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'No democratic person can go against constitutional package': Ahsan Iqbal

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives professor Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhry on Sunday said that no any democratic person could disagree with the Constitutional Amendment Package of Pakistan. He said that the coalition government had been successful to turn around the economy of the country. He expressed these views after a meeting with MQM-Pakistan leadership including its Chairman and Federal for Education and Professional Training Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui at MQM-Pakistan's Pakistan House. Advisor to PM on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah and Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar were also present on the occasion. Ahsan Iqbal said that they provided amount of time to some parties wished to review and consider constitutional amendment. "We built a consensus, which was a democratic process", he added.



KARACHI: Police clash with Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) activists for violating Section 144 when they demonstrated against the killing of blasphemy suspect Dr Shahnawaz Kunhar and "extremism in Karachi."

Tarar lauds China for helping Pakistan overcome energy crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday extended deep gratitude to China for helping Pakistan to overcome worst energy crisis faced by the country in the early years of previous decade. Delivering his speech at the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan ceremony here, he said the friendship between Pakistan and China spanned over decades and many generations. "The friendship between Pakistan and China is being passed down from generation to generation," the minister said adding that the people of Pakistan and China had emotional attachment to each other. Tarar remarked that Beijing had supported Islamabad in all circumstances and this friendship had gone through storms and difficult times successfully and proved unbreakable. He said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was the manifestation of closeness and ideal friendship between the two countries.

Pakistan Army secures gold medal in Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2024

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Army's team has been awarded the gold medal in Exercise Cambrian Patrol 2024, which concluded today in Wales, United Kingdom. According to a press release issued here, the event, held from the 4th to the 13th of this month, marked the sixty-fifth anniversary of the exercise, which upholds demanding professional standards. Patrols from around the globe had to move tactically across inhospitable terrain, covering a distance of 60 kilometers (kms) within 48 hours, completing specialist tasks in a contested environment, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.



WALES: Pakistan Army Team participate in Exercise Cambrian Patrol-2024, held in Wales. This year, 128 teams from 42 Countries participated in the Exercise and out of all these teams, Pakistan Army's Team showed Exceptional Performance in the exercise and has been awarded with the Gold Medal.



ISLAMABAD: Pak Army soldiers and police personals checking a motorcyclists in front of Parliament House at Constitution Avenue, during security high alert at "red zone" area ahead of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, in the Federal Capital.

Asks PTI to withdraw protest call amid SCO moot Pakistan ready to warmly host CHG-SCO meeting; matters within SCO framework to be discussed: Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday said that Pakistan was ready to host Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting on October 15-16 in Islamabad in which different significant issues would be discussed under the SCO framework. Talking to media after his visit to review arrangements for the upcoming CHG-SCO meeting, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that

certain countries had requested for bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the CHG-SCO which were finalized. Replying to a query, he said that India had not requested for such bilateral meeting and only the matters related to SCO framework would be discussed by the SCO member states at the multilateral forum. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar also accompanied the deputy prime minister and foreign minister during a walk with the

mediapersons to provide their first-hand information about the preparations of SCO summit. About invitation to Afghanistan, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that since 2021, the Observers Status of that country had been virtually suspended as Afghanistan had neither been invited to nor participated in SCO meetings. Therefore, he said, Pakistan could not take decision alone in this regard as the decisions were taken on the SCO forum by the member states.

Dar, to another question, said Pakistan is a host to CHG-SCO and would fully meet the responsibility. About the North-South and South-South connectivity, he said the discussions with the relevant countries were in progress and continuing on the bilateral and multilateral levels. But within the SCO framework and protocol, certain matters would be discussed under specific scope of discussions and within its contours, he further clarified.



KARACHI: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) delegation, led by Secretary General Ahsan Iqbal, Advisor to PM Rana Sanaullah, and Federal Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, meets with MQM-Pakistan leadership, including Chairman Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, at Pakistan House.

Three-day annual exhibition & conference of construction material: Governor exhorts engineers & architects to guide in construction of modern buildings thru 3D printing technology

'Jaffar Khan Mandokhail says time arises to computerize all our institutions and departments at earliest and focus on building capacity in professional sectors

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has exhorted all the engineers and architects of the country to provide guidance in construction of the modern buildings through 3D printers and technology. He also urged them to introduce new concept of science and technology regarding building code. He stressed that we have to decorate our engineers and architects with modern technology and skills of 3D printing in order to come at par the international standard as it is need of our collective survival, without which we would lag behind in all fields of innovation, productivity and economic development. The Governor was addressing the annual exhibition and conference of the construction material organized by the Institute of Architects of Pakistan Quetta Chapter, here at a local hall the other day. The office bearers of the Institute of Architects of Pakistan as well as the experts of construction material and other concerned were present in the conference. The Governor said that

it is a matter of pleasure to participate in the annual exhibition and conference and said that the engineers and builders are playing key role in providing strong foundation to the basic infrastructure in the country including Balochistan. He said that it is clear that the country which would increase the production of solar energy would have bright future. He urged the engineers to guide us to overcome the energy crisis in the country and province and that how we can convert our conventional energy system on the solar energy.

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Shah Farman resigns as senior Advisor to KP CM

PESHAWAR (APP): Senior Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shah Farman has resigned from the cabinet due to his responsibilities as a member of the accountability committee formed to monitor performance of the provincial government. According to the resignation, Shah Farman maintained that as a member of the accountability committee his role as an advisor would be affected there-

fore he had resigned as an advisor. It is pertinent to mention here that Shah Farman had been selected as a member of committee to monitor the performance of the provincial government and cabinet members besides corrupt practices. The other members of the committee included Senior legal expert Qazi Anwar, Advisor to KP CM on anti-corruption Musaddiq and Shah Farman.

Anti-polio campaign to be launched in Balochistan from October 28

Independent Report QUETTA: The seven-day anti-polio campaign is scheduled to be launched in Balochistan from October 28, 2024. According to the sources of Provincial Health Department, the polio immunization campaign would be launched in all 36 districts of the province. The sources said that it has been targeted to vaccinate over 2.6 million children below five years of age. More than 10,000 teams would be engaged for vaccination of children during the campaign, the sources maintained.

Chinese premier Li due in Islamabad today for a four-day visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Premier Li Qiang is scheduled to undertake a four-day bilateral visit to Pakistan from October 14-17, 2024 to meet Pakistan's civil and military leadership and attend the Meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Premier Li will be accompanied by ministers and senior officials including from the ministries of foreign affairs and commerce, the National Development and Reform Commission and the China International Development Cooperation Agency, according to a curtain raiser issued by the Foreign Office on Sunday. The Chinese premier will call on President Asif Ali Zardari and hold meetings with parliamentary leaders and senior military leadership of Pakistan. He will also attend the Meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization being held in Islamabad on October 15-16.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar alongwith Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar talking with media men after visit to review arrangements for the upcoming CHG-SCO meeting.

