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Terrorists are cowardly, devoid of humanity, belonging to no religion, tribe, or nation: CM

QUETTA (APP): Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Sunday condemned the brutal killing of innocent laborers in the Khuda-i-Abadaan Abdul Rehman area of Panjur, calling it the ghastly of terrorism. In a statement issued here, the Chief Minister of Balochistan said that once again, the blood of innocent, hardworking Pakistanis has been spilled on the soil of Balochistan, leaving every eye filled with tears. He said terrorists are cowardly and devoid of humanity, belonging to no religion, tribe, or nation. In clear terms, they are simply terrorists, and they will be held accountable for the murder of these innocents in both this world and the hereafter. The Chief Minister added that this heinous act of terrorism is unforgivable and deserving of strong condemnation. Once again, terrorists in Balochistan have attacked poor Pakistani laborers, violating both Balochi and Islamic traditions. CM Bugti reiterating government resolve against terrorism said these terrorists cannot hide forever; they will be hunted down and made to account for the killings of innocent Pakistanis, and they will find no place to hide. Expressing his condolences and sorrow to the families of the martyred laborers, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that in this time of grief, every individual in Balochistan is sad and shares in the pain of the bereaved families. "The killing of these guests, who had come to the remote areas of Balochistan for work, is a moment of deep concern for every Balochistani, he further added.



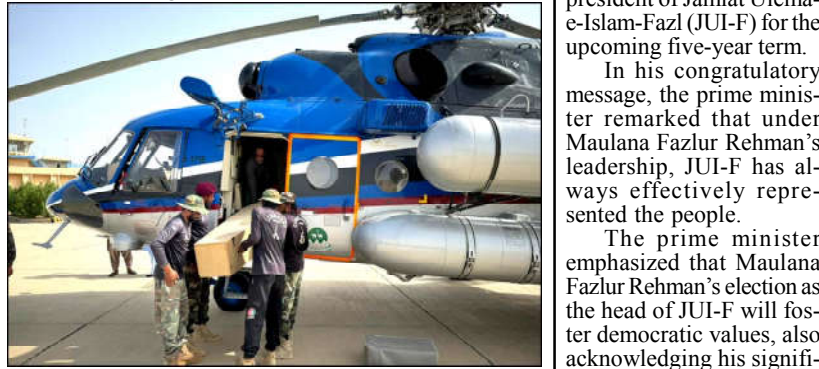
ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari in a group photo with Balochistan Minister for Irrigation Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani and Advisor Trade and Industry Mir Ali Hasan Zehri.

Governor condemns killing of seven labourers: No one would be allowed to destroy peaceful situation of Balochistan: Jaffar Mandokhail

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has strongly condemned the incident of firing occurred in Panjur that claimed lives of seven innocent labourers and left one other injured. In a condemnation statement issued here on Sunday, the Governor expressed deep grief and sorrow over loss of lives of labourers in the firing incident. The Governor said that we would not let anyone spoil peace in the province. He also expressed sympathy and condolence with the bereaved families of the deceased labourers. He said that we share the grief and sorrow with the bereaved families. Meanwhile, the Governor directed to provide best medical treatment to the injured labourer and prayed for his early recovery.

Bodies of seven deceased labourers dispatched to Multan by helicopter

Independent Report QUETTA: The bodies of ill-fated seven labourers were dispatched to the native area i.e., Multan on Sunday morning. According to the district administration of Panjur, the bodies were dispatched by special helicopter from Panjur to Multan. Earlier, the bodies were shifted to the Panjur airport by ambulances from the Teaching Hospital Panjur the same morning.



It may be mentioned here that seven labourers were gunned down by unknown armed assailants in a house located in Khudabadan area of Panjur. The labourers were residing in the house for some time and settled in Panjur for labour work of the houses in its different areas, the police sources informed. The armed assailants barged into the house and opened an indiscriminate firing targeting the labourers. As a result seven of eight died on the spot while another got injured. The injured labourer was shifted to the hospital.

Pakistan hits back at India for accusing Islamabad of cross-border terrorism at UNGA

UNITED NATIONS (APP): A Pakistani diplomat hit back at the Indian External Affairs Minister's speech in the UN General Assembly on Saturday that depicted Pakistan as a promoter of terrorism, saying it was well documented that India was not only committing state terrorism in occupied Kashmir but also abroad. "It is most ironic that India, which is committing the worst form of state terrorism in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir while also actively engaging in sponsoring terrorism abroad, is portraying itself as the victim," Pakistani diplomat Muhammad Faheem told the 193-member Assembly. Earlier in the day, S. Jaishankar, the Indian minister, protested against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif raising the Kashmir dispute in the General Assembly and went on to accuse Islamabad of pursuing a policy of cross-border terrorism. "It is a familiar ploy of all occupiers and colonizers to paint legitimate struggles for freedom and liberation as terrorism. India is failing to grasp the enormity of the indigenous Kashmiri resistance against its stranglehold and wrongly blaming it on cross-border terrorism," Faheem, a third secretary at Continued on page 2

PM greets Fazal on unopposed election as JUI-F chief

LONDON (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif on Sunday extended his congratulations to Maulana Fazlur Rehman on his unanimous and unopposed election as president of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) for the upcoming five-year term. In his congratulatory message, the prime minister remarked that under Maulana Fazlur Rehman's leadership, JUI-F has always effectively represented the people. The prime minister emphasized that Maulana Fazlur Rehman's election as the head of JUI-F will foster democratic values, also acknowledging his significant role in reinforcing the supremacy of Parliament in the country. The prime minister expressed confidence that Maulana Fazlur Rehman's leadership and vision would undoubtedly elevate Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) to new heights.

New DG ISI to assume office today

ISLAMABAD (Online): The newly appointed head of the National Security Agency, Lt. Gen. Muhammad Asim Malik will assume his duties today, Monday. Few days ago, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had appointed Lt. Gen. Asim Malik as DG ISI. He is set to assume his new role on Monday, Lt Gen Muhammad Asim Malik will be succeeding Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum. Lt Gen Asim Malik, HI (M) is currently serving as Adjutant General at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi. He has previously commanded an infantry division in Balochistan and an infantry brigade in Waziristan.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb addressing a press conference at PTV Headquarter.

DNA overhaul must to foster sustainable economic growth: Finance Minister

Govt committed to implement structural reforms in all sectors; Number of tax filers doubled compared to last year; Emphasises on penalties for non-filers, such as difficulties in withdrawing and depositing money.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Re-affirming the government's resolve to implementing homegrown structural reforms, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Sunday emphasized the crucial need to bring fundamental changes in the DNA of country's economy, leading to an export-driven model, thereby fostering sustainable growth. The minister said the macroeconomic stability has continued during the first quarter of the current fiscal year, however it needed permanence to lead to sustainable growth. "Macroeconomic stability is not an end in itself, it is a means to an end," he remarked. Hence, bringing structural reforms was not only a requirement by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), but Pakistan needed it. He said, Pakistan was in defining moment, because it is going to determine the direction of the journey, and "we are very clear, about the direction of journey." For homegrown economic growth, Continued on page 2



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren.

Speaker BA condemns Panjur tragedy: We wouldn't tolerate such barbarism in our province; terrorists to be brought in court of justice

Independent Report QUETTA: The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai has strongly condemned the brutal killing of innocent labourers in Panjur. In a condemnation statement issued here on Sunday, the Speaker said that he strongly condemns the cowardly act in which precious lives were lost and families devastated. The Speaker stressed that the terrorists should be brought in the court of justice. He asserted that we wouldn't tolerate such barbarism in our province. He said that the terrorists don't deserve to be called Muslims and they would have to be answerable in this world and hereafter. The Speaker said that the provincial assembly expresses solidarity with the bereaved families of the labourers lost lives in the brutal incident of firing. He also expressed heartfelt condolence with the bereaved families and prayed for the departed souls.

KPK CM's march on Islamabad, Punjab aims to repeat May 9 mayhem: Atta Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday said Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur had made his intention clear to create another May 9 like chaos in the country by announcing his plans to march on Islamabad and Punjab by force. The minister, in a news statement, condemned the alleged remarks made by the KPK CM about use of force in the protests, calling it an admission of his own failure to govern the province effectively. "The Chief Minister's threat of firing bullets for a bloodshed is a clear manifestation that he is incapable of running the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government. His threats to march on Islamabad and Punjab with force are nothing but an attempt to repeat the May 9." Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Maulana Abdul Haq Hashmi, Hafiz Noor Ali, Abdul Wali Shakir, Maulana Abdul Kabir Shakir, Abdul Majeed Sarbazi leading a protest organized by JI Balochistan against inflation taxes

Fake parliament lacks mandate for constitutional amendment: Fazal

JUI-F general council re-elects Maulana Fazl as party's chief; Abdul Ghaffoor Haideri as secretary-general for five years

PESHAWAR (INP): After being re-elected as the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief for five years, Maulana Fazlur Rehman has slammed the incumbent government, saying that the "fake parliament" lacks a real mandate for a major constitutional amendment. "We want a fresh [general] election," Fazl said while addressing a press conference after the conclusion of the party's intra-party poll in Peshawar on Sunday. "This parliament does not deserve this huge constitutional amendment." The government pushed the proposed constitutional package amid speculation about a potential extension in the tenure of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, who is set to retire in October this year, following the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) request last month for the early issuance of a notification regarding the appointment of the next top judge. The ruling coalition left no stone unturned to woo Fazl, with leaderships of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) holding a flurry of meetings with the cleric, but to no avail. Detailing ongoing consultations with the PPP and the major opposition party — PTI, he said that the JUI-F and the said parties would share their draft amendments. The cleric stressed that such amendments should be Continued on page 2



Amir JUI Maulana Fazlur Rehman addressing a Press conference.

Would give gift of modern Institute of Cardiology to people of Balochistan in new year, announces CM

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has expressed deep concern about extraordinary increase in number of patients suffering from heart diseases in the country and said that healthy heart is guarantor of good health. In a message issued on the World Heart Day observed on Sunday, 29th September, the Chief Minister said that a modern institution of heart diseases is being established in Balochistan. He said that the Balochistan Institute of Cardiology (BIC) would be an exemplary healthcare institution of the province. He said that work on the project is in progress at fast pace, and we would give gift of the modern institution to the people of province in new year. However, prior to this, modern health facilities of cardiac diseases are also being provided in the Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Cardiac Hospital. In end of his message, the Chief Minister stressed that every citizen would have to adopt healthy routine for prevention of the increasing rate of cardiac diseases.

Sardar Yar Muhammad Rind expresses disappointment over parliamentary politics

Independent Report QUETTA: The senior politician and former Federal Minister, Sardar Yar Muhammad Rind has expressed disappointment over the parliamentary politics saying that those speaking of democracy, peace and brotherhood like him have been disappointed with parliamentary politics. He said that has always talked of democracy and brotherhood and it has been his endeavour that there is improvement in the circumstances of Balochistan. He said that he is disappointed over what's happening in the country and Balochistan. We kept on waging democratic struggle in peaceful manner, but it yielded no outcome. He said that those sitting in the government are just seasonal birds. He alleged that we are being threatened, but we are neither afraid of them nor Continued on page 2

Every bullet, shell, baton to be responded: CM Gandapur

PESHAWAR (INP): Commenting on the incidents of clashes between Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers and police in Rawalpindi a day ago, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur said his party would reply to every bullet, shell and baton that would be used against its supporters. In a statement on Sunday, the firebrand PTI leader claimed bullets were fired on three of their workers and whereabouts of one of them could not be traced. "More than 50 PTI workers have been injured in shelling as shells and bullets were fired every three kilometres on us," he said.

Pakistan slams Israel's growing adventurism in Middle East

ISLAMABAD (Online) Pakistan on Sunday condemned Israeli "adventurism" in the Middle East region, terming the killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Lebanon a "reckless act", constituting a major escalation in the region.

Lebanon's Hezbollah had on Saturday confirmed that its leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was killed and vowed to continue the battle against Israel.

Tel Aviv said it conducted an airstrike in Beirut's southern suburbs a day earlier in what would be a devastating blow to the group as it reels from an escalating campaign of Israeli attacks.

A statement released by the Foreign Office today read, "Pakistan strongly condemns the growing Israeli adventurism in the Middle East. Its unbridled attacks on civilian populations and disregard of international law have reached alarming levels."

It noted that for the past several days, Israel had "engaged in unacceptable violation of the sovereignty of Lebanon, relentlessly targeting civilian population centers, and undermining its stability and security."

