

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

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Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses a banquet he hosted in honor of Parliamentarians in Islamabad

Minister Port & Shipping, Secretary General IMO visit Gaddani: "Federal Government approved project of modernization of Ship breaking Industry costing Rs. 12 billion"

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Federal Minister for Port, Shipping and Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Sheikh and Secretary General of IMO, Arsenio Dominguez visited Gaddani on Saturday.

The Federal Minister Port and Shipping and Secretary General of IMO were welcomed by the Chairman, Balochistan Development Authority (BDA), Captain (Retd) Javed.

The General Manager KPT, Rear Admiral Rizwan Ahmed and other high ups were also accompanied them.

The briefing was conducted about the operational and industrial activities at Gaddani ship breaking yard.

It was informed that the federal government has approved the project of modernisation of the ship breaking industry costing Rs. 12 billion.

It was further informed that we are heading towards ship recycling and green yard under the Hong Kong Convention.

The projects are included: waste management plan, 30-bedded hospital, blacktop road, modern fire brigade station.

It was informed that fire fighting training session has also been conducted for health and safety of the labourers.

The process of modernization of ship breaking industry would be completed under HKC by the end June next year, it was added.

Also present on the occasion were the Chairman GPA, Pasand Khan Buledi, Director IMO, John Alanso, Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Syed Syedddin Raza Zaidi.

Meanwhile, the Federal Minister and Secretary General IMO also laid foundation stone of the Industrial Waste Management Plant site. They also laid foundation of the 30-bedded hospital.

APP adds: The Secretary General of International Maritime Organization Arsenio Dominguez paid visit to Gaddani Ship Breaking Yard and industry would be completed under HKC by the end June next year, it was added.

Two police personnels martyred, one injured in Kuchlak explosion

Independent Report

QUETTA: Two police personnels including an Assistant Sub-Inspector were killed and another got injured in an explosion took place near the police mobile in Kuchlak area located on Bostan road on Saturday.

According to the police, the blast occurred near the police patrolling mobile of the Kuchlak police parked along the Bostan road, when an explosive device planted there went off with a big bang.

As a result of which, three personnels of the area police on duty sustained serious injuries. They were moved to the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital by the police and rescue teams. However, two of them succumbed to the serious injuries caused due to the splinters of the explosive material.

The investigating police team and bomb disposal squad reached the spot and started investigations into the blast.

The police sources said that the explosive material weighing 8-10 kilograms was used in the explosion. It was also learnt that the blast was carried out through time device.

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PM emphasizes Parliament's supremacy, calls for legislation in national interest

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday highlighting the importance of legislative efforts in the national and public interest, said that Parliament was the supreme institution of the country.

He underscored that the sanctity of Parliament must always be upheld, adding that national issues should only be resolved through Parliament.

He was addressing a banquet, he hosted in honor of Parliamentarians here.

The prime minister said the incumbent government had steered the country away from the risk of default and towards stability. "Political stability is crucial for ensuring economic stability and advancing the country on the path of development," he added.

He pointed out that the anti-state elements made every effort for the country to default.

He said there were attempts to drag constitutional institutions and non-political figures into politics and make them a party.

"The Charter of Democracy was signed under the leadership of Mian Nawaz Sharif and the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto that permanently blocked the path for unconstitutional actions," the prime minister said.

He added that politics will continue, but the continuity of policies was crucial to save the country.

He highlighted that the country was making significant progress before 2018 under the leadership of Mian Nawaz Sharif, however a well-planned conspiracy was executed to remove him from the political landscape.

"This conspiracy proved to be very expensive for Pakistan and its people as within the next three years, an incompetent government brought the country at the verge of default," he added.

The prime minister said "when Allah Almighty entrusted us with the responsibility of pulling Pakistan out of economic quagmire, all political parties sacrificed their politics to save the country".

He expressed his satisfaction that today the country's economy was stabilizing again due to the prudent policies of the government. He said inflation was gradually decreasing and the policy rates cut will boost business activities in the country, create new employment opportunities, and increase exports.

He said the increase in remittances reflected the trust of overseas Pakistanis in the government. However he said much more remained to be done for the country's development.

Let us make a pledge today that we will work tirelessly for the nation's progress," the prime minister said.



GADDANI: Secretary General International Maritime Organization Arsenio Antonio Dominguez along with Federal Minister for Port and Shipping Qaiser Sheikh visiting Gaddani Ship breaking yard

China expresses support to Pakistan's territorial integrity

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS), General Sahir Shamshad Mirza on



held separate meetings with Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), General He Weidong and Chief of CMC Joint Staff Department, General Liu Zhenli and delivered a talk in 11th Beijing Xiangshan Forum on the Role of Pakistan towards regional peace and stability.

During meetings, both sides appreciated deep and historic relationship of Pakistan and China in multiple domains and acknowledged assuring progress on the bilateral strategic cooperative partnership and defence cooperation, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The Chinese leadership also reaffirmed their unfettered commitment to support Pakistan on its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Bilawal terms PTI founder's tweet as an attack on democracy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Saturday condemned a tweet by the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) calling it an attack on democracy.

Addressing in the National Assembly on a point of order, Bilawal Bhutto referenced a statement allegedly made by "Prisoner No. 804," accusing him of undermining every constitutional institution for personal political gain and to seek relief from ongoing cases.

Bilawal Bhutto urged the PTI leadership to verify whether the tweet was genuinely from their founder.

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Raheela Durrani visits Khana-e-Farhang Iran



QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Education Minister Raheela Hameed Durrani visited Khana Farhang, Iran, a statement issued on Saturday said.

Upon the Minister's arrival, Director General Khana Farhang Syed Abul Hasan Meri warmly welcomed the distinguished guest.

The two leaders agreed to increase cooperation between Balochistan and Iran in educational activities along with the exchange of students and teachers.

Director General Khana Farhang Iran stressing the need for enhancing cooperation between two countries announced a scholarship program for Balochistan students from Master's degree to PhD in Iranian universities.

On this occasion, the provincial education minister Raheela Durrani said that there are deep cultural, historical and cultural relations between Pakistan and Iran.

"The student exchange program between Balochistan and Iran and the training of teachers in Iran will be a milestone in the educational development of the province," she hoped.

CM strongly condemns Kuchlak blast; pays homage to martyr police cops

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has strongly condemned the explosion targeted police mobile in Kuchlak area on Bostan road.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Saturday, the Chief Minister paid homage to the police cops martyred in the bomb blast and expressed heartfelt sympathy and condolence with the bereaved families of the martyrs.

He said that the great sacrifices of the Balochistan police, Levies and security forces against terrorism can't be forgotten.

The Chief Minister said that we would eliminate the terrorists and their facilitators anyway.

He said that the whole nation is standing shoulder to shoulder with its brave forces.

He also paid homage to the sacrifices of the martyrs rendered for restoration of peace in the province and country.

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Constitutional bill in line with COD endorsed by all political parties including PTI: Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Leader of the House in the Senate and Deputy Prime Minister, Senator Ishaq Dar on Saturday apprised the Upper House of the Parliament that the Constitutional Bill was in line with the provisions of the Charter of Democracy (COD) endorsed by all the political parties including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

The Leader of the House was addressing to the 10th meeting of the 342nd Senate session held under Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani.

Senator Ishaq Dar underlined that there was a disconnect between the Leader of the Opposition's party leadership in the Senate and the National Assembly.

"It was the third in camera meeting of the Special Parliamentary Committee in the Parliament which was participated by Chairman PTI, Barrister Gohar Ali and Opposition Leader

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Six killed as bus plunges into ditch in Sherani

QUETTA (INP): At least six people were killed and several others injured after a passenger bus fell into a ditch in district Sherani's Danasar area of Balochistan's Zhub.

The ill-fated bus was going from Islamabad to Quetta, said Levies. Those injured in the accident have been transferred to the hospital.

Meanwhile, the Balochistan government has ordered probe into the deadly accident.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the tragic traffic accident in Sherani district of Balochistan.

In a similar incident on May 21, at least 20 persons died and 21 more were wounded when a bus fell into a deep ravine in Diamer, a city in Gilgit-Baltistan province.

The accident occurred on the Karakoram Highway in Yashukhaldas area of Diamer. The bus was travelling to Hunza from Rawalpindi when it fell into a gorge after the driver lost control. The bus was carrying more than 35 passengers to Hunza.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Moazzam Jah Ansari and others carrying coffin of a policeman martyred in Kuchlak blast

CM directs RTA to cancel route permits of transport companies on violation of laws

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the bus accident occurred near Dana Sar area of Shirani and directed the Secretary Regional Transport Authority (RTA) to take action against the transport company on proving negligence.

In an official statement issued here on Saturday, the Chief Minister expressed condolence and grief with the bereaved family members of those died in the bus accident.

He directed to provide best medical treatment facilities to those injured in the accident.

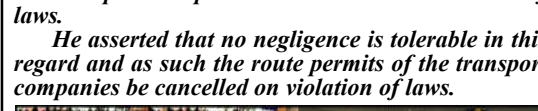
He said that investigations of the bus accident are being carried out and warned that action would be taken against the bus company if proved negligence in it.

The Chief Minister said that the bus companies have been asked to strictly follow the standard operating procedures (SOPs) including trekkers time and again.

He ordered to the Secretary RTA to take action against the transport companies involved in the violation of laws.

He asserted that no negligence is tolerable in this regard and as such the route permits of the transport companies be cancelled on violation of laws.

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KHUZDAR: GOC 33 Division Major General Jawad Ahmed (HIM) addressing passing out parade of Balochistan levies force personnel

Pakistan decries US sanctions as biased, politically motivated

ISLAMABAD (APP): Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, on Saturday, said that Pakistan considered the United States' decision to impose sanctions on commercial entities over alleged connections to Pakistan's ballistic missile program as biased and politically motivated.

In response to media inquiries about the US decision to impose sanctions on commercial entities over alleged connections to Pakistan's ballistic missile program, she stated that similar listings of commercial entities in past were based on mere suspicion, involved items not listed by any export control regime, and yet were considered sensitive under broad, catch-all provisions.

It is widely known that some countries while claiming strict adherence to nonproliferation norms, have conveniently waived licensing requirements for advanced military technologies to their favoured states.

Such double standards and discriminatory practices undermine the credibility of global nonproliferation regimes, increase military asymmetries, and endanger international peace and security, said the spokesperson.

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SC slams delay tactics, warns against non-implementation of reserved seats verdict

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Supreme Court of Pakistan has criticised the delay in implementing its decision on the reserved seats case, warning of serious consequences if the ruling is not implemented.

An eight-judge bench, which ruled on the reserved seats issue concerning the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), instructed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to immediately release the list of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) returned candidates.

The court's four-page statement made it clear that the absence of an election symbol does not void a political party's legal and constitutional rights.

"PTI remains a recognised political party and has secured seats in both national and provincial assemblies," the judges stated.

In July, the full-court bench accepted an appeal from the SIC, a PTI-affiliated party, overturning a Peshawar High Court order that upheld the ECP's decision to deny SIC reserved seats in legislative assemblies. The decision allowed PTI to regain its position as the largest party in the National Assembly by securing reserved seats. A majority of the judges recognised 39 of the 80 SIC lawmakers as PTI members based on party affiliation certificates submitted prior to the general election, and allowed the remaining 41 to join PTI within 15 days. However, five judges, including Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, dissented from the majority opinion.

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Jam pushes for licensed fuel stations to boost Balochistan's economic growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Oil Marketing Association of Pakistan, led by its Senior Vice Chairman Tariq Mehmood, met with Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan to explore the expansion and development of the fuel oil industry in Balochistan.

The discussions focused on increasing the presence of licensed fuel stations across the province, aiming to provide quality products and better services for the local population, said a press release issued here on Saturday.

During the meeting, Tariq Mehmood emphasized the need for a gradual rollout of licensed fuel stations in Balochistan, stating that this would ensure

high-quality fuel products for the region and improve overall consumer experience. He called for increased facilitation to the people through these regulated stations. Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan suggested that each oil company should have at least two to three fuel stations in each district of the province to boost business activities and create employment opportunities. Such initiatives would support Balochistan's economic growth, he added.

Jam Kamal Khan contacted Chief Minister of Balochistan, Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, during the meeting to seek his support.

The Chief Minister appreciated the idea and assured full backing from the provincial government.

Jam Kamal Khan also reaffirmed the federal government's full support for the Oil Marketing Association's plans.

Jam highlighted that the shift toward licensed fuel stations would benefit both consumers and sellers by ensuring quality control and fostering a competitive business environment.

"We should gradually move towards a framework of licensed fuel stations, which would create a win-win situation for all involved, ensuring consumers receive high-quality products while boosting business opportunities for station owners," the minister remarked.

PM directs E-Vehicles policy finalization by November

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif on Saturday instructed relevant authorities to formulate a detailed financial framework for electric vehicles by November this year and streamline licensing regulations for their manufacture in Pakistan.

Chairing a meeting in Islamabad, the prime minister instructed that essential consultations be held with the Finance Ministry, the State Bank of Pakistan, all provinces, federal units, and relevant stakeholders concerning the electric vehicles policy. Shabbaz Sharif emphasized, "The government is prioritizing the promotion of electric vehicles in the country."

He highlighted, "These vehicles will not only conserve valuable foreign exchange by reducing imports of petrol and diesel but also offer environmental benefits."

The prime minister announced plans to distribute e-motorbikes to exceptional students from government schools, following a model similar to the laptop scheme.

The prime minister stated that, moving forward, all federal government institutions would exclusively pur-

chase electric motorbikes to conserve national resources.

He had instructed that directives be issued to all federal ministries accordingly. Additionally, he directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to develop a detailed plan for implementing electrified public transport in Islamabad. During the briefing, it was reported that, since 2022, 49 licenses had been issued for the local production of two- and three-wheeled electric vehicles, with 25 factories were already operational.

The forum was informed that the first license for the domestic production of four-wheeled electric vehicles was issued in September this year, and the first locally manufactured electric car is expected to be available in the market by December. The meeting was informed that the country currently has 45,000 two- and three-wheeled electric vehicles, as well as 2,600 four-wheeled electric vehicles. Additionally, it was told that the installation of recharging stations for electric vehicles would be prioritized along motorways, GT Road (National Highway 5), and National Highways 65 and 70.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on the use of Electric Vehicles.