Bugti appreciates Chairman PPP's proposal: Federal constitutional court to ensure equal representation of all provinces, says CM

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has highly appreciated the proposal of Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari regarding federal constitutional court in the country and it (proposal) would prove to be good omen for all the provinces especially Balochistan. In his tweet on social media account on Sunday morning, the Chief Minister said that equal representation of all the provinces would be made possible with establishment of the constitutional

court. The Chief Minister also said that the voice of all the provinces including Balochistan would be heard on equal basis. He said that we are proud of the visionary approach of Chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Mir Sarfraz Bugti expressed the hope that all nationalist parties of Balochistan would also support this idea of Chairman PPP regarding establishment of constitutional court. It may be mentioned here that in his tweet, Chairman PPP had said that "we propose the creation of federal constitutional court."

Dr. Rubaba lauds role of Pak Navy for ensuring national security

Independent Report QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Women Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Buledi has stated that the role of Pakistan Navy is commendable for the country's stability and provision of equal opportunities



to youth especially women. She was speaking to the Station Commander of Pak Navy in Quetta, Captain Abdullah Siddiqui here the other day.

During the course of meeting, detail discussion was held on the mutual cooperation and partnership between the professional training of women between the women development and Pak Navy and Women Development Department. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Rubaba Buledi stressed the need to establish the professional development institute for women. She said that such institutions would provide opportunities to the women to prove their skills and polish their talent at the national level.

Custom-free vehicles for Gwadar free Zones in offing

GWADAR (INP): Government has shown readiness to allow import of custom-free vehicles in Gwadar Free Zone North and Gwadar Free Zone South under regulatory frameworks laid down by Federal Board of Revenue, Customs and Excise & Taxation department, Balochistan. This will give profuse impetus to Gwadar Free Zone and investors, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. Ministry of Maritime Affairs has prepared the draft for regulatory mechanism for the import of vehicles by Gwadar Free Zone and its operating companies. The regulatory framework has been formulated with the notification of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) with the purpose to facilitate the operationalization of Gwadar Free Zone and expedite the industrialization process. As per the amended regulatory mechanism, Free Zone investors will be authorized to import custom duty-free vehicles for their construction and operation.

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Daily Voice of Masses Independent

A close watch

The IMF's new set of demands from Pakistan as part of its \$7bn rescue package is tough, but in line with expectations.

The government has to swallow this bitter pill to keep the economy afloat. The details of the targets released on Friday show that the programme seeks to help Pakistan rebuild its forex reserves, improve tax-to-GDP ratio, and ensure debt sustainability.

The roadmap outlined by the lender in the document, which also contains firm commitments by the government to execute the agenda, will be implemented through the overhaul of the tax system, energy reforms, privatisation and deregulation, and the rollback of the Special Investment Facilitation Council, the Sovereign Wealth Fund and the Special Economic Zones to "promote investment, and ensure competitive neutrality, and a level playing field" for investors.

The government has further promised to not offer regulatory, spending, tax-based incentives, or any guaranteed returns to a particular set of investors that could distort the investment landscape. It has agreed to increase and impose additional indirect taxes in case of a shortfall of 1pc in tax collection on a three-month rolling basis to cover the gap. Moreover, the authorities have consented to governance reforms and to cut off gas supplies to captive power owned by the rich textile millers. The provinces have committed to undertake reforms to boost tax collection, end interventions in agricultural markets, and take over several spending responsibilities in line with the 18th Amendment.

The IMF document acknowledges the macro-economic stability achieved in recent months. However, this stability is unlikely to translate into growth in the near to medium term unless Pakistan is able to attract significant investor interest, something that does not appear likely anytime soon. In fact, the conditions related to elimination of incentives to foreign companies, especially from China, is going to hit hard the government's plans to woo Chinese manufacturers here under CPEC. How the authorities will deal with it remains to be seen.

While the IMF may ignore some minor deviations from the loan agenda, it is not going to condone any major divergence that might lead the programme off-track since, according to a news report, the Fund remains concerned about the country's commitment to execute the suggested reforms going forward. Its worry that "reputational risks would arise for it if the Fund were perceived as treating Pakistan differently from other members that ostensibly enjoy less support" means that it would be monitoring progress on targets more diligently.

Unlike most previous occasions, the 25th rescue loan does not offer Pakistan much of a margin of error. The authorities will be required to prove every six months that they are steadfastly pursuing the IMF-mandated targets to secure the lender's dollars and blessings.

Disgraced media

Muna Khan

Last week, I wrote a piece on Western media's coverage of the war in Gaza for Prism on the Dawn website. I re-read part of Edward Said's 1981 book 'Covering Islam' on how the Western media distorts the portrayal of Islam and depictions of Muslims as "fanatical, violent, lustful and irrational". I often return to this book as it remains relevant. It's a sad indictment on the Western media whose reporting on Muslims and Palestinians has resulted in their dehumanisation over the decades.

Despite knowing all this, I felt foolish when I read how The New York Times told its staff to restrict using words like 'ethnic cleansing' and 'genocide' and avoid 'occupied territories' in their reporting on Gaza. This was revealed by The Intercept in April which received a copy of the internal memo the paper sent to its staff. They also told staff not to use the word 'Palestine' "except in very rare cases". It is mind-boggling.

However, acclaimed author Pankaj Mishra was not shocked when the draft of an article wherein he criticised Israel, submitted to a Canadian newspaper, was returned to him with 'Israel' removed.

Mishra, the recipient of a \$75,000 Weston International Award for his non-fiction writing, was going to deliver a lecture in Toronto last month. Winners get an excerpt from their lecture published in the leading newspaper The Globe and Mail. The paper, however, edited that excerpt with reportedly all 17 instances of Israel cut out. Mishra pulled the excerpt after receiving the edits.

In an interview to The Breach last month, Mishra said he was not surprised as it was "part

of a continuum of such attempts that I've personally encountered to suppress and stifle criticism of Israel".

One of the lines cut from the excerpt said: "My own sporadic attempts to tackle the subject in the past made me aware of an insidious Western regimen of repressions and prohibitions."

The paper also cut: "Even the liquidation of Gaza, which unlike many atrocities, has been livestreamed by both its perpetrators and victims, is daily obfuscated, if not denied, by the main organs of the Western media."

Clearly, it was a political decision to attempt to edit Mishra's excerpt and speaks to the Western media's complicity in covering up the true scale of the crimes committed in Palestine and everywhere else. Lest we forget, the US declared war on Iraq under the guise of 'destroying weapons of mass destruction'; they declared war on Afghanistan to, among other reasons, liberate the women. The government of the day finds powerful allies in papers who support (read: cheer) such policies and it is no different in the case of Gaza.

"We have faced a consistent regime of censorship and suppression," Mishra told The Breach. "Not just Palestinians, not just Arabs, you talk to even some of the most successful writers of non-Western ancestry, and each one of them will tell you many, many stories about editors saying 'We can't do this. Can you change that? Can you rephrase that?'"

Non-white writers often have to acquiesce because they want to be published and options elsewhere are limited. This is how the arts and entertainment as well as the publishing industry

manages people of colour by 'keeping them in their place'.

