

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

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www.dailyindependent.com.pk Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vt XXVINa 35, Rabi-ul-Awwal 21, 1446 AH Thursday September 26, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

IMF board approves \$7bn EFF for Pakistan

PM Shehbaz expresses satisfaction at programme's approval, hopes this will be Pakistan's last programme.

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Wednesday approved a \$7 billion new bailout package after Pakistan promised to overhaul its agriculture income tax, transfer some fiscal responsibilities to provinces and had to take the most expensive loan in the nation's history.

The Executive Board of the IMF approved the 37-month Extended Fund Facility totaling \$7 billion. It also authorised to immediately release the first loan tranche of nearly \$1.1 billion. It is the 25th IMF programme that Pakistan has obtained since 1958 and 6th EFF.

The IMF board has approved the programme without addressing one of the root causes of taking these loans—the need for

restructuring of the external and domestic debt that consumed 81% of Pakistan's tax revenues in the last fiscal year.

The new bailout package targets achieving the macroeconomic stability by consolidating public finances, rebuild foreign exchange reserves, reduce fiscal risks from state-owned enterprises, and improving the business environment to encourage growth led by the private sector.

To qualify for the programme, the government imposed Rs1.4 trillion to Rs1.8 trillion in additional taxes, increased electricity prices up to 51% and committed to bring transparency in the affairs of the Sovereign Wealth Fund.

APP adds: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed satisfaction over the approval of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) package of US\$7 billion for Pakistan.

The prime minister, in a statement issued by the PM Office, said that the process for economic reforms was underway and after attaining economic stability, efforts would continue to achieve the goals of economic growth and development.

He said the boom in investment and business activities, which was the result of hard work by the government's economic team, was a welcoming sign. "Besides notable diplomatic accomplishments, another significant achievement has been the surge in foreign remittances sent by Pakistani expatriates," the prime minister remarked.

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FO issues travel advisory for Lebanon

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Foreign Office on Wednesday advised the Pakistani nationals to exercise extreme caution and avoid traveling to Lebanon in the wake of Israeli attacks.

Similarly, the Pakistanis "presently residing in Lebanon are advised to travel out through commercial flights which are still available," the FO Spokesperson said in a statement.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari addressing the Global Sustainable Transport Forum-2024, through a video message, in Beijing, China.

Terrorists exploiting Baloch women for committing terrorism in Balochistan: Adeela Baloch

QUETTA (APP): The Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), in a successful bid, arrested Adeela Baloch who was being trained to become a suicide bomber from Turbat city of Kech district who revealed that the terrorists were blackmailing Baloch women to trap them for committing terrorism in the province.

Addressing a press conference along with her parents here on Wednesday Adeela Baloch said that she was a nurse by profession and her job was to help people and save precious lives but she was brainwashed by terrorists to commit the opposite of that and become a murderer.

Adeela said she was not the only one who had been led astray by these people, adding that she was brainwashed in such a way that she got ready to become a suicide bomber

and didn't even think how many innocent people would lose their lives because of her suicide attack.

"Anti-state elements are misguiding the youth and lured them into joining terrorist groups under false promises. They showed me false hopes of a new and happy life," she explained, adding that once she joined them, she realised that the life in the mountains was nothing but hardship.

Adeela said she went to the mountains to join the terrorists' groups without telling her family. Adeela further revealed that she wasn't the only one who was misled by the terrorists.

Other Baloch female youth had been similarly brainwashed, she noted.

She also clarified that "the narrative of Baloch women willingly becoming

suicide bombers was untrue. Terrorists blackmail women into this of which I am a victim too".

In a message to Baloch youth, Adeela urged them not to make the same mistake she did. "These actions only lead to destruction. You gain nothing from these activities," she warned, advising young people to inform their parents if they ever encounter such individuals.

The arrested female suicide bomber Adeela Baloch was working as a nurse at Turbat Teaching Hospital at the time of her arrest. The arrest of Adeela Baloch by security forces has been hailed as a significant achievement, showcasing the authorities' relentless efforts and effective intelligence operations to purge the country from the menace of terrorism.

PTI Founder asks govt to announce appointment of next CJ

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Founder Imran Khan has asked the government to announce the appointment of the next Chief Justice soon.

During an informal conversation with journalists at Adiala Jail, Imran Khan stated that he fully supports Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, the most senior judge of the Supreme Court.

The PTI founder said that the purpose of the constitutional court is to diminish the power of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and the government is bent on destroying the entire judiciary.

Imran Khan further commented that to cover up election fraud, they want their own judges. They are trying to ensure that PTI does not rise in any way. He also mentioned that they are not being allowed to hold any public gatherings and if permission is not granted for the rally in Rawalpindi, they will protest.



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of 79th session of United Nations General Assembly.

Pakistan committed to promoting sustainable, environment-friendly transportation system: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday reiterated Pakistan's commitment to promoting the development of a safe, sustainable, efficient and environment-friendly transportation system in the country.

The president, addressing the Global Sustainable Transport Forum-2024, through a video message, being held in Beijing from September 25-26, 2024, said that Pakistan would work closely with China to achieve the goals of sustainable development to usher in an era of peace and prosperity.

He emphasized that the world needed resilient infrastructure for efficient, environment-friendly and

low-carbon transport solutions to fulfill the needs of the people.

He appreciated China's lead role in promoting and advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly recognizing the critical importance of the transport sector.

Highlighting the initiatives taken by the government, President Zardari apprised the Forum that Pakistan had introduced pink buses specifically for women to provide a safe, comfortable and accessible mode of public transportation.

He underlined that rural accessibility to all-weather roads in Pakistan witnessed significant improvement, reaching 92%.

Improved rural accessibility could potentially contribute to promoting sustainable development as well as providing essential services to the rural population, he added.

The president apprised the participants that Pakistan was facing the challenges of sustainable maintenance of its infrastructure and the effects of climate change.

He highlighted that over the last five years, devastating floods, heavy rainfall and extreme weather conditions had severely damaged Pakistan's transport infrastructure including roads, rails, bridges and other critical transport networks that isolated millions of people, particularly in rural areas.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail presiding over annual meeting of Pakistan Red Crescent Society Balochistan

Concrete steps to be taken to ensure proper sharing of BRCS, says Governor

QUETTA: The Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that concrete steps would be taken to ensure proper sharing of Balochistan Red Crescent Society (BRCS) in the province.

However, he stressed that it is necessary to take the Red Crescent into confidence regarding disaster management and relief activities about the province at the national level.

He said that it is responsibility of the Red Crescent to highlight the collective sense of relief activities and volunteer services in the natural disasters, viral diseases and other emergent circumstances.

The Governor was

presiding over the annual meeting of Balochistan Red Crescent Society at the Governor's House on Wednesday.

Also present on the occasion were the Principal Secretary to Governor, Muhammad Hashim Khan Ghilzai, Chairman of Red Crescent Society, Abdul Wali Khan Ghaibzai, besides other concerned members.

He asserted that he may visit the Society anytime so the comprehensive strategy should be prepared to improve its performance, ensure attendance of the staff, speed up the local activities and activate the volunteers and impart first medical aid training at union council level.

Coward terrorists remain in search of soft target: CM condemns terror attack at Police mobile

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has strongly condemned the terrorists' attack at the Police mobile in Eastern bypass area of Quetta.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said that the terrorists' attack on the police mobile is condemnable. He asserted that the terrorists would be taken to task anyway.

He said that terrorists are coward, who remain in search of the soft target. The Chief Minister also asserted that action would remain continued against the terrorists. Mir Sarfraz Bugti prayed for early recovery of those injured in the terrorists' attack and said that the terrorists would not be spared at all. He directed to the concerned high ups to provide best possible medical treatment to those injured in the attack.

PM reiterates Pakistan's commitment to further strengthen Kuwait ties

NEW YORK (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday held a bilateral meeting with the Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and expressed Pakistan's keenness to further strengthen ties between Pakistan and Kuwait.

In the meeting held on the sidelines of the 79th United Nations General Assembly Session here, the prime minister affirmed the longstanding cordial relations between the two brotherly countries.

The two leaders also reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, ranging from political, economic and defense cooperation to people-people exchanges.

Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed his desire to engage with Kuwait in mutually beneficial economic investments under the rubric of the Special Investment Facilitation Council.

The two leaders affirmed to closely collaborate bilaterally, as well as on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

PM urges UN Chief for implementation of UNSC Kashmir resolutions

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday met United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and called on him to use his good offices for the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir, and ensuring the right to self-determination of the Kashmiris.

The prime minister, in the meeting held on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly, briefed the UN secretary-general on the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

He underscored Pakistan's serious concerns over India's egregious actions in the IIOJK and stressed upon the need to resolve the dispute to ensure lasting peace and stability in South Asia.

Prime Minister

Shehbaz welcomed the initiative by the Secretary General Guterres to organize the "Summit of the Future", and expressed his hope that its outcome would help the developing countries in bridging the financial gap for implementation of SDGs and climate goals.

He condemned Israel's genocidal campaign against the Palestinians, and called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire.

The prime minister also urged the international community to hold Israel accountable and reaffirmed Pakistan's support for the establishment of a viable and sovereign State of Palestine.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also underscored the need for stemming the rising tide of Islamophobia, and discrimination against Muslims worldwide.



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a meeting with the Crown Prince of Kuwait His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah on the sidelines of the 79th United Nations General Assembly Session.

Two police cops among 12 injured in Eastern bypass explosion

Independent Report

QUETTA: As many as 12 persons including two police personnel got injured in an explosion took place in Eastern bypass area on Wednesday morning.

According to the police, the explosion was occurred along the road near a police mobile in Eastern bypass near Barakzai town on Monday morning.

As a result of the explosion, 12 persons got injured some of them seriously. They were included two police personnel.

Apparently, the police mobile was attacked in the subversive act, the police

informed. The police and rescue teams rushed to the spot, and shifted all the injured to Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital.

The injured were removed to the Trauma Center after preliminary treatment at the casualty ward of Sandeman Hospital.

Meanwhile the Government of Balochistan has issued orders for investigation into the terrorists' attack on the police mobile in Quetta. According to the spokesman of provincial government, the police mobile was targeted in the terrorism attack in eastern bypass area of Quetta.



QUETTA: A view of destroyed vehicle seen on blast site. Twelve people were injured in a blast that targeted a police van near Eastern Bypass in Quetta, hospital and government officials said.

Solution of county's problems lies in fresh general elections, insists Chairman PkMAP

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Head of Tahafuz Tehreek Aayeen-e-Pakistan and Chairman Pashtoonkhw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) Mehmood Khan Achakzai has stated that the solution to the problems being faced by the country lies in fresh elections, so all political parties should set principles in this regard.

He said that the right to elect the public representatives should be with the people.

He said that the solution to the issues is possible through supremacy of constitution, strengthening of democracy and rule of

law. The Chairman of PkMAP was speaking to the media persons here on Wednesday.

To a question, Mehmood Khan Achakzai said that the constitutional amendments are not made through conspiracies and that behind the closed doors.

He said that the constitution is not mere a piece of paper rather it is a sacred document.

He stressed that the amendments in constitution should be made with consensus according to the requirements of the country and people.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal chaired the inaugural meeting of the Education Task Force.

Ahsan Iqbal chairs maiden meeting of Education Task Force

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday chaired the inaugural meeting of the Education Task Force and expressed serious concerns over the current state of education in the country.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Chief Secretaries from all provinces, and representatives from the Ministry of Education, UNICEF, UNDP, FCDO, UNESCO, the World Bank, ADB, Malala Fund, ITA and Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute, a news release said.

Citing alarming data from the Education Index, the minister stressed the

need for urgent and immediate actions in the education sector.

He highlighted that approximately 25 million children in Pakistan were currently out of school, and the literacy rate stood at a mere 60%, which is a matter of grave concern.

The minister emphasized that the government's aim was not just to enroll children in schools but to provide them with quality education. "We must equip every child with basic computer skills and modern technical education, along with establishing state-of-the-art laboratories," he stated. Terming the initiative as a significant challenge, he underscored that no educational reforms would succeed without improving teacher training in the country.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding polio situation in the province

LHC reserves judgment on maintainability of petition against SC practice, procedure ordinance

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has reserved judgment on the maintainability of petition against Practice and Procedure Ordinance (PPO)-2024.

Earlier Sindh High Court (SHC) had reserved judgment on the maintainability of practice and procedure ordinance.

Justice Yousuf had remarked decision on the petition will be issued today but the decision was not issued.

In this perspective petition filed against Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Ordinance-2024 came up for hearing in LHC Wednesday.

Chief Justice (CJ) LHC Aalia Neelum took up for hearing the petition filed by the citizen Munir Ahmad.

General (AAG) Nasar Ahmad appeared in the court on behalf of federal government.

Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Asad Bajwa and Assistance Attorney General (AAG) Ijaz Basra too appeared.

Azhar Siddique advocate counsel for the petitioner gave arguments. CJ LHC inquired from the counsel of the petitioner you should tell grounds the ordinance is illegal why.

The counsel for the petitioner said there was no situation of emergency due to which this ordinance was promulgated.

The counsel for the petitioner argued assembly was there and even then ordinance was promulgated. New committee was constituted following the promulgation of ordinance. Earlier practice and procedure act was brought. Earlier all the powers rested with chief justice.

The counsel for federal government while raising objection over petition against practice and procedure ordinance took the plea ordinance has been challenged in SHC and Supreme Court (SC). SHC has reserved the judgment.

Counsel for federal government argued this petition can be filed in the court which falls in the jurisdiction of Islamabad. SC is the biggest court of country. LHC has no power of jurisdiction to hear this case.

He prayed the court to reject this petition. Later the LHC reserved judgment on maintainability of petition against supreme court practice and procedure ordinance.



QUETTA: Commissioner and Administrator Quetta, Hamza Shafiqat along with others visiting various areas and markets during his visit to the city, in Quetta.

PM address at SDG Moment 2024: a clarion call for global unity against pressing challenges

PESHAWAR (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's inclusive address at the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Moment 2024, held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at New York, has garnered widespread acclaim from international relations experts, civil society members, environmentalists and politicians, terming it inclusive and wide ranging with solution to all issues.

Eminent experts said PM Shehbaz Sharif's address at the SDG Moment 2024 served as a clarion call for international and regional unity in tackling the world's most pressing challenges including climate change, debt burden and terrorism that mostly affected underdeveloped and developed countries including Pakistan.

Manzoorul Haq, a former Pakistani ambassador, emphasized the significance of the Prime Minister's focus on pressing global challenges such as debt burdens, climate change, and carbon emissions.