"We extend our deepest condolences to the families of the victims of Israeli aggression and the people of Lebanon," the statement said.

"Pakistan continues to stand in solidarity with the people of Lebanon," it added, urging the United Nations Security Council to stop Israel from its "adventurism in the region and violations of international law."

Nasrallah's death marks a major blow not only to

Hezbollah but also to its alleged backers in Iran. He was a leading figure in the Tehran-backed "Axis of Resistance", helping to project Iranian influence across the Middle East.

Lebanese health authorities confirmed six dead and 91 wounded in the initial attack on Friday — the fourth on Beirut's Hezbollah-controlled southern suburbs in a week and the heaviest since a 2006 war.

More than 700 people were killed in strikes over the past week, authorities said.

Meanwhile, Israel's five hours of continuous strikes on Beirut early on Saturday followed Friday's attack, by far the most powerful by Israel on the city during the conflict with Hezbollah that has played out in parallel to the Gaza conflict for nearly a year.

4.5-Magnitude earthquake felt in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Earthquake of 4.5-magnitude were felt on Sunday in Kalat district and adjacent areas of Balochistan.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department, the earthquake, recorded at a depth of 25 kilometers, had its epicenter located approximately 13 kilometers south of Kalat, reported private news channel.

While the seismic activity caused alarm, there were no reports of casualties or significant property damage in Kalat or surrounding areas, officials confirmed.



KARACHI: Police fires teargas shell to disperse to stop activists of Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimin from reaching the U.S. Consulate during an anti-Israel protest in the Provincial Capital.

Mohsin Naqvi lauds China's role in Pakistan's economic growth

ISLAMABAD (Online): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said that CPEC projects have taken Pakistan-China friendship to new heights.

He stated this during meeting with Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren in Lahore on Sunday.

During the meeting, Interior Minister felicitated him on Chinese National Day. They discussed matters of mutual interest and ways to boost bilateral ties.

Mohsin Naqvi said that under President Xi Jinping's leadership, China has crossed new milestones of progress.

He said that China is

Protests erupt across country following Hezbollah chief Nasrallah's death

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Thousands of people protested in Pakistan cities on Sunday after Hezbollah confirmed that its longtime chief had been killed by an Israeli air strike in Lebanon. Around 4,000 people gathered in Islamabad and 3,000 thousand in Karachi during rallies and funeral prayers for Nasrallah.

Hezbollah said on Saturday that Hassan Nasrallah was killed in the strike on Beirut's southern suburbs a day earlier, dealing a massive blow to the group he had led for decades.

"We stand against what Israel is doing in Palestine and Lebanon, this is why we are here today," 27-year-old Taskeen Zafar said during the rally in Islamabad.

The killing of Nasrallah marked a sharp escalation in nearly a year of cross-border fire between Hezbollah and Israel, and risks plunging the wider region into war.

"Pakistan strongly condemns the growing Israeli adventurism in the Middle East," Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement on Sunday.

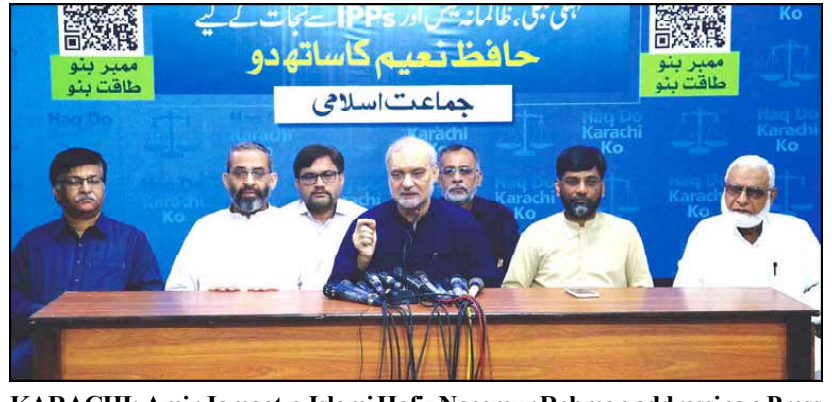
"Yesterday's reckless act of killing the Secretary General of Hezbollah in Lebanon constitutes a major escalation in an already volatile region."

Hezbollah began low-intensity cross-border strikes on Israeli troops a day after its Palestinian ally Hamas staged an unprecedented attack on Israel on October 7.

Nearly a year later, Israel announced a shift in focus to battling Hezbollah on its northern front.

Hamas's October 7 attack resulted in the deaths of 1,205 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures that include hostages killed in captivity.

Israel's retaliatory military offensive has killed at least 41,595 people in Gaza, most of them civilians, according to figures from Gaza health ministry. The UN has described the figures as reliable.



KARACHI: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naemur Rehman addressing a Press conference

Muhammad Yusuf resigns from Pakistan cricket team selection committee

LAHORE (INP): Muhammad Yusuf, a member of the Pakistan national cricket team's selection committee, has officially resigned from his post.

Citing personal reasons, Yusuf submitted his resignation, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to serve Pakistan cricket.

In his statement, Yusuf said, "It was a matter of pride to serve the Pakistan team, and I am proud to have contributed to its success." He expressed confidence in the talent and dedication of the players, wishing the team continued success in their future endeavors.

Fake parliament lacks mandate...

brought forward which provides relief to the masses and strengthen democracy without compromising the sovereignty of parliament. "Judicial reforms should not be individual-centric."

The politico, who led the previous multi-party alliance — Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) — that successfully ousted former prime minister Imran Khan from office in April 2022, criticised the government for disallowing the Imran-founded party to hold public gatherings and called it an undemocratic step.

He added that the PTI should be given permission to hold power shows.

However, he slammed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's threatening tone and termed it a "childish attitude".

He was referring to Gandapur's comment on recent clashes between PTI workers and the police during the Rawalpindi protest rally in which the KP chief executive threatened that his party would respond to every bullet, tear gas shell, and baton strike against its supporters.

First Punjab Premier League set to kick off in Gujranwala

ISLAMABAD (INP): The inaugural Punjab Premier League Cricket is set to take place from October 4 to 11 at the historic Jinnah Stadium in Gujranwala, featuring eight teams, including the Rawalpindi Markhor, led by Kamran Akmal.

With public entry free for all night matches, the league promises to showcase top cricketers talent, having conducted trials for 900 players to select 20 for each team based solely on performance.

Good cricketers will be available from this league because there is a lot of talent in Pakistan, trials of 900 players have been done for this league and 20, 20 players will be selected in each team, there is no recommendation in this league and only based on performance. But boys are being selected. Rawalpindi Markhor will be mentor and coach Hasan Raza and this league will be held every year for which a different city of Punjab will be selected, the ground of Gujranwala is the famous cricket ground of the past

Argentina goalkeeper Martinez banned for 'offensive behaviour'

PARIS (INP): Argentina's World Cup-winning goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez has been banned for two matches by FIFA for "offensive behaviour", the Argentine Football Association (AFA).

The 32-year-old Aston Villa star was also found guilty of "violating principles of fairplay" in two separate episodes.

Martinez was found to have violated FIFA's code of conduct when holding a replica of the Copa America trophy to his groin after the World Cup qualifier win over Chile on September 5.

It is not the first time Emiliano Martinez has performed such an action having also done it with the Golden Glove trophy for best goalkeeper after Argentina beat France on penalties in the 2022 World Cup final.



KHUZDAR: Deputy Commissioner Engr. Ayesha Zehri meeting with former Chief Minister Balochistan Nawab Sanaullah Zehri and Bibi Izbal Zehri

KPK CM's march on Islamabad...

Continued from page 1

He further criticized the KPK Chief Minister's transition from verbal abuse to hurling threats of violence, warning that this approach would only harm him, not anyone else.

"There is nothing democratic, political, or parliamentary about the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) provincial government's statements, actions, or conduct," the minister added.

Tarar lamented that the provincial leadership of PTI had never focused on competing with the center and Punjab in areas such as education, healthcare, employment, or economic improvement.

He urged that if PTI wanted to bring about a revolution, it should focus on transforming these sectors for the betterment of the people.

"Corruption and incompetence have reached their peak in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The real competition should have been in providing relief to electricity consumers, as the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz led governments has done in Islamabad and Punjab,"

Sardar Yar Muhammad Rind...

Continued from page 1

abandoned.

He said that it seems that the present government and policy making forces have decided not to leave democracy in the country.

He said that if it was attitude then no one would be part of the parliamentary politics in the country.

Sardar Yar Muhammad Rind said that it is time to save Pakistan and stop the bloodshed in Balochistan.

He asked the government to mend its way and change its policies. He announced to decide new course of action on November 4 by sitting with his tribe as what to do in future?

Sardar Yar Muhammad Rind on the occasion also advised to the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti to make decisions after deliberations and consciously.

Pakistan hits back at India...

Continued from page 1

The Pakistan Mission to the UN, said while exercising his right of reply.

"India must introspect, reflect, and immediately implement the Security Council resolutions that provide for the Kashmiris to exercise their right to self-determination," he said, and called for holding India accountable for its actions that violate international law.

Highlighting that India finances terrorism against Pakistan using its proxies, the Pakistani delegate said that New Delhi's campaign to damage and destroy Pakistan's economy was no secret, including by impeding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) through the sponsorship of terrorist groups such as the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and the Majeed Brigade.

"India is also supporting terrorism in the Balochistan province of Pakistan," he added.

"India's assassination campaign against its dissidents residing overseas has been exposed in Canada and the United States, while its leaders publicly boast of murdering their citizens abroad."

"India seeks expansion of territory through unilateral measures to consolidate its occupation of Jammu and Kashmir and crass threats to cross the Line of Control (LOC) to take over the liberated territory of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)," Faheem added.

DNA overhaul must to...

Continued from page 1

rate has also come down while Kibor also declined, which he said would have positive impact on industry. He said, large corporates were now borrowing at Kibor minus at around 15 to 16 percent.

The minister said the government rejected domestic borrowing on Treasury Bills and Pakistan Investment Bonds (PIBs). The purpose was to give a clear message that the fiscal situation has improved with all time high remittances on back and increase in exports.

It also made it clear that government was in no desperation to borrow and if it needed, it would do it on its own terms. Third message conveyed through this action was to encourage banking sector to lend to private sector, which have to lead the country.

On external front, he said, credit ratings have also gone forward and "we will continue this journey till we get into investment grade at least into B or B- ratings as we go forward". He said PSX was also setting new records and moving in right direction. The Minister said, in addition to institutional flows (debt or equity) foreign direct investment was also coming into the country citing example of investments by Aramco, Gamber and BYD. The confidence of investors gives clearance to the macroeconomic stability that is coming through, he remarked.

The Minister reiterated government's commitment to reduce size of federal government, adding decision regarding abolition or merger of six ministries has already been made and was at implementation stage, however added the government would need to amend Civil Servant Act 1973 for the purpose. He said, after this process is over, next five ministries would be taken for process.



QUETTA: Members of All Pakistan Marri Ittehad are holding protest demonstration against the brutal murder of Yasin Marri and demanding to arrest his murderers, at Quetta press club.

Irfan calls for collective action to streamline 'Judicial Processes'

ISLAMABAD (APP): PML-N Senator Irfan Siddiqui Sunday urged all political parties to join forces to create meaningful change and emphasized that collective action was crucial to tackle the deep-seated issues plaguing the judicial system.

"By working together, Pakistan can create a more robust and effective judicial framework that promotes justice, equality, and prosperity for all," he said while talking to a Private news channel.

"Around 85 countries have adopted constitutional reforms, offering valuable lessons for nations looking to strengthen their governance," he further mentioned.

"These reforms focus on enhancing accountability, transparency, participation, and predictability essential elements of good governance," he said.

"By learning from others' experiences, countries can create more effective and just systems," he added.

Responding a query, Senator Irfan Siddiqui has called out Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), urging them to pursue legal channels if they had any grievances, rather than pressuring institutions and exploiting citizens for political gain.

He emphasized the importance of respecting democratic institutions and the rule of law.

PTI Should knock on

the doors of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and courts for promoting a peaceful and constitutional approach to resolving disputes, he stressed.

Senator Irfan Siddiqui also praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's powerful speech at the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), where he addressed pressing global issues.

PM Sharif's speech was notable for its emphasis on key issues such as Israel's military actions in Gaza, the unresolved Kashmir dispute, the global climate crisis and the international community's failure to uphold justice and human rights.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan addressing the inaugural ceremony of launching of Pakistan Tourism Profile 2024.

