within Afghanistan; Al Qaeda, IS-K, Central Asian fighters, as well as Uighur militants are also believed to have a presence in that country. Some have cordial relations with the Afghan Taliban, while others, for example IS-K, have adversarial ties with Kabul's rulers. Therefore, Pakistan, along with Iran, the Central Asian states, Russia and China, should evolve a joint strategy to address the militancy problem in Afghanistan.

Pakistan's warning about the threat the TTP poses should be heeded by the international community, as Afghanistan has remained a hotbed of extremist groups in the past. The same mistake should not be repeated.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Benefits People of Balochistan



By Zhang Hao

In June of this year, the China-Pakistan Friendship Hospital (CPFH) in Gwadar, Balochistan, was officially handed over to the Pakistani side. As a significant livelihood project under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), this modern comprehensive hospital, with 150 beds, features an intensive care unit (ICU), a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), and four fully equipped operating rooms. It serves over 900 patients daily and employs nearly 300 local people. Fahad Muhammad, the Pakistani project director of the hospital, stated that there is no second hospital in the entire province of Balochistan that meets international standards like this one, which will benefit the people of Balochistan as a whole.

"To get rich, we must first build roads". China's over 40 years of reform and opening up have revealed that for a country or region to achieve sustained development and improve people's lives, upgrading

infrastructure is essential. The China-Pakistan Friendship Hospital in Gwadar is a clear example of how the construction of CPEC has boosted the improvement of infrastructure in Balochistan and benefited local people. Since its launch in 2013, the CPEC has brought water and electricity, roads and airports, schools and hospitals to the people of Balochistan, leading to more employment opportunities, improved living conditions, and a promising future. Take Gwadar Port as an example, driven by the construction of CPEC, the port has developed into a multi-purpose terminal with three multi-purpose berths, capable of docking two 50,000-ton cargo ships at the same time. A regular container shipping service has also been launched. The China-assisted Gwadar East Bay Expressway was officially opened in June 2022, creating a transportation link between Gwadar Port and the southern key city of Karachi, enhancing connectivity between Gwadar Port and the economic heartland of Pakistan. The new Gwadar International Airport completed its test flights in June of this year, and when completed, it will form a modern three-dimensional transport network by sea, land and air together with the maritime route of Gwadar Port and the East Bay Expressway. The construction of these new port, road, and airport has transformed the Gwadar region

from a remote fishing village into an important regional logistics hub and industrial base. The number of local shops, communication base stations, cold storage facilities, and restaurants has doubled in recent years, and the number of tourists has also doubled, leading to a significant increase in local people's economic income as the saying goes that "a rising tide lifts all boats". This demonstrates that the traction effect of infrastructure development on improving people's livelihoods will be substantial and continuous to be released.

In promoting the construction of the CPEC, China focuses on large-scale infrastructure projects that support the long-term development of Balochistan while also carrying out numerous "small yet smart" livelihood assistance projects.

We are committed to providing timely assistance. During the pandemic, the Chinese government provided essential supplies such as rice, flour, and cooking oil to fishermen in Gwadar, effectively alleviating their difficulties. After the floods in 2022, the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan promptly distributed relief supplies to 3,000 affected households in the Bugti tribal area, helping them to get through the difficult times. When Balochistan was hit by floods again this year, the Chinese government quickly provided \$100,000 in emergency cash assistance and

10,000 solar-powered lighting equipment, endeavouring to alleviate difficulties.

We care about the development of women and children. The Chinese government's project to donate 20,000 women's health kits to Balochistan was launched in July, aiming to improve the quality of life and health awareness of local women. The Chinese-aided Gwadar Faqeer School was expanded from a primary school to a primary and middle school with modern teaching facilities, including multi-purpose classrooms, and the original enrolment of 150 students has increased to more than 1,000, which is known as "the school that grows up" by the local people. The Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute at Gwadar focuses on short-term professional training for local workers, with 366 trainees already completed and 145 currently enrolled. Students from Gwadar can attend for free and have the opportunity to study in China in the future.

We provide assistance tailored to local conditions. The Chinese government organized enterprises to donate high-yield hybrid rice seeds to farmers affected by disasters in Balochistan, allowing them to enjoy the joy of a bountiful harvest with "Chinese seeds". The Central South University of Forestry and Technology in China has cultivated plants such as date palms, figs, and Sesbania in Balochistan, not

only increasing local vegetation coverage but also providing food sources or animal feed, effectively boosting local people's economic income. The Chinese Consulate General in Karachi implemented the "Lighting up Gwadar" project, installing 73 solar street lights to illuminate roads used by Gwadar fishermen at night.

The construction of the CPEC is inseparable from the efforts of numerous Chinese enterprises. While promoting industrial development and providing a large number of employment opportunities in Balochistan, they have also taken on the role of fulfilling their Corporate Social Responsibility with heart and soul, and have sincerely solved practical difficulties for the people of Balochistan through various means such as building roads, bridges, wells, hospitals, schools, and donating materials. The Hub Coal Power Project, not only created nearly 10,000 jobs in Balochistan during its construction but also continued to carry out desert tree planting and coastal cleaning activities for many years, and helped build a fishing pier and a public welfare school. The Saindak Copper Gold Project built the only high school in the area, Saindak High School, providing free education to more than 600 students, and its project hospital serves over 4,000 villagers. Since its operation, the Duddar Lead-zinc Mine

Project has newly built and renovated six surrounding primary and secondary school buildings and regularly assisted about 300 students in surrounding community schools with study and living supplies. The project has also funded the continuous maintenance of roads and bridges within 100 kilometers from Duddar to Winder and constructed a causeway, completely solving the problem of poor transportation during the rainy season in the Kanraj area, effectively ensuring the transportation lifeline in surrounding communities smooth.

"Of all the things that matter, people's livelihood comes first". In the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the most important value orientation of the Chinese government's governance is to further safeguard, improve, and develop people's livelihood, striving to realize the people's aspirations for a better life. The second phase of the CPEC will continue to uphold this development concept, making greater contributions to the economic development and livelihood improvement of Balochistan, benefiting more local people, and fully demonstrating the universally beneficial and inclusive nature of China-Pakistan friendly cooperation.

About the author: Mr. Zhang Hao is the acting CG of People's Republic of China in Karachi.

Imran-specific amendment?

Abbas Nasir

Hopes that better sense would prevail have been dashed. Another effort is on the cards before the middle of next month after the last one failed when the government could not muster the requisite two-thirds support in the National Assembly and Senate to push through a constitutional amendment targeting the judiciary.

The amendment was aimed at clipping the superior judiciary's wings, gaining more control over appointments to the superior courts, acquiring the power to transfer strong-minded judges from one high court to another and, last but not the least, authorising military court trials of civilians.

Even the outcome of the challenges to military court verdicts were

sought to be 'managed' at the appeals stage with an entirely executive-appointed constitutional court, which would also have become the final forum for the adjudication of all constitutional and fundamental rights issues.

It is clear to anyone with even a rudimentary knowledge of politics in Pakistan who is meant by the 'executive' in the current context. And herein lies the rub. Most elections in Pakistan have seen a degree of tweaking by the security state.

However, in last February's elections, this 'tweaking' was of unprecedented proportions. Independent observers say that the establishment, elements of the superior judiciary and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) all played a role to ensure what Gen Zia once called a 'positive result' in the election.

Yes, you don't have to remind me that the 2018 elections were also tweaked: before, during and after voting day. But if you'll argue that last February's elections were no different than the one before that, I'd strongly disagree with you.

The magnitude of the 'tweaking' is tangible in many constituencies on account of the inexplicable differences between the initial counts, leads from polling stations coming in real time, and the final result announced by the ECP officials. This, after jailing party leaders, cracking down on workers and denying a party its symbol.

Which ever side of the political divide you found yourself on, this aspect was clear to you, even if you were hesitant to acknowledge it in case your allegiance and sympathies happened to be

with the winning side and not with the out-of-favour political party.

At the root of the charges of 'rewriting of the Constitution', levelled at some learned judges of the Supreme Court, is this very tweaking, which was so blatant that when elements of the superior judiciary tried to redress the situation, they were slammed as partisan.

Some legal experts suggest that in strictly constitutional/legal terms, they may have overstepped the line in giving relief, but what they did was meant to right the wrong and dispense 'meaningful justice'. Of course, this would, and did, incur the wrath of the most powerful entity in the country.

If you ask me, I was very ambivalent towards Imran Khan and his poli-

tics. There was never a question in my mind that he enjoyed mass support; in fact, the status of a cult leader who could do no wrong. At the same time, his decisions while in power demonstrated his scant regard for human rights, freedom of expression and a free media.

He was authoritarian in his outlook. But now my ambivalence is gone, because his freedom and possible path back to office through the ballot box and rule of law is being blocked using tactics that could put to shame the way his own establishment backers handled the opponents of the hybrid set-up he headed as chief executive. Many in my tribe can blacken reams on the current constitutional breakdown and the travesty that is being perpetrated in the form of legislation every day, particularly by a parliament with

questionable credibility, but it will change nothing. Just see how the sides are seen to be arrayed on each side.

