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PM announces award of Rs2.5m for excavator driver Mohibullah for rescuing flood-stranded family

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday awarded Rs 2.5 million to an excavator operator who had rescued a family stranded in the flood in the Qilla Abdullah area of Balochistan.

The prime minister, who invited the rescuer Mohibullah to the Prime Minister's House, appreciated his courage to save the stranded family while risking his own life, according to a PM Office press release.

"The whole nation including me feels proud of you. I deeply adore your love for humanity. You are a nation's hero as you showed the courage to save human lives," the prime minister said.

He said that Mohibullah had fulfilled the

national responsibility by rescuing the stranded people without caring about his own life.

Besides awarding Rs 2.5 million from the Government of Pakistan, the prime minister also announced a free-of-charge education facility up to the university level for Mohibullah's children and cost-free healthcare for his family.

"This an honor for me to meet the prime minister of Pakistan. I never thought so. While rescuing the stranded family, I never knew that the act would get that much popular country-wide," Mohibullah said in the meeting.

He also thanked the prime minister for acknowledging his gesture and honoring him by inviting him to the PM House.



ISLAMABAD: Muhib Ullah Kakar, an excavator driver who saved a family stranded in flash flood in Qilla Abdullah calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Opposition alliance demands APC over deteriorating security in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD ((Agencies): The Opposition Grand Alliance - Tehreek-e-Tahafuz-e-Ayeeen Pakistan (TTAP) - has called for an All Parties Conference (APC) to address the worsening security situation in Balochistan, expressing deep concern over the province's current state of affairs.

During a press conference in Islamabad on Wednesday, PTI leader Asad Qaiser stated, "Our alliance is seriously concerned about the situation in Balochistan. We will meet with the National As-

sembly speaker and urge him to take action, including convening an APC on Balochistan."

Qaiser emphasised the need to address the grievances of "our estranged Baloch brothers," noting that despite raising the issue in the assembly, the government has shown little interest. He also lamented Akhtar Mengal's resignation from the National Assembly, calling it "a regrettable development."

He stressed the importance of a serious discussion on Balochistan, warning that it could lead to a "regrettable development."

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ISLAMABAD: PTT's MNA Malik Adil Khan Bazai, opposition leader Umar Ayub, Asad Qaiser and Usman Badini talking with Chief of JUI Maulana Fazlur Rehman

Balochistan cabinet approves E-Commerce Implementation Plan, Code of Procedure Amendment Bill, Fisheries Endowment Fund

QUETTA: The Balochistan cabinet has approved the E-Commerce Implementation Plan and The Code of Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill. The cabinet decided to reorganise the Pasi Fish Harbour and the Policy regarding the Fisheries Department Endowment Fund.

Similarly, the provincial cabinet approved the Marine Fisheries Patrolling Regulation 2023.

These approvals were given by the provincial cabinet in its meeting held with the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti in the chair on Wednesday.

As per the decision made by the cabinet, the implementation plan of E-Commerce was approved under which steps would be taken for providing opportunities to youngsters in-

cluding women and their access to the international and national markets.

This initiative would help accelerate the economic activities in the province engaging youth, it was believed.

These and similar other details were shared by the spokesman of the provincial government, Shahid Rind while briefing the media persons about the decisions of cabinet here at the Chief Minister secretariat on Wednesday.

The spokesman said that the cabinet strongly condemned the incidents of terrorism took place in the province on August 25 and 26.

The fateha was also offered for the departed souls of those who were martyred in the incidents.

As the cabinet approved the Code of Criminal Procedure Amendment



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over meeting of Provincial Cabinet

Balochistan cabinet strongly condemns incidents of terrorism: CM reiterates Govt.'s commitment to resolve problems of people through good governance

Mir Sarfraz Bugti directs Provincial Ministers, Chief Secretary & secretaries to visit all districts of province to get them acquainted about issues of people; Govt providing foreign scholarships to talented Baloch youth: Bugti

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan cabinet has strongly condemned the recent incidents of terrorism took place in different parts of the province on August 25 and 26, 2024. The cabinet also offered fateha for the departed souls of those martyred in these incidents of terrorism.

The provincial cabinet met with the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti in the chair here on Wednesday.

The provincial ministers, advisors as well as the parliamentary secretaries and Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Inspector General of Police, Moazzam Jah Ansari and the administrative secretaries of the provincial government were in attendance.

Addressing the provincial cabinet, Chief Minister said that the provincial assembly had also unanimously condemned the incidents of terrorism in its session the other day. The provincial cabinet also strongly condemns the incidents of terrorism in the province.

He said that the handfull terrorists kill the innocent people after finding the soft target. He said that the Balochi

traditions were violated in the name of "so-called Balochi nationalism". He said that no Baloch killed any Punjabi, rather terrorists killed Pakistanis.

The Chief Minister said that we are sending our youngsters in the higher educational institutions of the world including Oxford and Harvard Universities while the terrorists organizations are provoking them (youngsters) towards the subversive acts. Now the decision has to be made by the people of Balochistan, he maintained.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti also said that we would resolve issues of the people through good governance.

He stressed that it is necessary to set right direction for bringing sustainable development.

He said that we have to work for the common person of Balochistan who face hardships in the life.

The Chief Minister on the occasion directed to the provincial Ministers, Chief Secretary and all administrative secretaries of the provincial government departments to pay visit to all districts of the province to get them acquainted about the issues of people.

Rabi-ul-Awwal moon not sighted, Eid Milad-un-Nabi on Sept 17

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: The Rabiul Awwal moon has not been sighted, and the first Rabiul Awwal will be observed on Friday.

This was announced by the Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad while addressing a news conference in Islamabad tonight.

He said the 12th of Rabiul Awwal will be observed on 17th of this month.

KP governor demands of CM KP to seek vote of confidence

PESHAWAR (Online): Governor KP Faisal Kundi has demanded of Chief Minister (CM) KP to seek vote of confidence from assembly.

"Tell us why the ministers and advisors are being changed, if they are corrupt and incompetent they why they are not being punished, he said this while talking to media men here Wednesday. Governor KP raised question these people used to say universities will be established in governor and CM house.

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A government delegation led by Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs and Inter-Provincial Coordination Rana Sanaullah meets Balochistan National Party-Mengal chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal

Akhtar Mengal declines to withdraw resignation despite govt efforts

ISLAMABAD (INP): Negotiations of the committee constituted by the government with chief of Balochistan National Party (BNP) Sardar Akhtar Mengal ended in failure as he refused to withdraw resignation.

The government's committee held meeting with the BNP's chief with an aim to convince him for resolving the issues through dialogues.

However, Akhtar Mengal remained steadfast

on his decision of quitting the member of National Assembly.

The BNP chief was of the view that he repeatedly raised the issue of Balochistan's exploitation during government of different political parties but the government was unable to understand the problem of the province.

Mengal stated that we were bridge between state and Balochistan and can't comprise on interests of the province and its people.

Cabinet committee on Public sector imports from Gwadar port, holds deliberations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Public Sector Imports from Gwadar Port.

The meeting, attended by Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qasir Ahmed Shaikh and senior officials, including federal secretaries from Commerce, Petroleum, Maritime, and Finance, focused on strategies to enhance

public sector imports through Gwadar Port, said a press release.

The committee, constituted by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, engaged in thorough deliberations and decided to include representatives from the private sector, particularly the Shipping Associations, in its next meeting.

The committee will present its recommendations to the Prime Minister for further action.



QUETTA: Officers of K-Electric meeting with Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan

Tarar discusses several initiative to address misinformation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Minister for Law & Justice, Human Rights and Parliamentary Affairs, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, held a meeting with the UNDP delegation headed by Ali Al-Bayati, Chief Technical Advisor, to discuss several critical initiatives aimed at addressing misinformation and fostering a safer digital environment in Pakistan.

During the meeting, the delegation highlighted the ongoing "Safe Digital Environment Programme" (SDEP), which aims to empower Pakistani citizens by enhancing their ability to recognize and combat disinformation and hateful narratives. The program, operational since March 2023, focuses on providing robust assistance to the government in policymaking, particularly in areas related to online hate and disinformation.

The delegation shared insights from their ongoing research and policy briefs, designed to support the government's efforts in tackling these challenges.

Journalist killed in Mastung

QUETTA (APP): A senior journalist was shot dead in the Gul Kand area of Mastung Balochistan on Wednesday.

According to the private news channel and police, the journalist was identified as Nisar Lehri.

The police officials confirmed the incident, saying that the victim was Press Club Secretary who was killed over a land dispute. The police registered an FIR and started further investigation.

Fazal urges immediate action to address security issues in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F), Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Wednesday called for immediate action from both the government and the opposition to address the law and order situation in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Speaking on a point of order in the National Assembly, he warned against dismissing political leaders and institutions, emphasizing that neglecting their roles could be a grave mistake.

He strongly condemned the ongoing attacks on the armed forces and institutions, urging both the government and parliament to confront these challenges, as Parliament is the supreme institution.

The JUI-F Chief highlighted that experienced political leaders are being side-

lined in favour of inexperienced and emotional youth, leading to further complications.

He stressed the necessity for empowered politicians to address and resolve these issues rather than centralizing power and making unilateral decisions, which he believes is not a viable solution.

Addressing the geopolitical dynamics, Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that the region has become a battleground for proxy wars involving major powers like the United States and China.

He pointed out that significant projects, such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), are encountering obstacles, particularly in areas like Dera Ismail Khan and Laki Marwat, where development work is impeded by security concerns.



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Türkiye to Pakistan, Mehmet Pacaci called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Resignation of Akhtar Mengal apparently seems nothing except popular politics: Shahid Rind



Speaking in a TV channel programme, the spokesman of provincial government said that Sardar Akhtar Mengal is a respected political leader and a leader of a major political leader.

Shahid Rind said that Sardar Akhtar Mengal has not done this before, rather he has been making similar sentimental decisions.

And secondly, there happens to be much difference in making announcement and tendering resignation, he maintained.

The spokesman said that Sardar Akhtar Mengal had been the part of government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, for three and half years.

