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dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Hub

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Government won't allow anyone to destabilise economy, says PM

Shehbaz Sharif lauds police, security forces for preventing 'attack' on capital

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has stated that Pakistan's economic policies are being recognised globally, but political opponents are unable to accept the country's economic progress and are attempting to hinder its development.

During a meeting with Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday, he said that the government would not allow anyone to destabilise economy. He praised the Islamabad administration, Islamabad and Punjab police, Pakistan Army, and Rangers for their role in maintaining peace in the capital. He lauded the Islamabad police for their exemplary role in thwarting an assault on the city, highlighting the collective efforts of the security forces in ensuring law and order.

The prime minister paid tribute to Constable Hameed Shah, who sacrificed his life in the line of duty while protecting the public. "May Allah elevate the martyr's ranks. The nation will always remember this sacrifice," said the PM, expressing solidarity with the constable's family and directing that they be fully cared for.

Shehbaz Sharif assured the public that the situation in Islamabad was rapidly returning to normal, and reaffirmed that economic development and national prosperity remain the government's top priorities. He said the upcoming international events in Pakistan would proceed as planned, with the best security arrangements in place.

Earlier, Interior Minister Naqvi briefed the prime minister on the reopening of main roads for traffic and the overall improvement in the situation, confirming that the situation was swiftly normalising.

The interior minister also informed the PM about the return of 56 Pakistani prisoners from Sri Lanka, who were expected to arrive home soon. Naqvi noted that Federal Minister for Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan had volunteered to bear all expenses for repatriation of the prisoners.

The PM commended both the interior minister and the minister for privatization for their efforts in facilitating the prisoners' return from Sri Lanka.



FAISALABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari offering Fataha over the martyrdom of Lt. Col. Muhammad Ali Shaheed at his family residence.

President expresses condolence with Shaheed Lt. Col. Ali's family

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday arrived at the residence of martyred Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Ali in Faisalabad to express condolence with the bereaved family.

The president offered Fataha for the departed soul, expressed sympathy with the martyr's family and also prayed for their patience, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

Lt. Col. Muhammad Ali embraced Shahadat while fighting with terrorists in North Waziristan, the other day.

On behalf of the nation, the president paid tribute to the services and valour of Shaheed Lt. Col. Muhammad Ali.

The president appreciated the affection and passion of sacrifice of late Lt. Col. Muhammad Ali Shaheed and his family for the country.

The entire nation valued the sacrifices of the martyrs and their families, he said, adding that the nation would not forget its martyrs and their sacrifices.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Governor KPK Faisal Karim Kundli laying floral wreath during the funeral of martyred constable Abdul Hameed Shah.

Directs to submit inquiry report of Zholpolio case by today:

Health Minister annoyed over shortage of medicines; directs to put supply chain on modern lines

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar has expressed anguish over the shortage of medicines in public sector hospitals and directed to the concerned authorities to put the supply chain of the Medicine Supply Department (MSD) on modern lines.

He also directed to increase working capacity of all vertical programmes of the health and PPHI. In addition to this, all available resources should be utilized for welfare of the general public. These and similar other directives were issued by the Provincial Minister for Health during his surprise visit to the Director General Health services here the other day.

During the visit, the Minister was briefed about the vertical programmes and ongoing development projects of the health department.

Federal government imposes ban on PTM

ISLAMABAD (APP): The federal government on Sunday has imposed a ban on the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM), citing threats to national peace and security.

According to a notification issued by the Interior Ministry, the PTM is declared "unlawful" under Section 11B of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997. The announcement from the Interior Ministry stated that the PTM poses a "significant danger" to public order and safety in the country.

Faces legal heat: Imran Khan booked for D-Chowk protest planning

ISLAMABAD (INP): A case has been registered against PTI founder Imran Khan for allegedly planning the D-Chowk protest.

The charges against him included kidnapping, robbery, attempted murder, interference with government operations, and violations under the Anti-Terrorism Act, among 13 sections in total.

The case was filed by Sub-Inspector Qaiser Mehmood and named Imran Khan along with 14 local leaders.

The complaint stated that, contrary to prison manual, Imran Khan was granted extraordinary illegal facilities while incarcerated.

It alleged that he incited his political workers to violence against the state and institutions during visits and communications from jail.

Reducing power tariff top priority of Govt: Leghari

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Minister for Energy, Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari, said on Sunday that the government is taking all possible steps to lower power tariffs and safeguard consumer rights.

Talking to a private news channel, he highlighted efforts to reduce the cost of electricity production, adding that the government is currently reviewing agreements with power plants and independent power producers (IPPs) through mutual understanding. He noted that the power sector is struggling with several issues and urgently needs reforms, particularly regarding IPP contracts.

The burden of circular debt and high interest rates is significantly affecting consumers, he added.

In response to a question about profit from power plants, he stated that all power plants would have to revise their profit plans to benefit consumers.



LAHORE: Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Day of Resistance to be observed against Israel all over Balochistan today: JI, other political leaders

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Day of Resistance is scheduled to be observed against Israel all over the Balochistan province today (Monday).

We want to give message to the world that we are united against the Israeli brutalities and barbarism against the innocent Palestinians and people of Gaza.

These views were expressed by the leader of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, the leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Advisor to Chief Minister for Environment, Nasimur Rehman Musakhail, Provincial Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, Abdul Haq Hashmi and other leaders while addressing a joint press conference here at the Quetta Press Club on Sunday.

Addressing the press conference, Bakht Muhammad Kakar said that we are going to observe the Day of Resistance on October 7 (today).

He said that the genocide of Palestinians is being made by Israel. He said that Israel has unleashed cruelties against the innocent Palestinians including children by attacking even the mosques and hospitals.

He said that the silence of World forces on the Israeli aggression is just unacceptable.

The Provincial Ameer of JI said that the JI has decided to observe the Day of Resistance today expressing solidarity with the Palestinians. He said a whole year has been passed but the Israeli aggression is continued in Gaza.

He said that protest would be lodged against Israel setting aside the political differences.

The Advisor to CM Nasimur Rehman also expressed solidarity with the Palestinians against the Israeli aggression.

To a question regarding Chashma Achozai incident, the Provincial Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar said that report of the incident is being prepared.

He said that action would be taken against responsible if there was found injustice and high handedness with the people.

GoB released grant of Rs. 5 bn for public sector university, says Provincial Minister Education

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Education, Ms. Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani has stated that the provincial government has released the grant of Rs. 5 billion for the public sector universities of the province.

The Minister Education said that the financial grant has been released for the universities for current financial year 2024-25. With this, the teachers and employees of the universities would get their salaries in couple of days.

The Minister Education was speaking to media here the other day.

Ms. Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani mentioned that the issue of salaries of the public sector universities is being faced for long. However, it is unfair to set up a hunger strike camp by the teachers and employees of the Balochistan University, she said.

She pointed out that Rs. 10 billion are required for the salaries of public sector universities besides the grant of Higher Education Commission.

He said that the provincial government has increased the grant of public sector universities from Rs. 2.5 billion to Rs. 5 billion during the current financial year. The formula of distribution of grant among the universities has also been devised, she added.