Perhaps one of the most influential intellectuals in the US right now, Ta-Nehisi Coates, is facing the brunt of Big American media's wrath about his new book 'The Message' which chronicles, among other trips, his 10-day experience in Gaza and Israel in 2023. He has described his trip as "revelatory"; that he didn't think Americans understood the extent of "what we're doing there", adding that he uses 'we' because it wouldn't be possible without US support.

"I don't think I ever, in my life, felt the glare of racism burn so angry and more intense than in Israel," he writes in his book, an excerpt that has widely been shared. But he is subject to much attack, the usual accusations of antisemitism, for telling the truth, which his detractors tell you is 'his truth'. I find this practice of adding pronouns to truth tiresome; truth is meant to be universal and this idea of my truth reeks of a sense of entitlement in the face of what we can see on TV screens.

I laud Mishra for withdrawing his excerpt and refusing to accept the paper's discriminatory edits. His is a small example of the pushback we're seeing to the Israeli-Western media narrative shoved down our throats. Al Jazeera ran a story last week featuring BBC and CNN journalists "alleging pro-Israel bias in coverage, systematic double standards and frequent violations of journalistic principles". I'm sorry it took so long for the truth (see what I did there?) to arrive but I hope it will pick up pace and more audiences will see it for what it is: not the journalism everyone deserves. -- Courtesy Dawn

Kelsen's return

Reema Omer

If the government announces replacing the parliamentary system with a presidential one, would the reason suffice that many democracies in the world have presidential systems? And since parliamentary democracy in Pakistan has "failed", it should be abolished?

Establishing a constitutional court to perform constitutional review by stripping the Supreme Court (SC) of this function is as fundamental a change for the judiciary. Yet, reasons for this change have so far been feeble and rhetorical, if not altogether absent.

Constitutional courts were first established in the beginning of the 20th century in Europe to "defeat the dogma of parliamentary supremacy". Previously, parliamentary sovereignty was jealously guarded, and even the highest courts did not have constitutional review powers.

This gradually changed after World War I. As Austrian jurist Hans Kelsen wrote, "it is no longer possible to rely on the parliament itself to realise subordination to the constitution", and the task of "nullifying its unconstitutional acts must be entrusted to a separate organ, independent of it and of any state authority", ie, a constitutional court.

Gradually, a concentrated model of constitutional courts with exclusive jurisdiction over constitutional interpretation proliferated, initially in Europe, and then other parts of the world, including, for example, Russia, South Africa, and Indonesia. The powers of these courts are somewhat different, but their origins are similar. They were established during democratic transition, ostensibly as a check against authoritarianism and to safeguard the

constitution where existing courts did not already have constitutional review powers.

Pakistan's context and judicial system, as is evident, are very different. Here, the SC and high courts already have powers of constitutional review and enforcement of fundamental rights. What is being proposed is to take these powers from existing courts and hand them over to a new 'constitutional court'.

The government has to discharge a very high burden to show why such a change is necessary, and what problems it would fix.

A typical response is that the SC has 'failed': it has weakened civilian governments; delivered populist judgments; and rewritten the Constitution. All this is undeniable. But the 'solution' — that the same powers should be concentrated in a different court — is bewildering.

This 'solution' ignores that any court when it is interpreting the constitution or fundamental rights is likely to deliver rulings perceived as 'controversial'. And where these rulings have political implications, courts will necessarily become politicised. This is inherent to constitutional review and is the experience of many constitutional courts around the world. A few other points should be considered. First, politicisation of the judiciary is not just because of 'judicial activism'. Political parties often bring political disputes to court for adjudication, without utilising other forums of resolution. This needs to change. Second, there is now growing recognition within the SC that legitimising military coups had disastrous consequences, and that courts should respect the separation of powers within the constitutional scheme. It should be seen

whether this leads to course correction.

Third, some safeguards have already been introduced to regulate the SC's powers. An appeal lies from Article 184(3) judgments; a minimum of five judges hear matters of constitutional interpretation; and a committee, instead of the chief justice alone, decides when to invoke Article 184(3).

A lot more, of course, must be done — by the courts and parliament. The judicial appointments process should be made more transparent and inclusive (including ensuring provincial and gender representation). Judicial accountability should be made more meaningful. And the appeal of Article 184(3) should be clarified. But throwing the baby out with the bathwater would be a grave mistake.

India's Law Commission, as far back as 1984, considered reforming the country's supreme court. It rejected establishing a separate constitutional court, as doing so would involve "extensive and complex changes" to the existing structure. Instead, it recommended "incremental changes" to augment the apex court's competence and capacity.

We are not as fortunate as, let alone reports informed by the opinions of constitutional scholars, we don't even have a draft for the proposed 'constitutional court' to deliberate upon. After nearly 70 years, Kelsen has made a return in Pakistani politics. In 1958, the SC misapplied his theory of "revolutionary legitimacy" to legitimise Ayub Khan's coup d'état. Now, instead of ensuring the "subordination of parliament to the Constitution", the government is distorting his idea of a constitutional tribunal to control the judiciary. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Geoeconomic shifts demand greater economic integration: Gilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chairman lauded the reports titled "The Glorious 11 Years - How Reshaped the Power Sector in Pakistan" and "Business Climate Index of Chinese Companies in Pakistan" as success stories. "Pakistan seeks to strengthen regional cooperation by fostering economic ties with our partner nations, and China stands at the very top," Gilani said. He highlighted Pakistan's strategic location, abundant natural resources, and a sizeable workforce as factors that make it an attractive destination for

foreign investment. He stressed the importance of business-to-business linkages, noting that sustainable partnerships can attract foreign direct investment, promote technology sharing, and facilitate knowledge exchange between the two nations.

Commenting the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan for organizing the event, Gilani said that the reports offer valuable insights into the contributions, operational status, and investment confidence of Chinese companies in Pakistan.



H.E. Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Ambassador to the UAE, emphasized the importance of Pakistan's participation in GITEX Global starting.

Malik lauds Dr Yunus's call for India-Pakistan coop. to revive SAARC

LAHORE (APP): SAARC for the economic prosperity of all SAARC nations.

He noted that political differences between India and Pakistan had long hampered the progress of the organization, affecting trade, connectivity, and development across South Asia.

He underscored the importance of unity within SAARC, stating that resuming dialogue and fostering cooperation could lead to unprecedented regional growth.

240 poultry units distributed among farmers

LODHARAN (APP): The Livestock Department distributed 240 poultry units among farmers across the district to promote poultry under the Propagation of Backyard Poultry program to prevent stunted growth among children.

Deputy Director Livestock Lodhran, Dr Waqar Aslam, told APP here on Sunday said that the units consisted of five hens and one cock given to farmers at Rs 3300 per unit on first come, first served basis.

Poultry units were distributed only after farmers received training at a workshop on how to breed chicken and how to get them treated in case of an illness.

He said that the poultry units were sent to various veterinary hospitals at three tehsils of district Lodhran where from the units were distributed among farmers. He said that the initiative not only would make peoples' access to healthy diet easy but also bring profits to the owners.



