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PM Shehbaz calls for further strenuous efforts to continue economic stability

Credits COAS Gen Asim Munir for his crucial efforts in securing deal with IMF



LONDON (APP): Prime Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that the collective efforts by all the stakeholders in the government had put Pakistan on the path of economic stability and progress and called for further strenuous efforts and sacrifices to achieve the economic objectives.

During a media interac-

tion, the prime minister elaborated that during their previous tenure of sixteen months in the government, they faced the financial challenges but with collective efforts, they saved Pakistan

from running into default. Earlier, the prime minister arrived from New York where he had addressed the plenary meeting of the UN General Debate at the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly

In a veiled reference to revious government of akistan Tahreek-e-Insaf (PTI), he said the former party's policies led the country to default, but with grace of Allah Almighty and with their collective efforts, Pakistan is now moving towards stability and progress. The international institutions also acknowledged it'.

The prime minister also expressed his satisfaction over the approval of \$7 billion International Monetary Fund (IMF) extended fund facility. Comparing last year's

Continued on page 2



PM Shehbaz, President Biden

heads of state and government.

ister Shehbaz Sharif attended a reception hosted dent Joe Biden in honour of the heads of government participating in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session.

President Biden and PM Shehbaz met during the reception. Both the leaders expressed good wishes for each other.

The heads of state of other countries also at-

New York was most warm two countries.

"We reaffirmed our common desire to enhance by United States Presi- cooperation in key areas including trade, investment, technology, & climate action," he added.

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif with President of

the United States of America Joseph R. Biden Jr. and First Lady Dr. Jill Tracy

Jacobs Biden at a reception hosted by the US President in the honor of the

This is Premier Shehbaz's second meeting with President Biden as the previous one was also held at a reception hosted by President Biden for the world leaders participating in the 77th session of the UNGA in

tended the dinner.

Taking to X, the premier mier said: "My brief meet-lauded the flood relief efing with US President Joe forts by the US and the Biden @POTUS and First continuous COVID-19 Lady Jill Biden during the vaccine assistance and President's reception in collaboration between the

Pak committed to expand trade in Afghanistan, says Kh Asif

NEW YORK (INP): Defence Minister Khwaja Muhammad Asif has stated that Pakistan remains committed to expanding trade, commerce and investment in Afghanistan.

He was addressing the third meeting of the Quadripartite Group on Afghanistan in New York. Pakistan, China, Iran and Russia are the member of Quadripartite Group on Afghanistan.

The Defence Minister said we must continue to support the provision of humanitarian assistance to the 23.7 million destitute people in Afghanistan.

He expressed hope that the UN Secretary-General's appeal for over three billion dollars in humanitarian assistance will be fully funded, especially by the Western donor countries.

Five policemen

injured in

Bajaur blast

PESHAWAR (INP): At

least five police officials were

injured when their vehicle

was targeted with a remote-

controlled explosive device

in Bhai Cheena area of Khar

tehsil in Bajaur on Saturday

morning. According to DSP Abdul Azis, the explosive

device was planted in a road-

side tree that was detonated

through a remote control

when the police van was

Initial reports said five

police personnel were in-

jured in the attack. The in-

jured police officials were

shifted to District Head-

police team including the

SHO Shahpur Khan were

on routine patrol when the

blast occurred adding that

SHO remained unhurt in the

incident. The site was cor-

doned off by the police and

a search operation was ini-

The DSP added that a

quarters Hospital Khar.

passing by it.

Chief Minister emphasizes

Media has to support truth against baseless propaganda & false narrative against State

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that the provincial government firmly believes in the freedom of press, however, the media would have to support truth against the baseless propaganda and false narrative against the State.

In a message on the World News Day observed on Saturday, the Chief Minister said that the World News Day is being observed under the theme: Choose the truth.

He said that the fact and truth based news made for the reformation of society helps correct the sys-

The standard of journalism is also maintained with the quality reporting done with sincerity and truthfully.

He said that the circumstances of different regions and provinces of Pakistan are quite different and more hard work is to be done by the media persons than other provinces in the investigation of news due to the limited communication system.

He said that the trend of traditional journalism has also changed in the era of social media.

The Chief Minister said that the authenticity of any news is necessary in the changing circumstances as the unauthentic news cause resentment, disappointment and disorder in the society.

He stressed that the truth in the stories should be the resolve and hallmark of the media persons, he added.

He said that the social media has created revolution in spread of the information on one hand, it has also caused harms in the society. He said that the click beat and sensationalism has pushed back the process of truth and authenticity on social media.

However, the tradi-tional journalism has been playing its positive and responsible role contrary to such environment



is meeting with KPK Governor Faisal Kareem Kundi at Gilani House.

Laborers from Punjab shot dead in Panjgur

Independent Report PANJGUR: In a tragic incident in the Panigur district of Balochistan, seven laborers hailing from Punjab were shot dead by unidentified assailants Another laborer was injured in the attack

According to police reports, the incident occurred on Saturday night in the Khuda Badan area, where the laborers were residing in a house. Armed attackers entered the premises and opened fire indiscriminately on the workers. Seven of the laborers lost their lives, while one sustained injuries.

The police confirmed that there were a total of

nine laborers living in the house, but one was outside at the time of the attack and thus survived. The bodies and the injured were shifted

CM Balochistan condemns brutal killing of Laborers

to the District Headquarters Hospital in Panjgur. The deceased and injured laborers were identified as residents of Multan district in Punjab. Their names are Sajid, Shafiq, Fayyaz, Iftikhar, Salman, Khalid, and Allah Wasaya. Authorities are investigating the motive behind the attack.

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Governor calls for upgrading our human resources to unlock great potentials of Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated Pakistan especially Balochistan has great potentials right from huge resources, precious minerals

to the stable blue economy, but there is a need to upgrade the human resources to unlock these potentials. He said that our people

are the biggest asset. He said that our natural resources would be out of use without the scientific thinking, approach and the modern skills just like the smart phone containing our of order battery.

He said that we are blessed with the fertile lands, but our unskilled

farmers are the hurdles in way of their proper utilisation.

The Governor was speaking to the participants of national dialogue here at the Governor's House on Saturday.

Also present on the occasion were the Provincial Minister for Education, Ms Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, former Federal Minister, Ms. Zubaida Jalal, vice chancellors of the public sector universities, alumni of the Oxford University and other.

The Governor said that as we make endeavours for the meaningful development, we should prefer the

Continued on page 2



RAWALPINDI: A policeman fires tear gas to disperse supporters PTI during protest at Murree road, in the city.

LAHORE: Ambassador of Japan Mitsuhiro Wada meeting with President PML (N) Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz.

Provision of education, health, other basic facilities to scattered population big challenge: CM

Independent Report munity here s at the Gov-UETTA: The Chief Min-ernor House on Saturday. ister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that provision of education, health and other basic facilities to the scattered population on the vast area is a big challenge. He said that the fruits of available resources don't reach the common Balochistani due

to the bad governance. He regretfully pointed out that billions of rupees are allocated for the health and education sectors every year, but results are disappointing. We are committed to make the departments functional by bringing re-

forms in the departments. The Chief Minister was addressing through video link the ceremony on national dialogue on Pakistan prama crises arranged by the Oxford alumni com-

The Chief Minister answered the queries of participants and spoke at length on different topics including governance, law and order and climate

change. Balochistan is facing the challenges of climate change, law and order and governance. He said that huge losses are caused to the province due to the extraordinary rains and floods in

the province every year. He said that we are working on the feasibility of reorganisation of the canals system in Naseerabad Division.

Besides, we are building exemplary institutions for medical service delivery

Continued on page 2



BEIJING: Chinese Transport Minister Li Xiaopeng presenting shield to the Federal Minster for Communication Abdul Aleem Khan.

Pakistani, Indian delegates clash over Kashmir, terrorism, after PM Shehbaz's UNGA address

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistani and Indian delegates engaged in a sharp verbal duel at the United Nations Friday night, after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif drew the world community's attention to India's policy of "brutal coercion and oppression" in occupied Kashmir and the "externally financed" terrorism against Pakistan, specially

by TTP and its associates. The Indian delegate, Bhavika Mangalanandan, reacted to the Pakistani prime minister's strong speech in the 79th session of the UN General Assembly earlier in the day in which he referred to New Delhi's threats and arms build-up, warning that Pakistan will respond "most decisively" to any Indian

Ms. Mangalanandan, a first secretary in the Indian Mission to the UN, claimed that Jammu and Kashmir was an internal matter of India, and accused Pakistan of cross-border terrorism. She also commented on some of Pakistan's domestic matters.

Exercising his right of reply, Pakistani delegate Muhammad Faheem dismissed counterpart's "false narrative", asserting that Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed territory. "It has never been, nor will ever be, a part of India, nor is it an internal matter.'

The UN Security Council has unequivocally called for a free and impar-Continued on page 2

Japanese envoy calls on Nawaz, Maryam

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met with Japan's Ambassador Mr. Mitsuhiro Wada here on Saturday.

The discussions focused on mutual interests, enhancing bilateral relations, and increasing cooperation across various sec-

PML-N Nawaz Sharif emphasized their commitment to further expanding the excellent relations between Pakistan and Japan, highlighting Japan's prominence in the global arena due to its hard work and dedication.

CM Maryam Nawaz expressed interest in boosting the bilateral trade volume and praised Japan's collaboration with the Punjab government in improving education, health, and urban facilities.

BNP leader shot dead in Quetta

QUETTA Balochistan National Party (BNP) leader Agha Khalid Shah was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Killi Geo, police

said on Saturday.

Agha Khalid Shah was a member of the BNP Central Executive Committee. Soon after the incident, he was rushed to civil hospital Quetta where he succumbed to his injuries. Cause of the killing is yet to be ascertained. Further probe is underway.

PR decides to restore Jaffar **Express** from Oct 11

QUETTA (APP): The Pakistan Railway has decided to restore Jaffar Express after 45 days of suspen-

According to railways sources, the Jaffar Express, running between Peshawar and Quetta, will be restored from October 11. On August 26, un-

known terrorists had destroyed the bridge between Kolpur and Dozan. Sources told APP that 90 per cent of the repair work of the bridge had been completed, matters had also been settled with the local administration and the FC for safety of the railway track, bridge and train.

confirms Hezbollah any official statement on the **Monitoring Desk** JERUSALEM: Hezbollah status of Nasrallah, who has Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was martyred in an Israeli strike,

sembly on Woman and Public Issue organized by HARD.

Hassan Nasrallah killed

in Israeli airstrike,

the Resistance Movement stated in a statement on Saturday afternoon, according to Iran's Mehr News Agency. Earlier the Israeli military had stated that it had killed Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in an airstrike on the group's central headquarters in the southern suburbs of Beirut a day earlier. Reuters could not immediately reach Hezbollah officials for comment on the Israeli army statement. The Iran-backed Hezbollah has yet to issue

led the group for 32 years. A source close to Hezbollah had earlier told Reuters that Nasrallah was alive, while Iran's Tasnim news agency also reported he was safe. A senior Iranian security official told Reuters that Tehran was checking his status. During Nasrallah's decades in charge, Hezbollah has grown into a regional force that has projected Tehran's influence across the Middle East. His death would not only mark an enormous blow to Hezbollah, but also to Iran, whose Revolutionary Guards founded the group in

QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Education Raheela Hamed Durrani ad-

dressing on the quarterly session meeting of Woman informal District As-

Six killed in chartered helicopter crash in North Waziristan

least six people were killed and eight injured after a chartered helicopter carrying 14 passengers crashed in the North Waziristan district of the KP province on

Saturday. The MI8 helicopter was chartered by Mari Petroleum, an oil exploration and production company in Pakistan, and it crashed near Shewa oil field due to a technical fault, said the

after it took off. As it tried

to make an emergency land-

ground, the petroleum com-

The injured were moved to nearby hospital while relief operation was underway, the spokesper-

MIRANSHAH (INP): At ing its tail rotter hit the

pany said in a statement.
"Although the helicop-

The helicopter developed a technical fault soon

ter managed to land, it unfortunately lost control afterward. Evacuation operations are currently underway, with support from all relevant departments, including the Pakistan Army. The injured are being transported to the nearest hospital," the spokesperson said in a statement.

son added

33 mln children vaccinated in September polio campaign

Programme on Saturday convened the high-level review meeting to assess the last immunization campaign's out-

A meeting chaired by Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication Ayesha Raza Farooq reviewed the September Polio campaign.

The meeting was informed that the drive reached nearly 33 million children, and assured to continue focused efforts to protect Pakistani children from devastating effects of polio.

Led by PM's Focal Person on Polio Eradication, Ayesha Raza Farooq, Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) for Polio Eradication, Anwarul Haq, and provincial EOC coordinators reviewed campaign progress in all 116 districts that were covered, the successes and challenges and the way forward to implement more polio campaigns.

During the large-scale campaign that began on September 9, nearly 33 million children under the age of five across 116 districts were vaccinated, marking a significant milestone in the national effort to eradicate polio.

The campaign was specially focused on vaccinating children in high-risk areas where the virus has been detected persistently and was meant to ensure protection strengthening routine immunization.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Polio Eradication for children from the crippling poliovirus.

Congratulating the team for conducting an effective campaign that reached its target, Ayesha Raza Farooq said that through renewed focus on plugging gaps in campaign operations, the program is back on track towards eradication

We saw strong inter-provincial coordination and collaboration between provincial governments, health teams, and law enforcement agencies.

We also made tremendous efforts to update our understanding of migrant and mobile populations to be able to better reach these moving communities and vaccinate vulnerable children," she said.

We are seeing progress in some key areas, but we will see there is still much work to do as we prepare for the October campaign.

The PM's Focal Person for Polio Eradication, Ayesha Raza, highlighted the strong coordination among provinces that was a hallmark of the September polio cam-

Avesha reaffirmed that the program, supported by the government, is implementing a comprehensive strategic plan to eradicate polio by mid-2025, focusing on highquality campaigns, targeted outbreak responses, and



the killing of Hezbollah commander Syed Hassan Nasrallah by Israeli bombing, in front of the press

MUZAFFARABAD: Students protest against irregularities in MDCAT at

PM Shehbaz calls for further strenuous...

32 percent spiraling inflation rate, he said now the price hike stood at 9.6 percent, adding the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) had also reduced the interest rate while the rates of daily

stability. Prime Minister Sharif said the inflation rate had nosedived but still "Everything is not a hunky-dory. We have to sweat hard and broaden the tax net without burdening those already

commodities were showing

paying it." He said the common people had always sacrificed for the country. Now, it was time for the elite to sacrifice for the country and play their part in the

country's progress.

The prime minister thanked the brotherly countries particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and time-tested friend China for their support in securing the IMF programme and said that without their support, it would not have been possible.

'Î particularly thank them for their support to steer Pakistan out of economic straits" he said and commended the efforts of ministers of finance, foreign affairs, secretary finance, officials and ambassadors who made efforts in this regard.

The prime minister lauded the chief of army staff for his efforts in achieving the IMF programme and said that the COAS had visited the brotherly countries which

Continued from page 1 provided critical economic relief to Pakistan

> Terming it a 'team Pakistan's work', he expressed the hope that the ÎMF's programme would be the last one as the 240 million people and the government's efforts would accomplish it successfully.