Four killed, nine injured as anti-encroachment drive turns deadly in Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: A violent confrontation erupted between law enforcement and armed individuals during an operation to reclaim land from land mafia in the Baleli area of Quetta. According to police reports, the clash resulted in the deaths of four individuals and injuries to twelve others. Armed assailants opened fire, leading to widespread unrest in the area. Protesters blocked Baleli Road in response, engaging in stone-pelting and halting all traffic.

The gunfire incident occurred while police were executing a court order to recover illegally occupied land. Conditions have since stabilized in the Chashma Achozai area.

District Administration has confirmed the fatalities, with Deputy Commissioner Saad bin Asad stating that action was taken against illegally residing individuals, including foreign Afghan refugees. During the operation, armed individuals attacked the team, which included the Assistant Commissioner, resulting in casualties. Reports also indicated attempts to set fire to government machinery during the confrontation.



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Advisor Naseem ur Rehman Mulakhail, Amir JI Balochistan Maulana Abdul Haq Hashmi, Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman, Allama Maqsood Ali Domki, Abdul Majeed Badini and other addressing a Press conference

CM Gandapur resurfaces in KP Assembly after day-long disappearance

Says IG Islamabad will have to tender apology at KP Assembly floor

Monitoring Desk

PESHAWAR: After nearly a full day of uncertainty, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur reappeared at the provincial assembly on Sunday, following his sudden disappearance during a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-led protest in Islamabad a day earlier. The mystery surrounding Gandapur's absence had sparked widespread concern, prompting the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly to pass an urgent resolution de-



manding his immediate release. Provincial Law Minister Aftab Alam tabled the resolution, which condemned the recent raid on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad and the violent incidents that ensued. Gandapur, who had been last seen leading a convoy of PTI protestors into Islamabad on October 5, was reportedly near China Chowk when he disappeared.

Upon his return to the K-P Assembly, Gandapur delivered a fiery speech, accusing the federal government of undermining the will of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "A historic chapter has been written, and now they are trying to erase it," he declared, referring to the PTI's political achievements. He also criticised the treatment of PTI members, stating, "Our party symbol has been taken from us, our members have been kidnapped, and we were not allowed to run an election campaign."

Objective of PTI protest to derail economy, spread anarchy: Atta ullah Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Sunday that the objective of the so-called "Tehreek-e-Intishar" was to derail the country's economy and spread chaos and anarchy.

Talking to Media here, the minister said he wondered what were the objectives of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf protest movement?

He said he was deeply saddened by the martyrdom of Islamabad Police Constable Abdul Hameed Shah.

"Abdul Hameed Shah had left home to perform security duties and was martyred by the anarchist group," he added.

The anarchist movement cannot feel the grief of the family members on the martyrdom of Abdul Hameed Shah, he said.

The people of the PTI attacked the federal capital armed with weapons.

The minister said the PTI was not digesting the country's economic development, they wanted to derail the system.

Islamabad Police showed patience and performed the security duties in a friendly manner and did not allow any loss of life or property, he remarked.

He said that the PTI once again wanted dead bodies, but they were not given the opportunity.

Ali Amin Gandapur, he said invaded the federal government with government resources and weapons but he failed miserably in achieving his target.

He said that they wanted to defame the country.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar addressing the meeting of the UC Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of constituency NA-127 at Model Town.

Achakzai announces expansion of peaceful protests to Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Chairman of Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party and leader of the Tehreek Tahafuz-e-Ain Pakistan (Movement for the Protection of Pakistan's Constitution), has announced the expansion of peaceful protests to Balochistan. In a statement, Achakzai condemned the government's violent response to peaceful protests in Islamabad, warning of alarming consequences if this continues.

Achakzai stated that despite repeated warnings to the government to release the PTI founder on bail, the advice was ignored.

He expressed concerns over the current political scenario, stating that the situation is taking a dangerous turn, and the public is now charting their own path.

To intensify the movement, a large protest rally is scheduled for October 7 in Qila Saifullah, Balochistan. Leaders of all political parties associated with the Tehreek Tahafuz-e-Ain Pakistan will attend the event.

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Indian visitor

Amongst the host of foreign dignitaries expected to fly into Islamabad for the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting due to begin on Oct 15, the participation of Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has attracted particular attention. The Indian government has confirmed their top diplomat will attend the SCO moot. Earlier, there was considerable speculation over whether the Indians would attend. The debate related to the visit is understandable and occurs whenever there are high-level exchanges between Pakistani and Indian officials, though it should be mentioned that this is not a bilateral visit. Yet such meetings present opportunities to engage with one another in a civil atmosphere. It would be the first time such a senior Indian official has visited Pakistan since the then home minister Rajnath Singh attended a Saarc meeting in 2016.

Many observers have said that hopes should not be too high, as bilateral relations are the lowest they have ever been during peacetime. Mr Jaishankar, too, stressed that bilateral talks are not on the table. When the then foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari was in Goa last year for an SCO meeting, the Indian reception was not hospitable. Moreover, Mr Jaishankar's remarks regarding Pakistan at last month's UN General Assembly were anything but charitable. It is also true that India may have swallowed the bitter pill of sending a senior envoy to Pakistan to avoid accusations that it is sabotaging the China-led SCO. Yet while acknowledging the deep gulf of mistrust that exists between Pakistan and India, there can always be constructive outcomes from the Indian minister's visit. If both sides stick to the SCO script and avoid bringing in bilateral matters to the multilateral meeting, it could set a positive precedent. But both capitals must also seize the moment and at least engage with each other on the side-lines, even if it concerns only 'talks about talks'. The best way to bring peace to the subcontinent is through frank and direct dialogue. Let both sides discuss all outstanding issues, but through diplomatic channels. Moreover, they should avoid pugnacious sound bites that only vitiate the atmosphere. One immediate confidence-building measure to accompany the SCO visit can be the full restoration of diplomatic relations. While no one should expect any miracles from Mr Jaishankar's visit, there is certainly no harm in using the opportunity to talk peace.

Time for action

Basil Nabi Malik

There comes a time when everyone has to take a stand, speak up, and be counted. And then, there is a time to be silent. The difficulty lies not in the question of whether one should voice their concerns, but in knowing when to voice them. In Pakistan, with the advent of the 'judicial package', an opportunity to speak out seems to have presented itself.

This is a judicial package that has been anything but welcome. By virtue of the proposed amendments, the government is attempting to upend the judicial set-up as we see it. They are not reforming it, building upon it, or improving it. They are, without any doubt, dismantling it. In its place, they are installing a set-up, which is in essence subordinate to them. In fact, the proposed amendments are so drastic that the term 'judicial package' appears to be a euphemism for 'judicial fix'.

After all, any set-up in which the Supreme Court becomes subordinate to a 'court' which is nothing more than a glorified attached department of the government is scandalous. Any proposed amendment which takes away the people's right to hold national security agencies accountable for enforced disappearances or abuse of authority is akin to rubbing salt in already festering wounds. And any proposal which takes cover under the heading of 'judicial reforms' but also slips in alien provisions empowering cantonment boards to levy taxes is a bit too blatant.