Over 25 students injured in clash b/w two student groups at Quaid-e-Azam University

ISLAMABAD (APP): More than 25 students were injured in a violent clash between two student groups at Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad last night and university administration has lodged a complaint against members of both groups involved in the incident, sparking concerns over campus safety.

A violent confrontation took place between the Punjabi Students group and Pakhtun Students group at Quaid-e-Azam University late on the night of September 28, 2024. The clash, which erupted near the university hostels, saw dozens of students from both sides engaging in a physical fight, a police officer said while talking to APP on Sunday.

According to a report filed by the English campus manager of Quaid-e-Azam University, Lieutenant Colonel Nadeem Abbas, the incident began when a guard from hostel number 5 informed him of an altercation in the square above Karachi Heights. Upon investigating, it was found that some Punjabi students had assaulted Muzammil Marwat, a member of the Pakhtun Students group, who suffered serious head injuries during the attack.

Following the initial confrontation, tensions escalated as students from both groups began to gather in large numbers. Around 70 to 80 students from the Punjabi Students group, led by Punjab Council Chairman Rana Hassan, assembled near hostel number seven. They were reportedly armed with sticks and iron rods. Meanwhile, around 300 students from the Pakhtun Students group gathered at the New Cafeteria under the leadership of Pakhtunkhwa Community Students.

Ambassador Asim outlines importance of cultural diplomacy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ambassador in France Asim Iftikhar Ahmad on Sunday said that the diplomatic world was particularly conscious of fashion's growing role in cultural diplomacy.

The ambassador expressed his views during a multi-designer and multi-cultural fashion show which was held at Embassy of Pakistan, Paris in collaboration with Fashion London to celebrate the diverse cultures and unique fashion scenes of Pakistan, Uzbekistan, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

A large number of guests from different walks of life including French officials and friends, diplomats, fashion and business circles, students and media attended the fashion show.

Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad welcomed the guests "Spring Summer 2025 Paris", featuring six dynamic designers, all of whom had previously presented their collections internationally, a press release said.

"Much as food, art and sports say a lot about a nation's culture, fashion has its unique place. Cultural diplomacy was one of the priorities of the Embassy, and events like this transform dreams into reality. The objective was to showcase the rich cultural heritage of our country by drawing linkages and partnering with other friends," he added. He said as the world evolved, so did fashion and Pakistan was home to countless extravagant fashion weeks that were conducted annually.

While appreciating the work of all designers, he said that behind every quality garment, there was a story — a tale of tradition, artistry, and passion. "This storytelling was evident in the meticulous details, the selection of fabrics, the colour palettes."



ISLAMABAD: CDA workers busy fixing a tree stand to enhance beauty of Federal Capital in front of Parliament House.

Railways reunite 626 vulnerable children with heirs during eight months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways Police have rescued and reunited as many as 626 vulnerable children with their legal heirs and different welfare institutions during the last eight months with the help of train staffers.

"During the operation, the Railways Police have retrieved and returned around 2,000 lost luggages valued Rs 19.2 million to the passengers," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

Additionally, the official said that around 13,360 handicapped, injured and old passengers were provided with first aid, wheelchairs, and stretcher facilities during their journey in trains. Giving details of division wise, he said that Rawalpindi division reunited 146, Lahore 149, Karachi 128, Sukkur 67, Peshawar 66, Multan 57 and Quetta division 13 runaway children to their parents and different welfare institutions.

Brick Kiln workers demanded implementation of existing laws

ISLAMABAD (APP): Majority of the brick kiln workers complained low wages of their work violating the minimum level of wages under labour law making it hard for them to meet both ends of their lives. Workers shared that they are facing severe challenges including lack of basic facilities, long working hours, leaves in emergency, medical facility and hazardous working conditions.

During visits to different brick kiln, it was revealed that bonded labor, harassment, child labor, exploitation and not paying minimum wages to employees were common.

Nasreen bibi worker at brick kiln said that "I don't even remember the exact year when I came here to work, my kids grew up here to work and now they are part of the same system".

She said that there are number of women here who were facing plenty of challenges but continue their work to feed their families.



ISLAMABAD: Workers of Capital Development Authority (CDA) installing new colorful lights under zero point bridge, in the Federal Capital.

ICT Police to constitute special squads for action against signal violators

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police has decided to accelerate efforts to ensure implementation of traffic laws and take strict action against those involved in violation of red-signal.

According to police statement on Sunday a special campaign is underway to check violations while various squads are performing duties at main roads and boulevards of the city and taking action against the violators.

He said efforts are underway to ensure a disciplined traffic system in the city.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic Islamabad Muhammad Sarfraz Virk directed the Police personnel to ensure implementation on traffic rules and regulation irrespective of status and rank and demonstrate patience and politeness while issuing traffic violation tickets to the road users, he said.

SSP further said that, the ICT Police is utilizing all available resources to facilitate the general public. The force issues traffic violation tickets not as a punitive measure but the purpose is to ensure a safe road environment in the capital and secure the lives of the people, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Naib Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Mian Muhammad Aslam offering absentee funeral prayer of Lebanese Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrullah.

IPRI hosts book launch 'How China Became Rich-From Poverty to Prosperity'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) hosted the Book Launch of "How China Became Rich-From Poverty to Prosperity: An Eyewitness Perspective" by Author Syed Hasan Javed. The book provides insights into how China underwent a series of reforms to overcome severe poverty and become of the strongest economies in the world, said a press release on Sunday.

In his opening remarks, President IPRI, Dr Raza Muhammad said Pakistan can learn a lot from China and how it has eradicated poverty.

Speaking on the occasion, Syed Hasan Javed explained that this transformation in China was achieved by adopting a bottom-up approach, as it was not just changes in policies that ensured a change, but rather a change in the mindset of the ordinary people. He said the mindset shift occurred when the common people began to seek knowledge and engage with books. Javed emphasized that it was Deng Xiaoping's leadership and his vision which led China on the path to prosperity and his policies focused not only on structural reforms but also on alleviating poverty through establishing Special Economic Zones and the introduction of market economies in China.

He further argued that there is much Pakistan can learn from China. He stated that China first became rich by strengthening its financial assets.

The smell of negligence: CDA's garbage trucks turn Expressway commute into a nightmare

ISLAMABAD (APP): Every day, Islamabad Expressway, the city's major artery, becomes a landfill as overloaded and improperly covered waste management trucks from the Capital Development Authority (CDA) spill litter onto it. This transforms daily commutes into a nightmare, particularly for bikers.

With approximately 1,200 tonnes of garbage generated daily by the capital, this careless and unhygienic disposal highlights the CDA's negligence in waste management. The situation has prompted urgings for action from frustrated travelers, forced to navigate an unsanitary and stinky environment that threatens both their comfort and health.

The annoyed commuters have expressed their outrage on this situation when talking to APP.

Ahmed Khan, a bank official who travels from Model Town Hummak to Melody Islamabad, shared, "I can't believe this is what our city has come to. Every day, it's like driving through a pungent trash dump."

Another commuter, Bilal Ahmed, a government employee who rides his bike from Jinnah Garden to the Secretariat, recounted a particularly terrible experience. "On a rainy day, I got splattered with garbage on my way home. And it was a nightmare. I had to take a bath and change clothes as soon as I got home, and I lost my appetite for days because of it."

"Despite numerous complaints, there seems to be little response from the civic body. Their failure to enforce proper waste management protocols raises questions about their commitment to public health and safety. Commuters continue to experience unpleasant odors and hazardous conditions. "It's unacceptable," said Zahid Shah, who commutes daily from Sihala to F-7 and vice versa.

The CDA currently collects garbage from the city and temporarily dumps it at I-11 before transporting it to Losar. They are also working on establishing a proper transfer station at I-9, expected to be completed in six months.

The CDA has frequently proposed setting up a "scientific landfill" site, only to change plans later.

They are now looking to acquire land in Losar after negotiations with the Rawalpindi administration. However, they have relied on temporary arrangements due to the unavailability of a landfill site in Islamabad. This lack of a proper landfill has even been brought before the Islamabad High Court, which directed the CDA to resolve the issue, underscoring the urgent

need for a sustainable solution.

An official of Sanitation Department in a recent statement to media had informed that they were in talks to procure land in Losar for a proper landfill site, noting that the board had approved a six-month extension with Rawalpindi Waste Management Company for this purpose.

Last year, the CDA proposed sites at Kuri and Dhoke Jando near Nicholson's Monument, but previous proposals have faced rejection. The lack of a landfill site has even been brought before the Islamabad High Court, which directed the CDA to resolve the issue. "It is unfortunate that a city of around three million people has no proper landfill," said a lawyer involved in the case, emphasizing the environmental and health risks.

An official from the CDA mentioned that the agency spends over two billion rupees annually on waste management. If a proper landfill site were developed, it could potentially generate revenue through waste-to-energy projects. Previously, the CDA dumped garbage in the residential area of I-12 until a court ruling in 2022 shifted outside residential zones.

In the past, the CDA had chosen a site at Kuri village based on recommendations from international consultants, but this project was shelved in 2011, allegedly to appease housing scheme owners. Since then, the civic agency has moved temporary landfill sites from one location to another.

Interviews with CDA workers reveal the reality behind the litter problem. According to them, garbage used to be dumped in the Tang Bhata area.



ISLAMABAD: Activists of Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen carrying placards and Palestinian national flags stand beside a portrait of slain Lebanese Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrullah, during an anti-Israel protest in the Federal Capital.

PMD issues dengue outbreak warning for month of October

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department has issued a warning of potential dengue outbreak in month of October indicating that the ideal conditions for the disease have emerged.

The department said that dengue may see a significant rise in October, particularly in ten major cities across Pakistan, including Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Hyderabad, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Larkana, and Multan. The other regions affected by post-monsoon rainfall are also at risk.

Over the past decade, dengue fever has severely impacted the health of population, particularly during the post-monsoon season.

The period from September 20 to December 05 has become increasingly dangerous for dengue spread, with environmental factors playing a significant role.

According to the PMD, dengue transmission is triggered when temperatures remain between 26 C and 29C for three to five weeks, with humidity levels of around 60 percent.

Similarly, rainfall exceeding 27mm, combined with a time lag of up to three weeks, further increases the risk.

The disease-carrying mosquitoes are most active two hours after sunrise and two hours before sunset, with breeding coming to a halt only when temperatures drop below 16 C.

Based on a detailed analysis of historical data and the current climate outlook, the PMD experts have warned that conditions have become highly conducive to dengue onset since mid-September.

The PMD has urged all relevant stakeholders, including national health agencies and dengue control centers, to take immediate preemptive measures in the affected districts.

Police nab 25 criminals, narcotics, weapons seized

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Police apprehended 25 criminals involved in different criminal activities, including drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons in different raids during last 24 hours.

A public relations officer told APP on Sunday that police teams also recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession.

In this regard, the Islamabad Police Aabpara, Sumbal, Tarnol, Sangjani, Industrial Area, Noon, Shams Colony and Koral police station teams took legal action against accused involved in drug peddling, selling liquor and possessing illegal weapons, he said.

Police teams arrested 13 accused involved in drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons and recovered 1,375-gram heroin, 3,500-gram hashish, 110-gram Ice, 10 Litters of liquor, two daggers and five pistols with ammunition from their possession. Moreover, 12 absconders were also arrested during the last 24 hours, he added.

Police & CTD carry out search operation in limits of PS Secretariat

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police conducted a grand search and combing operation on Sunday in the jurisdiction of Secretariat police station.

According to police statement, under the special directions of Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the ICT Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate crime from the city.

Following these directions Superintendent of Police (SP) City zone Khalid Mehmood Awan, a grand search and combing operation was conducted in different areas of Secretariat police station by ICT Police teams including CTD and lady police teams.

Managing watercourses imperative to avoid urban flooding

ISLAMABAD (APP): Managing watercourses effectively is crucial for mitigating urban flooding, especially in cities like Rawalpindi that faces significant challenges due to its topography and rapid urbanization.

Different watercourses especially Nullah Lai, flowing through the city, often plays havoc with city residents when it overflows after torrential rains during monsoon season submerging different localities and inflicting losses of millions of rupees on businesses and household.

With its total length of 16 kilometers from Kattarian Bridge to Soan River near Lahore High Court's Rawalpindi bench building, 600 cusecs sewage is discharged into it daily. But, during heavy rains in twin cities, its water level rises to dangerous level of 18 feet, most often overflowing to adjacent localities.

"Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Rawalpindi has conducted detailed assessments to identify flood-prone areas, considering factors like topography, land use and flood data," claims Managing Director (MD) WASA, Saleem Ashraf. "The capacity of existing drainage systems was improved by deepening and widening this course to handle extra water."

