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President rejects IIOJK elections amid human rights concerns

Asif Zardari says such elections unacceptable to Kashmiris, calls for plebiscite in line with UN resolutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday categorically rejected the elections for the Legislative Assembly of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), asserting that the polls were no substitute for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

President Zardari, talking to a delegation of migrants from the IIOJK residing in Pakistan since 1989 led by Uzair Ahmed Ghazali at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, emphasised that such elections were unacceptable to the people of Kashmir and called upon the international community to hold the Modi government accountable for ongoing human rights violations in the occupied territory.

He further urged the

need to take concrete steps toward conducting a plebiscite in line with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Welcoming the delegation, the president condemned the Legislative Assembly elections in the IIOJK, terming them part of India's broader strategy to consolidate its illegal occupation of the region.

He highlighted that such measures could neither legitimize India's occupation nor suppress the freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people.

He stated that India was trying to alter the demographic structure of the IIOJK by turning the Kashmiri Muslims into a minority and transforming them into a disempowered community in their own

land.

President Zardari said that Pakistan greatly valued the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people for their rights and would continue to stand in solidarity with them. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to provide moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people till the realization of their right to self-determination.

The delegation apprised the president about the atrocities being committed by the Modi regime in the IIOJK. It was highlighted that the entire Kashmiri leadership had been imprisoned to suppress the voice of the Kashmiri people.

The delegation also ap-

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ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner Jane Marriott meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif

King Charles phones PM Shehbaz; invites to attend CHOGM in October

ISLAMABAD (APP): King Charles III of the United Kingdom on Wednesday telephoned Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and formally invited him to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Samoa in October.

Accepting the invitation, the prime minister said that the CHOGM in Samoa would be a significant moment in the history of the Commonwealth, being the first summit to be chaired by the King since becoming Head of the Commonwealth, according to a PM Office press release.

Prime Minister Sharif reiterated Pakistan's commitment to the Commonwealth and the values enshrined in the Commonwealth Charter.

He said that the CHOGM in Samoa would

provide a forum to discuss opportunities for enhancing intra-Commonwealth cooperation on a number of important issues, such as fostering sustainable development, strengthening democratic institutions, and empowering Commonwealth youth.

Noting the King's longstanding interest in environmental issues and various initiatives for climate sustainability, the prime minister said that he particularly looked forward to engaging with Commonwealth leaders on climate change, as Pakistan was highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The prime minister also inquired after the King's health and conveyed his best wishes for The Princess of Wales, who had successfully completed her treatment.



Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti offering Dua after condoling death of Provincial Minister Sardar Safar Chakar Khan Domki with his relatives in Lehri.

CM visits Lehri, condoles death of Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Domki; pays rich tributes on services

ISLAMABAD (APP): Provincial Ministers, Mir Zahoore Ahmed Buledi and Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Parliamentary Secretary, Mir Liaquat Ali Lehri.

Also present on the occasion were the Senator Dostain Khan Domki, Senator Dhanesh Kumar, former caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Domki, other political and tribal personalities and people belonging to different walks of the life from all over the country.

Expressing grief and sympathy over death of Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Domki with his family, the Chief Minister paid rich tributes to him on the invaluable services and said

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Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar along with Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Alexei Overchuk addresses a joint press stakeout at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad

Pakistan, Russia to cement ties through dialogue, cooperation

DPM Ishaq Dar says Pakistan views Russia as key player in regional cooperation; Calls for enhanced energy, trade cooperation with Russia; Pakistan, Russia sign MoU to boost economic, trade cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday underscored the considerable potential in Pak-Russia relations, emphasizing the importance of boosting economic ties and increasing cultural and educational exchanges, as well as enhancing cooperation in energy, trade, and regional connectivity.

Talking to the media, he said that all the political parties tried to reach a consensus on the draft bill both inside and outside the Parliament.

The parties on both sides of the aisle in the Parliament had thorough discussions on the constitutional amendments, he added.

Tarar said the role of the Law Minister in the drafting of constitutional amendments and engaging all political forces was highly commendable.

He cited that many countries, including Italy, Germany and Spain, had

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COPHC chairman meets Jam Kamal to discuss Gwadar Port development

ISLAMABAD (APP): The China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) Chairman, Yu Bo, on Wednesday met with Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan to discuss proposals for the activation and enhancement of trade activities at Gwadar Port.

During the meeting, Yu Bo presented suggestions to boost operations at the port and sought the government's support to increase trade through Gwadar, said a press release issued here.

In response, Jam Kamal Khan assured full government backing, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to enhancing Gwadar's trade capacity, in line with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's priorities for the region.

Government once again contacts PTI

ISLAMABAD (Online): Government has once again contacted PTI for evolving consensus on constitutional amendments.

Rana Sana Ullah advisor to Prime Minister (PM) has requested the PTI to consider to review the draft.

Speaker National Assembly (NA) made this request on the occasion of his meeting with arrested MNAs.

Sources said Rana Sana Ullah said to PTI MNAs for making consultation with legal team.

Rana Sana Ullah during telephonic contact asked law minister Azam Nazir Tarar to give draft to opposition. PTI members have also been asked to make consultation with PTI founder on draft.

logistical challenges in future meetings, including the Pak-Russia intergovernmental commission and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) discussions, which are crucial for enhancing cooperation on Afghanistan, energy security, and food security.

Ishaq Dar stated that the visit of the Russian Deputy Prime Minister and his delegation reflects the growing depth and scope of economic cooperation, highlighting a clear mutual desire to strengthen Pak-Russia relations.

Strengthening bilateral cooperation with the Russian Federation remains a key priority of Pakistan's

foreign policy.

Ishaq Dar noted that Pak-Russia relations have advanced significantly, with a strong desire to forge cooperation between the two countries. A step-by-step approach based on trust and mutual respect has placed the relationship on a positive trajectory.

Both delegations engaged in in-depth discussions focused on bilateral relations, identifying potential areas for economic expansion. Specific areas of mutual interest were outlined, including trade, economic collaboration, cultural relations, and people-to-people contacts.

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QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over meeting regarding establishment of Private Special Economic Zone Turbat

We can resolve issues of people at local level by strengthening democratic system: Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that democracy is the most accepted and prioritized system at the international level despite the geographic and national limitations.

He said that concept of democracy is deep rooted in implementation of the rights and authorities.

In a statement issued here on Wednesday, the Governor said that there is priority of effective participation of all citizens, protection of basic rights, freedom of expression and following the social justice in democracy.

Therefore it is necessary to know that we can resolve the issues of people at local level by strengthening democratic system and promoting participation of great majority of the society.

He said that it has been observed that democracy is comparatively considered to be better system for en-

sureing equal opportunities and facilities because of its distinctive qualities in the multinational states and societies.

The Governor made it clear that it is essential to honour the differences of opinion, adopt democratic behaviors and action for strengthening democracy just because it is basis of the healthy and civilized society to make our words and action democratic.

By doing so, we make it sure that everyone must be heard and provide justice to our subordinates besides seeking justice from others.

He stressed that we also have to ensure that every one gets equal opportunities in decision making at the collective level.

Let's unite for formation of the healthy and exploitation free society so that everyone gets equal opportunities and facilities to moved ahead, adding Governor stressed.

Islamabad High Court Impression of kidnapping citizens by intelligence agencies is threat to national security

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Babar Sattar of Islamabad High Court (IHC) has directed to make all intelligence and investigation agencies of Islamabad, director generals of IB, F IA, ISI, MI, director generals of air and Naval intelligence agencies and CTD Punjab respondents on the petition seeking recovery of missing person Faizan Usman from Islamabad and initiation of action against them.

Justice Babar Sattar remarked chief commissioner be also made party and he should file affidavit that as to why enforced disappearances are taking place persistently in his power of jurisdiction.

The applicant should file amended memo of respondents and notices be issued to new respondents.

The court inquired the intelligence agencies and investigation agencies should give report that have they informa-

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QUETTA: MPA Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Parliamentary Secretary Haji Barkat Ali, Senator Abdul Qadir and Sardarzada Aurangzeb Khetran meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Chief Minister says Private Special Economic Zone to be encouraged to boost economic activities

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated Balochistan is the suitable region for making investment. He said that private Economic Zone would also be encouraged besides formulation of the special economic zone at the government level.

The Chief Minister was presiding over the meeting about formulation of the private special Economic Zone here on Wednesday.

The meeting discussed in detail the matters about formulation of the private special Economic Zone in the province.

In addition to this, the meeting also discussed potential of the province for investment in different sectors.

The Chief Minister was briefed about the pro-

posed project of the private Economic Zone in Turbat.

Emphasizing upon the formulation of the Economic Zone, Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that the economic activities would be boosted with the project in Balochistan.

The Chief Minister on the occasion assured that the government would encourage the viable projects for formulation of the private Economic Zone in the province.

He said that the private sector would be provided facilities for promotion of the investment under one-window operation. The private investors would also be extended every possible assistance, adding he assured. He directed to the Industries Department to issue necessary no objection certificates in different sections at the provincial level without any delay.

COAS reiterates desire to foster defence ties with Russia

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff Syed Asim Munir has reiterated Pakistan's commitment to fostering



traditional defence ties with Russia.

He was talking to Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk, who paid a courtesy call on him at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi today.

Both the sides reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen security and defence cooperation in multiple domains.

During the meeting, they engaged in productive discussions on matters of mutual interest, regional security dynamics, and bilateral cooperation across various sectors. The visiting dignitary praised pivotal role played by Pakistan Armed Forces in combating terrorism, and their tireless efforts to promote peace and stability in the region.

Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW) celebrated with due religious respect and enthusiasm in Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW) was celebrated with due religious respect and enthusiasm in the provincial metropolises on Tuesday.

The main procession marking the Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW) was taken out from Bacha Khan Chowk. The procession terminated at the Manan Chowk after passing through Liaquat Bazaar, Junction Chowk, Prince Road, Masjid Road and Shahrah-e-Iqbal.

Strict security measures were adopted for the procession in and around the metropolises. Over 2,000 personnel of police and other law enforcement agencies were deployed to ensure peace on the occasion.

The cellular phone service also remain suspended during the procession of Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW). The senior police officials and Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Lieutenant (Retd) Saad bin Asad personally supervised the security and other arrangements made for the procession. The surveillance of the procession was also carried out through the close circuit TV cameras installed on the route and other different parts of the city.

Meanwhile, the processions were also taken out and different activities organized in other parts of the province marking the Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW).



GADDANI: Team of IMO visiting Gaddani Ship Breaking Yard

Despite fierce coalition govt wooing, Fazal completely rejects constitutional package

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, who took the centre stage as both the government and the opposition sought his support, has completely rejected the draft of the "controversial" constitutional package, aimed at making changes to Pakistan's judicial and parliamentary systems.

given was reviewed, and it was in no way acceptable," the veteran politician said while talking to journalists after attending a luncheon at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Qaiser's residence on Wednesday.

The government pushed the proposed constitutional package amid speculation about a potential extension in the tenure of Chief Justice of Pakistan

"The draft we were

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Pakistan, Nepal needs to jointly voice climate action on global climate forums: Pokhrel

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Executive, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), Anil Pokhrel has urged the governments of Pakistan and Nepal to work jointly to raise effective voice for effective climate action at the global climate forums.

Pokhrel underscored that the joint efforts at global forums of Pakistan and Nepal should focus on demanding the world community to ensure accessible climate finance instruments for the developing countries facing adverse impacts of climate change.

In an exclusive interview with media at the sidelines of the regional climate dialogue, NDRRMA, Chief Executive, Anil Pokhrel said Pakistan and Nepal shared same Hindukush Himalaya region with similar landscape and monsoon patterns and also hazards like earthquakes, forest fires, floods, and landslides in its disaster-prone terrain in the Hindukush Himalaya Region.

He added that the NDRRMA was eager to learn more about the

NDRRMA, Pakistan's experiences during climatic disaster and also have an experience sharing opportunity.

"In Nepal, we have been tackling hazards from a single aspect of disaster and missing inter-sectoral links of disasters. We have seen GLOF (glacial lake outburst flood) events, whereas glacial lakes and moraine dams are weakening," Anil Pokhrel said.

The 2005 Earthquake in Muzaffarabad was a massive earthquake and any such earthquake during monsoon would have more devastation like the glacial lakes' explosion chances were increasing due to faster melting in the north, he added.

The NDRRMA chief pointed out that the forest fires' suite was also aggravating the GLOF activity as its black surface absorbs more heat and accelerates melting as permafrost is melting faster in the entire Hindukush Himalaya Region.