ISLAMABAD: Citizen busy in shopping at Weekly Bazaar at Sector G-10, in the Federal Capital.

Leghari says electricity tariffs to drop 8-10% per unit soon

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Power Sardar Awaiz Leghari on Sunday issued warning to electricity thieves and corrupt officials for termination from their assignments who involved in corrupt practices.

He said that all those who involved will face the music from next month.

The minister vowed that the consumers can expect significant relief as power tariffs drop by 8-10% per unit in the near future.

In an exclusive

interview with a private news channel, minister expressed hope that power sector reforms are expected to bring good news for the public in the coming months, with anti-theft measures being implemented to increase transparency in the power system.

The goal is to provide reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity to citizens, he added.

Minister for Power warned to take stringent action against officers involved in power theft,

stating that those found guilty of corrupt practices will be terminated from service starting next month.

Leghari directed for stern action against the corrupt officers within the power sector and decided to take a zero-tolerance policy in this regard.

The minister emphasized that the government will adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards officers engaged in power theft, whether involvement proved today or during past.

President RCCI says: SCO summit paramount in enhancing bilateral relations between member states

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has expressed hope that the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit being held on October 15-16, will serve as a catalyst for further regional connectivity and cooperation between the states.

RCCI President, Usman Shaukat, in a statement issued here on Sunday said that the SCO summit is paramount in enhancing bilateral

relations between the member states.

"Pakistan being the host of this year's summit will play a key role in promoting bilateral relations and regional connectivity", he added and said that the event is a pivotal moment for regional cooperation and shaping a shared future.

Usman Shaukat highlighted that Pakistan's strategic location positions it as a natural hub for trade and connectivity within the SCO.

E&T dept records Rs 530m tax recovery in first quarter

MULTAN (APP): Excise & Taxation department reported a significant increase in tax recovery during the first quarter of the current fiscal year, collecting Rs 530 million compared to Rs 485 million in corresponding period. This impressive growth represented an additional Rs 45 million in revenue collection over the previous year. Official sources said on Sunday that the increase followed the announcement of a property tax rebate package by the Punjab Excise department, offering a 5 percent discount on property taxes from July 1 to September 30, 2024.

Traders, economists condemn PTI's protest call amid SCO summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Traders and analysts Sunday expressed grave concerns over Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) call ahead of the highly anticipated Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) conference, urging the party leadership to reconsider and postpone their decision.

Talking to PTV news channel, economists slammed PTI's protest call during the SCO Summit as "self-destructive," citing concerns over economic instability and damage to Pakistan's global image. The protest, scheduled for October 15 has sparked

widespread criticism, with many urging PTI to reconsider their decision.

Business community in Islamabad stressed that the SCO conference, a vital platform for promoting regional economic cooperation and hoping that PTI's leadership will reconsider their decision for the nation's economic

interests instead of personal interest. "This move will undermine Pakistan's credibility in the international community. We need to focus on economic diplomacy, not political posturing, said a renowned economist Dr Noor Fatima.



MULTAN: Vendors are busy preparing flower garlands at their roadside setup.

101,790 Kissan cards issued to farmers in South Punjab

MULTAN (APP): As many as 101,790 kissan cards have so far been distributed among farmers against the set target of 344,391 cards in three divisions of South Punjab.

According to Agri department sources, Kissan Cards were being provided to farmers as per direction by Secretary Agriculture Punjab Iftikhar Ali Sahu and Special Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Sarfraz Ahmad Magsi. A total of 696,886 applications were received from growers for Kissan cards on 8171 and Rabta App in three divisions of South Punjab including

Multan, DG Khan and Bahawalpur.

The agri department received 128,331 Kissan cards while 182,605 cases were approved by the Bank of Punjab till October 12. Similarly, 215,275 applications were received by farmers for Punjab Chief Minister's Green Tractors scheme across South Punjab. As many as 184,077 applications were uploaded on online portal while 31,198 applications of non-computerized Mouzas were received manually at Deputy Director Agriculture Extension offices concerned.

Governor urges PTI to defer protest call in national interest

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has said that Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) should stop pursuing selfish political goals and call off the October 15 protest at D-Chowk, Islamabad in the larger national interest.

In an interview with APP here on Sunday, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that prime ministers of nine countries would arrive in Pakistan to attend the SCO summit on October 15 and matter of pride for political forces present a positive instead of taking to "I understand force but when it national prestige, politics, avoid put Pakistan adding that fall if PTI called off week or so. On the Governor Punjab said PTI leadership needed to understand that politics of obstinacy had brought them to the verge where one wrong step could be fatal for their firebrand politics, adding that there was no room for stubbornness in politics. He urged the PTI leadership to take the path of dialogue and play productive role in taking the country ahead rather than leading it to anarchy.



16 which was the country and all should work to image of the country the streets. that PTI is a political comes to the we should give up personal agenda and first," he said, heavens would not the protest for a destructive politics, that the PTI is a political comes to the we should give up personal agenda and first," he said, heavens would not the protest for a destructive politics,

Public cooperation crucial for effective disaster management: PDMA

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab Director General Irfan Ali Kathia has reaffirmed the authority's commitment to utilizing all available resources to address natural disasters. In a message on International Disaster Reduction Day, observed globally on Sunday, Kathia highlighted the

pervasive impact of climate change, noting that while disasters cause significant harm, they also provide important lessons. The DG stated that the government has implemented revolutionary measures to protect the lives and property of citizens, emphasizing that safeguarding these

Illegal bird dealers fined

SARGODHA (APP): A grand operation of the Wildlife Department against illegal bird dealers is underway. During the operation, eight illegal bird dealers were arrested and fined for violations and 30 protected wild birds were recovered from their shops and sealed. Deputy Director Wildlife Sargodha Region, Arooj Zaheer, along with her team including inspector Ali Raza Abbasi, Mudasir Abbasi and Ansar Riaz raided Kotmomin, Bhalwal.



MUZAFFARABAD: Chief Justice High Court Sadaqat Hussain Raja addressing the swearing in ceremony of the newly elected officials of the Central Bar.

Practical steps underway to check inflation: Minister

SARGODHA (APP): Provincial Minister of Zakat & Usher and Secretary General Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz Sargodha division, Rana Munawer Ghous Khan, on Sunday said that the government is committed to checking inflation and increasing trade to provide relief to poor people.

Talking to APP, he said that the federal government and all provincial governments were seriously working to address all the current issues under the leadership of Prime Minister

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. He said that federal and provincial governments would have to resolve the challenges of inflation. "The country is passing through a difficult situation. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has set conditions for the government to restrict subsidies.

The government will have to make efforts for balancing supply and demand chain to provide relief to the common man. Improvement in the trade sector is a big challenge for us," he added.

Health minister inquires after girl at Children's Hospital

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Raffique on Sunday inquired after four-year-old Dua Fatima of Bahawalnagar at the Children's Hospital Lahore. Acting on the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the minister reviewed the medical care being provided to the patient. During the visit, Professor Tipu Sultan, Medical Director of the hospital, briefed the minister on treatment and facilities available for Dua Fatima.