KHUZDAR: Commissioner Kalat Division Muhammad Naeem Khan distributing gifts among levies force personnel who completed training from Pakistan Army 33 Division

ISSI hosts think-tank dialogue with Chinese Delegation on arms control and disarmament issues

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: The Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized an In-House Meeting with a Chinese delegation led by Mr. SUN Xiaobo, Director General, Department of Arms Control, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Beijing. Other members of the delegation included: Mr. Xie Xinxing, Deputy Division Director, Ms. XIAO Yue, Deputy Division Director, and Jiang Yingbo, Second Secretary, Department of Arms Control, MFA; and Mr. Xu Hangtian, Minister Counsellor and Ms. Wan YiQiu, Third Secretary, Embassy of China, Islamabad.

The Session was attended by distinguished former diplomats, practitioners, academics, and think-tank experts including: Ambassador Zamir Akram; Ambassador Masood Khalid; Ambassador Tehmina Janjua; Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi; Ambassador Babar Amin; Mr Haroon Rashid, DG SECDIV; Maj Gen. @ Ausaf Ali; Maj. Gen. @ Naseer Ali Khan; Dr. Salma Malik, QAU; Dr. Shabana Fayyaz, QAU; Air Commodore @ Khalid Banuri; Mr Kamran Hashmi, NIMA; Dr. Adil Sultan, Air University; Mr. Imran

Ahmad Khan and Mr. Rashid Sultan, PAEC; and Dr. Ghulam Mujaddid, NDU.

Participants from the ISSI included Director General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Chairman BoG Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Centers' Directors, and members of the ACDC team. The event was moderated by director ACDC Malik Qasim Mustafa.

The participants discussed a wide range of subjects - including global trends and challenges facing arms controls and disarmament regime; challenges posed by emerging technologies; managing the risks of AI; rising major-power competition; militarization of outer space; ongoing Ukraine conflict and the increased risk of nuclear clash; deepening Indo-US strategic partnership; regional and global security dynamics; and China's Global Security Initiative.

The wide-ranging interaction exuded the spirit of Pakistan-China relationship marked by strategic mutual trust and reinforced common perceptions and convergent positions on security and strategic issues of common interest.

At the end, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood presented ISSI shield to the Chinese

Commissioner Kohat urges public not to link polio vaccination to other demands

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: Commissioner Kohat, Syed Motasim Billah Shah, has appealed to the public not to link polio vaccination with other demands like electricity, roads, and gas, emphasizing that it is a matter of children's health and future.

Speaking at an awareness session in Lachi, Commissioner Shah stressed that every member of society should administer polio drops to protect their children from lifelong disability.

The session, held under the Chief Minister's "Awami Agenda" program, was attended by MPA Daud Shah Afridi, Tehsil Chairman Ehsan Khan, EPI Coordinator Dr. Mohabbat Ali Bangash, and frontline workers.

The Commissioner's appeal comes amid concerns over polio vaccination boycotts in some areas, highlighting the need for community support to eradicate the disease.

Sardar Tanvir Ilyas meets AJK PM

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Sardar Tanvir Ilyas, called on the current Prime Minister, Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, at the AJK House in Islamabad.

Member of the Assembly, Ali Shan Soni, and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Sardar Ahmed Sagheer, were also present during the meeting.

The discussion focused

on various issues, including the situation in occupied Kashmir, Development and progress in Azad Kashmir, Political scenario

Both leaders agreed to work together to formulate a future strategy for Kashmir's liberation movement and AJK's development. The meeting aimed to foster unity and cooperation among Kashmiri leaders to address pressing issues and advance the region's interests.

Customs seize smuggled vehicles and goods in anti-smuggling operation

Independent Report

KARACHI: Pursuant to strict policy and drive initiated upon the directions of Muhammad Ali Raza Hanjra, Director General, Intelligence & Investigation-Customs, Islamabad, various operations (anti-smuggling) were conducted under the supervision of Masood Ahmed, Director, Customs Intelligence and Investigation, Karachi against the smuggled goods.

As a result of geared up anti-smuggling efforts during the period from 1st September to 13th Septem-

ber 2024, seventeen (17) seizures were effected pertaining to smuggled / non-duty paid foreign origin vehicles and miscellaneous goods valuing 376 million (Approximately). Vehicles include two (02) heavy bikes and seven (07) luxurious vehicles like Lexus, Prado, Surf, Aqua, etc. fetching market value of Rs.260 million. Seized goods include LCD TVs (400 nos), plastic dana (28,700 kg), Sodium Glutamate (Ajinomoto) (1,950 kg), Printing Ink (900 kg).

Federal Government approved...

Continued from page 1

spected different sites of the facility and inaugurated foundation stone of a hospital for the ship breakers and industrial waste water treatment plant.

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh, Chairman KPT, Chairman Balochistan Development Authority and Other officials were accompanied with the visiting dignitary.

Speaking on the occasion, Arsenio Dominguez said while breaking and recycling the ship it was important to maintain safety of the workers, environment and eco-system of the surrounding areas. In order to meet the safety standards, he urged all the persons and stakeholders involved in the ship breaking industry to strictly adhere to the designated safety protocols of the ship breaking.

Speaking about Pakistan's compliance to the Hong Kong Convention, Arsenio Dominguez expressed satisfaction over adherence to all protocols. He also acknowledged Pakistan's potential in ship breaking industry and showed interest for further visits.

Two police personnel...

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However, further investigations are in progress by the area police.

No one has claimed responsibility of the subversive act till ours going to the press.

Meanwhile the Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of police personnel following bomb blast took place near the police mobile on Bostan road in Kuchlak.

In an official condemnation statement issued here on Saturday, the Governor said that we would foil the nefarious designs of those spreading terrorism and fear together with the joint endeavours of government and people.

He exhorted all the law enforcement agencies to take wholehearted steps for elimination of terrorists and miscreants.

The Governor prayed for the departed souls of martyr personnel and expressed condolence and solidarity with the bereaved families of martyrs.

Geneva seminar highlights plight of Kashmiri women amid ongoing conflict

Independent Report

GENEVA (INP): Speakers at a seminar in Geneva shed light on the severe impact of the Kashmir conflict on women, highlighting the profound suffering inflicted by Indian state terrorism.

The seminar titled "Women in Conflicts" was hosted by International Muslim Women's Union in collaboration with Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR), AHRAAM and other organizations. The event featured a distinguished panel of human rights activists,

academicians, and international law experts, including Ms. Shamim Shawl, Ms. Caroline Handschin Moussir, Barrister Margaret Owen, Ms. Wendi Momen, Ms. Zarin Hansworth, Ms. Setta Harris, Ms. Hadia Sartaj, Ms. Naila Altaf Kanynie, and others. The speakers emphasized the extreme vulnerability of Kashmiri women, who have endured significant physical and psychological trauma due to the ongoing conflict. They urged global human rights organi-

zations to take urgent action to end the cycle of violence and mistreatment perpetrated by Indian forces against Kashmiri women.

They highlighted the ongoing trauma experienced by women in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, citing numerous heart-wrenching incidents of mass rape, including the infamous Kunan-Poshpora case. Despite over 32 years having passed since the horrific incident, the victims of Kunan-Poshpora remain without justice.

All possible measures being taken for promotion of education: Dr. Naseer

Independent Report

QUETTA: All possible measures are being taken for the promotion of education, Dr. Naseer Ali Shah, Provincial Minister of Education and Education Secretary, are solving the problems of teachers and students.

Addressing Quetta (P) District Education Officer Quetta Dr. Naseer Ali Shah chaired a meeting regarding the transfer of Hazara Town Girls High School Quetta to the new building of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Government Girls High School Hazara Town Quetta. MK Aqeel Ahmed Headmistress Government Girls High School Zahra PTSMC Chairman Agha Ali Muhammad Member Muhammad Ali and PPP leader Dar Muhammad and other members Uzmi Kanwal, Saghra Raza Rubina Yousufi and elders of the area participated District Education Officer Dr. Naseer Ali Shah said that the purpose of holding the meeting is to transfer Government Girls High School Hazara Town to the building of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Government Girls High School in Hazara Town.

PPP leader Dar Muhammad handed over to the headmistress. On this occasion RTSM Aqeel Ahmed and PTSMC members were present. District Education Officer Dr. Naseer Ali Shah said that development is not possible without education.

The society is developing, he said that due to the tireless efforts of the provincial education minister Rahalya Durrani and education secretary Saleh Muhammad Nasir, the problems of the teachers and students of the schools are being solved by shifting



the school to a new building, providing facilities to the people of the area in getting education for the students.

It will be easy Dr. Naseer Ali Shah, Aqeel Ahmed, Kaniz Zahra and PTSMC Chairman and members visited Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Government Girls High School.

Constitutional bill in line with COD...

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in the National Assembly, Omar Ayub Khan who was absent in the previous two meetings. There have been discussion on different agenda items," he said.

He added that the Opposition Leader should seek details from his colleagues on the special committee meetings.

Senator Dar informed the House that the issue emerged after Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari made a statement for joint efforts to restore the prestige of the Parliament and proposed a committee of all political parties on the arrest of some members of the lower house of the Parliament.

"I on behalf of the government instantly endorsed the suggestion and after the House resolution, a committee was formed and all political parties in the National Assembly have their representation. I would request that committee to give representation to the Senate as it's a special body on general issues and the resolution TORs entitled matters pertaining to the parliament, parliamentarians, constitutions and rules and business of procedures," the Leader of the House said.

The issues pertaining to the Constitutional Bill have been discussed in the Special Committee, the Opposition Leader should get details from his colleagues, he said, adding, "Under the Charter of Democracy, the article four demanded a constitutional court in the country to hear constitutional petitions and dispose of them. The elite class in the country gets swift petition hearings whereas 60,000 cases are pending in the Supreme Court including 25% constitutional pe-

titions and 50% constitutional petitions in the High Courts."

The charter was not done by two political parties whereas after few weeks all political parties were convened, and they endorsed the document including the then PTI Chairman, and founder, he added.

"The Constitutional Court is not new but rather it was appreciated widely world over. The PTI founder and prime signatories have signed the document so there is nothing hidden. I am not privy to the Bill and it's the prerogative of the Law Minister," he added.

The Leader of the House said it was not something strange but rather a routine legislative procedure practice done in any government. "We all should unite to resolve the delay in dispensation of justice in constitutional petitions. The Opposition should support the government and I assure the opposition that there would be no surprise in the legislation as we have to resolve public issues and this country has potential to reemerge as a succeeding nation," he said.

He emphasized that the Opposition and Treasury benches should cooperate on the public and national interest matters as there would be nothing repugnant to it in the Bill.

Earlier, Chairman Senate, Syed Yousof Raza Gillani clarified that there was a court case against him in Karachi, where the court sought three queries from him pertaining to the numbers required for constitutional amendment, whether it was for the CJ, and the details of the Bill.

"I assured that if there was no majority then no bill would be tabled in the Parliament. Senator Farooq

H Naik was with me. They asked that was it for CJP I told them that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in his statement clarified that it was not person specific but in the interest of the nation and the country. However, I still do not know about the Bill. The law minister would provide his explanation after tabling the bill in the National Assembly," the Chairman Senate said.

He informed the House that the 1973 Constitution was passed by 128 votes of the House and the rest were in the east Pakistan. "After the restoration of the Constitution in its original form, it was bicameral system and not a unicameral system which was passed unanimously by 446 members of the Parliament. We ended 58 (B) to establish supremacy of the Parliament then the then President SC Bar Aasma Jahangir told me that do not be glad on it as it would be exercised by the judiciary and I was disqualified graciously and then Mian Nawaz Sharif faced it," he said.

He added that there were limitations in certain provisions of the law mistakes and all would have to rectify it whereas the government should respond on it.

Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Senator Shibli Faraz replying to the Leader of the House said, "Put your money where the mouth is...as the famous proverb goes."

He read the article 63A of the Constitution in response to Senator Ishaq Dar's request for the support of the legislation stating, "63A. Disqualification on grounds of defection, etc. (1) If a member of a Parliamentary Party composed of a single political party in a House-

(a) resigns from membership of his political party or joins another Parliamentary Party; or

(b) votes or abstains from voting in the House contrary to any direction issued by the Parliamentary Party to which he belongs, in relations to-

(i) election of the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister; or

(ii) a vote of confidence or a vote of no-confidence; or

(iii) a Money Bill or a Constitution (Amendment) Bill;"

"So it says very clearly and I rest my case," he added.

Senator Ishaq Dar said this constitutional amendment did not imply earlier on the matter which was added after the 18th amendment as it was limited to three items, election of PM and CM, Vote of No Confidence and Money Bill. But we debated during the 18th Amendment Parliamentary Committee to add the fourth item as constitutional amendment was important to limit trampling of the party line as the party may move reference for disqualification of the said members.

Law Minister Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar said whosoever would violate the decision of the parliamentary party by casting vote against its decision would be liable to get disqualified. "The Supreme Court in its decision said that they interpret the article as it will be liable to get disqualified there and his vote will not be counted which is strange as the penalty should be imposed if the act is considered otherwise it is null and void. However, the review for the judgment is pending for past two years," he said.



LAHORE: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeemur Rehman addressing a press conference

Bilawal terms PTI founder's...

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He emphasized that, until recently, the country had been progressing positively, with efforts made to strengthen democracy through legislation. However, he accused the PTI founder of showing contempt of court by attacking the Chief Justice and making politically motivated allegations against the Chief of Army Staff, with the aim of creating controversy around the position.

If the statement was indeed made by the PTI founder, Bilawal said he must face the consequences under the Constitution and laws of Pakistan. If not, he called on PTI's leadership to clarify the matter.

He said that it was the responsibility of the Leader of the Opposition or the party chairman to explain whether the account was being managed by Ali Amin or Mr. Marwat.

Bilawal Bhutto highlighted that these actions are part of a broader pattern that has emerged since the no-confidence motion ousted the Prime Minister.

He noted that PTI had previously rejected the motion, which Bilawal described as a violation of the Constitution under the pretext of Article 5, and accused the party of attempting to make the appointment of the Army Chief controversial.

During his speech, Bilawal also congratulated Makhdoom Tahir Rashiduddin on his recent election to the National Assembly and expressed gratitude to the people of Punjab and Rahim Yar Khan for their support of the PPP.

He said that their support had helped end the politics of hate and division.