> He stressed that they would have to reduce their expenditures and strive to provide amenities to the public at their doorsteps. Time has arrived to work hard and uphold merit which should be their hall-

The prime minister 'charter of economy'

had held useful meetings with different leaders of various countries including the UK, Bangladesh, Türkiye, Kuwait and others which would help to further foster their bilateral and brotherly ties.

"I have made a humble effort to convey voice of the people of Pakistan to the world over Palestine and Gaza where more than 40,000 people including children had been martyred," he said, adding that gruesome Israeli attacks continued on Beirut which was strongly con-

demned by Pakistan. had reiterated the call for immediate ceasefire and stressed upon the international community to wake Nawaz Sharif's governup and work for an immediate independent Palestin-

ian state with pre 1967 borders, besides called for its representation in the

He said that he also apprised the session of the grave situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) where the Kashmiri people had been fighting for their legitimate rights and shedding bloodshed. They had

been facing brute aggression

and violence by the Indian

illegal occupation forces. Modi's government with its unilateral and illeal steps had deprived IIOJK of its special status also reiterated his call for a which was violation of the respective UN resolutions About his participation and other global human in the UNGA annual ses- rights calls. Terror and sion, he highlighted that he aggression in IIOJK should end and the Kashmiri people should be given the right to hold

> plebiscite to independence he added. The prime minister without naming PTI, also termed the 9th May riots targeting Jinnah's House. GHQ and showing disrespect for the martyrs graves as 'an unpardonable

He also expressed his optimism that Pakistan would soon become an 'Asian Tiger' as pronounced by his leader and former prime minister Muhammad Nawaz The prime minister Sharif whose efforts had said that in his speech, he put Pakistan on path of rapid progress and eco-

> He regretted that ments were removed through conspiracies

nomic stability

24th polio case parents and communities to

Pakistan reports

ISLAMABAD (APP): Health officials have reported the 24th polio case make sure that polio vacciof the year, appealing parents to vaccinate their chil-

The latest child affected by this paralytic disease is a 29-month-old boy in Hyderabad district of Sindh province, the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health notified. This is the second polio case reported from Hyderabad where a case was earlier reported in August.

Pakistan has now reported 24 polio cases in 2024 included 15 from Balochistan, five from Sindh, two from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and one each from Punjab and Islamabad.

Expressing sadness at the increasing number of paralytic polio cases, Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication Ayesha

fulfil their duty of care and nation is given as a priority for children.

"Polio has no cure, yet it is entirely preventable with the help of an easily accessible vaccine that the government provides to families at their doorsteps,' she said.

"As parents, grandparents, guardians and communities, we have a moral and religious responsibility towards our children to ensure that they have every opportunity to live their life in the best of health."

She added, "Poliovirus will not discriminate. It will attack any vulnerable child it finds anywhere."

"We must urgently ensure that every child under our care is repeatedly receiving the polio vaccine and has received all doses of routine immunization so that they are strong enough

Qazi leaves for world mayors forum in Geneva

OUETTA (APP): Chairman of the Municipal Corporation, Turbat, Balakh Sher Oazi has been honored with the opportunity to participate in the World Mayors Forum.

He has departed for Geneva to attend the will also participate in a twoday workshop there. Along with this, he will meet with international organizations, other mayors from around the world, and NGO lead-

On Saturday, the Chair-

man of the Municipal Corporation, Turbat, Balakh Sher Qazi, departed from Karachi International Airport for Geneva to attend the World Mayors Forum, at the invitation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. He will be the sole representative from the Asia-Pacific

The World Mayors Forum, organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, has invited mayors from each region to participate.

Provision of education, health...

Continued from page 1 so as to provide quality health care facilities to the

The Chief Minister on the occasion said that gulf was created between state and youth through baseless and misleading propaganda. However we want to educate youth and opportunities to progress saving them from the path of destruc-tion, he added. He pointed out that for the first time, Benazir Bhutto Scholarship programme was started in

the province.

Under the programme, opportunities of quality education are being provided to every poor and rich Balochistani to acquire education from Matric to Ph. D in the country's and

international institutions. He stressed that there is a need to view the general perception prevailing about Balochistan from both aspects.

He on the occasion reiterated his government's resolve to resolve the issues by improving governance in the province.

Governor calls for upgrading our....

Continued from page 1

achievable objectives in the

unique context of our country and province. He said that there is no

use and benefit of the respected degrees and modern education, if we are unaware of our ground realities and facts. Any of the famous scientist or politician can't create a big change without realizing the depth of creative application of knowledge. This is why, we should

make our theoretical skill compatible with the creative application, adding he stressed. The Governor asserted

that we should face our realities as inhabitants of the developing countries.

He said that we depend

common things of our daily life. But on the other hand, the future of paperless and driverless is knocking at our door, he said. He also said that our weaknesses invite exploitation. He said that we should make prediction

of our future at our own

because of dearth of vision-

ary thinkers. He said that it is a dilemma that our highly educated scholars, researchers and scientists depend on the public sector universities for profitable jobs, salaries and privileges. This is why, our professional engineers and doctors seek government jobs instead of

The Governor said that it is need of the hour to become producers instead of

providing jobs to others, he

maintained

Ashrafi calls for unity, praises PM's UNGA address

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Mehmood Ashrafi has emphasized the importance of unity and harmony among nation, calling for collaborative efforts to foster peace

and stability in society. Addressing a press conference at the Lahore Press Club on Saturday along with PUC senior leaders, he discussed ongoing challenges and the necessity for interfaith dialogue. He urged religious leaders and the public to collaborate for better future.

The PUC Chairman commended the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif speech in the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), describing it as an authentic representation of the sentiments held by peaceloving individuals across the Islamic world. He emphasized that the speech resonated deeply with those who advocate for justice and harmony, reflecting their shared concerns and aspirations for peace and solidarity among naPrime Minister for firmly peace-loving individuals to denouncing the violence and aggressive actions perpetrated by Israel. He recognized the importance of this condemnation as a significant stand against oppression, emphasizing the need for global awareness and support for those affected by such brutality. He highlighted the importance of acknowledging the suffering of the Palestinian people and the urgent need for the international community to respond. "The Prime Minister's speech unequivocally denounced the violent actions against

those who are oppressed," he stated. Ashrafi noted that the Prime Minister also addressed the plight of the Kashmiri people, reinforcing Pakistan's longstanding support for their rights. He emphasized that recognition and appreciation should be given to anyone who contributes positively, urging the public and leaders alike to support good deeds and initiatives. He tional platforms," he deremarked, "It is time for clared.

innocent civilians and ex-

pressed solidarity with

Ashrafi praised the not only Muslims but all unite against Israeli aggression. The situation requires a collective effort to promote justice and peace." He stressed that the crisis in Palestine is not solely a regional issue but a global concern that demands attention and action from the international community.

Ashrafi referenced discussions held at OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) meetings since the year 2000, which have consistently advocated for a two-state solution. "We envision a state that recognizes al-Quds al-Sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital, he affirmed, reiterating the necessity for a sovereign Palestinian state that can coexist peacefully alongside

Highlighting Pakistan's pivotal role, Ashrafi stated that the country is at the forefront of efforts to establish an independent and sovereign Palestinian state. "Pakistan has always stood by the Palestinian cause and will continue to advocate for their rights on interna-



Pakistan Education Academy (PEA)'s Academic Excellence Award Ceremony held at the school's auditorium in Oud Metha.

Pakistani, Indian delegates clash...

Continued from page 1 tial plebiscite to enable the

Kashmiri people to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination, he said. adding that India was obligated to honour that deci-

"Yet, instead of honouring its obligations, India has chosen the path of repression, subjecting the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiri people for self-determination through a brutal and oppressive occupation," Faheem, a third secretary in the Pakistan Mission to the UN, said.

"India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 further intensified this occupation, with nearly one million soldiers deployed to suppress the Kashmiris' legitimate right." India's crimes in Kash-

mir are "heinous and committed with impunity", with innocent civilians targeted through staged encounters, extrajudicial killings, and collective punishment

"Entire villages have been razed, the entire Kashmiri political leaders remain incarcerated, and a

media blackout continues to stifle independent voices,' the Pakistani delegate said, pointing out that, "This is the largest military occupa-

siege and terror. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and over a dozen UN Special Rapporteurs have documented these widespread violations, and called for the investigation of human rights violations in occupied Kashmir, he pointed out, noting India's consistent denial of their access to the occupied territory.

tion in the world, where

over 8 million Kashmiris

live in a perpetual state of

Rejecting baseless allegations of terrorism, Faheem remarked, "It is ironic that a country, which uses terrorism as an instrument of state policy against its neighbours, should attempt to point fingers at others. India, which has been sponsoring terrorism and orchestrating assassination campaigns worldwide, is hardly in a position to lecture others on the issue.'

For decades, he said, India has been the primary perpetrator, supporter, and financier of terrorism, sponsoring outfits such as the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) that have claimed the lives of thousands of innocent Pakistanis. "Pakistan has shared irrefutable evidence of India's involvement in terrorism with the international community.

The arrest and conviction of Kulbhushan Jadhav, a serving Indian naval officer and an operative of India's intelligence agency RAW, is irrefutable evidence of India's state-sponsored terrorism, including gral parts of India's history.

targeted assassinations in Pakistan, he said.

"Now, the Indian terrorist franchise has gone global with assassinations and attempted murders of political dissidents on North American soil.'

Referring to the events of 1971, the Pakistani delegate said those were not a question of genocide but of India's foreign aggression and attack on the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan. "I would like to request the Indian delegation to refer to the General Assembly resolution of December 1971 which upheld the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan against the

foreign invasion.' While the Indian delegate referred to India as the biggest democracy, he said, the world knows that India's reign of terror against its minorities continues unabated.

The BJP-RSS government, which has ruled India since 2014 is imposing a reign of fear and violence, not only against the people of occupied Kashmir, but also against its own Muslims, Christians, Dalits and other low caste Hindus, Faheem said.

"Islamophobia has deeply infiltrated the Indian state, where 200 million Muslims face lynching by cow vigilantes and pogroms led by RSS, often with government complicity.

Muslims, he added, are facing forced conversions, disenfranchisement, restrictions like the hijab ban, antilove jihad laws, and the destruction of hundreds of mosques, including the Babri Masjid, all aimed at erasing Muslim identity and culture, which are inte-

CM Gandapur calls off Rawalpindi protest amid road closures

Monitoring Desk PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Saturday called off protest reaching Rawalpindi and directed the party workers to go home. CM Gandapur re-

mained stranded at Burhan interchange along with his convoy and couldn't make it to reach Rawalpindi. "We don't want any confrontation with the institutions," said Gandapur while addressing the party workers. We have recorded our protest and we'll come back soon, he added. Earlier, clashes were also reported between the police and PTI workers as the party founder had given a protest call in Rawalpindi on Saturday. Some incidents of shelling were also reported in several areas.

Earlier, CM Gandapur had warned the Punjab government not to disrupt the protest plan of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) scheduled in Rawalpindi. Talking to Dunya News, CM Gandapur said that the large crowd has proved that people are with Imran Khan. The Punjab government imposed section 144 and we marked, "These terrorists imposed section 804 in return," he said, while referring towards PTI founder's identification number at Adiala Jail. Earlier, section 144 was enforced in the murder of innocents. He Rawalpindi, with containers placed outside Liaquat Bagh in anticipation of protest by PTI. Earlier, clashes broke out between the PTI workers and police near

Rawalpindi's Liaquat Bagh

ahead of its planned protest

as the garrison city was put

on high alert.

Continued from page 1

Meanwhile, Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, has strongly condemned the brutal killing of innocent laborers in Panjgur.

"The killing of innocent workers is highly deplorable," stated the Chief Minister. He expressed his sorrow, saying, "Once again, innocent blood has been spilled on this land." Condemning the at-

emphasized, "Once again, terrorists have targeted poor Pakistani laborers in Balochistan." Addressing the perpetrators, he warned, "How long will these terrorists hide in their holes? We will bring them to justice, one by one, for the killing of in-

QUETTA: Participants are holding awareness walk on cleaning campaign organized by Tokhi Foundation held at Quetta press club. 7 Laborers ...

tackers, Sarfraz Bugti reare cowardly and devoid of humanity." He further vowed that the terrorists will face justice, both in this world and the hereafter, for

nocent Pakistanis.



QUETTA: Heavy machinery busy in lifting garbage from a roadside under the supervision of Quetta Metropolitan Corporation (QMC), in Quetta.

GUD empowered, catalyzed young people to devise tangible solutions for better sustainable future: Sherry

Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman on Saturday commended the Green Urban Development (GUD) project for empowering and catalyzing young people under its youth-led eco-entrepreneurship initiative to devise tangible solutions for

a better sustainable future. She was addressing as chief guest at the closing ceremony of the two-year Green Urban Development (GUD) project under the title "Green Urban Development Cooperation and Youth-led Eco-Entrepreneurship" hosted by the tect the future as well as the sites and mechanisms (IoU) and the School of Leadership Foundation (SoLF), with the support of the U.S. Embassy

"In climate policy and action linking dots and making complex coordinates coming together and making them a chain of virtual circularity with the young people taking it forward will reap positive and desired outcomes intending to ensure climate resilience of the communities," she

was an urgent need to pro- are no plastic collection

Institute of Urbanism present amid highly accelerated climate disasters as Pakistan's urbanization rate is gaining higher at 3.3%.

Senator Sherry commended all the four eco-entrepreneurship startups that were funded by the US Embassy under the GUD project for being focussed and targeted interventions reaping propitious out-

The Senate body chair said Pakistan was actually going to become water scarce nation by 2050 with many of its parts facing the She warned that there situation at present. "There that is leading water and soil pollution leaving plastics to damage fragile marina ecosystems in the oceans and

She invited the young eco-entrepreneurs to visit the Rawal Dam to study its water pollution as a case study to come up workable solution to cleanse the water reservoir from impuri-

"9 million gallons of waste is dumped into Rawal Dam per day which is practically all toxic and used by domestic house-

Federal Minister for Kash-

Baltistan, and SAFRON,

Engineer Amir Muqam

lighted the critical issues in

the United Nations General

ISLAMABAD (APP): Se-

nior All Parties Hurriyat

Conference (APHC) leader

and Vice Chairman Jammu

Kashmir National Front

Altaf Hussain Wani has ex-

pressed his profound grati-

tude to Pakistan Prime

Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif for raising

the Kashmir issue in a be-

fitting manner during his

speech to the UN General

Assembly. In his statement

issued here today, Wani

said that the prime minis-

ter Sharif won hearts and

Peshawar Road in the Federal Capital.