12 dead, 1585 injured in 1482 RTCs in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least twelve persons were killed and 1585 injured in 1482 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 677 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 908 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 874 drivers, 78 underage drivers,

Azma Bukhari says: Governor should refrain from interfering in administrative affairs

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has said that the Punjab Governor should refrain from interfering in administrative affairs and avoid playing the role of the opposition, like Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf.

Bukhari pointed out that in Sindh, schools are often found with animals tied up, and there is a rampant culture of cheating and selling entire examination centres. She noted that in the province where the PPP has been in the government for 16 years, a 19th-century education system still prevails. She highlighted

that seven districts in Punjab are at the top with the highest literacy rates, while many areas in Sindh lack schools altogether.

The minister expressed that the Governor should enjoy tea, coffee, and dried fruits at the Governor's House, as he has no role in administrative affairs. She responded to the Governor's statements by mentioning constant media reports about ghost employees and students in Sindh's education department. She emphasized that outside of two areas in Karachi and Hyderabad, literacy rates in the rest of Sindh are virtually zero.



MULTAN: Members of Civil Society are holding protest demonstration against killing of Sani-e-Zahra and demanding justice for her, held in Multan.

Shazia Rizwan leads dengue awareness dengue walk

RAWALPINDI (APP): Parliamentary Secretary for Information Punjab, Shazia Rizwan on Sunday visited Pir Wadhai Station various bus terminals to examine implementation of dengue SOPs. Talking on the occasion Shazia

intimated stern actions against violations of SOPs devised by the health authority to prevent the dengue fever. She visited the workshops and washrooms of the bus terminals and expressed her satisfaction regarding

cleanliness. She interacted with the passengers during which she urged them to play their due role in the fight against dengue fever.

Later, Shazia led an awareness walk regarding the dengue issues. She distributed dengue awareness pamphlets among the people. The Parliamentary Secretary directed the owners of bus stands to display awareness pamphlets at their terminals to educate the people about their responsibilities regarding dengue preventive measures.



GUJRAT: Punjab Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhary Shafay Hussain inaugurates 54th camp at Aisha Bashir Hospital.

PCP & MiracleFeet join hands to set free Clubfoot Clinic in AJK

PESHAWAR (APP): In a groundbreaking healthcare initiative, Paraplegic Center Peshawar (PCP) has partnered with MiracleFeet, a leading US-based NGO, to make life-changing clubfoot treatment possible for the children of Azad Kashmir as well.

The partnership has launched a state-of-the-art Ponseti Clubfoot clinic at Helping Hand for Relief & Development's rehabilitation center in

Muzaffarabad. This clinic is set to transform the lives of children suffering from clubfoot by providing high-quality, 100% free treatment in AJK as well. Dr. Syed Muhammad Ilyas, CEO of PCP, played a pioneer role in substantiating the idea wherein he made MiracleFeet's Regional Program Officer, Dr. Faisal Imtiaz, to collaborate with the senior management of Helping Hand in Islamabad.

International News

Palestinian officials say 22 killed in Israeli airstrikes

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: The Israeli military renewed its orders for Palestinians in the northern Gaza Strip to leave their homes and shelters as troops continue a weeklong offensive against militants. Most of the fighting has centered in and around Jabaliya, which has been pounded by Israeli war jets and artillery. Residents said they have been trapped inside their homes and shelters.

Israel also has been escalating its campaign against Hezbollah with waves of heavy airstrikes across Lebanon and a ground invasion at the border after a year of exchanges of fire. Israel is now at war with Hamas in Gaza and Hamas' ally Hezbollah in Lebanon. Israel's offensive in Gaza has killed over 42,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, who do not say how many were fighters but say women and children make up more than half of the fatalities. The war has destroyed large areas of Gaza and displaced

about 90% of its population of 2.3 million people, often multiple times. It's been a year since Hamas-led militants blew holes in Israel's security fence and stormed into army bases and farming communities, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. They are still holding about 100 captives inside Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Lebanon's Health Ministry says Israeli strikes kill more than a dozen

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Israeli airstrikes hit multiple areas in southern and eastern Lebanon, killing more than a dozen people and causing damage to hospitals, the Lebanese Health Ministry said, as fighting with the Hezbollah militant group continued.

Nine people were killed in Maisra village in the northeast, with 15 wounded, the ministry said. Four people were killed and 18 wounded in an apartment building on the edge of Barja south of Beirut.

The ministry said Rayak and Tal Chaha hospitals in the Bekaa Valley were damaged, while seven people were wounded in strikes on Brial and Temnine in Baalbek-Hermel province. In Nabatieh, eight people were wounded.

Beirut's southern suburbs, which have previously faced heavy bombardment, have not been struck in the past 48 hours. Hezbollah functions as a state within a state there.

Sister of North Korean leader lashes out at South Korean drones

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea's Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of leader Kim Jong Un, on Saturday warned Seoul of a "horrible disaster" if South Korean drones are found flying over Pyongyang.

She also criticized the South Korean military over its response to the North's claim that South Korean drones entered the sky of the capital city in a statement carried by state media KCNA.

On Friday, North Korea's foreign ministry accused South Korea of sending drones into Pyongyang at night this week and last and that the intrusion demanded retaliatory action.

In response, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it could not confirm the North's accusa-

tions. "The fact that the means which carried the leaflets is the very drones is the core of the seriousness of the recent incident," Kim was quoted as saying, referring to anti-North Korea leaflets.

Kim said the blame lies with the South Korean military if it failed to identify drones sent by a non-governmental organization crossing the border.

North Korea has been floating thousands of balloons with trash attached into the South since May, exacerbating tensions between the two countries.

Pyeongyang says they are a response to some activists and North Korean defectors in South Korea who fly balloons into the North carrying aid parcels and leaflets criticising leader Kim Jong Un.

Poland to suspend right to asylum after border tensions

Monitoring Desk
WARSAW: Poland plans to temporarily suspend the right to asylum as part of a strategy to limit illegal migration amidst tensions with Belarus, which Warsaw accuses of channelling migrants across its border.

"One of the elements of the migration strategy will be the temporary territorial suspension of the right to asylum," Prime Minister Donald Tusk said on Saturday. "I will demand this, I will demand recognition in Europe for this decision," he told a congress held by his liberal Civic Coalition (KO) grouping, the largest member of Poland's coalition government. Tusk said the right to asylum was being used by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, Russian President Vladimir Putin and by people smugglers in a way that goes against the essence of the right to asylum.



BEIRUT: Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf waves during his visit to the site of an Israeli air strike in the Basta neighbourhood.

Fifth UN staffer hit, as Israel threatens to target ambulances

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: The Israeli army on Saturday threatened to target ambulances in southern Lebanon, claiming they are being used by Hezbollah to "transport fighters and weapons".