"We need start looking at its intersectionality and complexity of disasters that also cascades into

larger devastations downstream," he said.

The debate of least greenhouse gas emitter, he said was decades old, whereas the countries like Nepal and Pakistan sharing same risks need to come together as a one singular voice to negotiate more effectively at the forums like COP forums as the COP29 was ahead in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Pakistan and Nepal should work together to narrate the hazards and risks devastations faced by the two countries due to increasing global warming and climate change impacts on the region due to the historical emissions of the developed world driving glacial melt, droughts and forest fires in the region, he added.

"This is where the international finance structure has to be designed in such an effective way that it should be substantial, quick, and directly drawn by the climate vulnerable countries like ours that should help in recovery and reconstruction post disasters," Anil Pokhrel said.



ISLAMABAD: Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan called on Federal Minister for Defence, Defence Production and Aviation, Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

Scholars, leaders advocate for dialogue, tolerance at Eid Milad symposium

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Chapter of the Muslim Council of Elders on Wednesday organized a symposium titled "Peaceful Coexistence in Light of the Life of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him)" in celebration of the Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW). The event was held in cooperation with the Shaikh Zayed Islamic Center (SZIC) in Peshawar and attended by a distinguished group of scholars, academics, and representatives of minorities.

The prominent personalities including Peer

Noor-ul-Haq Qadri, former Minister of Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony, Prof. Dr. Qazi Muhammad Naem, Vice Chancellor of Peshawar University, Prof. Dr. Rashid Ahmed, Director of the Shaikh Zayed Islamic Center at Peshawar University, Prof. Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Judge at the Shariat Court and former Chairman of the Council of Islamic Ideology, Qari Roohullah Madani, Chairman of the Pakistan Council of World Religions - Faith Friends, and former Minister of Religious Affairs of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, attended the symposium, said a press release issued here.

The symposium witnessed a large audience and widespread praise for the efforts of the Muslim Council of Elders, under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, in promoting a culture of peace, tolerance, and coexistence, calling on the council to continue implementing such initiatives aimed at building bridges of communication, dialogue, and understanding among different religious and cultural groups.

DHA-CDA long standing matter resolved

ISLAMABAD (APP): The long standing matter regarding handing over of 729 plots by the Defense Housing Authority (DHA) to the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has amicably been resolved. The DHA has already issued allotment letters of 729 plots in favour of CDA. Capital Development Authority has now decided to offer 729 residential plots to general public and Overseas Pakistanis, said a press release. This was decided in a meeting held at CDA headquarters chaired by the Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa. The meeting was attended by all board members and senior officers of the authority.

The meeting discussed the successful resolution of a long-standing issue between CDA and DHA concerning the allotment of 729 plots.

The matter had been lingering and remained unresolved since 2007-2008, when CDA had handed over 2,412 kanals and five marlas of land to DHA under an agreement. According to the original terms, CDA was to receive 729 plots against that land but the agreement could not materialize for years. Under a fresh agreement, DHA has now handed over the 729 plots to CDA. During the meeting, CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa stated that the issue has been unresolved for over 15 years through proactive efforts and positive approach which has enabled the authority to secure these plots finally, which are worth billions of rupees. This is a major achievement for CDA as it demonstrates the resolve to protect the authority's interests and its assets.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, WADA Mitsuhiko, posing for a group photograph along with SHIRAI Mariko, Lahore Sogetsu Study Group and Lahore Bonsai Society, Neveen Syed, President Lahore Sogetsu Study Group, and Mian Umair, President Lahore Bonsai Society, addressing during certificates of commendations distribution ceremony at his residence.

NADRA facilitation center starts working at ICCI

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Baktawari on Wednesday said that the business community was the real driving force of the national economy and urged the government to address the issues faced by them on priority basis. Addressing a ceremony held to inaugurate the newly established NADRA Facilitation Center, he urged the government to ensure ease of doing businesses to facilitate the local trade and business to achieve sustainable economic development and growth.

He expressed the firm commitment to work for the development of business

welfare of the business community in order to achieve economic growth and social prosperity, said a press release.

Ahsan Zafar lauded the role of Chairman NADRA for establishing facilitation center and hoped that this fully equipped center offering range of services, including, CNIC, Family Registration Certificate, and Birth Certificate to the community will greatly benefit the members and contribute to chamber's success.

He said that a Mediation Council Office, Police Facilitation Center, Tax Ombudsman office have already been working and offering all the necessary services to the community.

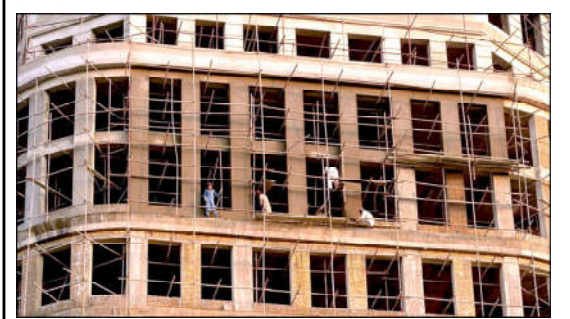
ICT admin cracks down on begging; 23 arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP): The district administration has launched a crackdown on professional beggars across Islamabad, resulting in the arrest of 23 individuals. The arrests were made as part of efforts to curb begging activities in the Federal Capital, said the spokesman of ICT administration. In a recent move to address the growing issue of begging in Islamabad, the district administration, under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner (Rural), has arrested 23 professional beggars. The arrests were carried out in the jurisdictions of Lohibher, Sihala, Koral, and Humak police stations.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan

Nawaz Memon urged the citizens to discourage professional beggars.

He emphasized that such activities could create an undesirable environment and could often be linked to organized groups. The administration has taken this step to not only clear public spaces but also to ensure that vulnerable people, who may be exploited through begging networks, were not harmed. Memon called on the public to avoid giving money to individuals begging in public places, as it could inadvertently support these networks. Instead, he encouraged people to support recognized charitable organizations that work to address poverty and provide assistance to those in need.



ISLAMABAD: Laborers busy in building construction work near F9 Park in the Federal Capital.

AIOU sets October 15 as last date for admissions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has set October 15 as the last date for the 2nd phase admissions of Autumn semester 2024.

According to the AIOU, the programmes offered in this phase include Associate degree in Arts (BA General), Associate degree in Commerce (B.Com), Associate degree in Education, BS (ODL) programs, B.Ed programs, BBA, postgraduate diplomas and certificate courses.

Admission forms and prospectus of all the programs are available on the university website.

The students can visit regional offices or call the university helpline at 051-111 112 468 for further information.

The deadline for submitting admission form is 15th October. Please note that applications for admission can only be submitted online.

Detailed information about all the programs offered is also available on the university website.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam addressing a meeting of development partners regarding preparation for COP29.

IUI, HEC inaugurates workshop on enhancing online teaching

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Faculty of Education at the International Islamic University Islamabad (IUI), in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC), the Iqbal International Institute for Research and Dialogue (IRD), and the Directorate of Quality Assurance and Development (QAD), successfully inaugurated the two-day workshop titled "Quality First: Enhancing Online Teaching in Higher Education."

The event aims to strengthen the quality of online education across higher education institutions in Pakistan, focusing on best practices for course design, student engagement, and assessment in digital platforms.

The workshop is part of NRPQ Project Quality Assurance for Online Teaching in Higher Education in Pakistan by Dr

Fouzia Ajmal (PI) and Prof. Dr. N. B. Jumani (Co-PI). The opening ceremony was graced by the Acting President IUI, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar, who lauded the participants for the urge to adopt the modern means of teaching and learning. He said that factor of relevance is mostly missing that must be the prime focus of the teachers.

He discussed distance education, its utilization, future scope, its global needs and transformations on teaching and learning and ever changing job market. He said without compromising the quality is the way forward for success.

He commended the Faculty of Education and its collaborators for organizing such a significant initiative, stating, "In today's rapidly changing educational landscape, maintaining quality in online learning is pivotal.

IRSA releases 205,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 205,900 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 151,000 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1543.12 feet and was 145.12 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 83,000 cusecs and 110,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1226.05 feet, which was 178.05 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 17,100 cusecs and 45,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 113,000, 107,200, 91,200 and 48,200 cusecs respectively.

Japanese envoy confers "Japanese Commendations" to SHIRAI Mariko

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, WADA Mitsuhiko, on Wednesday conferred the "Japanese Ambassador's Commendations" to Ms. SHIRAI Mariko, the Lahore Sogetsu Study Group and the Lahore Bonsai Society at a ceremony held at his Official Residence in Islamabad.

The Japanese Ambassador's Commendations are awarded to persons or organisations to commend their significant contributions or distinct service in accordance with

the work of the Embassy of Japan, said a press release issued here. Ms. SHIRAI Mariko, General Manager of Cox & Kings Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd., has played a role as the point of contact for Japanese travelers in Pakistan for many years. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador WADA praised her active contributions to the Japanese community in Islamabad and thanked her for building bridges between the two cultures and supporting the crucial work of the Embassy.



ISLAMABAD: Former Chief Justice Sindh, Justice Munir Alam addressing a seminar on Artificial Intelligence at Islamabad Judicial Complex.

The silent war between air pollution and rural health, livelihood

ISLAMABAD (APP): Air pollution is often seen as an urban issue, but its impact on rural areas is just as severe, quietly undermining traditional ways of life. In Pakistan's countryside, pollution from agricultural practices, waste burning, and traditional cooking methods is increasingly harming both health and the environment.

The consequences include not only respiratory and heart diseases but also broader economic and environmental challenges that threaten the sustainability of rural lifestyles.

While city dwellers face smog from industries and traffic, rural communities experience a different type of air pollution. In many villages, traditional cookstoves and three-stone fires are still commonly used. These methods, which rely on biomass fuels like wood, crop residue, and kerosene, emit harmful fine particulate matter and toxic gases such as carbon monoxide. According to health experts, this incomplete combustion contributes significantly to air pollution, creating indoor air hazards that are especially

dangerous for women and children. Particularly vulnerable to the effects of air pollution are pregnant women, children, and the elderly.

Dr. Fareed Somroo, a health expert, in an interview with APP said that exposure to fine particulate matter can lead to low birth weight, developmental issues, and increased risks of preterm birth in infants. Pregnant women exposed to pollutants face higher risks of miscarriage and complications like pre-eclampsia. For the elderly, who often suffer from pre-existing conditions, air pollution increases the likelihood of chronic respiratory and heart diseases, further straining rural healthcare systems.

The pollutants from traditional cooking practices not only damage health but also contribute to deforestation and the release of black carbon, which worsens global warming. Prolonged exposure to these pollutants leads to respiratory infections, lung diseases, and increased risks of heart attacks and strokes. In rural areas where healthcare is limited, these

health issues are particularly troubling.

Addressing the challenge of air pollution in rural areas requires comprehensive action. Climate expert Naseer Memon in response to this scribe suggests enforcing emission standards in industries and promoting cleaner technologies across both urban and rural settings. He emphasizes the importance of adopting improved cookstoves and alternative fuels to reduce indoor air pollution.

Memon also advocates for better waste management practices in rural areas, including banning the open burning of trash and crop residues. He recommends promoting biodegradable materials and implementing recycling and proper disposal systems to reduce pollution levels. Education campaigns that raise awareness about the health risks of air pollution, combined with encouraging practices like carpooling and using public transportation, could help mitigate the problem.

Air pollution's impact on rural Pakistan is a crisis that remains largely over-

looked, yet its effects are devastating.

The environmental degradation caused by pollution also exacerbates climate change, which in turn affects agriculture through erratic weather patterns, diminishing water resources, and further reducing crop yields. Deforestation, driven by the demand for firewood, strips the land of its natural defenses, leaving communities more vulnerable to floods, droughts, and other climate-related disasters.

Pollution in rural Pakistan is not limited to household activities. Open burning of trash is a common practice due to the lack of proper waste management systems. In villages like Beryan, near Tarbela Ghazi, the burning of waste materials such as plastics and diapers releases toxic chemicals into the air, while open garbage dumping during the rainy season creates breeding grounds for mosquitoes, increasing the spread of diseases such as malaria and dengue. Agricultural activities also contribute, with the burning of crop residues releasing large amounts of

harmful particulates into the air. Additionally, the use of fertilizers and pesticides contaminates the environment, further degrading air, water, and soil quality.