On one side are some judges of a split superior judiciary and the most popular political party in the country, whose jailed and persecuted leadership is unable for now to mobilise its fanatical support base into effective street power, which could potentially challenge the more entrenched and potent power player in the country. On the other side is the establishment and those who appear no more than its minions, whether in the executive or some other area, such as the ECP. With the failure of its earlier effort to have the amendment pushed through, one can be sure that in the next attempt, nothing will be left to chance and all ducks will be in a row to bulldoze it through.

SCO's future

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

On Oct 15-16, Pakistan will host the heads of government meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. It would be an occasion to review the SCO's progress towards fulfilling the promise with which it started out 23 years ago. The SCO evolved from the Shanghai Five, which was established in 1996 by China, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. It assumed its name when Uzbekistan joined in 2001. By 2017, India and Pakistan also joined it. Iran came along in 2023, and Belarus a year later.

Given that the SCO membership represents nearly 80 per cent of the Eurasian landmass, 40pc of the world population, nearly 30pc of global GDP, and a significant share of oil and gas reserves, euphoria surrounded it initially. It was conceived as a land bridge between Asia and Europe. This led to misgivings in the West, which started viewing it as a strategic push by China and Russia against the US-led West and West-dominated global institutions. Last month, the Council of SCO Heads of State in Astana, Kazakhstan, further stoked Western concerns by calling for a "new democratic and fair political and economic world order". In 2022, the Samarkand meeting of SCO heads of state had called for a gradual increase in the share of national currencies in mutual settlement of SCO members, though this did not gain much traction.

That said, the West would not be too concerned because several SCO members, particularly India, continue to have close economic ties with the US and Europe. In fact, of late, India has been seen downgrading its participation in SCO activities. Indian Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi stayed away from the Astana summit. India also shifted the SCO summit to a virtual format. There are doubts regarding the Indian PM's participation in the heads of government meeting that Pakistan is hosting next month. In an article published in Nikkei Asia, scholar Brahma Chellaney observed that India seems to be having "second thoughts" about its involvement in SCO, mainly because of the latter's "anti-Western orientation", which is at odds with the pro-Western tilt of Modi's foreign policy.

Another dynamic at play is India's tendency to allow its bilateral conflicts to cast a shadow on the organisation. India's conflictual bilateral ties with China and Pakistan are hampering its own proclaimed priorities in SCO: regional connectivity and eradicating terrorism. It has also impeded efforts to align SCO states in areas of common interests. India's approach runs counter to the 'Comprehensive Action Plan (2023-2027) for Implementation of Long-Term Good Neighbourliness, Friendship, and Cooperation among the SCO Members' that was adopted in Samarkand in 2022.

Apropos China, India has entered into a needless competition for increasing its influence in the Central Asian Republics, and is seeking to counter Chinese influence in regional connectivity projects. In an article published on the website of the Observer Research Foundation by its vice president in July, it was alleged that Beijing had used the SCO to "pursue its hegemonic interests rather than providing any gains to the CARs". India also opposes China's BRI projects, particularly CPEC.

As for Pakistan, India never tires itself of

hurling baseless allegations of cross-border terrorism against it, even though it is India which has mobilised state operations to carry out assassinations in Pakistan. India's hostile approach towards Pakistan seems to be guided by what Ajit Doval terms "offensive defence". This aggressive Indian tactic has undermined the work of SCO's most important Tashkent-based mechanism, the 'Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure'. India has mostly used the SCO forum for point-scoring against Pakistan. When Pakistan's foreign minister visited Goa for the SCO meeting in May last year, the host, India's external affairs minister, avoided meeting him, and, violating the 'Shanghai spirit', called him a "spokesperson of a terror industry".

Owing to these reasons, not only India, but also China and Russia are focusing more on the expanded BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the UAE). India is also trying to become a self-proclaimed leader of the Global South. However, unless it changes its hegemonic attitude towards its neighbours, who all now face its hostility or overbearing intervention, no regional organisation in the Afro-Asian region, including SCO or BRICS, can deliver tangible regional economic cooperation in South Asia.

For Pakistan, the SCO meeting next month is an opportunity to reinvigorate the SCO platform and help sharpen its focus on promoting closer economic cooperation, particularly regional trade, connectivity, digital economy, and youth engagement. -- Courtesy Dawn

Forever in fervour

Muna Khan

One of my favourite lessons in the classroom is on the use of descriptors and adjectives, and to demonstrate, I teach how national holidays like Aug 14 are reported. Since I began work as a journalist in 1995, I have read iterations of 'Pakistanis celebrated such-and-such day with fervour'. The exercise on reporting on national holidays without using patriotism in the copy is a great lesson and also allows reflection on how we've been conditioned to think.

If we're singing the anthem every day at school or the cinema, or waving flags at a ceremony, it does not necessarily mean we are patriotic. Habit does not equate fervour.

The opposite is also not true, i.e. a person not waving flags etc is unpatriotic. Over the years, the weaponisation of ghaddar coupled with a highly inflammable society prone to violence has resulted in a deadly combination.

Patriotism has long been used to exclude communities — cementing stereotypes, creating divisions and keeping power in the hands of the elite.

I did not think a recommendation of Susan Brownmiller's 1975 *Against Our Will*, about how men use rape to keep women in a state of fear, and its use in war by soldiers, would earn me a label of 'anti-state' by one student. It is almost a knee-jerk reaction when presented with something that goes against everything you've been taught. I don't blame the student as much as I do the system that produced a factory of workers handing out certificates of patriotism.

I've been thinking this while watching the discussion around the Afghan diplomats not standing for Pakistan's national anthem

in KP. There is a lot of hysteria on YouTube and mainstream TV across the political divide. The diplomats' explanation was pretty simple: they did not stand because the anthem contains music which they consider un-Islamic; they meant no disrespect.

Because we are so conditioned into equating respect with standing for the national anthem, the rage we felt is understandable but cannot be condoned. Our guests' beliefs deserve as much respect as ours, especially when they have clarified their position. But we live in a strange time where my belief (read: facts) trumps everyone else's.

A lot of folk on traditional and social media went out of their way to prove their loyalty to the state or the KP government which hosted the Afghan delegates. Chief Minister Ali Gandapur defended the Afghan diplomats, saying he accepted their explanation while the KP governor, Faisal Kundi described Gandapur as the chief minister of Afghanistan.

In this toxic battlefield that has created deep divisions which show no sign of healing, the media also chose sides.

One headline read: Gandapur 'defends Afghan diplomat's disrespect for national anthem' as if the act was intentional. Of course, readers would see through it.

I watched one news anchor use his YouTube channel to tell his audience to confront those who refuse to stand for the anthem. I'm pretty sure his anger was directed at PTI supporters for what he says is not distinguishing between state (ie anthem) and government.

It is problematic to police people's choices. Perhaps a Pakistani chooses not to stand as a way to protest the state's failure to protect its citizens' rights.

Every country has its version of 'good' and 'bad' patriots. When American footballers were taking the knee — following the murder of George Floyd by the police in 2020 — as a way to protest racism, then US president Donald Trump should "maybe they shouldn't be in the country".

Narendra Modi has ignited hatred for Muslims in India. The British tabloid media is full of racist language about Muslims — One survey done earlier this year found an "almost statistical correlation between GB News viewers and hate crime".

I think it is unpatriotic to be ill-informed.

After all, the act of calling someone unpatriotic is rooted in propaganda and/or misinformation. Believing your leader is more patriotic than their opponents and running campaigns on this serves no purpose. It may win you more seats at the next (election) but it does not prevent children from dying of pneumonia, the leading cause of death among children under five, according to Unicef. These deaths can be prevented through immunisation and one glance at the papers tells you how those drives are going.

This government's not-so-slow-any-more erosion of our civil liberties has left us with few avenues of protest — we can't tweet, we can't even organise demonstrations without fear of reprisal. And a lot of the media is enabling this with their partisan positions, probably because their survival depends on it.