The warning came on a day when a fifth staffer of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was wounded in yet another strike, after Israel admitted that its forces fired at a "threat" near a UN peacekeeping position and

that a "hit" was responsible for wounding two Blue Helmets. The incidents of shooting at UN peacekeepers in past few days have sparked a fierce diplomatic backlash. The Israeli military on Saturday threatened the people of Lebanon not to return to their homes. "For your own protection, do not return to your homes until further notice. Do not go south; anyone who goes south may put his life at risk," the military warned.

Iran has no red line in defending itself, foreign minister says

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran said on Sunday that it has "no red lines" in defending itself, as the Middle East anxiously braced for Israel's response to missile attacks from its arch-foe two weeks ago.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi's comments appeared intended to dispel suggestions that Iran would absorb an Israeli strike without a further response, as Tehran did earlier this year when Israel last struck Iran after a volley of Iranian missiles.

"While we have made tremendous efforts in recent days to contain an all-out war in our region, I say it clearly that we have no red lines in defending our people and interests," Araqchi said in a post on X.

Iran fired more than 180 ballistic missiles at Israel on Oct. 1 amid an escalation in fighting between Israel and its proxy in Lebanon, Hezbollah. Many were intercepted in flight but some penetrated missile defences.

Nicaragua breaks diplomatic relations with Israel

Monitoring Desk
MANAGUA: Nicaragua is breaking off diplomatic relations with Israel, the Central American nation said on Friday, calling the Israeli government "fascist" and "genocidal." Nicaragua's government, in a statement, said the break in relations was due to Israel's attacks on Palestinian territories.

The nation's congress had, earlier in the day, passed a resolution requesting Nicaragua take action to coincide with the one-year anniversary of the Gaza conflict. The conflict, the Nicaraguan government said, now also "extends against Lebanon and gravely threatens Syria, Yemen and Iran."

Italy's Meloni tells Israel's Netanyahu attacks on UN peacekeepers are unacceptable

Monitoring Desk
ROME: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has told her Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu that attacks on U.N. peacekeepers in Lebanon are unacceptable, her office said on Sunday. "Prime Minister Meloni reiterated the unacceptability of UNIFIL being attacked by Israeli armed forces."

ASEAN urges early accord on South China Sea code, end to Myanmar violence

Monitoring Desk
BANGKOK: Southeast Asian leaders called on Sunday for swift agreement on a code of conduct for the South China Sea based on international law, while demanding an immediate halt to fighting in Myanmar and inclusive peace talks to end its civil war.

The ASEAN chairman's statement represents the consensus from meetings ended on Friday of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Laos, which included diplomats from the United States, Russia, China, Japan, India and South Korea.

Confrontations have been rising in disputed wa-

ters of the South China Sea between China, which claims sovereignty over almost all the vital waterway, and ASEAN members including the Philippines and more recently Vietnam.

The rows have raised risks of an escalation that could eventually involve the United States, which is bound by treaty to defend the Philippines if it is attacked.

The sea, where \$3 trillion worth of trade passes annually, was been a major point of contention at the ASEAN meetings, particularly with Russia and China objecting to a reference to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, a US official said.

As Hezbollah and Israel battle on the border, Lebanon's army watches from the sidelines

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Since Israel launched its ground invasion of Lebanon, Israeli forces and Hezbollah militants have clashed along the border while the Lebanese army has largely stood on the sidelines.

It's not the first time the national army has found itself watching war at home from the discomfiting position of bystander.

Lebanon's widely beloved army is one of the few institutions that bridge the country's sectarian and political divides.

Several army commanders have become president, and the current commander, Gen. Joseph Aoun, is widely regarded as one of the front-runners to step in when the deadlocked parliament fills a two-year vacuum and names a president.

But with an aging arsenal and no air defenses, and battered by five years of economic crisis, the national army is ill-prepared to defend Leba-

non against either aerial bombardment or a ground offensive by a well-equipped modern army like Israel's.

The army is militarily overshadowed by Hezbollah. The Lebanese army has about 80,000 troops, with around 5,000 of them deployed in the south.

Hezbollah has more than 100,000 fighters, according to the militant group's late leader, Hassan Nasrallah. Its arsenal — built with support from Iran — is also more advanced.

Israeli forces and Hezbollah fighters have been clashing since Oct. 8, 2023, when the Lebanese militant group began firing rockets over the border in support of its ally Hamas in Gaza.

In recent weeks, Israel has conducted a major aerial bombardment of Lebanon and a ground invasion that it says aims to push Hezbollah back from the border and allow displaced residents of northern Israel to return.



QUETTA: President PML(N) Tariq Tarar and Chairman Tariq Tarar meeting with Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan

Tarar highlights economic progress, international ties ahead of SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, stated on Sunday that Pakistan has made significant progress this year in both foreign policy and economic sectors, adopting an open approach towards trade and investment.

Speaking with foreign media correspondents about the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit scheduled for October 15, Tarar emphasized that "Pakistan is emerging on the international stage, and the world is beginning to recognize its true potential." He highlighted the recent successful visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim to Pakistan, during which key discussions on bilateral relations, investment, and cooperation took place. During this visit, the Malaysian PM announced an increase in imports from Pakistan, including rice and Halal meat. Tarar remarked, "Exports of rice, Halal meat, and other commodities to Malaysia will further strengthen the relationship between our two countries." Additionally, Tarar noted a high-level delegation from Saudi Arabia, led by the Saudi Minister of Investment, recently visited Pakistan and signed several memoranda of understanding (MoUs) valued at \$2.2 billion to enhance bilateral cooperation. He mentioned that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has shown interest in increasing trade with Pakistan.

Regarding the economy, Tarar reported that inflation has decreased to 6.9% from over 32% last year, and all economic indicators are showing positive trends. The trade deficit continues to shrink, while exports have increased by 14%. He expressed gratitude to overseas Pakistanis for contributing to record foreign remittances of \$8.8 billion in the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

BUITEMS & FDI Pakistan agree on cooperation in climate change & social sector, sign MoU

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) and Forum for Dignity Initiatives (FDI) Pakistan have agreed upon cooperation in the climate change and social sector.

In this regard, BUIITEMS and FDI Pakistan signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The Pro-Vice Chancellor of BUIITEMS, Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan and the Executive Director of FDI, Ms. Uzma Yaqoob signed the MoU on behalf of their respective institutions.

The documents of MoU were also exchanged on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, they said that Pakistan is affected due to effects of the climate change.

They said that although there's no role of Pakistan in the emissions of Green gases, however, Pakistan is affected due to unexpected rains and floods and disasters every year.

In this regard, there is a dire need to create awareness among the students about environmental pollution, they stressed.

President condoles death of Ex-Chinese VP

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday condoled the death of former Chinese Vice Premier Wu Bangguo and said that the late Chinese leader was a sincere friend of Pakistan.

"Wu Bangguo played a commendable role in strengthening Pak-China ties," President Secretariat Press Wing, in a press release, quoted the president as saying.

President Zardari further said that the sympathies and prayers of the people of Pakistan were with the Chinese people, their government, and the bereaved family.

Gilani says: Govt committed to implementing comprehensive strategies to mitigate risks associated with natural disasters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani reaffirmed the government's commitment to implementing comprehensive strategies to mitigate the risks associated with natural disasters.