Bilawal Bhutto praised

the PPP's organization in South Punjab, commending their dedication in overcoming political challenges through the power of the people. He noted that the party's candidates had earned the trust of the public, as demonstrated by the presentation of Form 45 from every polling station.

He stressed the importance of unity among politicians to restore both the Parliament and the political process in the country. However, he emphasized that this unity would only be possible if those who lose elections accept their defeat gracefully, and those who win do so with humility, respecting the will of the people.

Bilawal thanked all the candidates who participated in the recent elections, reiterating that the people of Pakistan reject the politics of hate and "Prisoner No. 804."

Gandapur must focus on own performance rather than attacking institutions: Muqam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Engr. Amir Muqam, on Saturday said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur should focus on his own performance rather than attacking national institutions.

Speaking in the National Assembly on a point of order, the minister stressed that the Chief Minister needs to adopt a constructive approach to address the province's challenges.

Amir Muqam said that the sacrifices made by the

people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for peace should not be undermined, and no one will be allowed to sabotage these efforts.

He praised the role of the armed forces in maintaining law and order in the province, noting their continued sacrifices during difficult times.

The minister strongly condemned the unfortunate incident that took place in Parliament and expressed dissatisfaction with opposition leaders who persist in criticizing political figures.

Amir Muqam also voiced concern over the de-

teriorating law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, highlighting that some residents are afraid to leave their homes at night.

Condemning Gandapur's remarks against Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, the minister stressed that women should be treated with respect and their dignity upheld.

Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Mustafa Kamal remarked that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan must understand the ground re-

alities and work towards the country's betterment.

Mustafa Kamal warned that failing to recognize the current situation could lead to widespread disillusionment among PTI members, potentially causing them to leave the party.

He emphasized the importance of directly engaging with party leaders to address these issues, rather than relying on ineffective indirect communication.

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Shazia Marri said that protecting democracy and the Parliament would serve the country's best interests.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam along with others inaugurating 14 Islamabad Expo Exhibition.



ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, listening to the problems of the citizens and police officers and issued directives on the spot for their resolution during open katchery.

Holds khuli katchery Resolving citizens' issues on merit is our top priority: IGP Islamabad

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, held a Khuli Katchery at the Central Police Office Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

During the katchery, he listened to the issues of citizens and police officers and issued directives on the spot for their resolution.

He said that resolving citizens' issues on merit is our top priority. Negligence

and carelessness in duties will not be tolerated. Any citizen facing any issue related to the police can come to the Khuli Katchery. My office is always open for my citizens, the IGP said.

IG Islamabad further directed the concerned officers to resolve the citizen grievances on merit within the stipulated time frame and report back to the Central Police Office.

He directed all SDPOs and SHO's to adhere to the designated office hours and

prioritize resolving citizens' issues.

On this occasion, the IG Islamabad said that the Islamabad Police are taking various measures for the facilitation of citizens. The daily holding of Khuli Katchery helps in resolving issues on a priority basis, he added.

Moreover, all zonal officers and SHO's are directed to meet citizens during the designated office hours and resolve their issues promptly and on merit.

Pak-China bilateral consultations on arms control held in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and China held the 9th round of bilateral consultations on arms control and non-proliferation in Islamabad, discussing global and regional security, emerging technologies, and bilateral cooperation.

The talks were led by Ambassador Tahir Andrabi and Director General Sun Xiaobo, who also met with Foreign Secretary Ambassador Anna Baloch. Both sides agreed to continue regular exchanges and consultations, with the next round scheduled for Beijing next year.

The two sides held in-depth discussions on the entire spectrum of arms control & nonproliferation issues; global and regional security; new and emerging technologies; cyber-security; artificial intelligence; outer space; and bilateral

cooperation in the peaceful applications of nuclear technology. Agenda and dynamics at multilateral forums such as the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, the Conference on Disarmament, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and various Conventions/Treaty Bodies related to disarmament were reviewed.

Director General Sun Xiaobo also called on Foreign Secretary Ambassador Anna Baloch. Noting the positive trajectory of Pakistan-China bilateral relations, they underlined the importance of regular exchanges and consultations on arms control & nonproliferation as an important part of the Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue.



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

PMYP announces interview panel for NYC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) on Saturday announced the formation of an interview panel tasked with evaluating candidates for the upcoming batch of the National Youth Council (NYC).

According to the PMYP office, the panel comprised a group of esteemed professionals and leaders dedicated to fostering youth development and engagement across the nation including the Chairman of the Higher Education Commission Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman of the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission Ms Gulmeena Bilal Ahmed, Member of Parliament and Focal Person on Green Youth Movement Dr Syeda Anna Batool, Rector of Superior University and International Linkages Prof. Dr Sumaira Rehman, Chairman of the Board of Governors, University of Lahore Awaiz Rauf, Programme Analyst for Adolescents and Youth at UNFPA Ms Zahra Jabeen, Human Resource Person at the British Council Iftikhar Ahmed and Deputy Secretary of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme Dr Muhammad Ali Malik. To ensure transparency and integrity in the selection process for Batch 3 of the National Youth Council.

Ayaz says: Strengthening democratic institutions essential for prosperity of country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Saturday emphasized that the strength of the democratic system and the stability of democratic institutions are pivotal for the development and prosperity of the country.

He said that in democratic nations, people have the right to choose their leadership through their votes.

"They elect their representatives to the assemblies, and these elected representatives legislate and

make policies to protect the people's rights and ensure their welfare in line with the public's aspirations." He expressed these views in his message on the International Day of Democracy, observed annually on September 15.

The Speaker highlighted that democracy guarantees freedom of expression and other fundamental rights.

"The country's progress and prosperity are closely tied to the continuity of the democratic system."

Call for collaborative efforts to address shrinking spaces for civil society

ISLAMABAD (APP): Civil society representatives at an Open Public Forum underscored the urgent need for collaborative efforts to address the shrinking spaces for civil society in Pakistan.

The participants emphasized the need for enhanced collective advocacy to reform restrictive regulations impacting civil society.

Building alliances with business groups, academics, and international organizations was highlighted

as crucial for advancing policy changes that support greater freedom for CSOs.

They said the social development sector has shrunk to the historic low because of undue regulatory frameworks, and lack of donors' trust in the nongovernmental sector.

Instead of engaging civil society to counter anti-state propaganda and to support development, many restrictions were imposed on them.

Pervaiz Ashraf terms PTI leadership as enemy of Pakistan's interests

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former prime minister and senior leader of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Punjab, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Saturday, criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership, calling them the enemy of Pakistan's interests, democracy, parliament, constitution, and peace.

Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, he said, "The leadership of PTI is an enemy of consensus, Pakistan, peace, and the interests of the people, as well as democracy, parliament, and the constitution."

He said that while the committee established by the National Assembly Speaker aims to improve



ISLAMABAD: Gypsy woman carrying dry woods on their head for domestic use at a road, in the Federal Capital.

Mid-Autumn Festival celebrated with mooncake cutting ceremony

ISLAMABAD (APP): Students of Froebel's International School (F-7 Campus) marked the Mid-Autumn Festival with a vibrant mooncake cutting ceremony, organized by UNI International, a Chinese organization dedicated to promoting cultural exchange and fostering people-to-people interactions.

The event provided students and teachers with an engaging platform to learn about one of China's most important traditional festivals.

UNI International's Founder and CEO, Max Ma, opened the event with welcoming remarks, emphasizing the significance of the festival. This was followed by an interactive storytelling session led by Academic Director Sienna Xi, who explained the rich history and cultural importance of the Mid-Autumn Festival through pictures, videos, Chinese dance performances, and language learning games.

Nation all set to celebrate Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) with great enthusiasm, fervour

ISLAMABAD (APP): Muslims all over the world including Pakistan are excited to celebrate Eid Milad-un-Nabi, the birthday of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) on September 17 with great enthusiasm and fervour.

With just three days to go, the entire country is abuzz with excitement as preparations reach its final stage.

Bazaars, shopping centers, and streets are adorned with vibrant decorations, colourful lights, and intricate paperwork, creating a mesmerizing spectacle, said a report aired by PTV news channel.

Government buildings, mosques, and private

homes are illuminated with elaborate lighting arrangements, radiating a sense of joy and devotion, said a citizen.

The air is filled with the sweet scent of traditional sweets and the sound of Naats as people from all walks of life come together to express their love and reverence for the Holy Prophet (PBUH), said another citizen.

Religious scholars and clerics are delivering sermons and lectures, highlighting the teachings and significance of the Prophet's life, said a religious scholar.

"Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) is a reminder of the Prophet's (PBUH)

message of peace, love, and compassion. We must strive to follow his teachings and spread harmony in society."

Imam Muhammad Ali from Lahore said.

"The Prophet (PBUH) taught us the importance of unity and brotherhood. On this day, we must come together and strengthen our bonds with each other," Imam Masjid Muhammad Ibrahim from Islamabad added.

"We have been selling traditional sweets and decorations for weeks now. The demand is high, and we are working day and night to meet the orders," Muhammad Saleem, Sweet Shop owner in Lahore said.

Police recover looted items Rs. 140.16m

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police have successfully curtailed criminal activities throughout the year, recovering looted items valued at Rs. 140.16 million.

According to police spokesperson these recovered items include vehicles, gold ornaments, motorcycles, cash, and other valuables.

He said over the past eight months, police have arrested 1,175 members of 496 criminal gangs involved in serious offenses such as robbery, theft, and vehicle snatching.

Additionally, 3,163 individuals linked to property-related crimes were detained, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Children taking part in art and painting at Sixth Islamabad Expo at Pak-China Friendship Center in the Federal Capital.

Tahira asks PTI to refrain from creating unrest, focus on meaningful discussions

ISLAMABAD (APP): PML-N Member National Assembly (MNA) Tahira Aurangzeb urged the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party to engage in constructive dialogue with other political parties for the betterment of Pakistan as the Chinese Premier scheduled to visit soon.

She emphasized unity to foster positive foreign relations with other countries.

Talking to PTV news channel, she urged PTI to recognize the need for unity and cooperation, rather than persisting in a confrontational approach that only serves to create divisions and unrest.

By choosing dialogue over discord, Aurangzeb believes that PTI can play a constructive role in shaping Pakistan's future.

Tahira Aurangzeb, a senior PML-N leader, lambasted the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party for its history of disrupting high-level visits from China.

With the Chinese Prime Minister's upcoming visit to Pakistan, Aurangzeb expressed concerns that PTI's ongoing protests and chaotic activities would once again jeopardize the trip.

Aurangzeb suggested that political parties should come together to discuss and formulate a collective approach to foreign policy.

She also praised China's role in Pakistan's economic development, particularly through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative.

She also encouraged both countries to continue working together to promote regional peace, stability and prosperity.



ISLAMABAD: Children enjoying bath in the rain water accumulated in water pond in Federal Capital.

From lens to legacy: Photographer Tahir's captivating efforts in butterfly preservation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Butterflies, nature's delicate brushstrokes, have inspired poets across cultures for centuries. Their fleeting beauty and graceful movements captivate even animals like dogs, who often chase them in wonder.

English poets call them "winged jewels," French poets "papillons de lumiere" (butterflies of light), German poets "schwebende Blumen" (floating flowers), and Urdu classical poets liken them to "parwaaz-e-nagham" (the flight of melodies). This universal fascination highlights their enduring allure as symbols of beauty and transformation.

In this poetic context, photographer Tahir, based in Faisalabad's agr-industrial city, captures the timeless wonder of butterflies

through his lens, portraying them as symbols of delicate change and irresistible elegance. His collection of 4,000 pictures featuring around 350 butterfly species underscores their importance in nature's ecosystem and their aesthetic appeal. Tahir's work aligns with poetic traditions, illustrating how these enchanting beings continue to inspire across both art and literature.

Muhammad Tahir's journey into the world of butterflies began with a deep-seated love for nature's wonders. Pakistan, blessed with rich flora and varied climates, hosts a remarkable 350 butterfly species. His fascination led him to explore every corner of the country—from the arid expanses of Punjab and Sindh to the lush re-

gions of Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Armed with a camera and profound patience, Tahir captures the perfect moment when a butterfly lands on a flower. His collection is a visual narrative of the delicate balance between beauty and ecological preservation.

"Photography has always been a way for me to express my love for color and life," says Tahir in an exclusive interview with APP. "Butterflies, with their iridescent wings and fleeting existence, are the perfect subjects. Each photograph tells a story of their world and the urgent need to protect it."

"In one of my most memorable encounters," Tahir recounts, "I spent an entire day waiting in the misty highlands of Gilgit-

Baltistan for the perfect shot of the elusive Apollo butterfly. As the sun set, I captured its delicate wings shimmering against the fading light. That moment symbolized the very essence of why I do this

work."

Tahir's efforts extend beyond capturing beauty; they aim to raise awareness about the threats facing butterflies.

Essential pollinators and indicators of environmental health, butterflies face challenges from habitat loss, climate change, and pollution. Through exhibi-

tions at institutions like the University of Agriculture Faisalabad and GC University Faisalabad, he educates

the public on butterfly conservation.

"Breeding and farming butterflies are crucial for their survival," Tahir emphasizes. "If we do not act now, we risk losing these incredible creatures forever."

His exhibitions at Baudin Zakaria University Multan and other venues serve as both artistic showcases and calls to action. By highlighting the intricate details and vibrant colors of butterflies, Tahir hopes to inspire a new generation of environmental stewards.

Tahir's achievements in butterfly photography have earned him significant recognition, including the UN Peace Award, the PCB Photography Award, and the IPC International Photography Council Award.

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Deceptive records

In a post-pandemic world, we should know better than to tamper with grave public health issues, particularly fudging figures of a disease. Such an attempt can explode into a health crisis. News about the Punjab health authorities misleading their chief minister with 'fake reports', showing low prevalence of the dengue virus in the province is worrisome; scores of general practitioners have reported a drastic rise in dengue fever cases over the past few weeks. This suggests that the vector-borne disease can hit Punjab in the form of an epidemic. Official data from the health department recorded 20 to 25 positive cases of dengue daily. But general physicians say that an astounding 70pc to 80pc of the total number of patients per day have dengue symptoms. This should force the government to realise that tampering with disease figures can have a debilitating impact on public health, and seriously affect campaigns to fight illnesses.