Patriotism is anti-poor and racist. In its current form, it is totalitarian, too. Patriotism works when democracy does because it allows all of us to peacefully coexist with our differences, with or without fervour. -- Courtesy Dawn

Governor KP stresses for free judiciary, strengthening democracy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday stressed on the rule of law and the protection of the constitution. He said this during meeting with a delegation led by Qazi Muhammad Bashir, President of Peoples Lawyers Forum (PLF) Sindh. The delegation included PLF Karachi Division President Syed Arshad Hussain Naqvi, Information Secretary Dar Shah, General Secretary

Ijaz Sumro, and members from the Pakistan Peoples Party including advocate Tariq Khattak and Karachi Bar Association President Amir Nawaz Warraich. During the meeting, they engaged in detailed discussions on the rule of law and the protection of the constitution, highlighting the historic role of the Pakistan Peoples Party in these matters. Governor Kundi praised the contributions of the party's founder, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali

Bhutto, in establishing the 1973 Constitution, which provided a unified constitutional framework for the country. He emphasized that Bhutto prioritized justice and public rights, making the 1973 Constitution a significant legal document still in effect today. Kundi also commended the PPP leadership and lawyers' organizations for their role in the judicial restoration movement, asserting that the party has consistently fought for judicial

independence and the promotion of democracy. He reaffirmed the PPP's commitment to continue advocating for democracy, the constitution, and the rule of law, saying that the legal community stands alongside the party in this mission. The lawyers expressed their appreciation for Governor Kundi's leadership, saying that the central leadership of the party has entrusted an excellent individual with the Governor's responsibilities.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presides over the high level meeting regarding transforming Agriculture in Punjab.



KARACHI: Activists of Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) are holding protest demonstration for release of Pakistani Neuroscientist, Dr. Aafia Siddiqui, at Karachi press club.

Provision of basic amenities to citizens should be top priority of govt: Ombudsman

KARACHI (APP): A case was presented before the provincial ombudsman Dr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput. The Ombudsman, acting on Usman Khan's complaint, decided that the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation should immediately resolve the citizen's complaint and ensure uninterrupted water supply in the area. The Provincial Ombudsman directed in his decision that the provision of basic amenities to the citizens should be the top priority of the government and related institutions and neglect of necessities like water will not be tolerated under any circumstances, a

11 dead, 1411 injured in 1336 RTCs in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least eleven persons were killed and 1411 injured in 1336 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 614 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 797 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals. Furthermore, the analysis showed those 778 drivers, 71 underage drivers, 179 pedestrians, and 465 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 280 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 288 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by Faisalabad 98 in with 101 victims and at third Gujranwala with 70 RTCs and 66 victims.

Rabi-ul-Awwal month very important to us: Sharjeel Inam Memon

KARACHI (APP): A ceremony was held at the Iranian Consulate in Karachi to commemorate the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal, hosted by Iranian Consul General Hassan Nourian. Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, along with Provincial Ministers Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Saeed Ghani, Syed Zulfikar Shah, and others, participated in the event. Senior Minister of Sindh Sharjeel Inam Memon while addressing the event as a special guest said that the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal, which marks the birthday of our beloved Prophet

World Rose Day CM Maryma pledges quality treatment for cancer patients

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif extended her heartfelt wishes to cancer patients, acknowledging their strength and resilience. In her message on World Rose Day, a day dedicated to hope and awareness for cancer patients, she stated, "Cancer patients are truly courageous individuals," and expressed her prayers for their swift recovery. The chief minister prayed to Allah Almighty for the complete healing of every cancer patient. She also announced the establishment of the first Nawaz Sharif Cancer Hospital in Lahore, which represents a significant step in providing essential treatment and care for cancer patients. CM Maryam Nawaz emphasized the government's commitment to supporting cancer patients, affirming that every patient will receive free and quality treatment. She expressed her determination to eliminate barriers to accessing necessary medical care and announced plans to establish specialized cancer treatment centers in every district of Punjab, ensuring that all patients have access to quality healthcare services close to their homes. The chief minister reaffirmed the government's dedication to improving the welfare of cancer patients.

Muhammad (peace be upon him), is very important to us. It is a great honor to take part in this occasion. He said that the teachings of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), centred on compassion, justice, and unity, serve as a beacon for us. He stated that Pakistan-Iran relations are deep, founded on a shared heritage, mutual respect, and cooperation. Culturally, both Iran and Pakistan are rich sources of common traditions, literature, and art. Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the shared experiences of our people through art, music,

Two killed in Motorcycle, trawler collision in Kashmir

DERA MOR (APP): At least two motorcyclists died on the spot while one other person was critically injured after the motorcycle they were riding was hit and crushed by a trawler in Dera Mor, Kashmir on early Sunday. According to details, Rescue 1122 both motorcyclists died after a trawler hit their motorcycle, on which they were riding, while another person received critical injuries during the accident, a private news channel. Later, the dead persons were identified as Ali Nawaz Naich and Mohammad Nawaz Naich, who were ex-employees of WAPDA.

Mariyum Aurangzeb says: Crackdown on illegal wildlife trade geared up

LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb has affirmed that the Punjab government's crackdown on the illegal trade and smuggling of rare wildlife and birds is gearing up. Following a tip-off, the Wildlife Department, in collaboration with police, conducted a successful operation in Taunsa, resulting in the arrest of a suspect. During the operation, a rare eagle valued at over \$36,000 was recovered, and the bird was found to be in good physical condition. The arrested individual is believed to be involved in the smuggling of rare birds abroad. Senior Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb praised the Wildlife Department on behalf of the Chief Minister Punjab, stating that the recovered eagle will be fitted with a tracker before being released back into the wild. She emphasized the critical role that birds play in maintaining ecological balance. Mariyum Aurangzeb highlighted that under the Chief Minister's policy for the protection of forests and wildlife, continuous operations are being carried out across the province. Numerous rare animals and birds have been rescued and transferred to zoos.



HYDERABAD: Activists of Awami Workers Party (AWP) are holding protest demonstration against building new canals to draw additional water from the Indus River, anti-people policies decisions and amending the Irsa Act, at Hyderabad press club.

Rank pinning ceremony for 53 inspectors held

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar said that Punjab Police is facing the challenges of maintaining law and order, combating terrorism, religious intolerance, and extremism. Despite limited resources, Punjab Police is bravely and diligently tackling all challenges. He expressed these views while addressing newly promoted Inspectors after pinning their new ranks during a ceremony at the Central Police Office here on Sunday. The IG Punjab directed the officers to enhance their involvement in departmental affairs through high professionalism and smart policing. He emphasized the use of modern technology, ensuring excellent service delivery, and providing quick justice to the citizens. He instructed the officers to treat the poor with more courteous behavior and politeness, deliver justice without bias, acquit the innocent, and hold the guilty accountable without any external pressure. He announced that this year, over 2,000 promotions will be granted, including 600 Sub-Inspectors, 700 ASIs, and 800 Head Constables. He added that the promotion board for SPs of the Safe City Authority and officers of the Organized Crime Unit will be held soon. He encouraged the newly promoted officers to repay the debt of promotions and welfare by serving.



JAMSHORO: Students are solving their question papers during Pre entry test for admission at the Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (LUMHS).

CM wishes MDCAT candidates, orders excellent arrangements

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif expressed her best wishes to the candidates appearing for the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) being conducted across the province on Sunday. In her message, the CM said "Dear students, my prayers are with you. Hard work never goes in vain, you will succeed, Insha'Allah." The chief minister directed the relevant authorities to ensure excellent arrangements across examination centers throughout Punjab.

Parliamentary Secretary briefed on promotional activities at PAC

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Culture, Shazia Rizwan on Sunday received a briefing on the ongoing cultural activities in the Punjab Council of the Arts, Rawalpindi, and has directed to further increase organizing events make PAC more active. Shazia said that the promotion of culture plays an important role in establishing an atmosphere of love and brotherhood in the country, which is the duty of the government as well as the influential sections of the society. According to the details, the parliamentary secretary chaired a meeting at PAC in which she was briefed on the ongoing promotional activities, cultural events and the over progress of the arts council. Shazia Rizwan, while expressing her satisfaction over the performance shown by the council in highlighting the importance of cultural activities, underlined the need to encourage and introduce local talent by making maximum use of the Arts Council platform. She informed that on the instructions of CM Maryam Nawaz, she visited the arts councils across Punjab and submitted a report so that the inadequate facilities in the arts councils could be redressed. She directed the officers of PAC to approach local cultural departments, colleges and universities for drawing facilities and organize programs regularly with their collaboration.

Azma Bukhari says: PTI founder exposed by Israeli newspaper

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari said on Sunday that the Israeli newspaper had exposed the reality of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder. She was addressing a press conference along with Privilege Committee Chairman Samiullah Khan at Shahdara, said a press release issued here. She said that the PTI founder, during his tenure in government, tried to develop good ties with Israel. To a question, she said that political activities were allowed in the province as per law, adding that nobody would be spared for breaking the law. Azma Bukhari said, "There are many problems in Shahdara and government was well aware of them." She said that hefty amount of Rs 125 billion would change the fate of the area in four months. Azma Bukhari said that the Punjab government had started various initiatives for welfare of people of Punjab including free medicines, laptops, Kisan card, Green model bazaar, solar programme, 'Apni Chhat Apna Ghar'. She said Lahorites clearly demonstrated at the PTI rally on Saturday.