He noted that these issues disproportionately affected developing nations, including Pakistan, which has been severely impacted by climate-related disasters despite no contribution in global carbon gas emissions.

The huge debt burdens which are increasing with each passing year, are directly affecting development in developing countries including Pakistan, marring efforts to provide better services to residents due to repayment of financial resources. "The world witnessed the devastating floods in northern Pakistan in 2022, which obliterated infrastructure, agriculture, and energy projects, particularly in Swat and Kohistan districts," Manzoor, who served as Pakistani ambassador to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, explained. He said that several expensive hotels in River Swat beds were razed to group and small dams were washed away in KP due to climate change.

He underscored the anticipation surrounding the Prime Minister's forthcoming key note address at the UNGA, which is expected to address the complex geopolitical and security landscape and reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to multilateralism and continued political, moral and diplomatic support to the oppressed Kashmiris of IIOJK who faced endless India's state terrorism since 1947.

Echoing Manzoor's sentiments, Professor Dr. Ejaz Khan, a former chairman of the International Relations Department at the University of Peshawar, commended the inclusivity of PM Sharif's speech. He pointed out the Prime Minister's candid discussion on combating terrorism, climate change and its great toll on Pakistan, citing the loss of approximately 80,000 lives and an economic setback of \$150 billion due to this imposed terrorism war.

Kurram clashes claim 21 lives, injure 30 in five days

PESHAWAR (APP): Clashes between rival tribes in different areas of Kurram district entered its fifth day on Wednesday as according to a police report at least 21 people have died and 30 others injured so far.

Heavy and light arms were used by the tribesmen involved in the ongoing conflict that started after construction of trenches by the rival tribes in villages Boshetra and Ahmadzai. Police informed that the firing took place over construction on a disputed land, which intensified in exchange of heavy fire in the Balishkhal area. The clashes resulted in losses from both sides.

The rival tribes engaged in heavy firing and shelling in Balishkhal, Khaar Kali, Trimanal, Baghki, Maqbal and Kanj Alizai.

Hospital sources said eight more people succumbed to their injuries the other day while 30 more were under treatment. However, independent sources said the death toll was higher as some of the areas were inaccessible for evaluating life loss.

Meanwhile, a bazaar in Sada market, Kurram that belonged to one of the tribes involved in the conflict was blown up and fortunately, no casualty happened in this incident. Residents of the Bhagan tribe reportedly blocked the main Peshawar-Peshawar artery, creating troubles for commuters. Police said a grand jirga was scheduled for 10:00 am today as the Commissioner Kohat and RPO have also reached Parachinar to persuade the rival groups for ceasefire. Elders of Turi-Bangash tribes were also attending the jirga.



QUETTA: A view of large number of people sitting on the roof top of the passenger bus while traveling in city cause any incident.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal addressed a one-day seminar on Countering Terrorism in Pakistan: Progress, Challenges, and the Way Forward held at local university in Islamabad.

Message from CNS Admiral Naved Ashraf on occasion of world maritime day - 2024

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: World Maritime Day, a significant reminder of maritime safety, security and environmental conservation is marked annually, urging nations to work together for sustainable maritime practices. This year, IMO has selected 'Navigating the Future: Safety First' as the theme for World Maritime Day, which is observed on the last Thursday of September each year. This theme reflects IMO's work in the aforesaid areas and its drive towards ensuring regulatory development processes are integrated with the fast paced technological changes and innovation. This year is also significant as it marks the 50 years since the adoption of 1974 SOLAS Convention, which is the key IMO treaty regulating maritime safety.

Since shipping transports about 90% of global trade by volume; it also obligates safe, secure and efficient international shipping industry for future sustainable green economic growth. It is therefore, evident that improving the safety of ships and reducing their Green House Gas (GHG) emissions must go hand in hand. Both are critical to achieving a sustainable and efficient maritime industry. This year's theme



is also closely linked to UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and aligned with several of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To achieve them, we need to keep pace with the digitalization and automation that are revolutionizing the shipping industry. This calls for introduction of newer technologies for enhancing safety, security and efficiency, optimizing performance, reducing environmental impact and ensuring sustainability. These measures can greatly help in improving overall efficacy and competitiveness of the shipping industry, making it possible to design, construct and operate ships more efficiently, handle more cargo, reduce costs and enhance customer satisfaction.

The thrust on 'safety' in this year's theme has been an integral component of Pakistan Navy operations and processes, next only to their efficient conduct, which is continuously reviewed to address any gaps that may arise. Pakistan Navy has instituted exacting measures to ensure 'safety first' principle, onboard as well as ashore. Our efforts towards maritime safety bear testimony to our unwavering commitment and emphasis on implementation of SOPs, in their true letter and spirit.

On this World Maritime Day, as we take stock of our shared maritime achievements, let us also look forward with determination and resolve to align our national objectives with the ongoing global shift towards sustainable and green marine practices. I urge all the stakeholders to embrace these evolving trends and reiterate Pakistan Navy's commitment in ensuring maritime safety and upholding environmental mandates.

Let us recommit to the principle of maritime safety and reaffirm our solemn pledge that in pursuing 'Navigating the Future: Safety First', we shall spare no effort, neither in spirit nor in action. I look forward to a profound and cumulative response by all stakeholders.

Votes are primary evidence of election results: CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa has observed in a judgment that casted votes are the primary evidence of the election results and what is recorded by a Presiding Officer or a Returning Officer in the requisite forms is not final.

The top court issued a four page written judgment regarding dismissal of an appeal against election results in PB-14 Nasirabad Balochistan. The verdict is authored by the chief justice of Pakistan.

It said, "The Presiding Officer of each polling station after the closer of elections counts the votes and is then required to prepare Form-45. The Returning Officer after receipt of all the Form-45s from the Presiding Officers calculates the votes and issues Form-47."

The order said, "The learned judge, "The Tribunal independently examined the case from all angles and attended to the allegations levelled by the appellant

and correctly concluded that his allegations were not established, and that the election results were fair."

"Therefore, the impugned judgment is upheld and this appeal is dismissed", it read.

The order said, the winning candidate is emerges as victorious having received 1,919 more votes than the appellant.

The court said, "A candidate may request for recounting of the votes, and if such request is allowed, the votes are recounted, after issuance of notice to all the candidates, and recounting takes place in the presence of all those who elect to attend. If there is a dispute in this regard the actual votes which were cast determine the controversy.

However, needless to state, if the seal of the bags/packets are found to be broken or tampered with the sanctity of votes therein stands compromised. This, however, was not the case of the appellant."

Maryam, Nawaz meet Chinese envoy, discuss technology, investment coop

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif met Jiang Zaidong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, to discuss enhancing cooperation in technology, business, and investment.

During the meeting, Nawaz Sharif emphasized the importance of the Pakistan-China friendship, stating, "China is our reliable friend and we are proud of our relationship with this great nation." He highlighted ongoing welfare projects led by Maryam Nawaz in Punjab, expressing readiness for Chinese collaboration in infrastructure and technology.

CM Maryam Nawaz underscored the potential for creating "economic

miracles" through partnership with China, proposing the establishment of "Special Chinese Economic Zones" to attract investment. She noted, "We consider the success of China as our own success," and emphasized the value of learning from the Chinese model to combat poverty.

Ambassador Jiang Zaidong reaffirmed China's commitment to its partnership with Pakistan, praising the advancements made during the PML-N government. He expressed enthusiasm for including Punjab in the upgraded China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) vision, with a particular focus on investment in agriculture. Jiang highlighted ongoing initiatives, including training for 1,000 Pakistani farmers in modern agricultural techniques.

Solarization of agricultural tube wells completed under special mechanism

QILLA SAIFULLAH: On September 25, Deputy Commissioner Saeed Ahmad Damar was presented with all the documents of the agricultural tube wells by Chairman Landlord Action Committee Abdullah Jan Mirzai after completing the solarization process at the DC Office Qila Saifullah.

On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Saeed Ahmad Damar said that the solarization of agricultural tube wells was completed under a special mechanism. Zamindar Action Committee Killa Saifullah completed all the processes in accordance

with the solarization committee rules and procedures in a timely manner.

The Landlord Action Committee and the Solarization Committee believe in the interest and right of the landowners. Chairman Abdullah Jan Mirzai requested Deputy Commissioner Saeed Ahmad Damar, the provincial government and other senior officials to expedite the process as soon as possible.

The landowners should be paid through cross-check in terms of solarization policy as soon as possible so that the landowning class cultivates crops according to the weather on time.

UoT hosts National Youth Conference on "Skill Development and Entrepreneurship"

Independent Report

TURBAT: The University of Turbat (UoT) hosted a National Youth Conference on "Skill Development and Entrepreneurship" at the university's video conference room.

Dr. Mansoor Ahmed, Pro Vice Chancellor of UoT, presided over the conference on behalf of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Jan Muhammad, while Mir Hothman Baloch, Chairman of the District Council Kech, attended the event as the Guest of Honor. The event was also attended by heads of various academic departments, directors, faculty members, and a large number of students.

Lecturers Mr. Malik Dad and Mr. Zahoor Ahmed from UoT delivered presentations on skill development and entrepreneurship, emphasizing the importance of digital, creative, and communication skills, the use of online platforms for freelancing, IT skills development, and problem-solving abilities. Their presentations were followed by video clips related to the theme of the conference.

A prominent entrepreneur, Mr. Sohail Khan Bangash from the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), shared his entrepreneurial journey, encouraging students to become job creators rather than job seekers. He provided an overview of PPAF's initia-

tives and insisted on the importance of teaching youth how to be self-reliant. Addressing the students, he emphasized that entrepreneurship is a mindset, urging them to first change themselves to bring about societal change.

Dr. Ghulam Jan and Dr. Abdul Majid Nasir also spoke on the occasion, exploring new dimensions of entrepreneurship. They highlighted that entrepreneurship is not merely a subject but an attitude, encouraging the youth to think innovatively and showcase their creative talents in a competitive market.

Expressing his gratitude to the event organizers, students, faculty members, speakers, presenters, and distinguished guests, Dr. Mansoor Ahmed said that UoT's administration, under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Jan Muhammad, was striving to provide extensive facilities such as 24/7 electricity and high-speed internet to enable students to enhance their entrepreneurial and creative skills, contributing to the socioeconomic development of the province and the country. He also informed that approximately 45% of UoT students are female, claiming it as a distinction of the university and a testament to the university's commitment to gender inclusivity in higher education.



QUETTA: WASA employees' hold protest in favor of their demands'.

Court reserves verdict in Toshakhana reference against Zardari, Nawaz

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad Accountability Court of Judge Abida Sajjad has reserved its verdict in the Toshakhana vehicle reference involving former Prime Ministers Nawaz Sharif, Yusuf Raza Gilani, and former President Asif Ali Zardari, among others.

After hearing the arguments from all parties on Wednesday, Judge Abida Sajjad said that the decision will be pronounced on October 14.

During the hearing, Nawaz Sharif's lawyer, Qazi Misbah-ul-Hassan, and pleader, Rana Irfan, along with Asif Ali Zardari's counsel, Farooq H Naek, presented their arguments.

Farooq Naek read out the new NAB Amendment Law to the court, arguing that under the amended law, the case no longer falls under the jurisdiction of the accountability court.

He pointed out that the total value involved in the

case is Rs80.5 million only, which is below the threshold of Rs500 million, and hence, it should be referred back to the NAB chairman.

Judge Abida Sajjad questioned whether all parties agreed that the court lacked jurisdiction over the case. Farooq H Naek responded by highlighting that Zardari had not been granted presidential immunity when the case was initially brought forward.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

The Executive Engineer, CW,PP&H Building Department District Jhal Magsi, invites sealed tender forms (as per schedule B) based on composite schedule of rates 2023 Government of Balochistan from interested contractors/firms for the PSDP 2024-25 works listed below:- Tender Fee Rs. 1500/- and Time of Completion 36 Months

S. #	Name of work	E/Cost	Bid Security 2%
1	CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICE BUILDINGS/RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PROSECUTORS OF BALOCHISTAN (PHASE I) JHAL MAGSI PSDP NO.4486 22024.1796 TSE-242509557373	60,358 M	1,208,000/-

ONLY ELECTRONICALLY BID WILL BE SUBMITTED, NO PHYSICAL BID IS REQUIRED

Eligibility of Bidders: Procurements shall be made under B-PPRA Rules 2014 amended up-to-date. Bid is open to all bidders who meet the following Basic Eligibility Criteria: An individual bidder having Valid PEC registration in the relevant Category or above C. Has completed one (03) Contract of similar nature as a Contractor (but not as Sub-Contractor) during last five (05) years with completion certificates. d. Has an average turnover of 70% of Project Cost during last three years e. Active registration certificates from Income Tax Authority FBR (NTN) and Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA) f. Has a minimum Bank Credit Line Facility / Available Account Cash equal to at least 10% of the project cost; (Attach duly certified Bank Certificates) g. The contractor has not been blacklisted earlier by any government agency or private organization. h. The amount of Bid Security shall be 2% of the quoted amount in the form of CDR or a Bank Guarantee issued by a Scheduled Bank in Pakistan in favour of the Employer valid for a period 28 days beyond the Bid Validity date. i. Submission of an application on firm letterhead signed/stamped along with Original CDR and Green Challan is mandatory to be submitted in office on or before date of Bidding. j. Any firm not meeting the above mandatory requirements shall be declared Non-Responsive. k. The contractors quoting rates below 5% or above the approved project cost must attach Rate Analysis for each item of work. Such bids without proper rate analysis shall be rejected at opening. l. As per BPPRA rule 25 (sub rule 4 amended rule) conditional bid shall not be entertained & (sub rule 3) Method of Procurement: Single Stage-Two Envelope Procedure. The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed upon payment of bidding document fee through Green Challan in the NBP under Head of account C-02716 The Bidding Documents duly filled attached with copies of supporting documents i.e List of Machinery /Equipment and Company staff must be delivered in sealed envelopes by hand or thought registered mail before 14th October-2024 at 11:00 AM at Office The Executive Engineer, CW,PP&H Building Department District Jhal Magsi at Gandawah. Tender opening: envelope containing technical bid will be opened on 14th October-2024 at 12:00 PM on EPPS System 2nd envelope containing financial bid of technically qualified bidder will be opened later, financial proposal of technically non-qualified bidders will not be opened and thus will be unopened Bids Validity: Ninety (90) days Address: at Office of The Sub Divisional Officer, CW,PP&H Building Department Tehsil Jhal Magsi Email: zafarabro816@gmail.com Phone Number 0837-430184

PRQ No.1196/25-09-2024

Executive Engineer Building CW,PP&H Department Jhal Magsi

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal addressing as the chief guest during the 11th Parliamentary Forum on Population, in Islamabad.