The fragile and overburdened state of Pakistan's health infrastructure cannot afford the catastrophic consequences of inaccurate accounts of disease incidents. Successive governments have done little to devise long-lasting health strategies that are based on comprehensive research. As a result, sound healthcare is inaccessible and unaffordable for vulnerable populations. It goes without saying that accurate data about diseases and vulnerable populations is essential for researchers to identify, assess, and predict the trajectory of various virus strains and their dynamics. Hence, dubious data prevents governments from saving lives. And mounting cases of infections lead to strained health workers and systems. Lawmakers must focus on eliminating health vulnerabilities: risk factors that force desperate people to turn to quacks, adding to the disease burden, need to be plugged with research and health models that facilitate timely detection, treatment and a preventive line of action. A reform-driven policy is imperative to transform the health sector and health units through funding, programmes and failsafe healthcare delivery.

Salar Rashid

The room is swollen with heat. Clients and lawyers alike wait impatiently. The fortunate sit on creaky wooden chairs; the less fortunate linger near the entrance or press their backs against the walls. Beads of sweat roll down the judge's face. A fan whirrs noisily overhead — a poor substitute for the broken AC unit, its grill long having vanished. A lawyer gestures animatedly to the empty space beside him. His counterpart is nowhere to be seen.

The opposing lawyer finally swaggers in. Two juniors — ties hanging loosely, coats in dire need of dry-cleaning — trail behind. No admonishment or reprimand is issued. Instead, the judge suppresses the rush of irritation, keeps his face carefully blank, and nods in greeting. He cannot afford to earn the ire of the Bar, not with his ACR due soon. The lawyer offers no explanation beyond an insincere, one-word apology. Slowly, he produces a file from his briefcase as he begins. The charade begins.

While much ink has been spilled on the matter

of the Supreme and high courts, the practical benefits of these analyses are blunted by one simple fact: the vast majority of adjudication takes place not in Courtroom No 1, but on desks overflowing with paper in the lower courts. How can the system function well if seemingly insurmountable issues continue to plague them?

Let us first acknowledge that deep mistrust exists between various elements of the judiciary, from the greenest civil judge all the way to the Supreme Court. The higher you are on the totem pole, the more burdened you believe yourself to be with correcting the mistakes of those below. The lower you are on the totem pole, the more convinced you become that those with supervisory authority over you are completely detached from ground realities, unused to 'hard labour'. Both these perceptions are, naturally, stained with biases accumulated over years of operating in very different physical and mental spaces. But neither perception, respectfully, is without some merit.

Consider the reality of

the environment lower courts operate in.

Lower courts have consistently struggled to push back against the tide of a truly immense case burden. Despite an increasing number of resources allocated to them and the improved training methods introduced over time, many fundamental problems persist. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, speaking at a conference at IBA earlier this year, put it quite bleakly: "We have some four thousand judges, whereas we need [five times that] to meet international standards."

In simpler words, we have 60,000 citizens to each judge. Across the border, there's a judge to each grouping of 48,000. European countries, naturally, operate at much more efficient levels — Greece with 3,500 per judge, Germany with 3,800. While comparisons to them are unmerited for obvious reasons, it's probably worth mentioning that Ireland, with the worst ratio in the EU, has it twice as better than Pakistan.

Think of it this way. Even an exceptional judge, blessed with preternatural mental fortitude and capacity, cannot act as a substi-

tute for four of his/her kind. The system is primed not to produce judgments of quality and depth, but to force judges to dispose of cases as quickly as they can. This inevitably leads to a cycle of appeals and reconsideration at higher levels — the system gets clogged further, and justice hovers out of reach.

Unfortunately, many analyses consider this merely a function of inadequate resources. It isn't. We do lower courts a great disservice in how we refer to them. The term 'subordinate courts' not only ignores the immense role they play in deciding the fates of millions of cases, but its use should challenge our conception of judicial independence. Consider the administrative control the high courts have over the lower courts. Is independence merely that of freedom from influence external to the judiciary, or is it also freedom from their own ilk? Or do our sensibilities not prickle when we see a judge deciding cases not according to his conscience but with the consciousness of those that stand above him in the judicial hierarchy?

Even if our lower

courts operated at an unrealistic level of efficiency, their sheer caseload would invariably lead them to judge wrongly in a significant number of cases, and thus weaken the legitimacy of their judgments. Is it not a shame that they have become the first steppingstone to a litigant reaching a judgment of their liking? Yes, the right to appeal goes hand-in-hand with rule of law. It is a necessary element of a system that's armed its judges with vast discretionary powers, but the reality is that litigants know all too well that whatever the lower courts decide, there is always a judge above them who may be willing to look at things differently, regardless of whether it's merited or not.

The story only gets more tragic when we consider the difference in induction methods for lower courts versus high courts, and the high-bridgeable differences they breed in mindset, skill, and outlook.

The eligibility requirements to become a judge in the lower courts fundamentally differ from those of the high court. Two years of experience and a high court license are all you need to be

eligible to sit the Civil Judge exams. Passing the exam itself is not particularly difficult, where aspirants can make do with rote learning and some grasp of language, civil and criminal law, and general knowledge. What they are being tested for is their ability to grasp the routine and reproduce it, not for intellectual rigor or the depth of their understanding. More distressing is that, as late as 2020, a 50 per cent aggregate was considered a qualifying mark by the Lahore High Court. In other words, an aspirant with no understanding of half of what they were being tested on could still don the robe and decide the fates of the thousands that appear before them. Consider the indirect effect of inadequate training and judicial interdependence of the lower courts on the higher judiciary. The high courts and Supreme Court have made it a routine matter to delve into factual disputes that should have been conclusively addressed earlier. The trial cannot be re-conducted, and to correct these factual oversights, the law is twisted into peculiar shapes. To wit, a misapprehension of facts becomes a misinterpretation of the law.

Where justice is a commodity

Shaukat Ahmed

In the crumbling final days of the Roman Empire, justice too was for sale. Rome, once a city built on laws and moral clarity, was now a marketplace of corruption where gold could wash away any sin. If you had the wealth, your crime could be swept aside, forgotten beneath the sound of clinking coins.

It was a time when power was measured not by principles but by pocketbooks when the scales of justice tipped heavily in favour of those who could afford to grease their hinges.

Today, many centuries later, in a far-off land where the shadow of wealth casts a long and twisted darkness over everything, we find ourselves revisiting the same painful decay. A tragic accident occurs, and lives are irreversibly lost on the roads of Karachi. Grief should be met with justice, not a handshake and the transfer of banknotes. But, as this tale unfolds, it becomes clear that the most valuable currency is not truth, not fairness, but the colour of cash.

In the most recent chapter of this sorrowful

saga, we learn that the heirs of two innocent souls, tragically lost in a horrifying crash, submitted an affidavit to the court, pardoning the one whose criminal recklessness behind the wheel of a luxury vehicle claimed the lives of their loved ones. With this affidavit, justice once again slips away, concealed behind the familiar veil of wealth and privilege.

But as is often the case, the words conceal more than they reveal. What really motivates this sudden flood of grace? If you peer behind the veil, the shadow of financial desperation is visible in every corner. The victims' family, crippled by loss, is boxed into a corner where money, not retribution, must be their solace.

The society we live in today is one where the threads of wealth bind everything together. A society where money doesn't just talk—it dictates. Wealthy perpetrators of crimes, be they unintentional or otherwise, walk free while the poor are condemned to bargain with their dead. It is a grotesque marketplace where grief, tragedy, and even the right to seek justice become commodities to

be auctioned, often with the highest bidder walking away unscathed.

When we say money buys everything, we must ask: why should justice be any different? We have normalized it, haven't we? We look at cases like this, shake our heads, and then offer our own justifications. "Wouldn't you do the same if you were poor?" we ask, as if poverty justifies exploitation. "If she has the money, why shouldn't she use it?" some argue, turning the conversation into a cold calculus. The victims are boxed into a cruel dilemma: accept money to soften the unbearable burden of their poverty or pursue justice they can't afford. There is no right choice when both paths lead to suffering.

In a society where arguments are made to normalize lawlessness, decay isn't a mere threat; it's an inevitability. Today, the wealthier you are, the more you control not only your own fate but the fates of others as well. The powerless have no recourse but to bow under the weight of their financial desperation. This isn't merely an issue of law. It is the moral decay of a society where every

relationship, even the one between victim and perpetrator, is transactional.

And we often hear the term 'elite' used to describe those who exploit their privilege to escape justice. But we must pause and reconsider this term. The word 'elite', derived from the Latin 'eligere', meaning 'to choose', once referred to individuals selected for their excellence—a group marked by distinction, achievement, and merit.

However, the people who routinely evade justice in Pakistan, far from being exceptional, are simply circumstantially advantaged within the confines of a particular geography. They are not distinguished by greatness or virtue, but by their ability to manipulate systems and laws in their favour. Even their wealth, which grants them this impunity, is meagre in comparison to the wealth of individuals in countries where rule of law prevails, and where affluence does little to shield one from true accountability.

In truth, they do not represent the elite in any meaningful sense; rather, they embody a mediocrity that thrives on exploitation, their privilege a mere acci-

dent of circumstance. By continuing to call them 'elite', we mistakenly attribute to them a dignity and distinction they do not deserve.

Justice, in its purest form, is about balance. It is about ensuring that wrongdoing is met with consequences and that the scales, even in tragedy, tip towards righteousness. But in this land, balance is not achieved through fairness. Instead, it is achieved through the weighted sack of money that can make all wrongs disappear. When justice becomes a purchasable commodity, only the wealthy can afford its benefits. Justice, closure, and retribution are no longer rights but luxuries.

In Pakistan, we are seeing a society where wealth doesn't just shield you from accountability—it allows you to rewrite the very narrative of guilt and innocence. The suspect in this case stands accused of more than just negligence; illicit substances were found in her system, and lives were lost as a result of her reckless actions.

Yet here we are. The story is now one of pity, of forgiveness for the grieving, and of a legal system that

allows her to walk free with little more than a monetary transaction. For those who are poor, the same options never appear. Forgiveness, in these cases, isn't noble—it's necessary because without it, there is only destitution.

And here is the bitter truth: the poor cannot afford to grieve. Grief is a luxury, a process that requires time, space, and financial stability. In a world where money rules, they must trade their grief for survival. There is no justice for the impoverished, no righteous fury that can be pursued in a court of law. Their vengeance must be turned inward, into silence, and their hearts are left to rot in the quiet despair of lives unlivable.

This is not a failure of law alone; it is a failure of society. When a country, a community, a people normalize this kind of systemic injustice, when they explain it away with the cold logic of financial necessity, they are complicit in the erosion of everything just and good. A place where lawlessness is justified by the greed that drives it is the only place where decay is the only possible outcome.

Labour codes?

Parvez Rahim

The drafts of the Sindh and Punjab labour codes have been prepared by the respective provincial governments with assistance from representatives of the International Labour Organization (ILO). The codes are purported to have consolidated 20 labour laws inclusive of the prominent legislation.

The labour federations in both Sindh and Punjab have strongly criticized and opposed the implementation of these codes for streamlining the system of third-party contract workers and fixed-term contracts. While they have been demanding the altogether abolition of this system, the codes tend to regularize them with some conditionalities.

According to ILO representatives, the draft codes have followed emerging international practices in permitting third-party contracting and fixed-term contracting only as long as it is genuine and limited in duration and extension. They have made special provisions for 'gig' workers— independent contractors or freelancers, who typically do short-term work for multiple clients.

As the contracting out of jobs and services is an international phenomenon, a key ILO recommendation states that the reality is more important than contractual clauses. They have therefore based their provisions on the following four principles, which are quite realistic.

One, a business should be recognized as an employer if the workers it uses are in fact under its control. Two, third-party contract workers should receive the same entitlements as employees of the user business. Three, if a user business engages third-party contract workers to perform ongoing work, the workers should be deemed to be its direct employees.

Four, fixed-term contracts should not be used where the work is of a permanent nature.

The above-mentioned principles have also been laid down in various judgments of the Supreme Court given from time to time. In this context the services of the petitioner workers purported to be in the employment of contractors, were regularized with the principal employer.

Starting with the landmark judgment of 2013 in the case of Fauji Fertilizer Company, it was followed by judgments in the cases of the National Bank of Pakistan in 2018; State Oil Company Limited in 2018 and recently that of IFFCO Pakistan (Private) Limited.

Nevertheless, there are exceptions in Pakistan in the third-party contract system relating to the security services and services contracts such as house-keeping, gardening and catering etc. Although these services are of a permanent nature, they don't fall within the category of core businesses of companies and may be contracted out without any legal implications.

Besides, the Private Security Companies Ordinance, 2001, exclusively relates to the licensing of companies to provide security services to their clients. But this ordinance does not exempt the companies from implementing the minimum wages and provision of other benefits as guaranteed under the law.

The system of engag-

ing third-party contract workers has been in existence since the inception of industries in Pakistan. However, the labour federations want to get it abolished with the absorption of such workers by the principal employers. They say that implementation of the codes will not be acceptable to them unless it is discussed in a tripartite forum.

On the other hand,

there are numerous issues relating to the codes from the employers' perspective. In the present industrial environment, there are so many issues confronted by personnel managing human resources that knowing labour laws is not their priority. Under these circumstances, expecting them to implement a set of extremely complicated and confusing labour laws, compiled in the form of these codes will not be wise.

This view may be judged from Section 143 of the codes relating to 'Internal Work Regulations' and contained in the chapter on 'Employment Contracts and Termination' of Draft #3. It requires that an employer adopt and publish internal work regulations for regulating remuneration, work organization, occupational safety and health, and other issues important for employees.

The internal work regulations contain ten key contents, of which nine are already provided in the existing laws and mostly relate to disciplinary issues. When these provisions have already been implemented successfully by progressive employers for more than five decades, why would they be required to start from scratch?

Regulation (3)(b), states "discipline at the workplace, including acts and omissions such as attendance and late coming". Habitual absence without leave and habitual late attendance constitute misconduct under the existing law. Should we treat them with leniency in the regulations and let chronic absenteeism prevail in the organization? Similarly, inefficient, dilatory, careless or wasteful working constitutes misconduct if repeated frequently. Should we continue to ignore these delinquencies till the incumbent causes bad influence over his colleagues and they also start doing the same.

A peep into the power dynamics at educational conferences

Mansoor Raza

Power dynamics in educational conferences often overshadow the primary goal of knowledge dissemination. These dynamics manifest in various ways, influencing interactions, decision-making and overall outcomes. This write-up explores some of the key areas where power plays a role, such as speaker selection, panel composition, networking opportunities and implicit bias.