Up-gradation of inside city hospitals begins

LAHORE (APP): On the direction of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the up-gradation of all hospitals inside the city has commenced. This was disclosed by Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Khawaja Imran Nazir during the inauguration of a new nursery and blood bank at the Govt Maternity Hospital New Karol on Sunday. The minister said the addition of these facilities was a part of larger up-gradation process aimed at improving the hospital's services. He emphasized that each hospital would be thoroughly assessed, and any missing or inadequate facilities would be provided on a priority basis. Khawaja Imran

Dengue cases surge across Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Dengue cases are on the rise in Punjab as 86 new cases were reported from various parts of the province during the last 24 hours. Majority of these cases, 74 in total, were reported in Rawalpindi, while Gujranwala, Sheikhupura, Attock, and Mianwali each recorded two cases. One case each was identified in Lahore, Kasur, Chakwal, and Sahiwal. According to health department sources, the total number of dengue cases was swelled to 1,044 after 377 new cases.



PESHAWAR: A special ceremony was organized in connection of 11 years of two suicide bombings in the year 2013 at the famous All Saints Church Kohati Gate in Peshawar

Unhealthy junk food harming youth health

PESHAWAR (APP): Excessive use of unhealthy food by bulk of teenagers and youngsters across the country had negative effects on their health exposing them to fatal ailments like obesity, piles, allergies and stomach disorders. Like other parts of the country, unhealthier use of junk and expired food like burger, shawarma, chicken rolls, chips, snacks, burgers etc in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also often

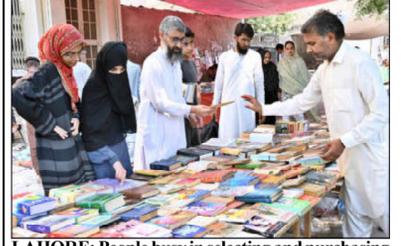
land its victims to doctors clinics and hospitals. Faraz Khan (24), a youth of Wapda Town Nowshera was a recent instance of this dilemma as few days back he felt severe pain in his stomach due to irritable bowel syndrome and piles and was rushed to Government hospital Pabbi where doctors operated him to cure the ailment. The doctors diagnosed that overeating of an expired chicken

mostly used in shawarma, chicken rolls, chips, snacks, burgers besides low fat yogurt and cheese, high carbohydrate fatty food and beverages were the major causes of ailment in patients like Faraz. Faraz was not alone but thousands other students of colleges and schools across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were exposed to unhealthy junk foods being sold openly outside the educational institutions in towns and

cities adversely affecting their health. There is an abundance of such shops and food stalls at Qissa Khwani bazaar, Namak Mandai, Karimpura, Charsadda Road, Faqirabad, Tehkal, Board bazaar, Lateef Abad, Hayatabad, Warsak Road, Dalazak Road, Chamkani, GT Road and other localities, mostly seen selling unsafe cuisines and expired food. Professor Dr Ata Muhammad at Lady

Justice Ijaz of PHC Inspects courts and sub jail in Nowshera

PESHAWAR (APP): Peshawar High Court Judge, Justice Ejaz Anwar on Sunday accompanied by Registrar Peshawar High Court Peshawar Ikhtyar Khan and District and Sessions Judge Nowshera Muhammad Asif Khan visited Nowshera. During his visit, Justice Ijaz Anwar first visited the District Courts Nowshera where he met the judges and had a detailed discussion with them about the judicial



LAHORE: People busy in selecting and purchasing old books from roadside stall at Mall Road.

UK Trade Commissioner Oliver Christian begins key visit to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): UK Trade Commissioner for Middle East and Pakistan Oliver Christian has landed in Islamabad on his first visit to Pakistan, kicking off a three-day effort to strengthen the UK's economic, trade and education links with Pakistan. During his visit, Christian will announce significant new partnerships, including a strategic Transnational Education agreement between Beaconhouse International College and the University of Essex; and collaboration between Imperial Healthcare NHS

Trust at the Novacare Hospital in Islamabad, said a press release. These initiatives are set to deepen the UK's investment in Pakistan's education and healthcare sectors. The University of Essex partnership aims to provide Pakistani students with access to world-class education, while the Novacare project will set a new standard in healthcare facilities and services in the region. British Deputy High Commissioner, Karachi Sarah Mooney said: "As Pakistan's third-largest trade partner, the UK is committed to driving

economic development and addressing challenges that hold back growth. This visit reinforces our commitment to working together to unlock opportunities to benefit both countries." His Majesty's Trade Commissioner for the Middle East and Pakistan, Oliver Christian said: "British firms are not just operating in Pakistan, they are market leaders in their respective fields, trusted by millions of consumers as household names and making a significant contribution to the economy."



SIALKOT: Group Leader Etihad Founder Sheikh Riazuddin and Majid Raza Bhatta pose for a group photograph with the newly elected Chamber of Commerce Officials for 2024-26.

40 Pakistani companies explore growing investment opportunities with Chinese counterparts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Xi'an, the capital of Shaanxi Province in northwestern China, is witnessing an unprecedented surge in cooperation between Pakistan and China. The China (Shaanxi)-Pakistan Economic and Trade Cooperation Fair, recently held in conjunction with the Silk Road International Exposition, highlighted the vibrant relationship between the two nations. The occasion brought together around 40 Pakistani companies, including both public and

private oil and gas enterprises, keen to explore growing investment opportunities with their Chinese counterparts. In an interview with China Economic Net, Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi emphasized the significance of the fair. He said, "This is the first time, perhaps in recent memory, that such a large delegation and sector-specific conference is being convened in Shaanxi Province." He noted, underscoring the momentum generated in

recent months, particularly after the Pakistani Prime Minister's visit to the province in June. "Since CPEC entered its second phase last year, a new chapter in our economic relationship—focused on B2B cooperation—is unfolding. We have identified 13 priority sectors, including energy, mines and minerals, iron and steel, chemicals, fertilizers, textiles, leather, IT, and services. Through events like this, we aim to attract Chinese investment to these sectors in Pakistan," Ambassador Hashmi said.

Property taxpayers urged to avail government's 5pc rebate offer till 30th

MULTAN (APP): The Excise and Taxation Department urged property taxpayers to benefit from the Punjab government's five percent rebate offer over payment of the tax till September 30. Deputy Director admin/ETO property tax, Khalid Hussain Qasoori, informed APP on Sunday said that the provincial government had announced five percent rebate offer

over full payment of new financial year property taxes and there is only one week left. He said that they had distributed property tax notices with a rebate offer to all taxpayers and added that citizens could also download the notices online and pay it. He urged the business community and domestic consumers to avail the opportunity and submit their property taxes before end.

MEPCO consumers provided relief

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Regional Office of the Federal Ombudsman Bahawalpur Division, provided relief to number of consumers of Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) in over billing cases. Commissioner, IRD, Regional Office of Federal Ombudsman in Bahawalpur Division, Khalid Nazeer conducted hearing into 72 cases and directed the MEPCO officials to provide relief to the applicants.



ISLAMABAD: People are busy buying shoes in Sunday weekly bazaar at sector G-10, in the Federal Capital.

Research on new seeds imperative to enhance agriculture productivity

FAISALABAD (APP): In a rapidly changing world and mounting population pressure, countries like Pakistan shall have to embark on strategies aiming at generating new seed varieties for enhanced productivity and compatibility to climate change effects. Although research and development of seeds is a continuous ongoing and tough process, yet it is imperative to enhance agriculture produce to cater to food requirements of burgeoning population and achieve the goals of food security and national progress and prosperity. Immediately after independence, per acre yield of wheat in the

country was only 15 maunds which pressured the government as well as scientists' to research and develop high-yielding and disease-resistant varieties to ensure adequate supply of wheat and make the country self-reliant in this basic staple food. MaxiPak was the first seed to revolutionize wheat production and Nuclear Institute for Agriculture & Biology (NIAB) developed cotton variety NIAB-78 that ruled around two decades giving maximum yield of 14 billion bales. Thereafter, a number of research institutes were established with dedicated task of seed research and development and our scientists developed a large

number of seed varieties for different climatic zones. Very recently, the Cotton Research Institute Sakrand has developed three new cotton varieties including one non-BT (CRIS 644) and two BT varieties (CRIS 674 and CRIS 682). Similarly, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) recently developed soybean seed that is suitable for local farming and would help Pakistan to curtail import of soybean and locally meet soybean needs. "Only the UAF soybean variety can help country save \$1.5 billion spent on import of edible oil," said Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan, Vice



ISLAMABAD: Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan chairs the 85th EDF Board meeting, approving Rs. 8.5 billion for initiatives aimed at boosting Pakistan's textile, agriculture and global branding efforts.