He said officers concerned ensure routine inspections of Nullah Lai particularly during Monsoon to prevent blockages. "A real-time monitoring system was installed to track water levels and rainfall. The data is used to predict potential flooding and take proactive measures."



ISLAMABAD: Disable persons take part in race during a ceremony title 'Save Tomorrow 8 Run and Walk' at Fatima Jinnah Park, organized by KKAFF, in the Federal Capital.

Daily Voice of Masses, Independent, Monday September 30, 2024

A close watch

The IMF Executive Board's stress on the importance of "vigilant monitoring" of its new \$7bn programme's implementation, and "robust contingency planning" to safeguard its success is a reflection of two concerns. One, in spite of the recent economic recovery under the last \$3bn Stand-by Arrangement, Pakistan's vulnerabilities and structural challenges remain formidable. The business environment poses problems amid weak governance and the state's outsized role, hindering investment. Likewise, the tax base remains too narrow to ensure tax fairness and fiscal sustainability or meet large development spending needed to tackle poverty. Without concerted adjustment alongside prudent spending management and sustained reforms, Pakistan risks falling further behind its peers. Two, Pakistan's credibility when it comes to pursuing programme policies and ensuring macro-economic sustainability through consistent policy implementation remains suspect in the eyes of its creditors and development partners — despite the successful implementation of the SBA that saved it from default.

Therefore, IMF directors have emphasised "the criticality of sustained programme implementation" and "steadfast execution of the planned continued consolidation in the FY25 budget" in a statement after approving the loan this week. Some of them noted that "there is no room for policy slippages without undermining debt sustainability". The new programme mandates policies to help Pakistan move away from its state-led growth model to private sector-led growth by strengthening the business environment and ensuring a more even playing field. Other priorities include reforming SOEs, removing trade barriers and market distortions, reinforcing governance frameworks, strengthening energy sector viability, and building climate resilience. Indeed, the agenda for Pakistan's politically beleaguered rulers is huge. It cannot wriggle out of it without endangering the recent, fragile stability. The government's resolve to stick to the IMF-mandated agenda will be tested every time the lender reviews its progress before releasing the next tranche. Other multilateral and bilateral creditors will also be watching Islamabad's performance very closely. The prime minister has repeatedly pledged to make this programme the last bailout from the IMF. Other countries like India have pulled this off by restructuring their economies. Can we do so? The jury is out.

Afzal Ali Shigri

To accommodate the rapid expansion of Pakistan's population, successive provincial governments increased the number of revenue districts. In line with this, the police force and administrative units at the district level were also expanded. However, this reorganisation of the police force overlooked the unique need of the police for an effective hierarchical supervisory command structure in order to regulate a trained, armed, and uniformed force. Over time, it became evident that the existing police force's strong and effective command structure was being eroded. Political interference further compounded the problem. The district police forces were burdened and transformed into government tools for suppressing political dissent. By 2000, the number of police forces in Punjab, Sindh, KP, and Balochistan had grown significantly. As the existing inspectorate system found it difficult to manage such an expanding force, even the most capable officers at the command level struggled to

control extraneous interference in the functioning of the district police. Like most of the previous governments, the military government under Gen Pervez Musharraf also decided to reform the police as an essential part of the overall administrative structure of the country. Deployed for internal security duties, many of the senior military officers were able to gauge discernible deficiencies in the civilian law-enforcement structures. Based on their experience of operational duties, they viewed the police system from a command-and-control perspective, which allowed them to develop a vision of how the situation could be improved. The new government's interior minister, retired Gen Moinuddin Haider, a seasoned commander with experience of civil governance as a former governor of Sindh, formed a committee to focus on police reforms. The committee presented its findings in a report within a short span of time. Simultaneously, the National Reconstruction Bureau was established to reform the governance struc-

ture including the police under the capable leadership of retired Gen Tanvir Naqvi. Gen Naqvi established a separate think tank comprising three inspectors general of police (IGP) as well as an expert on the British criminal justice system. Thoroughly examining the existing police system, the think tank studied the legal frameworks of developed countries and reviewed 29 reports on police reforms in Pakistan commissioned by various governments after independence. Extensively consulting all stakeholders, the members of the think tank prepared a comprehensive report, addressing the depoliticisation of the police, credible accountability, and operational/administrative autonomy. This culminated in the enactment of the Police Order, 2002, which provided the legal framework for implementing these reforms. Unfortunately, in 2004 on the formation of the political government, the very military government that had introduced the reforms attempted to undermine this law following the induction of politi-

cal governments. A depoliticised and accountable police force was anathema to these administrations, leading to amendments and new enactments on police in some provinces. However, steps in reorganising the police structure which had already been undertaken could not be reversed. Nonetheless, provisions imposing checks on political decisions were ignored or violated. While addressing operational and administrative autonomy, Police Order, 2002, introduced an upgraded command structure. It differentiated between rural and urban police to meet the emerging challenges posed by the growth of megacities. To eliminate extraneous interference, the tenure of the head of the police establishment was fixed and featured operational independence. To improve command and control, Police Order, 2002, also made certain fundamental changes in the police structure, upgrading posts at all supervisory/command levels by increasing the number of posts in higher grades, strengthening secretariat support, enhancing and conferring

greater financial powers on the police department by designating the IGP as ex-officio secretary. Policing in big cities and other areas was clearly defined with enhanced operational and administrative powers granted to senior-ranking officers heading the police. The elected governments, however, chose not to follow the law even in matters of professional autonomy and administration of an armed uniformed police force. Tragically, political governments, resistant to any limits on their authority, operate under the flawed belief that their election to office grants them unchecked power to make both lawful and unlawful decisions. They treat civil servants as personal subordinates, frustrating amendments aimed at curbing such abuses to preserve a system enabling dictatorial governance. A simple option for them is to bypass the law and refuse its implementation on one or the other pretext. To tighten their control over law enforcement in blatant violation of legal provisions, they tend to appoint junior-ranked po-

lice officers to higher posts. For instance, currently, only two officers of Grade 22 have command assignments, while assigning junior officers to higher ranks. This compromises the administrative powers of the officers manning the command posts as they know that their transfer would automatically relegate them to junior positions. In retaining their command posts, they face a quandary, as refusal of any political unlawful orders entails reversal to the lower rank without any process. This transforms even human resource management into a tool for political patronage and undermines the entire criminal justice system. Pakistan is faced with existential threats due to terrorism stemming from various imagined grievances or some misconstrued religious goals, giving rise to violent militancy. Police forces with such inner fault lines are expected to deliver on the state's counterterrorism policy. The police, who are crucial in countering these threats, are hindered by a fractured and compromised hierarchical structure. — Courtesy Dawn

Police command structure

Israel's firepower won't win it peace

Abbas Nasir

Israel may have killed Hezbollah leader Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah but what the world thinks of its occupation of Palestine, continued genocide in Gaza and provocative military action against Lebanon was evident at the UN General Assembly. As Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu got to the podium to address the assembly, there was a mass walkout by a large number of delegates and the only applause and cheering at his delusional speech came from the galleries that the Israeli delegation ensured were filled with genocide supporters. One commentator remarked, "It seemed the galleries were taken up entirely by members of the US Congress", in a reference to the multiple standing ovations for Israel's extreme right-wing leader during a recent address to the US Congress. The most embarrassing moment for Netanyahu came when he was talking about eliminating 'terrorism' and then building a peaceful region with partners such as Saudi Arabia. The camera panned to the

seating area of the Saudi delegation tagged with a lit-up sign 'Saudi Arabia' and showed empty seats as the delegates had walked out. While the role (or lack of it) of the bulk of the Arab world has been far from proactive in putting pressure on US and Israel's other Western backers to force it to stop its mass murder of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank and now of Lebanese Muslims, the mood in many Arab streets was reflected in the decision to walk out. As these lines were being written on Friday, the Israeli military officially claimed that the Hezbollah leader had been 'eliminated' after a massive air strike on six apartment blocks in a Beirut neighbourhood, seen as a Hezbollah stronghold in the Lebanese capital, on Friday. Hezbollah confirmed the news. Hezbollah is the only force in the Middle East to have successfully confronted the Israeli military over the past 50 years and gave it a bloody nose in the 2006 conflict, forcing the formidable opponent to beat a retreat. This boosted the movement and propelled its leader, Hassan

Nasrallah to become one of the most popular figures in the Arab world and beyond. With its own and its Western allies' financial and intelligence resources, it is clear now that Israel spent the period from 2006 to the present day planning and plotting about degrading Hezbollah, the only military force in half a century to stand up to it and face it down. This Israeli view may well have been reinforced when Hezbollah and other Iran affiliates fought alongside Syrian government forces against IS that was threatening to overwhelm Syria and stopped the terrorists. Many believed that the terror group that sprang out of nowhere was the brainchild of Israeli intelligence or at the very least received immense help from Israel. Interestingly, Hezbollah, along with the so-called axis of resistance comprising Iran, Yemen and Syria, is Shia and the only proactive 'military' allies of the Sunni Hamas movement in Gaza. This alliance perhaps is one of the reasons that Gulf monarchies and emirates and the US-backed autocrat in

Egypt look at it with suspicion; it makes them reluctant to offer meaningful assistance to the Palestinians. For Israel, which was moving closer to the UAE and Saudi Arabia and has close diplomatic and trade relations with Egypt and Jordan, this 'axis' had to be degraded, if possible destroyed, because it continues to challenge its settler colonial project in Palestine and other illegally occupied areas in Lebanon and Syria, such as the Shebaa Farms and the Golan Heights. Against this backdrop, it is clear from the exp-loding pagers and walkie-talkies to the killing of Hassan Nasrallah and other senior Hezbollah leaders why Israel is claiming a huge success. But can these self-proclaimed wins, win Israel the security and peace it wants for its citizens as it claims, has been its objective for several decades? From the helicopter gunship strike in south Lebanon, killing Hezbollah leader Abbas al-Musawi (Nasrallah succeeded him), his wife and five-year-old son in 1992, to the Gaza assassination of Shaikh

Ahmed Yassin, the near-blind, wheelchair-bound, paraplegic Hamas leader in 2004, there have been many 'decapitation' murders in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and even in countries outside the conflict zone. Has any one of these 'successes' celebrated by Israel brought it peace and security? The answer has to be a resounding NO. But Israel carries on relentlessly simply because it can. The leaders of the 'free world', such as those in office in the US, UK, Germany, France and several other Western countries, have decided that Israel is their most important ally in the region and they'll indulge it no matter what it does. They have collectively spent hundreds of billions of dollars to bolster Israel's military capability and done nothing to stop the ongoing genocide in Gaza. There are three main reasons as I can see. The first must be the guilt at the Holocaust during which the psychopath Adolf Hitler wiped out five to six million Jews in Germany, Poland and other parts of Europe, while the US and UK looked on. The

second is an ally in the Middle East which mirrors their own values, including colonialism. The third has to be the massive funding provided to election campaigns of US politicians by the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee and other pro-Israeli billionaires and bodies such as the Conservative Friends of Israel and the Labour Friends of Israel in the UK, which undermines these 'democracies' by leaving their elected officials compromised. Hope one day their voters ask what their carte blanche to Israel has delivered. From Shaikh Yassin who was succeeded by leaders such as Khaled Mashal, Ismail Haniyeh to the current leader Yahya Sinwar, the Palestinian desire for freedom lives on. Similarly, notwithstanding the setbacks, Hezbollah will find someone like Nasrallah's cousin Hashem Safi al-Din, whose son is married to IRGC's assassinated commander Qasem Soleimani's daughter, to provide leadership. Hezbollah will find its feet again. Israel's firepower is terrifying. But it should know the will of those resisting is no less.