For the choice of the topic, the "big boss" often dominates educational conferences, wielding significant influence over the agenda and decision-making. Their perceived authority and expertise can marginalise alternative perspectives and shape the overall conference narrative. Despite their "democratic" demeanor, the big boss often operates with a "my way or the highway" mentality.

The power vested in organising committee by the "competent" authority in selecting speakers and determining keynote addresses leads pleasing of the big boss as the key note speaker, amplification of certain voices while marginalising others based on factors like loyalty, reputation, institutional affiliations, future stakes or alignment with the organiser's personal preferences.

The composition of panels and discussion groups, that depends on who knows whom, can reflect power imbalances, with dominant voices overshadowing marginalised perspectives. The search of established names is another factor. Power dy-

namics influence who gets invited to speak and whose expertise is valued, reinforcing existing hierarchies within academia. The biggest casualty is the consideration of morality of the invitee that does not appear at all as a consideration on the radars of the decision makers. There are those who want to maximise the opportunity to cater to their insatiable appetite for young girls and students particularly at tea/lunch breaks. The young ones usually fall to the trap of the academic quakes because either it's a matter of temporary interaction which needs to be overlooked (out of respect for old age) or they have to survive or their ambitions in life tell them he is a jackpot. In the shallow waters of academia shrimps make fool of dragons.

During Q&A sessions, power dynamics often influence who gets to ask questions and whose questions are prioritised. Attendees with institutional prestige or social capital may dominate, while marginalised voices may feel less empowered to participate. Difficult questions are often avoided, and moderators may use their skills to deflect critical inquiry. This can create a hostile or unwelcoming environment for certain participants, limiting their opportunities for meaningful engagement.

In the name of networking, lunch and tea are the epitome of power dynamics, where established scholars, influential figures, political pundits and persons of ATM reputation receive more sycophancy ridden attention; served the lunch exclusively (out-

side the queue); have more snacks and cookies at tea; and earn fake laughter through their dumb and redundant jokes, leaving others feeling excluded, distasteful or overlooked. Such thugs get themselves filled with "false self-consciousness" of grandeur.

Educational conferences often involve the allocation of resources such as funding, space and promotional opportunities. Power dynamics can influence how these resources are distributed, with certain individuals or institutions receiving preferential treatment based on their status or connections. Those "money can buy everything" type of mindsets often tries to alter the agenda or the schedule of the program with unbearable naivety.

Based on gender, ethnicity, sect and faith, power differentials also manifest through implicit bias and micro-aggressions, with marginalised individuals and groups facing subtle and wooly forms of discrimination or exclusion based on their identity, background or perspective. Unfortunately, those who learned to muddle through such behaviours often, when get to power position, do the same as their predecessor have done to them, proving Nietzsche right that "if you gaze long into the abyss, the abyss also gazes into you."

Recognising and addressing the above-mentioned power imbalances is essential for creating more inclusive and equitable conference environments and to meet the very objective of such conference - dissemination of knowledge in an unbiased manner.

CM Murad opens Pakistan's first café 'Khudee' staffed by differently abled persons

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Saturday inaugurated Pakistan's first café, Khudee, staffed by differently-abled persons stating that the café represents a milestone and serves as a shining example of what can be achieved when individuals can develop their skills and improve their career prospects, while also experiencing personal growth that goes beyond vocational training.

The CM was accompanied by provincial ministers Saeed Ghani and Zulfiqar Shah. The CEO of the KVTC Senator Haseeb Ahmed and others briefed the CM about the unitive.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Shah said that Karachi Vocational Training Centre (KVTC) has long been serving hope and empowerment for the differently abled community, focusing on providing invaluable vocational training programs.

He added that the KVTC programs were not just about imparting skills; they were about transforming lives. "Through programs like the ones we see today, particularly in culinary arts, KVTC has equipped students with practical skills that prepare them for the demands of professional environments," he said.

The CM appreciated the dedication of KVTC's team. "Your commitment to empowering these students, to helping them discover their potential, is nothing short of extraordinary," he said and added that because of the KVTC team efforts, the students were not only learning, but they were thriving.

Murad Shah said that the students were demonstrating remarkable progress, breaking barriers with the right guidance and opportunities provided to them.

The launch of Khudee - Bakery & Café is proof of that progress, the CM said and added that it was more than just a café- it was a milestone, a shining example of what could be achieved when individuals were allowed to grow. "This initiative offers our students a real-world professional setting, one where they can grow their skills and further enhance their career prospects while experiencing personal growth in ways that go beyond vocational training," he said.



KARACHI: Members of Religious Organization are holding Jashan-e-Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) rally in connection of 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal the Birthday Ceremony of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) coming ahead, held at Korangi area.

Minister orders keeping roads dust free to prevent smog

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Local Government and Community Development (LG&CD) Zeeshan Rafique has ordered for swift removal of dust, accumulated along roadsides, following end of the monsoon season.

During a video conference meeting with chief executive officers (CEOs) of various waste management companies, held at the Civil Secretariat here on Saturday, the minister emphasised the significant role of dust in environmental pollution and its contribution to smog.

The meeting, which was also attended by Secretary Local Government Shakeel Ahmed Mian and Special Secretary Asiya Gul, reviewed the performance of solid waste management companies and discussed new projects.

The LG&CD minister said that maintaining cleanliness was a key focus of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif. He urged all CEOs to meet their cleanliness targets, highlighting that it is their responsibility to ensure a clean and healthy environment for citizens.

Zeeshan Rafique specifically pointed out the need for heightened attention to the removal of dust from roadsides, which tends to accumulate during the rainy season. He stressed that directives issued in meetings chaired by senior ministers to combat smog should be rigorously implemented.

DC reviews city's cleanliness condition

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Deputy Commissioner Syed Musa Raza has intensified efforts to ensure cleanliness across the city through a series of surprise inspections as part of the Lahore clean mission.

The DC on Saturday conducted surprise visits to several key areas including Canal Road, Harbanspura Roundabout, Pepsi Road, Tajpura, Sami Town, Ghaziabad, and Mohammadpura Bazaar and reviewed the city's cleanliness condition.

Accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Shalimar Anum Fatima, Metropolitan Corporation Lahore (MCL) Chief Officer Ali Abbas Bukhari, Lahore Waster Management Company (LWMC) CEO Baber Sahib Din and other officials, the DC inspected various sites to evaluate cleanliness standards and the effectiveness of ongoing sanitation measures. During his visit to Ghaziabad, he also assessed the performance of polio vaccination teams, instructing them to perform their duties with utmost dedication and integrity.

DC Syed Musa Raza expressed frustration over the proliferation of banners and streamers along Canal Road, ordering their immediate removal. He issued directives to MCL to clear encroachments along the roadways, emphasizing that no illegal structures should be allowed to persist.

In Sami Town, the DC displayed his displeasure over the presence of garbage heaps in vacant plots and directed LWMC officials.



KARACHI: Members of Human Rights Council of Pakistan are holding protest demonstration for demanding justice for Amana Arif victim of Karsaz traffic incident, at Karachi press club.

CM grieved at 2 cops death

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has expressed a deep sense of sorrow and grief over the death of two policemen after being hit by a bus in Gujrat. The chief minister offered condolences and expressed her heartfelt sympathies with the bereaved families.

She directed the authorities concerned to investigate the incident and take strict action against the responsible.

Two police constables dismissed

FAISALABAD (APP): SP Lyallpur Division Rehman Qadir had suspended two constables over absence from duty.

During an orderly room meeting at his office, the SP Lyallpur took action over continuous absence of constables Adeel Sarwar and Amjad and dismissed them from service.

He also announced punishment of one-step demotion of lady constables, including Aasiya, Samra and Mariya, whose services were restored after an inquiry on their suspension, said a police spokesman on Saturday.

Man kills wife over domestic issue

LODHRAN (APP): A man allegedly killed his wife with an axe over a domestic issue in the Dunyapur Sadar police precincts, on Saturday.

SHO Sadar Police Rai Nazakat said Ramzan allegedly killed his 60-year-old wife Maqsood Mai and fled. Upon receiving information, police teams were formed for the arrest of the fleeing suspect. Police arrested the accused within two hours of the incident.

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LAHORE: A delegation of Lahore Bar Association led by President People's Lawyers Forum Punjab and Member Punjab Bar Council Raheel Kamran Cheema in a group photo with Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

Punjab Governor says: Lawyers' remains at forefront in struggle for supremacy of Constitution, democratic values

LAHORE: A delegation of Lahore Bar Association led by President People's Lawyers Forum Punjab and Member Punjab Bar Council Raheel Kamran Cheema and Information Secretary PLF Punjab Azeem Hafeez called on the Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the lawyers' community had always remained at the forefront in the struggle for the supremacy of the Constitution and democratic values.

He said that Lahore Bar and People's Lawyers Forum played an important role in maintaining the rule of law and constitution and ensuring the restoration of democracy in Pakistan. Governor Punjab said that he will take the vision of President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto to every bar of Punjab. He further said that the doors of the Governor's House are always open for the lawyers community across Punjab.

On this occasion, the delegation informed the Governor Punjab about the several important issues including the controversial notification of the Judicial Division and the need for improvement in the Lawyers Welfare Fund.

Governor Punjab assured the delegation that he would do his best to resolve these issues on priority basis. Lahore Bar President Munir Hussain Bhatti and other members of the Bar Cabinet were also present in the delegation.

In addition, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan congratulated the newly elected office bearers of Health Reporters Association and wished them well. Governor Punjab congratulated Prented Health Reporters' Association Bilal Chaudhry, Secretary General, Zulqarnain Rana, Senior Vice President Hasnain Hafeez and other newly elected office bearers.

Punjab govt to increase capacity of children hospitals: Salman

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique has announced plans to enhance the capacity of children hospitals across the province. The announcement came during his surprise visit to the Children's Hospital Lahore on Saturday, where he inspected various wards, including the Neurology and Emergency wards, and reviewed ongoing projects aimed at upgrading medical facilities. He highlighted that the Children's Hospital Lahore continues to provide exceptional healthcare services for children, and stressed the government's commitment to expanding these services. He also emphasized the importance of timely completion of the University of Child Health Sciences building, instructing contractors to expedite their efforts.

During the visit, the Health Minister was briefed by officials and contractors on the progress of the projects. Notable attendees included Pro Vice Chancellor of the University of Child Health Sciences, Professor Junaid Rasheed, and Managing Director of Children's Hospital, Professor Tipu Sultan.



LAHORE: Students busy in first aid exercise at 1122 rescue office, in the Provincial Capital, on the eve of World First Aid Day.

Punjab govt announces a reduction in court fees

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government on Saturday announced a reduction in the court fees infrastructure. The Punjab government has reduced the court fees, fee for certified copy and other court matters and after the signing by the Governor of Punjab, the Board of Revenue has issued a notification for this reduction. One-time court fee has been fixed at Rs.100 for a certified copy of an order or judgment from civil court, one-time court fee for a certified copy of an order or judgment from high court will be Rs.500. Meanwhile, court fee for a certified copy is Rs.10 per page instead of Rs.100. According to the notification, a one-time court fee of Rs 500 has been set for a revision application to the Board.

Experts call for awareness of HPV vaccine among women

PESHAWAR (APP): Experts in Public Health have underscored need for raising awareness about importance of HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccination in prevention of cervical cancer mostly affecting female.

The demand by gathering of experts was made during a two-day national consultative workshop titled as "Sehatmand Beti, Sehatmand Gharana" (Healthy daughter, Healthy family).

For awareness raising and demand creation of HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccination to prevent cervical cancer among female, the health experts also laid stress on gender-responsive interventions for early identification of challenges before formal nationwide rollout of the vaccine in Pakistan in year 2025. "Due to significant gender barriers in education, health, and economic opportunities, it's crucial to develop gender-responsive interventions to improve HPV vaccination uptake before its formal launching," observed speakers of the workshop.

The workshop was organized by Unicef Pakistan with support of ROSA, under the leadership of Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Ministry of Education, FDI, WHO, GAVI, Jhpiego and Pakistan Girls Guide Association.

Welcoming the participants, Ms. Shermeela Rassool, Deputy Country Representative Unicef Pakistan informed about the threats posed by cervical cancer which only in Pakistan is affecting around 5008 women annually with around 3197 deaths. "To contain second

CM KP inaugurates Chief Minister's Policy Office

PESHAWAR (APP): The Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, inaugurated the Chief Minister's Policy Office (CMPO) newly established at Chief Minister Secretariat Peshawar on Saturday, marking a significant step forward in the province's governance and policy reform initiatives.

The CMPO is designed to function as a strategic think tank for the Chief Minister, offering innovative and evidence-based solutions to the pressing socio-economic challenges facing the province.

Concerned authorities gave a detailed brief to the Chief Minister about the objectives, functions and various other aspects of the CMPO. It was told that key functions of the CMPO include acting as the secretariat for the CM's policy initiatives, procuring expertise from academia and market leaders, and developing a repository of government data. It will focus on high-priority sectors such as health, education, skill development, heritage, revenue growth, social protection, climate resilience, agriculture, electrification, and employment generation.

It was further informed that as part of its policy reform agenda, CMPO will emphasize employment generation through skill upgradation, climate resilience via carbon financing, and the development of mass transit systems and electric vehicle policies. Moreover, the CMPO with its commitment to high value, high quality, and low-cost operations is set to revolutionize governance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by accelerating policy implementation and fostering a culture of innovation.



HYDERABAD: Passengers are travelling on an overloaded vehicle that may cause any life risk of them, passing through a road violating the traffic rules, need attention of authorities, in Hyderabad.

Azma criticises KP CM statement against foreign policy

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has said speaking against national policy by any chief minister is tantamount to being anti-state.

In response to Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa government spokesperson Barrister Saif's statement, she said KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur had already clarified why he was going to talk to Afghanistan. He himself stated that he did not consider federal government and its foreign policy, she recalled. "Such a statement falls under the category of rebellion," she added.

Azma said the KP chief minister said he would make his own decisions. She asked Barrister Saif to tell his chief minister that the foreign policy was formulated by the federation, and not by provinces. Meeting with ambassadors for betterment of one's province was a good thing, she said adding that foreign visits with the prime minister were meant to strengthen the federation.