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QUETTA: Chairman Balochistan Commission for Women Fouzia Shaheen, Uzma Yaqoob and others meeting with Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly Ghazala Gola

Ghazala calls for effective coordination between Govt. & NGOs to cope with challenges of climate change, etc.

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly and Chairperson of Women Caucus, Ms. Ghazala Gola has stressed the need to take steps for effective coordination between the government and non-governmental organizations for coping with the challenges of climate change, empowering women economically and socially.

Ms. Ghazala Gola was speaking to the head of FDI Pakistan, Ms. Uzma Yaqoob, who called on him here at her chamber on Wednesday.

During the course of meeting, there was discussion on the protection of rights of women and un-

der privileged segments, existing situation of law about under age marriages and assistance of the segments affected from the climate changes.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Speaker said that the present provincial government is determined to provide opportunities of progress to the women as well as all the backward and weak segments of the society.

She said that Pakistan Peoples Party is the representative party of the backward segments and as such the coalition government led by the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti is working for welfare of the people under leadership of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

Babar Azam out of top 10 Test batsmen ranking

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Star batsman Babar Azam has ostensibly lost the shine for which he was admired across the world as he has slipped out of top 10 list in ICC men's Test batters ranking, for the first time in more than four and a half years.

The former captain has dropped to No12 with 712 points after losing three places as he seems to be in a lackluster form.

It can be established through the fact as well that the 29-year-old has not hit a half-century during his last 16 innings in Test format, while he scored 64 runs only across four innings at the home ground in the recently concluded two-match Test series against Bangladesh.

Mohammad Rizwan is the only Pakistani batter retaining a spot in top 10 that too on the edge at 10th position.

The third Green Shirts batsman that can be spotted among top 20 batters is Saud Shakil at 20th position. The middle-order batsman has plummeted by seven places from 13. Whereas, Salman Ali Agha moved nine spots up to reach 31 from 40.

On the other hand, after two back-to-back hundreds in the second Test against Sri Lanka, Joe Root's incredible batting has pushed the English batsman on the ICC Test Batter Rankings' lead position.

With 63 rating points between Root and Kane Williamson of New Zealand, Root (922 rating points) has the advantage and can surpass his own record. He is only one rating point away from the 923 rating he achieved in July 2022 at Edgbaston following a century against India.

Len Hutton, Jack Hobbs, and Peter May are the only three English batters with higher career rating among Test batsmen.

Even though Root had several impressive performances in the second Test match against Sri Lanka, Gus Atkinson was the player of the match for his all-round performance.

The ICC said after becoming just the third player in Men's Test history to score a century and claim a five-wicket haul at the hallowed venue, Atkinson moved up 48 spots, into the top 20 for All-Rounders, and into the top 30 for bowlers.

Whilst on the wrong side of the result at Lord's, there were positive moves for a number of Sri Lanka players in the latest update.

Half-centuries for Kamindu Mendis moved him up 11 spots and into 25th (635), while an eight-wicket performance from Asitha Fernando propelled the seamer into the top ten for the first time (8th, 734).



RAWALPINDI: Maj. Gen. Amer Ashfaq Kayani, Acting Secretary Defence and Maj. Gen. Abdel Rehman Abdel Rehman Mahmoud Wahdan, Egyptian Asst Head of the Armed Forces Operations Authority for Civil & Military Coordination, signing the Minutes of the Meeting (MoM) of 14 Pak-Egypt MCC Meeting at Ministry of Defence



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabeer Azad.

Court reserves verdict of Bushra plea in £190 mln reference

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Accountability Court on Wednesday reserved its verdict on the petition filed by the petitioner Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) founder, Bushra Bibi regarding the £190 million reference.

The Accountability Court Judge Nasir Javed Rana heard the petition at Adiala Jail.

Following the completion of arguments from both sides, the court decided to reserve its judgment, which will be announced on September 5.

Meanwhile, National Accountability Bureau (NAB) op-

posed Bushra Bibi's petition during the court proceedings. Both the PTI founder and Bushra Bibi were present in the courtroom. However, the NAB investigating officer could not be cross-examined due to the absence of PTI's lawyer.

During the hearing, Lawyer Usman Riaz Gul represented Bushra Bibi, arguing for her acquittal.

The court also declared the contempt petition against the NAB chairman ineffective, stating that the arguments on the plea for acquittal rendered the contempt petition irrelevant.

Govt constitutes committee to review foreign funding of NGOs

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has decided to review the foreign funding of local and foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for which it has constituted a six-member committee of the federal cabinet.

Federal Minister for Law Azam Nazir Tarar will be of the committee and it will comprise secretaries for interior, foreign, law, finance and economic affairs.

The committee will review the blocking suspicious foreign funding received by the NGOs and will give suggestions for ensuring transparency in the funding.

Balochistan cabinet...

Continued from page 1

In addition to this, the concerned authorities were directed to involve the local fishermen in the decision making in this regard.

The cabinet also approved the policy of Fisheries department Endowment Fund, through which the resources would be increased for welfare of the fishermen.

The cabinet also approved the Marine Fisheries Patrolling Regulations 2023 for ending the illegal trawling.

Initially, the services of 100 Levies personnel would be handed over to the Fisheries department for patrolling.

Moreover, the cabinet approved increase in the production of mangroves in the Charna Island marine protected area.

In this regard, the Secretary Forests Dostain Jamaldini was directed to prepare comprehensive recommendations.

The cabinet also approved appropriate increase in the rate of fees about the Balochistan solid waste management.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister directed to all secretaries to ensure their timely presence in the cabinet's meeting.

He on the occasion said that the objective behind all decisions of the government is to improve living standard of the common men of the province.

Naqvi stresses religious scholars to play role to eliminate menace of terrorism

ISLAMABAD (Online): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi says consultation will be made with the religious scholars of all schools of thoughts to evolve an effective narrative in the war against terrorism.

Talking to Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabeer Azad in Islamabad Wednesday, he said that a nationwide campaign of consultation with Ulama will be started soon as they always played their due role in the national development.

The Minister stressed religious scholars to play a prolific role to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country.

He said that Ulama guided the nation in the war against terrorism earlier and it is still needed.

Mohsin Naqvi said terrorists have no religion and enemy wants to harm the national integration by creating unrest in the country. He vowed to foil the nefarious agenda of enemy with collective efforts.

Matters related to the steps for establishing peace and elimination of terrorism and sectarianism, promotion of inter-faith harmony and brotherhood also came under discussion during the meeting.

In his remarks, Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad said that entire nation stands by its valiant armed forces and security institutions for the elimination of terrorism and extremism.

He also commended the efforts and services of Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi for establishing peace in the country.

US stands 'shoulder to shoulder' with Pakistan in combating terrorism

State Department

WASHINGTON (APP): Amid growing acts of terrorism in Pakistan, the United States has reaffirmed its commitment to stand "shoulder to shoulder" with the South Asian country in fighting the menace.

"The United States and Pakistan have a shared interest in combating threats to regional security, and we will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with Pakistan in its fight against terrorism," State Department Spokesperson Mathew Miller told his daily news briefing on Tuesday.

He was responding to a question from the correspondent of a private Pakistani TV channel about last week's series of deadly attacks in Balochistan in which more than 70 people were killed, including 23 in Musakhail where armed men offloaded passengers

from buses and trucks and shot at them after checking their identities.

"The Pakistani people have suffered greatly at the hands of violent extremist terrorists and our hearts go out to the families and loved ones of those killed," Miller said while deprecating those attacks.

"The United States strongly condemns last week's deadly attacks that targeted security officials and civilians, including the murder of 23 innocent civilians in Musakhail," he added.

Responding to a question about Iran's warning to Pakistan to complete the

pipeline project and the threat of \$18 billion fine, Miller said that the US would continue to impose sanctions on Iran and advised anyone against considering deals with the country.

"And as a matter of course, we also advise anyone considering business deals with Iran to be aware of the potential ramifications," the spokesperson said. "At the same time," he added, "helping Pakistan address its energy shortage is a priority for the United States, and we continue to discuss energy security with the Government of Pakistan."

Ahad Cheema meets with EIB delegation to discuss development initiative

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Cheema on Wednesday met with a high level delegation from the European Investment Bank (EIB) and discussed strategic collaborations and potential investments in key development projects in Pakistan.

The delegation led by Head of Division for Asia & Pacific Edvardas Bumsteinas, alongside key representatives from the EU Delegation in Pakistan, said a news release.

The minister emphasized on the strategic importance of this visit for Pakistan, and opined that this engagement would help explore various avenues for close collaboration between the EIB and Pakistan.

He highlighted that EIB's priority areas such as climate action, and high-impact global investments in water, energy and transport sectors align with Pakistan's development needs.

He expressed appreciation for the EIB's €50 million loan for the Rehabilitation of the Warsak Hydro

Power Project, noting its critical role in restoring the plant's capacity.

The delegation from the European Investment Bank (EIB) has shown interest in several key projects including those financed by other international financial institutions such as the World Bank (WB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

They are particularly keen on exploring opportunities to provide loans for a range of significant initiatives in Pakistan.

Among these are the N-5 road widening project, which aims to improve road connectivity and transportation efficiency particularly in flood hit areas.

Additionally, the delegation is interested in water filtration and industrial water recycling projects in Karachi, which are vital for addressing urban water supply challenges, and in renewable and hydropower energy projects, which align with global trends towards sustainable energy solutions.

Resignation of Akhtar Mengal...

Continued from page 1

They also remained part of the Abdul Quddus Bizenjo and PDM's governments. If even then, they remained part of the government for five years, and in which 16 months were added in tenure of the government, which was also formed with their support, the issues of people couldn't resolved, it's responsibility rests with Sardar Akhtar Mengal.

He said that there was central role in formation of the Abdul Quddus Bizenjo

government in the past and even then the issues couldn't be resolved, then who is responsible for that? Sardar Akhtar Mengal should not hold anyone responsible if he couldn't do something for Balochistan or it's people.