Pakistan's development efforts hampered by rapid population growth: Ahsan

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: "Population growth is outpacing the development of the country, and we must address this issue urgently to secure our nation's future. If we continue to neglect population planning, our development efforts will be futile. We need to prioritize population management as a national agenda by building a national consensus", said Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative Ahsan Iqbal while addressing the eleventh meeting of Parliamentary Forum on Population (PFP), organized by the Population Council with the support of United Nations Population Fund.

He also emphasized on quality of human resources, not just their quantity, which determines a nation's progress. "We must recognize that producing healthy and educated children is essential for competing in a global landscape; we cannot afford to raise a generation that is unhealthy and illiterate."

The Federal Minister assured parliamentarians that tax exemptions for contraceptives would be provided in the next fiscal year, acknowledging the importance of removing financial barriers to improve access to family planning services. He also emphasized the importance of women's empowerment, noting that educated women are more likely to have a stronger voice in family decision-making. Chairperson of the Forum Senator Sherry Rehman, while addressing the Forum, said, "Population planning should be integrated into the broader health agenda, with media and parliamentarians playing vital roles in raising awareness". She expressed the need for advocating policy changes and sharing best practices among stakeholders to strengthen collective efforts in population management. She also emphasized the expansion and revitalization of LHWs programs across provinces which will enhance the reach and effectiveness of population management efforts. She also urged parliamentarians to lead public awareness campaigns by utilizing platforms like social media. The Parliamentary Forum on Population (PFP) was launched in March 2020, with the aim to raise parliamentary awareness on population management as a development imperative, sustain cross-party political commitment and advocate for population stabilization.

Parliament & Constitution to stay supreme; no space for politicking: Senator Irfan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Parliamentary Leader in the Senate Irfan Siddiqui on Wednesday said that the Parliament and Constitution would stay supreme and warned the PTI that there was no room for politicking on major national issues.

Addressing a press conference, Senator Irfan Siddiqui said that the Parliament was a supreme forum to enact necessary legislation for streamlining the system and address the issues of common man.

It was also the prerogative of the Parliament to make laws for the smooth functioning of state, he added.

Senator Irfan Siddiqui recalled that it was the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) which in the past had attacked and disrespected the institutions including the Parliament and Pakistan Television (PTV). It had even not spared the security institutions, he added.

The party had indulged in such activities which ultimately damaged the country's solidarity and integrity, he said.

Irfan Siddiqui said the PTI government had get registered fake cases against innocent people. Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz had faced bogus cases during the PTI tenure.

The PTI leaders, he said, were habitual of using unparliamentary language against their opponents. Their party workers were involved in the May 9 riots, who disgraced the martyrs' monuments and security installations.

Irfan Siddiqui said that the present government was effectively working for the country's prosperity and economic stability.

To a query, he said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz had full regard for the judiciary and it also believed in the freedom of expression. Irfan Siddiqui said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had already given its decision that no reserved seats would be allotted to the Sunni Ittehad Council.

Australian HC highlights shared history, future collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins, on Wednesday, in his address at Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) delved into the theme 'Australia's Strategic Environment and Relations with Pakistan.'

In his speech at IPRI's forum 'Diplomatic Reflections', he highlighted the deep historical ties and future collaborative efforts between the two nations, a news release said.

Hawkins began by drawing attention to the rich history that binds Australia and Pakistan. He noted that the links between the peoples of Australia and today's Pakistan date back more than a century. From 1860 to 1920, approximately 2,000 cameleers from Balochistan played a crucial role in exploring Australia's deserts, transporting essential supplies to remote towns, building railways, and supporting gold mining.

These Baloch cameleers also introduced Islam to Australia, constructing the country's first mosque in Maree, South Australia, in 1884.

The High Commissioner also commemorated the Pakistani soldiers, then part of the British Indian Army, who served alongside Australian troops at Gallipoli during World War I.



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Students group photo after a Performance During the 75th National Day of the People's Republic of China, Organized by the Overseas Chinese Association of Pakistan.

Shazia Marri says: Constitutional Courts essential to address existing legal challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Information Secretary Shazia Marri on Wednesday said that establishing Federal Constitutional Courts with full force. She urged the government to consult with all the stakeholders on the proposed constitutional package. "The PPP has been presenting its stance with conviction and has come to know about the ongoing constitutional amendments," she said.

Shazia Marri said the idea of a Constitutional Court has been mentioned in the Charter of Democracy (CoD) and it has been part of the PPP's manifesto since 2007.

She stressed the necessity of a Federal Constitutional Court to ensure swift, speedy and fair justice. "The PPP workers sought justice for Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto after a wait of 45 years."

She criticized the current judicial system is often preoccupied with political and constitutional cases, which leaves little room for addressing the grievances of the general public.

Shazia Marri said the justice system in the provinces is also crumbling, and proposed that a constitutional court should be established in every province.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Pakistan Fahad Bin Sulaiman Bin Khalaf Alkharusi called on the Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain.

PMD forecast rain for various parts of country

ISLAMABAD (APP): After persistent hot and humid weather conditions, Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast rain for various parts of the country during the next 24 hours.

Rain-windstorm/thundershower is expected in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Potohar region, Islamabad, Northeast Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir.

Heavy falls/hailstorm is likely at isolated places in Upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pothohar region, Islamabad and Kashmir. Hot and humid weather is expected in other parts of the country.

Govt takes steps to promote pharma sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Health Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath on Wednesday said that the government is taking keen interest in the development of pharmaceutical sector.

Addressing the 7th Pakistan Pharma Summit and Awards, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad said that it is government's priority to implement supportive and favorable policies for the development of the pharma sector.

Dr. Mukhtar said that during last few years, there has been significant progress in the development of the pharma industry.

"We have seen a marked increase in both domestic production and exports of pharmaceuticals," Dr. Mukhtar said.

He said that 90 percent of Pakistan's domestic needs are met by the local pharma industry.

He said that the amount of investment in the pharmaceutical industry is in billions of dollars.

Dr. Mukhtar said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the government has taken coordinated and effective measures to increase exports.

IHC moved against MDCAT test

ISLAMABAD (APP): A petition has been moved before the Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking orders for re-conduct of Medical and Dental Colleges Admission Test (MDCAT).

The petition has been filed by six medical students including Ammar Naeem, Shaiza Wazir and Saba Inaam.

The petition prayed the court to issue directives for re-conduct of the exam or they should be given grace marks on out of syllabus questions in the test.

The petition has mentioned Ministry of Health and President Pakistan Medical, Dental Council (PM&DC), Vice Chancellor Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto University and chairman National Medical and Dental Board as respondents in the case.

The petitioners said that the MDCAT took place in capital on September 22, in which 26, 27 MCQs out of 200 were out of Syllabus.

OIC marks milestone on 55th anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) commemorates its 55th anniversary on Wednesday, marking over five decades of promoting unity and cooperation among Islamic nations. The Organization was founded by a resolution of the historic summit held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on 12 Rajab 1389, corresponding to 25 September 1969, in response to the burning of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in the occupied Al-Quds.

The OIC is currently headed by Hissein Ibrahim Taha, and operates from its General Secretariat based in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It also has offices in New York, Geneva, Brussels, Kabul, Ramallah, Baghdad, Niamey, and Mogadishu.

The OIC work is carried out by thousands of staff members in its subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated institutions numbering 41 in 23 capitals and cities across the Muslim world. Also part of the OIC are the Al-Quds Committee, the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), and the Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTEC). The OIC convenes periodic Islamic Summit Conference of leaders of member states. It holds the Council of Foreign Ministers annually in addition to the Islamic Summit.

PM's coordinator stresses youth engagement in combating climate change

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam has stressed the importance of youth engagement in addressing climate change, as it was crucial for survival of the future generations.

Addressing a programme at Aiwan-e-Iqbal regarding the Conference of the Parties (COP) simulation here on Wednesday, she also called for active youth involvement to foster a proactive approach to environmental stewardship in Pakistan. She underscored the significance of building a strong narrative around climate preservation to effectively tackle the challenges posed by environmental degradation. "The participation of our youth is not just beneficial; it is crucial," she said, advocating for collective efforts to raise awareness among young people regarding climate needs.

The PM coordinator expressed gratitude to the media for their pivotal role in bringing attention to climate issues, noting the presence of representatives from major TV channels at the event as a testament to the urgency of the matter.

Romina Alam pointed out that Pakistan ranks fifth among the countries most vulnerable to climate change, underscoring the necessity for practical and impactful measures to combat environmental challenges. Referring to the students as the "future of Pakistan," she expressed optimism about the nation's potential. She explained that the Conference of the Parties serves as an international platform for discussing and adopting action plans to address climate change.

IHC seeks reply from govt for not removing name of PTI leader Zartaj from ECL

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has sought reply from government for not removing name of PTI leader Zartaj Gul from Exit Control List (ECL) besides adjourning the hearing of the case. Contempt of court case for not removing name of Zartaj Gul from ECL despite court's orders came up for hearing in IHC Wednesday. The state counsel told the court FIR is lodged against Zartaj Gul in Dera Ghazi Khan, Counsel for Zartaj Gul.



ISLAMABAD, Central Spokesperson of Pakistan People's Party Shazia Marri and Senator Palusha Khan holding a press conference in the Federal Capital.

Minister presides over consultative meeting on GB airport affectees

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam on Wednesday presided over the consultative meeting of high-level committee regarding affectees of the Gilgit-Baltistan Airport.

Federal Secretary for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Wasim Ajmal Chaudhry, Additional Secretary Khalid Ali Raza Gurdizi, Joint Secretary Muhammad Hamid Khan, Ministry of Defence, Civil Aviation and Law and Justice, Gilgit-Baltistan Government and officials of the Ministry of Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan attended the meeting, said a press release.

The officials briefed the federal minister about the agenda of the meeting. The minister said that this issue will be resolved amicably. In this regard, he said that all relevant departments and ministries should meet and find a solution to the problem in the next meeting.

IRSA releases 184,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 184,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 151,600 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1535.86 feet and was 137.86 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 91,900 cusecs and 95,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1220.45 feet, which was 172.45 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 15,300 cusecs and 45,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 127,100, 108,900, 88,500 and 36,500 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 18,300 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 4,200 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.



ISLAMABAD: Labourers are busy construction work of newly Pakistan map on a green belt during development work, in the Federal Capital.

DIG Islamabad says: Efforts afoot to make Islamabad safest city

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza held an important meeting with Saddar Zone police officers at his office. The meeting was attended by SP Saddar zone, SDPOs, SHOs, and crime control police teams. During the meeting, DIG Islamabad reviewed the performance of all police officials in detail and awarded officers for good performance while also issued show cause notices on poor performances.

On this occasion, while issuing directions to the officers, he said that in the upcoming meeting, the performance of all the officers will be reviewed and there will be no compromise on the increase of crimes.

He issued directions to police officials and crime control teams to prevent incidents of robbery, dacoity, and theft in their jurisdiction. Under the supervision of the SHOs, these teams will work to arrest absconders, proclaimed offenders, target offenders, missing gang members and other criminals. The special teams will also take effective action to prevent incidents of robbery, dacoity, and theft. He said that the progress of the crime control teams will be reviewed daily. All police officers are expected to be more effective in combating criminal elements. The DIG further mentioned that police officers who perform effectively well will be commended, while those showing negligence or poor performance will face departmental action.

Delegation of under-training officer's visits Safe City Islamabad

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: The under training officers of Intelligence Bureau Academy Islamabad combined intelligence course visited Safe City Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

The delegation visits Safe City Islamabad is playing a significant role in various departments through modern techniques, including the Police Operations Center, Emergency Control Center, Data Hub Unit, Dispatch Control Center, E-Challan System, and the lives and property of citizens.

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

The delegation also met with Director General (DG) Safe City Shkir Hussain Dawar and acknowledged the modern technical system of the Islamabad Police and its benefits. The delegation expressed special gratitude to DG Safe City Islamabad and his team for this successful visit.



the command and control center, the data hub unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, and the Police operations center hall. They were fully briefed about the procedures and advantages of this project.

Furthermore, the delegation was informed that "Pucar-15" emergency helpline.

The delegation was also apprised of the functionality and benefits of the Safe City cameras in the city. The modern cameras of Safe City are playing a crucial role in ensuring the safety of the city, preventing crimes and safeguarding

CH chairman lauds China's policies enabling religious, eco. freedoms for Muslims

ISLAMABAD (APP): An eleven-member delegation of religious scholars, led by Chairman of the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII), Dr. Muhammad Raghob Hussain Naemi, has returned from an extensive 10-day visit to China.

The delegation, invited by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited key cities including Beijing, Xi'an, Xinjiang, Kashgar, and Urumqi.

During the visit, the delegation had been engaged in discussions with representatives of Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, mosque committees in various cities, and senior members of the Communist Party of China. The scholars were given tours of prominent religious and cultural sites, including historic mosque in Xi'an, the Grand Mosque of Kashgar, the Mausoleum of Sufi Saint Khwaja Afaq Naqshbandi, and the Xinjiang Muslim Institute. The delegation also had meetings with notable Muslim leaders, including Sheikh Abdul Raqeeb and Sheikh Ibrahim, among others. These interactions allowed for fruitful discussions on religious and cultural matters.

Dr. Raghob Naemi expressed his appreciation for the Chinese government's positive policies towards religious minorities.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Thursday September 26, 2024

Point of no return?

Is this the end? The state, as envisioned in the Constitution, is being dismantled in real-time. The government has made it clear it will not accept or implement a ruling issued by the full bench of the Supreme Court.

Social media and television channels have begun broadcasting open attacks on the judiciary, without any worry for the consequences. They are being shielded by the government's own adversarial stance on the matter. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court judges have once again gone public with their disagreements, openly criticising and challenging each other through letters and observations. As things unravel, the judiciary has, for all practical purposes, been rendered defunct. If the bastion falls, there will be no turning back.

The government seems not to care that it has very little legitimacy in the eyes of the public. The engineering and machinations through which its creation was achieved, and which continue to be done to ensure its continuity and sustenance, have left little room for it to be seen in a favourable light. Additionally, its legislative agenda has laid bare the interests it truly serves.

Meanwhile, parliament has demeaned itself by allowing itself to be used to uproot the established division of power. Lawmakers continue to remind us that 'parliament is supreme', as if merely repeating the phrase ad nauseam will confer supremacy upon it. The truth is that they are almost ready to serve the country on a platter to forces that have no patience for democracy or parliamentary niceties and procedure.