The Punjab information minister said that any chief minister speaking against national policy independently was equivalent to being anti-state. A chief minister meeting with representatives of another country, bypassing the federation, raises many questions, she added.

Police inks MoU with Equestrian Academy

FAISALABAD (APP): The police inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Legendary Equestrian Academy to improve horse-riding training of officials.

Police Spokesman Tariq said on Saturday that City Police Officer (CPO) Kamran Adil and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Legendary Equestrian Academy Dr Altaf-ur-Rehman signed the MoU under which the academy would provide facilities of up-gradation of horse stables, riding school, police equestrian academy, infrastructural alignment and uplift equine health. The academy would also organize training programmes and workshops for horse care, riding techniques, stable management techniques, etc.

SSP Operations Abdul Wahhab, Chief Traffic Officer (CEO) Farhan Aslam and others were also present.



GUJRANWALA: Motorists are standing under the shade of flyover to protect themselves from heavy downpour, at GT road in Gujranwala.

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Jam Kamal emphasizes for Pak-Sino strategic partnership

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister delivered a virtual keynote address at the Pakistan Investment Conference held during the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), China's second-largest exhibition.

Organized by Pakistan's Embassy in Beijing in collaboration with China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) and the Beijing Municipal Government, the event aimed to bolster B2B exchanges and foster investment opportunities in Pakistan.

Focusing on Phase II of CPEC, which emphasizes business-to-business (B2B) exchanges and win-win partnerships, the Commerce Minister stressed that since the Prime Minister's visit to China in June 2024, efforts

to facilitate Chinese investments in Pakistan have gained momentum.

He assured Chinese businessmen of the Government of Pakistan's support, reaffirming its commitment to creating an environment conducive to investment and industrial growth. The Commerce Minister outlined the competitive advantages that Pakistan offers to Chinese businesses, including abundant economic resources, investor-friendly policies, and access to major regional and global markets.

He particularly emphasized Pakistan's demographic strength, noting that with a population of over 240 million people and a median age of 21 years,



SIALKOT: President Chamber of Commerce, Abdul Ghafoor Malik presenting a shield to DPO Sialkot Rana Umar Farooq during his visit of SCCI.

Pakistan embassy hosts major investment conference during CIFTIS

BEIJING (APP): The Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing hosted the "Pakistan Investment Conference - Together for a Shared Future" alongside the renowned China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) with the goal of attracting foreign investment across various sectors in Pakistan.

The event brought together key figures from both the Pakistani and Chinese business communities, highlighting investment opportunities in strategic sectors such as agriculture, industry, ICT, and banking. Pakistani organizations participating in the event showcased their potential to capitalize on these sectors' growth, emphasizing Pakistan's increasingly favorable business environment.

Among the attendees were several high-ranking

Chinese officials, including Liu Meiyang, Deputy Secretary General of Beijing, Han Bin, President of the Dekezhou City Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Zhang Yanqing, Deputy Secretary General of the People's Government of Pingdingshan City, and Li An, Deputy Director General, MOFCOM.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Khalil Hashmi underscored Pakistan's strong commitment to deepening economic engagement with China. He noted the enduring momentum of B2B engagements that began with Business Conference in Shenzhen in June 2024. The ambassador highlighted the significance of this conference as the embassy's initiative to engage Pakistani enterprises.

Arshad Nadeem becomes mobile company quality ambassador

LAHORE (APP): Olympic gold medalist Arshad Nadeem has been named the quality ambassador of a mobile company for four years.

According to the details, Arshad Nadeem while talking to the media at a local hotel here said that first of all he is thankful to his nation and parents, due to which he got success.

Arshad Nadeem said that he is happy that he has become a brand ambassador with a mobile phone company for 4 years and added that he wants to win more gold medals for Pakistan. "In the 2025 World Championship which is going to be held in Japan, I will try to perform well. I will work hard for the championship in 2028. I am working hard and will continue to do so. I want everyone to work together and if there is a championship in India, I will like to take part in it. My efforts are bearing fruit and there is hope that a good stadium would be built in my village," he added.

Gold rates up by Rs.400 per tola to Rs.266,300

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.400 and was sold at Rs.266,300 on Friday compared to its sale at Rs.265,900 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.343 to Rs.228,309 from Rs.227,966 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.209,283 from Rs.208,970, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.2,950.



BEIJING: Federal Minister for Investment, Privatization and Communication Abdul Aleem Khan speaking via video message at "Pakistan Investment Conference: Together for a Shared Future" hosted by the Embassy of Pakistan at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS).

Global services trade leaders push for openness, warn against decoupling

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Greek Foreign Minister George Katrougalos highlighted the negative impact of anti-globalization posing a serious threat to social stability, at the Global Entrepreneurs Summit on Trade in Services in Beijing.

He emphasized that at this historic moment, the world is more interconnected than ever, with global cooperation needed in areas like climate change, nuclear disarmament, biodiversity protection, and pandemic control to safeguard a shared future.

The summit, held during the 2024 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), focused on the theme "High-Level Openness Promotes Win-Win Cooperation" and

emphasized the importance of open markets in fostering international collaboration and supporting global economic recovery, China Economic Net reported.

Global Alliance for Trade in Services (GATIS) Chairman, Jiang Zengwei said global services trade has been expanding at a remarkable rate, with a 9% growth in 2023, outpacing global GDP and goods trade. However, he pointed out that growing geopolitical tensions and protectionist policies have significantly increased trade barriers, driving up costs and posing challenges to the global trade landscape.

He called for fewer regulations, higher levels of openness, and a more favorable business environment to support

international services trade.

In his keynote address, former Vice Minister of Finance, Zhu Guangyao, emphasized the vital role of services trade in driving global economic growth. He highlighted a significant shift in global trade patterns: "Before 2008, for every 1% increase in global GDP, global goods trade grew by 2% or more. This was a result of the prosperity brought about by globalization. However, today, with every 1% growth in the global economy, goods trade only rises by 0.8% to 0.9%."

He identified this as a major challenge for global trade and stressed the importance of expanding services trade, particularly in areas related to the digital economy.

Applications for subsidised Green Tractors to be invited soon: Secretary Agriculture

MULTAN (APP): Secretary Agriculture Punjab Iftekhar Ali Sahu said on Saturday that applications for the Chief Minister's Green Tractor Scheme, offering a subsidy of Rs one million per tractor, would be invited soon.

This initiative is aimed at promoting mechanized farming across the province. He made the announcement while presiding over a review meeting on cotton at MNS Agricultural University, Multan, where efforts to boost cotton production were also discussed.

The meeting was attended by Special Secretary for Agriculture South Punjab, Sarfraz Hussain Maggi, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad Rajwana, Focal Person for Cotton, Dr. Muhammad Anjum Ali, Director General Agriculture

Extension, Chaudhry Abdul Hameed, Director General Agricultural Information Punjab, Naveed Asmat Kahloon, Director General Pest Warning, Dr. Amir Rasool, Director General Crop Reporting Service, Abdul Qayyum, Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Bandesha, and leading farmers including Khalid Mahmood Khokhar and Syed Hassan Raza.

Secretary Sahu directed the timely issuance of advisories for cotton care and stressed awareness campaigns on clean picking, storage, and transportation. He also called for proper documentation of cotton arrivals at ginning factories. Proposals for transforming Bahawalpur Division into a cotton valley were discussed. The Secretary stated that both the public and private sectors were tasked with developing high-quality cotton seeds.

FMAKP demands abolition of taxes

SWABI (APP): Frontier Miner Association (FMA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in a meeting held here on Saturday has demanded abolition of taxes being imposed by industries and environmental departments.

The meeting was chaired by District President FMA, Haji Sarzameen and attended by office bearers of miner association. They demanded to end taxes and said that survival of the industry would be difficult if these taxes were not revoked.

They said that mining industry is passing through difficult phase and imposition of these taxes would deprive livelihood from thousands of people that are associated with mining industry.

Meeting urged authorities to take notice of miners and provide them relief besides addressing their issues and problems.

Musadik Malik says: State encourages youth to start own businesses

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik, said on Saturday that the state encourages the youth of the country to start their own businesses.

Responding to a calling attention notice regarding the proposed privatization of the Pakistan Minerals Development Corporation (PMDC), he explained that the government aimed to exit business ventures and focus on promoting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the country.

He emphasized that the government wants educated youth to start

their own businesses rather than rely on government employment.

Dr. Musadik Malik further said that Pakistan's state-owned companies have cost the country billions of dollars.

Regarding PMDC, the minister mentioned that around 70 people have lost their lives in various incidents, and currently, PMDC employs about 2,000 people, none of whom are engaged in mining activities.

He added that the privatization of loss-making state enterprises is a positive step and should be continued in the best interest of the country.



BEIJING: Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Khalil Hashmi speaking at "Pakistan Investment Conference: Together for a Shared Future" organised by the Embassy of Pakistan at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS).

CM Maryam seeks plan for pink salt export

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, chairing a meeting on mines and minerals sector development here on Saturday, sought a comprehensive plan to advance the export of pink salt.

She stressed the need to ensure safety of mining workers and to consider the use of modern technology for mineral extraction in Punjab.

The chief minister directed the authorities concerned to take swift measures to impose a ban on the export of raw pink salt, stressing that the

country's valuable resources should not be sold at throwaway prices. She highlighted the significance of pink salt as a treasure for Pakistan.

CM Maryam Nawaz reviewed proposals for generating revenue from pink salt and considered plans to establish a value-added industry for the mineral.

Punjab Minister for Information and Culture Azma Zahid Bukhari, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Principal Secretary to CM Sajid Zafar Dal and Secretary Minerals Babar Aman Babar attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Citizens visiting different stalls at Sixth Islamabad Expo at Pak-China Friendship Center in the Federal Capital.

CIFTIS forum advances TCM to build a healthier global community

ISLAMABAD (APP): The World Trade Point Federation (WTPF) President, Bruno Masier highlighted the crucial role of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in global healthcare systems at the 7th Belt and Road Forum, held in Beijing.

He said, "Traditional Chinese medicine has long played a vital role in healthcare, especially in China. Today's forum is not only about exploring the development of TCM, but also about understanding how traditional medicine can contribute to the advancement of healthcare systems as a whole. We hope to see more growth in traditional medicine globally, fostering greater development in the medical

field."

Co-hosted by WTPF and the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies (WFCMS), the forum as part of the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) 2024 focused on promoting TCM and global health collaboration, China Economic Net reported.

During the forum, several major developments were announced to enhance the global integration of TCM. These included the establishment of the Expert Committee of the Belt and Road Forum for Traditional Chinese Medicine Development, in a bid to support the high-quality incorporation of TCM into the Belt and Road Initiative.

22 arrested, 40 cases registered for overpricing essentials

LAHORE (APP): The price control magistrates have conducted inspections at 579 locations, leading to the arrest of 22 individuals for overpricing fruits, vegetables, and other essential items.

Laure Deputy Commissioner (DC) Syed Musa Raza told the media on Saturday that 40 cases had been registered and four shops sealed over violations of the government fixed prices. Furthermore, fines totaling Rs 600,000 were imposed

for 177 instances of non-compliance.

The DC said that price control magistrates and assistant commissioners were actively ensuring adherence to official rates. Supervision of the auction process in fruit and vegetable markets is also under way to prevent any malpractices. Administrative officers are ensuring the sale of fruits, vegetables, and bread at the government-approved prices.

Hassan Nasir emphasizes need for innovation to strengthen nation's Maritime industry

KARACHI (APP): The Chairman Port Qasim Authority Rear Admiral @ Syed Hassan Nasir Shah on Saturday shared his insight on the evolving Maritime landscape of Pakistan and emphasized the need for innovation, sustainability global partnerships to strengthen the nation's Maritime industry.

Rear Admiral @ Syed Hassan Nasir Shah HI(M) warmly welcomed all the participants of IMSEC-24 on its 3rd and concluding day and highlighted Pakistan's growing role in the global Maritime industry and the importance of sustainable practices to ensure the future of the maritime trade.

day 3 of the International Maritime Sustainability Exhibition and Conference delved into Maritime trade and the significant role of Pakistan's ports and harbours, followed by discussions on the essential contributions of Pakistan's seafarers to the global Maritime industry.

An exclusive video regarding Pakistan's dynamic world of Pakistan's Maritime industry was played after the National Anthem. The video showcased the nation's ports, harbours and vital role in global trade and sustainability. From the bustling Karachi Port to the strategic Gwadar Port witness how Pakistan is positioning itself as a key in Maritime innovation.



ISLAMABAD: Vendors displayed colorful fancy balloons attraction for customers alongside a road, in the Federal Capital.



KARACHI: Participants of the International Maritime Sustainability Exhibition & Conference Pakistan (IMSEC) 2024 visiting a stall during the Conference.

Business forum at ICCI highlights UAE-Pakistan investment potential

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador Hamad Obaid Alzaabi of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) highlighted the deep-rooted bilateral relationship between Pakistan and the UAE, built on mutual respect, cultural ties and strong economic cooperation.

Addressing the UAE-Pakistan Business Forum, themed "Invest Emirates: An Opportunity for Inbound and Outbound Investments," he emphasized the growing trust-worthy strategic partnership between the two nations, said a press release issued here on Saturday. Alzaabi showcased multiple investment opportunities in the UAE, encouraging

business-to-business collaboration between Pakistani and Emirati entrepreneurs.

He praised the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) for its support in organizing the Forum, which aims to enhance linkages between the business communities of both countries. ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari acknowledged the UAE as Pakistan's third largest trading partner and a significant source of remittances, contributing to Pakistan's economic stability. He highlighted the robust and mutually beneficial relationship between the two countries, encompassing various sectors such as investment.

LESCO collects Rs 6mln more from 220 defaulters

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) recovered over Rs 6 million from 220 chronic defaulters in all its five districts - Lahore, Sheikhpura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara - during the last 24 hours.

A spokesman told the media here on Saturday that the company recovered outstanding dues of Rs 1.1 million from 37 defaulters in Northern Circle; Rs 600,000 from 19 defaulters in Eastern Circle; Rs 1.6 million from 36 defaulters in Central Circle; Rs 400,000 from 6 defaulters in South Circle; Rs 300,000 from 26 defaulters in Nankana Circle; Rs 437,000 from 36 defaulters in Sheikhpura Circle; Rs 1.2 million from 43 defaulters in Okara Circle.