Shahid Rind said that there happens to be importance of apprehensions of any party, however, there are forums for removing them.

He said that the issues don't get resolved by tendering resignation in this way.

Opposition alliance demands...

Continued from page 1

"Our enemies are exploiting this situation. We are planning nationwide protests and rallies, including a day of countryside demonstrations."

Latif Khosa criticised the government's economic policies and attempts to amend the Constitution, which he said have caused widespread public concern. "They don't have the two-thirds majority to amend the Constitution, so they should stop this talk," Khosa said.

Mahmood Khan Achakzai echoed Khosa's sentiments, calling it a positive sign that all parties be-

lieve in the supremacy of the Constitution. He announced the formation of a committee that will start working immediately to arrange the APC.

"Four demands are not met, we will launch nationwide protests," Achakzai warned, but added that if the APC is held, "we won't need to resort to protests." He also assigned Asad Qaiser the task of meeting with Speaker Ayaz Sadiq.

Achakzai criticised the indifference towards the crisis in Balochistan, saying, "We are laughing while Balochistan burns. All parties must agree to remove the entrenched elite families."



QUETTA: View of heap of garbage creating problems for commuters and residents, causing unhygienic atmosphere showing the negligence of concerned authorities, located on Satellite Town in Quetta

FIA launches state-of-the-art Risk Analysis Unit, Forensic Lab to boost border control

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) here on Wednesday launched a Risk Analysis Unit and a Third Line Technical Forensic Lab to enhance border control and risk management.

An inauguration ceremony celebrated the opening of a refurbished Forensic Laboratory for examining suspected forged documents and combating identity fraud, funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as a new Risk Analysis Office, funded by the European Union and Ministry of Interior of Austria.

Both offices were equipped and completed by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) as part of an ongoing programme to strengthen the management of Pakistan's borders.

The Risk Analysis Unit is a revolutionary step towards intelligence-based border management. It is designed to support data-driven policy making, enhance understanding of risks, ensure effective resource allocation. The Unit will provide data-driven analysis and evidence-based recommendations to identify threats and risks facing Pakistan's borders, and allow for more efficient management of border resources.

Addressing the ceremony, DG FIA Ahmad Ishaque Jehangir highlighted the importance of the offices to the FIA's mandate to control immigration and counter serious and organized crimes. "Effective, open and secure border management is critical to ensuring the safety and security of our

NAB arrests two high-profile accused in investment fraud scam

LAHORE (APP): National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Lahore has successfully arrested two high-profile accused allegedly involved in a major investment fraud scam titled as Prime-Zone Investment Scheme.

As per details, following the directions of NAB Lahore Director General Amjad Majeed Aulakh, a Combined Investigation Team (CIT) was constituted to probe and hold crackdown against Prime Zone scam over the complaints received in an open court held at Lahore Office.

During the course of Inquiry/Investigation proceeding, it was unearthed that the accused persons are alleged to have defrauded general public by enticing to invest in a ponzi scheme of investing in LPG business, promising exorbitant monthly basis returns.

After obtaining sufficient proofs of corruption, the CIT apprehended two accused persons named Nadeem Anwar and Faheem Anjum during the course of thorough investigation. It is also alleged that the Prime-Zone administration operated to solicit investments from unsuspecting individuals under the guise of lucrative financial benefits worth billions promising unrealistic returns on monthly basis.

During the course of investigations, so far, 1,800 complainants registered their claims to the tune of Rs 1.25 billion (approx.). The investigation team had earlier apprehended two accused persons namely Mufti Rizwan and Shahzad Ahmed, whereas, the bureau is committed to bringing the perpetrators to justice and recover plundered money.

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TENDER NOTICE

The Chief Officer District Council Chagai Invites sealed percentage rate tender based on composite schedule of rates 2023 Government of Balochistan from interested contractor / firms for the works mentioned below: **Bid Security 2% and Time limit 3 Months**

S.No	Name of Work	E/Cost
1.	Purchase/Supply of Solid Waste Machinery District Council Chagai TSE-242509539751	37.00 M

The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Baluchistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Rules 2014. (amendment up to date) **Eligibility:** The contractor must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant category along with specialized codes as per bidding documents accordingly and discipline. bidder must have completed three assignments of similar nature of work in last three years, Audit report of 3 years and registration with tax authorities i.e. (NTN / Sales Tax & BRA department) where applicable must provide fresh no blacklisting and no litigation declaration/certificates on 100/ pkr attested affidavit. Respective(s) of bidding firm(s) must submit fresh power of attorney on 100/ pkr attested affidavit for further details kindly see the bidding documents. Priority given to Experience firms in relevant field. **Method of Procurement: Single stage, One envelop Procedure.** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of undersigned office. **Bidding / Tender Documents: Issuance:** Tender form / document have issued to original contractor or authorized person from the date of advertisement published in News paper till submission date and time on production of amounting Rs.650/- (Non Refundable) as bidding documents charges deposit in shape of Green Challan in the account of Govt Head (4085214055) in NBP Daibandin Bid security / earnest money, valid Engineering council certificate (Original) in required category, income tax certificate (NTN) etc. **Submission:** Last date for submission of document is 18-09-2024 at 11:00 AM. **Opening:** The tender will be opened on 18-09-2024 at 12:00 PM. Place of issuance, submission, inquiries and opening will be: **Address: Office of the Chief Officer District Council Chagai Telephone No: 0825-211573**

Terms & Conditions: Under following conditions bid will be rejected: - Conditional and telegraphic bids/tender. Bid not accompanied by bid security of required amount and form. Bid received after specified date and time. Black listed firms / contractors. Other term & conditions may be obtained from the Office concerned. Unsigned or partially signed bidding documents by the bidder will be rejected. Bid Validity Period (90) Days. Note: It may be noted that no pay order will be accepted / entertained and firm's complete title / name should be written on the call deposit. (Pay order and Bank Draft will not be acceptable).

**CHIEF OFFICER
DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAGAI**

AB No.255/04-09-2024 www.dpcgob.pk dpr_gob@dpcgob.gov.pk [dpcgob](https://www.facebook.com/dpcgob) [dpcgob](https://www.instagram.com/dpcgob)

Malaysian Ambassador says: Malaysia-Pak bilateral ties establish in all spheres since countries' independence

ISLAMABAD (APP): The High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan, Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, has said that Malaysia values its relations with Pakistan immensely and admirable bilateral relations have been established in all spheres since the countries' independence. Today, on Malaysia's Independence Day, I would like to express that the strategic partnership established between Malaysia and Pakistan, which affects the all sectors of economy and including trade in every sector, the High Commissioner said while addressing the 67th Malaysian National Day ceremony held here Wednesday. He said, "Malaysia's strategic partnership with Pakistan holds immense potential and both Malaysia and Pakistan share a deep-rooted bond, and we are committed to further strengthening our brotherly ties, particularly in areas such as trade, investment, and technological collaboration."

The High Commissioner said that Malaysia was the third largest trading partner of Pakistan and bilateral trade between

Malaysia and Pakistan was \$1.8 billion.

He said that there were huge opportunities of cooperation in the Halal Industry, Green Technology, Energy, Tourism, Education and Industry and Trade between Pakistan and Malaysia.

He said that with the theme 'Malaysia MADANI: Jiwa Merdeka', this year's celebration highlighted the spirit of togetherness across all segments of society, reflecting the holistic unity of a developed and progressive nation that safeguards its diverse populace and fosters a shared national identity.

"It is not merely a celebration but, more importantly a reflection of the resolve on the journey of nationhood that brought Malaysia the strength she enjoys today. This moment did not only signify the birth of a new nation but also laid the foundation for the formation of the Federation of Malaysia in 1963 when Sabah and Sarawak joined hands with the federation. Together, we have grown, through trials and tribulations, emerging stronger as a united nation."

As we celebrate our 67th year of independence, we must also recognize the significant strides Malaysia has made in building a resilient and dynamic economy, and our country has grown into a key player in the global market with a diversified economy that spans sectors such as manufacturing, technology, and services. This economic progress is not only a reflection of our nation's hard work and determination but also a crucial foundation for our future aspirations," the envoy said. He said that the significance of this day lied not only in remembrance of the struggles and sacrifice of the founding fathers but also in recognizing the diverse cultural tapestry that defines Malaysia today.

"The principles of unity, tolerance, and mutual respect remain central to the Malaysian identity, reflecting a nation that has learned to embrace its multiculturalism as an indelible strength," he said.

The High Commissioner said, "Every year, on August 31, Malaysians from all walks of life—regardless of race, religion, or political belief—unite to celebrate the National Day."



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Commerce Jan Kamal, Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori, High Commissioner of Malaysia, Puan Amelia Amani Lee Abdullah along with others are cutting cake on the occasion of the 67th National Day of Malaysia in the Federal Capital.

Unicef-Pakistan, climate ministry join hands to build climate resilience among children

ISLAMABAD (APP): Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Pakistan, Abdullah A. Fadil called on Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam here on Wednesday to discuss boosting collaboration in protecting children from adverse impacts of climate change.

During the meeting held here, both sides pledged to work closely to protect children from devastating consequences of climate change-caused disasters, particularly floods and diseases, spokesperson

of the Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Ministry Muhammad Saleem said.

The ministry official further said that PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid highlighted during the meeting with Unicef country representative in Pakistan that the children of Pakistan are increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, as extreme weather events such as floods, heat waves, droughts, glacial lake outburst floods and shifting rainfall patterns threaten their health, education, and overall well-being.

During the meeting, Romina Khurshid highlighted that as the world grapples with the intensifying climate risks, children in Pakistan are emerging as one of the most vulnerable groups and facing severe implications of various climate change-caused disasters, particularly floods, heat waves, the spokesperson Mr. Saleem added.

"What we have learned from recent climate change-caused disasters in Pakistan, is that the country, already one of the most climate-affected countries globally, is experiencing intensified impacts."

Ahsan Iqbal says: Govt advocates women's active participation in national development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday said the government was committed to providing a secure environment to women at workplaces as it believed in their active participation in national development.