Air pollution in rural areas poses a significant threat to agricultural productivity, the main source of income for many communities. Poor air quality reduces crop yields, while pollution-induced health problems increase medical costs and reduce workers' capacity.

The economic burden on rural households grows as healthcare expenses rise and agricultural productivity declines, leading to a lower quality of life.

The combination of traditional cooking methods, improper waste disposal, and harmful agricultural practices is not only destroying the health of rural communities but also threatening their livelihoods and the environment they rely on. A concerted effort to reduce pollution, improve waste management, and adopt sustainable practices is crucial for preserving rural lifestyles and ensuring a healthier future for all.

Daniyal says: Leaked chat exposes PTI's anti-state narrative

ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Daniyal Chaudhry on Wednesday said that leaked messages between Rauf Hasan and Jibran Ilyas confirmed that the events of May 9 were a planned conspiracy by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Talking to a private news channel, he said that these messages show May 9 was not a spontaneous incident, but rather a pre-meditated action aimed at undermining the army and state institutions.

Murree transporters warned against overcharging

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Murree, Agha Zahir Sherazi has warned the transporters against not complying with government prescribed policy after fuel price cut. He asked the transporters to reduce the fares on every route and display the fare lists. He directed the relevant authority to take strict action against transporter owners who do not reduce travel fares.

The government has recently reduced the petroleum prices according to which, diesel has been reduced by Rs 13.6 paisa and petrol by Rs.10 per litre.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with MPs & Officers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at Parliament House.

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Parliament's place

With the storm around the government's planned amendments to the Constitution now behind it, will parliament turn its attention once again to protecting its privileges and reasserting the stature it has been granted within the configuration of the state?

The issue, it may be recalled, had been taken up last week after masked individuals entered the National Assembly's premises to arrest several lawmakers associated with the PTI — a serious infraction of House privileges that had triggered an uproar on both the treasury and opposition benches.

In the aftermath, a special 16-member committee was set up through a unanimous motion moved by the Lower House, which has been followed by the formation of a similar 13-member committee in the Senate as well. The committees are tasked with discussing, analysing and making recommendations regarding issues related to parliament, rules and procedure, and conduct of business.

While the committees get to work on their mandates, it is pertinent to examine the scope of the crisis parliament faces today. Over the years, a series of poor precedents have been set under successive governments that have greatly undermined its prestige and power. For example, it would be a big step towards restoring the prestige of parliament if our elected representatives agreed to stop constantly painting each other as the vilest villains to roam the earth. The executive and judiciary have remained shielded from the kind of continuous controversy that afflicts the legislature mainly because they do not air their members' dirty linen in public.

This, of course, should not be taken to mean less transparency and accountability; however, there is an urgent need to set some basic rules of engagement between political rivals.

Relatedly, there is a need to realise that parliament and its members must be respected regardless of who controls the government and who sits on the opposition benches. For example, parliament injures itself when it blacks out the speeches of some of its lawmakers. If parliamentary privileges protect all lawmakers' speeches on the floor of the House, then no power should be able to dictate which speeches can be heard by the public, and which cannot. It should be left to parliamentarians to bear responsibility for their words.

Secondly, those who champion parliamentary politics must also respect its procedures. Attempts to bulldoze major legislation through backdoor deals, with votes coerced out of unwilling lawmakers, undermines everything parliament stands for. Legislative activities must be open to scrutiny and debate — it is this transparency from which parliament derives its legitimacy and, ultimately, its power. Lastly, the effort to restore parliament's sanctity must not be predicated on the actions or words of any individual. It must rise above all political differences, no matter how serious, if it is to achieve its intended results.

Arifa Noor

Twenty years ago, four people were shot dead in Indian Gujarat. Of those killed, three were men and one was a 19-year-old woman, Ishrat Jahan.

It was alleged that the four were killed in a staged encounter. Years later, the Ishrat Jahan case reached the high court, where a special investigation team reported that it had been a staged encounter. An added controversy was the allegation that all four were allegedly members or associates of the Lashkar-e-Taiba.

However, this piece is not about the case as such, but more about the judge, Jayant Patel, who was involved in it at one stage.

As the acting chief justice of the Gujarat high court, he had, in 2004, ordered an investigation into the matter. In 2016, he was transferred to Karnataka, and then Allahabad a year later. The transfer to Allahabad took place just before the senior-most judge was about to retire, preventing him from becoming Karnataka's chief justice. This was his second chance, as the first transfer had prevented him

from becoming chief justice of Gujarat. On being transferred to Allahabad, he opted for retirement.

In another incident, a judge, Akil Kureshi, was recommended as chief justice of the Gujarat high court, but the government preferred to transfer him to Bombay. In the past, he had remanded Amit Shah to police custody in a different case of death during an encounter, which came to be known as the Sohrabuddin case.

Both incidents are taken from Christophe Jaffrelot's Modi's India. The French scholar has been a close observer of politics in India for decades, and this particular book focuses on the period when Narendra Modi became the prime minister of the country. One part of the book focuses on the weakening of a number of institutions during this period, including the judiciary.

According to Jaffrelot, the Indian supreme court, which should have pushed back in defence of the high courts, did not do so. Prolonged confrontation with the government over the appointment of judges had ushered in

chief justices and judges who weren't too keen on confronting the government. This lack of resistance not only concerned the transfer of judges and appointments of high court chief justices, but also cases which could have been potentially embarrassing for the government or have hindered it. As an aside, to give a sense of the kind of delays that took place in the appointment of judges, the book quotes an incident in which four lawyers had been recommended as judges to a high court and the government took two years before it gave its decision, rejecting two of the four names.

At the time I read the book, this chapter did not appear as gripping as some of the other sections. But, for obvious reasons, the spine of the book has weakened considerably at this part in recent days.

Rumours of a wide-ranging judicial package began doing the rounds months ago. However, there was little clarity on what it may or may not include, because public statements by government officials were confusing and even contradictory at times.

However, it did seem there was some intent somewhere to clip the powers of the judiciary, because the latter and the executive appeared at cross-purposes on several issues — reserved seats, bail, missing people, election tribunals. This 'somewhere' can include more than one city and more than one stakeholder.

As time passed, the rumours grew stronger and stronger. When did we all become convinced that it was going to happen? Was it when the chief justice issued a clarification on a conversation he had with journalists, which was reported as the judge declaring he wasn't interested in an extension? Or was it when parliamentarians were called to Islamabad for an unending session that began towards end August?

I have to admit, on behalf of ordinary souls such as myself, that these public events turned niggling suspicions into 'ah ha' moments. And then came the recent interviews of government officials, in which they claimed they had the magic number for a two-thirds majority. This claim kept being made till midnight on Sunday, when

the poor parliamentarians were finally sent home to get a good night's sleep. (I hope the bathrooms they have access to are cleaner than the public toilets I have chanced upon during trips to parliament). It was then that the defence minister conceded the numbers were not there.

However, the comedy that is Pakistan had become obvious hours earlier on Sunday, when it became clear on television (rather than Islamabad gossip) that even cabinet members, perhaps even the law minister, had not seen the famous amendments. All this became 'public' primarily because of the JUI-F's coy behaviour. It is hard to say what their reservations are, but it seems that one of the reasons was that the detailed draft had not been shared with them. Other reasons point to whatever carrots have been dangled before the party.

Another moment that was pure gold was Farooq Sattar's statement: he explained that the amendment would allow the government to become more stable and resolve the people's is-

sues. His honesty was far more welcome than all the politically correct statements being issued by either the opposition or the government.

Since then, a draft has come to the fore, but it is hard to say if it's the real McCoy. Hence, one can't comment on it. And this is why I reached for Jaffrelot: both the cases quoted in the beginning of this article were about alleged extrajudicial killings by the law enforcement.

Indeed, however problematic the judicial appointment process is at the moment, it has allowed judges such as Babar Sattar and Shahid Karim to reach forums where our rights can be protected.

When and if any Pakistani citizen (including those sitting in government at the moment) is faced with a disappearance or an arrest or even a case under Peca or the new defamation law, one can only hope the judge cares about the rights of the people. This 'proposed amendment' cannot get any more personal. -- Courtesy Dawn

Keeping a solemn oath solemn

Jawed Naqvi

A story one heard from an associate of Urdu poet Firaq Gorakhpuri possibly frames the debate nicely about India's chief justice.

D.Y. Chandrachud, who has been facing adverse comments over a TV clip that showed him with Prime Minister Narendra Modi participating in a private puja last week. The CJJ holds the ritual annually at his home to celebrate Lord Ganesh. The problem, it seems, is that this time Modi was his guest, and in full public view.

There's nothing seriously wrong with two men performing prayers together. The point is who are we talking about.

The story goes that a friend asked Firaq to evaluate Harvansh Rai Bachchan's popular Hindi poem Madhushala, or 'The Tavern'.

Bachchan's poem is often likened to 11th-century Persian poet Omar Khayyam's famous tribute to wine. The theme of the goblet and the flask and the saqi permeates Urdu poetry too, both as a metaphor of resistance against the ubiquitous re-

ligious vigilante and as a magic potion that few Western poets (other than possibly Coleridge) have cared to indulge.

Firaq's response to Bachchan's long poem was scalding. "When Khayyam and his ilk write about wine, they celebrate the implicit romance of mocking the naysayer. In our [Hindu] culture, there's no limit to the amount we can drink. Therefore, Ghalib doesn't sound like a drunkard applauding the tavern, which cannot be said about the author of Madhushala."

In other words, Neruda or Eliot or Nirala would not be able to carry the theme of the goblet with the ready ease that Faiz or Majaaz could. It's not always easy to appreciate what is being said without knowing who is saying it.

The prime minister and the chief justice — both Hindu men and both representing the secular Indian state at the highest levels — can perhaps try to see the reasons for the worry their being together at a religious prayer has caused. The problem, therefore, is not

so much about what is in the TV frame as it is about who is in it.

The issue would perhaps not have arisen had Jawaharlal Nehru shown up — though he wouldn't, for reasons of state and political propriety — at the chief justice's residence to celebrate Ganpati. Nehru may have never attended an iftaar party with Muslims or sang hymns at Christmas either, but he was without a shadow of doubt accepted as a symbol of India's multicultural and multi-religious identity.

Nehru was in all probability an agnostic, not unlike the nastikas of ancient India, the intellectual dissenters who challenged the Brahmanical order with the social tyranny it spawned. And for this, Nehru, like the nastikas, faced vengeful retribution.

The problem in the TV clip was that it was Modi in the frame with Justice Chandrachud. The prime minister has never hesitated to fling communal vitriol at people of a religion different from his. As for Justice Chandrachud's public ap-

pearance with the prime minister at what should have been a private event, it broke the convention of judges preferring to be sequestered from public view.

Also worrying is the timing of the event. Justice Chandrachud is demitting office in November. Such moments are increasingly seen as vulnerable for retiring judges. The bonhomie in the picture is troublesome given the bevy of judges who joined the ruling party or benefited from official munificence with jobs and coveted postings.

But, let's also listen to Rishi Sunak reading from the Bible at King Charles's coronation. It was a hugely needed, reassuring gesture for several reasons. Above all, it showed the practising Hindu the former British PM is, displaying an eclectic Hindu creed with the reading. Closer home, had the CJJ observed Gandhiji's profile, he would have found the practising Hindu in him having not only respect but taking care to display it for other religions of India.

India is so rich at its

syncretic core. When Kunwar Mohinder Singh Bedi, donning his Sikh turban, recited poems in praise of Hazrat Ali, he gave a healing touch without being contrived about it to Sikhs and Muslims, the mutually hostile communities who inflicted horrors on each other in 1947. In so doing, the Sikh poet acquired the demeanour of a truer admirer of Muslim faith than perhaps the maulvis who ply their religion as a professional venture.

Allama Iqbal sang paeans to Lord Ram, calling him 'Imam-i-Hind', and exuded spiritual grace unlike the mobs that built a temple to Ram at the site of a mediaeval mosque they tore down. Maulana Hasrat lent more beauty to Mathura than many Krishna-worshipping Hindus by insisting on visiting the land of his mythical hero after every Hajj pilgrimage he made.

Maharashtra's Hindus stage the annual puja to Lord Ganesh with bhajans composed in alluring Hindustani ragas, whereby the deity who grants boon of wisdom and intellect is worshipped with fervour.

Ganesh is also worshipped as 'vighnaharan', a remover of obstacles.