To top it all off, the main opposition party remains so obsessed with its leadership's troubles that it has found little time to connect with ordinary citizens, many of whom have been looking to it to give voice to their struggles.

It is within this context that the public had looked to the Supreme Court to act as a final arbiter in one of the key politico-legal disputes of our time. A full court was called to hear the matter, and it eventually issued a ruling. Most of the judges agreed that a wrong had been done and justice must be delivered; they only disagreed on how. Regardless, it was always the majority's verdict that was to prevail.

Now, no matter where he personally stood on the matter, it is the chief justice's responsibility to ensure his institution and its edicts' respect. He should be wary that his public disagreements with other judges are being used as ammunition by the government, and should know he is being expected to take a stand for his fellow judges, many of whom once took a stand for him.

When he was appointed chief justice, he was simultaneously burdened with an immense responsibility. He must demonstrate he is worthy of bearing it.

Zahid Hussain

The country seems to be heading towards a constitutional breakdown as state institutions clash within and among themselves.

A defiant government refusing to comply with the apex court order and the widening divide within the top court itself has created a very dangerous impasse. The desperate efforts by the military-backed regime to tame an assertive judiciary has heightened the crisis of the state. The endgame of the ongoing confrontation is uncertain.

Apparently, it was the unholy nexus between a shaky ruling coalition and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) that precipitated the crisis. In an unprecedented act of defiance, the two have refused to implement the July 12 majority ruling that the PTI be given its due share of reserved seats for women and minorities in the national and provincial assemblies.

What seems to have encouraged their non-compliance is the simmering tension among the top judges becoming public. The open split between the outgoing chief justice and the senior

puisne judge is now being fully exploited by the PML-N-led government to further widen the divide that would allow the ruling set-up to undermine the apex court's authority.

It is quite apparent that the government is betting on the chief justice to tilt the balance in the court in its favour. The latest ordinance issued by the president has virtually restored the powers of the chief justice as master of the roster, which had been restricted by earlier legislation. Unfortunately, many have perceived the role of Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa in the entire matter as something not expected from the top judge of the country.

Within hours of the promulgation of the ordinance, the CJ restructured the three-member Practice and Procedure Committee by removing Justice Munib Akhtar, the third senior-most member, who was among the majority judges in the reserved seat ruling. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, the senior puisne judge, has refused to be part of the committee and has questioned the legality of the ordinance.

Referring to the im-

mediate restructuring of the committee as unnecessary and the inclusion of a preferred member as undemocratic and a "one-man show", Justice Shah wants a full court review of the ordinance. But the question that is being asked is whether the chief justice, who is due to retire next month, is ready to defend the independence and sanctity of the supreme judiciary. Many have seen his role as divisive.

This is being perceived as something that will only encourage the government to further undermine the apex court. It's a dangerous game that could destroy the entire system, pushing the country towards a state of anarchy. The refusal to reallocate the reserved seats is part of the government's plan to achieve a two-thirds majority in parliament; this is required to carry out a constitutional amendment intended to clip the powers of the top judiciary under the cover of a so-called judicial reform package. The ruling coalition has not given up on its plan, despite its defeat in mustering the required numbers in its previous attempt.

Meanwhile, the gov-

ernment has made changes in the election rules in order to stall the implementation of the Supreme Court ruling. The National Assembly Speaker has also written a letter to the ECP telling it that the court order could not be acted upon. The stand-off between the government and the judges seems to have intensified after the release of the majority order.

The federal law minister has outrightly rejected the detailed verdict, declaring that the recent amendments in the Elections Act were in play, and thus, as per the law, it was not possible to 'reverse the clock' with regard to the status of the lawmakers. He said there were a lot of questions that the detailed verdict does not answer. He maintained that parliament's right to legislate would have priority over the apex court's verdicts.

There has hardly been any other instance in the country's history, with the exception of periods of military rule, where the government has so brazenly defied the Supreme Court order. There is no ambiguity in the detailed Supreme Court verdict, which says

that a political party cannot be denied its right to contest elections and be recognised as a parliamentary entity.

While it was an 8-5 judgment, three dissenting judges have agreed that the PTI does exist as a parliamentary party and thus cannot be denied its due share of reserved seats. What the government is not willing to accept is that, whether it likes it or not, the Supreme Court verdict is binding on all state institutions.

Any defiance would lead to a serious constitutional crisis that could bring down the entire edifice of state. The role of the current ECP has been most dubious from the outset. The electoral watchdog never acted as an impartial body guaranteeing free and fair elections. Its reluctance to implement the apex court order gives credence to allegations that it is being dictated to by the security establishment.

What is happening now is largely the result of the controversial elections conducted by the ECP in February this year. A manipulated election installing a government of question-

able legitimacy has distorted the entire political system.

The detailed majority judgment is a damning indictment of the role of the election body. It points out that the ECP's unlawful acts were prejudicial to the PTI, and that by "denying the recognition of a major political party and treating its nominated candidates as independents, they not only compromise the rights of these candidates but also significantly infringe upon the rights of the electorate". As the verdict points out, such unlawful actions "corrode[s] the institutional legitimacy".

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, who wrote the judgment, also warned that the court order is binding and any non-compliance could have serious consequences. It is indeed a test for the top judiciary that is expected to defend its constitutional authority and maintain the rule of law. It remains to be seen how a divided institution can stand up to the onslaught. But more importantly, can a political structure survive with all these perils? -- Courtesy Dawn

As cities heat up

Rafia Zakaria

The news from New York is not good. On Sunday, as world leaders arrived for the 79th session of the UN General Assembly that was set to begin on Tuesday, UN Secretary General António Guterres inaugurated the Summit for the Future.

The Summit for the Future is supposed to be a quasi-climate summit that is meant to jumpstart the stalled progress over climate change. It took only a day, however, for world leaders to begin to warn that the distance between the countries was growing. As the UN chief put it, "crises are interacting and feeding off each other — for example, as digital technologies spread climate disinformation, that deepens distrust and fuels polarisation".

It is true that the urgency of climate change is impressing itself on some countries far more than on others. Take, for instance, the case of Jakarta in Indonesia, which is perhaps the fastest sinking city in the

world. In 2022, when world leaders gathered at the climate summit in Egypt, António Guterres had a message for them: "It is either a Climate Solidarity Pact — or a Collective Suicide Pact."

The case of Jakarta is particularly pertinent here as an example of how climate change is already causing enormous change in the lives of people living in the Global South.

Jakarta suffers from a tragic confluence of environmental and climate-related issues. Rising sea levels, poor air quality, and huge amounts of rainfall have all coalesced to cause a situation where large parts of the city are likely to be under water by 2050. It is perhaps this urgency and the lack of any chances of real progress resulting from the multilateral COP summits over the years that has led Jakarta to find its own solutions.

Instead of letting the fortunes of a city rely on help or international cooperation that may not come, the Indonesians have decided to move the

Indonesian capital away from the island of Java, where Jakarta is located, to the island of Borneo in East Kalimantan province. The new capital of Indonesia will be Nusantara and this year marked the first time when independence day celebrations were held there.

The fact that Jakarta is suffering not just from the effects of climate change but also a mix of environmental and climate-related factors should be instructive for places like Pakistan.

In Jakarta, there has been unrestrained extraction of underground water through wells. Heavy rainfall could have replenished these wells but the urban sprawl prevents this. Flooding in the city is exacerbated by the fact that Jakarta, being on lower ground, also gets water run-off from higher terrains.

Finally, the rising seas are the third body of water that are causing the city to sink. It is estimated that at least half of the city is already below sea level. Moving the capital city to

a planned settlement will mean moving to a new urban hub but it will not mitigate the truth that Jakarta as a city is still sinking and is likely to cause the loss of livelihoods and resources for millions of homes in the megacity.

While Jakarta has a different climate than Karachi's, some of the factors that have affected that city threaten Karachi as well. In recent years, Karachi has also reeled from heavy flooding after unexpected torrential rains. Like many other megacities, the city's urban sprawl led to an increase in flooding following torrential rainfalls.

Not only that, Karachi also experiences the urban heat island effect. The urban heat island effect occurs when the concrete and asphalt surfaces of the city cause temperatures within these built-up environments without natural vegetation to have a temperature that is higher than that in the adjoining areas, which have green cover. Several investigative reports focused on

Karachi have shown that the city regularly suffers from the urban heat island effect, especially during the summer months.

Even more problematic is the fact that the most built-up areas with the least amount of vegetation are often also the poorest ones. The poorest areas in turn are the ones least likely to be able to afford electricity or to have other means of cooling their environs. The people who live here are most vulnerable to heat strokes and other heat-related illnesses as 'staying cool' increasingly becomes a luxury for the majority of the city's denizens. In Jakarta's case, the problems were not always so intractable but the inability to arrive at solutions owing to corruption and lack of political will created a situation where moving the capital was the band-aid that was passed off as a solution. Similarly, Karachi's issues can be solved if there is proper zoning and a commitment to adopt policies that somehow address the issues faced by the city. However, this is unlikely

to come about, given the rampant greed, corruption and the lack of motivation and political will that prevail.

In the meantime, it is hard to put any stock in expensive multilateral convenings such as the Summit for the Future whose goal is to get member nations to agree to a Pact for the Future. The only value in it seems to be a free trip for the delegates picked from whichever ruling party seems to be having its turn in power to enjoy cooler weather in a northern capital. This time, too, the conflagration in the Middle East, which is worsening by the moment as larger parts of the region get sucked into the conflict, will overtake whatever attention may have been allotted to climate change.

As has been the case in such discussions in the past, the gulf between the experts in the Western countries who make climate policy and the people in the Global South who face the actual heat and the deluge seems too wide to bridge.

Constitutional breakdown

Rida Hosain

It was in 19th-century Britain that A.V. Dicey wrote that the British parliament is sovereign, and no person or body has the right to override legislation of parliament. Since then, even the courts in England have watered down the absolute and extreme terms of the theory and called it 'out of place' in modern times.

While our constitutional dispensation is wholly distinct, the present government is adopting Diceyan concepts of sovereignty. The 1973 Constitution was adopted by the people of Pakistan, and provides at the outset 'we the people' give to ourselves this Constitution. It is the people's document that reigns supreme.

The Constitution creates and establishes a balance between the role of the judiciary, executive, and legislature. The government seeks desperately to upset this balance by undermining judicial independence, and demanding judicial obedience.

The unique part of our Constitution is the status afforded to fundamental rights and judicial independence. Any law inconsistent with fundamental rights shall be void. Democracy, fundamental rights, parliamentary form of government, and an independent judiciary have also been declared as salient features of the Constitution. Per past precedent, even any constitutional amendment to the extent that it violates such salient features shall be struck down.

Fundamental rights and an independent judiciary work together, a judiciary that is not independent cannot protect and enforce fundamental rights.

In 2015, the Constitution was amended to allow the trial of civilians by military courts. Justice

Qazi Faez Isa (as he was then) struck down the constitutional amendment, and held: "the people made it absolutely clear that they did not want their representatives to dilute their fundamental rights". As regards judicial independence and separation of powers, he found that judicial power can only be exercised by the judiciary.

On the 1973 Constitution, he held that unlike the ones before it, the Constitution endures: "the 1973 Constitution has grown in stature and has found acceptance in the hearts and minds of the people of Pakistan so much so that even the onslaughts on democracy and the judiciary by Gen Ziaul Haq and Gen Pervez Musharraf could not dislodge it."

At that time, Justice Isa was not swayed by the fact that two-thirds of both Houses had passed the amendments. The government of today tries to apply faulty principles of sovereignty to justify its attempted destruction of judicial independence, and continued wreckage of democracy and fundamental rights.

Despite express and specific directions, implementation of the reserved seats order is being obstructed. Amendments to the election laws were bulldozed through parliament with the singular purpose of undoing the reserved seats verdict. The ruling alliance wants to impose on the people an unrepresentative legislature.

In granting PTI reserved seats, the court interpreted constitutional provisions. This cannot be undone through ordinary legislation. Bizarrely, the amendments have been given retrospective effect. A political party cannot be asked to comply with requirements which, put simply, did not exist at the time of elections.

Then, through a rushed ordinance which was approved by the cabinet, the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023, has been amended. The most striking part of the amendment is that bench constitution power now vests with the chief justice of Pakistan, the next senior most judge, and a CJP nominee.

During hearings regarding the validity of the law, Just-i-ice Munib Akhtar said the effect would be to make parliament 'master of the roster'. The court had surrendered its independence and autonomy in so far as its internal procedure was concerned. By succeeding in their endeavour to exclude Justice Akhtar from the bench-making process, the government has completely vindicated his dissent.

Finally, the proposed constitutional amendments have been partly defended by the law minister. It was Justice Munir who borrowed Hans Kelsen's view that a successful coup d'état "was an internationally recognised method of changing a constitution", thus the doctrine of necessity was given birth in our jurisprudence, and devastating years followed.

The idea of one centralised constitutional court is also a Kelsenian one, and he championed a single exclusive institution to deal with all constitutional questions (a concept the government is trying to transplant into our common law jurisdiction).

The legislature, in the words of Quaid-i-Azam, has the "gravest responsibility" as to how it takes decisions. Instead, attempts are being made to engineer a two-thirds majority; to make independent judges powerless; and to create an institution that would make the Supreme Court redundant. This should unite us all. -- Courtesy Dawn

Agents of terror

Mahir Ali

Over the past week, the Netanyahu regime may have succeeded in its endeavours to provoke a wider war. It isn't difficult to imagine what the Western reaction would have been to, say, Iran, Russia or China booby-trapping an adversary's communication devices. In the case of Israel, shock is superseded by awe.

Yet even admiration for the technical ingenuity of Mossad has not prevented some commentators from acknowledging the terrorist aspects of a factual success that qualifies as a war crime under international protocols to which Israel is a signatory. That mass-casualty attack has been supplemented with conventional air strikes that have already claimed hundreds of lives. Hezbollah will almost certainly feel obliged to respond, despite being massively outgunned. The big question is whether Iran will stay aloof.

The US State Department notoriously maintains a list of 'state sponsors of terrorism' that currently features Cuba, North Korea, Iran and Syria. Israel has obviously never been included. Nor has Pakistan — although it was previously seen as one of several 'safe havens' for militants. But its backing for the Afghan mujahideen in the 1970s-80s, co-sponsored by CIA and the Saudis, was never an issue. Nor its initial nurturing of the Taliban.

Israel's excesses have rarely elicited any objection from Washington, never mind the terrorist antecedents of at least two of its prime ministers, Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir, and the indulgent attitude of all other leaders towards international and 'domestic' operations by its agencies that qualify as terrorism by any reasonable definition.