Tahira Aurangzeb applauds

PM's passionate address for

Palestinians, Kashmiris rights

Muqam commends

PM's UNGA speech

on Kashmir, Palestine

Wani thanks PM for raising

Kashmir, Palestine issues in

a befitting manner at UN

said the Prime Minister's

landmark speech accurately

reflects the hopes and dreams

of the people of Kashmir

and Palestine. He recalled

that Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif in his speech high-

lighted India's human rights

abuses in Indian Illegally

Occupied Jammu & Kash-

mir (ÎÎOJK) and stressed the

need to resolve long-stand-

ing disputes, including the

liberation of Indian Illegally

Occupied Jammu and Kash-

mir (ÎIOJK) and the Pales-

around the world by high-

lighting the plight of Kashmiri and Palestinian

people profusely at the

highest forum. He said that

the speech not only re-

flected the true sentiments

of the Kashmiri people but

of the entire Muslim

Ummah. While praising Pa-

kistan for its consistent sup-

port to Kashmir and Pales-

tinian cause, the APHC leader

said, "Pakistan has been a

proposal for the creation.



ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi in a group photo with the Ambassador's and other dignitaries after a dinner hosted by Mr. Habeeb Malik Orakzai, President Pakistan International Humar Rights Organizations and Chairman PRCS Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Branch in Islamabad Golf Club.

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with Ambassador of Republic of Korea

Dinner held in honour of Governor KP, diplomates attended

ISLAMABAD (APP): ince, expressing the Dignitaries from Pakistan, diplomates of different countries and representatives of international social organizations attended the dinner organized in honour of Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi in Islamabad.

During his address, Governor Kundi presented a positive image of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Pakistan, emphasizing the peaceful nature of its residents. He highlighted the ongoing province's struggles against elements that threaten peace and development, urging the international community to assist in addressing the griev- Malik Orakzai, Chairman ances and promoting the of the Pakistan Red Cresdevelopment of the people of KP. Governor Kundi stressed the abundant opportunities for investment retary of the Ministry of and tourism in the prov- Foreign Affairs.

government's commitment to providing all possible facilities to both domestic and foreign investors.

He condemned the recent attack on foreign diplomats in Swat, labelling such incidents as conspiracies that undermine the overall progress and security of the province and the

The Governor announced plans to invite foreign diplomats to the Governor's House soon, reaffirming his commitment to promoting the province's soft image.

The event also featured speeches from Habib cent Society Khybe Pakhtunkhwa, and Hamid Asghar Khan, Deputy Sec-

Islamabad Police intensified crackdown against wrong parking violators

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police has launched a campaign against those involved in parking their vehicles wrongly and creating problems in smooth flow of





Islamabad Muhammad Sarfraz Virk is monitoring this whole campaign by himself.

He directed all Zonal DSPs to ensure implementation of traffic laws and take action against those involved in creating prob-lems for traffic discipline in ing footpath areas.

should be launched to educate citizens.

Moreover Islamabad Police also issued fine tickets to those involved in wrong parking while several vehicles were impounded at various police stations for not vacat-

their possession. a press release. 'Today, International

RTI strengthening citizens-state ties, Chief Info Commissioner

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Information Commissioner Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui has emphasized that the fundamental right to information, granted under Article 19-A of the Constitution of Pakistan, is strengthening the relationship between citizens and the government of Pakistan through promoting the culture of transparency, accountability, and citizen empowerment.

He made these remarks while announcing the winners of the Pakistan RTI Quiz Contest 2024, organized by the Pakistan Information Commission in collaboration with the Press Network of Pakistan, on the occasion of International Day for Universal Access to Information, said

Day for Universal Access to Information marks a global commitment to ensure that every person has the equal right to seek and share information," the Chief Information Commissioner stated in a video message to congratulate the quiz winners. "In addition, the global day provides an opportunity to review progress and efforts made by the Pakistan Information Commission in order to empower Pakistani citizens for accessing the information, being held by public authorities," he said, while lauding the Press Network of Pakistan for a successful collaboration in organizing a nationwide RTI Quiz Contest to raise public awareness,

especially among university students, journalists and youngsters. According to him, informed citizens obviously are in a good position to make informed decisions in the best interest of Pakistan. "Quiz contests have been recognized as an effective tool for learning, fostering community engagement, knowledge sharing and encouraging healthy competition throughout the globe," Sabahuddin Qazi, Chief Executive of the Press Network of Pakistan stated. emphasizing that: "The Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, is indeed a landmark achievement in our national journey towards transparency, prosperity and accountability." Revealing some interesting details about the RTI Quiz Contest.

commended Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for vociferously raising the critical issues of Kashmir and Palestine in his United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) speech. In a statement, Engr Amir Muqam said the Prime **Student dies** Minister effectively high-

admin. ISLAMABAD (Online): One student has died due to negligence of a administration Aims college and School hostel while students have held hostel administration responsible for death of student.

due to alleged

negligence

of hostel

Muhammad Mehdi, a student of class 8th belonging to District Astore Gillgit-Baltistan died after remaining critically ill four

The relatives shifted the body to PIMS and tried to register FIA, Application was filed till 10 p,m night in police station Bhara Kahu but SHO of respective police station refused to register FIR.

Students said Mehdi was severely ill since the last 4 days. Hostel incharge and warden were informed but they remained heedless. College administration said he lies and he is not sick

Police nab 25 criminals, narcotics, weapons seized

SLAMABAD (APP) Islamabad Police appre hended 25 criminals inolved in different criminal activities, including drug peddling and possessing il legal weapons in different raids during last 24 hours.

A public relations of-ficer told APP on Saturday that police teams also recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from their

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

Police teams arrested 13 accused involved in drug peddling and possessing ilegal weapons and recovered 1,375 gram heroin. 3,500 gram hashish, 110 gram Ice, 10 Liters of liquor, wo daggers and five pistols with ammunition from

and Kashmiri people. Talking to PTV news, she appreciated the prime minister's speech and highlighted the need for international cooperation to address pressing global issues, including the Palestinian

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-

kistan Muslim League-

Nawaz Senator Tahira

Aurangzeb Saturday lauded

Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif's powerful address at

the 79th session of the

United Nations General

Assembly (UNGA), where

he passionately highlighted

pressing issues threatening

global peace and demanded

an immediate end to the

bloodshed of Palestinian

and Kashmir conflicts. She said the PM's speech underscored collective action and its importance in promoting peace, security, and human rights worldwide.

Senator Tahira appreciated that the Prime Minister's address reflects the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party's commitment to promoting peace, human rights and social justice.

ISLAMABAD: CDA electric buses on route FR9 begin their new route from

Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed Road (IJP Road) to Faizabad, heading towards

She said PM Shahbaz Sharif also drew the attention of the World community towards Pakistan's sacrifices in the war against terrorism and the loss of billions of dollars in this

The PM mentioned that Pakistan is confronted with a new wave of externally financed and sponsored terrorism especially by the TTP, The BLA, The Majeed Brigade, Fitna al-Khawarij and its associates, she added.

She said the PM highlighted the current situation in Kashmir, including the presence of approximately 9 lakh Indian Army troops in the valley. This significant military presence has been a contentious issue, with concerns about human rights violations and the impact on the local population, she added.



ISLAMABAD: Labourers busy in construction work of flyover at under construction 10th Avenue during development work in Federal Capital.

Chairman PMYP held meeting with South Korean Envoy to enhance bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): To mitment to enhancing youth Jun expressed keen interest enhance bilateral ties and promote youth collaboration, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, met with the Ambassador of the Republic of South Korea, His Excellency Park

ki Jun here on Saturday. According to the PMYP office, the discussions focused on strengthening relations between Pakistan and South Korea, emphasising empowering the youth of both

Both dignitaries expressed their mutual com-

Chairman Kashmir body calls for int'l action on Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (APP) Chairman Kashmir Com mittee Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon Saturday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dis pute, underscoring the need for a diplomatic solution aligned with the UN Charter and international staunch supporter of the

5 suspicious

individuals

shifted to PS

during search

operation

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Islamabad Capital Territory

(ICT) Police conducted a

grand search and combing

operation on Saturday in

According to a police

the jurisdiction of Secre

statement, under the spe-

cial directions of Inspector

General (IG) Police Sved

Ali Nasir Rizvi, the ICT

Police has intensified crack-

down against the criminal

elements in order to elimi-

tions Superintendent of

Police (SP) City zone Khalid Mehmood Awan, a

grand search and combing

operation was conducted in

different areas of Secretariat

police station by ICT Po

lice teams including Counter

Terrorism Department (CTD) and lady police

search operation, 53 suspi-cious individuals, 15 houses

and 06 hotels were checked

viduals and seven unregis-

tered vehicles were taken to

the police station for legal

proceedings, he added.

DIG Syed Ali Raza

said that the search and

combing operations were

conducted to heighten se-

curity in the federal capi-

were directed to continue

these operations in their

respective areas as well, he

All zonal officers

tal, he said.

He said during the

Five suspicious indi

teams, he said.

Following these direc

nate crime from the city.

tariat police station.

development initiatives during the meeting. They discussed vari-

ous strategies for youth engagement, skills development, and digital empowerment, particularly through educational and cultural exchange programs. Chairman PMYP

Rana Mashhood highlighted Pakistan's ongoing initiatives, including the Smart Pakistan Scheme and the National Innovation Award, which aim to equip the younger generation with essential tools for the fu-

His Excellency Park ki countries

ISLAMABAD: IESCO workers install new Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), driving innovation in the energy sector.

Police intensifies social media crackdown, JIT targets key figures behind anti-state drive

Law enforcement authorities tightened their grip on individuals orchestrating organized propaganda against the government and state institutions.

According to sources, a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) meeting was held on Saturday under the chairmanship of Inspector General (IG) of police, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, to assess the

prevailing situation.
The JIT has already interrogated eight individuals linked to the online antistate campaign. It was discussed in the meeting that Gibran Ilyas, a prominent figure in the movement. was summoned for questioning in the next meeting. They claimed that Gibran

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ilyas played a central role in the subversive activities targeting state institutions and the government.

in fostering greater coopera-

tion in the areas of technol-

ogy, culture, and education.

He also underscored the

significance of building

stronger ties through col-

laborative youth programs

that can benefit both na-

tions in areas such as inno-

vation and entrepreneur-

pressed enthusiasm for the

upcoming Korean Cultural

Week, set to take place in

October 2024 which aims

to promote cultural ex-

change and deepen under-

standing between the two

Both leaders ex-

The investigators discovered crucial evidence connecting more individuals to the online efforts led by Ilyas. The JIT is reportedly collecting further data on these associates to broaden its inquiry.

The JIT found out

that Gibran Ilyas was identified as a key player in the anti-state campaign, working in collaboration with both domestic and foreign elements.

It was suggested that he had been active in various efforts to destabilize public order and spread discontent within the coun-



ing deserted during an anti encroachment operation against illegal installed swings at Shakarparian National Park, in the Federal Capital.

Experts for innovative solutions to Pakistan's water crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Experts gathered at the National Consultative Workshop organized by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the event demanded smart innovations to effectively manage the nation's water

The experts discussed the importance of evidencebased technological solutions and accurate real-time data. The workshop, hosted under the UK Aidfunded Water Resource Accountability in Pakistan (WRAP) Programme, aimed to support the implementation of the National Water Policy (NWP),

said a press release. It welcomed over 100 participants, including government officials, representatives from development robust system in place.

agencies, private sector leaders, academia, and members of local communities from all provinces and regions. Throughout the event,

discussions and presentations revolved around Pakistan's water scarcity challenges and the successful strategies implemented through the WRAP Programme in Punjab and KP. Dr Mohsin Hafeez, Director for Water, Food and Ecosystems and Team Leader for the WRAP Programme, briefed the meeting on water accounting in Pakistan and its role. He said that our na-

tional institutions, such as the National Disaster Management (NDMA) and Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), have a

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Sunday September 29, 2024

World News Day

These are unprecedented times. War, political strife, climate change and social upheaval feature regularly in our everyday lives.

Social media democratised information-sharing, giving anyone with a communications device and access to an internet connection the power to shape global opinions. Various platforms provide a steady, unceasing stream of information on all things under the sun. Unfortunately, misinformation and disinformation have also proliferated, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to differentiate between truth and fiction.

In these times of uncertainty, traditional media has been striving to contribute responsibly. Though news publishers have sometimes seemed overwhelmed by the speed with which information is now being created and consumed, they continue to play an invaluable role by diligently separating facts from falsehoods for readers. Today, we mark World News Day, for which thousands of media outlets around the world the state, its institutions have joined hands to raise awareness about the importance of credible and truthful constitutions ordinarily journalism.

There is no denying that public trust in journalism has eroded. With so many new sources of information available, it is easy to find echo chambers where one's personal preferences and biases are constantly validated. The objective truth, on the other hand, rarely offers such comfort. At the same time, tice of the proposed amendperhaps, newsrooms should ments to the members of the NA or the Senate. also introspect. They must work on rebuilding readers' trust.

Reporters and editors are, adopted in 1973, with the ernment, it is undeniable that there are serious questions and editors are, adopted in 1973, with the ernment, it is undeniable that there are serious questions are the experience of all the experience of the ex these days, often accused of bias or being unfair in their reporting. Perhaps it is time they presented themselves more openly to the public. They should be transparent about their practices, uphold high ethical standards, and correct Pakistan's construction their mistakes whenever necessary and without hesitation. They owe it to their readers to keep themselves accountable. They should always remember that journalism is, at the heart of it, about addressing injustice and giving voice to the voiceless.

At a time when many young readers are turning to social media for their news, it is our responsibility to educate them on how they may better differentiate between reliable journalism and misinformation. This is an era where falsehoods can travel around the world, quite literally, in the blink of an eye. Equipping lated to construction, such young people with the ability to as AutoCAD, welding, HVACR, project managediscern between right and wrong will help contain this problem.

Journalists must also work harder to reach those audiences who are often closed off from addition, both KP and facts. They should build bridges, not divisions, through the art of (DAE) graduates in concompassionate, sincere storytelling. These are difficult times for journalists, no doubt: the revenue models that have ber. Alarmingly, about sustained news publishers have been rendered obsolete in the age of digital media.

However, this must not distract publishers or journalists from their responsibilities towards their readers. Readers, too, must remember that ethical, trustworthy and honest journalism will help them see through these difficult times to tial for trades like mabetter days. They must choose truth over sensationalism.

Revitalising Pakistan's economy

Nathan Porter

The past year has seen the welcome return of economic stability to Pakistan. Growth has resumed, inflation has declined dramatically, the exchange rate has been stable, and foreign reserves have more than

Given the extreme external pressure and uncertainty facing Pakistan in mid-2023, the pace of this turnaround is remarkable, reflecting the commitment of both caretaker and new governments as well as the State Bank of Pakistan to maintaining sound macroeconomic policies. The challenge confronting Pakistan now is to move beyond this renewed stability towards sustained stronger growth, with its benefits shared more broadly and

venly across society. Pakistan's history suggests this transition is neither predestined nor straightforward. Past periods of stability have been followed by a loosening of economic policy in an effort to stimulate faster growth, but without tackling deep-seated structural weaknesses, growth quickly stalled. Each of

left Pakistan weaker and more indebted than the one

authorities recognise the need to break this pattern and for a new approach to development that enhances fundamental productivity and competitiveness, improving the living standards of all Pakistanis. Pakistan's new home-grown programme, supported by the new Extended Fund Facility arrangement approved by the IMF's Board on Sept 25, recognises that easy stimulus and giveaways are not the route to achieve higher and sustained growth.