It is, in effect, a barefaced effort to break the system of checks and balances that the trichotomy of power allows a polity. In

doing so, it also attempts to concentrate all power in a single centre that seeks de jure, and not de facto, recognition. That should be something that is frightening to all of us.

Under the Constitution, each pillar of the state has a well-defined role. Parliament is to legislate, the executive is to enforce, and the judiciary is to interpret. Each organ is to act within its own domain, to whatever extent is possible, as a check against the other. But if parliament were to go beyond its role and attempt to dismantle the independence of the judiciary and create a subordinate department in its place, it would defeat the very basis of the constitutional structure. In fact, the Constitution would become so lopsided and imbalanced that it would simply not be workable.

The Constitution is a social contract between Pakistan and its provinces, between the governed and those governing. It was evolved through understanding among the stakeholders after extensive debates, and it is the only Constitution that the federating units actually agreed upon, with their aspirations represented in it. In light of this, and especially in the context of these times of extensive turmoil, whether it be terrorism in KP, separatism in Balochistan, unrest in Punjab, or resentment in Sindh, maintaining and protecting the sanctity of this document is pivotal, necessary, and a matter of survival, and not mere convenience.

And it is important to keep in mind that this social contract was delivered to us by politicians in 1973. It is ironic, therefore, that it is through the hands of those very politicians that the same is being weakened, or as some

contend, entirely dismantled. It is hardly surprising though. After all, today's political class talks about democracy but acts like a dictator. It champions the sanctity of the Constitution but does not actually follow it. It asserts parliamentary supremacy, yet refuses to debate any significant proposals in that very parliament. Funnily enough, this political class claims to represent the people, but talks on behalf of everyone but them.

And that is why this is outrageous. It is our public representatives, those who are supposed to mirror our sentiments and will, who have been actively hiding the contents of the proposed amendments from us. There could be many reasons for not revealing the draft earlier, but perhaps, amongst those varying reasons, is an acknowledgment that the measures that were being proposed were not popular or representative, nor did they mirror the demands of the electorate or the needs of the populace. Hence, they sought to bulldoze them through.

They may justify this attempt on the premise of parliamentary supremacy, the rule of law, or the beauty of democracy, but frankly, can anything be more inimical thereto? Evidently no, and that is why the time to speak has arrived — speak up and affirm that this situation is not acceptable.

It is time for true reform, not that born of bad faith. It is time for course correction, but not of the variety which only benefits the elites. And it is time to be representative, but of those who do not have a voice, as opposed to those whose voice we can ill afford to drown out. It is time for action, not silence. -- Courtesy Dawn

Beirut on my mind

Muna Khan

I'm thinking about Lebanon but it's a more personal reflection than political, although the two are inextricably linked. Since hearing about Israel's murder of Shaikh Nasrallah, I've been filled with memories of my 2009 trip there, starting with meeting the men at the Hezbollah camp-cum-stall my friend Shaan and I walked into. Upon hearing we were from Pakistan, we were treated like long-lost friends — we experienced this everywhere we went on our two-week trip where we travelled the length and breadth of this country. We heard iterations of 'Pakistan? You understand what it's like to live through war and instability.'

The men at the Hezbollah stall were no different. They talked about Pakistan with sympathy — our corrupt politicians, our greedy elite, our army that wanted to retain its power, our client-like status with the imperialists, our hapless citizens. "But we have Hezbollah to protect our borders," they said. There was no talk of religion or sect or heaven or hell.

I have written about this before so pardon me for repeating how we left that afternoon armed (no pun intended) with gifts — Hezbollah memorabilia if you will. I worried I would look like a Hezbollah fighter if screened at Karachi airport. Friends commented "terrorism supporters" on pictures of us dressed in Hezbollah T-shirts.

I also remember that day very well for another reason: it was the first day of Ramadan. We had stopped at a cafe en

route to Baalbek to have some breakfast. We asked the staff for the dining section — thinking perhaps they had not set up the curtains to cordon off the area for non-fasters. The staff pointed to the entire restaurant. "Anywhere," said one man. Nothing slowed in Lebanon because of the month of fasting, at least when we were there.

Another day on our trip to find Rashdieh refugee camp — not for disaster tourism; I wanted to attempt some reporting — which houses Palestinian refugees, we took a wrong turn and ended up close to the border with Israel. Don't ask; this is pre-Google maps. Because we were not bound by a set itinerary, we were quite nonplussed about getting lost. We'd already learned that between our/ their broken Arabic and French and English, we a) found our way back to Beirut; and b) we enjoyed our conversations with strangers. Our new friends pointed us in the direction of Israel, so we flipped them the bird and headed home.

That is what Beirut felt like in just a few days of being there. When we went to a certain hotel on my father's insistence as he had dined there with my mother on our first posting abroad when I was a mere baby in the 1970s, the man at the piano bar dedicated song after song to "our guests from Pakistan".

I have numerous such anecdotes to share but I'm thinking of three people as I write this. An elderly owner of the bookshop where I went every morning to buy the Daily Star before heading to a coffee shop to read it. (Team Newspa-

pers Forever.) He would tell me which columnist to read, ask my opinion the following day, and because I wasn't so well versed in Lebanese politics, he would make me sit and explain and I found so many similarities with Pakistan — that is, the complex relations between stakeholders. I'm thinking of a young jewellery designer I met in a fancier part of the city whose mother was in the shop that day. We talked about the violence tearing, and then also creating, political dynasties, ZAB for us, Rafic Hariri for them. And finally, I'm thinking of feminist writer Joumana Had-dad; I visited her at a newspaper office and chatted about her activism, about how a small action can lead to a big shift, even if it's in attitude. She said she did not want to leave because who will be left to fight? These three individuals had nothing in common save one thing: all of them had been affected by war and there was clarity on who the aggressor was. Israel then, Israel now, Israel always. I wonder what they're thinking as Lebanon holds centre stage. Once again the Western media's lens points their way using adjectives we're all too familiar with: 'terrorist' for Hezbollah, 'resilient' for its people. It is not resilient to live in the face of so many blows coming at you from so many places; it is not a compliment, it is a reminder that you have no choice but to get up and carry on. It doesn't get easier trying to survive this crazy world with crazy men in charge. And fewer resistance leaders shielding you from the madness. No one should have to be brave or resilient but they have no choice if they want to survive. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pakistan' economy shows signs of recovery, says Rana Ihsan Afzal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan Sunday expressed optimism about Pakistan's economic recovery, highlighting the government's initiatives that have boosted investor confidence, exporter confidence, and attracted foreign investment, paving the way for sustainable economic growth. Pakistan's economic recovery is gaining momentum, driven by strategic reforms and investments, he said in an exclusive talk with PTV news channel.

Pakistan's economy is showing promising signs of

recovery, thanks to the government's strategic efforts, he said. He painted a positive picture of Pakistan's economic outlook and expressed confidence in the government's reform agenda, citing notable progress in tax stabilization, privatization and exporter support.