EDF Board approves 20 proposals of worth Rs 8.5 bn for textile, Agri, global branding

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant move to bolster Pakistan's export sector, the Export Development Fund (EDF) has approved 20 proposals of worth Rs 8.5 billion for initiatives targeting textiles, agriculture, gems and jewelry, defense, and global branding. This was approved during the 85th meeting of the Export Development Fund (EDF) Board under the chairmanship of Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, said a news release here on Sunday. The Board approved 20 out of the 29 financial proposals by

participating in Expo 2025 in Osaka Japan. The minister highlighted the potential available in the reformed EDF for boosting the Pakistan exports by channelizing the money into various activities as per needs of the exporters and creating facilitative mode at the national level for value addition, research & development, increasing compliance as per global requirement, upgradation of the export infrastructure and marketing/branding of the country's potential in the international arena. The Board was apprised that EDF has made drastic reforms during

the recent times which include notification of EDF as autonomous body, amendment in the EDF Act for direct transfer of Export Development Surcharge to EDF Public Account, digitalization of revenue collection system with the help of State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and Pakistan Single Window (PSW). The board was informed that a detailed activity has been initiated with the help of FCDO Remit Project for development of Vision, Mission and Future Strategy of EDF while a Chartered Accountancy Firm has also been hired to restructure EDF.



QUETTA: A vendor displaying stuffed toys to attract the customers at roadside near Sunday Bazaar at Joint road.

PM's UNGA address to reaffirm Pak commitment to multilateralism: Malik

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik said on Sunday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's address at the 79th UNGA session would reaffirm Pakistan's unwavering commitment to multilateralism and underscore its support for the pivotal role of the United Nations in promoting global peace, security, and development. Commenting on the PM visit, the octogenarian trade leader of South Asia said that in a world beset by numerous challenges, ranging from conflict and climate change to economic inequality, the Prime Minister

would emphasize the importance of international cooperation and collective action in addressing these pressing global issues. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will highlight Pakistan's contributions to UN peacekeeping missions, where the country has consistently played a vital role in maintaining peace and stability in conflict-ridden regions. Furthermore, he will call for renewed efforts toward achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in the context of developing nations, which have faced disproportionate challenges due to global economic downturns and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Honorary Consul General of Kazakhstan visits SIMAP

SIALKOT (APP): Sialkot business community participated in the meeting held at Allama Iqbal Auditorium of the Surgical Instruments Manufacturers Association of Pakistan (SIMAP). SIMAP Chairman Yousaf Hassan Bajwa while presenting the letter of thanks welcomed the Consul General of Kazakhstan Rao Khalid Mehmoed and informed him about the surgical industry of Sialkot and said that it was earning a lot of foreign exchange for the country.

Chancellor (VC) UAF: "We have produced 50 new high-yielding varieties of different crops, fruits and vegetables during last three years." Recently, he informed that UAF developed two high-yielding sugarcane varieties including Insect-resistant transgenic sugarcane (CABB-IRS) and Herbicide-tolerant transgenic sugarcane (CABB-HTS). "These varieties carry superior traits and are like input-responsiveness, early maturing (suitable for plantation even after wheat in the months of April and May), top borer-resistance, herbicide-tolerance and high-number of tillers." "These varieties are second in the world and

first in Pakistan and would help boost up sugarcane productivity manifold," he added. Similarly, Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI) scientists have so far developed more than 700 seed varieties of different crops including 103 varieties of wheat and barley, 75 of cotton, 35 of rice, 29 of sugarcane, 48 of maize and millets, 51 of pulses, 57 of oilseeds, 47 of fodder, 83 of vegetables and 159 varieties of fruits. "Now, AARI scientists are striving hard to surpass the yield barriers and their efforts are to move from green revolution to the gene revolution."

82pc BISP beneficiaries get quarterly tranche

LODHHRAN (APP): About 82 percent beneficiaries of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) got quarterly tranche of Rs 10,500 each in the district. Talking to APP here on Sunday, BISP Lodhran District Director Irfan Malik, informed that ten camp sites were set up across the district in collaboration with the district administration for the disbursement of quarterly financial assistance. Four camp sites have been set up in Tehsil Kahror Pacca, three in Dunyapur and three in Tehsil Lodhran. Irfan Malik stated that Rs 10,500 each were disbursed among 131,000 beneficiaries through 120 retailers registered with the BISP across the district. He added that strict monitoring of disbursement of quarterly tranche was being ensured to provide full payment to the deserving beneficiaries in a transparent manner.

Shocking revelations about IPPs came to light

RAWALPINDI (Online): It has been revealed that some of the IPPs (Independent Power Producers), private power companies in Pakistan have received billions of rupees from the government of Pakistan without generating electricity due to wrong contracts. Sources revealed that these IPPs are reluctant to undergo a forensic audit despite the immense insistence of the Government of Pakistan. These IPPs have received billions of rupees from the government of Pakistan for the maintenance of the plants, government is also bearing their insurance, but despite the payment of billions, the government can never become the owner of these plants. Experts were of the view that these IPPs have earned hundreds of times their profit, so the contracts should be

reviewed. According to the sources, IPPs installed wind plants of the same capacity in Pakistan four times more expensive than in Bangladesh and Vietnam, and committed an over invoicing. Despite coal reserves in Pakistan, IPPs are dependent on imported fuels such as high-speed diesel and imported coal for power generation. Costly electricity is being generated due to these initiatives of IPPs. According to sources, IPPs did not generate as much electricity as they imported fuel and also received billions of rupees subsidy from the government. The IPPs have received billions of rupees from the government of Pakistan for the maintenance of the plants, while not even a quarter of that amount is spent on the maintenance of the plants.

According to sources, IPPs did not generate as much electricity as they imported fuel and also received billions of rupees subsidy from the government. The IPPs have received billions of rupees from the government of Pakistan for the maintenance of the plants, while not even a quarter of that amount is spent on the maintenance of the plants.



MULTAN: Labourer is busy spreading raw rice for drying in the field.

Pak Railways introduces affordable AC travel, cuts fares across board: Amir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways' CEO Aamir Ali Baloch Sunday announced exciting plans to enhance the travel experience for passengers where the government is taking significant steps to make Pakistan Railways a more attractive option for travelers by decreasing fares and introducing state-of-the-art air-conditioned trains for affordability to commuters. Talking to PTV news channel, the CEO has unveiled an ambitious plan to transform Pakistan Railways into a world-class transportation system, reviving Pakistan's rail network. He said Pakistan Railways has announced a 10% reduction in fares for all passenger trains, including air-conditioned and economy classes. The fare cut will be effective from 23 September and applies to

both express and mail trains, he mentioned. Pakistan Railways is undergoing significant changes to streamline operations, boost efficiency, and optimize resource management, he said, adding that this transformation is part of a larger strategy to modernize the railway system, making it more reliable and comfortable for passengers. "Pakistan Railways under the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is committed to embracing cutting-edge technology to provide seamless travel experiences", he mentioned. Our modernization efforts will make rail travel faster, safer, and more enjoyable for passengers, he assured. CEO Aamir Ali Baloch emphasized that reducing fares is a historic step for the government in making rail travel.



ISLAMABAD: A large number of people purchasing fruits displayed by vendors at Fruit and Vegetable Market in the Federal Capital.

Pakistan's earns \$286m from IT services' export during July 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned US \$286.395 million by exporting different Information Technology (IT) services in various countries during the first month of the current fiscal year 2024-25. This shows a growth of 33.84 per cent as compared with the US \$ 213.980 million earned through the provision of services during the corresponding period of the last fiscal year 2023-24, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. During the month under review, the computer services grew by 44.14 per cent as it surged from US \$172.680 million last year to US \$248.899 million during July 2024. Among the computer services, the exports of software consultancy services witnessed an increase of 47.38 per cent, from US \$58.425 million to US \$86.103 million this year while the export of

hardware consultancy services, however, decreased by 30.68 per cent, from US \$0.440 million to US \$0.350 million. The export of repair and maintenance services surged by 1302.14 per cent from US \$0.035 million to US \$0.490.75 million whereas the export and imports of computer software services also increased by 1.08 per cent, from \$50.327 million to \$50.868 million. In addition, the exports of other computer services also witnessed a growth of 75.14 per cent from US \$63.453 million to US \$111.131 million. Meanwhile, the export of information services during the month under review also increased by 47.50 per cent growing from US \$0.300 million to US \$0.442 million. Among the information services, the exports of information-related services up by 12.34 per cent.

Israeli strike on school housing refugees kills 21

Monitoring Desk

GAZA STRIP: Gaza's civil defence agency reported 21 people were killed in an Israeli strike on Saturday, the latest attack on a school sheltering displaced Palestinians. A spokesman for the civil defence agency, Mahmud Bassal, said more than half the dead at the Gaza City school were children. According to witnesses, a group of orphans had earlier gathered at the building to receive sponsorship from a local aid group. "Civil defence crews recovered (the bodies of) 21 people, including 13 children and six women," one of whom was pregnant, said Bassal.

The health ministry in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip gave the same death toll for what the Israeli military said was a precise strike on fighters who were operating inside a Hamas command-and-control centre... embedded inside an adjacent school. AFP TV footage showed the ground floor

of the school-turned-shelter covered with concrete rubble and mangled chairs and tables, and a gaping hole in the ceiling of what appeared to be a classroom. Thousands of Palestinians displaced by the war had sought shelter there, Bassal said.