"We are working to strengthen early warning systems, enhance disaster preparedness at the community level, and invest in resilient infrastructure capable of withstanding the challenges posed by climate change," he said in a message on the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction.

"We join the global community in raising awareness about the importance of reducing disaster risks and building resilience in the face of natural calamities. This day serves as a reminder of the vulnerability of nations like Pakistan to the growing threats of climate change and environmental disasters," he added.

"Pakistan, a country with a diverse geography and a rich cultural heritage, has been deeply impacted by the devastating effects of climate change," the chairman highlighted.

He said, "Pakistan has witnessed the tragic consequences of natural disasters, from floods displacing millions and destroying livelihoods, to earthquakes that have shattered communities and infrastructure."

"Each disaster has not only caused untold human suffering but has also strained our economy and resources, underscoring the urgent need for effective disaster risk management and climate resilience," Gilani said.

He further said, "The increasing frequency and intensity of floods, particularly the catastrophic floods of recent years, have highlighted the critical importance of preparedness and adaptation measures."

"I urge all Pakistanis to take active steps to learn about disaster risks and contribute to disaster reduction efforts. By educating ourselves and others, we can save lives and protect our communities from the worst impacts of natural disasters," he said.

Gilani reminded, "Climate change is not just a local issue but a global one." "Pakistan is among the countries that contribute the least to global greenhouse gas emissions, yet we are disproportionately affected by its consequences," he added.

He called on the international community to take bold and immediate action to reduce carbon emissions and support vulnerable nations like Pakistan in building resilience against the impacts of climate change.

Tirmizi underlines significance of Pakistan's participation in GITEX

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Faisal Niaz Tirmizi on Sunday emphasized the importance of Pakistan's participation in GITEX Global.

He said that Pakistan was proud to be recognized as the 'Tech Destination of the Year 2024' by GITEX Global, which was a testament to the country's progress in the IT and tech industries. Ambassador Tirmizi said that this recognition reinforced Pakistan's status as an emerging hub for digital innovation and entrepreneurship.

As GITEX Global 2024, the world's largest technology exhibition, approaches its opening from October 14 to 18, Pakistan will be significantly represented at this prestigious event, a press release said.

With a contingent of 24 leading exhibitors from the country, Pakistan aims to showcase its growing capabilities in the IT sector.

Tirmizi emphasized that GITEX Global offered an ideal platform for companies to connect with global tech leaders, investors, and potential partners.

He further said that it was a unique opportunity for their exhibitors to showcase their capabilities and explore collaborations.

The Government of Pakistan is facilitating a 156-square-meter exhibition space at the Dubai World Trade Centre where Pakistani companies are poised to make a lasting impression. This year's participation underscores Pakistan's growing influence in the global digital economy and reaffirms the country's potential as a leading IT destination.

63 dangerous criminals killed in Kacha area

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab police's intelligence-based operations are ongoing in Kacha area of Rahim Yar Khan in which 63 dangerous criminals were killed and 45 injured so far. A Punjab police spokesperson briefed that Rahim Yar Khan police had established permanent posts in Kacha area with a consistent deployment of police personnel. The Punjab police are present in the region with full force and extensive resources.

Inspector General of Police Punjab Dr Usman Anwar said that all necessary resources, including long-range weapons, vehicles and bulletproof vehicles, were being utilized against criminal elements.

The intelligence-based targeted operations will continue in Kacha till the complete elimination of criminal activities.

He also highlighted that the police's Anti-Honey Trap Cell was operational round-the-clock to protect the public.

So far, 531 citizens had been prevented from being kidnapped in Kacha area through vigilance at border checkpoints. Police teams will continue the intelligence-based targeted operations to completely eradicate the heinous crimes.



QUETTA: Pro-Vice Chancellor the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) Dr. Abdul Rehman Khan and Executive Director of Forum for Dignity Initiatives (FDI) Pakistan Ms. Uzma Yaqoob signing an agreement regarding cooperation in the climate change and social sector

APC rejects elections as India's ploy to divert attention from rights abuses in IIOJK

MUZAFFARABAD (INP): All Parties Conference (APC) has rejected the recent elections in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, labeling them a diversion by the Modi-led Indian regime from the severe human rights violations in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Chaired by the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the APC issued a declaration emphasizing that these elections cannot substitute the Kashmiris' right to self-determination and demanded India allow Kashmiris to freely decide their future.

The conference paid tribute to the resilient people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir who continue to resist oppression and uphold their freedom struggle. The leaders also saluted the unwavering spirit of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference and the Kashmiri youth, who persist despite facing severe Indian repression.

Expressing solidarity with Palestine, the conference condemned Israeli aggression and urged the United Nations and the OIC to intervene and stop the genocide of Palestinians. The leaders expressed full solidarity with the Palestinian people. The conference strongly condemned India's attempts to create unrest in Azad Kashmir and praised the sacrifices of the Pakistani armed forces defending the Line of Control. The Pakistani military is seen as a protector, while Indian forces are perpetrating new atrocities against Kashmiris.

Acknowledging Pakistan's support, the conference thanked the government and people of Pakistan for providing relief to the people of Azad Kashmir despite financial challenges, and appreciated the efforts of the President, Prime Minister, Army Chief, and national security agencies.

The conference honored the martyrs of the Kashmir freedom movement and the Pakistani and Azad Kashmir armed forces and police. It pledged to pursue national unity and development while discouraging divisive elements.

The leaders condemned terrorism within Pakistan and stated that the people of Azad Kashmir stand with their armed forces in the fight against terrorism. Welcoming the SCO summit in Islamabad, the conference called for an end to the atrocities in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The leaders vowed to resolve longstanding public issues through democratic means and rejected any parallel governance under the guise of addressing public grievances.



QUETTA: Central leader of PKMAP Abdul Raheem Ziaratwal and Abdul Qahar Wadan expressing solidarity with UoB Academic Staff Association and BUIITEMS Staff Association during their visit to hunger strike camp

DG visits GDA Public Higher Secondary School in Gwadar

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Director General of Gwadar Development Authority (GDA), Shafiqat Anwar Shahwani visited the GDA Public Higher Secondary School in Gwadar.

The Principal of GDA School, Raja Intiaz Hussain briefed the Director General GDA about the overall performance of the school.

Meanwhile, the DG GDA participated in the sciences and arts competition held among students of the school.

A large number of students participated in the competition and displayed their projects. The Director General appreciated the creative work of the students and had time with them.

The shields and prizes were distributed among the outstanding students.



QUETTA: Activists of Bugti Rabita Committee protesting against the Bandits of Kacha outside Quetta Press Club.

RTA cracks down on vehicle ordinance violators

Independent Report
NASIRABAD: The Regional Transport Authority continued its crackdown on vehicle ordinance violators for the second consecutive day. The operation, led by Regional Transport Secretary Nasirabad Noor Ahmed Domki, was carried out under the directives of Commissioner Nasirabad Division Muinur Rehman Khan.