Pakistan is poised for significant economic growth, with a focus on resolving long-standing issues faced by manufacturers and exporters, he said, adding, the government is actively addressing refund issues and implementing strategies to boost exports.



ISLAMABAD: Visitors taking keen interest in different handmade items displayed by artisans during two day "Daachi Arts & Craft Exhibition" at Pak China Friendship Centre in the Federal Capital.

Intl. carpet expo in Lahore from 9th

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) is jointly hosting the 40th Pakistan International Carpet Exhibition here from October 9 to 11, 2024. This prestigious event will bring together leading carpet manufacturers, exporters, and international buyers from Pakistan and 30 other countries, showcasing an impressive array of handcrafted carpets. Usman Ashraf, chairman of the exhibition

committee, told media here Sunday that the three-day international exhibition will be inaugurated by the Federal Minister of Commerce. An international conference will also be organized for the first time on the occasion of the exhibition, which will be addressed by eminent domestic and foreign economic analysts. He said that foreign guests, manufacturers and importers will also be given dinner on behalf of the Punjab Governor. Foreign guests will be given the best hospitality on their arrival in Pakistan.

Mian Abuzar Shad elected PBIT Director

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Mian Abuzar Shad has been elected as Director of Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT), according to an LCCI spokesman here Sunday.

On this occasion, Mian Abuzar Shad said that he was grateful to Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and the Provincial Minister and Secretary Industries. He vowed to promote investment according to the Punjab Chief Minister's vision and also take effective steps to further activate the PBIT.

Mian Abuzar Shad was of the view that increased investment is essential for economic recovery, adding that concrete and viable proposals will be made to promote investment.

Mian Abuzar Shad's election as PBIT Director is also welcomed by the business community.



LAHORE: President Zarai Taraqiati Bank Tahir Yaqoob Bhatti meeting with Punjab Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani.

PTI protests and rallies cause price surge and supply shortages in Hazara division

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Over the past three days, the ongoing protests and rallies by PTI in different parts of the country have significantly impacted the daily lives of the general public.

Like other parts of the country, the unrest has caused a suspension of vital supply chains, leading to a sharp increase in prices for essential goods and creating shortages in various commodities in Hazara division, with the effects being felt most severely by the poor and

middle-class citizens. The most immediate and noticeable impact has been on the prices of fruits and vegetables. As transportation has been blocked or delayed due to the tense situation in several regions, supplies to the cities have drastically slowed down. Markets across various cities of Hazara division have reported an unprecedented price hike, with certain fruits seeing a spike of up to 100 rupees per kilogram or per dozen. Fruits like grapes,

apples, bananas, and other seasonal fruits have become significantly more expensive. Consumers who were purchasing these fruits at regular prices just days ago are now facing a steep hike, with vendors citing the disruption in supply chains as the primary cause.

Similarly, vegetable prices have also surged and tomatoes, onions, potatoes, and other commonly consumed vegetables have either disappeared from shelves or are being sold at inflated rates.

Iftikhar Malik says: Political stability crucial for economic growth

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former president Iftikhar Ali Malik said on Sunday that political stability was vital for achieving sustainable economic growth and at this crucial time, the country could not afford politics of agitation and confrontation.

Commenting on prevailing political situation, he said a stable political environment was necessary to attract both domestic and foreign investment, which were essential for revitalizing the economy and improving the livelihoods of millions. He further pointed out that economic development and prosperity were closely

linked to political certainty, without which long-term planning and policy implementation suffer.

He urged all political stakeholders to prioritize the national interest above individual or party agendas. Instead of resorting to political turmoil, he called for dialogue and consensus-building among political parties to ensure smooth governance and economic reforms. Highlighting the challenges facing Pakistan, including inflation, unemployment, and dwindling foreign reserves, Malik stressed that unity among political leaders was a key to overcoming these hurdles.

PCCC greets Sham Lal Manglani

MULTAN (APP): The Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) extended its heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Sham Lal Manglani, a distinguished member of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), on his election as the Chairman of the Task Force on Agriculture for the 2024-25 term.

In the message issued by PCCC and Dr. Yusuf Zafar, it was emphasized that Mr. Manglani's appointment serves as a testament to his unwavering dedication and commitment to the agricultural sector, as well as an acknowledgment of his exemplary leadership.

SCCI stresses urgent steps to reopen Pak-Afghan highway

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Fazal Moqem Khan has urged the government and relevant authorities to take urgent steps to open the Pak-Afghan highway for trade and transportation to save traders on both sides of the border from further monetary losses.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, Fazal Moqem said bilateral trade, transit trade and export have nearly come to

an end owing to the closure of Pak-Afghan highway trade routes for the last several months.

He added that Pak-Afghan mutual trade volume and transit trade had dropped to an alarming situation owing to the closure of the trade route.

Moqem feared if the government couldn't take timely action, the bilateral trade would completely end, which would not only be detrimental to the national economy but also trigger unemployment.



LAHORE: People are buying shoes at Ganpat road, in the Provincial Capital.

PFC delegation heads to US for expanding furniture export opportunities

LAHORE (APP): A delegation from the Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC), led by CEO Mian Kashif Ashfaq, has embarked on a week-long visit to the United States to explore new export opportunities and expand the market for Pakistan's high-quality furniture products. Prior to his departure here on Sunday, he said delegation will engage with American businesses, industry stakeholders, and potential buyers to showcase the craftsmanship and design excellence of Pakistani furniture, which has gained global recognition for its quality and aesthetic appeal. He said the visit was a part of PFC's broader strategy to enhance the global presence of Pakistani furniture and foster

collaboration between local manufacturers and international importers. By exploring export avenues in the U.S., PFC aims to boost the industry's revenue, create more jobs, and improve the competitiveness of Pakistan's furniture sector globally. He said during the visit, delegation will also hold meetings with trade representatives to promote Pakistan's furniture sector. He emphasized the importance of strengthening trade ties with the U.S. market, which presents significant potential for growth. He also highlighted the government's support in helping Pakistani businesses increase their exports and contribute to the national economy.

Criminal involved in May 9 violence responsible for cop's martyrdom: Senior Minister

LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb announced that constable Abdul Hameed, injured by PTI activists, had succumbed to his injuries at PIMS hospital. She held the criminal responsible for the events of May 9, labeling him a shameless narcissist and fascist. She condemned his mindset of "If I'm not there, destroy everything," "If I'm not there, drop an atom bomb on Pakistan," and "Set the country on fire, kill everyone, burn everything down," saying such thinking is not representative of the

Pakistani people. The senior minister stated that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur was armed with weapons, tear gas shells, and glass slingshots by Imran Khan, aimed at attacking Islamabad, shedding blood, and creating chaos. She said attacks were carried out on the police and Rangers, with heads and eyes being targeted, and that yesterday was essentially another May 9. Marriyum Aurangzeb added that the target on May 9 was national security institutions, with the aim of seizing control of their leadership. Yesterday,

democratic institutions were the target, and the goal was to postpone the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit and gain control over the judiciary. She emphasized that both conspiracies were orchestrated by the same individual, who is now aware that Pakistan's foreign relations have improved. The economy, she said, is back on track, and his divisive politics have come to an end. Those participating in this anti-state conspiracy are traitors to Pakistan and the nation, she maintained.