SRH matters

Luay Shabaneh

I hesitated to write about International Sexual Health Day, celebrated in 60 countries early this month. However, in my view, the matter goes beyond sexual relationships; it speaks to the future of a nation struggling to find its place in an increasingly competitive global landscape. Fourteen years ago, the World Association for Sexual Health declared Sept 4 as World Sexual Health Day and called to promote social awareness on sexual health across the globe. The 2023 theme focuses on positive relationships grounded in mutual respect and understanding — cornerstones for sexual health and well-being, which is a human right. Everyone has the right to engage in safe relationships that fulfil their needs, honour bodily autonomy, and promote equality and respect. It also leads to better reproductive health outcomes. While sexual health is a private matter between couples, its consequences extend beyond the individual and are deeply embedded in social values. Therefore, health literacy and sexuality education are crucial in developing positive relationships, protecting sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and reproductive rights (RR), and empowering individuals to make informed choices. Access to comprehensive, high-quality and accurate information about SRH promotes the appropriate and timely use of SRH services. This facilitates the prevention, early detection, and treatment of HIV and other STIs as well as their adverse consequences. Informed individuals create more empowered families that are grounded in facts, free from judgment, and open to constructive dis-

ussions on sensitive topics. This environment helps adolescents and young people understand and communicate effectively about matters related to sexual health. Deep-seated inequality and pervasive disrespect within relationships are major contributors to violence, particularly gender-based violence. Cultivating respect and trust in SRH matters and well-being is crucial for eliminating the fear of violence and violations. Every individual above the legal age of consent, as defined by their respective states, should have the right to engage in relationships free from threats of GBV and sexual assault. Governments bear the responsibility of implementing effective prevention and response measures, while the broader social community must actively condemn all forms of violence. Globally, over a billion people are living with sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS, many of which remain incurable. This situation could have been reversed if there were timely interventions and a tolerant social culture, free from stigma. Avoiding discussions about problems does not solve them; it only complicates them further and increases the financial burden of addressing them in the future. In Pakistan, like in many societies with conservative social norms, the discourse on sexuality is often confined to a limited perspective focusing solely on sexual contact and adherence to local religious interpretation and social expectations. This narrow framing diverts the discussion away from the duty of the state and society to find solutions for SRH challenges to judging individuals' adherence to social norms. In a society marked

by gender bias, men have often politicised and ideologised these matters to maintain control and an unequal power structure. This mirrors the discussion about women's access to their rightful inheritance, where various barriers are erected to keep wealth concentrated in the hands of men. This explains the surprising alignment between men of diverse ideological backgrounds — religious, atheist, conservative, or liberal when it comes to women's rights to inheritance despite the enshrined rights in both religious and social norms. In a context where most politicians, legislators, and policymakers are men who benefit from maintaining the taboo around sexuality and women's rights, achieving meaningful reform is often characterised by lip service rhetoric. This highlights the importance of gender equality as a catalyst for genuine social reform, which is fundamental to fostering respectful sexual relationships, reducing GBV and increasing the likelihood of sustainable marriages in a society grappling with high rates of early divorces. My message today is to call upon politicians and decision-makers invested in the country's future to embrace a broader perspective on gender equality, recognising its social, political, and economic dimensions. It is essential to break down all forms of unfair taboos and encourage open public debate to create an enabling environment for future generations, allowing Pakistan to secure its place in a rapidly changing world where seats at the table are reserved for socially open-minded, economically empowered nations free of gender bias, and embracing innovation. — Courtesy Dawn

Digital eternity

Muna Khan

We've probably imagined some version of 'I wish I had the chance to tell [someone] how much I loved them before they died'. I don't have such thoughts for my mother who died unexpectedly in 1995. But since reading about the use of bots to create digital avatars of our dead loved ones, I have wondered if I'd be willing to turn to AI to help me grieve, 30 years on. My instinct is a firm no because she would loathe it, not least because she was devout but also it seems a bit sci-fi and creepy and probably very upsetting. However, it's been very helpful for the innumerable families across China using 'grief tech'. I recently wrote about people using digital avatars for companionship but this is more personal. This is you holding onto someone you deeply loved in a bid to find closure and I wonder if it helps or prevents you from moving on. I also watched a short documentary on a 37-year-old woman in Singapore, mum to four kids, who was diagnosed with stage four breast cancer who chose to record videos for her children so they wouldn't forget her. The company will interview her for say six to eight hours, record a data of memories to store in the cloud, which her children can then access over the years by asking 'her' a question about a memory. This is different to the tools available for posthumous work. For around Rs800, you can create an animated avatar of any person on some of these Chinese sites. For more money, according to a report in NPR in July, you can choose options fea-

ture AI-powered chatbots, conversational videos or interactive séance. One 47-year-old man in Nanjing featured in NPR said he talks to a digital avatar of his mother — "rendered from the shoulders up by artificial intelligence to look and sound just like his flesh-and-blood mother" who died in 2018. He said it's the best person to confide in, and he regards the avatar "truly like his mother". Many cultures build altars for their dead relatives in their homes or communicate with them through ceremony. Families honour the dead and maintain their graves at the yearly tomb sweeping ceremony in China; they also tell them what their year was like. This year, some brought moving digital avatars of their deceased relatives for a two-way conversation. Is this the end of 'rest in peace' as we have known it all this time? And what about the ethics of replicating people, alive or dead; do we need their consent? China has a robust e-commerce market, reports MIT Technology Review, and many brands would hire livestreams to sell their products. Now they use AI-cloned influencers that can stream 24/7. According to one estimate reported in The Guardian, the market size for "digital humans" was worth 12 billion yuan (\$1.7bn) in 2022, and is expected to quadruple by 2025. You can see this as technology that is profiting from death or offering people a chance to deal with the layers of grief. Technology has helped us grieve from afar, by attending funerals and prayer meets over Zoom and we find

solace in pouring over photographs or home videos or social media posts of our loved ones; so what is different if we take all that material and feed it into large language models to create digital avatars? You need a one-minute video for a basic avatar (costs around Rs8,500) and ones that require generative AI to make the avatar move and talk to you costs a few thousand dollars. Digital immortality has a dark side too. Fans recreated a digital avatar of Qiao Renliang, a pop star who died by suicide in 2016, and then made new content, including a video of him saying "I never went away". This caused a great deal of pain to his family, who said it opened old wounds and did not have their consent. One of these AI tech grief companies in China has built a cemetery in Shanghai where tombstones are digitised. You can scan a QR code on the headstone and access the deceased's life through multimedia. A company representative told NPR they hoped this would allow people to see a graveyard as a place to celebrate life, not just mourn death. Things once in the realm of sci-fi are becoming a reality due to investment in computing power. On one hand we are ploughing money in medical technology to allow us to live longer, or figuring out how to merge our brains with computers so we can have a digital version of ourselves in the cloud, and now digital immortality is advancing. Are we so afraid of death? Is grief so unbearable that some would rather stay in perpetual mourning by recreating our parents, partners, etc.? — Courtesy Dawn

Governor Kundi lashes out at PTI for worsening law & order situation in KP

MULTAN (APP): Provincial government to peace, adding, "Has there ever been a serious meeting to address the unrest? When meetings are held, it is only to malign the institutions", he added. Reflecting on the past, the governor recalled the situation in 2008 when the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) inherited a country engulfed in terrorism. "The country is facing serious issues due to militancy, but we brought peace with the sacrifices of armed forces," he stated.

Kundi lamented, today's unrest is plaguing a province that was once pacified by the PPP's efforts.

Kundi also pointed out corruption in the KP government, especially pointing to the Peshawar BRT project and the alleged misuse of funds allocated for security. "An amount of Rs 600 billion was given for security, yet the police lacked resources. If corruption was not committed, where did the money go?" he questioned.

The governor accused the KP administration of focusing solely on corruption while failing to deliver results on the ground.

Referring to PTI's leadership, Kundi remarked that the party's members were more interested in public spectacles than governance. "They know only how to dance in streets, while the province suffers," he said, adding, "If they have any sense of responsibility, they should focus on the people rather than seeking power at any cost."



LAHORE: Chairman Prime Minister Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan addressing to the community of Sabzazar Welfare Society.

Ministers seek media feedback for health sector improvement

LAHORE (APP): Punjab health ministers - Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaja Imran Nazir - stressed on Sunday the importance of media feedback in enhancing health services, saying a strong collaboration in this regard would be beneficial for the sector and the country at large.

During the oath-taking ceremony of the Lahore Health Reporters Association (LHRA) here, they praised the media persons for highlighting the health system challenges professionally. They promised that the ongoing projects, including cancer and cardiac hospitals, would be completed on time.

Khawaja Imran Nazir, Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare, acknowledged the media's role in keeping the public informed and welcomed constructive criticism. He said the LHRA's insight would guide efforts to address the health sector issues.

Khawaja Salman Rafique, Minister for Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education, said in modern world, well informed media persons could point out any shortcomings in the sector and help overcome them.

The ministers congratulated the newly-elected LHRA officials, including Chairman Zahid Chaudhry, President Suleman Chaudhry, and General Secretary Sabir Awan, and distributed shields among them.

The event was attended by notable figures from the health sector, including former Health Minister Professor Javed Akram and various university principals and professors including KEMU VC Professor Mahmood Ayaz.

CM Punjab condemns killing of innocent labourers in Panjgur

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Sunday strongly condemned the shooting incident in Panjgur that resulted in the deaths of seven innocent laborers. Expressing her deep sorrow over the tragic loss of life, she conveyed her heartfelt condolences to the grieving families affected by this senseless act of violence. The CM expressed her solidarity with the families during this difficult time, affirming that the government stands with them and would support them in their time of need.

8 dead, 1,359 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): Eight people were killed and 1,359 others injured in 1,251 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 578 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 781 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams. The data analysis showed that 737 drivers, 47 underage drivers, 134 pedestrians, and 496 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. The statistics show that 269 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 292 people, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by Faisalabad with 84 accidents and 91 victims, and at third Multan with 70 accidents and 83 victims.

According to the data, 1,130 motorbikes, 77 auto-rickshaws, 101 motorcars, 30 vans, 09 passenger buses, 20 truck and 121 other types of vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the road accidents.

Violation of dengue SOPs; Housing societies warned of strict action

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) on the directives of Director General, Kinza Murtaza has directed the private housing societies that strict action would be taken against violators of dengue Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the Punjab government.

According to RDA spokesman, the prevailing weather is suitable for dengue larvae breeding, therefore, strict compliance of anti-dengue SOPs is needed to prevent the spread of larvae during the dengue peak season.

"The role of private housing societies is very crucial in containing the spread of dengue virus, he said adding, it is responsibility of every housing society to ensure dengue free environment for the inhabitants."

The recent rains had been declared suitable for the breeding of dengue mosquitoes. Not only could the dengue mosquito breed rapidly in the current climate, but it can also be extremely dangerous to human health, he said.

The spokesman informed that a large number of the residents of different housing societies were not taking care and not adopting precautionary measures against dengue. Due to the non-compliance of SOPs, dengue virus might spread in various housing societies, he said.

He said if this situation was not controlled and given due attention,



MULTAN: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi talking to media persons at the residence of Naseem Labar.

Sindh governor visits Olympian Arshad Nadeem's residence

KHANEWAL (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori visited the residence of Olympian Arshad Nadeem in Mian Channu on Sunday and appreciated him for bringing laurels to the country. Speaking to the media, he expressed his confidence in the capabilities of people of Pakistan. He said that Pakistanis were on a par with the people of any other country in terms of potential and skills. "Our country is full of talented individuals who are second to none in the world," he remarked, highlighting that the nation has the capacity to achieve more successes.

During his address, Tessori reiterated his commitment to the people of Sindh, stating that the doors of the Governor's House were always open for the public. "The Governor's House in Sindh is accessible to everyone. We are here to serve people," he added.

Governor Tessori expressed gratitude to the people of Mian Channu for their warm welcome and hospitality, acknowledging the affection he received during his visit. "I am deeply thankful to the people of Mian Channu for the heartfelt reception," he said.

In a statement regarding the development of Punjab, Governor Tessori praised provincial leadership, particularly Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for her efforts. "Maryam Nawaz is doing an excellent job in advancing the development of Punjab," Tessori added.

Minister says inflation being controlled successfully

SARGODHA (APP): Punjab Minister for Zakat and Usher and General Secretary Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Sargodha Division Rana Munawar Ghous Khan termed record decrease in inflation a positive indicator for the country and reaffirmed the government's commitment to work hard till complete revival of the economy.

Talking to APP on Sunday, he said, "The inflation rate has dropped to 11 per cent during this month, as reported by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. Bloomberg, Asian Development Bank, UNDP, World Bank and other international departments are also acknowledging progress on Pakistan's economy and also see it on the right path."

Munawar Ghous highlighted government's tireless efforts from day one, focusing on the economy, leading to several positive outcomes. "These include a significant drop in inflation, lower fuel prices, unprecedented growth in the stock exchange.

CM Sindh flays killing of innocent labourers in Panjgur

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has condemned, the killing of innocent labourers in Panjgur, here on Sunday.

He said that such incidents were a conspiracy to increase hatred and harm to national unity, according to a CM's spokesman. The Chief Minister said this nation had seen major incidents of terrorism but did not allow to affect the national unity.

He also expressed his condolences to the families of the deceased labourers.