A private affair common to Brahmin households, Bal Gangadhar Tilak turned the Ganapati celebration in 1892 into a popular street festival and imbued it with nationalist fervour. He attained two objectives here. It enabled him to dodge the British dragnet targeting anti-colonial public gatherings. And it sought to win back non-Muslims who often followed Muslim religious processions with eclectic devotion.

Mixing religion with politics had also picked up steam in colonial Bengal. Maulana Azad, a close associate of Gandhiji, learnt the use of the potent mix from Hindu Bengalis. Thus, he advocated the Khilafat Movement with Gandhiji, which annoyed Jinnah. The Hindu motifs alienated swathes of Indians who couldn't subscribe to the religious brew. The worrying debate today is clearly rooted in India's troubled past but also in the waning of the syncretic oath its founders prescribed for the ruling elite.

One ummah

Qasim A. Moini

In the Holy Quran, in the Almighty's final message, as relayed to His beloved final Messenger, the Holy Prophet (PBUH), the Creator classifies believers as members of one ummah (community) as mentioned in Surah Muminun.

Of course, the Quran classifies mankind using different terms. For example, elsewhere (Surah Nisa), it is stated that humanity has been "created ... from one soul", highlighting the common origins of the human race.

Yet the ummah is a specific classification, bringing together all those who testify that there is no god but Allah, and that Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa is His last and final Messenger. In essence, while humanity is one tribe, the ummah is a smaller subgroup consisting of close "relatives". Therefore, when members of one part of the ummah are in distress, it should concern all other members of this 'family'.

Critics can question why such focus on members of the ummah, when Islam claims to be a universal religion, more so when the Holy Prophet, whose birth we are celebrating today, is described in the Quran as a "Mercy to the worlds". Indeed, we should be concerned when any part of humanity is suffering. But going back to the tribe/family analogy, while one would be concerned about troubles confronting those in one's neighbourhood or city, one would be most concerned when members of one's immediate family are in anguish.

Apart from the Quran, the need for believers to come to the aid of other believers is clearly mentioned in hadith literature. For example, in Biharul Anwar, it is stated that "if any believer comes

to the aid of one who is oppressed, that would be better than fasting for a whole month and performing 'itikaf in the Sacred Mosque". Similarly, in Sahih Bukhari, it is stated that "a Muslim is a brother of another Muslim, so he should not oppress him, nor should he hand him over to an oppressor".

Where the suffering of Muslims is concerned, there are many vulnerable populations worldwide. For example, there has been no satisfactory resolution of the Rohingya's plight, as this stateless population continues to live in squalid refugee camps. Elsewhere, the people of Kashmir endure a brutal Indian occupation, while a vicious civil war in Sudan has disrupted life for millions. But perhaps no other Muslim population is enduring the hellish circumstances that the people of Gaza have been going through for the last year, due to Israel's genocidal assault.

Unfortunately, most members of the ummah living in comfort seem oblivious to Gaza's suffering. The terrified screams of its children do not move them; the numb bodies of its adults do not affect them. Surely, this lack of empathy for fellow believers in distress is diametrically opposed to the message of the Quran, and the teachings of the Holy Prophet.

While some Muslim governments have tried to raise the issue internationally and ostracise Israel for its vile behaviour, most rulers of Muslim-majority states seem unconcerned about Gaza's plight, other than issuing statements of condemnation. The 'Muslim street' — ordinary believers — on the other hand, is reacting in a variety of ways, including the boycott of brands seen as supportive of Israel, along with taking part in dem-

onstrations to denounce the butchery in Gaza. And while large protests have been held in Muslim cities — Amman, Sana'a, Baghdad, etc — amongst the largest pro-Palestine rallies have taken place in non-Muslim states.

Ironically, as much of the ummah sleeps, many non-Muslims with a conscience are awake to their responsibility as human beings to raise a voice for Gaza's defenceless people.

To reiterate their belief in the concept of the ummah, and the teachings of the Noble Prophet (PBUH), leaderships of Muslim states must do much more to defend Gaza. This should include economic bans targeting Israel and all those states that are helping power Tel Aviv's war machine. Moreover, Muslim states need to team up with non-Muslim supporters of Palestine, such as South Africa and Brazil, at multilateral fora such as the UN, ICJ etc. to help end the genocidal violence.

It is unconscionable that as Muslims in 'safer' locations continue to live life as usual, the people of Gaza are being subjected to a slaughter perhaps unparalleled in modern times. This lack of concern is an affront to the concept of Islamic brotherhood and community, while it betrays the human values of empathy and compassion as well.

As per Islamic belief, this life is transitory, while the next life is eternal. Therefore, those subjecting Palestine's people to such monstrous violence must remember that they will one day face Divine justice. And those powerful members of the ummah that are doing nothing for Palestine must remember that on the Day of Judgment, the children of Gaza will have every right to complain to Allah and His Prophet. -- Courtesy Dawn

Perverse third way

Dr Niaz Murtaza

Capitalism and socialism are the great global ideologies of our age. The word before 'ism' reflects the core logic running a system. So, under capitalism, the interests of private capital do so and subordinate all societal concerns. Private capital, profits, wage labour, etc — wrongly seen as capitalism's core — have actually existed forever. But as American sociologist Karl Polanyi reminds us, capitalism emerged in the 17th century when capital's interests became dominant societally. Since then, it has given us efficiency and productivity, but also huge inequity, ecological damage and conflict.

Under socialism (a response to capital's ugly hold), common social interests rightly serve as the dominant concern. Communist states, though, wrongly equating capitalism's core with private capital, wage labour, etc, eradicate them, with poor results. Scandinavian states, seeing the sway of capitalist interests as the real problem, make social concerns paramount, but allow private capital to operate under them, with better results.

However, a few states (Pakistan, Thailand, Myanmar, Sudan, Egypt, etc.) follow a perverse third way where military interests subordinate both capital and social interests in six key spheres. Their specific patterns vary much across such states. First, armies control ties with key states. Some, like Egypt, become clients of big states to ensure their own survival, while others, such as Sudan and Myanmar, have tense ties with the West. Some, like Pakistan, oscillate between the two extremes. But normal ties away

from the two extremes are usually absent. Neither extreme delivers good outcomes. Clientage results in a dependent, rent-seeking economy with little innovation and productivity. Tensions with the West result in isolation and the blockage of investment and technology flows.

Second, the economy suffers from other ills too. Security concerns often impede dynamic economic sectors, such as IT and social media. Some armies, as in Pakistan and Myanmar, control large parts of the economy and curtail the growth of the private sector there. Military businesses often thrive on state support that gives them monopoly or preferential access, thus distorting market processes. Resultantly, most such states have stagnant economies.

Third, security concerns dominate, and many states, like Pakistan, Myanmar and Sudan, have conflicts with their neighbours. This consumes huge state resources, diverting the states from development aims and isolating them regionally. Some, for example, Sudan and Pakistan, also employed non-state actors to pursue their security goals, which boomeranged as terrorism in Pakistan and state collapse in Sudan.

Fourth, politics is autocratic in such states. Militaries often rule directly or via thinly veiled hybrid regimes and undermine fairly elected setups. State institutions and entities, such as parliament, the judiciary and bureaucracy, are deliberately weakened and forced to toe the security establishment's line. In ethnically diverse states, the lack of democracy leads to ethnic tensions and rebellions and even state break-up, as in Sudan and Pakistan.

Fifth, some states also manipulate social narratives to fan extremism in the service of security aims. This unleashes huge social problems, such as poor status of women and religious minorities, regressive attitudes towards science, vaccines and population control, and knee-jerk xenophobia.

Sixth, while raw military powers underpin such a system, the state is run via a powerful intelligence apparatus for so-called surveillance and control. Hu-m-an rights abuses by spy agencies still abound.

Almost all such states do poorly. But Sudan is currently worst off, as ferocious battles between its army and a non-state ex-ally, involving tanks and planes, rage in the capital and countryside, something not seen even during decades of war against South Sudan and the Darfur rebels. Myanmar stands isolated and war-ravaged too. But beyond violence, the state that has been damaged most, going by the wide nature of damage inflicted, may be Pakistan. It may be the only one in the category to have suffered all the ills listed above and more.

Even worse, there is no sign of a transition to a better system, and the establishment's control appears to be having been increasing rapidly since 2017. But given its diversity and huge challenges in every realm, Pakistan direly needs to change course quickly to avoid Sudan's fate. However, it must avoid a transition to neoliberal capitalism, where corporate hegemony replaces the military but follows similar policies. Only a model where common social interests dominate can save us from doom. -- Courtesy Dawn

CM KP launches "Ikhtiyar Awam Ka" portal

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has launched an innovative portal "Ikhtiyar Awam Ka" as an important initiative towards promoting good governance and addressing public issues in the province.

Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has formally launched this newly developed portal at a ceremony held here at Civil Secretariat Peshawar on Wednesday.

The "Ikhtiyar Awam Ka" portal is a robust and users-friendly digital platform that is now open for citizens to file complaints regarding their issues and grievances. This 24/7 portal will ensure a real time-tracking and monitoring of public complaints regarding services delivery in public sector entities allowing for swift redressal and

resolution. Overseas Pakistanis can also register their concerns and issues on this portal.

This inclusive platform featuring simplified complaint submission mechanism, multi-channel interaction, data security and privacy, citizen feedback loop, and AI-powered analytics and reporting, is available on mobile app, WhatsApp, email, telephone and written application, offering dashboards for all departments and officers, ensuring seamless coordination and swift implementation of government decisions.

Similarly, this pioneering initiative, fostering effective communication between the government and citizens, will also facilitate to increase transparency, accountability, and public confidence in the government.

Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur emphasized the portal's significance, stating, "The purpose of this portal is to provide immediate solutions to people's problems. We are empowering the people, because solving their problems is our priority." He assured that complaints will not be closed until the complainant is satisfied, reiterating the government's commitment to citizen-centric governance.

This revolutionary portal is a testament to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's dedication to leveraging technology for good governance and citizens empowerment, he said and added that as the province continues to embrace digital transformation, the "Ikhtiyar Awam Ka" portal sets a new standard for public service delivery.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a meeting regarding repairing of flood-affected roads, at CM House in Karachi.

Chaudhry Shafay lays foundation stone of 19 centres of excellence

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain laid the foundation stone of the project to build 19 centres of excellence in Government College of Technology here at Allama Iqbal Town on Wednesday.

Under the project, Centres of Excellence will be established in 16 institutions of TEVTA and 3 institutions of Punjab Vocational and Training Council. With the support of Asian Development Bank, 19 centres of excellence will be built and the project will cost Rs. 5 billion.

Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said that the plan to establish centres of excellence in Punjab is a milestone in the preparation of skilled manpower. Completion of the project will increase the efficiency and professional technical skills of these institutions.

CBTA based courses will be conducted on modern lines in all these centres of excellence.

Chaudhry Shafay Hussain apprised that under this project, access to technical and vocational education will be easy. The youth will get decent employment opportunities. 8 different priority economic sectors have been selected under this project which include information technology, health, hospitality, construction, textiles, garments, light engineering, agriculture farm machinery, surgical instruments, automobiles, auto-bike assembling and food processing sectors as well. The Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce said that a revolutionary project has been started to create centres of excellence for the promotion of skill development.

CM orders crackdown on overcharging transporters

Maryam stresses clean planet vital for survival

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has directed authorities to crackdown on overcharging transporters, ensuring that the recent reduction in transport fares, due to lower oil prices, benefits citizens.

"Every passenger, every citizen, and every student must receive full relief from the petrol price reduction," she emphasized, instructing that any overcharged fares be returned to the public.

The CM tasked the provincial transport minister, commissioners, deputy commissioners, transport authority officials, and district administration to conduct strict field inspections to enforce compliance.

Earlier, the CM was briefed by the relevant authorities that after the announcement of reduction in transport fares by the federal government, the Punjab government has also issued a new schedule of reduction in private transport fares for 37 cities. As directed, the transport fares for passengers have been reduced from Rs 40 to Rs 250.

Maryam Nawaz was briefed that vehicles in 41 cities of Punjab have been checked to learn about fare collected from the passengers. She was apprised that once again, Rs 105,540 extra fare charged from the passengers has been returned, and Rs 358,500 fine has been imposed on the over-charging

transporters.

The CM was also briefed that 30 vehicles had been stopped to operate, Niazi Express has been sealed and Rs 1.5 Lakh has been slapped in fine on Niazi for not displaying fare list.

On the directive of the chief minister, a helpline has also been made active for citizens' complaints and their redressal.

Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that keeping the planet clean is indispensable for the protection and survival of environment.