RAWALPINDI: People are arriving at Faizabad bus station for traveling their home towns as bus station open after three days in the city, due to roads closed during PTI protest in twin cities.

Another incident akin to May-9 thwarted: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has said that another incident akin to the May-9 incident by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has been thwarted.

Those who claimed to bring about a revolution fled away, leaving their shoes behind, she said and saluted the people of Punjab for completely rejecting the movement of chaos.

She said that the effective strategy of the federal and Punjab governments successfully countered the rioters.

A senior police officer was martyred and dozens

were injured due to stone-pelting by miscreants. She remarked that how come these rioters can claim that their protest was peaceful.

The assault on the federation was carried out using the resources and employees of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, the information minister said adding that participation of the KP police and Afghan nationals in the protest was concerning and warrants investigation.

Furthermore, she expressed regrets for the parents who were sacrificing their children in this political turmoil.

08 dead, 1504 injured in 1411 RTCs in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Eight persons were killed and 1504 injured in 1411 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

Out of these, 708 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 796 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals.

Furthermore, the analysis showed those 810 drivers, 54 underage drivers, 158 pedestrians, and 544 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 290 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 297 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by Faisalabad 119 in with 121 victims and at third Gujranwala with 84 RTCs and 87 victims.

According to the data 1307 motorbikes, 82 autorickshaws, 122 motorcars, 34 vans, 10 passenger buses, 22 truck and 117 other types of vehicles and carts were involved in these road traffic accidents.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique and Deputy Commissioner preside over the meeting regarding anti-dengue campaign.

PPP says PTI's agenda of disruption exposed, calls for immediate action

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Central Punjab General Secretary Syed Hassan Murtaza has declared that the agenda of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has been exposed, stating that the decision regarding the disruptive elements within the party will no longer be made in parliament but on the ground. He stressed that the current focus should be on saving the state rather than engaging in political maneuvering, reaffirming that the PPP is committed to both its manifesto and the coalition

government.

He made these remarks during a joint press conference alongside party leaders Usman Malik, Rana Jawad, Mian Ayub, and Chaudhry Akhtar, following a Punjab organizational meeting at the residence of CEC member Chaudhry Aslam Gill on Sunday.

He paid tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Ali Shaokat Shaheed and other soldiers martyred in North Waziristan, stating that they had sacrificed their today for the future of the nation.

EPA confiscates over 1500kg plastic bags in drive against pollution

MULTAN (APP): The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) raided and confiscated 1500 kilogramme substandard polythene bags after a ban by Punjab government on single-use plastic and shopping bags with a thickness of less than 75 microns.

Assistant Director Environment Hameed Akhtar told APP here on Sunday that departmental teams were engaged and made inspections of 1203 shops from June 5 to so far. He further said that a Rs10,000 fine was also imposed on shopkeepers over violation. The teams

are making inspection on a daily basis to enforce the provincial government orders as plastic also contributes to environmental pollution. The initiative was taken for the health and life of the public and shopping bags less than 75 microns thick and single-use plastics are banned across the province, he added. The official said that factories have started manufacturing shopping bags above 75 microns. Since June 6, 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Multan has been actively enforcing the ban on polythene bags below 75 microns.

Man killed, brother injured over old enmity

FAISALABAD (APP): Some people allegedly stoned to death a man and inflicted serious injuries on his brother in the area of Raza Abad police station.

A police spokesman said here on Sunday that one Ali and his brother Shakeel, residents of Raza Abad, were going to offer prayers when their rivals attacked them with bricks and stones to avenge an old rivalry.

As a result, Ali and Shakeel received serious injuries and were rushed to hospital, but Ali succumbed to his injuries on the way, whereas condition of Shakeel was stated to be serious.

District Dadu Police Boosts Security Measures for a Peaceful Environment

DADU: In a commendable effort to ensure a peaceful environment in Dadu District, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Captain Ameer Saud Magsi has taken significant steps to strengthen security. The district's second-largest city, Mehar, has seen an increase in police personnel, with 40 additional eagle-trained commandos joining the Madadgar 15 unit. This enhancement aims to bolster stability and safety in Mehar, a key business and densely populated hub.

Opposition Leader criticizes absence of KP Chief Minister

PESHAWAR (APP): Dr. Ibadullah, the Leader of the Opposition in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, on Sunday raised concerns over Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's recent absence, saying that this is not the first time he has gone missing.

Speaking to journalists in the Chamber of the Opposition Leader, Dr. Ibadullah emphasized that the Chief Minister has not been arrested, raising serious questions about his disappearance, which he termed a "drama for political point-scoring."

He accused Gandapur of abandoning his party workers to enjoy pastries at the Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa House instead of fulfilling his responsibilities.

Dr. Ibadullah also highlighted that the assembly session has been postponed until October 7, questioning the rationale behind suddenly calling a meeting on a public holiday today.

"What issues are being addressed here? Are they solely concerned with the interests of the PTI, rather than public concerns?" he asked.

Furthermore, he criticized the Chief Minister's rhetoric, questioning whether it is appropriate for a leader to respond to violence with violence.



PESHAWAR: Activists of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are holding protest demonstration for release of PTI Founder Imran Khan, outside KPK Assembly in Peshawa.

AJK observes World Teachers Day with due respect and honor

MIRPUR (APP): Like other parts of the country, the World Teachers' Day was also observed across Azad Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday. Parents and students conveyed good wishes to the teachers coupled with the prayer for long lives of the teachers to keep the children intact with the blessing of this relation to commemorate the 'Salam Teachers Day'.

Special meetings and rallies of both teachers and students were hosted under the auspices of various places in various parts of

AJK, including Mirpur, to mark the Day. Addressing an impressive ceremony hosted at the local campus of International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) School here on Friday, Director Atique ul Amin Khan, Principal Mrs. Ayesha Imran Mirza, Vice Principal Maria Atique and other seasoned academicians and students highlighted the superiority and importance of the relation between student and teacher as also confided and determined in the teachings of Islam.

International News

At least 26 killed in Gaza as Israeli army launches new incursion in north

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: At least 26 people were killed and 93 others wounded when Israeli airstrikes hit a mosque and a school sheltering displaced people in the Gaza Strip early on Sunday, the Hamas-run Gaza government media office said.

Palestinian health officials said at least another 20 people had been killed since Saturday night in northern Gaza, after the army sent tanks into areas there for the first time in months and urged residents to leave.

The Israeli military said it had conducted "precise strikes on Hamas terrorists" who were operating within command and control centres embedded in Ibn Rushd School and the Shuhada al-Aqsa Mosque, in the area of Deir al-Balah in central Gaza.

Hamas rejects accusations it uses civilian facilities such as schools, hospitals and mosques for military purposes.

The mosque has been here for 20 years, and the neighbourhood has displaced people," imam Ahmed Fleet said as he retrieved Korans from the debris. "I was shocked when it was struck."