"Soon after coming into power, we established a gender unit so that women can work in the office with a sense of security, and the Ministry of Planning is the safest place for women to work," he said.

Ahsan Iqbal expressed these views while chairing a committee meeting established by the ministry to address issues related to harassment against women.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary of Planning and all female ministry staff.

He said the aim behind establishing a Gender Unit was to create a workplace environment where women feel secure and confident in their roles and make the ministry a safety model for women. The minister mentioned that a state-of-the-art daycare facility had been established to provide peace of mind to working mothers, allowing them to focus on their work without concerns or worry for their children's well-being.

He said that no society could progress without the active involvement of 50 percent of its women and his utmost effort was to make the Ministry of Planning a role model for women's empowerment. He assured that there would be no discrimination against any woman in the ministry.



ISLAMABAD: Representative of UNICEF in Pakistan, Abdullah A. Fadil calling on Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam in Federal Capital.

Contempt of EC case against PTI founder adjourned till Sep 19

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has adjourned till September 19 hearing of contempt of EC case against PTI founder Imran Khan.

A 4-member bench of EC led by member Sindh Nisar Durrani took up the case for hearing Wednesday. Naem Haider Panjuta advocate appeared before EC.

He said that he is appearing on behalf of PTI founder in EC. Time being given in connection with contempt of EC case against PTI former chairman. Fawad Chaudhry is in another court and he cannot appear.

Counsel for PTI founder said we have asked several times in the courts to bring PTI former chairman in courts through video link. Jail superintendent did not agree to bring PTI founder through video link.

EC adjourned the hearing of the case till September 19.

Naem Panjutha said Fawad Chaudhry had requested to adjourn the hearing of the case till September 19. Member Sindh said that case is separate case. PTI founder case is separate case.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Housing and Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Secretary of Housing and Works Dr. Shahzad Khan Bangash, Director General FEG Housing Authority Captain retired Zafar Muhammad Iqbal giving a briefing.

Aseefa pledges to lead fight against Tuberculosis in county

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Aseefa Bhutto Zardari has reaffirmed her commitment to combating Tuberculosis (TB) in Pakistan and on the global stage.

In a high-level meeting with the leadership of the Dopasi Foundation and a delegation of parliamentarians, led by Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro, the discussion centered on addressing Pakistan's TB burden and identifying solutions for closing persistent gaps in TB care, especially for underprivileged communities. According to a press release issued by the party secretary, the delegation from the Dopasi Foundation, led by CEO Ms. Kinz-ul-Eman, included key figures such as

Dr. Usman Rasool Lodhi, Program Manager; Dr. Tilal Asif, Director of Programs; Ms. Mishaal Javed, Manager of Communications; along with Dr. Syed Karam Shah, Senior Technical Advisor and head of the Stop TB Partnership Pakistan.

Parliamentarians in attendance included Dr. Mehreen Bhutto, Shear Kamran, Khurshid Junejo, and Musarat Rafique prominent voices in the fight against TB.

The meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on Pakistan's progress since the United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB in 2023, while exploring new strategies to tackle ongoing challenges in TB notification and treatment.

In a landmark commitment, Bhutto Zardari announced her role as a champion for TB advocacy, pledging to lead national and international efforts.

"I am proud to lend my voice to the fight against TB. The fight against Tuberculosis is not just a health issue, but a matter of dignity and justice for the millions affected by this preventable disease. Together, we can create a future where no one is left behind, and every individual has access to the care and support they deserve," she said.

During the meeting, she was briefed on the upcoming Regional Leaders' Summit 2024 on TB and Climate Change.

OWFDs providing services 24/7 at all Airports to Overseas Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) has established One Window Facilitation Desks (OWFDs) at all International Airports of the country and providing the services to Overseas Pakistanis.

An official source told APP here on Wednesday, that OWFDs are located at each terminal (International arrival/departure) for the assistance of overseas Pakistani passenger's round the clock.

Courteous and trained officials deputated at

OWFDs to ensure provision of high quality of facilitation and assistance to overseas Pakistanis. Existing infrastructure at OWFDs has been upgraded. Besides additional facilities, the service delivery at facilitation counters at various airports has also been improved with added staff/services.

To a questioned he said that OWFDs providing various services including necessary assistance to the overseas Pakistanis at the time of arrival and departure.

3 children drowned in rainwater in Tarnol

ISLAMABAD (APP): Three children lost their lives by drowning in rainwater in the area of Tarnol, Islamabad, on Wednesday.

According to the private news channel and police, the rescue officials reached the spot immediately after the incident was reported.

Rescue officials said that a child fell into the water, and after that, his two sisters, who jumped in the water to save him, were also drowned.

The rescue officials shifted the dead bodies to the hospital.



Secretary Ministry of Science and Technology, Engineer Sajid Baloch chaired a high powered meeting of heads of allied organizations of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Islamabad

ICCI President pledges business community's full support to combat drug menace

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari here on Wednesday expressed firm resolve of the business community to strengthen efforts to combat the menace of drugs from the country.

Addressing an interactive session titled 'Drug Trafficking through Export Consignments', organized by the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), he commended the ANF's initiative, said a press release.

The President ICCI stressed the need to raise awareness about the impact of drug trafficking on youth and families through social

media campaigns. He assured that the business community would continue to support efforts to combat the menace, which would ultimately enhance exports, benefiting both the business community and the country's economy.

He also mentioned the ICCI's initiatives for the purpose, including seminars, roundtables and awareness walks in collaboration with the Capital Development Authority, ICT Police and other stakeholders to sensitize the society so as to get rid of the evil.

He added that for the sake of our future generations, everyone has to fight against this scourge with

full force and determination and that our contribution to this count will be great work.

Speaking on the occasion, Director General ANF Major General Abdul Moed briefed on the sophisticated methods used by drug traffickers for transportation, which not only harm the youth but also tarnish the country's image.

He expressed his determination to eradicate the menace by bringing those involved to justice.

The ANF chief highlighted the shift from plant-based to chemical-based drugs, which has led to new techniques for transportation, including camouflaging drugs in export items.

Supdt Adiala Jail put on notice for preventing from entering into jail

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued notice to superintendent and deputy superintendent Adiala jail and Advocate General (AG) Islamabad for preventing advocate Faisal Chaudhry and Naem Panjutha from going to Adiala jail.

The court has sought reply till September 6.

Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan remarked court's proceedings will be considered of no legal standing in the absence of lawyers.

He gave these remarks during the hearing of the petition on Wednesday here. Advocate Faisal

Chaudhry appeared in the court taking the plea court had ordered the lawyers would be allowed to enter into jail. The PTI founder had nominated his counsel in jail trial. There is another counsel with me as well who is not being allowed to enter into Adiala jail.

The court inquired since how long they are not being allowed to enter into jail. Faisal Chaudhry said they were not allowed to enter into jail after August 26.

The court inquired for how many time they were not allowed to enter into jail.

IRSA releases 281,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 281,700 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 306,300 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1550.00 feet (maximum conservation level) and was 152.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 169,800 cusecs and 169,300 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1224.85 feet, which was 176.85 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.

CDA Chairman wants early development in E-12

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, on Wednesday directed that development work in Sector E-12 should be completed at the earliest to facilitate the allottees.

This decision was made during a meeting chaired by Randhawa to discuss the development of Sector E-12.

An anti-encroachment operation will be conducted to vacate the land of Sector E-12 from illegal occupants. The Islamabad Police and civil administration have been tasked with finalizing the operation for carrying out the development work. Randhawa emphasized the need to resolve all problems hindering the development works of Sector E-12.

He said he would personally visit the sector to address all issues and ensure the completion of development work.

Furthermore, the Chairman directed that action should be taken against encroachments on land in various sectors, including I-15 and I-12.

He also instructed that victims of Sector E-12 who have restitution rights should be provided with rehabilitation rights and to expedite the development of sectors, the enforcement wing will report to the member estate.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gul Bar Khan in a meeting with Federal Minister Kashmir Affairs & GB Engineer Ameer Muqam at his office.

IHC seeks final report till Sep 10 from IG police in case regarding recovery of missing citizen Faizan

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has given time till September 10 to IG Police Islamabad for filing final report in the petition pertaining to recovery of missing citizen from Islamabad Faizan Usman.

IHC remarked protecting the citizens is responsibility of police, if you fail then people will come to courts. Justice Babar Sattar remarked we all know this all happen how. I am giving time till Monday. Come with final report on next hearing. The IG Islamabad said it is requested that time be given till Tuesday instead of Monday. Justice Babar Sattar remarked ok, police can seek assistance from

any one if need arises.

Justice Babar Sattar issued this directive on Wednesday. The petition regarding recovery of Usman Faizan a missing citizen from Islamabad came up for hearing before Justice Babar Sattar of IHC Wednesday. The missing citizen Usman Faizan could not be recovered and presented in the court. IG Islamabad Ali Nasir Zaidi appeared in IHC under court orders. Additional Attorney General (AAG) requested the court two to three days time be given more to him. IG Islamabad came on rostrum and said he had spent more than half an hour with the father of Usman Faizan. Location of Faizan first was seen in Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Art lovers inspect the exhibition with interest during the opening ceremony of Muhammad Azaz Hafeez's photo exhibition and book launch 'Black and White Grey' at PNCA.

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Inflation decline

The headline CPI inflation declined to a 34-month low in August to 9.6pc, providing more space to the State Bank for the third consecutive policy rate cut later this month.

That the CPI inflation has finally eased below 10pc into single-digit territory on decreasing prices of non-perishable goods and a high base effect from last year does not mean prices have started to drop or stopped from rising. Far from it. The end to the sufferings of the common man are not yet in sight. Even though the year-over-year CPI reading has massively fallen, it did edge up slightly from July as it rose by 39bps month-over-month.

The average inflation rate for 2MFY25 stands at 10.4pc, a substantial decrease from the 27.8pc average of 2MFY24. WPI also reached a nearly four-year low of 6.3pc in August, with a minor monthly uptick, underlining a slower rise in the pace of increase in the prices of items consumed by lower economic strata of the population.