Maryam Nawaz says: Reducing food waste religious, moral duty

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said on Sunday that reducing food waste was a religious and moral duty of all Pakistanis.

In a message on the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, she said: "Food wastage is a global problem, which damages the economy and environment alike."

She added, "It is depressing to note that millions of people around the world are suffering from hunger, while millions of tonnes of food is wasted globally."

The chief minister said, "Pakistan is also suffering from food wastage and shortage to some extent. Planning is needed to save resources from being wasted."

Maryam Nawaz said, "Help the hungry people by reducing food wastage" adding that "An effective awareness campaign is necessary to prevent food wastage." She noted, "School nutrition programme in Punjab is a historic initiative to address malnutrition in children."

The CM said, "Proportionate consumption of food is inevitable, highlight the value of food in your community."

She hoped, "Together we can save the natural resources of Pakistan."

The chief minister declared that reducing food waste was not only a moral and religious obligation but also essential for effective resource management. She stressed the need for careful planning to prevent resources from being wasted, which could help support those affected by hunger.

CM Maryam Nawaz called for a robust awareness campaign by the Punjab government to address food loss. She highlighted the School Nutrition Program in Punjab as a historic initiative aimed at combating nutritional deficiencies among children. She reiterated the importance of proportional food usage and encouraged communities to appreciate the value of food.



LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari talking to media persons at DGPR.

Azma Bukhari says: Bullying, hooliganism not allowed in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Information Minister Azma Bukhari said on Sunday that Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur should know it well that his bullying and hooliganism were not allowed in Punjab.

While holding a press conference here, she said the government would not allow anyone to take the law into their hands in Punjab. She said that in case of any law violation, the violators would be dealt with an iron hand, adding that Gandapur violated the law during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) public meeting at Kahna. She said the opponents were concerned about the development of Punjab, but the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa should ask the provincial leadership why there was no development there.

The minister asked if the PTI wanted to stage protest, why they were not holding demonstrations in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. She said the number of universities in KP was reducing, adding that there were more than 30,000 vacant posts of teachers there. She suggested that if the PTI did not know how to serve masses, they should learn from the Punjab government. She alleged that the government resources were being wasted in KP. The minister claimed that that Ali Amin Gandapur wanted to make Punjab and Pakhtuns fight with each other. "We are not political vultures who wait for dead bodies; people are getting suspicious after seeing their mischief and corruption," she added. She said the people of Punjab had rejected the "mischief" party in Punjab.

Secretary LG for providing maximum relief to people

PESHAWAR (APP): Secretary Local Government (LG), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dilawar Khan has said that under the CM' KP agenda, officers are in fact servants of the people and we are making tangible efforts to provide needed facilities to the people at their doorstep.

The TMA officials should make the official affairs easy for the general public, he said and urged the public to acquire the birth certificate of their children well in time to avoid complications in delayed submission of application. This, he said, would save their time and the children will get their official identity within time.

He was on a visit to TMA Office Chamkani the other day where he met with BCA and demolishing staff and inspected their uniform, recently provided to them.

On the occasion TMO Chamkani, Aurangzeb Khan brief the Secretary LG on revenue generation of the TMA Chamkani and other branches. The Secretary LG also visited the AD office where he was provided information on the working strategy and facilities being provided to the people including birth certificate, death certificate, marriage certificate and other public documents.

Ex Minister Irshad Sial condemns brutal killing of labourers

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Pakistan People Party senior leader and former federal minister Mehar Irshad Sial strongly condemned the brutal killing of seven labourers from south Punjab in Panjgur, Balochistan. In a statement issued here on Sunday, he said: "We strongly condemn the murder of poor labourers". He called for every possible measure to ensure the rights and safety of labourers, stressing the need for swift action. He stated that those disrupting peace in the country would be brought to justice. He prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed souls in eternal peace.



LAHORE: Activists of Pakistan Markazi Muslim League, hold a banner during protest in favor of their demands in front Governor House, in the Provincial Capital.

CCPO orders timely submission of challans

LAHORE (APP): Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana presided over a meeting at his office to review progress on pending road certificates and challans. He directed supervisory officers to ensure the timely submission of all pending certificates and challans to the courts. He emphasised the need for all officers to work as a team to efficiently handle the workload.

Experts in KP term PM's USA visit highly successful

PESHAWAR (APP): International Relations experts have praised Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's recent five-day visit to the United States of America (USA) to attend the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), declaring it highly successful and beneficial for Pakistan.

Former Ambassador Manzoorul Haq highlighted the significance of the Prime Minister's address at the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Moment 2024, which received widespread acclaim. He noted that the Prime Minister's remarks served as a powerful call for international and regional unity to confront critical global issues such as climate change, the debt burden, and terrorism—challenges that disproportionately impact underdeveloped and developing nations, including Pakistan.

Emphasizing the importance of the Prime Minister's focus on solutions to these urgent global challenges, particularly in the context of rising carbon emissions and the increasing financial pressures faced by vulnerable countries, he said the Premier visit has not only elevated Pakistan's stance on the international stage but also reinforced the need for collaborative efforts to achieve sustainable development goals.

He said the huge debt burdens which are increasing with each passing year, are directly affecting underdeveloped and developing countries including Pakistan, and the premier was being appreciated at national and international forums for highlighting the negative effects of debts burden on poor economies.

Professor Dr Ejaz Khan, former Chairman, International Relations Department, University of Peshawar also termed the visit of PM has highly successful at UNGA where he met with top world leaders of friendly countries and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest with special focus on resolution of Kashmir dispute and sustainable socio economic development of Pakistan.

In his historic address at 79th session of the UNGA, the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has boldly highlighted the genocidal war of Israel at Gaza, human rights abuses at Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, winning the hearts and minds of Pakistanis, Kashmiris and Plastianians. Muhammad Hussain Khateeb, Member All

Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC Gillani Group) said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif had won the hearts and minds of all Kashmiris for exclusively highlighting the Kashmir dispute in its true perspective at UNGA.

He said Indian occupational forces' war crimes, state terrorism and human rights abuses had made life a worst nightmare for over one million oppressed Kashmiris.

APHC leader said India had imposed military siege on some 10 million Kashmiris in IOJK where over 900,000 Indian forces were deployed with no regards for human rights.



PESHAWAR: Activists of Imamia Students Federation hold a protest against killing of Hezbollah's leader Hassan Nasrallah outside PPC. Hezbollah's leader Hassan has been killed in an Israeli air attack on Lebanon's capital Beirut.

Govt's tough decisions helped save state's economy: Ministers

LAHORE (APP): Minister of State for Finance Ali Pervez Malik, along with Punjab's Health Ministers Khawaja Imran Nazir and Khawaja Salman Rafique, emphasised that the current government made difficult yet crucial decisions to safeguard the state, even at the cost of political compromise. The ministers made these remarks during the oath-taking ceremony of the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (North Zone), where they attended as chief guests on Sunday.

He stressed that the fight against counterfeit medicines would be carried out in collaboration with the pharmaceutical industry. He also called on the industry to assist the government in addressing the shortage of life-saving drugs. "The Chief Minister of Punjab is determined to strengthen the local pharmaceutical sector," he stated. Commenting on political instability, Khawaja Imran Nazir noted, "Whenever the country begins to stabilize, certain disruptive groups spread chaos." He also mentioned the government's successful introduction of the 45

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LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal in a group photograph with the participants of Asia's Energy Transition Summit at LUMS University.



LAHORE: A delegation of International Labour and Trade Unions meeting with Punjab Minister for Industries and Commerce Ch. Shafay Hussain.

Secretary says: Punjab govt guarantees foreign investor safety, unveils robust security plan

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant move to bolster economic growth, Punjab Secretary for Industries and Food, Ehsan Bhutta, has reiterated the provincial government's dedication to creating a conducive environment for foreign investors. Secretary Ehsan Bhutta talking to PTV news channel reaffirmed the government's commitment to providing a secure and supportive business environment. Bhutta emphasized that a robust security framework is being implemented to safeguard investors' interests,

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LAHORE: A vendor arranging and displaying the different kinds of clay made decoration items to attract the customers at his roadside setup.

'IMF bailout essential for economic reforms, stability: Iftikhar Malik

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik emphasized that the IMF bailout package is crucial for implementing structural reforms, reducing fiscal deficits, controlling inflation, and stabilizing the economy. He believes this support will also enhance the country's long-term economic prospects and help address balance of payments issues. In a statement issued here on Sunday, he lauded the key role of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar for making best possible efforts to secure the IMF program mainly aims to address economic

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QUETTA: People are buying clothes from stalls due to price hiking, at a weekly bazaar located on Benazir Flyover in Quetta.

We will strengthen our liaison with the govt, Mian Tanvir

MULTAN (APP): Newly-elected president Multan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) Mian Bakhtawar Tanvir Sheikh said on Sunday that unemployment rate was continuously rising in the country which affecting all strata of society, suggesting that the voice of business community should be reached to decision-makers and steps should be taken towards improving the ease of doing business. He expressed these views while addressing the Annual General Meeting (AGM) here at MCCI. Earlier, following the announcement of final results by the election commission, Mian Bakhtawar Tanvir Sheikh, along with Senior Vice President Khawaja Muhammad Masood and Vice President Azhar Javid Khan, assumed their offices. "We will strengthen our liaison with the government,

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Agriculture Department to set up four model agri-malls: Secretary

MULTAN (APP): Secretary Agriculture Punjab Iftikhar Ali Sahu said on Sunday that four model Agri-Malls would be set up in Multan, Bahawalpur, Sargodha, and Sahiwal soon. During his visit to the Chief Minister Punjab Kisan card distribution centre in Multan, he said efforts were under way to transform agriculture in the province, under the directions of chief minister Punjab. He said that 136 centres had been established at tehsil level across the province for distribution of Kisan cards. Over one million farmers have been registered for getting Kisan card, which would be fully activated by

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PCMEA elects new leadership

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Carpet and Exporters Association (PCMEA) has announced its new leadership following recent elections. Mian Atiqur Rehman takes the reins as Chairman, joined by Zahid Nazir as Senior Vice Chairman (Southern Zone) and Riyaz Ahmed as Vice Chairman (Northern Zone), senior leader Abdul Latif Malik has been appointed as Patron-in-Chief in recognition of his immense contributions to the industry. The election of the Executive

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Ch. Shafay says: Special incentives available for investors in Punjab's SEZs

LAHORE (APP): A 12-member delegation of International Labour and Trade Unions called on Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain at a local hotel on Sunday. The delegation was headed by Shoya Yoshida, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, Asia-Pacific, Singapore. During the meeting, mutual cooperation was agreed upon for the preparation of skilled manpower and the promotion of technical education. The possibilities of trade with various countries were also reviewed.

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Bilawal congratulates new LCCI leadership

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari extended his heartfelt congratulations to Mian Abuzar Shad on his election as Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) president. He also congratulated Engineer Khalid Usman for being elected as senior vice president and Shahid Nazeer as vice president. In a statement issued on Sunday, Bilawal acknowledged the vital role the business community played in growth and stability of the national economy. He said that collaboration between the PPP and the business sector was crucial in paving the way for Pakistan's economic progress. "The business community is the backbone of our economy. It is through their efforts that we can achieve sustainable development and prosperity," he said. Bilawal urged the newly-elected leadership of the LCCI to put forward their recommendations for much-needed economic reforms. He expressed the hope that joint efforts between political leadership and the business community would lead to better policy-making and a more conducive environment for business.

Over 46% work on K-IV project completed so far

ISLAMABAD (APP): As many over 46 per cent cumulative work on Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme (K-IV) has been completed so far. Official sources told APP here Sunday that a sum of Rs. 59.5 billion has been spent on construction of the project so far. Phase-I of the project, with approved PC-I of Rs. 126 billion, is planned to be completed in December 2025, they said. Rapid construction work on various sites of the

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UK Trade Commissioner's visit to strengthen UK-Pak economic ties: Mian Kashif

LAHORE (APP): Chairman UK-Pakistan Joint Business Council, Mian Kashif Ashfaq, expressed that the upcoming three-day visit of UK Trade Commissioner for Pakistan and the Middle East, Oliver Christian, will significantly enhance economic and trade relations between the two countries. Chairing a board of directors meeting here, he said during visit Oliver discussed the significance of new partnership including

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MULTAN: Punjab Secretary Agriculture Iftikhar Ali Sahoo talking to farmers during his visit to Kissan Card distribution centre.