In her message on International Clean Up Day, she said "Keeping our environment clean is our collective social responsibility."



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain laying the foundation stone of the project to build 19 centres of excellence in Government College of Technology here at Allama Iqbal Town.

27-km two-way road connecting Pakpattan to Sahiwal completed: Malik

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has delivered on yet another promise under the 'Punjab Khushhal' project, with the completion of a 27-kilometer two-way road connecting Pakpattan to Sahiwal.

This was stated by Punjab Minister for Communication and Works (C&W) Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bharth while talking to the media, here on Wednesday. He said the road was completed with Rs. 2.7 billion and was expected to serve between 20,000 to 25,000 vehicles daily. This road is a critical infrastructure development, linking important locations including Malka Hans, Noorpur, Baba Farid's shrine, the GT Road, and the Motorway, thereby facilitating smoother travel and boosting local connectivity.

During a briefing with the Secretary of the C&W Department and other officials, it was disclosed that an additional 13-kilometre section is being constructed to further connect Sahiwal to nearby areas, with a budget of Rs. 1.4 billion. This additional development is expected to be completed soon.

The minister emphasized the government's commitment to improving public infrastructure, stating, "Our mission is to provide the best facilities to the public." He also highlighted the introduction of e-tendering to ensure transparency and confirmed that high-quality materials are being used to guarantee the durability of the roads. He assured that more highways would be completed in the near future, further enhancing Punjab's road network.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Deputy Convener, Mustafa Kamal along with others distributing drinking juice from Sabeel during celebration of religious procession on the occasion of 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal Eid Milad-un-Nabi.

Police files location report about deputy supdt Adiala jail, court rejects report

RAWALPINDI (Online): Police has filed report regarding location of deputy superintendent Adiala Jail Rawalpindi before Justice Chaudhry Abdul Aziz of Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi bench in the petition filed against his detention.

According to report the deputy superintendent was found last time in the location of 13-G Islamabad.

The court however expressed annoyance declaring the police report unsatisfactory.

The court while seeking reply from defence secretary and interior secretary adjourned the hearing of the case till September 30.

Petitioner Memoona Riaz, Imaan Mazari counsel for petitioner and police of police station Saddar Baironi appeared in the court.

The police filed report regarding location of

Muhammad Akram in the court.

The report said last location of Muhammad Akram is of G-13.

Upon it the court declared police investigation unsatisfactory and expressed annoyance over it. The court remarked it seems as if police have touched this file for three times. Police changed the date also during investigation.

The court while adjourning hearing till September 30 sought reply from secretary defence and secretary interior.

It is pertinent to mention here Memoona Riaz wife of deputy superintendent Adiala jail Muhammad Akram had filed petition in the court making home secretary Punjab, defence secretary, superintendent Jail, IG Punjab and SHO police station Saddar Baironi respondents.

12 dead, 1,675 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least 12 people were killed and 1,675 injured in 1,523 road crashes in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 770 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 905 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams. The data analysis showed that 931 drivers, 80 underage drivers, 195 pedestrians, and 661 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. The statistics showed that 312 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 323 persons, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by Faisalabad with 140 accidents and victims, and at third Multan with 88 accidents and 88 victims.

According to the data, 1,415 motorbikes, 64 auto-rickshaws, 141 motorcars, 32 vans, 10 passenger buses, 18 truck and 88 other types of auto vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the road accidents.

Salman emphasises quality research in medical institutions

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique has reiterated the government's commitment to promoting quality research across medical institutions in the province. He was speaking at the 15th syndicate meeting of Nishtar Medical University, which was held at the Department of Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education on Wednesday.

During the meeting, the minister stressed the importance of completing the ongoing revamping project at Nishtar Hospital in Multan, instructing that it be finished on a priority

basis. Earlier, the Nishtar Medical University registrar presented the meeting agenda, and the syndicate approved the creation of new faculty positions for professors and associate professors in the pharmacy college. Key officials, including Special Secretary Development Syed Wajid Ali Shah, Additional Secretary Finance Sidra Salim, and Deputy Secretary Hamad Al-Rab, joined via video conference.

Punjab Assembly Member Fizza Maimunah, Vice Chancellor of Nishtar Medical University Prof. Mahnaz Khakwani,



LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique chairs the 15th syndicate meeting of Nishtar Medical University, held at the Department of Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education.

Inaugural ceremony of pre-service training for newly inducted civil judges, qazis held

PESHAWAR (APP): The five-week Pre-Service Training (PST) for newly inducted Civil Judges-cum-Judicial Magistrates/laqa Qazis commenced at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy Peshawar (KPJA), here on Wednesday. The inaugural ceremony was chaired by Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim, the Chief Justice Peshawar High Court/ Chairman KPJA, as the Chief Guest.

Justice Ijaz Anwar, Senior Puisne Judge/Vice-Chairman KPJA, Barrister Ikhtiar Khan, Registrar Peshawar High Court, Jehanzeb Shinwari, the Director General KPJA,

and directors of KPJA also attended the ceremony. Jehanzeb Shinwari, DG, KPJA welcomed the chief guest and paid thanks to him for sparing time to grace the ceremony. He also extended heartfelt congratulations to the trainees on their entry to the noble profession. He highlighted that the tier of civil judges was like a nucleus of the district judiciary. He added that judges should have the law at their fingertips. As a Judicial officer, they must possess a deep understanding of both substantive and procedural laws, enabling them to

ATC grants bail to TLP leader in two cases

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Wednesday granted bail to Maulana Muhammad Tahir Saifi, a leader of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), in two cases registered under terrorism charges for creating disturbances and damaging state property.

The court ordered the TLP leader to furnish surety bonds of Rs 100,000 in each case.

ATC Judge Arshad Javed heard the post-arrest bail applications of the TLP leader. The petitioner's counsel argued that Murriddke police had registered two cases against his client in 2021, but he was arrested in the cases after a lapse of many years.

Eve-teaser arrested on CPO orders

FAISALABAD (APP): Rail Bazaar police have arrested an accused after CPO orders on charge of eve-teasing. Police spokesman said here on Wednesday that City Police Officer (CPO) Kamran Adil had received complaints that a youth Majid was involved in habit of eve-teasing in the area of Rail Bazaar police station. Therefore, taking serious notice, the CPO directed the police to ensure immediate arrest of the accused and take him.



LAHORE: Deputy Chairman NAB Sohail Nasir meeting with Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

Governor Kundi pays tribute to Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday issued a heartfelt message commemorating the anniversary of Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto.

He emphasized that Murtaza Bhutto's contributions to democracy are unforgettable and highlighted his pivotal role in the struggle against authoritarianism.

In his statement, Governor Kundi remarked,

"Mir Murtaza Bhutto was a guiding light in the fight for democracy. His unwavering commitment to democratic ideals continues to inspire us today."

He further said that democratic forces acknowledge and honor the sacrifices made by Murtaza Bhutto in the pursuit of a just society.

Kundi's tribute reflects the ongoing recognition of Bhutto's legacy among those who champion democracy in Pakistan.

Fortifying provincial border checkpoints nearing completion: IGP

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar has said the mission to strengthen provincial border checkpoints is progressing towards completion. Addressing a video-link meeting at the Central Police Office on Wednesday, he emphasized that Punjab Police's border and riverine checkpoints were the first line of defence against terrorists. "These checkpoints play a crucial role in combating smuggling and illegal activities," he said and added that prevention of weapon and terrorism material transport through

Taunsa Ghazi Ghat and Mithanwala bridge must be ensured, with timely and effective countermeasures based on ground realities and intelligence reports.

He added that the riverine checkpoints were being further strengthened with modern resources and infrastructure development. Personnel at these checkpoints have been equipped with bulletproof vests, helmets, modern vehicles, and logistics. Dr. Usman Anwar also directed all DPOs to regularly inspect border and riverine checkpoints, and to improve the quality of facilities.



PESHAWAR: Members of Paramedical Staff Association are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Peshawar press club.

German Agency Deutsche GIZ delegation visits PDMA

LAHORE (APP): A delegation of the German Agency Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on Wednesday visited Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab and discussed disaster risk reduction, climate change and damages in province. Head of Adaptive Social Protection Project, Johanna Knoess, chaired the delegation.

Director General PDMA Irfan Ali Kathia informed the delegation about the working of

PDMA. He gave a detailed briefing to the delegation about the flood simulation model. The DG said that 24-hour communication with all districts is ensured in the provincial control room.

The PDMA is alert to all challenges including flood, dengue, drought, smog and heat wave, he added and said advance warnings and alerts are issued to management about heat waves, rain floods and other disasters. Irfan Ali said that this year more than normal monsoon rains were recorded.



HYDERABAD: Sunni Muslims are holding religious procession on the occasion of 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal Eid Milad-un-Nabi, the birthday anniversary celebration of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), in Hyderabad.

Govt considers proposal to establish a new steel mill with Russian cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government is considering a proposal to establish a new steel mill in Karachi with Russian cooperation and the both countries agreed to form working groups to negotiate the project's details.

In this regard, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Russian Federation Alexey Gruzdev met with Minister for Industries, Production and National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain, said a news release here on Wednesday. The minister informed that the government has earmarked 700 acres land of Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) for establishing a new Steel Mill.

He said despite being blessed with considerable reserves of iron ore

(estimated reserves of 1887 million tons), Pakistan is importing around \$2.7 billion of iron and steel.

There is perpetual gap between domestic production and demand of iron and steel. For the last year, the gap is estimated at 3.1 million tons, he added.

Pakistan's per capita steel consumption level is below even those of developing countries indicating significant growth potential over medium and long term.

He said efficiency of Pakistan's steel industry is limited as it segmented (600 small units) and based on old inefficient technology.

The proposed site is located at Karachi and in closed to Port Qasim that reduces cost of transportation of raw

materials.

Pakistan's industrial and agricultural experts are set to visit Russia, marking a significant step in strengthening bilateral ties between the two nations.

During the meeting, they emphasized on balance trade between both countries. Rana Tanveer stressed the need for modern agricultural machinery to boost crop yields and enhance agricultural productivity.

He said the government will provide all the facilities to the Russian investor in the country.

Alexey Gruzdev said that his country will provide modern agricultural machinery to Pakistan in order to boost crop yields and enhance agricultural productivity across the country.



FAISALABAD: Farmers make bundles after harvesting the sesame crop at their farm.

CIFTIS 2024: China showcases renewable energy shift, pioneering efforts to achieve carbon neutrality

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exhibition on environmental services was held at the Blast Furnace of Shougang Park during the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) in Beijing from September 12 to 16.

At the forum titled 'Shougang Blast Furnace Forum - ESG Development', Academician Liu He, a distinguished figure in China's energy sector, emphasized the profound significance of the ongoing global shift from traditional fossil fuels to renewable energy for China.

China is advancing its energy transformation with the ultimate aim of achieving its carbon peak and neutrality goals (the

dual carbon goals). This relentless pursuit is highlighted in the recently published White Paper titled 'China's Energy Transition', which underscores the nation's commitment to sustainable development. "The shift from traditional fossil fuels to renewable energy is of paramount importance to China," Liu told China Economic Net.

He highlighted that China's reliance on imported oil and gas presents a challenge to national energy security, making the move toward renewable imperative. "It helps to reduce our dependence on external energy markets and enhances our national energy sovereignty."



MULTAN: A vendor displaying dry fruit at his roadside setup on the footpath to attract customers.

Business activities soar at Sust Dry Port, boosting employment opportunities

GILGIT (APP): The Sust Dry Port at Pak-China border in Gilgit-Baltistan has witnessed a significant surge in business activities recently, with customs authorities collecting over 1.17 billion rupees in duty for the national treasury in just two weeks.

This increase in commercial activities has led to an uptick in employment opportunities in various sectors.

The Import-Export Association GB and Dry Fruit Association GB have expressed satisfaction with the boost in business activities at Sust.

Chairman import and

export Association GB Haji Liaquat Ali and other business leaders while talking to media here stated that thousands of people are employed in the Pakistan-China border trade and currently business activities at Sust Port are at an all-time high. They expressed that this has resulted in increased employment opportunities for traders, transporters, laborers, and other sectors.

The business leaders attributed the growth to the Pakistan-China border trade and the increased activities at the Sust Dry Port.

ADB delegation discusses Metro Bus Service

FAISALABAD (APP): A delegation of Asian Development Bank (ADB) called on Deputy Commissioner Capt (ret'd) Nadeem Nasir here on Wednesday and discussed the 'Faisalabad Quality Public Transport Network Report'.