However, core inflation, which excludes food and energy prices, remains in double digits as urban core inflation came at 10.2pc in August, the lowest level in 27 months, while rural core inflation was reported at 14.4pc, lowest in 26 months. The deceleration is primarily due to falling food prices in urban and rural areas. In August, a sharp drop in the prices of wheat, wheat flour, wheat products, and vegetables like tomatoes was witnessed and food inflation, which was in hyperinflationary territory last year, clocked in at 2.4pc YoY with a 1.4pc MoM uptick.

This ongoing trend of declining inflation has strengthened the case for the central bank to continue its monetary easing cycle. Many are anticipating a reduction of 150 basis points in the key policy rate to 18pc in September. The short-term secondary market yields are already trading approximately 200bps below the existing policy rate of 19.5pc. The cut in the interest rates will reduce the government's growing burden of domestic debt servicing as well as lessen the financial costs of private corporate borrowers.

While falling inflation is a welcome development, its future trajectory largely depends on how the authorities manage their fiscal house. With the state not in a mood to slash expenditure and tax collection falling significantly short of the target for the first two months of the present fiscal year, the FBR is reported to be considering raising consumption tax from October in case the revenue hole continues to expand during this month as well.

Any fiscal slippages would have serious implications for inflation outlook and monetary policy. The other determinant of near-term inflation outlook is timely disbursement of multilateral and bilateral loans — and their quantum. In the given circumstances, the 'victory statement' against inflation by the prime minister is a little premature.

Zahid Hussain

It seems like an endless journey to nowhere. We keep moving in circles with no hope of coming out of the rut. The prevailing uncertainty is now becoming more and more unbearable. It's not just about the sordid political power game ripping the country apart, but also the looming shadow of authoritarianism taking every bit of freedom away.

Even the country's judiciary is now under attack. The alleged 'enforced' decision by the Karachi University syndicate stripping a sitting high court judge, who dared to speak out against the establishment's interference in judicial matters, of his law degree is the latest example of efforts to curtail rule of law. What happened in Karachi last week has exposed the growing brazenness of the powers that be.

It was a Kafkaesque moment for Dr Riaz Ahmed when he was picked up by police on his way to Karachi University. For the next several hours the professor was taken from one police station to the other. He was finally let off in the evening after public outcry on social media. In a country

where enforced disappearances are a common phenomenon, such brief illegal confinement would not have raised an eyebrow.

But it was the reason behind his detention that made the incident scandalous. It was meant to stop the outspoken chemistry professor from attending the university syndicate meeting that was to decide on a "fake degree" case against an Islamabad High Court judge. Just days before the syndicate meeting he had claimed that external pressure was being used to get a desirable decision.

And that is exactly what happened. The fate of Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri as a judge seems to have now been sealed. He was one of the six IHC judges who had signed the letter to the Supreme Court chief justice about the pressure and harassment they have been facing from the intelligence agencies. The action against Justice Jahangiri seems to be a warning to other judges who refuse to toe the line.

It's now also a test for the chief justice to defend the independence of the judiciary and protect the judges from such revengeful

actions. The pressure on the judges is also growing with the apex court increasingly becoming the battleground for resolving political and constitutional disputes as parliament is becoming increasingly redundant.

Therefore, it's not surprising that every effort is being used by the government to divide the institution and curtail its power. The Supreme Court's ruling on redistribution of reserved seats may have deprived the ruling coalition of the two-thirds majority in parliament required for a constitutional amendment in the pretext of judicial reform, but the current dispensation has not yet given up hope for reversal of the majority decision.

The next few months seem very critical for the country's future political course. The spectre of despotism is looming large over the political spectrum with an increasingly fragmented civilian setup struggling with legitimacy questions and resorting to draconian measures. The attack on the independence of the judiciary and the clampdown on freedom of expression are part of the moves to strengthen despotism.

Setting up firewalls and

downgrading internet services are not going to work for the dispensation mired in deep muddy waters. The challenges are too serious for a government lacking public mandate to deal with, and take the country out of the morass. Its increasing dependence on the security establishment has removed even the pretence of civilian rule. The establishment's hold is evident in all aspects of decision-making.

While the political forces are engaged in a bitter fight worsening political polarisation, it has led to further shrinking of democratic space. With no side willing to take a step back and come to the negotiating table, there is little hope of the political tension reducing. The politics of confrontation and the growing assertion of power by the security establishment have distorted the entire political system.

Most worrisome is the crumbling of state power that has endangered the country's unity and survival. What is happening in KP and Balochistan, the two strategically located provinces, presents the biggest challenge to the country's internal security.

The increasing terrorist attacks in both provinces taking a huge toll on the security forces is alarming. According to reports, last month witnessed the highest number of terrorist attacks with almost all of them happening in the two provinces.

The worsening security situation is directly linked with the growing political instability in the country. The situation in Balochistan is particularly grave with the growing alienation of the population from the state. It's the state repression and deprivation of fundamental democratic rights that has caused loss of public faith in the system and pushed the youth to militancy.

But unfortunately, the state is still not willing to listen to their cries for justice and address their grievances. Instead, it insists on controlling the province with the help of cronies. It continues to rely on the politicians brought to power through manipulated elections. Even those Baloch leaders who opted to participate in mainstream politics are being systematically sidelined, forcing them to leave politics.

Given this situation, it was not surprising that Sardar Akhtar Mengal, chief of his own faction of the Balochistan National Party and a former provincial chief minister, has resigned from the National Assembly. In a letter to the NA speaker, the veteran Baloch leader has cited the "lack of representation in this Assembly for the people of Balochistan" as the reason for his decision.

"It has become increasingly clear that our attempts to speak or protest are met with hostility, our people are either silenced, labelled as traitors, or worse, killed," he further stated. Like other Baloch leaders, he also seems to have lost hope in the state. It certainly does not bode well for the future of a shaky federation. The situation is also fast deteriorating in KP with the continuing confrontation between the centre and the PIT-led provincial government.

But nothing seems to bother the ruling coalition and the establishment. The state's policy of repression and politics of confrontation may push the country to a point of no return. -- Courtesy Dawn

Pakistan's human exports

Rafia Zakaria

Wherever in the world you go, you are bound to come across Pakistanis in various states of despair.

These days, travel to any European capital — Athens, Rome or Paris, for example — and you will see groups of immigrants huddled together on the streets and in the alleys, bleary-eyed and haunted. If one walks by them slowly enough, it is possible to catch bits and pieces of Urdu and Punjabi. That's how you know they are from Pakistan. These are the 'lucky' ones — the ones who have made it to Europe alive. Many more like them never make it.

A new report on human smuggling in Pakistan, published by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan last week, outlines the journey of one such migrant from Hafizabad in Punjab. Like hundreds of thousands of others, he paid an agent to smuggle him out of the country. The report details how a person is passed from agent to agent until they manage to get to the EU or North America.

It shouldn't come as a surprise, then, that Paki-

stani migrants have been discovered in such faraway places as the Darién Gap — the only land bridge between North and South America, through which a dangerous route runs between northern Colombia and southern Panama and ultimately leads to the United States border areas. From there, migrants often make a run for what they imagine will be a better life.

In Europe, Pakistani migrants can often be found languishing in places like the island of Lampedusa, off the coast of Italy. Many of them arrive there via Egypt or Libya, where smugglers put them on boats with a promise to get them to the Italian coast. It was smugglers like these who had lured the 20 Pakistanis that died last summer off the coast of Greece, when a migrant vessel holding hundreds of people was allowed to sink by the Greek coast guard.

As an aside, it seems worth pointing out that the case is still languishing in Greek courts, and there is no indication of whether the surviving migrants or the heirs of those who died will ever be able to get any justice. That is how much a migrant's life is worth these

days in the developed world.

In a century that promises to herald unprecedented human displacement owing to global economic and climate-related crises, it seems a given that more and more Pakistanis will take to wandering the earth in the hope of finding sustenance and a chance at a better future, even if that means rebuilding their lives in a foreign land. However, when one sees Pakistani men huddled together on the streets of Europe, looking hungry and miserable, one wonders whether they still consider being in the EU as any kind of guarantee of a better life.

Most of these men are low-skilled workers who do not even know the languages of the countries to which they wish to migrate. This means that they are usually relegated to jobs such as washing dishes at the back of restaurants and other menial tasks that provide, at best, a difficult and hardscrabble existence. The bulk of the money that they do make goes towards paying off the debts they took on to pay the smugglers who brought them there in the first place. The "better life", they must soon

realise, is just a fantasy they were promised by smugglers just so they could be lured into leaving Pakistan at an exorbitantly high personal and financial cost.

Not all Pakistanis who land up in foreign lands through dubious means suffer equally. One industry in Pakistan that seems to be quite organised and has been quite successful in ensuring that its recruits have plenty to do is the begging industry. It is such a successful venture that it has now decided to start exporting to, and expanding in, other countries.

Unlike the desperate, low-skilled workers toiling in the smoke and stench-filled backrooms of restaurants and shops in Europe, these beggars do not need human smugglers to get them into foreign lands. Instead, they prefer to utilise pilgrim visas to places like Saudi Arabia and Iran, etc. As many Pakistanis may have seen for themselves during Hajj, these beggars set up shop outside the holy places in Makkah and Madinah, where they harass foreign pilgrims for money just as they do shoppers in markets across Pakistan. They are relentless,

master manipulators who know how to pull at their victims' guilt and get them to part with their money.

The beggar problem has become such a nuisance that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has taken it up officially with Pakistan. A new agreement was signed recently between the two countries under which Pakistan promised to try and curb the export of beggars to Saudi Arabia. The very fact that we had to do such a thing should be reason enough to feel embarrassment and shame at a national level. However, when our leaders themselves feel little shame in extorting money from this or that wealthy country, it is no wonder that our beggars, too, feel entitled to capitalise on the guilt of others to enrich themselves. Working hard and doing things the right way does not seem to be a strategy that has occurred to either leader or beggar in Pakistan.