Small Industry—Unlocking South Punjab's economic potential

MULTAN (APP): Having a long history of calligraphy, pottery, handicrafts and agricultural, South Punjab can be turned into treasure trove of opportunities for businesses especially small industries with its diverse sectors ready to boost the region's economic growth. From agriculture to handicrafts and diminishing cottage industry, the region is teeming with potential for development and offers an array of business avenues for value addition that could uplift local communities and contribute to country's economic progress. At the heart of the opportunity is the region's

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Erdogan's anti-Israel rhetoric falters as Turkey loses regional clout

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has used the United Nations General Assembly to criticise Israel and its Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. But as Erdogan tries to lead opposition to Israel, Turkey is finding itself increasingly sidelined in the region.

At the UN, Erdogan again compared Israel to Hitler, calling for an "international alliance of humanity" to stop Israel as it did Hitler 70 years ago. However, such fiery rhetoric is finding a shrinking audience. "It's more conveying a message to their base", said Sezin Oney of the Turkish news portal Politikoyol. "There isn't an audience that sees Turkey or Erdogan as the vanguard of Palestine rights anymore. On the contrary, that ship sailed long ago."

Erdogan attempted to

boost his image as a powerful regional player by meeting with the Lebanese and Iraqi Prime Ministers on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. But Ankara is increasingly finding itself sidelined as a regional diplomatic player.

"Ankara's pro-Hamas approach has only marginalised Turkey in the international arena," said international relations expert Selin Nasi of the London School of Economics. "So we see Egypt and Qatar receiving credits for their roles as mediators. And Turkey is locked out of international diplomatic efforts."

Since Hamas's 7 October attack on Israel and Israel's subsequent Gaza campaign, Ankara has tried to position itself among international mediating efforts to end the fighting, given its close contacts with Hamas. "Turkey was

asked by the United States to speak with Hamas people", said international relations expert Soli Ozel at Vienna's Institute for Human Studies.

However, Ozel says the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran denied Erdogan his diplomatic trump card. "One big blow to Turkey has been the murder of Haniyeh, with which Turkey did have very close relations. For all I know, he may even have had a Turkish passport", said Ozel. "And I don't think Turkey has any relations or contacts with Yahya Sinwar, who is officially and effectively the leader of Hamas."

With Israel already alienated by Erdogan's fiery rhetoric along with Turkey imposing an Israeli trade embargo, Gallia Lindenstrauss of Tel Aviv's National Security Studies says Turkey has nothing to offer.



Rescuers work at a site of an apartment building hit by a Russian air strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine.

Hezbollah leader's death is 'measure of justice' for his victims, Biden says

Monitoring Desk
REHOBOTH BEACH: U.S. President Joe Biden on Saturday called Israel's killing of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah "a measure of justice" for his many victims, and said Washington fully supported Israel's right to defend itself against Iran-supported groups.

In a statement released by the White House, Biden said he had directed Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin to further enhance the defense posture of U.S. military forces in the Middle East to deter aggression and reduce the risk of a broader war. Ultimately, Biden said, the U.S. aimed to de-escalate ongoing conflicts in Gaza and Lebanon through diplomatic means.

Israel on Thursday re-

jected global calls for a ceasefire with the Iran-backed Hezbollah movement, defying Washington and pressing ahead with strikes that have killed hundreds in Lebanon and heightened fears of an all-out regional war.

"It's time for a ceasefire," Biden said, when asked by reporters in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware on Saturday if an Israeli ground incursion into Lebanon was inevitable. In the White House statement, Biden underscored his full-throated support for Israel's strike on Nasrallah, which occurred while Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was in New York for the United Nations General Assembly and Biden and others were trying to broker a ceasefire deal.

Iran's parliament speaker says militant groups will go on confronting Israel

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said on Sunday that militant groups would carry on confronting Israel with Tehran's help following the killing of Hezbollah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Iranian state media reported. An alliance known as the Axis of Resistance, built up over decades with Iranian support, includes the Palestinian group Hamas, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Yemen's Houthis, and various Shi'ite Muslim armed groups in Iraq and Syria. Israel said it killed Nasrallah in an airstrike on Hezbollah's headquarters in Beirut's southern suburbs on Friday.

SpaceX launches rescue mission to bring home stranded astronauts

Monitoring Desk
FLORIDA: A SpaceX rocket lifted off with two passengers on Saturday to retrieve two American astronauts stranded on the International Space Station (ISS) for months, according to NASA.

The Falcon 9 rocket lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, at 1:17pm, carrying NASA astronaut Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Alexander Gorbunov to the ISS. The mission, Crew-9, features two empty seats intended to return Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams, who have been stranded on the ISS for months due to issues with their Boeing-designed Starliner spacecraft. "Congrats to NASA and SpaceX on a successful launch," NASA chief Bill Nelson wrote on X. "We live in an exciting period of exploration and innovation in the stars."

Kamala vows migration crackdown, reform as she finally visits border

Monitoring Desk
DOUGLAS: Kamala Harris pledged on Friday she would tighten the border and fix America's broken immigration system on her first visit to the US-Mexico frontier as a presidential candidate.

The US vice president is playing catch-up on immigration, with a majority of Americans saying they trust Republican rival Donald Trump more than her on one of the most important issues for voters ahead of November's election. In a speech in Douglas, Arizona before a friendly audience, Harris tried to straddle a tough-on-illegal-migration line with a promise to reach across the aisle to fix an immigration system she said was broken. "The United States is a sovereign nation, and I believe we have a duty to

set rules at our border and to enforce them, and I take that responsibility very seriously," she said.

"We are also a nation of immigrants... and so we must reform our immigration system to ensure that it works in an orderly way, that it is humane and that it makes our country stronger." Harris said as president she would revive a bipartisan border bill Trump "tanked" last year, which would add 1,500 border agents and pay for 100 machines to detect smuggled fentanyl, a synthetic opioid ravaging US communities. And she said anyone crossing the border illegally would be barred from seeking asylum in the country. But "hard-working migrants" who come to the US legally should be given a pathway to citizenship, she said.



A man carrying a sack of flour wades through floodwater after the Bagmati River overflowed following heavy monsoon rains in Kathmandu.



BEIRUT: People inspect the devastation in the Hadath district of the Lebanon capital's southern suburbs in the aftermath of intense Israeli air strikes.

Hashem Safieddine tipped as successor to Nasrallah

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Hashem Safieddine, a potential successor to his slain cousin Hassan Nasrallah, is one of Hezbollah's most prominent figures and has deep religious and family ties to Iran.

Safieddine bears a striking resemblance to his charismatic maternal cousin Nasrallah but is several years his junior, aged in his late 50s or early 60s. A source close to Hezbollah said the grey-bearded, bespectacled Safieddine was the "most likely" candidate for party's top job.

As head of the executive council, Safieddine oversees Hezbollah's political affairs. Safieddine's public statements often reflect Hezbollah's militant stance and its alignment with the Palestinian cause. At a recent event in Dahiyeh, Hezbollah's stronghold in Beirut's southern suburbs, he declared, "Our history, our guns and our rockets are with you."

148 dead in Nepal floods after relentless monsoon rains

Monitoring Desk
KATHMANDU: Residents of Nepal's flood-hit capital returned to their mud-caked homes on Sunday to survey the wreckage of devastating floods that have killed at least 148 people across the Himalayan republic.

Deadly rain-related floods and landslides are common across South Asia during the monsoon season from June to September, but experts say climate change is increasing their frequency and severity. Entire neighbourhoods in Kathmandu were inundated over the weekend with flash floods reported in rivers coursing through the capital and extensive damage to highways connecting the city with the rest of Nepal.

Kumar Tamang, who lives in a slum area by a riverbank, told AFP that he and his family had to flee after midnight on Saturday as waters rushed into his shack. "This morning we returned and everything looks different," the 40-year-old said. "We couldn't even open the doors to our house, it was jammed with mud," he added.



Head of Freedom Party (FPÖ) Herbert Kickl speaks during a television debate, after the first exit polls during the general election, in Vienna, Austria.

Taiwan on alert over 'multiple waves' of missile firing in inland China

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: Taiwan's Defence Ministry said on Sunday it was on alert after detecting "multiple waves" of missile firing deep in inland China, days after Beijing said it had carried out a successful test launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile.

Democratically governed Taiwan, which China views as its own territory, keeps a close watch on Chinese military drills given Beijing's regular activities around the island, but only rarely releases details of what it sees taking place inside China.

The ministry said that starting from 6:50 a.m. (2250 GMT on Saturday) it had detected "multiple waves of firing" by China's Rocket Force and army in the provinces and regions of Inner Mongolia, Gansu, Qinghai and Xinjiang, which all lie at least 2,000 km (1,200 miles) from Taiwan. Taiwan's forces are "continuously monitoring relevant developments, and air defence forces have maintained a high level of vigilance and strengthened their alert".

Storm John dumps nearly one meter of rain on southern Mexican state

Monitoring Desk
ACAPULCO: Storm John started dissipating over Mexico's Pacific coast and was downgraded to tropical depression, but its remnants poured a deluge of almost 100 cm (39 inches) of rain on the southern state of Guerrero.

Four days of steady rain dousing the home state of major beach resort Acapulco have almost tripled the downpour from last year's devastating Hurricane Otis, Mexican authorities said. Images on social networks showed homes, businesses, roads and vehicles were damaged as rising waters flooded areas in Guerrero and the neighboring state of Michoacan.

The US National Hurricane Center (NHC) warned that "catastrophic flash flooding and mudslides will continue over portions of southern and south-western Mexico."

The head of Mexico's national meteorological service, Alejandra Mendez, said John had soaked Guerrero with more than 95 cm (37 inches) of rain since Monday, while Otis, a Category 5 hurricane, had brought 35 cm (14 inches) of rain.

Nine down, 48 missing as migrant boat sinks near Spain

Monitoring Desk
MADRID: A boat carrying migrants capsized off Spain's Canary Islands overnight, killing at least nine and leaving 48 missing, the national maritime rescue service said on Saturday. Eighty-four people were on board and 27 were saved after rescuers responded to a distress call received shortly after midnight from off El Hierro, one of the islands in the Atlantic archipelago, a statement said.

At least six killed by bomb blasts in Somalia

Monitoring Desk
MOGADISHU: At least six people were killed and 10 injured by bomb explosions in Somalia's capital Mogadishu and a town in the country's Middle Shabelle region, police and witnesses said.

It was not immediately clear who had carried out the attacks, although Islamist militant group al Shabaab frequently orchestrates bombings and gun attacks in Mogadishu and elsewhere in the Horn of Africa country. The blast in Mogadishu involved a bomb-rigged car that was parked on a road near the National Theatre in Mogadishu, about one kilometre away from the president's office.

World powers warn of Israeli attack's repercussions

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: With the spectre of all-out war looming over the Middle East, world powers warned of the potential repercussions of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah's assassination by Israel amid growing calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in the Middle East. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the UN General Assembly on Saturday that there must not be a delay in reaching a "comprehensive ceasefire" in the Middle East, and said a two-state solution between Israelis and Palestinians remains the way out of the region's tensions.

Russia strongly condemned "yet another political assassination" in the Lebanese capital Beirut. Its foreign ministry said, "This forceful action is fraught with even greater dramatic consequences for Lebanon and the entire Middle East. The Israeli side could not fail to recognise this danger, but took the step of killing Lebanese citizens, which would almost inevitably provoke a new outburst of violence. Thus, it bears full responsibility for the subsequent escalation."

However, US President Joe Biden the United States fully supported Israel's right to defend itself and said he had directed Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin to further enhance the US military forces.

Israel says it has struck dozens of Houthi targets in Yemen

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: The Israeli military says dozens of aircraft have struck Houthi targets in Yemen in response to recent attack on Israel.

The military said it targeted power plants and sea port facilities in the city of Hodeida.

The Houthis launched a ballistic missile attack on Ben Gurion airport on Saturday when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was arriving.

The Israeli military said Sunday it has killed another high-ranking Hezbollah official in an airstrike as the Lebanese militant group was reeling from a string of devastating blows and the killing of its overall leader, Hassan Nasrallah.

The military said Nabil Kaouk, the deputy head of Hezbollah's Central Council, was killed on Saturday. Hezbollah confirmed his death, making him the seventh senior Hezbollah leader slain in Israeli strikes in a little over a week. They include founding members who had evaded death or detention for decades.

The Israeli military said it carried out another targeted strike on Beirut later on Sunday, with details to follow.

Hezbollah had earlier confirmed that Ali Karaki, another senior commander, died in Friday's strike that killed Nasrallah.

The Israeli military said earlier that Karaki was killed in the airstrike, which targeted an underground compound in Beirut where Nasrallah and other senior Hezbollah figures were meeting.