Members of the delegation were Huma Dahi, an expert in an urban transport system, Ashar Lodhi and Muhammad Mubashar Moeen.

A spokesman said all stakeholders are being taken on board to give practical shape to the project. On the instructions of the Punjab government, paperwork on the Metro Bus Service project under BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) is underway, added the spokesman. FDA Director General Muhammad Asif Chaudhry, Chief Engineer FDA Mehr Ayub and others were present. The DG FDA briefed the delegation about the study report and a proposed plan for metro bus service. He said that under red line, blue line, yellow line and purple line, the Metro Bus Service will cover Abdullahpur.

Rupee gains 08 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Wednesday appreciated by 08 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.04 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.12.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279.20 and Rs 280.70 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by 18 paise to close at Rs 309.47 against the last day's closing of Rs 309.29, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen decreased by 03 paise and closed at Rs1.95, whereas an increase of 39 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs366.97 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs366.58.



The Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of Russian Federation Aleksei Gruzdev meets with Minister for Industries, Production and National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain in Islamabad.

Pak, Turkmenistan agrees for strengthening bilateral economic, trade ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Turkmenistan on Wednesday agreed for strengthening bilateral economic and trade relations in potential sectors.

The Ambassador of Turkmenistan, Mr. Atadjan Movlamov, called on Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan to discuss the enhancement of bilateral trade and explore avenues for increased cooperation between the two nations, said a press release issued here.

The meeting, held at the Commerce Minister's office, focused on finalizing key agreements and exploring new sectors

for future collaboration.

Minister Jam Kamal emphasized the need for robust business-to-business (B2B) engagement to boost trade volumes between Pakistan and Turkmenistan.

He highlighted the untapped potential in various sectors including energy, fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, and construction materials.

Despite long-standing brotherly ties, trade between the two countries remains meager, and steps very essential to increase it.

A key focus of the conversation remained the expedited finalization of

the Turkmenistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement, which is expected to significantly enhance the movement of goods between the two nations.

This agreement will also improve cooperation in banking, customs, and trade transit operations.

Minister Jam Kamal also underscored the importance of revisiting and revitalizing existing agreements such as the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2015 between the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) of Turkmenistan.

Cotton production drops by over 63pc

MULTAN (APP): Country's cotton production has dropped by 63.55 per cent this year, says the latest report by the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA), here on Wednesday.

By September 15, 2024, only 1.43 million bales have been produced which is a remarkable drop from 3.93 million bales during the same period last year. Punjab, the country's largest cotton-producing province, has seen a severe 65.13pc decline, with only 538,686 bales produced. In comparison, 1.54 million bales were produced by this time in 2023. The Sindh province has also faced a sharp reduction of 62.5pc, producing just

895,342 bales this year compared to 2.38 million last year. Balochistan, contributing the least, has managed to produce only 34,900 bales so far. According to cotton experts, the steep decline is being largely attributed to climate-related challenges. Record-breaking heat, pest infestations, and erratic rainfall have devastated crops in key growing regions. This year, heatwaves of up to 48°C scorched cotton fields across Punjab and Sindh and it led to lower yields.

Similarly, continuous rains over the past two weeks in Sindh have further delayed cotton picking and it resulted in labour shortages and price.

PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 970 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Wednesday, gaining 970.20 more points, a positive change of 1.22 percent, closing at 80,461.34 points against 79,491.14 points on the last working day.

A total of 400,195,963 shares were traded during the day as compared to 536,187,271 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 15,904 billion against Rs. 8,911 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 439 companies transacted their shares in the stock market.



LAHORE: A vendor displaying and selling the leather belts on his handcart at Landa Bazar in the Provincial Capital.

2% Cess on export in KP reduces business by 70%, consignments transportation

PESHAWAR (APP): The recent decision by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government of imposing a levy of two percent Infrastructure Development Cess (IDC) on commercial value of export consignments has led drastic impact on business in the province by shrinking export upto 70 percent.

Leading businessmen from KP including known exporter, Khalid Sultan and Coordinator Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi have expressed the fear that if the decision is not withdrawn, it would further reduce export volume from the province, affecting livelihood of

thousands of people. In a joint press statement issued here on Wednesday, both Khalid Sultan and Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi said a large number of export businesses have been diverted to other provinces after levy of two percent cess in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "Taxation on commercial value of export consignment amounts in millions over calculation and exporters are diverting transportation of goods to other province to avoid this unbearable financial burden," observed Khalid Sultan. Export of sugar to Afghanistan has been totally diverted to Chaman border post because of levy of huge amount of Rs. Two million duty on each truck.

Gold rates dip by Rs.300 per tola to Rs.267,700

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.300 and was sold at Rs.267,700 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs. 268,000 on the last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.257 to Rs. 229,510 from Rs. 229,767 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.210,384 from Rs. 210,620, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.2,950 and Rs.2,529.14, respectively.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$18 to \$2,569 from \$2,587, the Association reported.

Govt committed to resolve industry's issues; Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan has said that the economic indicators show positive results and the country is moving in the right direction.

Addressing the Oath-taking ceremony of the All Pakistan Marble Industries Association here on Wednesday, he said that foreign investments showed remarkable confidence in the country's economy due to the tireless work of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and 2025 will be the year of Pakistan's rise.

Rana said that the government was committed to resolving the industry's issues and was taking effective measures to address the industry's challenges, adding the transformation of the industry to technology-

driven initiatives would positively impact the growth of the economy.

He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had set up a Gems and Stone Committee which would form a growth-oriented policy with the consultation of all stakeholders.

The Chairman PMYP said that the government was paying attention to each sector and industry and had successfully reduced the inflation rate, surged remittances and increased information technology, textiles and agricultural exports in a short period.

Mashhood said that govt had saved the country from bankruptcy, restored law and order situation and would soon be successful in making the financial policy without the International Monetary Fund.



FAISALABAD: Voters casting their votes during the Elections of Chamber of Commerce in the city.

Series of public hearings continues across LESCO region

LAHORE (APP): On the special instructions of the Ministry of Power Division, a series of open Kachehry (public/customers hearings) are being held in the LESCO region with the aim of solving the problems faced by the consumers in electricity bills and other matters immediately.

Chief Executive Engineer Shahid Haider said here Wednesday that public/customers hearings are being conducted in all eight circles of LESCO. The public is also being informed about this in advance through the media.

All the SDOs along with their teams are ensuring regular holding of open kachehry in their sub divisions on daily basis.

Superintending Engineers (SEs) and Executive Engineers (X-Ens) are reviewing these the public hearings.

Total 1486 complaints of various types were received in the open kachehry held on Wednesday out of which 1484 complaints were redressed on the spot.

It should be noted that Chief Executive LESCO Engineer Shahid Haider himself is also making a surprise visit to the open kachehry along with his team. The customers welcomed this initiative of LESCO and hoped that LESCO will continue to make all possible efforts for the convenience of the customers in the future.

POL imports up by 22.73% in two months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The petroleum group imports increased by 22.73 percent during the first two months of the current fiscal year as compared to the imports of the same months of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The imports of overall petroleum group during July-August (2024-25) stood at \$ 2,664.594 million as against the imports of \$ 2,171.115 million during July-August (2023-24), according to PBS data. Among petroleum commodities,

the import of petroleum products declined by 13.41 percent, from \$ 971.371 million last year to \$ 841.113 million during the time period under review.

However, the imports of petroleum crude increased by 107.15 percent, from \$ 456.238 million to \$ 945.087; natural gas liquefied by 10.65 percent, from \$ 645.430 to \$ 714.195 whereas the imports of petroleum gas liquefied went up by 67.41 percent and reached to \$ 98.044 million as compared to \$ 164.134 last year.



LAHORE: A vendor displaying and selling the used toys on their handcart at Landa Bazar in the Provincial Capital.

RDA inflows rise to \$8.581 bn in August

ISLAMABAD (APP): The inflow of remittances under Roshan Digital Account (RDA) has risen to US\$8.581 billion by the end of August 2024 as compared to US\$8.416 billion by July (2024) end.

The data showed that the inflows of remittances during August were recorded at US\$165 million as compared to US\$ 161 million in July and US\$200 million in June 2024, according to the latest data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

These accounts provide innovative banking solutions to millions of Non-Resident Pakistanis

(NRPs), including Non-Resident Pakistan Origin Card (POC) holders, seeking to undertake banking, payment, and investment activities in Pakistan.

The number of accounts registered under the programme also rose by 11,515 to 735,113 in August 2024 from 723,598 accounts in July 2024.

By the end of August, overseas Pakistanis have invested US\$370 million in Naya Pakistan Certificates, US\$638 in Naya Pakistan Islamic Certificates, and US\$41 million in Roshan Equity Investment.



QUETTA: Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoab Noshwani being briefed by MD BPPRA Dr. Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Panezai during his visit to BPPRA.

Blinken warns against further Middle East escalation after Lebanon blasts

Monitoring Desk

CAIRO: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday warned against the risk of escalation in the Middle East after the detonation of thousands of Hezbollah pagers threatened to derail his latest regional diplomacy push.

News of the blasts broke as the top U.S. diplomat traveled to Cairo to meet senior Egyptian officials hoping to advance efforts to secure a ceasefire in Gaza and improve ties with Egypt.

Militant group Hezbollah promised to retaliate against Israel, accusing it of detonating pagers across Lebanon on Tuesday killing at least 12 people, including two children, and wounding nearly 3,000. Israel has declined to respond to questions about the explosions. Asked about the blasts, Blinken said the United States was still gathering facts but it was in no one's interest for conflict to

spread. "It's imperative that all parties refrain from any actions that could escalate the conflict," Blinken said at a news conference alongside his Egyptian counterpart.

He did not say who the U.S. believes was behind the blasts.

Item 1 of 6 U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken attends a U.S.-Egypt strategic dialogue with Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty in Tahrir Palace in Cairo, Egypt.

Blinken said he was focused on securing a ceasefire deal that would bring calm, including to Israel's northern border with Lebanon, and that 15 out of 18 paragraphs of a deal had been agreed by all sides.

Making progress involved long waits for messages to be passed between the parties that left time for incidents to disrupt the

talks, Blinken said.

"We've seen that in the intervening time, you might have an event, an incident - something that makes the process more difficult, that threatens to slow it, stop it, derail it - and anything of that nature, by definition, is probably not good in terms of achieving the result that we want, which is the ceasefire," Blinken said.

He cited Hamas' execution of six Israeli hostages last month. He did not name Israel, which is believed to have targeted members of groups aligned against it in Lebanon, Syria and Iran that have set back the talks. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi told Blinken in their meeting on Wednesday morning that Egypt opposed attempts to "escalate the conflict and expand its scope regionally" and called for all parties to act responsibly, the Egyptian presidency said in a statement.



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken attends a U.S.-Egypt strategic dialogue with Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty in Tahrir Palace in Cairo, Egypt.

Hundreds wounded as Hezbollah hand-held radios detonate across Lebanon in new explosions

Monitoring Desk

BEIRUT: Hand-held radios used by Lebanon's armed group Hezbollah detonated late on Wednesday afternoon across the country's south and in the southern suburbs of the capital Beirut, injuring hundreds, a security source and a witness said.

At least one of the blasts took place near a funeral organised by Hezbollah for those killed the previous day when thousands of pagers used by the group

exploded across the country.

The group said on Wednesday it had attacked Israeli artillery positions with rockets in the first strike at its arch-foe since pager blasts wounded thousands of its members in Lebanon and raised the prospect of a wider Middle East conflict.

The hand-held radios were purchased by Hezbollah five months ago, around the same time that the pagers were bought, said a security source.

Egypt won't accept security changes on Gaza border, foreign minister says

Monitoring Desk

CAIRO: Egypt will not accept any changes to the security arrangements that were in place on its border with Gaza before war broke out between Israel and Hamas last October, the Egyptian foreign minister said on Wednesday.

Security on the border, and whether Israel will maintain a troop presence along a 14-km (9-mile) buffer zone known as the Philadelphi Corridor, have become a focal point of months-long talks aimed at securing a ceasefire and the release of hostages in Gaza. Israeli troops entered

the buffer zone in May as they pursued an offensive around Rafah, Egypt, which is a mediator in ceasefire talks, says Israel must withdraw and that a Palestinian presence needs to be restored at the Rafah crossing between Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and Gaza.

"Egypt reiterates its position, it rejects any military presence along the opposite side of the border crossing and the aforementioned (Philadelphi) corridor," Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty told reporters during a press conference in Cairo with US counterpart Antony Blinken.