There were "around 30 injured, including nine children (needing) limb amputations, as a result of an Israeli bombing on Al-Zeitun School C" in Gaza City, he said.

Israel's military said its target was in Al-Falah School, adjacent to the Al-Zeitun School buildings. An AFP reporter at the scene confirmed that Al-Zeitun School C had been hit. The military, without mentioning the casualties reported by Gaza's civil defence and health ministry, said it had taken steps "to mitigate the risk of harming civilians, including the use of precise munitions, aerial surveillance and additional intelligence".

Displaced Gazan Randa al-Nadim told AFP she saw a pregnant woman killed in the strike. "Here a woman was martyred, and this is her blood on the stairs... we found her belly open and the fetus on the stairs," she said. "Did the fetus fight Israel?"

A strike on the United Nations-run Al-Jawni School in central Gaza on September 11 drew international outcry after the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, said six of its staffers were among the 18 reported fatalities.

The Israeli military accuses Hamas of hiding in school buildings where many thousands of Gazans have sought shelter — a charge denied by the Palestinian group. Hamas on Saturday condemned the strike on Al-Zeitun School C, describing it in a statement as "a war crime under American cover", a reference to Washington being Israel's most important military backer.



Palestinians inspect the damage to a school sheltering displaced people after it was hit by an Israeli strike, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, at Beach refugee camp in Gaza City.

Hezbollah, Israel exchange heavy fire after deadly Israeli strike

Monitoring Desk

BEIRUT: Israel and Hezbollah exchanged heavy fire into Sunday, with Israeli warplanes carrying out the most intense bombardment in almost a year of conflict across Lebanon's south and Hezbollah firing rockets deep into northern Israel.

The Israeli military said it struck around 290 targets on Saturday, including thousands of Hezbollah rocket launcher barrels, and said it would continue to hit more targets.

Israel closed schools and restricted gatherings in many northern areas and ordered hospitals there to transfer their operations to facilities with extra protection from rocket and missile fire. There were no government directives from Lebanon on Sunday morning. The conflict — which sharply escalated over the past week — has raged since Hezbollah opened a second front against Israel after Israel went to war with Hamas in the Palestinian enclave of Gaza.

Israeli forces raid Al Jazeera bureau in West Bank with closure order

Monitoring Desk

CAIRO: Qatari Al Jazeera TV said on Sunday morning that Israeli forces stormed its bureau in the West Bank's Ramallah city with a military order to close it for 45 days. The Qatar-based channel aired live footage of the Israeli troops storming the channel's office and handing over a military closure order to one of the Al Jazeera TV staff before the broadcast was disrupted. In a statement, the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate condemned the Israeli move, saying "this arbitrary military decision is considered a new violation against journalistic and media works."

Biden and Japan's Kishida discuss shared concerns over South China Sea

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida discussed diplomacy with China and their shared concerns over "coercive and destabilizing activities" in the South China Sea during a meeting on Saturday at the Quad Leaders Summit in Wilmington, the White House said.

Sri Lanka picks Marxist-leaning Dissanayake as president to fix economy

Monitoring Desk

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka elected Marxist-leaning Anura Kumara Dissanayake as its new president on Sunday, putting faith in the 55-year-old's pledge to fight corruption and bolster a fragile economic recovery following its worst financial crisis in decades.

Dissanayake, who does not possess political lineage like some of his rivals in the presidential election, led from start to finish during the counting of ballots, knocking out incumbent President Ranil Wickremesinghe and opposition leader Sajith Premadasa to become Sri Lanka's 10th president.

The election was also a referendum on Wickremesinghe, who led the heavily indebted nation's fragile economic recovery from a meltdown in 2022 but the austerity measures that were key to this recovery hindered his bid to return to office. He finished third with 17 per cent of the vote.

Dissanayake polled 5.6 million of 42.3pc of the votes, a massive boost to the 3pc he managed in the last presidential election in 2019.



Police officers search parts of a bomb at a site of an apartment building hit by a Russian air strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kharkiv, Ukraine.

Kamala challenges Trump to CNN debate in October

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Kamala Harris on Saturday challenged Donald Trump to another debate in the lead-up to the US presidential election, with her campaign saying she had accepted an invitation from broadcaster CNN to host the event on Oct 23.

"Vice President Harris is ready for another opportunity to share a stage with Donald Trump," her campaign chair Jen O'Malley Dillon said in a statement.

"The American people deserve another opportunity to see Vice President Kamala Harris and Donald Trump debate before they cast their ballots." Republican Trump has attended two debates so far, one against President Joe Biden and one against Harris, who has since replaced her boss at the top of the Democratic ticket.

Trump has previously rejected the idea of facing Harris again. His campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Most pundits put Harris as the winner of the last debate, which was held on Sept 10. Biden's poor debate performance against Trump in June, where the president struggled to complete some of his sentences, catalysed concerns over his age and ramped up pressure for the 81-year-old to drop out of the race. The move has left Trump, 78, now the oldest presidential nominee against a much younger Harris, 59.

Saturday's announcement came as three states — Virginia, Minnesota and South Dakota — have already begun early voting in what is an agonisingly close race.

9 Indian fishermen feared dead after trawler capsizes in Bay of Bengal

Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: Nine Indian fishermen are feared dead after their trawler capsized in the Bay of Bengal during a storm, an official told AFP on Sunday. The trawler had left from the Sundarbans in West Bengal on Wednesday with 17 men on board, said Surajit Bag, assistant director of fishing in the state government.

Eight were on the deck while nine others were asleep in the cabin below when the storm struck early Saturday near Bagher Char island he told AFP. "The trawler was overwhelmed by high waves and it capsized," he said. Another trawler rescued the eight on deck after they were thrown overboard, he said. "Despite an extensive search, the remaining nine fishermen who were asleep below the deck could not be found. We fear they are dead." An Indian Coast Guard vessel had towed the trawler back to land, where the survivors were in a stable condition, Bag said.

Pope condemns killing of Honduran environmental activist

Monitoring Desk

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis on Sunday condemned the killing last week of an environmental activist in Honduras who had protested over mining and hydro-electric projects to try to protect tropical forests and rivers. Juan Lopez was shot dead by several men as he headed home in his car from church, an official told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity. Lopez belonged to the Municipal Committee for the Defense of Common and Public Goods, an environmental organization in the city of Tocoa close to the country's Atlantic coast.



Bangladeshi indigenous people chant slogans as they protest demanding withdrawal of military from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) following a clash between indigenous people, Bengalis and the military, centring the death of a Bengali person in Khagrachhari district, at the University of Dhaka, in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

France's Barnier entrusts budget dilemma to little-known duo

Monitoring Desk

PARIS: French Prime Minister Michel Barnier has handed a little known duo the task of plugging a huge hole in the budget, putting loyalty before political clout in the job description for his finance and budget ministers.

Ending weeks of suspense, Barnier unveiled his ministerial line-up late on Saturday, tapping 33-year-old junior lawmaker Antoine Armand for the prestigious economy and finance ministry.

Barnier also named Laurent Saint Martin, 39, head of the government office that promotes foreign investment in France, as budget minister, putting him directly under his purview rather than the finance ministry in a break with tradition. Unknown outside of Parisian political circles, the two face huge pressure to figure out how to rein in France's budget deficit as it spirals towards 6% of GDP due to a tax shortfall and higher than planned spending.

Fear grips minorities after deadly violence in Bangladesh

Monitoring Desk

DHAKA: Ethnic minorities in Bangladesh's southern hilly region are living in fear after clashes in which four people were killed and several wounded, police and witnesses said on Saturday. Sectarian violence, sparked by the lynching of a Bengali man on Wednesday, has displaced scores of ethnic families after homes and businesses were set on fire in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) bordering Myanmar and northeast India, they said.

A 72-hour road and waterways blockade, called by student-led ethnic groups, is underway in three hilly districts of

Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban in the CHT, home to several indigenous tribal groups. The protesters are calling for punishment of those responsible for the unrest, which escalated on Thursday, leading to the deaths of at least four men from ethnic minorities. Many families in Khagrachhari and Rangamati have fled, leaving behind burning houses and businesses.

The Bangladesh Hindu Buddha Christian Oikya Parishad (HBCOP), the largest organisation of minorities, has called on the United Nations to investigate communal violence against minority groups.

Manipur on high alert after 'influx of 900 Kukis' from Myanmar

Monitoring Desk

IMPHAL: India's northeastern state of Manipur has been placed on high alert after intelligence reports of a potential influx of 900 suspected Kuki militants from Myanmar, a senior security official said. An organisation that represents the Kuki community, however, denied the security official's allegations and called for his resignation. Kuldip Singh, Manipur's security adviser, told reporters the information regarding the militants had been shared with various intelligence agencies.

Crackdown on India's civil society groups condemned

Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: India must stop its "witch hunt" against civil society groups under the pretext of tackling money laundering or terrorism financing, Amnesty International has said following a report by a global money-laundering watchdog.