Quite apart from the terror it routinely perpetrates or sponsors in the occupied Palestinian territories, the Israeli military and its offshoots have also created or encouraged terrorist movements or actions across its neighbourhood. The most egregious instance of this tendency was the Sabra and Shatila massacre in 1982 by Lebanese Falangist militiamen supervised by IDF general Ariel Sharon, who was officially reprimanded, but his bloodlust did not prevent him from becoming PM.

Back then, far-right US president Ronald Reagan ordered Begin to halt the "holocaust" in Beirut. The Israeli PM bristled, but obeyed, perhaps influenced by the fact that many Israelis took a stand against their nation's horrific conduct in Lebanon. This year's demonstrators are understandably keen to bring home the hostages Israeli armed forces failed to protect on Oct 7 last year, but all too many of them are keen on the IDF stepping up its genocide in Gaza, and, perhaps, continuing it in the West Bank, even southern Lebanon.

No one bothers to deny that the formidable Israeli war machine has been sponsored by the US for the past half-century or more. A year before his assassination in 1968, Martin Luther King declared "my own government" to be "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today". That accusation remains valid, but the transcontinental bloodshed conducted by the US has frequently been supplemented by the violence of its local auxiliaries or mercenaries.

The very nation that purports to be an arbiter of international disputes and a key to their resolution in fact qualifies as the world's most formidable

perpetrator and sponsor of terrorism through much of the 20th century, and into the 21st.

It is not alone but its record — from the Philippines to Italy, Iran, Guatemala, Congo, Cuba and Indonesia as well as Timor, Vietnam, Chile, Cambodia, Afghanistan and Iraq — is unmatched in modern history. Hubris and hypocrisy are the key defining features of the American empire, which encompasses au-xiliaries such as the UK, Canada and Australia, alongside key European nations and a bunch of hangers-on in the Global South.

Its favourite adopt-child, though, may occasionally be subject to mild, mostly meaningless admonitions, but is always welcome to supplies of the latest lethal weaponry, and liable to be excused whenever it oversteps the mark, which is quite routine.

Unlike almost all of his predecessors, Benjamin Netanyahu does not have a storied military past; his terrorist tendencies have surfaced largely during his extended prime ministerial tenure. His primary motivation at the moment is to stay in power, not least to stave off legal challenges to his record of corruption — which barely intrudes into his moral turpitude as a politician.

It remains to be seen whether Hezbollah or Iran will wisely continue to ignore Israel's repeated provocations or disastrously trigger some kind of mutual assured destruction.

But all bets are off as long as Israel proceeds with the Gaza genocide and the creeping annexation of the West Bank. The US won't be able to evade culpability unless it conjures up the courage to halt arms shipments to its primary Middle Eastern proxy as it pursues its misanthropic aims. -- Courtesy Dawn

Pak, China working together to build an upgraded version of CPEC: Chinese CG

KARACHI (APP): The Consul General of People's Republic of China in Karachi, Yang Yundong has said China and Pakistan were working together to build an "upgraded version" of CPEC as per consensus of both the countries.

He said this while addressing a reception hosted on 75th National Day of People's Republic of China here at Karachi Consulate on Tuesday night.

Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, Chief Minister Syed Murad Shah, provincial Ministers, diplomats of different countries and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Consul General Yang Yundong said Pakistan and China are good neighbors connected by mountains and rivers and good friends with shared trust and integrity.

Over the 73 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, Pakistan and China have maintained mutual respect and support, forging the "ironclad brother" friendship. Yang said, adding that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an important pilot project of the Belt Road Initiative (BRI).

He said CPEC was launched in 2013 and now both sides are working for an "upgraded version" of the project. We should fully implement the important consensus of the leaders of our two countries, Yang Yundong added.

He said China will work with Pakistan to upgrade and renovate the Main Line-1 (ML-1) railway, continue enhancing other infrastructure, fully release the potential of these infrastructures, and consolidate the foundation for Pakistan's sustainable

development. He said China will encourage investment in Pakistan's automobile manufacturing and new energy sectors, promote technical cooperation in textiles, minerals, fisheries and agricultural and sideline products and further deepen cooperation between the two countries on all fronts.

He said China is eager to further strengthen cultural and people to people exchanges and cooperation, particularly in areas like education, sports, media and think tank.

He also referred post floods disaster reconstruction projects for schools in Sindh province. He said China firmly supports Pakistan's efforts to combat terrorism.

He said he had served in Karachi for nearly a year and half and deeply felt the profound heritage of China Pakistan friendship.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori along with Syed Murad Ali Shah, Sindh Chief Minister and Yang Yundong, Consul of China are cutting the cake during the 75th National Day of the Peoples Republic of China.

Biggest internship program launched for agriculture graduates: CM Maryam

FAISALABAD (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz has said that Pakistan is an agrarian country and the PML-N has the credit to launch the biggest internship programme to utilise the untapped potential of agriculture graduates by offering them about 1000 internships, and enabling them to use their knowledge and skills to put the country on the road to expeditious progress and prosperity.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the

agriculture graduates internship programme at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) here on Wednesday, she said that the PML-N was a pro-people political party, which had always preferred public welfare and presented a betterment agenda instead of taking personal gains.

She said that some elements defamed politics through their negative deeds, but the PML-N promoted positive politics in the country, which was imperative for national

progress and prosperity. She said that the previous rulers abused the young generation for their ulterior motives. They raised hollow slogans but never provided employment opportunities to the youth on merit. She said, "We have planned the biggest internship programme for the agriculture graduates with a monthly stipend of Rs. 60,000 per intern. These graduates were appointed purely on merit and their stipend would be enhanced gradually."

Ambassador Blome attends EnglishWorks ceremony, meets alumni

LAHORE (APP): United States (US) Ambassador to Pakistan, Donald Blome attended the orientation ceremony and welcomed 150 new students to the US EnglishWorks programme in Sialkot, which will offer the youth an opportunity to enhance English language, entrepreneurial, and leadership skills.

US Consul General to Lahore Kristin Hawkins also accompanied the ambassador in Sialkot. Addressing students, Ambassador Blome said: "These skills will help young Pakistanis become community leaders who

contribute to a prosperous, proud, and peaceful future for Pakistan," Ambassador Blome said.

He said the EnglishWorks programme symbolises the enduring partnership between the US and Pakistan. He said since 2015, more than 6,000 Pakistani students have graduated from the programme, adding that the US looks forward to expanding its educational initiatives across Pakistan.

During his visit to Lahore, ambassador Blome also met members of the Central Punjab Chapter of the Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network.

IGP approves promotion of 54 cops from Multan region

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar has approved promotion of 54 policemen from the Multan region.

According to a police spokesperson, 18 assistant sub-inspectors (ASIs) will be elevated as sub-inspector, 18 head constables as ASIs, and 18 constables as head constables.

A ceremony will be held shortly to present the new ranks to the promoted officers. The IGP said that this year, over 2,000 promotions would be awarded across various ranks, including 600 sub-inspectors, 700 ASIs.

US, KP govts celebrate youth empowerment and land reforms

PESHAWAR (APP): U.S. Consul General Shante Moore celebrated the successful partnership between the United States and the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) at a closing ceremony of a Sports Gala, highlighting the transformative impact of the Land Registration in Merged Areas activity, said a press release issued here on Wednesday.

The Sports Gala, organized under the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-supported Land Registration in Merged Areas (LRMA) Activity, brought together local leaders, community members, and youth participants to showcase the enthusiasm and potential of young athletes from the Merged Areas.

The event highlighted the region's progress

toward a brighter future and the transformative impact of land registration initiatives.

Addressing the gathering, U.S. Consul General Shante Moore emphasized the crucial role of youth in shaping the region's future. "This Sports Gala isn't just about competition. It's about fostering a sense of belonging, unity, and hope. For the people of the Merged Areas, especially the youth, hope is what drives progress. It motivates change, and it is the foundation on which brighter futures are built," said Consul General Moore. He emphasized the U.S. government's commitment to supporting Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through initiatives that empower youth and ensure equal opportunities for all citizens, including women and marginalized groups.



FAISALABAD: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan addresses during annual prize distribution ceremony of Aziz Fatima Medical & Dental College at a local hotel.

Women's role imperative for national progress, prosperity: Governor

FAISALABAD (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan on Wednesday said that women were sharing 52 percent population and their proactive role was imperative to materialize the dream of national progress and prosperity.

Talking to media persons during inaugural ceremony of a display & facilitation center for business women at Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FWCCI) here, he said that Pakistan was passing through a crucial stage. He said the government was concentrating for women empowerment. In this

connection, various programs were chalked out to facilitate this community in all sectors including business, he added.

He said that women were bestowed with tremendous abilities and capabilities. Hence, they should come forward and prove their mettle in national development, he added.

Responding to a question, he said that another constitutional amendment had become imperative to remove the ills prevailed because of the 19th Amendment which had totally eroded the very spirit of the 18th Amendment.

Health minister urges ulema to play role in dengue awareness

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique has stressed the critical role of religious scholars in raising awareness to combat dengue.

Speaking at the special guest at a seminar, organized by the Auqaf Department here on Wednesday, he highlighted the importance of collective efforts in the fight against dengue outbreak. "Messages

spread from the mihrab and minbar can make a difference in public health awareness," he expressed the hope. He noted the growing number of dengue cases in Rawalpindi and underscored the importance of religious leaders in spreading the message of cleanliness and prevention. He concluded by urging everyone to follow the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAWW).



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Culture, Tourism, Antiquities and Archives Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah along Arts Council of Pakistan President Muhammad Ahmad Shah addressing to media persons during press conference regarding World Culture Festival Karachi, held at Arts Council building in Karachi.

Benazir murder case: Court rejects CPO report on disappearance of acquitted accused

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi bench has rejected CPO report based on ignorance about the disappearance of the accused acquitted in Benazir murder case.

The court took up for hearing murder case of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Wednesday. The court sought detailed report on

disappearance of the accused Rafiqat after his acquittal. The report on ignorance of CPO about the matter was rejected by the court. The court adjourned the hearing of the case for indefinite period. The court remarked first of all we will complete the attendance of all the accused and then next proceedings will be started.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi called on by MPA Sardar Ehsan Ullah Khan Mainkhal at Governor House.

Governor KP writes letters to ambassadors, flays attack on convoy of foreign dignitaries

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has written condemnation letters to ambassadors of 12 countries regarding attack on convoy of foreign dignitaries in Swat KP few days ago.

According to letters, issued here on Wednesday, "I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to address the recent tragic incident in Swat involving a convoy carrying foreign dignitaries. The attack, which resulted in injuries and loss of life, has left our community in shock and mourning."

"The government is actively investigating the circumstances surrounding the attack and will work tirelessly to bring those responsible to justice. We understand the importance of safeguarding foreign visitors and are reinforcing our security measures to

prevent such incidents in the future."

"As Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, I want to convey my profound relief that, as state guests, you are safe during this onslaught. Your protection and safety are our top priority, and we are committed to ensuring a secure environment for you and all foreign visitors."

We understand that incidents like this can raise concerns, and we are taking immediate and robust measures to enhance security across the region, said the letter.

In light of this situation, I would like to extend an invitation for you to Governor's House Peshawar. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in near future at your convenience. It's my firm conviction that through this visit the beautiful face of the province blended with hospitality.



MUZAFFRABAD: Activists of Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir hold banner during protest in front of United Nation Office, in the city.

CM KP wants rapid development of tribal districts: Law Minister

KOHAT (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Aftab Alam Afridi Advocate has said that the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gundapur wanted rapid development of the entire province, especially the merged tribal districts and other merged areas.

That was why, he said a particular program "Grand Tribal Jirga" for the rapid development of the merged tribal districts and other merged areas has been initiated. This he said while addressing the Awami Jirga of Dara Adamkhel as a chief guest, which was organized by Deputy Commissioner Kohat Abdul Akram. Deputy Commissioner Kohat while highlighting the aims and objectives of the Jirga, said that the purpose of holding the "Awami Jirga" is to get the opinion and proposals of the elected

representatives of Dara Adamkhel Tehsil, tribal leaders, elders and common man on this program for the rapid development of the merged districts.

Tehsil Nazim Dara Adamkhel Shahid Bilal Afridi, former MNA Baz Gul Afridi and other prominent tribal leaders also addressed the Jirga and presented their useful and viable suggestions and recommendations for the rapid progress of the area. They also pointed out some of the major problems facing the area which the Minister assured to solve on priority basis. The minister while referring to the merger of tribal areas, said that he also has reservations about it and is voicing for it on the relevant forums. He said that the purpose of holding today's Jirga is to get the valuable opinions and suggestions of the people here for the development of the area.

Shahid murder case: Court remands co-accused in police custody

LAHORE (APP): A local court on Wednesday handed over a co-accused, involved in the murder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and businessman Dr. Shahid Siddique, to the police on a 5-day physical remand.

Earlier, the police produced the co-accused, Akbar, before a judicial magistrate in the Model Town courts. The investigation officer requested the court to grant a 10-day physical remand of the co-accused for the recovery of a mobile phone and money from him.

However, the court handed over the accused to the police on a 5-day physical remand and ordered his production upon completion of the remand period.

In August 2024, Dr. Shahid Siddique was murdered outside a mosque in Valencia Town. His son, Abdul Qayyum, allegedly orchestrated the murder and paid millions to hire assassins for the job.

16 dead, 1403 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least sixteen people were killed while 1403 injured in 1330 road accidents in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of them, 578 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 825 victims with minor injuries were treated on the spot by Rescue Medical Teams. Analysis showed that 744 drivers, 55 underage drivers, 183 pedestrians, and 492 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. Statistics showed that 271 road accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 285 people placed in the provincial capital at top of the list followed by Faisalabad 96 with 93 victims.



HYDERABAD: Students all over Sindh hold a protest against alleged unfair test of MDCAT, demanding reconduct MDCAT fair test, in Hyderabad.

Mazari chairs meeting of IPC department Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Secretary and Special Secretary (Technical) of the Irrigation Department Junaid Hashim Talpur, Director General of the Livestock and Fisheries Department Ali Muhammad Mastoi, Managing Director of Karachi Fisheries Harbour Authority, along with other relevant officials. The concerned officers briefed the Advisor on various challenges and issues and provided updates on ongoing efforts. The briefing was conducted in connection with the preparation for the Inter-Provincial Coordination Committee (IPCC).

Two persons killed in separate firing incidents in Tank

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Two persons were killed in separate firing incidents in Tank, police and Rescue 1122 officials said on Wednesday.

