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'Will not sit idle until Pakistan purged of poliovirus,' says PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday paying tribute to the efforts and sacrifices of the polio workers, and support by the international partners, reiterated his government's resolve to make Pakistan a polio-free country to save the future of millions of children.

The prime minister, addressing an event held on World Polio Day dedicated to recognise the sacrifices of the polio workers, said that the resurfacing of the polio cases in the country required reuniting the efforts to fight the menace.

He reaffirmed that the government would face the challenge with an unwavering commitment to purge the country of this crippling disease.

The prime minister, who earlier launched a nationwide polio vaccination drive by administering polio drops to the children, appreciated the support from international partners

including the World Health Organisation, UNICEF, and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, who had contributed to Pakistan's efforts to fight out the polio. "With this commitment, we will meet success and polio will be pushed out of the country and will never be allowed to resurface," he resolved, and also appreciated the Saudi government's support.

Calling them the "real heroes" the prime minister paid tribute to the sacrifices of the polio workers in the polio eradication efforts and also distributed shields among the family members of the martyred polio workers and also to those who sustained injuries during the polio vaccination drives.

"Around 40 cases have been reported across four provinces. Today, we make a pledge to handle these cases effectively. We will not sit idle until the virus is eliminated from the coun-

try. This is a challenge which we have accepted," he remarked.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said the existence of polio only in Pakistan and Afghanistan was a matter of concern and a challenge that needed to be handled through concerted efforts.

In his address, Coordinator to PM on National Health Services Dr Mukhtar Bharath said the constant oversight of the polio eradication efforts at the prime ministerial level was unprecedented which also gave hope for Pakistan to get rid of the virus.

He assured the government's all-out support to the polio workers and said the event was also held to acknowledge their dedicated efforts and sacrifices. He said the surge in polio cases, caused by an immunity gap, was a matter of concern and resolved that the polio vaccination teams would reach every household to vaccinate every child to ensure no one was left behind.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing a ceremony organized to mark World Polio Day & the Inauguration of the National Polio Campaign.

Maulana Fazal tried to make constitutional amendment controversial: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (INP): PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman tried to make the 26th Constitutional Amendment 'controversial' by passing remarks against one of their clauses.

In an interview with the BBC, Bilawal said that the coalition government could have got the amendments passed even without the support of the JUI-F. "But we followed the Charter of Democracy (CoD) and tried to develop a consensus among political parties."

He further said there was not much difference between a constitutional

court and a constitutional bench. "By a constitutional court, we don't mean a separate structure," he opined.

Bilawal Bhutto, expressed confidence that the party's numbers were sufficient to proceed with a constitutional amendment, even without the support of Maulana Fazlur Rehman. Bhutto stated,

"A significant task like the 26th Constitutional Amendment can be undertaken by any Chief Justice, and it was not feasible in the presence of Mansoor Ali Shah." He also noted concerns over attempts to politicize Chief Justice Qazi Fiaz Isa.

Pakistan ready to collaborate with UN states: President

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari has stated that Pakistan stands ready to collaborate with all United Nations member states to achieve a peaceful and prosperous world for all.

In his message on the occasion of the United Nations Day today, he said Pakistan has consistently championed the principles of the UN Charter.

Asif Ali Zardari said Pakistan has also made invaluable contributions to international peace and security, including by serving as a leading military and police contributor to UN peacekeeping operations.

The President said the UN Charter's vision of universal peace is currently under threat by the blatant violations of its principles in Occupied Palestinian Territory and the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

IHC directs to form medical board for PTI founder's check-up

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday directed the formation of a medical board to conduct a health examination of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, including his personal physician, Dr. Faisal Sultan.

Hearing the case, Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb directed the executive director of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) to form a medical board for the health assessment of the PTI founder. He also directed that the board should include Dr. Faisal Sultan, the PTI founder's personal physician, and submit a report to the court's registrar.

The decision came after the PTI founder requested a medical examination by his personal doctors. While the court acknowledged the importance of involving a personal physician, and ordered the formation of an independent medical board by PIMS to ensure thorough and unbiased evaluation.

The written court order noted the PTI founder's age—72 years—and his status as a former prime minister and under-trial prisoner.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir witness the ongoing Multinational Exercise Indus Shield-2024, at an operational Air Base of Pakistan Air Force (PAF).

CM inaugurates three major projects under PPP

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti inaugurated three major projects under Public-Private Partnership in Quetta on Thursday.

The historic projects inaugurated by the Chief Minister are included: Mountain View Tech Park Marriabad, Circular Road Integrated Parking Plaza in Quetta and LPG Technical Laboratory Taftan.

The first Information Technology Park has been established in a building built 15 years ago in Marriabad.

Speaking on occasion of the inauguration here on Thursday, the Chief Minister announced that 1,000 youngsters would be able to earn livelihood after making them skilled in next six months in the Mountain View Tech Park.

He said that there are several such buildings in the province which have been left after construction. This IT park has been estab-

lished in the building which was constructed 15 years ago.

The Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan gave proposal of the IT Park, and thus the provincial government released funds acting on it and it is going to be functional today. He mentioned that there would be 67 offices in the IT Park and this project would introduce different skills to youth in the IT sector.