Rights organisations and news outlets have long complained of harassment under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu-nationalist administration, a charge it has denied. In the last decade, India has cancelled the licences of thousands of non-governmental organisations using the Foreign Contribution Regulation

World leaders set to discuss raging conflicts, Global South's concerns over poverty, inflation & debt

Monitoring Desk

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will join world leaders at the United Nations next week to deliberate on key international issues, as wars in the Middle East and Europe threaten to spread with no end in sight and to address Global South's concerns over increasing poverty, inflation and debt burden, while impacts of climate change worsen.

More than 130 heads of state/government will attend the high-level segment of the UN General Assembly's 79th session beginning on Tuesday, Sept 24. "We see out-of-control geopolitical divisions and runaway conflicts —

not least in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan and beyond," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters at a news conference ahead of the annual debate.

Those three wars are set to dominate the agenda — both in world leaders' speeches before the assembly and at numerous side meetings.

Getting to a cease-fire in Gaza is even more urgent now that Israel has turned its guns towards its northern border with Lebanon in pursuit of its object to destroy Hezbollah. Earlier this week, Israel's detonations of hand-held devices by Hezbollah members left 37 dead and a hundred more injured that outraged most of the world.

Russian strike on apartment block in Kharkiv injures 12

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: Russian forces struck a multi-storey apartment building in Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, on Saturday evening, injuring at least 12 people and prompting an evacuation of some of its residents, Mayor Ihor Terekhov said.

Kharkiv, 30 km (18 miles) from the Russian border, has been a frequent target of Moscow's attacks since the Kremlin's troops launched their February 2022 invasion of its smaller neighbour.

Terekhov, writing on the Telegram messaging app, said the Russians had deployed a guided bomb, and that rescue operations were under way at the site. He said many windows had been shattered and 60 residents had been evacuated from the building.

Public broadcaster Suspilne said the bomb landed in a tree outside one of the building's entrances and a number of cars had exploded or were set ablaze.

Regional Governor Oleh Syniehubov said a child was among those injured. He said there had been two attacks on the city and a strike near the city of Izium, southeast of Kharkiv, which had set two private homes on fire.

On Friday, Russian forces launched three strikes on Kharkiv, injuring 15 people. Further south, a Russian drone attack killed two people on Saturday in the town of Nikopol, the regional governor said. In Kurakhove, one of the focal points of Russia's slow advance through Donetsk region, one person was killed in a Russian artillery strike.

Iran's Supreme Leader says Israel is committing 'shameless crimes' against children

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said on Saturday that Israel is committing "shameless crimes" against children, not combatants.

His comments came a day after an Israeli airstrike on the Lebanese capital, Beirut, killed at least 31 people, including three children and seven women, according to the Lebanese health ministry.

Friday's strike, which according to a source targeted a building next to a nursery, was the deadliest in a year of conflict between Israel and the Iranian-backed Lebanese Hezbollah militia.

It followed two days of attacks in which paggers and walkie-talkies used by Hezbollah members exploded. Lebanon blamed the attacks on Israel, which has neither confirmed nor denied its involvement.

Khamenei said Israel

was not even hiding its different forms of "shameless crimes" in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and Syria.

It is not combating "fighting men, but ordinary people," Khamenei told a group of envoys from Muslim countries in Tehran in remarks broadcast on state TV.

"Unable to hurt the real fighters in Palestine, they are venting their malicious anger on small children, on hospital patients, and on schools filled with young children."

Also on Saturday, in a show of strength, Iran unveiled its "Jihad" single-stage liquid-fuel ballistic missile with a high-explosive detachable warhead and a range of 1,000 km, according to state TV. The missiles were displayed, along with other military hardware, during a parade marking the anniversary of the start of the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

US asks citizens to leave Lebanon as Israel, Hezbollah conflict flares

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: The US State Department on Saturday urged Americans in Lebanon to leave the country while commercial options remain available, as the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah flares.

"Due to the unpredictable nature of ongoing conflict between Hezbollah and Israel and recent explosions throughout Lebanon, including Beirut, the US Embassy urges US citizens to depart Lebanon while commercial options still remain available," the State Department said in an updated advisory.

"At this time, commercial flights are available, but at reduced capacity. If the security situation worsens, commercial options to depart may become unavailable," it added.

In late July, the United States raised its travel advisory for Lebanon to its highest "do not travel" classification, after a strike on southern Beirut killed a top Hezbollah commander.

Israel on Friday struck southern Beirut

again, saying this time it had killed the head of Hezbollah's elite Radwan Force and several other commanders.

The Lebanese health ministry said 37 people were killed in the strike, which followed sabotage attacks earlier in the week on paggers and two-way radios used by Hezbollah, which killed dozens and wounded thousands.

Iran-backed Hezbollah has blamed Israel, which has not commented.

Hezbollah fighters have traded cross-border fire with Israel for nearly a year in stated support of Palestinian ally Hamas, whose October 7 attack on Israel triggered the ongoing war in Gaza.

But the exchanges have escalated in recent weeks, as Israel turns its attention to its northern border after significantly weakening Hamas.

The US State Department reiterated Saturday that Americans should "immediately" leave southern Lebanon, as well as areas near the Syrian border and refugee settlements.



Demonstrators attend a protest march to demand an end to the latest spurt of ethnic violence, in Imphal, Manipur, India.

World leaders set to discuss raging conflicts, Global South's concerns over poverty, inflation & debt

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will join world leaders at the United Nations next week to deliberate on key international issues, as wars in the Middle East and Europe threaten to spread with no end in sight and to address Global South's concerns over increasing poverty, inflation and debt burden, while impacts of climate change worsen.

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"We see out-of-control geopolitical divisions and runaway conflicts — not least in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan and beyond," U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters at a news conference ahead of the annual debate.

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now that Israel has turned its guns towards its northern border with Lebanon in pursuit of its object to destroy Hezbollah. Earlier this week, Israel's detonations of hand-held devices by Hezbollah members left 37 dead and a hundred more injured that outraged most of the world.

Meanwhile, hundreds of New York Police Department (NYPD) personnel on Sunday began erecting roadblocks and checkpoints around UN Headquarters in Manhattan to turn the area into a high-security zone to protect the visiting world leaders.

PM Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to arrive in New York tomorrow at the head of the Pakistan delegation to UNGA. He will address the Assembly on September 27.

In his address, the prime minister will highlight Pakistan's perspective on a range of international and regional issues of concern, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Before leaving Islamabad for London on his way to New York, PM Shehbaz Sharif posted on

social media platform X (formerly Twitter), stating that he anticipates a "busy week full of engagements".

"During our interactions, we will address global issues, promoting peace, development and climate action. I will represent Pakistan's perspective to the world, advocate our interests and strengthen international partnerships," he added.

On the sidelines of the UNGA session, the prime minister is scheduled to attend several high-level meetings, including discussions on existential threats posed by sea level rise and the UN Security Council's Open Debate on Leadership for Peace.

He will also have several bilateral meetings with world leaders and a call on the UN chief.

One of his most watched bilateral meetings will be with Dr. Muhammad Yunus, head of Bangladesh's new caretaker government, amid dramatic improvement in Islamabad-Dhaka ties following the ouster of PM Sheikh Hasina that has sent shock waves across India.



SARAJEVO: Director Foreign Affairs Asif Luqman Qazi during a meeting with Dr. Husein of Kavazovic, Rais-ul-Ulema of Bosnia.

Rich Pashtoons values, philosophy need to be highlighted thru Culture Day activities, stresses Governor

Mandokhail greets Pashtoon nation on Culture Day; says nation has maintained its national identity and recognition with its dignified values, traditions, civilization and history like the lively nations of world

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that Pashtoon nation is custodian of strong traditions, splendid values of the hospitality and human friendliness as well as Jirga system, attractive dresses, cultural dance, and delicious traditional dishes even today, as such there is a dire need to highlight these values and traditions through the celebrations of Pashtoon culture Day.

The Governor also stressed the need to promote harmony among the neighbouring nations, diverse languages and cultures in the today's global village.

Undoubtedly, he said that we can build a more

progressive and compatible society by adopting wholehearted cultural heritage and excellent values.

These and similar other views were expressed by the Governor Balochistan in a message issued on eve of the Pashtoon Culture Day being observed today (Monday). While greeting the whole Pashtoon nation on their Culture Day, the Governor said that Pashtoonwali is actually the name of the specific lifestyle of Pashtoons, which promotes the collectiveness, self-respect, courageous leadership, social justice and hospitality.

He said that the social life of Pashtoons is also the name of collective colorfulness and beauty of its ge-

ography.

In this context, culture is actually a discipline of the historic continuity and leading life, through which our past and present is connected and on the basis of which we determined new direction of future, he maintained.

He noted with contentment that Pashtoon nation has maintained its national identity and recognition with its dignified values, traditions, civilization and history like the lively nations of the world.