China announces sanctions on US companies selling arms to self-ruled Taiwan

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: China on Wednesday announced sanctions on American companies selling arms to the self-ruled island of Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its own territory and threatens to annex by force.

Chinese state media made the announcement, citing the Foreign Ministry, but gave no details on the companies involved. Taiwan is awaiting deliveries of F-16 fighter jets.

North Korea fires short-range ballistic missiles for second time in a week

Monitoring Desk

SEOUL: North Korea fired multiple short-range ballistic missiles on Wednesday toward its east coast, South Korea and Japan said, days after Pyongyang unveiled a uranium enrichment facility and vowed to beef up its nuclear arsenal. The missiles lifted off from Kaechon, north of the capital Pyongyang, at around 6:50 am (2150 GMT Tuesday) in a northeast direction and flew about 400 km (249 miles), South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said.

Erdogan says Turkey will deepen ties with East while still facing West

Monitoring Desk

ANKARA: President Tayyip Erdogan said on Wednesday that Turkey would not stop deepening ties with the East, including the BRICS group of nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), even as it continued to face West. Turkey, a NATO member, has in recent months voiced interest in joining the BRICS and SCO groups, both of which include China and Russia. This has stirred U.S. and European fears that Turkey may be pivoting away from its traditionally Western geopolitical orientation, despite repeated denials from Ankara.

Speaking at an event in Ankara, Erdogan said de-

bates over an "axis shift" were unfounded, but that Turkey had to adapt to new "centres of power" forming in the fields of economy, production, and technology, while keeping itself open to opportunities with every structure and actor.

"That is the approach that lies behind our country's will to expand the basis of dialogue with all of them, from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation to BRICS and ASEAN," Erdogan said. "Of course, our face is turned to the West, but this certainly does not mean that we will turn our backs on the East, that we will ignore the East, or not improve our ties with the East," he added.

Ukrainian drones strike a large military depot in a Russian town northwest of Moscow

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: Ukrainian drones struck a large military depot in a town deep inside Russia overnight, causing a huge blaze and prompting the evacuation of some local residents, a Ukrainian official and Russian news reports said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, a senior U.S. diplomat said that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's recently announced — but still confidential — plan for winning the war "can work" and help end the conflict that is now in its third year.

Ukraine claimed the strike destroyed Russian military warehouses in Toropets, a town in Russia's Tver region about 380 kilometers (240 miles) northwest of Moscow and about 500 kilometers (300 miles) from the border with Ukraine.

The attack was carried

out by Ukraine's Security Service, along with Ukraine's Intelligence and Special Operations Forces, a Kyiv security official told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the operation.

According to the official, the depot housed Iskander and Tochka-U missiles, as well as glide bombs and artillery shells. He said the facility caught fire in the strike and was burning across an area 6 kilometers (4 miles) wide.

Russian state news agency RIA Novosti quoted regional authorities as saying air defense systems were working to repel a "massive drone attack" on Toropets, which has a population of around 11,000. The agency also reported a fire and the evacuation of some local residents.

Finland's president wants end of single state veto at UN Security Council

Monitoring Desk

HELSINKI: Finland's President Alexander Stubb has called for expansion of the U.N. Security Council, abolition of its single state veto power, and suspension of any member engaging in an "illegal war" such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Stubb, who leads the Nordic nation's foreign policy, said he would add his voice to reform calls at next week's UN General Assembly in New York which is to discuss composition of the global body's Security Council.

Consisting of five permanent and 10 rotating member states, the council's brief is to keep global peace, but geopolitical rivalries have deadlocked it on issues from Ukraine to Gaza. Stubb said in an interview on Tuesday he would propose the number of permanent members be expanded from five to 10, with one more from Latin America, two from Africa and two from Asia.

"No single state should have veto power in the UN Security Council," he told Reuters. The US, one of five veto-wielding nations with Russia, China, France and Britain, has also backed two permanent seats for Africa. Stubb said any member engaging in an "illegal war" such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine, should be kicked off.

Moscow has justified its invasion of Ukraine by saying it is creating a buffer against Western aggression and taking territory that is historically Russian's.

Stubb said he knew his Security Council proposals were "beyond what is usually said from small member states", but added that the big nations would otherwise not propose weakening their own influence.

"So they talk the talk, but don't walk the walk," he said, adding he hoped others would help take the plan forward by the UN's 80th birthday next year.

Any changes to Security Council membership need approval by two thirds of the General Assembly, including the five veto powers.

Bangladesh opposition party demands new election after Hasina's ouster

Monitoring Desk

DHAKA: Thousands of activists and leaders of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party rallied Tuesday in the nation's capital to demand a democratic transition through an election as an interim government has yet to outline a timeframe for new voting.

The supporters gathered in front of BNP headquarters in Dhaka, where they chanted slogans demanding a new election.

The interim government headed by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has rolled out a number of plans to reform various sectors of the country, from the Election Commission to financial institutions. But major political parties — including the BNP, which is headed by former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia — want the new election sometime soon. Yunus took the helm after former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fled the country during a mass uprising last month, ending a 15-year stint in power.

The protests began in July and morphed into an anti-government movement. Hasina has been living in India since. The country's powerful military is play-



People gather as smoke rises from a mobile shop in Sidon, Lebanon.

Canada's Trudeau says there's 'more work to do' after his party suffers another by-election loss

Monitoring Desk

VANCOUVER: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Tuesday he's focused on the work ahead after the ruling Liberals lost in another by-election, raising more questions about his ability to lead the party into the next federal election.

For the second time in recent months the Liberals lost in a former stronghold when the Bloc Quebecois won the vote in the electoral district of LaSalle-Emard-Verdun Monday in Montreal in a tight three-way race with the New Democratic Party.

"Obviously it would have been nicer to be able to win... but there's more work to do," Trudeau said in Ottawa.

"The big thing is to make sure that Canadians understand the choice they

get to make in the next election," Trudeau said. "That's the work we're going to continue to do."

Election Canada results show the Bloc candidate Louis-Philippe Sauve finished with 28% of the vote. Liberals' candidate Laura Palestini collected 27.2% and finished just 248 votes behind the winner. The NDP collected 26.1% and was about 600 votes behind the winner.

It's the second time in three months that Trudeau's party has lost a by-election in a riding they held for years. In June, the Conservatives narrowly defeated the Liberals in Toronto-St. Paul's.

Monday's loss "is a major blow for the Liberals," said Daniel Beland, a political science professor at McGill University in Montreal.

Trump slams India as 'very big abuser' on trade but calls Modi 'fantastic'

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Former US president Donald Trump on Tuesday said that he plans to meet with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi next week during the latter's visit of the United States for several official events.

During a campaign event in Michigan, Trump slammed India as a "very big abuser" on trade, but said Modi was "fantastic."

"He happens to be coming to meet me next week," Trump told the crowd without providing further details. Modi will be traveling this weekend to Wilmington, Delaware — President Joe Biden's hometown — as part of the "Quad Leaders" summit alongside Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio.

Elevated radiation levels due to forest fire near Chernobyl, says Norway

Monitoring Desk

OSLO: Norway said on Wednesday that elevated levels of radioactive caesium (Cs-137) it had detected near the Arctic border with Russia were likely due to a forest fire near Chernobyl in Ukraine, the site of the world's worst nuclear accident.

The Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (DSA) said in a statement on Tuesday that it had measured "very low" levels of radioactive caesium at Svanhovd and Viksjoefjell near the Arctic border with Russia. The authority detected elevated levels of radioactive caesium at Svanhovd from Sept. 9-16 and at Viksjoefjell from Sept. 5-12.

Malaysia's king to visit China, eyes infrastructure support

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: Malaysia's king Sultan Ibrahim will visit China from Thursday, the first by a Malaysian monarch in a decade, where he will meet President Xi Jinping and likely seek support for projects boosting connectivity to neighbouring Singapore.

The ceremonial ruler from the southern state of Johor, will be accompanied by Malaysia's transport and housing ministers, a statement from the country's foreign ministry said on Wednesday.

"His Majesty's visit provides an excellent opportunity for both sides to reaffirm a shared commitment in ensuring that Malaysia-China relations continue to remain forward-looking, dynamic and prosperous," Malaysia's foreign ministry said. Sultan Ibrahim was installed as the country's 17th king in January, under a unique system of monarchy where the heads of Malaysia's nine royal families take turns to sit on the throne every five years.

India's Manipur reopens schools, restores internet after ethnic clashes

Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: Schools reopened in India's northeastern state of Manipur on Tuesday, more than a week after they shuttered due to deadly ethnic violence and clashes between protesters and police, the local government said.

Fighting broke out in Manipur in May 2023 between the predominantly Hindu Meitei majority and the mainly Christian Kuki community, an ethnic conflict that has since killed at least 200 people.

Since then, communities have splintered into rival groups across swathes of the northeastern state, which borders war-torn Myanmar.

After months of relative calm, an uptick in violence again this month saw at least 11 people killed, including by insurgents reportedly firing rockets and dropping bombs with drones. Subsequent demonstrations by Meitei students against the fighting in the state capital Imphal turned violent, prompting the authorities to issue a curfew and an internet blackout in parts of the state. The violence has since abated, and a government order said "normal classes will resume for all schools in the state" starting on Tuesday, a day after internet services were restored.

Ghana opposition holds protests against alleged voting issues

Monitoring Desk

ACCRA: Ghana's main opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) party on Tuesday held nationwide protests against alleged voter roll irregularities, demanding an independent forensic audit to rid the register of errors for free and fair elections.

Voters in the West African gold- and cocoa-producing nation will head to the polls on Dec. 7 to elect a successor to President Nana Akufo-Addo, who will step down in January after serving the constitutionally mandated eight years.

Beset by wildfires, Portugal gets help from Spain, Morocco

Monitoring Desk

LISBON: Deadly wildfires in central and northern Portugal have pushed emergency services to the limit and much-needed reinforcements will arrive on Wednesday from Spain and Morocco, the civil protection authority said.

At least seven people have died due to the blazes in the Aveiro and Viseu districts, with dozens of houses destroyed and tens of thousands of hectares of forest and scrubland consumed. Authorities have mobilised more than 5,000 firefighters.



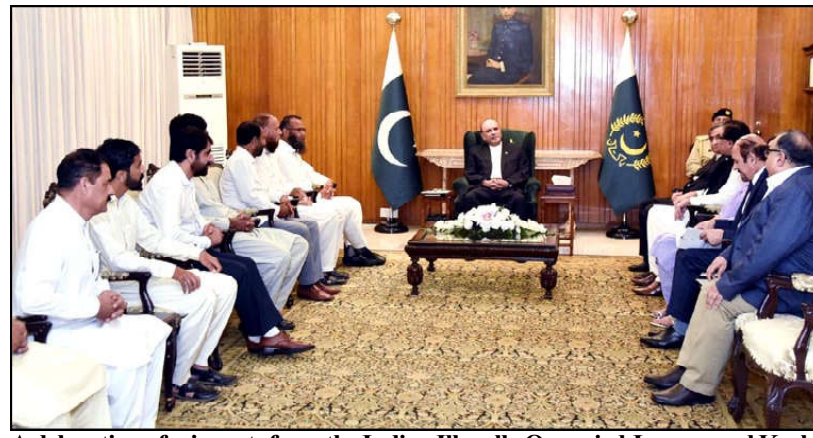
People stand on a flooded street following heavy rainfalls in Glucholazy, Poland.

PM urges nation to shun hatred, extremism and culture of abuses

LAHORE (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that division is the agenda of anti-state elements therefore entire nations has to join hands against negative elements and it was need of the hour to reject the culture of hatred, extremism and abuses in the country. Speaking at a ceremony here to mark Eid Milad-un-Nabi on Tuesday, PM Shehbaz expressed concern over the growing use of abusive language and rising societal divisions. "We must live our lives by the teachings of the Prophet (PBUH), whose ethical treatment of even his enemies stands as a moral guide for us today," said Sharif. He described the birth of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as a pivotal moment that changed the course of human history, calling it a "mercy for all of humanity."