As many have pointed out, this bizarre picture of desperation on one hand, presented by low-skilled migrants, and entitlement on the other, as portrayed by pesky beggars, forms a miserable image of Pakistan and Pakistanis in the minds

of people who live abroad.

The Pakistani government not only fails to curb human smuggling, it also does little to try and help those poor migrants who find themselves homeless through the Pakistani diplomatic missions abroad. The only reason Islamabad has been forced into taking action to curb the export of beggary is because both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have reportedly threatened to stop handing out visas to Pakistanis altogether.

Meanwhile, the millions of Pakistanis who have no intention of paying human smugglers to get them out of the country and who could never consider resorting to beggary are stuck at home with their green passports. Because the actions of some wrongdoers have created the impression that Pakistanis cannot be trusted to tell the truth at all.

Hence, legitimate travellers, students and workers who apply for proper visas must suffer the extra scrutiny at foreign embassies and frequent denial of visas. The bad acts may be committed by a few, but their costs are inevitably borne by all.

Right, wrong & left

Mahir Ali

Last Sunday, the state election in Thuringia for the first time propelled an extreme right-wing party to pole position anywhere in Germany since the end of the Nazi era 90 years ago. Efforts by its rivals to forestall the local triumph of Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) mostly consisted of efforts to steal its thunder by emulating its vote-winning policies, not least its relentless hostility to almost any form of immigration.

In neighbouring Saxony, the AfD came second, hot on the heels of the traditional conservative Christian Democratic Union. Its aspirations to join state governments in either of these regions may come to naught, but in Thuringia the AfD has enough seats to halt any initiatives that require a two-thirds majority in the state legislature. The AfD also came second in the European Parliament elections in June, and its status in the Brandenburg state election less than three weeks hence will be closely watched.

It is no coincidence that the AfD's electoral successes have transpired in regions that were part of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) for 40 years. In common with other Soviet satellite states in East Europe (and not excluding Russia itself), the putatively socialist baby was thrown out with the totalitarian bathwater. Excluding the abominable repressive tendencies that characterised Soviet hegemony, there were practices in the economic and social fields that ought to have been preserved in one form or another.

As German writer Carolin Würfel puts it, "the adults who brought me up [in Leipzig] were shaped by socialism and

were considered losers after [the Berlin Wall] came down ... for some, that shame has spiralled into anger and an urge to rebel against the status quo. Unfortunately, their means of protest is the far-right [AfD]." Under many Soviet-aligned authorities, indoctrination took precedence over education, and that offers one explanation why so many countries that were once behind the so-called iron curtain have veered towards the far right when reacting to the inevitable deprivations of Western-sponsored neoliberal capitalism.

Across Europe, the AfD's fraternal parties stretch from UK's Reform, France's National Rally and Spain's Vox to Golden Dawn in Greece, Law and Justice in Poland and Fidesz in Hungary, among others — not least key components of the Ukrainian as well as Russian military establishments. Germany has sought in recent years to purge the more obvious neo-fascist elements from its military and security forces, but the degree of its success is uncertain.

Germany's 20th-century history makes the resurgence of Nazi-fancying political parties and military factions particularly alarming, but it's worth remembering that the Nazis found willing allies across much of Europe (not least among the British royal family) and even in the US. American participation in World War II did not eliminate the local extremists. Barely four years after the fall of Berlin, there were rioters ranting: "We're Hitler's boys — here to finish his job".

The objects of their venom were the blacks, Jews and communists who dared to flock to a concert held 75 years ago in Peekskill, New York State, in support of a civil rights organisation. It was head-

lined by Paul Robeson — globally the best-known African-American long before Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X or Muhammad Ali — who had fallen foul of Cold War ideology by publicly contending that the very idea of conflict between the US and the USSR was absurd, and Af-ri-can-Americans had bigger quarrels at home than with the Soviets.

The concert had to be cancelled in the face of extreme-right violence spearheaded by the Ku Klux Klan in collaboration with the police. Robeson insisted on re-scheduling it for Sept 4, and it attracted a huge crowd. Robeson was protected from snipers by a phalanx of union stalwarts, many of them war veterans. It was after the concert that the fascist violence kicked in as the returning attendees were bombarded with vile abuse and viciously targeted.

Donald Trump's weirder acolytes may be unfamiliar with this particular demonstration of fascist outrage in postwar America, let alone be acquainted with the pro-Nazi proto-oligarchs of the 1920s and '30s. But the echoes of that era resonate loudly in the 2020s as the world hurtles towards a climate catastrophe amid economic failures pretty much across the globe that the neoliberal centre-right has catalysed and the far right has feasted upon without offering any viable alternatives. In Germany and elsewhere, the extreme centre tends to absorb and regurgitate the far right's ideas. The electoral successes of both are a searing indictment of the left, which either fails to come up with appealing alternative narratives, or falls prey to the sordid machinations of an establishment devoted to sustaining an untenable status quo. -- Courtesy Dawn

Tasneem Noorani

As the mayhem of Aug 26 in Balochistan unfolded through news channels, one forgot the woes of electricity bills, hide and seek of the government with courts, the rhetoric of political parties and the shenanigans of our begging bowl.

There was a sinking feeling as if one was watching the implosion of the country. Having been conditioned to believe the state media, one wanted to believe the strong response being claimed by the government and the stern statements of the powers that be, including those of the chief minister and interior minister.

While one heard promises of "sending miscreants to hell", there was very little talk of reconciliation and introspection. The same was the tone and tenor of retired officers appearing as experts on the media. There is an instinct to kill and obliterate those who take up arms, rather than to probe the reasons behind their extreme steps and find solutions. The state has been fighting insurgencies in Balochistan for decades with an 'iron hand' and disappearances, but at the end of this lifetime we continue to have violent outbursts by the dissidents.

How will more of the same help for the future? If you look into the story of any Baloch dissident, whether he is following a peaceful or violent path of protest, you will come across a common strain. Some near or dear one has allegedly been killed or disappeared by the state. The more you kill, the more terrorists you make.

If the strategy of total annihilation and subjugation of dissidents through brute force were

Course correction

to work, Sheikh Hasina would still be Bangladesh premier.

We talk of separatists funded by RAW. But are we convinced that the ordinary Baloch wants to separate? Isn't he protesting because he wants attention?

Why would he want to become a colony of India? Haven't they just seen what the Indians have done to Bangladesh? As for a superpower wanting to take over their land, I am sure the Baloch know about such geostrategic games.

People who have served in Balochistan (my experience is as secretary interior for a prolonged period) will tell you that the Baloch are an honourable and simple people, proud of their traditions, interested in making a living, like any other ethnic group.

My current experience, however, is revealing. I set up a boarding school near Faisalabad with the help of friends, for boys from deprived homes so that talented ones can get the same quality of education that the children of the elite get, by paying only a token fee per month. We initially planned the school for Punjab but there was such an immense interest among boys from Balochistan that we opened our doors to all provinces.

Currently 66 boys, which is 22 per cent of our school strength, are from Balochistan. All belong to families earning Rs30,000 per month or thereabouts. Surprisingly, these boys from Loralai, Dera Murad Jamali, Zhob, Naseerabad, Barkhan, Quetta, Qila Saifullah, Dera Bugti and Musakhel are the healthiest and amongst the best students in the school, both in academics and sports, and very disciplined.

For our last entry we received 1,100 applications online from all over Pakistan, out of which 700 were from Balochistan. Does this appear to you to be a people who want to secede? On the contrary, I see a hunger in them, more than boys from Punjab, to get educated and progress.

Try putting yourself in their shoes. If you were a Baloch, would you like someone to come and take over your port, where you don't even have the right to enter? To add insult to injury, you even make off limits areas where local fishermen used to fish or ban them totally, without giving them anything in return.

The mode of business of some foreign investors does not help either because they want to do everything from cooking to high-tech jobs, from civil works to fabrication themselves, so locals get no jobs or business. The pull of foreign investment is for the wise men of Islamabad to count and boast about. It means nothing to the local Baloch, who is understandably seething with anger.

We in our usual mindset continue to brand emerging leaders like Mahrang Baloch as 'agents' rather than trying to understand what they are saying. Balochistan is a vast and difficult terrain to defend against internal strife. The only option is to talk to them, kindly and genuinely. Give them a piece of the cake, even if the state has to step back and talk to the investor.

Respect the results of the elections so that genuine representatives, who are owned by the masses, come up and make the task of the state easier. -- Courtesy Dawn

Grenfell Tower inferno that killed 72 'culmination of decades of failure': UK inquiry

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: The UK's Grenfell Tower fire disaster that killed 72 people was the result of "decades of failure" by government and construction industry bodies and the "systematic dishonesty" of building material firms, a final report said Wednesday.

Unveiling the damning findings of an independent probe into the 2017 tragedy, inquiry chair Martin Moore-Bick said the deaths were "all avoidable" and the victims had been "badly failed".

Some of those who played a part in sowing the seeds of the disaster had shown "incompetence", as well as "dishonesty and greed", he said.

The fire in the early hours of June 14, 2017, spread rapidly through the 24-storey block in west London due to highly combustible cladding fixed to the exterior.

Starting in a faulty freezer on the fourth floor, the blaze took barely half an hour to climb to the building's top floor with catastrophic consequences.

The report marks the end of the long-running inquiry into Britain's worst residential fire since World War II.

It makes scathing criticism of successive governments and other influential bodies, as well as architects, over a refurbishment of Grenfell that led to the cladding and other dangerous materials being installed.

In particular, the report condemns firms involved in the supply of rainscreen cladding panels and other insulation products.

Accusing them of "systematic dishonesty", it said they "engaged in deliberate and sustained strategies to manipulate the testing processes, misrepresent

test data and mislead the market".

Following the release of the report Grenfell United, which represents some of the survivors and victims, called on government to act urgently.

"The government must now exert control over the sector to prevent further dismantling of public safety, which used to be their main job, not aiding and abetting crooks and killers."

Prime Minister Keir Starmer pledged that his government would "carefully consider the report and its recommendations, to ensure that such a tragedy cannot occur again".