Instead, the authorities' programme presents a new approach to growth and development through reforms to promote productivity and competitiveness by fostering domestic and external competition, create space for private investment, right-size the role of the state, reform stateowned enterprises, and improve the quality of public services, spending, and infrastructure.

This structural reform effort will be coupled with the continuation of sound macroeconomic policies.

its central role in equilibrating market conditions as the economy adjusts, rather than being artificially determined. Monetary policy will be geared to bringing inflation down to within the SBP 5-7 per cent target range. And, resources required to support the development agenda will come from a sustained effort to strengthen tax administration and broaden the tax base, including into currently undertaxed sectors — agriculture, retailers, and property — making the tax system both fairer and more efficient.

The FY25 budget already removed the special tax regimes for exporters and developers, moving them into the standard corporate tax regime. The provinces have also agreed to share this effort and support the programme, given their control over key revenue sources (agriculture and property) and their constitutional responsibility for critical development spending (health and education), including through improved intergovernmental collaboration under a new National Fiscal Pact.

Why is a new applex, and narrow tax sys- domestic competition, im-

proach needed? Successive tem has proved unable to proving the quality of past governments have sought to generate faster growth through heavy state intervention, subsidies, incentives, and concessions (including through Special Economic Zones) to support businesses, even as they and Pakistan were losing competitiveness. This was coupled

with protection through

regulation and exceptionally high tariff and non-tariff barriers. Not only did these attempts fail to attract investment, significantly spur exports, generate sustainable growth, or create jobs, they also undermined the development of a dynamic and outward-oriented economy. Critical resources became trapped in low-productivity and chronically inefficient activities and sectors, some of which only survived on the back of state intervention. Export performance was weak, lagging well behind peers and reflecting a history of limited innovation. Living standards declined relative to regional peers, with the gap increasing with each pass-

A fragmented, com-

generate the resources critically needed for social and economic development. Despite some improvement in recent years, Pakistan's health and education indicators lag regional and lowermiddle income peers, and quality spending in these areas has steadily declined relative to GDP, as evidenced by poor literacy and school participation rates, and high rates of

stunting and infant mor-Under-investment in Pakistan's vast potential human capital undercuts efforts to reduce poverty and inequality and leaves a significant share of the population in low-productivity activities (including agriculture) and unable to integrate into the labour force of a modern economy. Equally important, domestic and external borrowing to compensate for the lack of fiscal resources has given rise to a heavy debt burden, with large borrowing needs just to repay maturing debt.

Reforms should now economy and enhancing

public services, and reforming loss-making SOEs. After years of misallocating resources, Pakistan needs to build a business environment free from state interference and preferences, conducive to innovation, and encouraging of greater (domestic and foreign direct) investment.

Fiscal reforms need to generate the resources for social spending — to improve livelihoods and build human capital — and upgrading infrastructure, making it more resilient to natural disasters. Public borrowing needs to be limited to gradually reduce public debt to safer levels that do not expose Pakistan to recurrent shocks and absorb critical public resources on debt service, while also creating space for banks to finance private investment. Electricity sector reforms need to tackle deep-seated weaknesses to reduce cost pressures in this sector, paving the way to make energy more affordable for all electricity consumers. The authorities' new focus on liberalising the programme makes efforts across all these fronts.

Parvez Hassan

It is not a cliché but constitutions are, in fact, the glue that normally hold a country and its peoples bounded to oneness. As such a life-giving source to statehood, constitutions are and should be venerated as a solemn social contract overarching the existence of and the people.

However, not being divine or holy scriptures, provide a mechanism for amendments to incorporate new and unanticipated events or to correct course based on experience and

Pakistan recently witnessed an attempt by the coalition government to pass a constitutional package which it wanted to introduce for approval in the National Assembly and the Senate on one fateful Sunday without any prior no-

the numbers game that Sunday, the Constitution, claims of the coalition gov-

tions and debate, would have been transformed, some would say mutilated or disfigured, by the farreaching changes of its basic structure, by the constitutional package. All without notice, without disclosure of the constitutional package and all without the informed participation of the people of Pakistan and their representatives in the NA and the Senate. Could there be a greater or more grotesque tragedy for the people of Pakistan and for the country?

This may be a good opportunity to reflect on some guidelines for constitutional amendments. The first is legitimacy. The present NA and the Senate have flowed from the elections in Pakistan in 2024. That they were manipulated and rigged — particularly against the PTI — is not credibly contested. The post-election decisions and role of the establishment have substantiated the flawed process through NA or the Senate. which a minority has been imposed to rule a majority.

Irrespective of the provinces through a pro-tracted process of delibera-tracted process of delibera-

sent the moral force of acceptability in the public, the coalition government totally lacks the competence to engage in the process of amending the Constitution.

The second guideline is bona fides. Here, it is well known that the trigger for the whole effort for the constitutional package was the decision of the Supreme Court on the reserved seats in the national and provincial assemblies and the earlier bold stance of the six judges of the Islamabad High Court alleging interference/dictation by the security establishment. It has been widely alleged that the real objective of the constitutional package was to neutralise or safeguard against an upcoming 'hos-tile' leadership of the Supreme Court. And, the perception of a person-specific constitutional package

before the government. The third guideline is that the proposed amend-ments do not erode the basic structure of the Constitution. The 1973 Constitution and the earlier constitutional dispensations in the 77-year history of Pakistan have established the

gained so much traction

that it handicapped the abil-

ity in the numbers game

Islamic character of our state, the separation of powers, the trichotomy of powers, the independence of the judiciary, rule of law and the justiciability of fundamental human rights as included in the durable framework for our national existence. These cannot be amended, directly or indi-

The need-assessment is the next, fourth, guideline for seeking constitutional amendments. A mature approach in the field is minimalism and proportionalism, that is achieve objectives, first through alternative effective mechanisms, if possible, and with the least violence to the existing text of the Constitution if such an intervention is unavoidable It is also recommended to have measured responses avoiding overkill.

An example could be first try strengthening the use of constitutional benches in the Supreme Court already enabled by the Constitution instead of the surgical solution of the establishment of the constitutional court which will vitiate the basic structure of the Constitution.

amendment should be sup- media, to the requirement day night fiasco.

ported by fact-based data. Thus, it will be useful to segregate the number of pending cases in the civil courts, the high courts and the Supreme Court and to determine the different delay factors in each category. This analysis might reveal that remedial measures at each level may improve the efficiency of the Supreme Court, all without the need of amendments in the Constitution for this purpose.

The sixth guideline: whatever the resultant reform agenda based on a holistic approach including the above factors must be supported by a robust process anchored in transparency, full and time-bound disclosure, adequate notice, and facilitating right to information and inclusive participation of the provinces bar associations CSOs and professional bodies. It would be helpful to evolve a mechanism for the review of comments and suggestions in this open national conversation.

The seventh stage. built on the edifice of the fair and abides by the compreceding six factors, mon-sensical guidelines would be open and free de- suggested in this piece. Such bates in the NA and Senate a course would avoid the arin full view of our national bitrariness, ugliness and Fifth, each proposed news, print and electronic disgrace of the recent Sun-

of a two-thirds majority in both Houses. The Constitution requires the approval of two-thirds membership of each of the NA and the Senate for passing the package and it would be a travesty of justice if such approvals are sought without a full disclosure of the amendments and providing adequate time for their consideration and discussion. International practices have moved from 'consent' to 'prior informed consent' as a condition to each approval

Courtesy Dawn

It is shameful to highlight the eighth condition of the constitutional amendments: the voting and its counting must be in accordance with law and the decisions of the superior courts, totally free from the coercive apparatus of the establishment that has become, increasingly, a regular feature of our political governance A verdict for the adoption of the amendments will be legally and. morally, acceptable only if it is law-compliant, free and

Mainstreaming

Gulmina Bilal Ahmad

industry contributes around 2.5 per cent to GDP and employs about 8pc of the workforce. Major projects like CPEC and private real estate developments have led to a construction boom, increasing the demand for skilled labour, such as masons, welders, plumbers. carpenters, and heavy vehicle operators. It is estimated that the construction sector will need 1.5 million additional workers over the next five years. However, most of the current workforce lacks the technical skills needed for

modern construction. Pakistan has 2,173 technical and vocational (TVET) institutes, with 278 offering courses rement, and mechanical and electrical trades. Most of the learning is theoretical, leaving TVET graduates struggling to find relevant employment due to a lack of practical experience. In Punjab produce Diploma of Associate Engineering struction-related fields. KP sees some 3,200 students graduate annually, while Punjab produces over three times that num-20pc of enrolled students drop out before finishing their education, indicating the need for enhanced support mechanisms, such as work-based training (WBT), to improve retention and ensure job

readiness WBT allows TVET graduates to gain realworld experience by working in construction environments. hands-on training is essensonry, plumbing, carpentry, and heavy vehicle oneration. Globally, WBT

has shown a 22pc success rate in employment outcomes. In Pakistan, a 2023 tracer study of 217 TVET graduates found that 188 had undergone WBT, and 40pc of these were able to secure jobs. Of those employed, 82pc found positions in the private sector, 14pc became self-employed, and 4pc joined government positions. Graduates with WBT earned an average monthly salary of Rs40,000, underscoring the importance of practical training.

The Apprenticeship

Act of 2018 obligates companies in Pakistan to provide apprenticeship training, with Section 7 of the Act requiring employers to offer training for at least 5pc of their workforce. Construction companies are responsible for training apprentices, although the cost of institutional training is covered by the TVET authority. WBT programmes benefit companies by reducing recruitment costs, enhancing productivity, and ensuring access to a skilled workforce. By training TVET graduates, companies can shape their workforce according to specific needs, thereby reducing the time spent onboarding new employees. Additionally, trained workers tend to be more productive and deliver higher-quality work, crucial for large-scale con-

To maximise WBT's impact, construction companies should be mandated through the Act to hire a certain percentage of TVET graduates. This would not only improve the graduates' employment prospects but also ensure that Pakistan's construction industry has a skilled labour force. By making the hiring of TVET graduates compulsory, the government could address the challenges of labour shortages in the construction sector and youth un-

struction projects.

At the federal level, there are about 40 ministries/ divisions in Pakistan. While some are directly related to construction, like the Communication Division, Housing & Works Division, and Water Resources Division, others also oversee construction-related projects. In the Public Sector Development Programme, construction-related ministries/ divisions are responsible for 516 projects, while other divisions/ ministries handle 407 construction-related projects, totalling 923 projects, or 73pc of all PSDP initiatives. The estimated cost of these projects is over Rs12 tril-

A review of PSDP 2023-24 shows that 923 projects, constituting some 72pc of all PSDP initiatives, are either partially or entirely related to construction. Out of these, 26 are classified as small projects (below the Rs50m threshold). The remaining 897 could potentially provide training opportunities for TVET trainees. Around 18,000 slots for TVET trainees could be generated from government federal projects alone. The Communication Division, Housing and Works Division, Power Division, and Water Resources Division have the capacity to accommodate some 11,000 TVET DAE graduates

each year. By effectively implementing Appr-enticeship Act for improving government's ability to ad-

both government and private construction projects, WBT could be expanded, leading to increased employment for TVET graduates. This would help create a more inclusive and skilled workforce, driving national development and

dress unemployment in the

country. -- Courtesy Dawn

Without going into the

debate of who the honorific can be bestowed upon, let us focus on the etymology of the root word 'maula'. In Arabic, it means 'master'; with the suffix 'na', it means personages of reverence were addressed as 'maulana'. Gradually, standards of knowledge or assumptions of piety receded amongst its qualifications, and mostly anyone with a bearded visage could be elevated to it. Famous journalist Chiragh Hasan Hasrat was given to using it with reckless abandon, the clean-shaven state of the addressed notwithstand-

Tomes of Persian and Urdu poetry are interpreted as having a homosexual undercurrent because they endlessly talk about the fuzz on the beloved's face. This, of course, ignores the biological changes adolescents of both sexes go and 12 in the Balochistan through during puberty. Much before the Korean dramas and their lead characters' translucent skins became all the rage, many a damsel wore their natural shade of green till societal norms or personal freedom afforded more adventurous beauty regimes. Before the poor poets of yore are further accused of cradle snatching, let's not forget that many poets in the Eastern tradition started composing poetry in their early teens; hence, these nubile love interests, primarily imaginary, are entirely age-appropriate, their facial sprouting notwithstanding.

Single-name recognition is restricted to the rockstar celebrity status; ie, no one will ever ask, 'Elvis, who?' If you hear only 'mir', a shortened version of the Arabic title realised under the worst 'ameer', no chieftain

Maulana vs Mevlana

Shahzad Sharjeel

has to be Taqi Mir, the poet. Becoming an honorific's sole reference grants an even more exalted status amongst the multitudes of lesser mortals. Among those familiar with the Turkish tradition, there is no refer-'our master'. Historically, ence to the Turkish dramas here; it is common knowledge 'mevlana', without any name attached to it, means Jalal al-din Rumi. Lately, in the land of the pure, there has been only one maulana; no one else among the 120 million or so men in the country would come to mind but Fazlur Rehman of the It is fascinating to

> learn how and who built the Maulana into this of political icon brinkmanship, an almost singular arbiter of power. If you look at the numbers, his party boasts across the legislative spectrum — eight seats in the National Assembly, five in the Senate, nine in KP assemblies — the mystery deepens. There was a time when the MQM, with its 25 or so seats in the 300-plus NA and an impressive showing in Sindh, used to be the goto party for alliances, votes of no-confidence, or constitutional amendments. Nine-zero in Karachi and later London, the party's HQ, decided whether a coalition or an alliance was to survive. How it used this bargaining advantage and what it got for its constituents is the subject of another piece; suffice it to say, the architects of chaos have relegated this goose to the deep freezer to be brought out, thawed, and cooked some more at an appro-

> priate time. The bane of human existence is that the strongest desires are circumstances. The latest

would come to mind; it comedy of errors regarding the proposed constitutional amendment ostensibly to emasculate the judiciary drew protests from every sane quarter. While the proponents of democracy, the heirs of the Charter of Democracy, were running from pillar to post, mainly in the compound of the Maulana, it is the latter who emerged as the custodian of democratic norms and refused to throw his legislative weight to tip the scales in favour of the mystery amendment.

Over the decades, many parties, including the PPP and MQM, have boycotted polls and lived to rue their decision. Their leadership fessed up to the political immaturity of such decisions. However, the Maulana's party has consistently participated in the electoral process. In essence, it should

be great news that democratic norms are earning newer and stronger adherents, and that too amongst those traditionally seen as opposed to electoral politics. However, there are problems. The Maulana's beaming face that has adorned most photo-ops at recent constitutional conclaves is also seen presiding over public events where people are incited to target constitutional minorities. A blasphemy suspect was recently murdered in custody by a policeman in Quetta. A senator from the Maulana's party supported the killing and announced bearing all legal expenses for the killer's defence. For now, the party has the best of both worlds; the senator will not have to cough up any legal fees; the heirs of the victim have 'forgiven' the murderer. In worldly affairs, the Maulana sits pretty, while Mevlana's dervishes are caught in the whirlwinds of time. --

Courtesy Dawn

CM praises **PM UNGA** address

LAHORE (APP): Punjab and always." Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif praised Minister Muhammad Shehbaz India regarding its Sharif for his recent address aggression was a at the United Nations courageous move. "The Assembly (UNGA), lauding his compelling presentation of the Palestinian cause.