A police spokesman said that unknown armed persons entered into the house of Hidayat Ullah Khan, brother of Shaheed Mureed Akbar (SMA) police station SHO Sami Ullah Khan Barakzai in Barakhel village within the limits of SMA police station and opened indiscriminate fire.

As a result, Farman Ullah son of Hidayat Ullah was killed on the spot.

As soon as the incident was reported, the police reached the site and shifted the body to District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ), Tank.

Later, the body was handed over to the heirs after an autopsy while police registered a case against unknown accused and started further investigation.

The reason behind the incident could not be ascertained yet.

In another incident, unknown assailants shot dead a man in Tank Main Bazar near Alamgir Hospital, a Rescue 1122 official said.

Upon receiving information.

Govt pays Rs 170 b subsidy to ensure uniform electricity tariff for consumers in Karachi: Awais

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari on Wednesday said that Rs 170 billion subsidy is being paid by the government of Pakistan to enable the electricity consumers in Karachi get electricity at par with the prices in other parts of the country.

He expressed these views while talking to newsmen after attending the "Power Reforms Roundtable" organized at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) main campus.

Earlier, the Federal Minister for Power along with the Executive Director IBA Karachi Dr. S. Akbar Zaidi attended "Power Reforms Roundtable" at

the IBA main campus here. In his media talk, Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari said that the forensic audit of the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) would be carried out, if it is required and expressed hope that it would not be needed.

He said that we will make all out efforts to achieve the target of Rs 10 to 12 per unit reduction in the electricity cost in the next one-and-a-half year, in case all reforms are implemented including re-profiling of CPEC loans, review of IPPs contracts, settlement of transmission constraints, improving efficiency of distribution companies and broadening the tax net.

To a question, he said that we appreciate the Government of Punjab for providing subsidy in the electricity bills for the months of August and September and its renewal or review would be the decision of the Punjab Government.

The minister told another questioner that the K-electric is being regulator under its Regulator.

Sardar Awais Ahmed Leghari said that there is a need of further improvement in the efficiency of the power regulatory bodies, because the regulator has to watch the interests of the consumers and we as a government also need to further strengthen our regulatory bodies.



ISLAMABAD: The delegation of Belarus called on Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain.

Pakistan, Belarus discusses JVs to set up tractor plant in country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Belarus agreed on Wednesday to extensively discuss different options for a joint venture (JVs) to establish a joint tractor plant in the country to uplift the local agriculture sector and enhance productivity.

Consensus on this initiative was reached during a meeting between Minister for National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain and Belarusian Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Vadim Shagoiko, said a news release.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy

Minister of Industry Andrei Kuznetsov, Secretary of Food Security Ali Tahir, and Secretary of Industries Saif Anjum.

Both sides agreed to collaborate on a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) project to protect cattle, as well as on the capacity building of agricultural engineers in machinery design.

The minister shared a detailed plan on cooperation in the livestock sector, the seed sector, the mechanization of agriculture, and increasing market access for agricultural and livestock products.

16 sectoral council to be reactivated for industrial promotion: Jam Kamal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, here on Wednesday, said that the Ministry of Commerce is reactivating 16 sectoral councils to prepare comprehensive plans and policies for industrial development and trade promotion in the country.

Addressing the 7th Pharma Export Summit and Award 2024, the minister mentioned that the suggestions from the sectoral councils would be presented to the export development board, headed by the Prime Minister, for their swift implementation.

He added that each sectoral council would have its own secretariat to determine ways and means and take measures to enhance trade and industrial activities in the country, noting that such initiatives would also help promote the local pharmaceutical sector.

He emphasized that the pharmaceutical industry plays a pivotal role in the country's economic growth and development, and the government is fully committed to supporting the sector's development, adding that sufficient

resources were available for economic progress and social prosperity in the country. The government is formulating comprehensive policies to address the issues faced by the local pharmaceutical sector. He highlighted that public-private partnerships are vital for making the local pharmaceutical industry more competitive in the international market.

He noted that local pharmaceutical exports registered about 13 percent growth during the last financial year, underscoring the industry's critical role.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan Addressing a 7th Pharma Export Summit and Awards 2024 ceremony at local hotel in federal capital.

Atif Ikram says: Govt action against non-filers is right decision, burden on taxpayers should be reduced

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries Atif Ikram Sheikh has said that the government's decision to take action against non-filers is correct while tax burden should be reduced on tax payers. Action against non-payers of taxable income should have been decided earlier. Action should be taken against taxpayers and facilitating officers involved in tax evasion, he expressed these views while talking to Chairman Capital Office Karim Aziz Malik, Vice

President Tariq Jadoon, Chairman Coordination Malik Sohail and others. President Federation Atif Ikram said that tax collection must be increased to improve the economy of Pakistan, to increase the tax revenue it is necessary to increase the number of taxpayers, tax net does not increase by imposing more taxes on taxpayers rather people start evading taxes, so instead of increasing the tax rate on those who are already paying taxes, steps should be taken to bring people into the tax net by themselves.

Ahmed Jawad says: SCO moot to provide ample opportunities for our economic diaspora

ISLAMABAD (APP): Vice President of Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) Ahmed Jawad on Wednesday said that Pakistan needs to promote its trade, investment, and economic ties with Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) nations as the formidable bloc has a cumulative gross domestic product (GDP) of \$20 trillion.

Talking to APP, Vice President PBF Ahmed Jawad said that an economic bloc with a GDP of \$20 trillion could uplift Pakistan out of all its

economic shortcomings provided serious efforts were taken to tap the opportunities and potential that SCO offers.

PBF Vice President Jawad said SCO in the wake of a unipolar world is a blessing in disguise for regional countries in general and Pakistan in particular.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) has provided a meaningful opportunity to develop confidence among the member states as well as regional countries for the promotion of peace.



SARGODHA: Farmers using a harvester machine to harvest rice in the fields on the outskirts of the city.

Sahiwal coal-fired power plant exceeds annual capacity test expectations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The annual capacity test for the Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant, a flagship energy project operated by Huaneng Shandong Ruyi (Pakistan) Energy Pvt. Limited, was successfully completed as the plant exceeded its allocated capacity of 1243.517 MW by achieving a remarkable output of 1245.3 MW during a rigorous six-hour full-load continuous test. The capacity test was overseen by officials from

key governmental and regulatory bodies, including the Central Power Purchasing Agency-Guaranteed (CPPA-G), the National Power Control Center (NPCC), and the National Transmission & Dispatch Company (NTDC), said a press release issued here Wednesday. The event highlighted the exceptional performance of the Sahiwal Power Plant, which has been in commercial operation since October 28.

Bank Alfalah gets global recognition with 2 GIFA awards

ISLAMABAD (APP): Bank Alfalah has earned international acclaim by winning two awards at the 2024 Global Islamic Finance Awards (GIFA), highlighting its position as a leader in the Islamic banking sector.

The Bank received accolades for its contributions to Islamic banking, including the Islamic Banker of the Year 2024 award and the Best Islamic Banking Window Operations Award 2024 under the GIFA Market Leadership Awards category, said a press release.

Bank Alfalah Islamic, founded in 2003, has expanded to over 375 branches nationwide. Offering a full range of Shariah-compliant Islamic banking solutions for corporate, commercial, SME, retail, treasury, trade, and consumer banking customers, Bank Alfalah Islamic is geared towards providing one-stop innovative and convenient financial solutions.

RCCI's newly elected body to assume charge on Oct 1

RAWALPINDI (APP): The 64th Annual General Meeting of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) was held at the chamber here on Wednesday, in which it was decided that the newly elected body of RCCI will take charge on 1st October.

According to the details the house officially announced and approved the election of newly elected Office Bearers as President Usman Shaukat, Senior Vice President Qazi Farooq Khalid, and Fahad Barlas as Vice President.

During the meeting, the annual report and accounts presented by the outgoing committee were approved. The annual report covered important events and activities.

Dar reviews progress on transfer of OGDCL shares to Sovereign Wealth Fund

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Transfer of OGDCL Shares with the Privatization Commission.

The committee discussed the transfer of Oil & Gas Development Company Ltd (OGDCL) shares to the Sovereign Wealth Fund and measures early

operationalization of the Fund.

The Deputy PM emphasized that the Advisory Committee envisaged under the Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund Act 2023, would consist of leading experts in finance, economics or other relevant fields to achieve the objectives under the Act.

Minister for Economic Affairs Division (EAD).



QUETTA: A delegation led by Former President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Haji Jamalud Din Achakzai meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

NTDC successfully launches SAP Finance Module

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) has achieved a significant milestone in its digital transformation journey with the successful implementation of the SAP Finance Module, a key component of its Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system.

A ceremony marking this achievement was held at NTDC's office in Shaheen Complex, where the Information Technology department team initiated the Go-Live for the Finance Module, signaling a major step towards modernizing the company's operations, said a press release.

Deputy Managing Directors Engr. Qaiser Khan (P&E) and Engr.

Rasheed A. Bhutto (AD&M) congratulated the teams of Information Technology and Finance Directorates on this success. They directed the development of comprehensive training programs, including videos and manuals, for NTDC employees nationwide.

The new module is expected to facilitate NTDC's transition from manual processes to a paperless environment, significantly enhancing operational efficiency, he added. Waseem Saadat, Chief Financial Officer and Khalid Mahmood, Chief Information Officer, along with their teams and power users, provided updates to NTDC management on the Finance Module and the overall ERP implementation.

PSX turns around to bullish trend, gains 764 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Wednesday, gaining 764.28 points, a positive change of 0.94 percent, closing at 82,247.92 points against 81,483.64 points on the last working day.

A total of 422,163,158 shares were traded during the day as compared to 369,620,812 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 18,380 billion against Rs. 17,062 billion on the last trading day. As many as 437 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 248 of them recorded gains and 126 sustained losses.

Rupee sheds 04 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Wednesday depreciated by 04 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.84 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.80.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279 and Rs 280.50 respectively. The price of Euro increased by Rs 1.64 to close at Rs 310.95 against the last day's closing of Rs 309.31, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari addresses an event on Pakistan Power Reforms at IBA main campus.

Syedaal praises PARC's agricultural research, development initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan on Wednesday commended the research efforts and development initiatives undertaken by the Chairman of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) in the agriculture sector.

During a meeting with PARC Chairman Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Syedaal Khan emphasized the importance of leveraging international agricultural practices to promote Pakistan's local economy.

Highlighting agriculture as the backbone of Pakistan's economy, he pointed out that Pakistan is primarily an agricultural country. He underscored the need for extensive work in remote areas to strengthen the sector, suggesting initiatives to make barren land cultivable, which could significantly enhance agricultural productivity.

While acknowledging the challenges currently facing the agricultural sector, Syedaal Khan expressed confidence that these issues can be resolved through enhanced research, coordination, and institutional cooperation. He urged PARC to intensify its collaboration with provincial governments and develop region-specific initiatives tailored to each province's climate and environmental conditions. These efforts, he noted, would ensure that local farmers and cultivators benefit from improved agricultural practices.

PESHAWAR: Members of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) gather for casting their votes during SCCI Election 2024-25.

Pakistan's exports to US increase by 1.62% in 2 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's export of goods and services to the United States (US) witnessed an increase of 1.62 percent during the first two months of the current fiscal year (2024-25) as compared to the exports of the corresponding months of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to the US were recorded at US\$949.855 million during July-August (2024-25) against exports of US\$934.666 billion during July-August (2023-24), SBP data revealed.

On a year-to-year basis, the exports to the US

decreased to \$473.838 million in August 2024 against the export of \$494.774 million in August 2023.

Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to the US witnessed a nominal decrease of 0.45 percent during August 2024 as compared to the exports of \$476.017 million in July 2024, the SBP data revealed.

Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed an increase of 7.18 percent in the first two months, from US\$456.015 million to US\$486.017 million, the SBP data revealed.



ISLAMABAD: Managing Director, PTDC Aftab ur Rehman Rana addressing a meeting regarding celebration of "World Tourism Day" organized by FPCCI Central Standing Committee on "Tourism Economy" at FPCCI office.

Israel has landed heavy blows on Hezbollah

Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: It has been a devastating week for Hezbollah and the people of Lebanon.

Bombs hidden in the group's baggages and walkie-talkies killed dozens of people and wounded thousands — many of them Hezbollah members. Israeli strikes on Beirut killed two of Hezbollah's top commanders. And Israel has bombed what it said were 1,600 militant sites across large parts of Lebanon, killing hundreds of people and displacing thousands.

Israel says its objective is to secure its northern border so that tens of thousands of people who fled under Hezbollah fire nearly a year ago can return to their homes. But it's far from clear that its recent operations — as tactically successful as they were — will bring that about.

Lebanese health authorities on Tuesday raised

the death toll from two days of Israeli airstrikes targeting Hezbollah militants to 558. Israel's military says it will do "whatever is necessary" to push Hezbollah away from Lebanon's border with Israel. "No one either in or out of the defense establishment has any clue as to how to translate these brilliant operational achievements into political benefit, into a real victory that will stop the war in the north," columnist Nadav Eyal wrote in Israel's Yedioth Ahronot newspaper.

"As long as Hezbollah retains any firepower, the northern border will not be able to return to normal," Eyal said.

Hezbollah began firing into Israel the day after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack triggered the war in Gaza. Its stated aim was to pin down Israeli forces in the north to help its ally Hamas, which — like Hezbollah —

is backed by Iran. The Lebanese militant group has said it would halt the attacks if there is a cease-fire in Gaza, which appears increasingly unlikely.

Hezbollah's response to the past week's escalation has seemed meager. The hundreds of rockets and drones it has fired into northern Israel — including areas much farther from the border than it hit previously — have caused few casualties and only scattered damage. Early Wednesday, Hezbollah fired a longer-range missile that targeted Tel Aviv for the first time, marking a clear escalation. The Israeli military said it intercepted the projectile, and there were no reports of casualties or damage.

Experts say Hezbollah is holding more such weapons in reserve.

Monday's footage of Israeli strikes sending up plumes of dust and smoke seemed grimly familiar.



Firefighters and rescuers work at the site of an apartment building hit by a Russian air strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kharkiv.

France minister vows new immigration 'rules' after student murder

Monitoring Desk

PARIS: France's conservative interior minister on Wednesday vowed consequences after a Moroccan man suspected of murdering a 19-year-old university student and leaving her body in a Paris forest was arrested in Switzerland.

A source close to the case, speaking to AFP, identified the alleged attacker as a 22-year-old man of Moroccan nationality. Prosecutors had previously convicted of rape and had been the subject of an order to leave France.