"The country failed to discharge its most fundamental duty: to protect you and your loved ones... And I am deeply sorry," Starmer said in a statement to parliament after a critical final report on the disaster was released.



Flames and smoke coming from a 27-storey block of flats after a fire broke out in west London.

UN welcomes progress in Gaza polio campaign, calls for permanent ceasefire

Monitoring Desk

CAIRO: Good progress is being made in rolling out a polio vaccine to children in Gaza but a permanent ceasefire in the 11-month war is needed to ease humanitarian suffering, the main UN agency for Palestinians said on Wednesday.

UNRWA said that three days into the campaign in areas of central Gaza, around 187,000 children had received the vaccine.

The campaign will move to other areas of the Palestinian enclave for the second stage.

The campaign was prompted by the discovery of a case of polio in a baby boy last month, the first in the Gaza Strip for 25 years.

Israel and Hamas agreed to daily pauses of eight hours in the fighting in pre-specified areas to allow the vaccination program. No violations have been reported.

"Great progress! Every day in the Middle Areas of #Gaza, more children are getting vaccines against #Polio," the head of UNRWA, Philippe Lazzarini, said on X on Wednesday.

"While these polio 'pauses' are giving people some respite, what is urgently needed is a permanent ceasefire, the release of all hostages + the standard flow of humanitarian supplies including medical and hygiene supplies (into Gaza)," he said.

Leaders of South Korea, New Zealand strongly condemn expanding North Korea-Russia military ties

Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: The leaders of South Korea and New Zealand strongly condemned the deepening military cooperation between North Korea and Russia as they met Wednesday for a summit meant to strengthen bilateral ties.

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon arrived in Seoul, the South Korean capital, on his first trip to the Asian country since he took office last November.

Luxon and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol condemned "in the strongest possible terms" the expanding military ties between North Korea and Russia, including North Korea's export of ballistic missiles to Russia in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions, according to a joint statement released by Luxon's office.

The two leaders denounced "in the most serious of terms" North Korea's illegal nuclear and

missile development programs. They also strongly condemned Russia's war against Ukraine and pledged to continue to support the sovereignty of Ukraine and its efforts to secure a just and lasting peace, according to the joint statement.

During the summit, Yoon and Luxon decided to launch a regular bilateral economic security dialogue to discuss challenges and opportunities. The two emphasized the importance of strengthening trade and economic connections, noting that the two-way trade volume between South Korea and New Zealand has approximately doubled in the past decade, according to the joint statement.

The U.S., South Korea and their partners have steadfastly accused North Korea of supplying much-needed conventional arms to Russia to support its invasion of Ukraine in return for military and economic assistance.

Germany won't let up in military aid to Ukraine

Monitoring Desk

TODENDORF: Germany will not slacken in its military support for Ukraine, Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Wednesday, trying to dispel fears Berlin might disappoint Kyiv amid a domestic budget squeeze and media reports of a freeze on new German military aid.

"Germany's support for Ukraine will not cease. We have made provisions, struck (defence) deals and secured the funding in good time so that Ukraine can continue to fully rely on us in the future," Scholz said.

Twelve migrants die trying to cross Channel to Britain

Monitoring Desk

BOULOGNE MER: At least 12 migrants died off the northern French coast on Tuesday trying to cross the Channel to England in the deadliest such disaster this year, the French government said, as a major rescue operation was underway.

Announcing the death toll on X, French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin also said that two migrants were still missing. Several were injured after their boat carrying migrants ran into trouble off Wimereux, a town some five kilometres from Boulogne-sur-Mer on the French coast.

Darmanin said he was travelling to meet officials. "All government services are mobilised to find the missing people and treat the injured," he said. Emergency services were out in force and supplying urgent medical assistance. French maritime authorities said. A source close to the investigation said the dead included three minors.

Egypt's Sisi in Turkiye in first visit for 12 years as relations thaw

Monitoring Desk

ANKARA: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi arrived in Ankara on Wednesday for talks with Turkish counterpart Tayyip Erdogan, the first such presidential visit in 12 years, amid a warming of long-frozen relations between the regional powers.

Erdogan had travelled to Cairo in February, his first trip to Egypt since 2012, taking a major step toward rebuilding ties severely strained for a decade.

Relations between Ankara and Cairo collapsed in 2013 after Egypt's then-army chief Sisi led the ouster of the Muslim Brotherhood's Mohamed Mursi, a Turkish ally who

had become Egypt's first democratically elected president the year before. Mursi visited Turkiye as president in 2012.

"Turkiye-Egypt relations will be reviewed in all their aspects, and possible joint steps in the coming period to further develop cooperation will be discussed," the Turkish presidency's communications office said late Tuesday. "There will be an exchange of views on current regional and global issues, especially the Israeli attacks on Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories".

Erdogan met Sisi at Ankara airport before they left together in Erdogan's motorcade for the presidential palace for a welcome ceremony.

Thousands of Rohingya flee to Bangladesh from violence in Myanmar, official says

Monitoring Desk

DHAKA: Around 8,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled to Bangladesh in recent months, escaping escalating violence in Myanmar's western Rakhine state, according to Bangladeshi officials.

The violence has intensified as fighting between Myanmar's ruling junta and the Arakan Army, a powerful ethnic militia drawn from the Buddhist majority, continues to worsen.

"We have information that around 8,000 Rohingya crossed into Bangladesh recently, mostly over the last two months," said Mohammad Shamsud Doua, a senior official in charge of refugees for the Bangladeshi government.

"Bangladesh is already over-burdened and unable to accommodate any more Rohingya," he told on Wednesday.

The Bangladesh government has not previously provided any estimate of how many Rohingya have crossed over in the last few months.

The government will hold a "serious discussion at the cabinet" within the next two to three days to address the crisis, Bangladesh's de-facto foreign minister, Mohammad Touhid Hossain, told reporters late on Tuesday.

While expressing sympathy for the Rohingya, Hossain said that the country no longer has the capacity to provide humanitarian shelter to additional refugees.

"It is not possible to fully seal the border," he said, adding that efforts will be made to prevent further infiltration.

Thailand's king endorses PM Paetongtarn Shinawatra's new cabinet

Monitoring Desk

BANGKOK: Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn has endorsed Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra's new cabinet, the Royal Gazette showed on Wednesday, with 12 new faces in the 36-member lineup of her coalition government.

Paetongtarn, 38, was elected by parliament last month to become Thailand's youngest premier after the shock removal of predecessor Sreetha Thavisin by a court.

Her Pheu Thai Party, which, together with previous incarnations, has led gov-

ernments since 2001, remains the dominant force in the new cabinet, retaining Finance Minister Pichai Chunhavan and Foreign Minister Maris Sangiampongsa. Deputy premier Phumtham Wechayachai takes on the defence portfolio and has been replaced as commerce minister by top Pheu Thai adviser and former energy minister Pichai Nariphaphan. Pheu Thai, the populist party of the billionaire Shinawatra family, has 17 of the cabinet positions, which include ministers and deputy ministers, with the remaining 19 divided among coalition partners.



A Palestinian civil defence member stands near a building on fire in Gaza City after it was hit by Israeli bombers.

China to 'revitalise' ageing railway linking Zambia, Tanzania

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: China, Tanzania and Zambia signed an initial agreement to rehabilitate a decades-old railway aimed at improving the rail-sea transportation in resource-rich East Africa, Chinese state media said on Wednesday.

President Xi Jinping witnessed the signing of the memorandum of understanding on refurbishing the 1,860 kms (1,156 mile) Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) railway with the Tanzanian and Zambian presidents, who were in Beijing attending the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, according to the state-run

Xinhua news agency. The single-track TAZARA railway was built between 1970 and 1975 through an interest-free loan from China, offering a cargo transport route from Zambia's copper and cobalt mines to the sea on Tanzania's coast that bypasses South Africa and the former state of Rhodesia.

Commercial operations of the line, derided by some Western governments at the time as the "bamboo railway", began in 1976. The multi-year project had involved the construction of two dozen tunnels and hundreds of bridges by tens of thousands of Chinese and African workers.

US to accuse Russia of effort to influence 2024 election, CNN says

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: The United States plans to accuse Russia on Wednesday of a campaign to influence the 2024 presidential election using online platforms to target American voters with disinformation, according to CNN.

Russian state media network RT will be a focus of the announcement, CNN reported, citing six sources familiar with the matter. The news comes just hours before Attorney General Merrick Garland is due to speak at a meeting of the Justice Department's Election Threats Task Force. A Justice Department spokesman declined to comment ahead of the election task force meeting.

Table with multiple columns: Project ID, Project Name, Cost, Department, and detailed project descriptions in Urdu and English. Includes various infrastructure and social welfare projects.

PRQ No.890/04-09-2024. Includes contact information for the Department of Public Works, Government of Punjab, Quetta, and social media handles.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, chairs a committee on workplace harassment under the Ministry's newly established Gender Unit in Federal Capital

Churna Island declared second Marine Protected Area in Pakistan

KARACHI (APP): WWF-Pakistan appreciates the Government of Balochistan for declaring Churna Island as the second Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Pakistan.

The cabinet of Balochistan in its meeting held on Wednesday approved the declaration of Churna Island as the second Marine Protected Area (MPA). Previously, the Government of Balochistan declared Astola Island as the first MPA in June 2017, a news release said.

Churna Island, like Astola Island, is among the limited marine areas in Pakistan that have coral habitat and are termed a biodiversity hotspot. However, Churna Island, located near Karachi is be-

ing extensively used for scuba diving, snorkelling, cliff jumping, and jet skiing and other recreational activities. It is considered an important fishing ground where a large number of fishermen from Sindh and Balochistan operate.

The marine ecosystem and diverse wildlife inhabiting Churna Island are under serious threat due to many anthropogenic activities including the development of power plants, single-point mooring, an oil refinery in the immediate vicinity, as well as recreational activities that are conducted at the area. WWF-Pakistan believes that declaration of Churna Island as a MPA is an important step towards ensuring that the fragile eco-

Ahsan stresses development of agriculture sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday expressed confidence that Pakistan would witness a revolution in agriculture after its 1,000 experts completed their training in China.