Spain urges clear path to two-state solution at high-level meeting on Gaza conflict

Monitoring Desk
MADRID: Spain, hosting a high-level meeting on Friday of several Muslim and European countries on ways to end the Gaza war, called for a clear schedule for the international community to implement a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"We meet to make another push for the end of the war in Gaza, for a way out of the unending spiral of violence between the Palestinians, the Israelis... That way is clear. The implementation of the two-state solution is the only way," Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares told reporters.

In attendance were his counterparts including from Norway and Slovenia, European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa and members of the Arab-Islamic Contact Group for Gaza that includes Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, Indonesia, Nigeria and Turkey. Albares said there was "a clear willingness" among the participants, who notably do not include Israel, "to move on from words to actions and to make strides towards a clear schedule for the effective implementation" of a two-state solution, starting with Palestine joining the United Nations.

Israel was not invited because it was not part of the contact group, Albares said, adding though that "we will be delighted to see Israel at any table where peace and the two-state solution are discussed."

On May 28, Spain, Norway and Ireland formally recognised a unified Palestinian state ruled by the Palestinian Authority comprising the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, with

East Jerusalem as its capital. With them, 146 of the 193 member states of the United Nations now recognise Palestinian statehood. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has repeatedly described the co-existence of two sovereign states on the territory of the former Mandatory Palestine as the only viable path to peace in the region.

Such a two-state solution was set out in the 1991 Madrid Conference and the 1993-95 Oslo Accords, but the peace process has been moribund for years. However, the search for a peaceful solution has been given new urgency by the 11-month-long war in the Gaza Strip between Israel and the Palestinian militant groups Hamas - the bloodiest episode yet in the overall conflict - as well as escalating violence in the occupied West Bank.

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Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez poses for a photo with European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa, Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud, Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, Slovenian Foreign Minister Tanja Fajon, Norway's Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide, Turkey's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, on the day of a meeting at Moncloa Palace in Madrid, Spain.

Russia launched 8,060 Iran-developed drones during war, claims Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine's foreign ministry said that Russia had launched 8,060 Iran-developed Shahed drones at Ukraine since it began its full-scale invasion 2-1/2 years ago.

"The partnership between Russia and Iran has resulted in lost homes and lost lives," the foreign ministry said on X.

Kyiv first accused Iran of supplying Shahed kamikaze drones to Russia in the autumn of 2022, with Moscow's troops subsequently using them extensively for regular long-range attacks.

The Wall Street Journal reported in May this year that Moscow was also

actively producing Shahed-type drones by Iranian technology at a plant in the Tatarstan Republic. Until now, Iranian military support for Moscow has been most visible in the supply of those drones, which carry a smaller payload and are easier to shoot down because they travel at a fraction of the speed of ballistic missiles.

On Tuesday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Russia received ballistic missiles from Iran and would likely use them within weeks, a charge Iran has denied.

The Kremlin said reports of Russia receiving the missiles were baseless.

US calls for Africa to get two permanent UN Security Council seats

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: Washington called for two new permanent seats on the UN Security Council for African nations, alongside a rotating seat for island states—but insisted they not have a veto.

The proposals would transform the 15-member top body of the global organization which has been largely unchanged for decades and is mired in dysfunction and disagreements between existing permanent members.

The new African representatives should not wield veto power over council resolutions, unlike the current permanent members—Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States—US officials have said.

"I'm announcing the United States supports

three additional changes to the Security Council," said Washington's ambassador to the UN, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, at the Council on Foreign Relations think-tank.

This would include "creating two permanent seats for Africa," she said.

African nations already have three non-permanent seats on the Security Council, allocated on a rotating basis for two year terms. In addition, "the United States supports creating a new elected seat on the Security Council for small island developing states," Thomas-Greenfield said.

Reform of the Security Council, long-stalled because of differences among its permanent members, would need to be ratified unanimously among the five top-tier powers. —all nuclear armed.

'Not easy': Pope Francis leaves for Rome after 12-day Asia trip

Monitoring Desk
Pope Francis left Singapore for Rome, after a demanding trip across Southeast Asia and Oceania in which he urged action on climate change, pressed for interfaith dialogue, and reinforced the Catholic Church's presence in a region where it is a small minority. The Singapore Airlines flight carrying the Catholic pontiff and his entourage took off around 12:25 p.m. (0425 GMT) in Singapore and is due to arrive in Rome on Friday evening, after a 12-hour flight through six time zones.

Francis visited Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Singapore over a span of 12 days. The 87-year-old pope, who in recent years has suffered bouts of ill health, appeared in good form throughout the trip, maintaining a packed schedule and headlining more than 40 events.

Highlights of the journey included a trip to a township of some 12,000 people on the edge of the Papua New Guinean jungle, in which the pope brought hundreds of kilograms of

items to help support the local population, including medicines, clothing and toys for children.

The pope also celebrated a Mass in East Timor with a crowd of some 600,000 people, nearly half the country's population of 1.3 million, in one of the largest ever turnouts as a proportion of a country's population for a Mass during a papal visit.

East Timor, 96% Catholic, was the only Catholic majority country of the pope's tour.

Francis' 12-day trip was the longest yet of his papacy, and among the longest in papal history. Upon landing in Rome, Francis will have clocked nearly 33,000 km (20,500 miles).

The pope, who suffers from knee and back pain, used a wheelchair throughout the trip. He kept all his scheduled appointments. In Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, Francis issued a joint declaration with the national grand imam calling for global climate action.

China is raising its retirement age, now among the youngest in the world's major economies

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Starting next year, China will raise its retirement age for workers, which is now among the youngest in the world's major economies, in an effort to address its shrinking population and aging work force.

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the country's legislature, passed the new policy Friday after a sudden announcement earlier in the week that it was reviewing the measure, state broadcaster CCTV announced.

The policy change will be carried out over 15 years, with the retirement age for men raised to 63 years, and for women to 55 or 58 years depending on their jobs. The current retirement age is 60 for men and 50 for women in blue-collar jobs and 55 for women doing white-collar work.

"We have more people coming into the retirement age, and so the pension fund is (facing) high pressure. That's why I think it's now time to act seriously," said Xujing Peng, a senior research fellow at Victoria University in Australia who studies

China's population and its ties to the economy.

The previous retirement ages were set in the 1950's, when life expectancy was only around 40 years, Peng said.

The policy will be implemented starting in January, according to the announcement from China's legislature. The change will take effect progressively based on people's birthdates.

For example, a man born in January 1971 could retire at the age of 61 years and 7 months in August 2032, according to a chart released along with the policy. A man born in May 1971 could retire at the age of 61 years and 8 months in January 2033.

Demographic pressures made the move long overdue, experts say. By the end of 2023, China counted nearly 300 million people over the age of 60. By 2035, that figure is projected to be 400 million, larger than the population of the U.S. The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences had previously projected that the public pension fund will run out of money by that year.

Russia recaptures part of Kursk region

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russia claimed to have recaptured a swath of territory in its western Kursk region, where Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy conceded Moscow's troops were mounting a counter-offensive. Kyiv launched a shock incursion into Russia's Kursk border region on Aug 6, advancing kilometres into Russian territory and seizing dozens of settlements.

The attack - the biggest by a foreign army on Russian territory since World War II - caught Mos-

cow off-guard as its invasion dragged through its third year.

Russia has insisted from the very start it would expel Ukrainian troops from the region.

But it had until now appeared to be on the back foot, marshalling a humanitarian response and evacuating some 150,000 people.

"Units of the 'North' group of troops liberated 10 settlements within two days," Russia's defence ministry said in a statement posted on its Telegram channel.

Morocco confirms first monkeypox case after global outbreak

Monitoring Desk
MARRAKECH: Morocco's Ministry of Health and Social Protection confirmed a case of monkeypox (mpox) in the southern city of Marrakech, as reported by the official MAP news agency. This is the first recorded case in Morocco during the current global outbreak. The ministry stated that the patient is in stable condition and is receiving the necessary medical care. Isolation and monitoring protocols have been implemented in accordance.

Biden and Starmer are set to meet as Ukraine pushes to ease weapons restrictions

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Ukraine's push to ease restrictions on the use of weapons from the United States and Britain will be discussed in White House talks between President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

Ukraine wants approval to use some weapons to strike deeper into Russia and there are signs Biden might shift U.S. policy in response. Russian President Vladimir Putin warned that Ukraine's use of long-range weapons would put NATO at war with Moscow. While the is-

sue is expected to be at the top of the agenda for the meeting, it appeared unlikely that Biden and Starmer would announce any policy changes at this time, according to two U.S. officials familiar with planning for the talks. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the private deliberations. During this week's visit to Kyiv by Secretary of State Antony Blinken and British Foreign Secretary David Lammy, Ukrainian officials renewed their pleas to use Western-provided.

Non-visa travellers to Britain will need ETA from April 2025, government announces

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: The Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) scheme is similar to the ETA system in the United States. The interior ministry announced that all visitors who do not require a visa to travel to Britain will need an ETA from April 2, 2025. "Everyone wishing to travel to the UK — except British and Irish citizens — will need permission to travel in advance of coming here."



Displaced Palestinians prepare to leave a refugee camp following an Israeli evacuation order.

Canada in talks about joining expanded AUKUS, defence chief Blair says

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Canada is in discussions about joining an expanded AUKUS deal between the US, Britain, and Australia formed to counter China's growing military influence in the Asia Pacific region, Canadian Defence Minister Bill Blair said.

Canada has said it wants to join a second pillar of AUKUS that will collaborate on new military technologies, including artificial intelligence and quantum computing, but has not so far revealed any details of those talks.

"There have been important discussions about processes and platforms on a project-specific basis on where other nations, including Japan and ourselves, might participate," Blair said in an interview in Tokyo where he met his Japa-

nese counterpart Minoru Kihara.

"I would respectfully wait until they've come to their determination, but I'm very optimistic," he said.

Blair said he and Kihara discussed AUKUS, which is already considering working with Japan. The initial phase of AUKUS involves the three founding members working on nuclear submarine technology for Australia.

Blair, who was on his second trip to Japan as defence minister, arrived in Tokyo from South Korea, which is also in talks about a role in AUKUS. Canada is looking for a bigger security role in Asia and has made forging deeper ties with Japan and South Korea a priority. As its defence commitments expand at home and overseas the country is expanding military spending.

Prague on high flood alert as central Europe faces torrential rain

Monitoring Desk
PRAGUE: Prague was putting up flood defences in the city's historic centre after Czech forecasters expanded a warning for extreme rainfall to areas of the country including the capital, which suffered catastrophic flooding more than 20 years ago.

Heavy rain has pounded mostly eastern parts of the Czech Republic since Thursday, and the most affected areas may see more than a third of annual rainfall over four days by Sunday.

Similar weather has been forecast around central Europe, including southern Germany and parts of Austria, Poland, and Slovakia over the coming days.

"Data shows we are



A drone view shows the Junk In The Trunk thrift store, which suffered a roof failure and wall collapse due to the effects of Hurricane Francine, in Houma, Louisiana, US.

German navy makes rare transit of sensitive Taiwan Strait

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: Two German navy ships sailed through the sensitive Taiwan Strait in the first such transit in two decades, demonstrating Berlin's resolve to stand with Western allies at a time of soaring tensions between Taipei and Beijing.

China, which claims democratically governed Taiwan as its own, says it alone exercises sovereignty and jurisdiction over the strait. Both the United States and Taiwan

say the strait - a major trade route through which about half of global container ships pass - is an international waterway. Speaking in Berlin, German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said he could confirm the passage of the frigate "Baden-Württemberg" and supply ship Frankfurt am Main.

"International waters are international waters. It's the shortest and, given the weather conditions, the safest route."

Alleged Mexican kingpin 'El Mayo' pleads not guilty to US drug charges

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: The accused Mexican kingpin Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada pleaded not guilty to drug trafficking charges on Friday in the same New York courthouse where fellow Sinaloa cartel co-founder Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman was convicted five years earlier. Zambada entered the plea to the 17 felony counts he faces, which also include money laundering and weapons charges, at a hearing before US Magistrate Judge James Cho in Brooklyn.

Hong Kong journalist group says dozens of journalists harassed

Monitoring Desk
HONG KONG: Dozens of Hong Kong journalists and their families have been harassed and intimidated online and in person over the last three months starting from June, the Hong Kong Journalists Association (HKJA) said.

Selina Cheng, HKJA chairperson, said the threats and sharing of false and defamatory content damage press freedom in Hong Kong and should not be tolerated.

"I think this is the largest scale harassment against reporters in Hong Kong that we have thus far known of," Cheng said. "I don't believe this is

right, and that's why we are making a loud call today to say that we do not accept such behaviour."

The targeted journalists, media companies and organizations include HKJA's executive committee and 13 media outlets including Hong Kong Free Press, Immediak, HK Feature, and two journalism education institutions, she said. At least 15 journalists, their families and associates - including landlords, charities, schools and private businesses - have received anonymous complaints by email or letter from self-proclaimed "patriots," the HKJA said. Cheng said two of her family members has received such complaints.

In gym salvaged from rubble, Gazans release anger on weight machines

Monitoring Desk
KHAN YOUNIS: Israeli air strikes destroyed the building housing Adli al-Assar's gym in Khan Younis in February. So he decided he doesn't need a building.

"I went to the area and dug with my own hands, along with the help of my children and friends, until we were able to retrieve some of the equipment," he explained. Now, his reopened gym is crammed with salvaged weightlifting machines on an empty patch of ground surrounded by a corrugated fence, where dozens of Gazans were pumping iron under the open sky.

China's top health body urges marriage, childbirth at 'appropriate ages'

Monitoring Desk
HONG KONG: China's National Health Commission will focus more efforts on advocating marriage and childbirth at "appropriate ages", an official said, as authorities struggle to boost a declining birth rate that is shrinking its population.

Yu Xuejun, deputy head of the National Health Commission (NHC), said the NHC would also call for shared parenting responsibilities to guide young people towards "positive perspectives on marriage, childbirth and family, state backed Global Times reported.

This would help to foster a "new culture of marriage and childbearing," Yu added.

By law, Chinese men

can only get married after the age of 22 and women after the age of 20.

The move comes as Beijing tries to incentivise more women to have children after China's population fell for a second consecutive year in 2023 and births fell to a record low.

Many women are opting to remain childless due to high childcare costs, an unwillingness to marry or put their careers on hold in a traditional society where they are still seen as the main caregivers and where gender discrimination remains rife.