The strikes came as the war between Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas approaches its first anniversary, and as Israel has been expanding its actions in Lebanon.

Hamas attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing 1,200 people and taking about 250 as hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

Israel's subsequent military assault on Gaza has killed nearly 42,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's health ministry. It has also displaced nearly all of the enclave's 2.3 million

people, caused a hunger crisis and led to genocide allegations at the World Court that Israel denies.

The International Committee of the Red Cross urged all parties to ensure all civilians were protected.

"This is a year marked by heartbreak and unanswered questions. Families have been torn apart, with many loved ones still held against their will. Tens of thousands of people have been killed and millions have been displaced across the region," it said.

The Hamas-run Gaza government media office said Israel had struck 27 houses, schools and displacement shelters across Gaza in the past 48 hours.

Medics said an Israeli airstrike killed three Palestinians in Rafah, near the border with Egypt, where Israeli forces have been operating since May.



A view shows a damaged site in the aftermath of Israeli strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs, amid the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, Lebanon.

Israel says it's 'preparing response' to Iran's missile attack

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Israel was preparing a military response to Iran's missile attack this week that heightened fears of a wider regional war, an official said on Saturday, as fighting raged in Lebanon and in Gaza. In its second-ever direct attack on its regional foe, Iran launched about 200 missiles at Israel on Tuesday in revenge for a spate of killings of leaders from outfits like Hezbollah and Hamas.

Nasrallah's possible successor 'out of contact' after Israeli air strike

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: The potential successor to slain Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah has been out of contact since Friday, a Lebanese security source said on Saturday, after an Israeli air strike that is reported to have targeted him. In its campaign against the Iran-backed Lebanese group, Israel carried out a large strike on Beirut's southern suburbs late on Thursday that, according to Israeli officials, targeted Hashem Safieddine in an underground bunker.

which killed one person in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, caused damage to an Israeli air base, according to satellite images. The Israeli military official said the army "is preparing a response to the unprecedented Iranian attack". He did not elaborate on the nature or timing of the response, which analysts and Israeli media said would likely be designed to deal an immense blow to Iran, despite international calls for de-escalation.

Russia targets Kyiv, Odesa in latest drone attack

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russia unleashed an overnight drone attack across Ukraine targeting the capital Kyiv and hitting infrastructure in the Black Sea port of Odesa, Ukrainian officials said on Sunday.

The State Emergency Service said one person was wounded and warehouses and cargo trucks were damaged in Odesa during the multi-wave attack, which kept much of the country under air-raid alert for several hours.

Zelensky to hold defence talks with Biden in Germany

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Saturday he would attend an international meeting to discuss military support for Ukraine to be held in Germany next week. The military meeting at the US air base in Ramstein near Frankfurt is expected to bring together more than 50 of Ukraine's allies, including US President Joe Biden. "We are preparing for the 25th Ramstein meeting on October 12, which will be the first to take place at the leaders' level," he said on social media.

Iran FM calls for ceasefire in Lebanon and Gaza

Monitoring Desk
DAMASCUS: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi renewed his call for ceasefires in both Gaza and Lebanon on Saturday as he held talks with his country's Syrian ally.

"The most important issue today is the ceasefire, especially in Lebanon and in Gaza," he told reporters. "There are initiatives in this regard, there have been consultations that we hope will be successful."

Araghchi's visit to Damascus, his first since he took office in August, comes almost a year after Iran-backed Palestinian group Hamas attacked Israel, triggering war in Gaza. The conflict has also

drawn in Iran's Lebanese ally, Hezbollah and on September 23 Israel sharply intensified its campaign against the group.

"The purpose of my trip to Damascus is to continue consultations regarding the developments in the region," Araghchi said.

His meetings in the Syrian capital follow a visit to Beirut on Friday during which he voiced support for a truce in Lebanon acceptable to Hezbollah "simultaneously with a ceasefire in Gaza."

Araghchi travelled to Damascus by air after Lebanon said an Israeli air strike on Friday severed the main international highway linking the two countries.

Kazakhstan votes on whether to build first nuclear plant

Monitoring Desk
KAZAKHSTAN: Kazakhstan began voting in a referendum on Sunday on whether to build its first nuclear power plant, an idea promoted by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's government as the Central Asian nation seeks to phase out polluting coal plants.

The plan has faced public criticism on concern over any related hazards, the Soviet nuclear testing legacy, and fears that Russia will be involved in the project.

"I have come to the conclusion that the decision to build the nuclear power plant, and to build it with (Russian state nuclear firm) Rosatom, has already been made in (Tokayev's office) and the people of Kazakhstan are being invited to polling stations as 'notaries' to authenticate this decision with their votes," popular blogger Vadim Boreiko wrote.

In the village of Ulken on the shores of Lake Balkash, which the cabinet has designated as the site

to build the plant on, some locals hoped the project would bring jobs while others expressed concern about the impact on the quality of the lake water. "I support the power plant," said Dametken Shulgeyeva, who has lived in the village of 1,200 people for more than 20 years. "This is our future."

Despite its sizeable natural gas reserves, the Central Asian nation of 20 million relies mostly on coal-powered plants for its electricity needs, supplemented by some hydroelectric plants and the growing renewable energy sector. Kazakhstan already imports electricity, mostly from Russia, as its facilities, many of which are old, struggle to meet domestic demand. And coal is generally regarded as the most polluting energy source.

The government says a reliable energy supply is needed to supplement renewable sources such as solar and wind power, and since Kazakhstan is one of the world's biggest uranium producers, nuclear power is a logical choice.

Elon Musk makes his first appearance at a Trump rally and casts the election in dire terms

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Billionaire tech executive Elon Musk cast the upcoming presidential election in dire terms during an appearance with Donald Trump, calling the Republican presidential nominee the only candidate "to preserve democracy in America."

The CEO of SpaceX and Tesla who also purchased X, Musk joined Trump on Butler, Pennsylvania, on Saturday at the site where the former president survived an assassination attempt in July. Musk said "this will be the last election" if Trump doesn't win. Wearing a cap with the "Make America Great Again" slogan of Trump's campaign, Musk appeared to acknowledge the foreboding nature of his remarks.

"As you can see I am not just MAGA — I

am Dark MAGA," he said.

It was the first time that Musk joined one of Trump's rallies and was evidence of their growing alliance in the final stretch of the presidential election. Musk created a super political action committee supporting the Republican nominee and it has been spending heavily on get-out-the-vote efforts. Trump has said he would tap Musk to lead a government efficiency commission if he regains the White House.

Trump joined Musk in August for a rare public conversation on X, a friendly chat that spanned more than two hours. In it, the former president largely focused on the July assassination attempt, illegal immigration and his plans to cut government regulations.

Climate activist Greta Thunberg detained at Brussels demo

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: Climate activist Greta Thunberg was among several of protesters detained on Saturday for blocking a road in the Belgian capital at a demonstration against fossil fuel subsidies. An eyewitness saw the iconic Swede — who has previously been detained for civil disobedience at protests in various countries — carried away by police after refusing to leave a sit-in.