China, at UN, warns against 'expansion of the battlefield' in the Ukraine war

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Three days before his communist government turns 75, China's foreign minister warned fellow leaders Saturday against an "expansion of the battlefield" in Russia's war with Ukraine and said the Beijing government remains committed to shuttle diplomacy and efforts to push the conflict toward its end.

"The top priority is to commit to no expansion of the battlefield. ... China is committed to playing a constructive role," Wang Yi said. He warned against other nations "throwing oil on the fire or exploiting the situation for selfish gains," a likely reference to the United States.

Wang's speech appeared to break no new ground, as is generally China's recent practice at the U.N. General Assembly's annual meeting of leaders. In fact, his boss, Chinese President Xi Jinping, has not participated in the leaders' meeting since 2021 — and then only virtually, during the pandemic. Xi has not attended in person for several years.

On Friday, on the assembly sidelines, China and Brazil sought to build enthusiasm for their peace plan for Ukraine. They said about a dozen countries signed a communique that says they "note" the six-point plan. The plan calls for a peace conference with both Ukraine and Russia and no expansion of the battlefield, among other provisions.

Ukrainian officials have given the proposal a cold shoulder, but the countries that signed the communique are forming a group of "friends for peace" for their U.N. ambassadors to keep the conversation going among themselves.

Ranging from Algeria to Zambia, the members are largely African or Latin American countries. Wang made sure to note Friday that the group doesn't decrease individual countries' policies.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a news conference Saturday that Russia was ready to provide assistance and advice to the group.

Austria votes in tight election with far right bidding for historic win

Monitoring Desk
VIENNA: Austrians voted on Sunday for a new parliament with the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ) aiming to secure its first general election win, which could lead to a dispute within the European Union over the war in Ukraine.

The FPÖ has led opinion polls for months but its lead over Chancellor Karl Nehammer's ruling conservative Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) has now almost evaporated in a campaign dominated by voter concerns over the economy and immigration.

Whoever wins will fall short of an absolute majority, polls show, but will claim the right to lead a coalition government.

Polling stations opened just after dawn and projections are due minutes after polls close at 5 p.m. (1500 GMT).

"What's at stake is whether the FPÖ will appoint the chancellor or not," Kathrin Stainer-Haemmerle, political science professor at the Carinthia University of Applied Sciences.

"Should that happen, then I have to say the role of Austria in the European Union would be significantly different. Kickl has often said that (Hungarian Prime Minister) Viktor Orban is a role model for him and he will stand by him."

Nehammer casts himself as a statesman and depicts his rival, FPÖ leader Herbert Kickl, as a toxic menace. Kickl has styled himself as a defender of Austrian neutrality who will clean up the country after years of establishment failures.

An FPÖ victory would make Austria the latest EU country to register surging far-right support after gains in countries including the Netherlands, France and Germany.

The Eurosceptic FPÖ, which is critical of Islam and pledges tougher rules on asylum seekers, won a national vote for the first time in June when it beat the ÖVP by less than a percentage point in European elections.

The ÖVP, which like the FPÖ backs tougher immigration rules and tax cuts, is the only party open to forming a coalition with the far-right party.

Asian countries' collective efforts must for regional development: Ahsan Iqbal

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has said that Asian countries will have to work together to transform it into a strong region.

Addressing as guest of honour here at Asia's Energy Transition Summit on Sunday, he was of the view that energy use would determine the climate change that is a very important global issue. "We have suffered a lot due to climate change," he said. Ahsan Iqbal said that Asia accounts for 50 per cent of the world's population and it will soon account for more than half of the world's GDP, asserting that Asia is also a major center of energy consumption.

Federal Minister said that environmentally friendly energy projects are implemented in Pakistan and an environment-friendly policy was also adopted to generate electricity through coal. "We have to innovate in our projects. We also have to see how the investment for these projects will be received and we need to bring many changes in our policies by creating an environment that facilitates investment and further development in the energy sector."

He said, Asian countries will have to work together, citing that some countries are rich and some are poor, everyone must work together to improve Asia. Cooperation is essential for the betterment of the region: if all these things are implemented, Asia can become a stronger region.

Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal said, "Our target is to achieve green energy. We want everyone to have access to affordable, environmentally friendly energy."

LUMS Energy Institute (LEI) in collaboration



LAHORE: The Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal Addressing to Asia's Energy Transition Summit at LUMS University.

Amir Muqam says: PTI Govt fails to address problems despite 3rd term

SWAT (APP): Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam here Sunday said that Pakistan Tahrik e Insaaf Government has failed to address masses problems despite three consecutive government of the party that deceived masses on the name of so called change.

Addressing party workers at Sangota here, the Minister said that unnecessary exercises and experiments have ruined health and education sectors in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Instead to focus on improving law and order situation in southern districts, he said that maladministration and poor governance besides corruption cases have started surfacing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said that recent

Pakistan, Oman agree on MoU to facilitate enhancement of workforce

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Oman on Sunday agreed on early finalization of memorandum of understanding (MoU) on labor and manpower exchange which would facilitate the enhancement of Pakistan workforce and its smooth movement from Pakistan to Oman.

This was decided in a meeting held in Muscat between Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain and Minister of Labour of the Sultanate of Oman Dr. Mahad bin Said bin Ali Baowain, said a press release issued here.

Chaudhry Salik Hussain is on a three-day visit to the Sultanate where he will meet several ministers of Oman and will inaugurate a new branch of Pakistan International School in Muscat. During the meeting, Chaudhry Salik Hussain apprised the Omani side of the major reforms the government was undertaking to improve the emigration process of Pakistani workers, their professional capacity enhancement and the marketing of Pakistani workforce abroad.

He said that Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis was upgrading the technical training centers in Pakistan on modern lines which would train the workforce according to the certification requirement of each individual country or region. Chaudhry Salik Hussain informed that Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis was going to start a compulsory pre-departure orientation program for all the workers going abroad which would educate them about the labor laws of the host country, workers' rights and duties, cultural sensitivities of the host country and reprieve mechanism in case of any eventuality.



ISLAMABAD: Police arresting the former senator of JI and leader of Save Ghaza Movement Mushtaq Ghani during a protest rally to pay tribute to Hizbullah Chief Hassan Nasarullah, who was martyred in Israeli air attack on Lebanon's capital Beirut.



OMAN: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, receiving a souvenir from Oman's Minister of Labour, Dr Mahad bin Said bin Ali.

Provincial Ministers grieved over Panjgur tragedy; term act against traditions & Islamic teachings

Targeting armless innocent labourers cowardly act, cruelty and open terrorism; term incident against Balochi traditions, humanity and Islamic teachings

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE), Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, Provincial Minister for Finance, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani and Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar have strongly condemned the killing of labourers in Panjgur. In their separate condemnation statements issued here, the Provincial Ministers said that it is a cowardly act, cruel and open terrorism to target and kill innocent and armless labourers.

Sardar Abdul Rehman said that those involved in

Alem Khan engages top Chinese investors to invest in Pakistan

BEIJING (INP): Abdul Alem Khan, Federal Minister for Investment and Privatization engaged here over 30 top Chinese entrepreneurs in various sectors to invest in Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Sunday.

Addressing the "Business Roundtable" at Pakistan's Embassy, the Minister said that he was pleased to see that a big number of Chinese companies are eager to invest in important sectors such as construction, logistics, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, technology, agriculture and automobile industry.

He said, "CEPC has

CTD registers FIR of murder of 7 laborers in Panjgur

PANGUR (INP): A case has been registered at the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) police station in connection with the brutal murder of seven laborers in the Khudabadan area of Panjgur.

According to local police reports, the families of the victims complained.

The attack, which took place last night, saw armed terrorists open fire on laborers, resulting in the deaths of seven and the injury of another. The case includes charges of murder, attempted murder, terrorism, and other related offenses.

Authorities have confirmed that the bodies of the slain laborers will be sent to their hometown of Multan later today. The incident has sparked outrage in the local community, raising concerns over the escalating violence targeting workers in the region.

Elections in IIOJK cannot resolve Kashmir dispute: Mirwaiz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has said that elections in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir cannot resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq in a media interview said the changes brought in by the Indian government post 2019 have taken all the powers from the elected legislature, and gave it to the lieutenant governor, who is an appointee of the Indian government, KMS reported.

He said he has faced significant restrictions since August 2019, including house arrest and limitations on his movements.

"I was partially released from house arrest in

Police kill three bandits in Kacha operation

LAHORE (APP): Following the instructions of Inspector General of Police Punjab, Dr. Usman Anwar, Punjab police continues its targeted operations against criminals in Kacha areas.

In a major success, Punjab police neutralized three notorious bandits in Kacha after an exchange of fire. According to the details, during the exchange of fire, three dangerous bandits were killed, and weapons were recovered. After the firing stopped, a search operation was conducted. The

Four killed in gunfight b/w two groups in DG Khan

DERA GHAZI KHAN (APP): Four people were killed and three others injured in firing after two groups clashed in limits of Kala police station on Sunday.

According to details, the clash took place over a business related issue. Police reached the crime scene after receiving information and controlled the situation. The injured were shifted to hospital for medical treatment.



KARACHI: Balochistan Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar enquiring about health of Pashto famous artist Habibullah Panezai admitted in private hospital in Karachi.

Ongoing war against terrorism is war of nation's future: Zehri

Independent Report
HUB: Senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party, Spokesperson of President Asif Ali Zardari and Provincial Advisor for Industry and Crafts Mir Ali Hassan Zehri expressed his deep anger and sorrow over the brutal killing of 7 laborers in Panjgur by terrorists. In his condemnation statement, he said that the foreign-funded cowardly enemies will be dealt with iron hands and they will not find any place to hide. Terrorists will be removed from their dumps and eliminated selectively. Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that today once again the blood of innocent citizens has fallen on the land of Balochistan. It is not bravery to martyr innocent laborers in Panjgur. This is the action of those cowardly terrorists who do this kind of cowardly action against foreign masters. Attacking innocent and acquitted laborers is proof



ZHOB: Provincial Advisor for Environment and Climate Change Nasem ur Rehman inaugurating free medical camp

Martyrdom of Hassan Nasrallah is reflection of Israeli war frenzy: Samina

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: The chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, has strongly condemned the martyrdom of the Hizbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in the Israeli attack in Beirut. She said in her condemning statement that the martyrdom of Hizbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah is a big blow for the world of Islam. Their martyrdom will not be in vain.

Hassan Nasrallah's name will be written in golden letters in the struggle for the freedom of Palestine. She said that the martyrdom of Hassan Nasrallah reflects the war frenzy of Israel, which is a despicable war to expand the imposed war in the Middle East to achieve its nefarious ambitions. The entire world, including Muslim countries and the big orga-

Gilani strongly condemns attack on laborers in Panjgur

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, on Sunday, strongly condemned the tragic shooting incident in Panjgur, where miscreants opened fire on laborers.

Expressing deep sorrow over the loss of lives, he extended heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased laborers and prayed for the departed souls.

He said that the unjustified killing of innocent laborers is against all human values, and those responsible for this heinous act deserve no leniency.



PESHAWAR: Former prime minister and Awam Pakistan Party leader, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi addresses to media persons during press conference held at Peshawar press club.

Khaqan Abbasi criticizes proposed constitutional amendment process

MULTAN (INP): In a recent interview with a private TV Channel, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Chief of the Awam Pakistan Party, expressed serious concerns regarding the proposed constitutional amendment, revealing that none of the 450 members of parliament have read the draft.

Abbasi highlighted the alarming trend of legislation being passed without thorough examination, questioning, "Show me a country where laws are passed without reading them?"

Abbasi pointed out that the integrity of constitutional courts is at stake, urging transparency in the amendment process. "Why are you afraid of putting the constitutional amendment in front of the people?" he asked, emphasizing the need for public engagement

MQM-P rejects extension in quota system

KARACHI (INP) - The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has rejected an extension in the quota system.

One of the most important government allies said that an extension of 20 years in the quota system is sheer injustice.

According to sources, the MNAs of MQM gave a suggestion to reconsider its decision of supporting the ruling coalition in the centre against the quota system. "The quota system is economic and educational murder of the people hailing from Urban Sindh," said the MQM lawmakers.

The sources added that MQM-P is planning to convene its meeting to discuss the extension in quota system.



TURBAT: MPA Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch meeting with SE QESCO Hasan Ali Magsi regarding provision of electricity and other issues



QUETTA: SSP Serious Crimes Investigation Wing, Zuhair Muhsin addressing a press conference.