He said that the mother language is the heartbeat of the national culture, so there is a need to benefit from the translations of modern researches and international languages.

51 killed in Iran coal mine gas explosion

TEHRAN (Online): In Iran, fifty-one people have been killed and several others injured in a gas explosion in coal mine in southern Khorasan province.

There were about sixty-nine workers in the mine at the time of explosion.

Iranian state media on Sunday said an incident at a coal mine in eastern Iran killed at least 51 people and left 20 others injured.

The deaths were at a coal mine in Tabas, some 540 kilometers (335 miles) southeast of the capital, Tehran.

State media had earlier said about 24 people remained trapped below ground. The explosion occurred on Saturday at about 9 p.m. (1730 GMT/UTC).

Emergency personnel were responding to the incident at the mine in South Khorasan province.

The accident was reportedly caused by a methane gas explosion in two blocks of the mine run by the Madanjoo company.

The total number of workers in both blocks



QUETTA: CEO BEEF Muhammad Zakriya Khan Noorzai briefing under training 4th batch MCMC officers of Balochistan Civil Service Academy.

Sardar Buland says: PPP striving to strengthen for facilitating to masses

QUETTA (APP): Leaders of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Balochistan said that Pakistan People's Party is striving to strengthen the country in order to provide all basic facilities to masses in the areas where all citizens have equal rights.

They said that even though the party has not taken any ministries in the federal government, it is fully supporting the government of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in the interest of the country and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari congratulated on his 36th birthday.

These views were expressed on Sunday by Secretary Information of the PPP Balochistan Sardar Sarbuland Jozgai, former General Secretary Syedaqbal Shah, Malik Zeeshan Hussain, President of Sports and Culture Wing Prince Shahzad Kakar,



KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan Ameer Engr Hafiz Naemur Rehman addressing at the two-day biannual countrywide central convention organized by the Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA) at the Karachi Expo Center.

Hafiz Naem warns Unlike Bangladesh, Pakistani rulers might not be offered the airlift opportunity

Independent Report
KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan Ameer Engr Hafiz Naemur Rehman has shed light on virtually dissected anatomy of the ruling elite in the country, in the most ruthless way possible and said that the rulers only believe in unity among themselves in order to safeguard their interests.

The JI supreme leader expressed these views while addressing a session at the Karachi Expo Center, here on Sunday, while he was delivering a lecture at the two-day biannual countrywide central convention held by the Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA).

Speaking on the occasion, he said that the ruling elite was a class that doesn't believe in cast, creed or color but their mutual interests.

He further said that every country has its own boiling point and it seems that the days of ruling elites

in Pakistan are numbered. Unlike Bangladesh, the ruling elite in Pakistan might not be offered the airlift opportunity, he said.

Talking about the domestic scenario, he said that 30 million Pakistani children are out of schools because either they don't have the opportunity or they have to earn livelihood for their families.

He said that the Sindh government has allocated Rs454 billion for the education sector and overall a budget to the tune of 1,500 billion have been earmarked by all provinces.

Similarly, he also shed light on the health sector. A large number of people from far flung areas visit Karachi for health services because they don't have proper health facilities in their own areas.

He explained that massive funds and minimal facilities are a result of corruption, massive corruption in the education and health sectors.

DC Usta Muhammad for collection of govt dues from farmers

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Usta Muhammad Jalil Ahmed chaired a meeting regarding the collection of government dues from landlords and farmers.

Tehsildar Ali Gohar Magis and officers and other employees of revenue department participated in the meeting. Addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Usta Muhammad Jalil Ahmed said that all the officers should perform their duties with due diligence to ensure the collection of government dues.

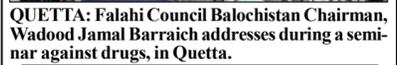
He said that all resources should be mobilized to recover all government dues of the previous year and the current financial year saying that strict action would be taken against those who are lax in collecting government dues. He also directed that all the concerned officers and other revenue staff should increase their efficiency exceptionally so that the government duties and the given targets could be fulfilled in a proper sense.

Pakistan says its embassy in touch with family of deceased student in China

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan on Sunday said its embassy in Beijing was in touch with the family of the deceased female Pakistani student in China. In her statement on a delay in the return of the corpse of the student to Pakistan, Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch said some legal procedures had

to be followed for the return of bodies from China.

Responding to social media reports, she said arrangements had to be made for the preservation of the bodies brought to the country on board commercial flights. "Only when these arrangements are complete that the bodies are sent to their native countries."



QUETTA: Falahi Council Balochistan Chairman, Wadood Jamal Barraich addresses during a seminar against drugs, in Quetta.

AC Gwadar holds open katchehry in Pishukan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Assistant Commissioner Gwadar, Mir Jawad Zehri held open katchehry in the Pishukan area on Sunday.

The district officers and public representatives participated in the open katchehry.

A large number of people approached the katchehry to get their problems resolved. They highlighted the issues of shortage of water, poor condition of roads, poor cleanliness, shortage of medical staff, etc.

The Assistant Commissioner and other concerned officers gave patient hearing to the issues of general public and assured to address them.

The Assistant Commissioner assured that the issues being confronted by the people would be resolved at the earliest.

The PHE officials on the occasion assured that the issue of drinking water would be resolved within a week.

Similarly, the issue of roads would also be resolved as the officials of concerned department are working on it.

Moreover, the Health department representative assured that the issue of shortage of doctors and other medical staff would be resolved.

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UoT affiliation committee focuses on improving academic standards

Independent Report
TURBAT: The 4th meeting of the Affiliation Committee of the University of Turbat (UoT), chaired by Prof. Dr. Abdul Saboor, Dean of the Faculty of Literature and Languages, focused on enhancing academic standards and strengthening coordination with affiliated colleges.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Mansoor Ahmed, Pro Vice-Chancellor; Mr. Gunguzar, Registrar; Dr. Adeel Ahmed, Dean, Graduate Studies; Dr. Abdul Majid Nasir, Controller of Examinations; Mr. Adil Khan, Director, Graduate Studies, and Ms. Ruqia Mirwani, Lecturer in the Education Department.

In his welcome note, Dr. Abdul Saboor emphasized the importance of conducting meetings of the

Affiliation Committee at regular intervals to strengthen the coordination between UoT and its affiliated colleges to move forward. He reiterated the university's commitment to maintaining strong coordination with the Education Department, Government of Balochistan, and affiliated colleges for the transition from the annual to the semester system, the need to address shortages of facilities and update SOPs in laboratories. He also informed the committee that a letter had already been sent to the Education Department regarding these matters. The meeting discussed and resolved several matters, including the programs offered in affiliated colleges, affiliation fees, the availability of qualified faculty for various programs.

Hassan Zehri strongly denies baseless, false allegations leveled against him

Says I personally warn Bhutani to stop making accusations against honorable President Zardari otherwise legal action will be taken

Independent Report
HUB: Senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party, Spokesman of President Asif Ali Zardari and Provincial Adviser for Industry and Crafts Mir Ali Hassan Zehri have strongly condemned and denied the baseless allegations against President Asif Ali Zardari by Aslam Bhutani.

In his statement of condemnation, he said that baseless accusations against high-ranking personalities have been the way of Aslam Bhutani.

Before the election, Aslam Bhutani was ready to pick up the shoes of President Asif Ali Zardari and hold his feet, while looking at his negative thinking and previous

record, Pakistan Peoples Party Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari did not lift him, so they started and came down baseless and false accusations.

There is no truth in Aslam Bhutani's accusations and the accusations he has made against our leader Mr. Asif Ali Zardari. As the spokesperson of President Asif Ali Zardari strongly deny these baseless and false allegations and warn that they should stop making accusations against honorable President Asif Ali Zardari, otherwise a lawsuit will be filed against him and a defamation case of 10 billion rupees will be filed on baseless accusations.

He said that President

Asif Ali Zardari is the highest personality and authentic unit of this country. Aslam Bhutani wants to gain cheap fame by making such bogus accusations against Bhutanese dignitaries because his forty years of darkness is over and now his anti-people politics is buried forever.

He made it clear in blunt words that President Zardari has no involvement in the land disputes in Balochistan including the Winder Command Area and neither does he have anything to do with the factories in the area. They also make it clear that any kind of land is in the name of a member of the family of the President of Pakistan or an employee.



QUETTA: JI's MNA Mulana Hadit ur Rehman addressing at the Mass Contact Drive camp outside QPC.

APNS
#READNEWSPAPER

Believing news from unreliable sources spreads misinformation, erodes trust in media, and undermines democracy by misinforming people.

This can lead to public confusion, anxiety, and social division as false content fuels fear and conflict. Key factors include confirmation bias, poor media literacy, and emotional manipulation

Solutions include promoting media literacy, supporting quality journalism, and encouraging critical thinking to help people distinguish credible information from misleading content.

Yes, of course it hurts

#StopFakeNews #PromoteAuthenticity