Thunberg, 21, was part of a smaller group of demonstrators who broke away from a march organised by the United for Climate Justice movement that began outside the European Parliament. The rally was calling for the European Union — headquartered in Brussels — to end subsidies for fossil fuels in order to achieve its ambitious goal of making the continent carbon neutral by 2050.



QUETTA: Participants of Gaza Conference express solidarity with the people of who are facing the Israeli aggression.

Dr. Khalid Maqbool says: Action must be taken against those making scene in Islamabad

KARACHI (APP): The Federal Minister for Education and Vocational Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Sunday said that action must be taken against those, who were becoming cause of the situation on the roads of Islamabad.

While talking to media persons after a special reception in honour of a delegation from the United Kingdom hosted by NAVTTC at a local hotel here, he said that the world was approaching towards Pakistan but some elements wanted to make her solitude at diplomatic level. He said that the attitude being

posed on the roads of Islamabad should be stopped by action. Replying to a question, the federal minister said that the National Education Policy would be announced by the end of current year or in the start of new year. He said that 25 million children were out-of-school and they had to make efforts for them. Siddiqui said that the world needed Information Technology (IT) experts and Pakistan had youth for availing this opportunity.

The minister said that Karachi was the biggest city of Pakistan and centre of commerce and trade. There were approximately

180 million youth in the country and they should be trained in line with modern skills based on demand.

Siddiqui said and added, our first priority is International Certification in Vocational Training.

He, on the occasion, also welcomed the foreign delegation and hoped that the cooperation among them would help equip Pakistani youth and students with modern market-oriented skills and education.

NAVTTC Executive Director Mohammad Aamir Jan and NAVTTC Director General Sindh Aziz Chandio were also present on the occasion.

Irfan lambasts PTI for instigating provincial resources against federation

ISLAMABAD (INP): Parliamentary Leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in the Senate, Senator Irfan Siddiqui on Sunday lambasted the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for instigating provincial resources against the federation and accused the PTI for introducing an ominous tradition of provincial onslaught on the federation.

In a post on his official X-handle, the Senator wrote, "It happened many times in the past that the government of the PML-N and the Pakistan People's Party was in some parts of the federation and provinces. Despite the mutual tension, it has never happened that any of the federating unit has attacked the

federation under the leadership of the Chief Minister." He regretted that this tradition was introduced by PTI in 2016 when then Chief Minister, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pervez Khattak launched the first attack on Islamabad. In 2022, the PTI founder attacked the federal capital with the help of then Chief Minister Mehmood Khan and the provincial government's resources, he said, adding, "And now Chief Minister Gandapur has made a new form to attack the federal government."

"Is there any political party in any country in the world doing this? An armed group can be called a political party?" the Senator queried.

Two terrorists killed during encounter with CTD in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Two hardcore terrorists were killed during an encounter with the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in the Sher Shah area of Karachi.

CTD In-charge Raja Umer Khattab said that they received credible information that two terrorists namely Hafiz Qasim Rasheed who was an Emir of banned Lashkar-e-Jhangvi Karachi and Usman were involved in the gruesome murder of CTD officer Ali Raza which took place on July 7, 2024.

He said that a terrorist namely Ahmed Hassan who belonged to the banned Sipah-e-Sahaba facilitated these terrorists through the rescue of the deceased Ali Raza.

NCCA agrees roadmap for prioritising climate actions in close coordination with provinces

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: The National Climate Change Authority (NCCA) in a high level meeting on Sunday agreed to roll out a roadmap for prioritising climate actions to take forward country's climate resilience-building in close coordination and collaboration with the provinces and other relevant stakeholders.

The NCCA meeting was held to review the implementation of the various measures proposed in the national climate change policy for climate change resilience of various socio-economic sectors, particularly energy, water, agriculture, public infrastructure, a press statement issued here said.

The meeting discussed at length the future course of actions for enhancing collaboration with all relevant federal and provincial government organisations for addressing various climate impacts, particularly floods, heat waves, glacial lake outburst floods, shifting rainfall patterns, changing river flows and groundwater depletion.

The meeting also pondered over efforts to formulate and coordinate climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience-building ongoing and future plans, projects, and programmes to meet Pakistan's obligations under international conventions, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In her statement, Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, said on the occasion that present government is increasingly focusing on climate change resilience of Pakistan, recognising that the country is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, including extreme weather events, floods, droughts, and glacial melt.

"The present government is committed to enhance Pakistan's climate resilience by protecting people, their lives and livelihoods from the adverse impacts of climate change by utilizing all available resources, capacity and technical know-how," Romina Khurshid Alam said.

Earlier, in her welcome remarks, the climate change and environmental coordi-

nation ministry secretary Aisha Humera Moriani highlighted Pakistan's growing climate vulnerability and exacerbating impacts of the climate change-caused disasters.

Climate change and environmental coordination ministry said that Pakistan is among the countries most affected by climate change, despite contributing relatively little to global greenhouse gas emissions.

But, for tackling these climate risks as an environmentally-responsible country, the government is shaping its response to the climate risks in the light of its national policies, international commitments and regional initiatives aimed at strengthening climate resilience and reducing vulnerability, particularly for the most affected communities in marginalized and poverty-hit parts of the country, she remarked.

Attended by the climate change authority's member coordination, member finance, and member mitigation and other senior officials of the ministry and other provincial governmental organisations.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui chairing a meeting with the NAVTTC counterpart colleagues from United Kingdom.

Windar dam to be completed by 2025; expected to irrigate 10,000 acres of agri. land

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Windar dam project is due to be completed by end of year 2025.

According to an official hand out issued here the other day, the work on Windar project had been started in 2021. The important project of dam has already been reflected in the federal public sector development programme (PSDP). The dam having length of 1.5 kilometer and depth of 41 meters is likely to irrigate around 10,000 acres of land besides making available the clean drinking water to the dwellers of adjacent areas.

The command area would also be increased for the growers with completion of federal government-funded dam project, which have four distributaries.

It is believed that the new era of development and prosperity would also begin with completion of the dam project on one hand, while on the other hand, new job opportuni-

ties and livelihood would also be created.

The project would cast positive results on the socio-economic condition of the province specially Lasbela district. "Winder Dam project initiated by federal government would be completed in four years which would help to refill the underground water, boost the agriculture and livestock progress in the area," he said adding that the dam would supply three million gallon clean water per day to the residents of winder and its adjacent areas. The Winder Dam has the capacity of 36,167 acre feet live storage to conserve flood water of Winder River to ensure annual availability of water for developing agriculture sector. The Dam will also provide water supply to the agricultural lands through canals. Some 919 square miles catchment area of Winder Dam will irrigate the area through 21 kilometers (km)'s main canal along with its four branches of 16 km each.

Funeral prayer of Shaheed Constable Hameed Shah offered at Express Chowk

ISLAMABAD (APP): The funeral prayer of the valiant martyr, Constable Abdul Hameed Shah of Islamabad Police, was held on Sunday at Express Chowk, with utmost respect and honor.