The number of marriages in the first half of this year fell to its lowest level since 2013, official data showed.

Australia strips Afghan unit commanders of medals over 'war crimes'

Monitoring Desk
SYDNEY: Australia moved to strip medals from Afghanistans war commanders whose units were involved in alleged war crimes and "unlawful conduct".

Defence Minister Richard Marles said the decision — related to specific unit commanders who were in charge between 2005 and 2016 — was needed to "address the wrongs of the past". Fewer than ten commanders will be stripped of their awards, but their names will not be released for privacy reasons.

An official inquiry into the 11-year period examined the alleged unlawful killing of 39 civilians and prisoners in Afghanistan by Australia's elite special forces.



Stranded passengers wait in line at the Aerolineas Argentinas customers service office at the Aeroparque Jorge Newbery airport, during an aviation unions strike, in Buenos Aires.

Vibrant, inclusive democratic process vital for resolution of nation's issues: President

PM reaffirms commitment to democracy on Int'l Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari his commitment to democracy on World Democracy Day, said that the resolution of the nation's issues lied in a vibrant and inclusive democratic process.

"We commemorate World Democracy Day to highlight the importance of democracy in empowering citizens and promoting their active participation in the political process," he said in a message issued by the President House.

He said democracy stood as the cornerstone of a just society, advocating for the protection of fundamental rights and enabling political, economic, and social inclusion.

This year, he said the global theme highlighted the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in advancing good governance. "AI has the potential to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in public administration, making it a key tool in modern governance. AI can provide data-driven insights and thus make the democratic pro-

cess more transparent and accessible for voters by sharing important information about the candidates and their policies," he added.

President Zardari emphasized that democracy stood for people's participation in the political process, political pluralism, and people's rights. Its advocacy for the political, economic and social rights of citizens distinguishes it from other forms of government.

He said the political landscape of the country had witnessed many challenges. Leaders like Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto made immense contributions to the restoration and strengthening of democratic processes in the country. Their unwavering commitment and sacrifice serve as a reminder of the continuous struggle to uphold democratic values, he added.

"As we observe this day, we also recognize the role that our Parliament plays in safeguarding de-

mocracy by representing the will of the people, formulating public policy, and addressing the nation's most pressing challenges. It is the primary forum for addressing grievances, ensuring inclusivity, and fostering a resilient future for Pakistan, the president said.

He said "it is through democratic principles that we can achieve equality, socio-economic justice, the rule of law, and freedom of expression".

President Zardari stressed that as Pakistan faced contemporary challenges, it was highly essential to strengthen democratic institutions, undertake reforms, and work collectively to consolidate democracy.

"Let us recommit ourselves to upholding democratic values and ensuring that democracy continues to flourish in Pakistan," he added.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed the country's unwavering commitment to democracy, constitutionalism.



BEIJING: Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan speaks via video message at "Pakistan Investment Conference: Together for a Shared Future" organised by the Embassy of Pakistan at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS).

09 out of 11 DISCOs' BoDs notified by Power Division, Musadik tells Senate

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Energy, Senator Musadik Masood Malik on Saturday apprised the Upper House of the Parliament that nine out of the total 11 electric power distribution companies (DISCOs)' board of directors (BoDs) have been notified by the Power Division after fulfilling the codal obligations.

He was responding during the calling attention notice of Senator Saifullah Abro on delayed appointment of new Chairmen and Members of Board of Directors of Hyderabad Electric Supply Company, Sukkur Electric Supply Company and Power Planning & Monitoring Company (PPMC) as the Government has already dissolved the other Boards of

DISCOs.

Senator Abro had alleged that there were 10 DISCOs across the country and out of that eight's board of directors were nominated but the two in Sindh were still awaiting namely Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) and Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO).

Minister for Energy Musadik Malik said there was no doubt about the fact that the country was passing through harsh times and improvement of the boards of DISCOs was critical.

"Inflation and employment are the important issues of the public. The 40% inflation rate has dropped to 9% and growth rate spiked up from 0 to 3% and the developing areas

where farmers live are facing 6% development ratio this means that some improvement is taking place and I would like to present the economic indicators when the House permits," he said.

Senator Musadik Malik noted that there were 11 DISCOs under the Power Division out of which nine of them got their boards notified while three were pending.

Among the pending, the first was PPMC whereas its Board nomination committee was held and the board was formed. However, the BODs' list was sent to the Prime Minister and he has approved it whereas it was also presented before the cabinet committee on SOEs which has also approved it.



GADDANI: Federal Minister for Port and Shipping Qaiser Sheikh laying foundation stone of a hospital under Balochistan Development Authority

FPCCIUBG Balochistan reject decision of Govt. about 2% reduction in interest rate

Independent Report

QUETTA: The leaders of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) United Business Group (UBG) Balochistan have rejected the decision of the federal government regarding 2 percent decrease in the interest rate.

In a joint statement issued here on Saturday, the leaders including Chairman of the UBG Balochistan and former President of FPCCI and senior leader of Chaman Chamber of Commerce, Engineer Daro Khan Achakzai, Deputy Chairman UBG Balochistan and former Vice President of FPCCI, Jalaluddin, Asfandiyar Khan Mandokhail, Akbar Khan Achakzai, Ulas Yar Khan, Muhammad Qaseem Khan and others stressed that the inflation interest rate should not be above 12 per-

cent.

They said that 200 basic points or two percent reduction is very less in context of figures of the prices.

They said that the basic inflation is going to be 7 percent in September 2024 according to the estimates of the market.

Besides, the international fuel prices have reached the lowest level this week.

They said that the business community was expecting that the State Bank would announce substantial reduction in the interest rate. But the State Bank decreased the interest rate by 2 percent only, which is nothing, they said.

They suggested that the State Bank should pay attention on the basic inflation instead of general inflation immediately.

Jattak flays Kuchlak blast Independent Report

QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Agriculture and PPP Central Committee member Haji Ali Madad Jatak has strongly condemned the blast near a police mobile on Kuchlak Bostan Road, Quetta.

Jatak expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of police personnel and offered condolences to the bereaved families. He prayed for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks and patience for their loved ones.

The minister said that such terrorist acts cannot demoralize the police force, which has made unprecedented sacrifices for peace and security in the province. The provincial government will not leave the families of the martyred personnel alone and will provide them with all possible support.

CTD arrested nine terrorists

LAHORE (APP): The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) arrested nine terrorists of banned organisations while conducting operations in different areas of Punjab.

According to a spokesman, nine terrorists, including two belonging to Fitna-tul-Khawarij banned organisation, were arrested. The arrested terrorists were identified as Abdul Karim, Muhammad Usman, Imran Siddiqui, Muhammad Thanvi, Mustajab Hussain Shah, Shaukatullah Ahmad Khan, Shiraz Mehmood and Saeedur Rehman. The terrorists belong to banned organisations including Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Daesh and Zambion.

The CTD spokesperson said that the terrorists were arrested during intelligence-based operations in Rahim Yar Khan, Okara, Bahawalpur, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad and Mianwali.

Indian forces martyr one more Kashmiri youth in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism have martyred one more Kashmiri youth in Baramulla district of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

According to Kashmir Media Service, the youth was killed by the troops in a staged encounter during a cordon and search operation in the Keeri area of the district on early Saturday morning.

The operation continued till last reports came in.

Senate Chairman says Making laws is parliament's job; bill will pass only if numbers are secured

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senate Chairman Yousuf Raza Gilani stated that making laws was the prerogative of Parliament, and a bill would pass only if the required numbers are secured.

In a media interaction in Islamabad, the Senate Chairman emphasised that passing bills was a usual matter.

He said that the decision to support or oppose would be made once the details of the reforms were available.

He noted that during his tenure as prime minister, he announced that a single party could not run the country alone, and collective effort was crucial for national development.

He clarified that he was not in favour of Governor Rule, as it should be decided based on extremely concerning circumstances.

Regarding the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister's discussions with Afghanistan, Gilani remarked that foreign policy was a federal matter. He further said that Gandapur's statements on Afghanistan were not taken seriously.

It is noteworthy that crucial sessions of the National Assembly and Senate are scheduled for today, with a possibility of constitutional amendments being presented in the National Assembly.



Secretary Livestock Muhammad Tayyab Lehri being received by Livestock Officer Kalat Muhammad Yaseen and other officials upon arrival in Kalat

Geneva-based HR activists express concern over women plight in IIOJK

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): A seminar organized by an AJK based women organization at Geneva highlighted the plight of women in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and called upon the international human rights organizations to halt Indian widespread maltreatment of the women in the territory as a war weapon to suppress the rightful movement of the people.

The head of the Muslim Women Union, an AJK-based organization, Naila Altaf Kiani told APP here on Saturday by Phone that the seminar organized by her organization in collaboration with some other HR organizations was attended by global human rights activists like Caroline Handschin Moussir, Bar-

riester Margret Owen, Wendi Momen, Zarin Hansworth, Settla Harris, Hadia Sartaj and renowned Kashmiri woman Mrs. Shamim Shal. The seminar titled "Women in Conflicts" was addressed by noted human rights activists, academicians and international law experts hailing from different parts of the world including, She said. She said that the speakers emphasized the suffering of Kashmiri women, stating that as a vulnerable segment of the society, they have borne the brunt of Indian state terrorism. According to Ms. Kiani, speakers in the seminar while referring to different heart-wrenching mass-rape incidents that had taken place in the region said that the horrendous cases of sexual violence.



QUETTA: Activists of Balochistan Grand Health Alliance hold protest rally in favor of their demands.

PTI real face exposed within 48 hours: Asif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Saturday said that the real face of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has been exposed within 48 hours and proposed that the Special Committee set up by the Speaker National Assembly for restoring the prestige of Parliament, should be abolished.

Speaking on a point of order, the PTI was playing a double game which was evident in today's PTI founder tweet. They (PTI) did not talk to the treasury benches rather wished to talk to the establishment, he added.

He conceded that the political leadership committed so many mistakes in the past but now should look towards this august house for supremacy of the constitution and rule of law in the country.

He said on the sugges-

tion of Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the Speaker set up the House's Special Committee not merely to address the concerns or narrative of any political party but rather for upholding the sanctity of the House. He said he walked out of the maiden meeting of the committee as it seemed that it was set up only to address PTI's concerns. "What he predicted on that day today has been proved," Asif observed. He said that today's tweet of the PTI founder vitiated the entire political environment. Complete desperation of PTI leadership reflected in the tweet, he added. Khawaja Asif pointed out that no one forcibly took Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur to the meeting rather he himself came to attend it.



QUETTA: Balochistan Inspector General of Police Moazzam Jah Ansari addresses to media persons during Meet the Press Programme, held at Quetta Press Club.

CM grieved over martyrdom of two jawans of Levies & injuries to three others

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of two jawans of Levies force and injuries caused to three others while performing duties in Daringhar area of Mastung.

In a statement issued here on Saturday, the Chief Minister said that there is a long list of Levies, Police and the security forces for restoration of peace in the province.

He said that the forces have performed their duties by rendering sacrifice of their lives for protection of the life and property of people and thus, they have

established writ of the state.

The Governor said that every person of the province values the sacrifices of their brave forces and as such these can never be forgotten at all.

He expressed condolence with the bereaved families of martyrs and prayed for them.

He also prayed for the early recovery of the injured personnels.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister directed to the Deputy Commissioner Mastung to mobilize all resources for arrest of the terrorists involved in the incident and ensure elimination of the terrorism and crimes.

Mohsin Naqvi condemns blast near Police mobile on Bostan Road in Kuchlak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has strongly condemned the bomb blast on Saturday that took place near a police mobile on Bostan Road in Kuchlak, expressing deep sorrow over the tragic incident.

The Interior Minister paid tribute to the two police officers who were martyred in the attack, acknowledging their sacrifice in the line of duty.

Offering heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyrs, Naqvi expressed his deepest sympathies and prayed for the swift recovery of the injured officer.

"We salute the sacrifice of the martyred officers," Naqvi said.

He further lauded the Balochistan police for their "unmatched sacrifices" in the fight against terrorism.

Naqvi reaffirmed the nation's unwavering commitment to combating terrorism, stating, "The nation's resolve to defeat terrorism cannot be shaken." "This is a battle for the entire nation, and with the support of the people, it will continue until the last terrorist and their facilitators are eliminated," he added.

He expressed his pleasure over the win and commended the people of Rahim Yar Khan for placing their trust in the PPP's leadership.

He also thanked the PPP workers, local leaders, and supporters for their tireless efforts in securing the victory.

"This victory reflects the people's confidence in the PPP's vision for a progressive, inclusive, and democratic Pakistan," he stated.

Roof collapse claims 5 lives in Charsadda

ISLAMABAD (APP): Five members of a same family died on the spot when a roof of their house collapsed at Tarangzai Khatrona locality of district Charsadda in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday.

According to information, rescue officials told that in a heart-wrenching incident that has left the community reeling, a family of five lost their lives when the roof of their house suddenly crashing down in the Tarangzai Khatrona, private news channels reported.

The deceased included a man, his wife and three children, rescue officials added.

After the incident, Rescue 1122 team immediately reached the spot and shifted bodies on ambulance to District Headquarters Hospital in Charsadda with the help of local residents.

Further investigations are still underway, local police added.

QUETTA: Relatives crying of his love ones at hospital after a bomb explosion near a police vehicle claimed the lives of at least two policemen in the Kuchlak town on Saturday.

People's trust in judiciary to erode with cherry-picked judges: Hafiz Naem

KARACHI (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naemur Rehman accused the federal government of cherry-picking judges in the Supreme Court.

He made these remarks during a press conference in Karachi. Rehman said that Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa should have cleared his position regarding the age of judges, adding that people's trust in judiciary would erode if the judges were cherry-picked.

"I hope the CJP will come forward and categorically tell the nation that he doesn't have any interest in the extension of his tenure," he added.

Highlighting the government's intervention in judicial matters, he cautioned the government of

staying away from judicial matters and not making any amendments in an agreed-by-all constitution.

He urged the government to take notice of the remarks made by the recently appointed Secretary General of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Salman Akram Raja in which he disclosed that his family was receiving threats from unknown people.

Rehman said people and armed forces should never be at loggerheads with each other, adding that situation in southern districts of KP was already worsening, which he said, must be concern for the security agencies and the government. He said people were joining the JI in droves as they saw a hope in this party.