In her statement, CM Maryam Nawaz stated, 'The Prime Minister effectively represented the sentiments of every Pakistani." She highlighted that he also presented the Kashmiris' plight with vigor, affirming, "Pakistan stands with the people of

The CM further noted that the Prime Minister's bold message to Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) government consistently advocated for Kashmir on every international platform,"

she emphasized. CM Maryam Nawaz added that the hearts of the people of Punjab beat in solidarity with the Palestinians Kashmiris, reinforcing the government's commitment



LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi holding a press conference in the press club of the provincial capital.

KSA acting CG calls on Sindh Governor

KARACHI (APP): The Acting Consul General (CG) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) Abdul Rehman Saad called on Governor Sindh Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at the Governor House here on Saturday.

MQM-Pakistan leaders Syed Mustafa Kamal and Anees Qaim Khani were also present on the occasion.

The Governor and Acting Consul General Pak-Saudi discussed economic relations. investment opportunities in the Sindh province and other matters of mutual

Khan Tessori said that the two countries were linked to the eternal bond of Islamic brotherhood He said that KSA had

interest. Governor Kamran

always helped Pakistan in every difficult time. Tessori said that they would provide all possible

facilities to the investors of Saudi Arabia.
The KSA Acting

Consul General said that KSA attached special importance to her relations with Pakistan

He said that Saud investors were interested in investing in various sectors of Pakistan.

Social and Behaviour Change Cell inaugurated

PESHAWAR (APP): from UNICEF attended the Advisor to Chief Minister ceremony. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Health, Ihtisham Ali, on Saturday, inaugurated the Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) Cell at the Directorate General Health Services to promote positive behavioural change and strengthen public relationships during

ĥealth crises. On this occasion, Secretary Health, Adeel Shah, Director General Health Services (DGHS), Dr Muhammad Saleem, Additional Directors General (ADGs), Dr Shahid Yunis, Dr. Basit Saleem, Dr Siraj, Directors, Directors, Assistant Directors of Department, UNICEF Health Team Lead KP, Dr Inamullah

participants Advisor on Health said that the establishment of the SBC Cell is a significant milestone for our Health Department.

"We are grateful for UNICEF's unwavering support and commitment to improving healthcare services in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, "he said. This cell will play a

pivotal role in promoting positive behavioural change and strengthening public relationships during health crises.

Director Health Services Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Saleem said that the establishment of the SBC Cell is unique in

Talking



cake to celebrate Indonesia 79th Independence Day.

Governor KP writes letters to political parties to form UTFC to address the province's problems

Sherpao Qaumi Watan

Party, Senator Maulana

Atta Rehman Provincial

Ameer of Jamiat Ulema-e-

Islam, Maulana Jahanzeb

Ali Jafari Provincial

President of Majlis Wahdat-ul-Muslimeen,

Allama Dr. Muhammad

Shafiq Amini Provincial

President Tehreek-e-

been issued to Engineer

Amir Muqam provincial

president of Pakistan

Mehmood Khan Provincial

The letter has also

League-N,

Tehreek-e-Insaf meeting.

Labaik Pakistan.

Muslim

PESHAWAR (APP): The Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi wrote letters on Saturday to all political Party, Sikandar Hayat Parties for strongthoning. parties for strengthening Khyber Pakhtunkhwa calling for collaborative action for socio-political, economic, and security challenges in the province and calls to form a United Task Force Committee (UTFC) to

address the problems. The letter has been written owing to the province's current sociopolitical, economic, law and order situation as it witnesses unrest and law and order situation, especially in southern and tribal districts.

The Letter has been

Clean Punjab drive underway in Bahawalpur BAHAWALPUR (APP):

Following the vision of Chief Minister Punjab, a clean and pollution free Punjab campaign is underway in the district. Teams of Bahawalpur

Management (BWMC) Company distributed pamphlets in several localities of the city to create awareness among citizens about keeping the environment clean besides avoiding measures which caused air pollution.

Addressing mony held here Executive Officer, BWMC, Naeem Akhtar said that the Punjab government had been running a campaign and launching measures to keep the province clean and pollution-free. "Steps are being taken across Punjab to stop activities which caused air pollution and

smog," he said. He said that following the vision of the CM, BWMC had also been making efforts to control activities which caused air pollution and smog. He advised people to avoid driving smoke-emitting vehicles and putting domestic and agriculture waste on fire which polluted the air.



KARACHI: Sindh Home Minister, Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar inaugurates the Online Driving License System during a ceremony held at Clifton Driving License Office in Karachi.

SHC issues notice to FIA on petition from travel agent

KARACHI (Online): allegation against the Sindh High Court (SHĆ) has issued notice to FIÁ and others on the petition from travel agent seeking annulment of the case on sending beggars to Saudi Arabia in the guise of

The petition filed by travel agent from Multan seeking nullification of case for sending beggars to Saudi Arabia in the guise of Umra came up for hearing before a two members bench of SHC presided over by Justice Naimat Ullah Phulpoto.

The court inquired it should be told what is Muhammad Ata in Mu and in these two cases

petitioner. Counsel petitioner took the plea FIA has registered case against travel agent Muhammad Atta that he sent some people to Saudi Arabia for begging and not for Umrah. Travel agent has been held responsible for getting visa for 5 beggars. The counsel said Muhammad Atta can get book ticket but getting visa for any one is not responsibility of travel agent. Two cases were registered against Muhammad Ata in Multan

Three girls go missing in DG Khan

DG KHAN (APP): Three young girls went missing and it sparked fears of a possible drowning in a nearby canal, in Kot Mubarak Dera Ghazi Khan. The girls, aged between 11 and 14, had been missing since the previous day. Local police contacted Rescue 1122 early this morning, suspecting the girls might have drowned in the canal. Rescue teams, including a motorbike ambulance, a rescue ambulance, and a Water & Search unit responded swiftly, reached the spot. The search operation, led by incident commander Kanwai Faheem.

mafia launched: Marriyum LAHORE (APP): Senior had intensified operations Provincial Minister

Mehmood Khan Provincial Amin Gandapur, in which President of Pakistan he requested join in the

Crackdown on timber

Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Saturday that a comprehensive crackdown on the timber mafia had been launched. In line with Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's vision for a greener Punjab, strict actions were being taken to combat unauthorised tree cutting and illicit trade of legal framework, ensuring

found involved. mitigate smog and preserve

against timber smuggling and theft. During a monthlong operation in the Rawalpindi North Forest Division, characters of the timber mafia were arrested. The authorities successfully seized 10 vehicles, including trucks, jeeps and Land Rovers, used in smuggling Balan and Pine Recent timber. An additional seven amendments to the Forest trucks, loaded with illegal Act had strengthened the timber, were confiscated, leading to the arrest of 20 harsher penalties for both individuals and imposition individuals and officials of Rs. 850,000 fine. Marriyum said the

Fayyaz Ali Provincial President Mazdoor Kisan

Party, Maulana Hamidul Haq Haqqani Provincial

President Jamiat Ulema-e-

Islam Samiul Haq, Prof Muhammad Ibrahim provincial president of

has also been sent to Syed Muhammad Ali Shah

Bacha provincial president

of Pakistan Peoples Party,

Fayaz Khan provincial

president of Jamiat Ulema

Furthermore, a separate

letter has been written to the Chief Minister Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali

Noorani.

Moreover, the letter

Jamaat-e-Islami.

Pakistan

The senior minister Punjab chief minister had stressed that in order to issued clear instructions for strict punitive forest resources, the measures against any officers or officials



LAHORE: Blind people protesting for their demands in front of the Punjab Assembly of the

Peace in country does not seem to be good to evil sitting in jail: Azma

said peace in the country does not look good to the evil sitting in jail.
When the situation

starts improving in the country then his chaos starts, she said this while addressing a press conference here Saturday.

Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif fought the case of Kashmir and Palestine forcefully in UN. hands.

LAHORE (Online): He represented Pakistani Punjab information nation in his address. The minister Azma Bokhari has entire world listened Pakistani stance on Kashmir and Palestine. PM boycotted speech of Israeli PM and other countries also boycotted following him. Program has been evolved for fomenting chaos in Rawalpindi, she said. Rangers is deployed and section 144 is in place. Law will move if any one tries to take law into one's

26-member steering committee formed for tourism promotion

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has announced the formation of a 26-member steering committee dedicated to the promotion development of tourism in

Punjab. Senator Pervaiz Rashid has been specially appointed to lead this committee, which is set to play a crucial role in elevating the province's tourism potential. Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb will serve as the convener of the Chief Minister's Steering Committee on Punjab Tourism Promotion and Development.

The committee will also include key members such as Minister for Information and Culture Azma Bukhari, Minister for Communication and Works (C&W) Malik Sohaib Bherth, Minister for Transport Bilal Akbar, and MNA Afzal Khokhar.

The committee is tasked with providing recommendations for the upgrade of historical, religious, cultural, and commercial sites to make them more appealing to

Choose Truth; World News Day marked Social media become the basis for the growth of false statements: Murad

CM also takes notice of polio case in Hyderabad, seeks enquiry report

Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that journalism was playing its positive role contrary to such an environment in which social media had become the basis for the growth of false statements. In a message on World

News Day, he said that today, World News Day was being observed with the theme 'Choose Truth'. The Chief Minister said that clickbait and sensationalism on social

media had overwhelmed

careful and verified

information. He said that news with research, verification transparency improved the quality of here on Saturday.

choosing the truth in the news should be the commitment of journalists.

Access to verified news was mandatory to maintain the integrity of journalism, he said adding it was the responsibility of a journalist and news agency to bring out the facts through news. He further said that

the Sindh government believed in freedom of press. Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah while taking notice of a polio case in Hyderabad has sought an inquiry report from the Sindh Health Department,

Murad said that new polio case appears, it hurts me.

The CM Murad said we had to be united and end the crippling polio virus. 'The world was looking for new ways of development and we could not get rid of polio,,' he said adding that parents should voluntarily come forward to help administer anti-polio drops to their

children. He said that parents should themselves play a role in the development, health and education of their children.

Murad said that the Health Department should start a 'Special Anti-Polio campaign' and make houseanti-polio to-house



LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari and Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Imran Nazir talking to media persons at DGPR.

9 dead, 1453 injured in 1351 RTCs in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Nine persons were killed and 1453 injured in 1351 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 656 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 797 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical | transfer orders across the Teams thus reducing the province on purely merit burden of hospitals. Furthermore, the analysis showed those 790 drivers, 57 underage drivers, 137 pedestrians, and 535 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 287 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 317 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by Multan 91 in with 96 victims and at third Faisalabad with 90 RTCs and 95 victims. According to the data 1234 motorbikes, 67 autorickshaws, 98 motorcars, 27 vans, 11 passenger buses, 24 truck and 97 other types of auto vehicles and carts were involved in these road traffic accidents.

RWP turns into city of containers due to PTI protest

RAWALPINDI (Online): Rawalpindi has been turned into city of containers due

to PTI protest. The patients are the worst affected by the road blocks and erection of containers every where particularly on Express Sources said ambulances got trapped at several places. School going children and employees could not reach offices due to closure of

settlement of tankers has been raised in Rawalpindi. This way government administration have made protest a success story by taking such anti people steps.

KP Govt issues 1230 e-transfer orders in education deptt under e-transfer policy: Minister

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Minister Faisal Khan on Saturday said that under the e-transfer policy of the provincial government the Elementary and Secondary Education has so far issued 1230 e-

meeting of the department transfer were transferred to here, he said that on their nearest station on completion of the 25-day cycle of the e-transfer policy, the electronic transfer orders of the teachers who applied on been issued through the automated system.

The meeting was attended by Education Secretary Masood Ahmed, Special Secretary Qaiser Alam, Deputy Director IT Nowshir Afridi and other senior officials.

National Accountability

Bureau (NAB) Lahore held

Minister said that under the e-transfer policy, the teachers do not need to visit the offices or ask for a favor from any individual, adding that they are transferred purely on the basis of merit.

He further said that considering the problems and issues of the teachers, who had applied for a merit so that the teachers could give their proper attention to their job

He said that the task had been given to the e-transfer portal have respective section to start second phase of e-transfer policy on priority basis in the second week of October and include interdistrict transfer as well as the posts of SST and other cadres which had become vacant due to recent promotions.

NAB Lahore arranges open court, assures affectees of compensation

session at Lahore office under the supervision of Director General Amjad Majeed Aulakh and pledged compensation for the affectees harmed by different fraudulent schemes.An approximate 200 affectees appeared to seek redressal of their grievances from the open forum. As per details, the affectees of cheating public at large matters were among ForU Real Traders scam, Grow Impact Bold Vision scam and Prime Zone scam, however, affectees of various housing Societies including Khayaban-e-Ameen Housing Society, Park Society, Abuzar Housing,

LAHORE (APP): The Al-Noor Orchard, Lahore Garden, and affectee of Lahore Motorway City a monthly open court attended the session by availing the opportunity to present their plaints before the Director General.

At the occasion Director General Amjad Majeed emphasized that NAB is the only Institution that conducts accountability. He further stated that NAB Lahore organizes monthly open court to address public grievances, providing a platform for affectees to voice their concerns. During the open court, the DG made several key decisions to extend relief to the affectees. Regarding the ForU Real Traders scandal, he authorized a full-fledged View Housing Society, inquiry after completion of Formanities Housing complaint verification inquiry after completion of



RAWALPINDI: A view of people facing problems to travelling on murre road due to PTI protest rally. The administration closed the entrance and exit routes of Rawalpindi city blocked by placing containers.

better service delivery and

operational efficiency," he

mentioned ongoing efforts

to standardise electricity

equitable across different

regions. He stressed the

companies, which is crucial

for enhancing operational

Govt focusing on green

government was actively electricity distribution

sustainable solutions to capabilities and service address the country's quality. The energy

energy needs. Leghari minister also outlined the underscored the urgent g o v e r n m e n t 's

need to upgrade the comprehensive strategy to

electricity transmission revitalize the energy sector,

system to meet current emphasizing the goal of demands and future ensuring a sustainable and challenges. He also pointed out that the government electricity supply for all

was concentrating on citizens. He emphasized

to alleviate reliance on advancement of the reform

expensive electricity, process in the energy

aiming for a more affordable sector is crucial for energy. "We are pushing achieving both economic

LAHORE: Provincial Secretary Industry Ehsan

Bhatta is Talking to the media in connection with

World Tourism Day at Poonch House Chaubarji

alternative energy sources that the

forward with reforms in development.

working on green energy

projects, focusing on

Govt determine to make Pakistan top destination for business, Investment: Jam

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Minister said being revised to spur cross Federal Minister for that prudent and effective border trade in the region Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Saturday said the government is working on inflation. Stable and increasing, 'Ease of Doing Business in Pakistan' to have brought down interest transshipment policy is investment.