Seven vehicles were fined, with penalties totaling Rs. 7,500, for violating traffic laws. Additionally, 29 drivers were warned to remove illegal jhuggis (makeshift structures). Transporters overcharging passengers were also strictly warned and directed to refrain from the practice.

Noor Ahmed Domki stated that fixing public transport fares is a priority, and a meeting with transport owners will be convened soon to determine rates.

Report on power sector "Glorious years in Pak" launched

ISLAMABAD (APP): A work report of the "Glorious 11-Years - How Chinese Companies Reshaped the Power Sector in Pakistan" and "Business Climate Index of Chinese Companies in Pakistan" as success stories was launched here on Sunday.

The launching ceremony was arranged by the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan (CCCPK).

Those who attended the event included Liu Yangang, Vice General Manager of Three Gorges South Asia Investment Company in Pakistan.

Gandapur's absence demoralized PTI workers: Atif Khan

PESHAWAR (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Atif Khan said that Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur's absence demoralized party workers during their protest at Islamabad's D-Chowk.

When asked about potential deals, Atif Khan responded, "Deals are made for personal gain, while the right path is for the country's benefit." Regarding the PTI's current leadership, Atif Khan voiced his dissatisfaction, stating, "Everyone in the party is playing a double game; those who meet in Adiala Jail (with Imran Khan) discuss unnecessary matters."

Earlier on Friday, the PTI announced another protest demonstration at Islamabad's D-Chowk on October 15, the day when Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit.

They are lacking clear direction and decision-making. To a question, he said the PTI cannot be eliminated by the forces who want to do so. "Eventually, stakeholders will have to negotiate and find a way forward with the PTI."

When asked about potential deals, Atif Khan responded, "Deals are made for personal gain, while the right path is for the country's benefit." Regarding the PTI's current leadership, Atif Khan voiced his dissatisfaction, stating, "Everyone in the party is playing a double game; those who meet in Adiala Jail (with Imran Khan) discuss unnecessary matters."

Earlier on Friday, the PTI announced another protest demonstration at Islamabad's D-Chowk on October 15, the day when Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit.

Nine Leviesmen including Dafadar dismissed on absence in Kohlu

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kohlu Aqeel Baloch dismissed 9 levies personnel including Levies Dafadar for absence long time from duty and notification issued in this regard.

Deputy Commissioner said in press release issued here on Sunday that actions are being taken against the employees who are negligent in their duties in other departments across the district.

He said that absentee employees are not entitled to any discount saying that actions such as deduction of salaries, issuance of demand notices and dismissal from employment are being implemented for employees found guilty of negligence.

He said that the district administration is trying to solve public problems.

Pakistanis illegally traveling to Spain lost their lives

WAZIRABAD (INP): Four Pakistani nationals lost their lives while attempting to illegally travel to Spain.

It reported in media that young men, who were hiding in the ship's cargo, succumbed to suffocation in the hold.

According to reports, the incident occurred in Mauritania, where one of the victims has been identified as Abu Huraira, a resident of Wazirabad's Jinnah Colony. Family sources revealed that Abu Huraira had left for Spain a month ago, and was sent off by an agent named Usman.

Earlier, a boat carrying migrants capsized off Spain's Canary islands overnight, killing at least nine people and leaving 48 missing, the national maritime rescue service said on Saturday.

Eighty-four people were on board and 27 were rescued after rescuers responded to a distress call received shortly after midnight from off El Hierro, one of the islands in the archipelago, a statement said.

This follows the death of 39 migrants in early September when their boat sank off Senegal while attempting a similar crossing to the Canaries, from where migrants hope to reach mainland Europe.

Thousands of migrants have died in recent years setting off into the Atlantic to reach Europe onboard overcrowded and often dilapidated boats.

In late August, Spain's prime minister visited Mauritania and The Gambia to sign cooperation agreements to crack down on people smugglers while expanding pathways for legal immigration.

AJK all set to celebrate 77th founding anniversary of AJK government on October 24

MIRPUR (APP): The preparations have begun to celebrate the 77th founding anniversary of the Azad government of the State of Jammu & Kashmir on October 24 in a befitting manner with the renewal of the pledge to continue the Kashmiri freedom movement till it reaches its logical end, besides utilizing all possible resources for ensuring progress and prosperity of the liberated territory. On this day (October 24, 1947) the AJK territory had been liberated by the valiant sons of the soil from the clutches of the India-backed despotic Dogra regime. Highlighting the programs scheduled for celebrations to observe the day in Azad Jammu Kashmir, AJK government sources told APP here on Sunday that special ceremonies will be held in all ten districts of Azad Jammu Kashmir to celebrate the day with simplicity. Speakers will highlight the historic significance of the founding day. Besides, "Fateha" will be offered for the Kashmiri martyrs, besides offering special prayers for the early success of the Jammu & Kashmir freedom movement.

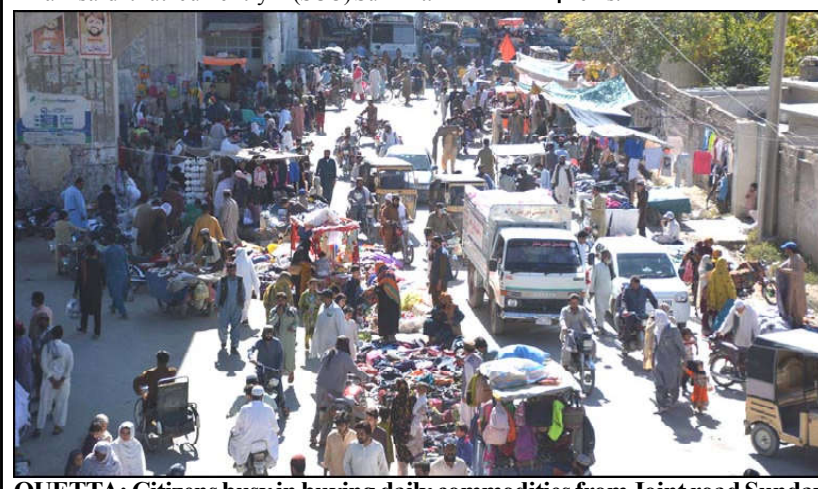
The AJK government's founding day anniversary will be observed with prime focus to elaborate on the due role of this base camp of the Kashmiri freedom movement for raising the Kashmiris indigenous struggle for freedom at an international level, besides to reiterate complete solidarity with the people of the illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir in their just and principled struggle.

Clash b/w tribes in Kohistan leaves 4 dead, five injured

MANSEHRA (INP): A violent clash between two tribes in Kohistan, Mansehra, has resulted in the deaths of four individuals, including a woman, and left five others injured.

The incident occurred due to an ongoing property dispute between the two groups. The local police said the confrontation took place in the Kolai Palas area of Kohistan, where both tribes opened fire on each other.

Police confirmed that the conflict stemmed from a longstanding land dispute. Following the incident, a large police force was dispatched to the scene.



QUETTA: Citizens busy in buying daily commodities from Joint road Sunday bazaar.