The killing of the student is expected to further inflame political tensions in France where the newly installed right-wing government plans to crack down on immigration.

"This is an abominable

crime," said Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau. Retailleau, who took over from his predecessor Gerald Darmanin on Monday, vowed to boost law and order, tighten immigration legislation, and make it easier to deport foreigners convicted of crimes.

"It is up to us, as public leaders, to refuse to accept the inevitable and to develop our legal arsenal, to protect the French," he added.

"If we have to change the rules, let's change them." On Saturday, the body of a student was discovered in the Bois de Boulogne park in western Paris, not far from the Universite Paris-Dauphine she attended.

Authorities have only released the first name of the victim, Philippine.

Hasina's son wants role for her party in reforms, election

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: The son of Bangladesh's ousted prime minister, Sheikh Hasina, said he was happy with the army chief's timeline for elections within 18 months, though it was later than expected, but warned that genuine reform and polls were impossible without her party. General Waker-uz-Zaman, whose refusal to stand by Hasina in the face of deadly student protests prompted her flight to India in August, has told Reuters that democracy should return within a year to a year-and-a-half. "I'm happy to hear we have an expected timeline at least now," Hasina's son and adviser, Sajeb Wazed, told Reuters late on Tuesday.

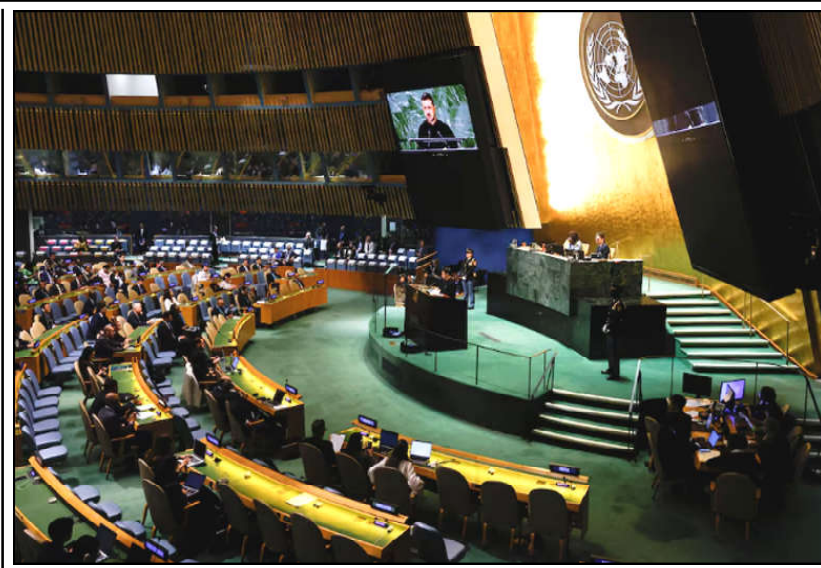
Trudeau set to survive vote of confidence in Canadian parliament

Monitoring Desk

OTTAWA: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau looks set to survive a vote of confidence on Wednesday after his main political rival appeared to fail to muster enough support to end nine years of Liberal Party rule.

Legislators in the House of Commons are due to vote at about 3.30 pm ET (1930 GMT) on a motion by the official opposition Conservative party declaring a lack of confidence in Trudeau's minority Liberal government.

Trudeau, whose popularity has slumped amid unhappiness over rising prices and a housing crisis, became more politically vulnerable this month when the smaller New Democratic Party tore up a 2022 deal to keep him in power until the 2025 election.



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addresses the 79th United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters in New York, U.S.

'Big threats on my life by Iran,' Donald Trump claims

Monitoring Desk

GEORGIA: Former US president Donald Trump said on Wednesday that he has received threats to his life from Iran.

"Big threats on my life by Iran. Moves were already made by Iran that didn't work out, but they will try again," the Republican presidential nominee said on Truth Social. He also said the entire US military is "watching and waiting".

Trump thanked the US Congress for unani-

mously approving additional funding for the Secret Service, noting that he is now surrounded by more men, guns, and weapons than ever before.

Trump's comments came after gunshots were heard near his location in Florida on September 15, though officials later confirmed he was safe.

The September 15 incident, which authorities have said is being treated as an apparent assassination attempt.

Afghanistan wants to join BRICS, says Taliban govt

Monitoring Desk

KABUL: Afghanistan's Taliban government is keen to join the BRICS economic forum, a spokesman said on Tuesday ahead of the group's summit in Russia.

The summit of emerging economies that includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa will meet on October 22-24 in the southwestern Russian city of Kazan.

"Countries with major resources and the world's biggest economies are associated with the BRICS forum, especially Russia, India, and China," said Hamdullah Fitrat, a government deputy spokesman.

"Currently, we have good economic ties and commercial exchanges with them. We are keen to expand our relations and participate in the economic forums of the BRICS," he said.

The Taliban authorities have not been officially recognised by any country but have growing relations with founding BRICS nations, including China and Russia.

The group, which has recently expanded by including Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Ethiopia, has not publicly reacted to the Taliban government's comments.



Sharon Graham, general secretary of Unite the Union, votes with other union members at the Britain's Labour Party's annual conference in Liverpool, Britain.

Norway starts probe into reported links to exploding pagers in Lebanon

Monitoring Desk

OSLO: Norway's security police (PST) have begun a preliminary investigation into reports that a Norwegian-owned company was linked to the sale of pagers to Lebanese militant group Hezbollah that exploded last week, a police lawyer told Reuters. Over a two-day period last week, thousands of pagers, as well as walkie-talkies used by Hezbollah operatives, blew up in Lebanon, killing at least 39 people and wounding thousands. The attacks were widely be-

lieved to have been carried out by Israel, which has neither confirmed nor denied its involvement. It is not clear how and when the pagers were weaponised so they could be remotely detonated. Taiwan, Hungary and Bulgaria are already investigating possible links in the supply chain. "PST has initiated a preliminary investigation to determine whether there are reasons for starting a (full) investigation on the basis of allegations in the media that a Norwegian-owned company.

Indonesia's Prabowo will stick to approved 2025 budget spending, aide says

Monitoring Desk

JAKARTA: Indonesia's President-elect Prabowo Subianto will keep to budget spending levels already approved for 2025, a senior member of his incoming administration told Reuters, after worries about the leader's fiscal prudence unsettled investors.

The approved plans can fund two key election pledges, boosting food output and free school meals, "within principles of fiscal prudence," said Thomas Djwandono, who was appointed deputy finance minister in July to oversee the 2025 budget.

"If there is a concern

that the budget will be changed because Mr. Prabowo needs more funds, that is not true," Djwandono, who is Prabowo's nephew, said in an interview.

"It was designed precisely in order to enable him to push forward within that deficit (target)." Passed by parliament last week, the 2025 budget provides for spending of 3,621 trillion rupiah (\$239 billion), which represents an increase of 6% over this year. The budget deficit is forecast at 2.53% of GDP, down from an estimated 2.70% in 2024 and comfortably below a limit of 3% legislated in Southeast Asia's largest economy.

US to provide another \$424 million in Sudan aid

Monitoring Desk

UNITED NATIONS: The United States will give a further \$424 million in humanitarian help to the people of Sudan, US Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield announced on Wednesday.

War erupted in mid-April last year from a power struggle between the Sudanese army (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces ahead of a planned transition to civilian rule.

China's PLA conducts rare publicized test launch of intercontinental ballistic missile

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: China said on Wednesday it had successfully conducted a rare launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile into the Pacific Ocean, a move likely to raise international concerns about the country's nuclear build-up. The ICBM, carrying a dummy warhead, was launched by the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force at 8:44 am Beijing time (0044 GMT) on Wednesday and "fell into expected sea areas," the Chinese defence ministry said in a statement.

Ukraine's Zelenskyy tells UN Russia must be forced into peace

Monitoring Desk

UNITED NATIONS: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday that the war between Russia and Ukraine cannot be calmed by talks alone, but that Moscow must be forced into peace.

Zelenskyy said the war would end one day but not because "someone got tired of the war" or through a trade with Russian President Vladimir Putin, a re-

ference to proposals that Ukraine cede some territory seized by Russia to settle the conflict. "This war can't be calmed by talks. Action is needed," Zelenskyy said, thanking nations who have provided Ukraine support.

"Putin has broken so many international norms and rules that he won't stop on his own, Russia can only be forced into peace, and that is exactly what's needed, forcing Russia into peace, as the sole violator of the U.N. Charter," Zelenskyy said. Zelenskyy took aim at North Korea and Iran for providing arms to Russia for the war, calling them "de facto accomplices" of Moscow.

Iran's Pezeshkian says Tehran ready to work with world powers to resolve nuclear standoff

Monitoring Desk

UNITED NATIONS: Iran is ready to end its nuclear standoff with the West, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian told the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday, while calling for an end to Russia's war in Ukraine through dialogue.

Iran's clerical establishment hopes to see an easing of US sanctions that have crippled the country's economy.

"We are ready to engage with participants of the 2015 nuclear deal. If the deal's commitments are implemented fully and in good faith, dialogue on other issues can follow," Pezeshkian said.

The President Donald Trump abandoned the 2015 nuclear pact between Tehran and six world powers in 2018 and reimposed tough sanctions on Iran. Efforts to revive the

pact have failed. The 2015 deal, which then-President Donald Trump abandoned in 2018, had capped Iran's uranium enrichment at 3.67% purity and its stockpile of this material at 202.8 kg (447 pounds) — limits Tehran has since far exceeded.

For Britain, France and Germany, who remain party to the nuclear deal, there is a sense that Tehran's leadership will not change course and that a broader accord encompassing the nuclear programme and Iran's geopolitical role is unrealistic for now.

The United States, its European allies and Israel accuse Tehran of using its nuclear programme as a veil for efforts to try to develop the capability to produce weapons.

Iran says its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only.

Sri Lanka's new leader must balance ties between regional powerhouses India and China

Monitoring Desk

COLOMBO: The Marxist lawmaker who won Sri Lanka's presidency faces a key challenge in how to balance ties with his country's two most crucial partners, India and China, as he seeks to draw foreign investment and pull the economy out of the doldrums.

Anura Kumara Dissanayake, 55, won the weekend election in an extraordinary political upset against an old political guard that voters blame for tipping the country into its worst economic crisis two years ago. Dissanayake must now deliver on promises to improve Sri Lankans' lives, clean up government and ease austerity measures imposed by international lenders.

But looking beyond Sri Lanka's borders, he also must navigate the rivalry between regional powerhouses India, the country's next-door neighbor, and China, which Dissanayake's party traditionally has leaned toward. Located on one of the

world's busiest shipping routes, Sri Lanka has long been eyed by the two regional rivals. Sri Lanka governments have swung between the two camps, and New Delhi and Beijing have intensively jockeyed for influence in the island nation of 22 million.

"Dissanayake will try to keep both India and China at an equal distance" but his ability to balance them is likely to be tested in the coming weeks, said Veeragathy Thanabalasingham, a Colombo-based political analyst. "It's going to be a tightrope walk," he added.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping both congratulated Dissanayake soon after he won. The victory was by the National People's Power coalition led by Dissanayake's People's Liberation Front — also known as Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, or JVP — which considers itself Marxist, though it now expresses support for a free market economy.

Japan asks China to ensure the safety of Japanese citizens after a schoolboy was fatally stabbed

Monitoring Desk

TOKYO: Japan's top diplomat asked China to ensure the safety of Japanese citizens there after the fatal stabbing of a Japanese schoolboy, and demanded a crackdown on what she called "groundless, malicious and anti-Japanese" social media posts that threaten children's safety.

China's Foreign Ministry said the attack was an isolated case and urged Japan to react calmly. Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa asked her Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, to conduct a full investigation into the stabbing and provide a clear explanation to Japan about what happened, and to punish the suspect and implement preventive measures for the future. Kamikawa said Beijing should take concrete steps to ensure safety of Japanese residents, especially children, in China, according to Japan's Foreign Ministry. The two ministers met in New York on Monday on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meeting.

The 10-year-old boy was stabbed on Sept. 18 near the gate of the Shenzhen Japanese School.

The attacker, identified as a 44-year-old man, was arrested on the spot and is being investigated, according to Chinese officials. No motive for the attack was immediately clear.

Trump listens during a farming event in rural Pennsylvania, then threatens John Deere with tariffs. Kamikawa has said the attack occurred despite Tokyo's request to Beijing for increased security for Japanese citizens and around Japanese schools ahead of the Sept. 18 anniversary of the Mukden Incident in 1931, which China marks as the beginning of the Japanese invasion of Manchuria, now northeast China. On June 24, a knife attack at a school bus stop for a Japanese school in the southeastern city of Suzhou killed a Chinese national who was trying to stop the attacker and injured a Japanese mother and her child.

Earlier in June, a Chinese man stabbed four U.S. university instructors at a public park in Jilin in the northeast and a Chinese person who tried to intervene. The four instructors from Cornell College were teaching at Beihua University.

Security high as India-held Kashmir votes in round two of regional polls

Monitoring Desk

GANDERBAL: India-occupied Kashmir voted on Wednesday to elect its first government since New Delhi scrapped the Himalayan territory's semi-autonomous status, sparking widespread protest in a region wracked by a decades-long insurgency.

The change in 2019 by Hindu-nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought the Muslim-majority territory under New Delhi's direct control and was accompanied by mass arrests and a long communications blackout.

Since then the territory has been without an elected government, ruled instead by a federally appointed governor.

Soldiers carrying rifles

stood watch outside polling stations in main city Srinagar on Wednesday morning as dozens of voters queued in the sun.

"We want to have a representative who will take our grievances forward," said Abdul Rahim, 52, after casting his vote.

He added, "Our children are locked up and we are suffering. They (the government) abrogated Article 370 (which granted Kashmir its special status) so we don't have any representatives who can question their moves."

More than 24 per cent of voters had cast their ballots between 7 am (0130 GMT) when the polls opened, and 11 am, the region's chief electoral officer said.



Job seekers speak to recruiters during their interviews at a job fair in Chongqing municipality.

Pak, Turkiye agree to strengthen economic, security cooperation

PM Shehbaz felicitates Erdogan on fiery Palestine-focused UNGA speech; IMF deal in final stages

NEW YORK (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan wherein two sides agreed to further strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation in trade, investment, defence, and security domains.

In the meeting held on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly here, the two leaders discussed bilateral matters, regional and global developments, according to a PM Office press release.

They assessed preparations for the upcoming 7th session of Pakistan-Turkiye High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) to be held in Islamabad in the near future. The two leaders also discussed regional and global developments, especially the ongoing genocide and the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza. They called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza and end of hostilities.