Window have been undertaken to provide one node solution to potential investors rather than hopping between various for different permits, said

supporting businesses and fostering an environment that enables them to thrive.

This has been stated anniversary celebration of explore

have brought down increased foreign reserves

Minister Shehbaz Sharif revenues for the business

particular

by Jam Kamal Khan while by every ministry to see addressing 40 years regional trade flourish and

The Minister said being revised to spur cross policies of the Government and foster business opportunities for our business community.

make it an attractive rate. Moreover the, expected to make Pakistan destination for foreign Government has been a regional business hub for working relentlessly on the Central Asia, South In this regard, projects bringing down power Asia and Middle East like Pakistan Single tariffs for the industry in regions. This will create general and exporters in employment for skilled labour force, bring in He added that Prime foreign exchange, boost himself is paying utmost Government and bring in government departments attention on the resolution overall development in the country. The role of The government remains fully committed to supporting businesses and community's problems and that a high profile Board is already working under his (Prime Minister). the past four decades, the He further said that an Islamabad Chamber has all-out effort is being made played a pivotal role in spurring business activity, promoting

crackdown

against illegal

filling stations

PESHAWAR (APP): The

District Administration

launched a mega crackdown

on illegal filling stations

across Peshawar; 45

stations were sealed,

Deputy Commissioner

Peshawar, Sarmad Saleem

the directives of the

Provincial Government, the

District Administration

has taken action against

illegal filling stations across

Peshawar, sealing a

significant number of them.

officers inspected illegal

filling stations on GT

Road, Warsak Road, Kohat

Road, Inqilab Road,

Urmarh Road, Charsadda

Road, and in other areas,

resulting in the sealing of

Sarmad Saleem Akram,

actions against illegal filling stations will continue

under the directives of the

Winter

vegetables

must be sown

during Sept, Oct

LAHORE (APP): The

Department has advised

farmers to sow winter

September and October as

it is most conducive time

department said on

Saturday that winter

cauliflower, cabbage,

potato, onion, carrot,

brinjal, spinach, coriander,

peas, radish etc. He said

that winter vegetables

should be sown in area

from where they could get

sunlight for at least six

hours in a day. Sowing area

should be measured

A spokesman for the

for the cultivation.

Punjab

vegetables

vegetables

Agriculture

include

provincial government.

According to Deputy Commissioner Peshawar,

45 stations.

Administrative

In compliance with

kram said.



Speaking as the chief guest at the 7th International Conference on Textiles, titled "Inspiring Change: Challenges and Strides are the Wings of Success, Gilani stressed the critical role the sector plays in economic growth and employment

Pakistan's potential to Senate plays a key role in

enhanced research and development to improve cotton quality while reducing reliance on

the production of innovative and high-quality

He also emphasized the need for the sector to stay competitive globally strengthening Research and He pointed out that Development (R&D) efforts from cultivation to finished textile products.

> need to advance both traditional and modern segments of the textile industry, stating that the

stubbornly we will charge

Rs 51000 in full and we

don't accept this rectified bill of Rs 2500.

suicide in the face of

they are not collecting

rectified bills they murmur

mysteriously the state

bank has stopped them

from accepting rectified

Poor masses are being

He further assured that the government is committed to providing cutting-edge technology to the industry, essential for its modernization.

Acknowledging the talented students at the event, Gilani praised the role of educational institutions in developing new techniques and designs for the textile

optimism about the future Pakistan's textile sector. U.S. Consul General

in Lahore, Kristin K. Hawkins, also addressed conference, highlighting the strong business ties between Pakistan and the United

Earlier, presented awards to outstanding participants in recognition of their contributions to the textile

Gold prices dip by Rs.700 Rs 276,000 per tola

people step that they are to overbilling so much so not accepting the electricity bills which are consumer or two are The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 601 to Rs. whereas the price of 10 An electricity bill inflated bills due to which is issued of Rs negligence of respective gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs 216,907 from Rs. 217,456, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers banks on the other side

respectively.

The price of gold in the international market

Commerce intervenes to boost rice exports Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal

Khan has intervenes to boost Rice exports by lifting for minimum export In a significant move

to support Pakistani exporters, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan has directed the immediate withdrawal of the Minimum Export Price (MEP) on rice, a measure that had been set exports.

ISLAMABAD (APP): in place in 2023, said a press release issued here on Saturday.

The Ministry of Commerce, under Jam Kamal's leadership, issued the notification following the request of the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP).
The MEP

initially introduced last year in response to rising global rice prices and a ban imposed by India on rice



LAHORE: A vendor arranging and displaying the seasonal fruit grapes to attract the customers on their handcart at the roadside setup.

Women urged to start handicraft business

Farooqui has urged women to initiate a handicraft business to themselves selfindependent and for

women empowerment. She was addressing a ceremony here that was importance of handicraft business for empowerment handicraft business was had wide scope, especially for women to earn their livelihood. "Handicraft business used to attract

BAHAWALPUR (APP): antiques and other items Handicrafts Association made by artists of Chairperson Ayesha handcrafting are found

across the world. dicraft She viewed that make increasing business on internet and e-commerce had provided great opportunities for those, engaged in handicraft business. "You can get organized to highlight the customers not only from your own country but from abroad for your handicraft of women. She said that items and products," she opined.

one of leading business fields of the world which attended by office-bearers of Handicraft Association including Chairperson, Ms. Nida Nawab and members of the customers from all over Executive Committeeworld due to its Usman Arshad Khan, popularity," she said, Asma Aamir, Ayesha adding that fans of Amaan, Mariam Qasim.

UAF VC stresses modern technology at farm level

FAISALABAD (APP): and expanding micro-University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan said on Saturday that provision of modern technology at farm level was prerequisite to

inaugural session of an international summit on 'Agricultural Tourism Development', organised at the National Incubation UAF, Centre, collaboration with nonstressed the need for

finance system up to small

He said non-resident Indians had taken steps agricultural development in their country, and non-resident Pakistanis would have to follow suit and play an proactive role in modernising agriculture sector in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan Addressing ICCI's 40th Anniversary Ceremony.

Govt taking significant steps to improve Pakistan's textile industry: Gilani

Senate Chairman Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani has said that the government is taking significant steps to improve Pakistan's textile contributes 60% to the

millions of families depend on the textile industry for livelihood, underscoring importance in providing jobs to thousands of

Gilani also highlighted

SLAMABAD/

RAWALPINDI (Online):

All the commercial banks

in twin cities of Rawalpindi

and Islamabad have taken

revenue office of IESCO.

when any member of

family takes the bill to any

commercial bank for its

payment the bank walas

flatly refuse to accept the

Outrage among poor consumers

Non accepting corrected

electricity bills by the

commercial banks

a tyrannical and anti subjected to excesses due

51000 erroneously or office but the commercial

through some mistake of banks on the other side Revenue office of IESCO have multiplied the

and later it is corrected and miseries of poor it stands reduced to Rs consumers with not

0. accepting the corrected bill. Whenever asked why

imported raw materials. The Chairman urged

textile products, noting that decreasing reliance on government subsidies would help make the industry more self-

Gilani stressed the produce high-quality creating legislation that cotton, the backbone of the supports sustainable

> ISLAMABAD (APP) The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.700 and was sold at Rs.276,000 on Saturday compared to its sale at Rs. 276,700 on last trading

Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.3,050 and Rs.2,614.88

decreased by \$6 to \$2,657 from \$2,663,



are sealing the petrol station against selling of illegal Iranian petrol, at different areas of Peshawar.

Pakistan can achieve economic prosperity through modern technology: S. Punjab ACS

and e-commerce.

He emphasized that Pakistan could achieve economic prosperity by leveraging technology in the fields. During a visit to an agricultural farm of a progressive Mumtaz Khan Manais in Mailsi, accompanied by Commissioner Multan Division Maryam Khan and Deputy Commissioner Vehari Asif Hussain Shah, he highlighted the potential of South Punjab to bolster the economy through these sectors. He noted that the South Punjab Secretariat had submitted various recommendations to the implementation. Rabbani stressed the importance of adopting regenerative agriculture in South Punjab

irrigation water use. This approach aims to enhance yields through advanced techniques conserving water and preserving soil fertility. He pointed out that crop yields in South Punjab fall significantly short of global standards but could be doubled or even more with modern farming practices, particularly for crops such as wheat, tomatoes, and mangoes. The application of advanced technology and high-quality seeds is crucial to achieving these goals. He also highlighted the significant demand for green chili in China and

for and sauces to boost profits. sunflower is vital for oil production and byproducts, with access to premier markets being essential. He explained that potato production and profitability can be improved by utilizing quality seeds, establishing cold chains, and employing

mechanized facilities. Rabbani said that recommendations for establishing processing plants for mangoes and vegetables in South Punjab have been sent to the government, enabling the production of value-added products such as pulp, juices, jams, and oils, with an estimated budget of Rs 345 million. Additionally, he mentioned a plan to leverage China's expertise in agriculture and dairy

MULTAN review and to formulate a be processed into pickles strategy

Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, Fuad Hashim Rabbani, has said that the future of the global economy is closely linked to agriculture, livestock,

modern farmer, Punjab government for other countries, which can

sustainable development and efficient while

to enhance productivity

increase per production. Presiding over the

crops production trends agricultural prosperity.

Shahab chairman Non-Resident Pakistani Mission in Washington, said they were making all-out efforts resident Pakistanis, he to help farmers in Pakistan so that development and creating awareness among prosperity of Pakistan farmers about modern could be achieved through



HYDERABAD: Residents of Goods Naka are blocked road and burn tires as they are holding protest demonstration against prolong electricity load shedding in their area, in Hyderabad. Admin launches

Zong launches of 59 4G commercial sites in GB

ISLAMABAD (APP): C o m m u n i c a t i o n Zong, Pakistan's leading Organization (SCO), and cellular and digital services provider, has officially launched its network in Gilgit Baltistan, marking a significant milestone in the underscores the strong

Gilgit Baltistan promises empower local communities, enhance connectivity, and contribute to the socioeconomic development of

The launch event was attended by distinguished guests, including Suraya Zaman, Advisor IT, Government of Gilgit Baltistan, Gul Abid Wazir, Zonal Director PTA Gilgit, Ehsan ul Haq Assistant Zonal Director PTA Gilgit, Lt. Col. Muhammad Ali

Riaz Ahmad, Secretary IT, Government of Gilgit

Their participation digital collaboration between the public and private sectors According to news in advancing digital

Khawaja Shehzad Ullah, Executive Director of Sales & Distribution at Zong, highlighted the connectivity in the region, stating, "We are thrilled to

speed internet to Gilgit Baltistan. This launch reflects our commitment to bridging Pakistan's digital divide, empowering communities boosting tourism, and supporting economic growth through our

significance bring Zong 4G's high-

local Ahmed, Commanding advanced technology and Officer of Special expansion plans."

Pak can earn 2bln dollars annually from

religious tourism

ISLAMABAD (APP): condensed Senior Analyst on the Tourism Sector and former Managing Director of Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) Mr Salman Javed has said that only Religious Tourism alone can earn more than at least 02 billion dollars annually which is more than IMF's first tranche received by

our country yesterday.
While talking to APP on World Tourism Day 2024 observed yesterday across the globe by UNESCO, Mr Javed ex Honorary Secretary General South Asia Tourism Association, stated that Tourism is an invisible export and treatment so as part of the Service Industry He stated

Marketing Development Courses be part of the Civil Services Academy, Foreign Services Academy, Commercial Attaches Training Institute and Information Attaches Training Institute. Mr Javed asserted

that Planning Commission

pattern of Turkey. Mr Salman Javed. of the FPCCI Standing Economy, emphasized standards, particularly in regions with popular that tourist destinations.

should prepare a plan to

convert Pakistan into a

Tourism Economy on the who is also the Convener Committee on Tourism tourism-related employment can reduce poverty and improve living rural and underdeveloped

properly prior.

HYDERABAD: Laborers are busy in unloaded potatoes from truck to earn their livelihood for support their families, at Vegetable Market in Hyderabad.

Nepal floods and landslides kill at least 66 people, 69 missing

Monitoring Desk KATHMANDU: At least 66 people have been killed in Nepal since early as persistent downpours trig-

gered flooding and landslides, closing major roads and disrupting domestic air travel, officials said on Saturday.

The death toll could rise, they added, with another 69 people reported missing, and 60 injured since Friday morning, home ministry official Dil Kumar Tamang told Reuters.

Most of the deaths took place in the Kathmandu Valley, which is home to four million people and the country's capital, where the flooding brought traffic and normal activity to a standstill.

Rescue workers used helicopters and rubber boats to help people stranded on rooftops or elevated ground as some parts of Kathmandu reported up to 322.2

Most rivers in the Himalayan nation have swollen, spilling over roads and bridges, authorities said. after nearly a week's delay in the retreat of South Asia's annual monsoon rains brought torrential downpours across the region.

Police were working to clear debris and reopen roads after landslides blocked highways in 28 places, said police spokes-person Dan Bahadur Karki. The earliest let-up in

the rains might not come until Sunday, said Binu Maharjan, a weather forecasting official in Kathmandu, who said a low-pressure system over parts of neighbouring India had caused this year's extended rains.

"Heavy rains are likely to continue until Sunday morning and weather is likely to clear after that," Maharian told Reuters. Most central and east-

ern areas had received mod-

rainfall, ranging from 50mm to more than 200mm, she added, with moderate levels recorded elsewhere.

International flights are operating, but many domestic flights have been disrupted, said Rinji Sherpa, a spokesperson for Kathmandu Airport.

The Koshi River in the southeast, which causes deadly floods in India's eastern neighbouring state of Bihar almost every year, was running above the danger level at 450,000 cusecs. versus the normal figure of 150,000 cusecs, one official said. A cusec is a measurement of water flow equivalent to one cubic foot a sec-

The river level is still rising, added Ram Chandra Tiwari, the area's top bu-

Hundreds of people die in the monsoon season every year in the landslides and flash floods common in the mountainous nation



Security force members use an inflatable raft to bring residents to safety from a flooded area near the bank of the overflowing Bagmati River following heavy rains, in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Iranian leader Khamenei calls on Muslims to confront Israel

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called on Muslims on Saturday "to stand by the people of Lebanon and the proud Hezbollah with whatever means they have and assist them in confronting the ... wicked regime (of Israel)". Khamenei, in a statement after the Israeli army said it had killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, said: "The fate of

this region will be determined

with Hezbollah at the forefront", state media reported. After Hezbollah confirmed Nasrallah's death. Iranian media reported that General Abbas Nilforoushan, a deputy commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, had died "next to Nasrallah" in the Israeli strikes on south Beirut on Friday.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani vowed in a post on X that Nasrallah's "path will be continued and his holy by the forces of resistance, goal will be realised.