His care for orphans and the elderly, are enshrined in the Quran. Highlighting the ongoing struggles of Palestinians and the people of Occupied Kashmir, PM Sharif expressed hope for their eventual liberation. "The day will come when the people of Palestine and Occupied Kashmir will breathe in the air of freedom," he said. PM Shehbaz Sharif stressed the need for unity in society highlighting the importance of protecting minority rights in line with the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He called for an end to divisive and extremist behaviours, urging the nation to adopt ethical conduct inspired by the life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). He added that the true propagation of Islam comes through actions aligned with the Prophet's (PBUH) teachings, calling on the nation to pledge to follow his example in eradicating negative attitudes.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that in today's turbulent era, mere reading about the life of Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) life is not enough rather "we must follow his teachings in letter and spirit". The solutions to the current era challenges was only in completely following the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) vision and principles, he said in his message on 12th Rabiul Awwal, 1446. The prime minister extended greetings to the entire Muslim Ummah, especially the people of Pakistan, on the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) - the birth anniversary of Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). He urged the nation to follow the teachings of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), emphasizing support for the vulnerable, prioritizing those struggling with poverty and hunger.



A delegation of migrants from the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, led by Mr Uzair Ahmed Ghazali, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

UNGA adopts resolution demanding Israel end occupation of Palestinian territories in 12 months

Resolution receives 124 votes in favour, 43 abstain and Israel, the US, 12 others vote no; Saudi crown prince says kingdom will not recognise Israel without Palestinian state.

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies): The United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday adopted a Palestinian-drafted resolution that demands Israel end "its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" within 12 months. The resolution received 124 votes in favour, while 43 countries abstained and Israel, the United States and 12 others voted no. The action isolates Israel days before world leaders travel to New York for their annual UN gathering. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is due to address the 193-member General Assembly on Sept. 26, the same day as Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. The resolution welcomes a July advisory opinion by the International

Court of Justice that said Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories and settlements is illegal and should be withdrawn. The advisory opinion - by the highest United Nations court, also known as the World Court - said this should be done "as rapidly as possible," although the General Assembly resolution imposes a 12-month deadline. The General Assembly resolution also calls on states to "take steps towards ceasing the importation of any products originating in the Israeli settlements, as well as the provision or transfer of arms, munitions and related equipment to Israel... where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that they may be used in the Occupied Palestinian Territory."

The resolution is the first to be formally put forward by the Palestinian Authority since it gained additional rights and privileges this month including a seat among UN members in the assembly hall and the right to propose draft resolutions. US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield urged countries to vote no on Wednesday. Washington - an arms supplier to and ally of Israel - has long opposed unilateral measures that undermine the prospect of a two-state solution. The ICJ advisory opinion is not binding but carries weight under international law and may weaken support for Israel. A General Assembly resolution also is not binding, but carries political weight. There is no veto power in the assembly.

Gillani urges unity to overcome challenges in Muslim world

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani on Wednesday said that the Islamic world had been facing numerous challenges, including injustices, oppression, and genocide being inflicted on the Muslims in Palestine, Kashmir, Myanmar and other conflict-ridden areas. Addressing a conference in connection with the Eid-e-Milad un Nabi (SAW), he stressed the need to unite, set aside petty differences, and work together for peace and social and economic growth. The conference, themed "The Prophet (PBUH) Brings Us Together Under the Banner of Hussain," was hosted by the Embassy of Iraq.

He said that the theme of the conference was highly relevant, timely and resonant, "reminding us of the enduring legacy of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and his grandson, Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA). "Together, their lives and sacrifices continue to inspire and unite the Muslim Ummah." Gillani recounted how the Arabian Peninsula, once a backward society mired in ignorance and idolatry, was transformed by the light of Islam, which brought a message of Tauheed (Oneness of Allah), equality, and human dignity. He praised the sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions in the plains of Karbala as a beacon of righteousness, standing against tyranny, oppression, and the corruption of Islamic values.



ISLAMABAD: Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam called on Federal Minister for Defence, Defence Production, and Aviation Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

EC authorities tell commission If intra party election of PTI not accepted then its Org. structure will not exist

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has said if intra party election of PTI not accepted then its organizational structure will remain no more. A 3-members commission under member Sindh of EC Nisar Durrani took up the case for hearing Wednesday. Chairman PTI Barrister Gohar appeared in the EC. Member Balochistan inquired were the election of PTI held in Chamakni. Barrister Gohar replied no Sir, elections were held in Islamabad too. Barrister Gohar said we have to file documents. Time from one week to 10 days be given to us.

The bench inquired from EC authorities if we don't accept intra party election of PTI now too then what will be future. DG political finance told the bench no organizational structure of party will remain any more. The bench directed the authorities to provide assistance to them at this point. Barrister Gohar said we too will assist you on this matter. EC had done what it could do on not holding intra party election. Member KP inquired if even now too we don't accept PTI intra party election then we have powers to do what.



MUZAFFARABAD: Kashmiris shouting slogans at Azadi Chowk against the elections in Occupied Kashmir and demanding referendum.

Chief Minister gives thumbs up to administration, police, Levies as appreciation

Satisfactory arrangements on Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW)

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has given thumbs up to the district administration, Police and Levies force as appreciation on making satisfactory arrangements on occasion of the Jashne Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW) in Quetta and other parts of the province. In a statement issued here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said that the situation of law and order remained satisfactory on eve of Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW) in the province. He commended the role of religious leaders saying that they extended

wholehearted cooperation to the police, levies and local administration. As a result of which, all programmes came to end all over the province peacefully, he noted with contentment. The Chief Minister thanked the religious leaders on their mutual cooperation in this regard. It may be mentioned here that Eid Miladun Nabi (SAW) was celebrated with great religious respect and enthusiasm all over the province as elsewhere in the country. The processions were taken out and different other programmes were organized to mark the 12th Rabiul Awwal in the province.

Pashtoon political leaders appreciate Chaman parlat committee, labourers

Independent Report QUETTA: The Pashtoon nationalist political leaders have praised the Chaman parlat committee and labourers for waging struggle for their rights in Chaman. They said that the ongoing protest sit-in for last one year proved the apathy and indifference of the rulers and they have nothing to do with issues of common men and labourers. They said that people and labourers shouldn't

consider them alone in their struggle, rather voice is being raised for their rights everywhere in Pashtoon land. These views were expressed by the central Chairman Pashtoon khaw National Awami Party, Khushhal Khan Kakar, Provincial President of Awami National Party, Asghar Khan Achakzai, provincial coordinator of Pashtoon Tahafuz Movement, Noor Bacha, provincial president of National Democratic Movement.



QUETTA: Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Nausherwani and Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani presiding over joint meeting of University Finance Commission

Doors of Chief Minister's Secretariat opened for general public: Govt.'s employees are public servants, responsible for resolving problems: CM

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically stated that the government employees are public servants and they are responsible for resolving their issues. He said that it is decided that the public issues would have to be resolved any way by stopping to bothering the people in the government institutions. He warned that the officers and other employees creating hurdles in resolving the genuine public issues wouldn't be spared. He said that common men want to resolve one's problems and they have lot of expectations with the government as such we are working with dedication to

come up to their expectations. In this regard, the government employees have to play their active role for resolving the public issues at the lower level while supporting the government with sincerity and honesty. The Chief Minister was speaking to the public delegations who visited the Chief Minister's Secretariat and met him on Wednesday. The common men belonging to different walks of life visited the Chief Minister's Secretariat for its doors were opened. The common people coming from remote areas of the province met the Chief Minister and appreciated him about their issues.

The Chief Minister issued on the spot directives to concerned authorities to resolve the issues. Speaking to the public delegations, Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that sustainable solution can be found to the public issues by improving governance. He said that the common men are deprived of the basic facilities including health and education and they are facing different issues and hardships. The Chief Minister said that if the institutions established for the public interests may play effective role as per their mandate, then 90 percent of the issues can be resolved at the local level. He stressed that every official has to perform to serve the general public.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Moazzam Jah Ansari meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti

IHC stops trial court from announcing final decision in 190 million pounds reference

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has stopped trial court from announcing final decision in 190 million pounds case. The court has said in its decision trial court should complete its trial but it should not give final decision. The court issued notice on the acquittal plea of Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi. The court while removing objections on both the applications directed registrar office to fix the case for hearing again on September 26. Acquittal pleas of Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi came up for hearing with objections in the court Wednesday. A division bench of

IHC comprising Chief Justice (CJ) Aamir Farooq and Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the petition. It has been requested in the petition the trial court be stopped from proceeding with the case ahead as long as it is in high court. The IHC while accepting the plea stopped trial court from giving final decision in 190 million pounds case. Trial court should complete trial but should not give final decision. Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi had resorted to IHC for their acquittal in 190 million pounds NAB case. Accountability court had rejected acquittal plea and its decision was challenged in IHC.

DC Hub chairs meeting for implementation of Child Protection Act

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC), Hub Ruhana Gul Kakar chaired a meeting regarding the implementation of Child Protection act on Wednesday. The focal person of Social Welfare Child Protection Unit Noreen and other officials participated in the meeting. Issues related to strengthening the right of children to be protected from all forms of violence and exploitation through technical assistance from the District Administration in the Child Protection Program were discussed during the meeting. During the meeting, the focal person drew the attention of the Deputy Commissioner, said that the absence of a shelter home and a safe protection for the affected children in Hub district is also a challenge. She said that due to poverty, many parents are unable to afford their children's education expenses, so they send their children to work in factories and other places for extra wages but take it, children often face abuse during work.

Governor condoles death of Sarfraz Domki with bereaved family

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail condoled the death of the Lehri tribal chief and Provincial Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Khan Domki at Lehri on Wednesday. The former Chairman Senate, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and Parliamentary Secretary, Barkat Rind were also accompanied the Governor during visit to Lehri House for condolence. The Governor and others condoled the death of Sardar Sarfraz Chakar Domki with his bereaved family members, son, brother and others. They also offered فاتحة for the departed soul.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Sardar Faisal Jamali and Parliamentary Secretary Sanjay Kumar meeting with Parliamentary Secretary S&GAD Mir Liaquat Ali Lehri

Education Dept. initiates action against absentee teachers in Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Education Department, Government of Balochistan has initiated action against the absentee government teachers in the province. According to the sources of Provincial Education Department, the departmental action has been initiated against as many as 2021 absentee teachers. The sources informed that 114 absentee teachers

have been dismissed from the service with immediate effect. Moreover, show cause notices have been issued to 998 teachers while explanation letters have been issued to 429 absentee teachers in different parts of the province. Besides, services of 78 teachers have been placed under suspension in the province, the sources of Education Department maintained.

Universities Finance Commission unanimously approves formula of funds distribution universities

Independent Report QUETTA: The Balochistan Universities Finance Commission has unanimously approved the formula of distribution of funds for the universities. The Commission was also agreed on the separate DDOs for the sub campuses of universities. The Universities Finance Commission met with the Provincial Minister for Finance, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani and Minister

for Education, Ms. Raheela Hameed Durrani in the chair here on Wednesday. The meeting was attended by the Secretary Higher Education, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir, Special Secretary Finance, Aurangzeb Kasi and the Vice Chancellors of public sector universities of the province. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Finance said that our government attaches top priority to edu-

cation and as such is taking concrete steps for its promotion. He said that no conscious person can deny the importance of science and information technology in present era. The Provincial Ministers and other participants stressed the need to improve performance of the universities further. They asserted that no negligence would be tolerated in the educational activities of the students.



Pakistan Navy ship SHAMSHEER conducted passage exercise (PASSEX) with HMS LANCASTER during Regional Maritime Security Patrol.

Inter-Institutions Minister Education Throwball Tournament: Every possible steps to be taken to provide all kind of facilities to talented players: Imran Khan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Secretary Information Department, Imran Khan has assured that every possible measures to be taken to promote sports and provide all kind of facilities to the talented players of the province at provincial level. The Secretary Information was addressing the closing ceremony of All Quetta Inter-Institutions Minister Education Ms. Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani Throwball League Tournament at the Ayub

Sports complex on Wednesday. The Secretary Information, who also happens to be the Chairman of Balochistan Throwball Association (BTA), said that the young players can brighten the name of province and country by taking interest in the sports. He said that it is our earnest desire and endeavour to provide all basic facilities to the young players so that they are able to excel in sports. He also said that the provincial government is

mobilizing all resources for support of the sports and sportsmen in the province. In the end, the Secretary Information distributed prizes among the players and officials. Earlier, the team of Government Sabzal school defeated Killi Sheikhan school in the final and thus won the tournament. The office bearers of the Throwball Association as well as officials of sports and education departments and participating teams were present on the occasion.



GWADAR: MPA Maulana Hidayatur Rehman inaugurating Biometric Security System of Gwadar Port. Chairman Gwadar Port Authority Passand Khan Buledi is also present.