"Developing agriculture on modern lines is the need of the hour. Promoting research and education in this sector is among the top priorities of the government," he said while chairing a meeting regarding the training of 1,000 agricultural experts in China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative.

The meeting was attended among others by Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain and senior officials from the relevant ministries and departments.

Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan was sending the agricultural experts to China on the instructions of the Prime Minister to get training and transform the sector on modern lines, once considered the backbone of the national economy.

Omar urges examining issues leading to Akhtar Mengal's resignation from NA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly, Omar Ayub Khan, called on the government to thoroughly examine the issues that led to the resignation of Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal. Speaking on a point of order in the National Assembly, he called for serious efforts to address the challenges facing Balochistan.

Omar Ayub asserted that the people of Balochistan have legitimate grievances and that the province's resources rightfully belong to its residents.

The opposition leader also called on all political parties to take the situation seriously and address pressing issues, including the non-payment of elec-

tricity royalties to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Muhammad Hanif Abbasi demanded that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) apologize for the events of May 9. He accused PTI of using funds from Israel and the United States to target the country's institutions and claimed that the Leader of the Opposition had undermined Pakistan's armed forces and insulted the families of martyrs. Hanif Abbasi said that, despite the incidents of May 9, those responsible had not yet faced any consequences. He said that if the opposition leader had criticized Indian or Israeli forces, it might have provided some relief to the nation.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of PTI led by Umar Ayub Khan meeting with President Balochistan National Party Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal

Empowering women with skills & knowledge crucial step towards sustainable development: Rubaba

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister Balochistan on Women Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has said that skill development programs will enable women of Balochistan, particularly in remote areas, to become self-reliant, boosting their confidence and contributing to the welfare of their families.

These remarks were given by Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi during a meeting with delegation led by Ms. Sana Durrani, Ms. Ambreen, and Mr. Khalid.

The delegation presented a proposal focused on non-conventional skill development across various districts of Balochistan, aimed at empowering women in the region.

Expressing her support, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi said, "It is imperative that we continue to work together to unlock the untapped potential of our women and build a prosperous future for them." She reaffirmed that Provincial Government is committed to providing opportunities that will not only uplift women but also strengthen



QUETTA: Political and social activists Sana Durrani and others meeting with Provincial Advisor Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi

Through digitalization of land in Gwadar Senior MBR directs to expedite work on development projects

Independent Report
QUETTA: The senior Member Board of Revenue (MBR), Kambir Dashti has directed to the concerned quarters for expediting work on development projects through digitalization of the lands in Gwadar district.

The senior MBR was presiding over the meeting about the issues of overlapping of lands and digitalization in different areas of Gwadar and Jiwani during his visit to the port city.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner Makran, Dawood Khan Khilji, senior Secretary Board of Revenue, Nasrullah Tareen, Deputy Commissioner, Gwadar, Hamoodur Rehman, Settlement Officer and other concerned officials. The issues of overlapping of around 2500 acres of land were highlighted in the meeting.

Rana Sanaullah says: PML-N believes in dialogue, consultation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Advisor to the Prime Minister on Inter-Provincial Coordination Rana Sanaullah said on Wednesday that Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), being a pro-democratic party, believes in dialogue and consultation.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that the PML-N leadership offered dialogue and consultation for the betterment of Pakistan several times. Shabbaz Sharif, being an opposition leader in the past, offered a charter of economy to bring the country out of an economic quagmire.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), on the other hand, was always involved in undemocratic activities, they chose the way of anarchy against the principles of democracy.

PTI gave the mandate of dialogue to Mahmood Khan Achakzai, on the other hand, the leadership of PTI consistently negated dialogue with PML-N.

Amid energy crisis Lawmakers demand Parliamentary committee to probe IPP charges

ISLAMABAD (INP): A unanimous call from both opposition and government members in the National Assembly has led to the formation of a parliamentary committee to investigate the issues surrounding Independent Power Producers (IPPs). The session, chaired by Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, saw heated discussions over the impact of IPPs on the public and the broader energy sector.

Mahrin Bhutto of the MQM-P highlighted the severe public impact due to IPP charges, accusing K-Electric of operating as a "state within a state" ignoring federal and provincial directives. Raja Pervez Ashraf from the PPP called for a comprehensive house committee to address the IPP crisis, emphasizing the need for clarity on this pressing issue.

Hanif Abbasi of the PML-N questioned the role of ministers like Musaddiq Malik and Azam Nazeer Tarar in addressing the IPP problem, calling for accountability for those profiting from billions. He also criticized the inaction regarding the numerous idle IPP plants, suggesting that those responsible be summoned for questioning.

Opposition member Ali Mohammad Khan echoed the call for a parliamentary committee to review IPP performance and contracts, describing the situation as a quagmire draining the nation's resources. He criticized the inadequate power generation and on-going payments for non-operational plants.

Federal Minister Musaddiq Malik proposed a meeting with all parties to establish a clear procedure for addressing the issue. During the session, a "Call Attention Notice" was presented regarding K-Electric's power distribution issues by MQM-P's Syed Aminul Haq. Information Minister Attaulah Tarar responded, attributing recent disruptions to excessive rainfall and preventive measures by K-Electric. Rana Ansari of the National Assembly criticized K-Electric as a "white elephant" exploiting the public, while Minister Tarar announced an increase in the repair and maintenance budget for K-Electric. PPP's Asifa Bhutto raised concerns over the severe gas shortages, with Petroleum Minister Musaddiq Malik promising efforts to import gas and explore domestic reserves, including collaborations with foreign companies.



QUETTA: President National Party Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch and Mir Khair Jan Baloch meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

Zardari condoles death of Saudi Princess Latifa bint Abdulaziz

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday expressed grief over the death of Saudi Princess Latifa bint Abdulaziz Al Saud.

The president conveyed his condolences to Saudi King Salman Bin Abdulaziz, the royal family and the people of the Kingdom.

He also prayed to Allah Almighty for peace for the departed soul and strength for the bereaved family to bear the loss.

Illegal weapon, liquor case Court issues non-bailable arrest warrants against Chief Minister KPK

ISLAMABAD (APP): A lower court on Wednesday issued non-bailable arrest warrants against Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur in cases of possessing weapons illegally and recovery of liquor from him. The court instructed the police to present the CM KPK before the court after arresting him.

Civil Judge Shaista Khan Kundi heard the aforesaid case against Gandapur wherein his lawyer submitted a one-time exemption from appearance request on medical grounds for CM KPK.

The court dismissed the request for exemption from appearance and ordered the station house officer Bharakua to present Ali Amin Gandapur before the court after arresting him. As the hearing began, the judge inquired about the attendance of Gandapur to which the associate lawyer



KARACHI: MILGEN class corvette PNS BABUR arrives in Karachi

ANP announces 'White Paper on Corruption' in KP

PESHAWAR (INP): The Awami National Party (ANP) on Wednesday announced its plan to release a white paper highlighting widespread corruption in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday.

Arsalan Khan Nazim, the province has become a hub of corruption, with looting occurring at all levels. He accused the provincial government, including Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and his brother, of being the masterminds behind the organised corruption.

Arsalan Khan stated that instead of combating corruption, the provincial government is deeply involved in it. He highlighted that bribes are being demanded for transfers of teachers and appointments to important government positions, leases, and contracts. He also claimed that rates have been fixed for the appointments of secretaries, deputy commissioners, and assistant commissioners. Moreover, Arsalan Khan pointed out corruption in the purchase of medicines and medical gloves.

2 dozen teachers' salaries deducted on absent duties in Kohlu: DC

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Kohlu Aqeel Karim Baloch on Wednesday said that the salaries of more than two dozen teachers were deducted after founding them absent from their duties in the area.

He said that the notices were also issued for neglecting their duties to absent teachers across the district, especially in Kahan Tehsil.

The DC said that in the light of the decision made in the meeting of the District Education Group, the salaries of the absent teaching and non-teaching staff from the government educational institutions have been deducted and the employees have also been asked to answer. He said that in case of not giving a satisfactory answer, other departmental action would be taken against the absentee employees including dismissal from the job. The functioning of all the educational institutions across the district is the first priority so that all the inactive schools are activated.



GWADAR: Senior Member Board of Revenue Qambar Dashti presiding over a meeting regarding overlapping of lands, digitalization and other affairs. Commissioner Mekran Daud Khan Khilji and Deputy Commissioner Hamoodur Rehman are also present

Govt, welfare sectors must play role for ending of narcotics in Jhal Magsi: DC

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Jhal Magsi Syed Rehmatullah Shah on Wednesday said that government institutions, community, teachers and other welfare sectors must play their positive role for elimination of narcotics curse.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting regarding anti-narcotics at his office on Wednesday.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner (AC) Gandawa Abdul Majeed Muhammad Hossani, SP Jhal Magsi Subhan Ali Magsi, Tehsildar Gandawa Hadi Bakhsh Pahor, (Resaldar Major) Abdul Hakeem Abro, Excise Officer Muhammad Sharif Lashari, District Health Inspector Dr. Badar Nadeem Ansari and concerned officials.

Commissioner Kalat vows honest performance, revenue collection

Independent Report
LASBELA: Commissioner Kalat Division, Muhammad Naem Bazai, stressed that government officials, especially those in the Revenue Department, must perform their duties honestly and responsibly, focusing on tax revenue collection and service delivery. According to details Commissioner Bazai

chaired a review meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office during his visit to Lasbela district. He emphasized the importance of good governance and addressing public issues. He directed the Forest and Revenue Departments to resolve land-related issues on a priority basis and ensure the protection of government lands.



QUETTA: Nawabzada Haji Lashkari Raisani, MPA Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch, Prof. Dr. Khalid Hafeez, Abdul Mateen Akhundzada and Dr. Abdul Wadood addressing a seminar on Potential Future of the Social Contract in Pakistan and the Concept of Iqbalistan organized by BUTTEMS