Italy's government to extend migrant NGO crackdown to planes

Monitoring Desk

fines of up to 10,000 euros (\$11,150) on pilots of aircraft that search for migrant boats in distress at sea, according to a draft govern-

The right-wing administration of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has vowed to block irregular arrivals, working with African governments to block departures and building migrant centres in Albania which will soon become operational. It has also made it increasingly difficult for charities to operate their

ships, limiting the number ROME: Italy will impose of rescues they can carry out, seizing them at ports and often forcing them to make huge detours to bring migrants ashore. Under the decree, air-

craft "departing or landing in Italy which carry out activity ... with the aim of search and rescue" must immediately inform the authorities of any emergency and abide by their orders. Failure to do so could

lead to the aircraft being impounded for 20 days and, in the event of repeated breaches of the rules, being confiscated

A supporter of Democratic presidential nominee and U.S. Vice President Ka-

mala Harris and vice presidential nominee Minnesota Governor Tim Walz

crashes a rally for Republican presidential nominee and former U.S. President

Donald Trump next to a fundraiser he is holding in Woodside, California, U.S.

As people were being

Ukrainian emergencies

'Everyone in the

evacuated, the Russians

struck again, killing a fur-

service later said nine

people were killed and 10

world who talks about

this war should pay atten-

tion to where Russia is

hitting. They are fighting

hospitals, civilian objects,

and people's lives," Ukrainian President

wounded in all.

ther five people, he said.

Kyiv says Russian attacks

on medical centre in

Ukraine's Sumy kill 9

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: Russian forces hit a

medical center in Sumy in

northeastern Ukraine on

Saturday morning then

struck again as the building

was being evacuated, kill-

ing a total of nine people,

said that at the time of the

attacks, 86 patients and 38

staff members were in the

one person and damaged the

ceilings of several floors of

Ukrainian prosecutors

'The first attack killed

Ukrainian officials said.

Russia condemns Israel's killing of Hezbollah leader Nasrallah

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Russia strongly condemns Israel's killing of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the foreign ministry said on Saturday, calling on Israel to stop hostilities in Leba-

"This forceful action is fraught with even greater dramatic consequences for Lebanon and the entire Middle East," the ministry said in a statement

Iran's Supreme Leader moved to secure location under heightened security Monitoring Desk

DUBAI: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has been transferred to a secure location inside the country with heightened security measures in place,

two regional officials briefed by Tehran told Reuters. The sources said Iran was in constant contact with Lebanon's Hezbollah and other regional proxy groups to determine the

next step after Israel announced that it had killed Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in a strike on south Beirut on Friday.

Netanyahu is dragging region into war and must be stopped, Jordan says **Monitoring Desk**

NITED NATIONS: Jordan's foreign minister ister Benjamin Netanyahu had to be stopped because he was driving the region to a full-fledged war.

"It is time to face the truth, and the truth is, unless Netanyahu is stopped, unless this government is stopped, war will encompass all of us," Ayman Safadi told reporters ahead of a UN Security Council meeting on Gaza.

Earlier on Friday, Israeli airstrikes shook Beirut, with the Israeli military saying it had targeted Hezbollah's central headsuburbs of the Lebanese

capital. Saudi Foreign Min-ister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud said ahead said that Israeli Prime Min- of the Security Council meeting that the airstrikes had increased the risk of the situation spiralling out of control. "We believe very, very, very strongly that a ceasefire is necessary, that the guns are not going to solve anything, that we need to move towards a peace in our region, and that peace is firmly rooted in addressing the Palestinian issue," bin Farhan said.

In a speech to the United Nations General Assembly on Friday, Netanyahu spoke at length on his wish to make quarters in the southern progress on normalising ties with Saudi Arabia

China, Brazil pursue Ukraine peace plan despite Zelensky's ire

Monitoring Desk JNITED NATIONS:

China and Brazil on Friday pressed ahead with an effort to gather developing countries behind a plan to end Russia's war in Ukraine, despite Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's dismissal of the initiative as serving Moscow's interests.

Zelensky criticised China and Brazil in his UN address, saying that forcing Ukraine to accept a peace deal was akin to colonial-

Seventeen countries attended a meeting on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, chaired by China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Brazilian foreign policy adviser

Celso Amorim. Wang told reporters they discussed the need to

war, to avoid the use of weapons of mass destruction and prevent attacks on nuclear power plants.

'Russia and Ukraine are neighbours that cannot be moved away from each other and amity is the only realistic option," Wang said, adding that the international community should support an international peace conference involving both Russia and Ukraine.

As well as Brazil and China, 10 countries from the Global South who were present, including Indonesia, South Africa and Turkiye, signed a communique that Amorim said builds on an earlier sixpoint plan proposed by Brazil and China in May.

Countries would continue to meet in New York under a grouping of "friends for peace", he prevent escalation in the added.

Belgian king, PM press Pope on sexual abuse, women priests

Monitoring Desk BRUSSELS: Pope Francis sexual abuse to the fore. was pressed firmly by Belgium's king and premier pressed on Friday to reconon Friday for more concrete action to address sexual ban on abuse by Roman Catholic priests clergy, an issue once more

King Philippe and Prime Minister Alexander De Croo raised the issue in public in unusually forceful language for a papal foreign trip, always a carefully choreographed event.

in the spotlight.

King Philippe told Pope Francis in a speech welcoming him to Belgium that it had taken the Church "far too long" to address the scandals. De Croo said it had "a

long way to go" and that "words alone are not

"Concrete steps must also be taken," the premier

Pope Francis's weekend trip to Belgium is meant to focus on the 600th anniversary of two Catholic universities. But a television documentary series and a parliamentary investigation have brought the world," the pope said.

Church's record on clerical

The pope was also sider the Catholic Church's ban on ordaining women as More than 700 com-

plaints and reports of clergy abuse have been made in Belgium since 2012, according to a Church re-

In the meeting on Friday with politicians at the royal Castle of Laeken in Brussels, Pope Francis sought to give assurances that the global Roman Catholic Church was tackling the issue.

The 87-year-old pontiff did not name specific cases of abuse in Belgium, but said the behaviour of Catholic clergy had provided "painful counter-testimonies" to the church's

teachings. "I refer to the tragic instances of child abuse, which is a scourge that the Church is addressing firmly and decisively ... by implementing a prevention programme throughout the

India cuts target for fast-track sex crime courts as states fall short

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: The Indian

government has slashed its goal to create thousands of new tribunals to try sex crimes speedily after states like West Bengal, where the recent brutal rape-homicide of a doctor shook the nation, fell far short of targets, according to three federal government officials and an internal document seen by Reuters.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's govern-Minister ment moved to establish fast-track special courts (FTSC) in 2019 to try exclusively sex crimes, after the Supreme Court that year criticised state governments for being slow to deliver justice to victims. The court singled out Bengal and Uttar Pradesh for taking too long to reach judgment on cases involving child victims. Most sex crimes are tried by India's heavily burdened state courts, but Modi's government planned to incentivise state governments to establish 1,023 FTSCs by March 2021 by funding 60% of costs. Each FTSC is staffed

seven support staff. The government had projected 2,600 FTSCs by

by one judicial officer and

2026 but has now revised its target to 790 due to low interest from states and a lack of judges, according to the officials and the document, an undated summary from this year of progress on the FTSC project. Just 752 FTSCs have

been established nationwide as of August, according to publicly available government data. Some states were slow

to sign up to the project, with Bengal only joining last year. The opposition-led state whose chief minister Mamata Banerjee is under scrutiny for her handling of sex crimes – was earlier set a target of 123 fast-track tribunals by March 2021, according to the officials and the document. But only six tribunals are operational in Bengal, where there are some 48,600 cases of rape and other sexual offences pending judgement. Details of the federal government's original target and its decision to scale back sharply are reported by Reuters for the first time. Top West Bengal judicial bureaucrat Siddhartha Kanjilal blamed the slow response on a lack of judges but said authorities were working with the Calcutta High Court.

Pope Francis greets bystanders in Leuven during his visit to Belgium. NATO to set up northern land command in eastern Finland

Monitoring Desk HELSINKI: NATO will set up a new land command in Finland near the Russian border next year, tasked with leading the alliance's the Finnish defence minister said on Friday.

Finland joined the NATO alliance last year, in response to neighbouring Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine that began in 2022, and is organising the alliance's presence on its

"This morning, I have decided that we will propose to NATO to establish the command in conjunction with the Army Headquarters in Mikkeli," said the minister, Antti Sweden, which also j Hakkanen, following up on the alliance this year.

his June announcement that all NATO member states had given their political consent for the plan.

The centre, which NATO calls Multi Corps land force operations in Land Component Comnorthern Europe in the mand, will operate under the event of a military conflict, alliance's U.S.-based Norfolk Joint Force Command and jointly with Finland's own land force command that is already located in Mikkeli, about two hour's drive from the Finnish-Rus-

sian border. Hakkanen, speaking at a news conference, said the unit would initially have an annual budget of 8.5 million euros (\$9.5 million) and consist of a few dozen in-

ternational officials. Earlier this month. Finland and neighbouring Sweden, which also joined

Helene weakens to a tropical storm with maximum sustained winds of 70 mph over Georgia

Monitoring Desk CRAWFORDVILLE: Hurricane Helene weakened to a tropical storm over Georgia with maximum sustained winds of 70 mph (110 kph) early Friday, the National Hurricane Center

Helene continues to weaken while moving farther inland over Georgia. The storm was about 40 miles (65 kilometers) east of Macon and about 100 miles (165 kilometers) southeast of Atlanta, moving north at 30 mph (48 kph) at 5 a.m., the center in Miami reported.

The storm made landfall in northwestern Florida as a Category 4 storm as forecasters warned the enormous system could create a "nightmare" storm surge and bring dangerous winds and rain across much of the southeastern U.S.

There were at least three storm-related deaths.

The hurricane center said Helene roared ashore around 11:10 p.m. Thursday near the mouth of the Aucilla River in the Big Bend area of Florida's Gulf Coast. It had maximum sustained winds estimated at 140 mph (225 kph). That location was only about 20 miles (32 kilometers) northwest of where Hurricane Idalia came ashore last year at nearly the same ferocity and caused widespread damage.

The hurricane's eye passed near Valdosta, Georgia, as the storm churned rapidly north into Georgia Thursday night. The National Hurricane Center issued an extreme wind warning for the area, meaning possible hurricane-force winds exceeding 115 mph (185 kph).

Monitoring Desk JOHANNESBURG: Seventeen people were killed in mass shootings at two homes in a village in South Africa's Eastern Cape province and police said on Saturday they had launched a manhunt for the suspects.

Seventeen

killed in mass

shootings at two

homes in South

African village

South Africa has one of the highest murder rates in the world, with about 20.000 murders recorded every year out of population of over 60

Police said in a statement that the shootings occurred in two separate homes in the village of Lusikisiki and that in total, 15 women and two

men had been killed. Iran policeman killed in attack claimed by militants

Monitoring Desk ΓΕΗRAN: A police captain has been killed in Iran's restive southeast in an attack claimed by a militant group, local media reported

on Saturday. Captain Abolghassem Piri from the police command in Suran village in Sistan-Baluchistan province on the border with Pakistan "was assassinated by armed criminals", the ISNA news agency reported, citing police.

The militant group Jaish al-Adl (Army of Justice) claimed the attack in a

message on Telegram.
ISNA said the attack took place "inside a store where the owner was killed in the shooting'

One of Iran's poorest regions, Sistan-Baluchistan has long been plagued by unrest involving drugsmuggling gangs, rebels from the Baluchi minority and extremists.

one meter of rain on southern Mexican state **Monitoring Desk** Guerrero and the neighbor-

CAPULCO: Storm John tarted dissipating over Mexico's Pacific coast and was downgraded to tropical depression, but its remnants poured a deluge of almost 100 cm (39 inches) of rain on the southern state of Guerrero. Four days of steady rain dousing the home state of major beach resort Acapulco have almost tripled the downpour from last year's devastat-

can authorities said. Images on social networks showed homes, businesses, roads and vehicles were damaged as rising waters flooded areas in

ing Hurricane Otis, Mexi-

ing state of Michoacan. The US National Hurricane Center (NHC) warned that "catastrophic flash flooding and mudslides will continue over portions of southern

logical service, Alejandra Mendez, said John had inches) of rain.

\$15 billion.

HANOI: Asia's strongest Yagi, caused damages estimated at 81.5 trillion dong (\$3.31 billion) across northern Vietnam, or twice as much as previous estimates, state media said on Saturday. The typhoon, which killed 299 with 34 missing, devastated export-oriented industrial hubs, destroying factories and facilities, besides flooding farmland, damaging homes, and tear ing up a bridge.

damage is initially estimated at over 81.5 trillion dong, with most damage triggered by landslides and flash floods," state-run Vietnam News Agency quoted Agriculture Minister Le Minh Hoan as saying.

Volodymyr Zelenskiy the hospital," Interior Minsaid on Telegram. ister Ihor Klymenko said on Storm John dumps nearly

and south-western Mexico." The head of Mexico's national meteoro-

soaked Guerrero with more than 95 cm (37 inches) of rain since Monday, while Otis, a Category 5 hurricane, had brought 35 cm (14 Otis, which last year killed more than 50 and

caused damages of about

the membership require-ments, the ADB said in a Vietnam estimates damages of **\$3.31** bln from Typhoon Yagi

Israel joins

ADB as 69th

member

Monitoring Desk

MANILA: Israel has be-

come the newest non-re-

gional member of the Asian

Development Bank, the

Philippines-based lender

announced on Friday, with

an analyst cautioning that

the move might cause

"polarisation" in the insti-

governors had approved

Israel's entry in April 2022

pending its completion of

The bank's board of

Monitoring Desk storm this year, Typhoon 'The total economic



Protesters demonstrate outside of Southwark Crown Court, on the day of the sentencing of Anna Holland and Phoebe Plummer, who were both convicted of criminal damage for throwing tins of Heinz tomato soup at Vincent van Gogh's "Sunflowers" painting in London's National Gallery, in London, Britain.

on Saturday, expressed ap-

preciation for the tireless

efforts of media organiza-

tions, journalists, and press

associations across Paki-

stan in promoting truth,

transparency, and democ-

Day, he acknowledged the

media's vital role in safe-

guarding democracy and

promoting accountability

within society.

He said, "By providing accurate, reliable, and

timely information, the

media helps build an informed and engaged public."

ism not only informs the

public but ensures their

participation in the demo-

cratic process," Ayaz Sadiq

said. "The media acts as the

voice of the people, bring-

ing their concerns to the

corridors of power," he

Ayaz Sadiq also high-

"Responsible journal-

Ayaz lauds tireless efforts of

media organizations, journalists

in promoting truth, democracy

Pakistan terms India's allegations at UN forum baseless, misleading

NEW YORK, (INP): Re- District Court against the sponding to India at the debate titled 'Leadership senior RAW officials for for Peace' and held under the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN termed New Delhi's allegations against Pakistan baseless and mis-

India continues to paddle a false narrative on this forum, relying on tactics of denial, distortion and deflection," Pakistan Counsellor Gul Qaiser Sarwani stated on Friday.

India continued to sponsor terror activities not against just Pakistan but also in other countries, he said, adding that for decades, India had been the primary perpetrator, supporter and financer of ter-

Referring to Indian intelligence agency, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), as a terrorist franchise, he said it had gone global with assassinations and attempted murders of political dissidents on North

Earlier this month, General Counsel of pro-Khalistan group Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, through his attorneys, had filed a civil

their "unprecedented attempt to assassinate a US citizen on US soil".