Prime Minister Shehbaz appreciated Turkiye's firm and consistent support for the op-

pressed people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

President Erdogan expressed his admiration for Prime Minister Shehbaz's economic policies, which had played a crucial role in stabilizing Pakistan's economy and commended his leadership and commitment to economic reforms.

Furthermore, he also extended his heartfelt birthday wishes to the prime minister who celebrated his 73rd Birthday this week.

Prime Minister Shehbaz congratulated President Erdogan on his passionate address to the 79th session of the UN General Assembly that centred on the Palestinian crisis. "The way the Turkish president highlighted the issue touched the hearts of all those listening to him in the Assembly hall," he told reporters after the meeting. In his emotional address, Erdogan said that the values of the United Nations' system and the Western world were dying in Gaza as the conflict continued there, calling for an "alliance of humanity" to stop

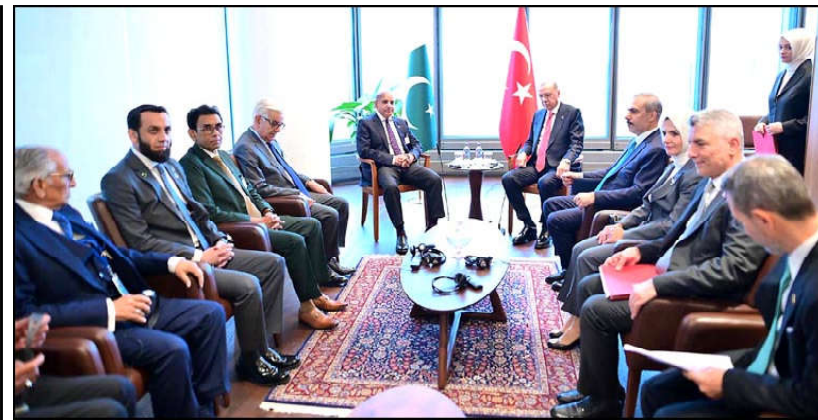
Israel's aggression.

The Turkish leader strongly criticized Israel over its military campaign in the Gaza Strip and on the Western countries for their support to Israel.

"Along with children in Gaza, the United Nations system is also dying, the truth is dying, the values that the West claims to defend are dying, the hopes of humanity to live in a fairer world are dying one by one," Erdogan added.

Commenting on the country's economic situation, Prime Minister Shehbaz told the media that agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was in the final stages of approval as Pakistan had accepted all its conditions - some of them quite tough.

In this regard, he profusely thanked China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, saying without their support this would not have been possible. The premier said his government had accepted the economic challenge to the country and now, with collective efforts of the government and all institutions,



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meet with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the sidelines of the 79th United Nations General Assembly Session.

BRI, CPECP projects to benefit China and Pakistan equally: Aleem Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan Wednesday said that projects initiated under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project (CPECP) will benefit both Pakistan and China, equally.

Addressing the opening session of the Global Sustainable Transport Forum 2024, which was held in Beijing China, the minister observed that trade corridors of CPEC with the support of China are the guarantor of our strong infrastructure and better transport system.

He further said that our safe future lies in green energy and clean technology and we have to integrate our ports and highways keeping in mind the future requirements.

Aleem Khan, in his address at the two-day Global Sustainable Transport Forum clarified that the improvement of the communication system not only

promotes the economy but also the culture and society while the economic improvement of transportation, employment provision and national development agenda are the impetus.

He said that Pakistan is a supporter of the promotion of Public-Private Partnership and green technology through bilateral cooperation with China.

Aleem Khan pointed out that after the Corona epidemic 2019, along with other changes global logistics have also been modified which took new dimension and integrated improvements in transport sectors through E-Commerce and digital methods.

He said that there is no doubt that Pakistan is facing major challenges of urban population growth and environmental degradation and we need to increase our resources.

The safety of the citizens must also be taken into consideration for the improvement of transportation system, he added.

He specially thanked China's Transport Ministers Li Xiaopeng and appreciated the holding of this Forum which will provide the delegates of the participating countries with opportunities to benefit from each other's experiences and to collaborate in future.

Deputy Prime Ministers of Nepal and Thailand also participated and addressed the Forum. This two-day Forum is hosted by the Minister of Transport of China, Li Xiaopeng who in his address expressed special thanks to Pakistan and assured further increase in the development of mutual cooperation and bilateral relations in all fields.

Meanwhile, addressing the Global Governance Session in Beijing, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that Pakistan is on the threshold of the second phase of CPEC as well as speedy work on the 5 "Es" of Economic Zones, Export, Energy, Equity and Environment has also been launched.

Culture of depriving women from property should end: CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Wednesday ordered to immediately transfer the inherited property to a widow in a case of property dispute.

During the hearing of the case of transfer of inherited property in the Supreme Court, the court ordered the widow Shamim Akhtar to transfer the inherited property immediately.

The SC also imposed a fine worth Rs500,000 on the opposing parties for perjury and bogus litigation, which has to be paid within three months.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa said that if the fine is not paid, the revenue department will recover the amount from the property of the respondents. He said that the

simple case of inheritance has been made complicated, the culture of depriving women of inheritance should come to an end.

He said that action should be taken against the parties for giving bogus and fake testimonies. The CJP noted that the trial has been going on for 26 years.

The CJP said that he wants the parties not to commit any more sin by depriving the widow from her right. Whoever wants support, he said.

The CJP said that lawyers should also not take such false cases.

It should be noted that Shamim Akhtar's husband Mehrban died in 1998. Mehrban's second wife Aksar Jan's nephews claimed that the property had been gifted.



NEW YORK: Chief Advisor (Head of Government) of the Interim Government of Bangladesh Dr. Muhammad Yunus receives Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the reception to commemorate 50th Anniversary of Bangladesh's membership in the United Nations.

Syedaal discusses power projects in Balochistan with secretary Power Division

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman of the Senate, Syedaal Khan, met with Power Division Secretary Fakhar Alam Irfan on Wednesday to discuss the ongoing power projects in Balochistan. During the meeting, Fakhar Alam briefed the Deputy Chairman on the measures being taken to ensure a stable electricity supply in Balochistan, a province often overlooked in terms of infrastructure development.

He explained that efforts are underway to provide electricity to remote areas of the province, in line with the Prime Minister's directives to enhance the power supply.

He further mentioned that improving transmission lines will help address

some of the region's existing challenges.

Deputy Chairman Syedaal Khan emphasized the importance of agriculture in Balochistan and commended Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's solar scheme, which is specifically designed to support the province's farmers.

He also noted the Prime Minister's strong commitment to the development and prosperity of Balochistan, highlighting that, under the guidance of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, electricity tariffs have been reduced to ease the burden on the people. Additionally, efforts are being made to increase electricity production and minimize load shedding across the country.



QUETTA: Senator Shakoor Khan Achakzai meeting with acting DG NADRA Balochistan Fayyazur Rehman

Pakistan, China sign five agreements on disaster prevention

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and China have signed five agreements to strengthen cooperation in disaster prevention under the China-Pakistan Belt and Road Joint Laboratory on Smart Disaster Prevention of Major Infrastructures. The agreements were signed between Southeast University of China and five Pakistani institutions including Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), National University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi, University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, and University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Peshawar.

21st ASRB meeting at UoT focuses on evaluation reports and PhD synopses

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Turbat (UoT), Prof. Dr. Jan Muhammad reiterated the university's commitment to promote a vibrant research culture in the university.

He expressed these remarks while presiding over the 21st meeting of the Advanced Studies & Research Board (ASRB) in the video conference room at

UoT. He emphasized that MPhil and PhD programs, research proposals, and theses should meet international standards.

Dr. Jan Muhammad urged faculty and research scholars to conduct research on topics that contribute to the socio-economic development and prosperity of the region and the nation.



QUETTA: Chairman PkMAP and Chief of Tahafuz Aain Pakistan Mehmood Khan Achakzai photographed with journalists



BEIJING: Federal Minister for Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan addressing during the opening session of Global Transport Forum 2024, in Beijing.

Ahsan Iqbal vows to eliminate terrorism as PML-N did in past

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday demonstrated great commitment to purging the country of extremist and terrorist elements, as the PML-N government had successfully done in the past.

"As a result of a lack of continuity in policies, we saw the reemergence of these networks [of terrorism]. . . The policy [during the PTI tenure] adopted of taking back some elements from Afghanistan has again posed a challenge, but now the PML-N government is determined to fight, defeat and eliminate them like we did before," he said.

The minister expressed these views while speaking at the inaugural

session of a daylong international conference on "Countering Terrorism in Pakistan: Progress and the Path Forward," organized by Bahria University in collaboration with the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS) here.

Addressing the conference participants, the minister said the fight against terrorism was far from over, as several key challenges continued to impede the national path to peace and stability.

"Terrorism is no longer confined to insurgencies or large militant groups. The rise of lone wolf attacks, along with cyber radicalization and the use of social media for extremist recruitment, have transformed the landscape," he said.

Pakistan, Bangladesh agree to expand bilateral ties

NEW YORK (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attended a ceremony to mark 50 years of Bangladesh's membership of the United Nations on the invitation of its Chief Advisor Dr Muhammad Yunus.

Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar, Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi accompanied the prime minister. Dr Muhammad Younis warmly welcomed Prime Minister Shehbaz and members of his delegation at the ceremony held on Tuesday night on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.



SOHBATPUR: Provincial Minister for Communication and Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa inspecting under construction road from Sohbatpur to Kashmir

Chairman PYP calls on Governor: PM taking special interest in development of Balochistan, maintains Jaffar Mandokhail

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has been taking special interest in development of the province from the day one.

He said that the Prime Minister Youth Programme is a comprehensive platform which provides necessary opportunities to the talented youngsters who brightened the name of country at the international level besides polishing their hidden capabilities and making digital information technology compatible.

The Governor was speaking to the delegation who called on him under leadership of the Chairman Prime Minister Youth Programme, Rana Mashhud

Ahmed Khan here at the Governor House on Wednesday!

The Governor on the occasion stressed the need to learn modern skills to the youth of province in view of the economic and trade challenges in the region.

In this regard, the present government is well aware of the importance and benefits of imparting quality education and learning skills to youth of the province.

The Governor said that the skills development programme is giving equal importance to the education and modern skills by imparting professional and technical training to the youth, he added.

He said that there would be positive results of the E-commerce and digital entrepreneurship.

Health Minister condemns attack on police mobile

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar has strongly condemned the attack on police mobile in the Eastern bypass area of Quetta.

In a condemnation issued here on Wednesday, the Minister Health expressed grief and sorrow over the incident and injuries caused to the people in it.

Bakht Muhammad Kakar said that the whole nation is standing by the police and other law enforcement agencies against terrorism. He paid rich tributes to the personnels of law enforcement agencies and said that the sacrifices of law enforcers would always be remembered. He stressed the need to take stern action against those involved in terrorism. He extended his wholehearted support to police for establishing peace in the province.

Mother, son shot dead in Quetta

QUETTA (INP): Armed men gunned down two people including mother and son and escaped the scene of crime here on Wednesday, police said.

According to details, the incident took place in Barori Sabzal Road area of Quetta culprits shot death mother and son.

The assassins fled the scene after committing dual murder.

The bodies were shifted to hospital where they were handed over to heirs after legal formalities.

Police said that a case has been registered into the incidents and raids were being conducted to arrest the culprits.



QUETTA: MD WASA Hamid Latif Rana meeting with Provincial Minister for PHE Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran

Israeli military aggression needs to be curbed immediately: Samina

QUETTA: Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, has expressed her deep anger and grief over the martyrdom of hundreds of civilians in the bombing and missile attacks by Israel on the cities of Lebanon.

In her condemnation statement, she said that in the past few days, Israel has carried out hundreds of aerial attacks on various cities including the Lebanese capital Beirut in the last two days, in which hundreds of innocent people including children and women were martyred while thousands

were injured. This barbaric action by Israel will increase the already ongoing tension in the region. With this action of Israel, the risk of a big war has increased even more. We condemn in the strongest terms. She said this act of aggression against Lebanon is a serious violation of the UN Charter and international laws. The Israeli action is dangerous, further jeopardizing peace and security in an already volatile region. Pakistan reiterates its full support for Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity and the entire Pakistani nation stands in solidarity with the people of Lebanon.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Food Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar and Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Sadiq Umrani holding a meeting

Mir Ali Hassan Zehri says Sacrifices of Pak Army for homeland are eternal

HUB: Senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party, Spokesperson of President Asif Ali Zardari and Provincial Advisor for Industry and Crafts Mir Ali Hassan Zehri has said that the armed forces of Pakistan are protecting the country's borders fearlessly by sacrificing their lives. The armed forces have not only protected the country's borders well, but have given countless sacrifices while fully fighting the terrorism imposed in the country. Paying tribute, he said that the Pakistan Army has played its full role in every difficult time,

whether it is the determination of the war against terrorism or the protection of the country's borders.

He said that the role of the army in Pakistan has always been at the forefront. It is like a wall through which national security cannot be attacked.

He said that Pakistan's armed forces are protecting the country's borders without fear or danger and Pakistan Army has only one goal and that is the security and integrity of Pakistan and for this purpose, the sacrifices of Pakistan Army for the motherland are not hidden from anyone.

Abbasi says: All the politics, matters are running beyond ambit of constitution

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Prime Minister (PM) and head of Awam Pakistan Party (APP) Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said all the politics and matters are running beyond ambit of constitution at present.

Non contesting the election 2024 was a very difficult decision in the face of my 35 years companionship with the people of the constituency. I did not want to become part of corrupt system. My relationship with Nawaz Sharif is very old which is very dear to me. There are some responsibilities in the politics which are above the personal interests.

Nawaz likely to visit France next month

PARIS (INP): Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) President, Nawaz Sharif was likely to visit some European countries during October. According to party sources, Nawaz Sharif was expected to attend Europe Convention of the party to be held in France next month. PML-N France leader, Sardar Zahoof Iqbal and others had already extended invitations of the party's president few months earlier.

Pakistan, Turkmenistan to sign MoU for Gwadar port access under CPEC

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and Turkmenistan are set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that would grant Turkmenistan access to Gwadar Port under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework. This agreement, facilitated by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), would make Turkmenistan the first Central Asian country to gain such access through CPEC.

The primary objective of this accord is to establish regional and international cooperation for the movement of goods and containers, leveraging the potential capabilities of both nations' ports. This development aligns with ongoing collaborative projects between Pakistan and Turkmenistan, including the TAPI pipeline, railway track, and fiber connectivity initiatives, aimed at linking South and Central Asia.