According to police statement the ceremony was attended by Federal Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi, Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Faisal Karim Kundi, Interior Secretary Captain @ Muhammad Khurram Agha, Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa, IGP Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, IGP Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, senior officers from Islamabad, Punjab police and Frontier Constabulary,

and a multitude of police officers and other law enforcement agencies officials. IG Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, while paying tribute, reaffirmed the indomitable spirit of the police force to defend and protect the citizens, he added. IG emphasized that every member of the force is committed to upholding the values of martyrdom, and they stand united against any threat to the community. He said the sacrifice of Abdul Hameed, who lost his life in the line of duty, was commemorated with somber reverence. A vast gathering of police officers and law enforcement officials, along with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, offered their final respects.



LASBELLA: Parliamentary Secretary Tourism Nawabzada Mir Zareen Khan Magasi visiting Jam Mir Muhammad Yousaf Library. Deputy Commissioner Lasbela Humera Baloch is also present

Protests erupt in Jammu over blasphemous remarks by Hindu priest

JAMMU (INP): Protests erupted in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir against the blasphemous remarks made by a Hindu priest, Yati Narsinghanand.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the protests, comprising various Islamic organizations, demanded immediate arrest and execution of Narsinghanand.

In Rajouri, protesters took to the streets, raising slogans against Narsinghanand and demanding his arrest. The protesters marched through the main streets, calling for accountability and condemning the blasphemous comments.

Similarly, protests were held in Jammu's Gujjar Nagar area, where

protesters gathered outside the local mosque and raised slogans and demanded action against Narsinghanand. The Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Personal Law Board and other organizations have condemned Narsinghanand's remarks, terming them "highly provocative and blasphemous."

The Board's secretary, Muhammad Tajamul Islam, demanded Narsinghanand's immediate arrest and prosecution.

"The remarks have hurt the sentiments of Muslims globally. We demand strict action against him," Islam said.

Narsinghanand, a priest from Uttarakhand, has been notorious for making inflammatory statements off and on.



QUETTA: Chairmen National Commission Interfaith Harmony Balochistan Jahangir Khan Kharoti addressing a convention organized by PNL-N.

Governor Kundi attends funeral of slain policeman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday attended the funeral prayer of police officer Hamid Shah, who was tragically killed during recent protests.

The officer lost his life while fulfilling his duty to maintain public order.

Governor Kundi expressed his condolence to the slain officer's son, brother, and fellow officers, emphasizing that their sacrifice will always be remembered.

He commended the courage of law enforcement personnel, saying that their services are vital for the country's security and public safety.

Kundi said that the

sacrifice of the slain officer symbolizes the commitment to maintaining peace and stability in the country.

The funeral was attended by Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, senior police officials, other dignitaries, and a large number of citizens and police personnel. Strict security measures were in place for the event.

Attendees noted that the Governor's presence was a gesture of solidarity and brotherhood from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Police officers and family expressed that the Governor's attendance helped soothe their grief after the tragic loss, highlighting the unity among the provinces.

'Lawyers to defend judiciary from threats'

LAHORE (INP): Senior lawyer Hamid Khan has claimed that the ruling coalition is trying to amend the Constitution in a bid to weaken the judiciary, an attempt which the lawyers' community will resist with full force.

Talking to the media with reference to the proposed 26th Constitutional Amendment, Khan said lawyers are a shield against every conspiracy targeting the judiciary.

"We will not allow anyone to strike at the judiciary. Lawyers will protect the judiciary at all costs. We will neither allow the formation of a separate Federal Constitutional Court nor let it operate. Two hundred thousand lawyers across the country will not let any such attempt succeed," he added.

The proposed consti-

tutional amendment package includes some major changes in the country's legal system including formation of a separate constitutional court as well as extension in the tenure of the chief justice of Pakistan.

The lawyer referred to the 2007 Lawyers Movement that resulted in the exit of former military ruler General Pervez Musharraf and said, "Like in 2007, we will observe a day of protest every Thursday."

He said lawyers have also been asked to stage protests against the proposed amendment at district level. Khan claimed that a lawyers' movement to save the Constitution has already begun. "Today, a lawyers' convention was held in Peshawar. Next, we will hold lawyers' conventions in Islamabad and then in Rawalpindi."



QUETTA: PTI workers stage a protest in favor of their demands outside QPC.

Miftah Ismail links foreign investment to political stability

KARACHI (INP) - A peaceful protest is the right of every individual. But politics is not given preference over national interests. Foreign investment does not pour in where there is political instability in the country. Awaam Pakistan Party leader Miftah Ismail said while speaking at an event.

"PTI must think that Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit is going to be held in Islamabad on October 15.

"This is not the proper time for protest in the capital. Using KP state

machinery for the protest and brining shells to the protest venue is wrong," Miftah Ismail said.

The government should give PTI permission for a peaceful demonstration.

PTI should also hold peaceful protests and shun politics of violence and hatred. Both PTI and government should settle issues taking one step back, the Awaam Pakistan Party leader said.

"Shehbaz Sharif should not take the government which does not have people's mandate.

Man gunned down in Turbat

Independent Report
TURBAT: A man was killed in a shooting incident in Lal Jan Colony, Turbat. Unidentified armed men on a motorcycle opened fire, killing Riyaz, son of Yar Muhammad, a resident of Punjgur who was temporarily living in Zehri Colony, Turbat. The Turbat Police confirmed the incident and stated that they are searching for the perpetrators. The authorities have launched an investigation into the incident and are working to apprehend the culprits.

Four perished as car hits rickshaw

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Four people including a child died in a road accident near Sandheela Chowk in Kot Addu on Sunday. According to police, an extended family was heading towards Janu village from Vehari by a rickshaw when a rashly driven car hit the three-wheeler at Head Taunsa Road, Kot Addu. As a result of which rickshaw driver Riaz Hussain, Foza Batool w/o Muhammad Ali, Shereen Akhtar w/o Riaz Hussain and a minor Talal s/o Muhammad Ali died on the spot. Police were investigating.



QUETTA: Head of Mazloom Olsi Tehreek Pakistan Mashar Haji Sadiq Khan Achakzai addressing the newly joined workers of tehreek.

PTI wants to disrupt SCO summit in Islamabad: Kundi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Levelling serious allegations on PTI, KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has said the party transport terrorists in Punjab and other cities in the guise of protests and sit-ins.

"The PTI wants to disrupt Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit by inviting Indian FM to address their protest rally.

"They are treading course of collision. They have nothing to do with the prosperity of the country. They just know how to commit corruption and dance," the KP governor said.

In a statement, the governor said PTI supplies weapons to other cities in the name of political struggle, adding Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi had claimed that 100 Afghans were arrested from PTI protest in Islamabad.

To a question, Kundi said dialogue with PTI is not possible as it follows anti-country agenda.

"They tried to sabotage talks with IMF by sending a letter to the funding agency, they created May 9 violence and now they wanted to disrupt the tour of Malaysian PM," he alleged.



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar being briefed by DG Health Dr. Amin Mandokhail regarding betterment of health department