District Court, New York, by Pannun and his lawyers against the Indian government and senior officials of Indian intelligence agency — namely, Ajit Doval, Samant Goel, Vikram Yadav and Nikhil Gupta.

The complaint alleged that senior officials at India's spy agency RAW, which report directly to India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, engaged weapons trafficker and RAW agent Nikhil Gupta to hire assassins in the US to murder Pannun in New York. This scheme was foiled when the hitmen Gupta hired turned out to be undercover federal

The Pakistan counsellor said India's sponsorship of terrorist organisations such as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) had led to the loss of thousands of innocent Pakistani lives.

Sarwani said Pakistan had shared irrefutable evidence of India's involve-

viction of Kulbhushan Yadev, a serving Indian naval officer and an operative Legal action has been of India's intelligence initiated at United States agency RAW, is irrefutable evidence of India's state sponsored against Pakistan including targeted assassinations," he

> "India must end its state sponsored terrorism, cease its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir and fulfil its obligations under international law," the counsellor demanded.

Sarwani said the UNSC through numerous resolutions had called for a free and impartial plebiscite to enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their inalienable right self-determination. "Under Article 25 of

the UN Charter, India is obligated to implement these resolutions. However, instead of honouring its obligations, India has chosen the path of repression," he added. The Pakistan counsel-

lor apprised the forum that India had deployed nearly one million soldiers in Jammu and Kashmir to suppress the Kashmiris' le-



racy. In a message on the occasion of World News and spoke today at the inauguration ceremony of an exhibition celebrating the 40th anniversary of the slogan "Love Our China, Repair the Great Wall." The exhibition was held at Badaling section of the Great Wall near Beijing.

IMF urges fairer taxation system, broadening of tax base in Pakistan

International Monetary Fund (IMF) has stressed the need of a fairer taxation system in Pakistan with participation of all sectors.

The IMF's Executive Board in a statement on Saturday emphasized for 'sustained implementation" of the new \$7 billion bailout package, as well as broadening of the tax base, following its approval of the 37-month Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Pakistan, under which it has disbursed a \$1bn tranche.

The government has agreed to the unpopular reforms, including widening its chronically low tax base.

Directives of Chief Minister:

40 closed schools opened

in Pishin: GoB spokesman

(NCHD).

The IMF stressed the importance of additional revenue mobilisation ef-

Independent Report

QUETTA: In all 40 closed

schools were closed in

Pishin on directives of the

Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz

Bugti, stated the spokes-

man of Government of

Balochistan, Shahid Rind.

According to the spokesman of Provincial

schools were closed due to

the non-availability of

the schools were made

functional after posting 40

teachers on contract.

Shahid Rind said that

The Deputy Commis-

Government,

base and enhancing tax administration The IMF has urged for

strict implementation of the anti-money laundering framework, curbing corruption in government departments and power sector reforms. The IMF also stressed the need of better governance in government departments and persistent reform. It has urged for reforms in energy sector and timely adjustment of power

The lending institution has said that the businesses required equal opportunities and productivity of all sectors.

The IMF board high-

lighted the new program would "require sound poli-

tional Commission for Hu-

provincial government said

that show cause notices

have been issued to 81

chronic absentee teachers.

of dismissal from service

would be taken on giving

that the process of educa-

tional reforms is continued.

here that the Chief Minis-

ter Mir Sarfraz Bugti has

given the task of opening

unsatisfactory reply.

The spokesman of

He said that the action

The spokesman said

It may be mentioned

Development

ISLAMABAD (INP): The forts by broadening the tax cies and reforms to support the ongoing efforts to strengthen macroeconomic stability, address deep structural challenges, and create conditions for a stronger, more inclusive, and resilient growth".

The IMF board noted

'despite progress Pakistan's vulnerabilities and structural challenges remain formidable"

"A difficult business environment, weak governance, and an outsized role of the state hinder investment, which remains very low compared to peers. while the tax base remains too narrow to ensure tax fairness, fiscal sustainability and meet Pakistan's large social and development spending needs

Man killed, three injured

HUB (INP): A man was killed and three others injured in separate road accidents in different localities

The first accident took place near Baldia Plaza at Hub River road where a identified Muhammad Ali was killed while Ali Noor was injured

The body and injured

in Hub road mishaps

lided at Gaddani Mor resulting injuries to two

were shifted to different hospitals where condition of the wounded people was stated to be stable.

of Hub on Saturday.

in a road mishap.

A truck and car col-



QUETTA: Different delegations meeting with Provincial Minister for Envi ronment and Climate Change Naseem ur Rehman Mulakhail.

UoMP hosts seminar on

capitalizing natural

sity of Makran, Panjgur

(UoMP), hosted a seminar

on the pivotal topic "Capi-

talizing Natural Resources

of Balochistan for National

Development," bringing to-

gether experts and repre-

sentatives from various sec-

tors. The event was graced

by distinguished guests, in-

cluding Sohail Khan

Bangash and Sher Muhammad from the Paki-

stan Poverty Alleviation

Fund (PPAF), Deputy

Commissioner Panjgur

Zahid Hussain Langove,

and Chairman District

Council Panjgur Abdul

was delivered by Sohail

Khan Bangash, who empha-

sized the vast potential of

Balochistan's natural re-

sources and their crucial role

in the socio-economic de-

velopment of the province

and Pakistan as a whole.

The Keynote Speech

Malik Saleh Baloch.

of occupying Indian army guns POONCH (APP): Azad This is Azad Jammu ister of Azad Kashmir at a Jammu Kashmir Prime Kashmir, which stands as meeting organized by the Minister Ch. Anwarul-Haq peaceful territory. There is Minister of Tourism, Sardar said on Friday that Azad a history of cruelty and bru- Amir Altaf, in the Hajira Jammu Kashmir has completely rejected the sham The relationship of the District. people, which was weak-Addressing the public, Prime Minister Haq said ened, is being restored. Esthat this region was liber-

HYDERABAD: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman ad-

dresses to his supporters during public gathering meeting held at Kohinoor

AJK rejects sham elections in

IIOJ&K held under shadow

elections held in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir state under the supervision of the occupying Indian army. "We also reject any

Chowk in Hyderabad.

formula that smacks of divided Kashmir. We will not hesitate to make any sacrifice to support the people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir State," the AJK Prime Minister said this while addressing a public meeting in Hajira in Poonch Division

I thank the people of the area of Sardar Khan Bahadur Khan (late) for their warm welcome. We have to understand the ideology of our forefathers and adopt the role of following

tablishing social protection funds by reducing unnecessary expenditure is a major initiative for the poor the land of Poonch, and the people of the state, he added. On this occasion, spent their lives in estab-Prime Minister Haq announced the urgent construction of Tirar Khel-HHadi Tarpi Maidan Road, Hajira twelve and a half-kilometer bypass road, Trar Khel Bypass Road, and construction of a bridge over

Ranger Nala Hajira, Hajira. He also announced 7 lakhs for Hajira Press Club, while Government Minister Amir Altaf Khan announced 10 lakhs.

These views were expressed by the Prime Min-

people of Gaza. It's been a

year that they are fighting a

war and they haven't sur-

45,000 people - 30,000

women and children among

leaders who were "eager to

accept Israel" and asked

them to come out for Pal-

government of form 47 or

45, we have to accept it and

talk to it. We must ask the

government to spare one

hour and lead people to speak up for Palestine," he

dents to come out of their

institutions to show soli-

dened us with illegal power

bills should compensate

consumers of power distri-

bution companies. We will

fight their case with full

force," said Naeem.

darity with Palestinians.

He also asked stu-

'The rulers who bur-

emphasised.

estine cause on Oct 7.

He reprimanded the

"Whether it be the

them - have been killed,

said the JI emir.

KARACHI: People visiting an exhibition at Arts

Hafiz Naeem sticks to

countrywide protest plan

Friday protests would be rendered yet. As many as

Council in the Provincial Capital.

HYDERABAD (INP):

Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz

Naeemur Rehman said on

held all over Pakistan on

Sept 29 (Sunday).
"First we went for

shutter-down strike, now

we will go for a wheel-jam strike," he warned the gov-

ernment while addressing a

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)..

after the arrest of their

leader the party is divided.

They want to run political

parties as one-man show.

but Jamaat-e-Islami has

proper electoral setup," he

movement for restoration of

democracy and supremacy

of constitution. It is our re-

sponsibility to make the

young people independent

and we are already running

the movement of "Haq do

Hyderabad" successfully,"

"We are running the

"Look at the Pakistan

rally in Hyderabad.

added.



ated due to the sacrifices of

the martyrs and ghazis of

lishing and protecting this

teen months is visible on the

ground. The meritocracy

has freed the NTS and the

Public Service Commission

from political influence, he

Sardar Amir Altaf Khan. while addressing the meet-

ing, thanked Prime Minis-

Minister of TEVTA

further highlighted.

The work done in six-

system

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Min-ister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has expressed grief and sorrow over the oss of precious lives in the helicopter crash occurred in North Waziristan.

In a condolence statement issued here on Saturday, the Chief Minister said that the incident is sorrowful and he is deeply grieved over the loss of lives in it.

He said that we share the grief with the bereaved families in the time of trial.

PIA awarded **National** Tourism award

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has been awarded the prestigious National Tourism Award for its significant contributions to promoting domestic tourism. During a ceremony held on World Tourism Day, the award was presented to PIA CEO Air vice Marshal Amir Hayat. PIA, Pakistan, first national tourism award, PIA receive award PIA was recognized for its unique role in connecting the country's regions both domestically and internationally. The airline has actively campaigned to showcase Pakistan's breathtaking

resources of Balochistan QUETTA (APP): Univer- portunities, contributing to national growth and pros-

perity.

DC Zahid Hussain Langove, highlighted the need to further explore and utilize the untapped natural resources of the region. He stressed the im-

portance of channeling the benefits of these resources into education, research, and development, which would ultimately foster a more sustainable and progressive future for the province. While expressing his views the district Chairman Abdul Malik Saleh Baloch discussed the role of national integration in the process of capitalizing on natural resources. He underscored that the coordinated efforts of all provinces and regions would ensure the equitable distribution of benefits derived from natural resources, strengthening national unity and collective progress. While addressing

He elaborated on how effectively utilizing these the participants, the worthy resources could bring about Vice Chancellor University significant improvements in of Makran, Panjgur (UoMP) living standards, infrastruc-Dr. Abdul Malik Tareen conture, and employment opcluded the seminar.



QUETTA: President HELP Balochistan Dr. Ameer Muhammad Jogezai giving away shield to Commissioner FBR Asad Luni on best performance.

Govt's anti**electricity** theft drive leads to key results

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistani government's efforts to revive the national economy and address the electricity crisis have begun to show positive outcomes.

A nationwide crackdown on electricity theft has resulted in substantial financial recoveries and numerous arrests.

According to recent reports, authorities have recovered Rs. 118.93 billion and apprehended more than 85,330 individuals involved in power theft across the country. This week alone, relevant agencies collected over Rs. 3 billion from electricity pilferers in major cities.

USC announces discount on **170 items**

ISLAMABAD (APP): In order to provide relief to the masses and make essential items more affordable, the Utility Store Corporation (USC) on Saturday announced Rs. 10 to Rs. 190 discount on around 170 items of different brands with immediate effect.

These items includes tea, various spices, and other essential products, said a news release. It is worth mentioning here that, the corporation already provided discount on around 800 items of different 48 brands. USC remains committed to providing standard food products at discounted prices compared to the open market.

ISLAMABAD (APP): journalism in upholding the Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, and equality. He noted the growing challenge of combating mis-

information and fake news in the digital age, urging journalists to fulfill their duty by ensuring fact-based, impartial reporting.

"Journalists must play a key role in ensuring fact-based and unbiased news," he stressed.

Sadiq paid tribute to journalists working under difficult and dangerous conditions to uncover the truth, honoring their sacrifices and dedication

"A free and indepen dent media is essential for Pakistan's progress and prosperity,"he reiterated.

He saluted those who risk their lives for the sake of public awareness

'A free media is essential for the country's progress and prosperity, he said, assuring that the National Assembly will continue to protect freedom lighted the importance of of expression," he added.



QUETTA: Balochistan National Party (BNP-Awami) Chief, Mir Asad Baloch addresses to media persons during press conference, at his residence in Quetta.

PM cogently presented Kashmir, Palestine case at UNGA: Khawaja Asif

NEW YORK (INP): Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif forcefully presented the case of Kashmir and Palestine at the UN General As-

Khawaja Asif during a meeting with Pakistani community in New York, said the Prime Minister represented the aspirations

sponse in case of Indian Terming overseas Pa-

kistanis as the precious asset of the country, he commended the valuable role of Overseas Pakistanis in the national development of the country. Khawaja Asif said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed all embassies to resolve the issues being faced by Overof the nation by giving the message of befitting reseas Pakistanis on priority basis.

Mushaal Hussein Mullick thanks Pakistan's PM for championing Kashmir cause

Mushaal Hussein Mullick, renowned peace activist and wife of jailed Senior Kashmiri leader Mohammad Yasin Malik Saturday expressed her gratitude to Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif for his unwavering support of Kashmir at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). In her video mes-

sage on the PTV news, she acknowledged the Prime Minister's efforts to raise world awareness about the human rights violations in Kashmir and his unwavering commitment to the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

Prime Minister effectively cial status granted

ISLAMABAD (APP): highlighted India's terrorism in Kashmir at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The Prime Minister's address emphasized India's role in perpetuating violence in the region, which has led to numerous human rights violations, she added.

She said Pakistan's Prime Minister has exposed the sham elections in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and highlighted the illegitimacy of the Indian army's presence, which numbers over 1 million troops. The Prime Minister's address effectively highlighted the tensions between India and Pakistan, which escalated She praised that the after India revoked the spe-



Malik Baloch offering Dua after inaugurating latest solarization system at BRC College.

Political tensions rise over constitutional amendments

MULTAN (INP): Federal court for taking an extended Advisor on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah emphasized the significance of including Maulana Fazlur Rehman in the ongoing constitutional amendment process, despite the challenges posed by the Supreme Court's decision on Article 63A. Sanaullah noted that even without Rehman's votes, amendments could still potentially pass, but insisted that it would be unwise to exclude him from negotiations. He expressed this while talking to a private TV channel.

Sanaullah expressed concerns regarding the current relationship between political institutions, suggesting that mutual conflicts could be resolved if each entity operated within its designated limits. He criticized the apex

90 days to interpret constitutional matters, arguing that such delays raise questions about the authority of the judiciary, particularly when it comes to crucial decisions affecting the political landscape. He pointed out that the judiciary's influence over constitutional amendments, particularly referencing the controversial 19th Amendment, has sparked significant backlash. "The Supreme Court cannot dictate to Parliament," Sanaullah asserted, calling for a reevaluation of the judicial authority in legislative matters. The discussion also touched upon the need for consensus on Article 8 of the proposed amendments, which has faced scrutiny from various political fac-

said Naeem "We cannot forget the