Ultimately, the opportunities of livelihood would increase in future, he maintained.

The Chief Minister said that the government can't provide employment to every youngster, however, we would provide the opportunities of respectable livelihood to youth.

For the purpose, IT parks would be established in all divisional headquarters of the province.

He said that the fruits of development would reach to the masses of the province through these ini-

tiatives taken by the provincial government.

Meanwhile, while addressing the inauguration of Circular Road Integrated parking plaza and ceremony of signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for establishment of the LPG Technical Laboratory, the Chief Minister noted with pleasure that by the grace of Allah Almighty, three major projects have been launched under Public-Private Partnership in six months fulfilling commitment made with the people by the national and party leadership. He said that Alhamdulillah, the dreams of public service are going to be materialized today.

He also said that the process of provision of the facilities to the people has been started under Public Private Partnership in the province. He said that we are encouraging public private partnership in different sectors so as to ensure better service delivery to the people, he added.

CENTCOM magazine hails COAS Gen Asim Munir's leadership, military diplomacy

RAWALPINDI (PR): US central command's magazine Unipath has paid tribute to Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir for his military diplomacy and his commitments for economic improvement in the country.

According to magazine, General Asim Munir has taken decisive action against Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) within Pakistan, known as Fitna al Khawarij. Under his leadership, through July 2024, 22,409 intelligence-based operations have been conducted against terrorists and their facilitators. They eliminated 398 terrorists, including 31 high-value targets.

US magazine writes that General Asim Munir's

tenure as the Chief of the Army Staff has been characterized by determined action against extremism, proactive measures to address security challenges and a commitment to fostering socioeconomic stability.

General Asim Munir's approach to military diplomacy has not only strengthened Pakistan's relations with key global partners but has also underscored the nation's role in promoting regional peace and stability. As Pakistan navigates through intricate geopolitical dynamics and internal challenges, Gen. Asim Munir works to guide the Army and nation toward a future marked with professionalism, resilience, prosperity and unity.

COAS visits PAF to review Indus Shield-2024 exercises

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Thursday visited an operational air base of Pakistan Air Force to witness the ongoing multinational exercise Indus Shield-2024.

The COAS was received by Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaeem Ahmed Baber Sidhu. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf was also in presence at the occasion, an Inter Services Public Relations news release said.

Exercise Indus Shield-2024 is the biggest multinational exercise of the region that is witnessing participation from 24 esteemed Air Forces converging to foster interoperability and training through state-of-the-art facilities embodying the exercise motto; "Stronger When Together."

COAS expressed his satisfaction over the combat readiness of Pakistan Air Force and the progress made through various modernization and up-gradation programs. Later, he witnessed exercise operations, static display of various niche and disruptive technologies where he was briefed on the modernization efforts of Pakistan Air Force to stay abreast with contemporary security challenges which was later followed by an enthralling aerial display by PAF fighter jets. COAS also interacted with the aircrew and appreciated the resolve of PAF personnel to safeguard the aerial frontiers of Pakistan. He emphasized on the critical role of inter-service collaboration, which he believes is essential for achieving operational success.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Communication & Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Naqvi meets Azerbaijan's Minister of State for internal affairs Ismat Rashid Aliyev

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister and Head of Anti-Narcotics Mohsin Naqvi held a meeting with Azerbaijan's Minister of State for Internal Affairs, Ismat Rashid Aliyev on Thursday in Turkiye.

The high-level meeting took place during the Istanbul International Expo, where the two leaders discussed ways to further strengthen the long-standing fraternal ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

During the meeting, both ministers engaged in comprehensive discussions on multifaceted bilateral relations, with a focus on

matters of mutual interest. The dialogue covered a wide range of topics, including security, economic collaboration, and cultural exchanges. The leaders highlighted the deep-rooted historical and cultural connections that bind Pakistan and Azerbaijan, emphasizing the need to build upon the existing partnership.

One of the key points of discussion was the Pakistan Navy's recent successful operation in the Northern Arabian Sea, which resulted in the seizure of over 2,400 kilograms of narcotics worth an estimated \$145 million.



Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan and Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan inaugurating the Hub River Bridge (N-25).

Govt to ensure maximum dev. of Balochistan even by collecting revenue from other provinces

Aleem, Jam inaugurate newly constructed bridge over Hub river

HUB (APP): Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan and Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Thursday inaugurated the newly constructed bridge over the Hub River.

The newly constructed bridge over the Hub River on National Highway N-25,

reconnecting the provinces of Balochistan and Sindh.

The project has been completed in two years at a cost of Rs 1.18 billion, aims to enhance connectivity and facilitate trade between the regions, said a press release issued here. Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Abdul Aleem Khan emphasized the importance of business activities for regional

development. "We have to ensure maximum development of Balochistan, even by collecting revenue from other provinces," he stated.

Aleem Khan noted that while Balochistan boasts the largest network of the National Highway Authority (NHA) in the country, covering 4,500 km, the province generates relatively lower toll revenue.

Rear Admiral Faisal Amin takes over as Commander Coast

KARACHI (APP): Rear Admiral Faisal Amin took over the duties of Commander Coast during Change of Command ceremony held at Karachi, where Vice Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz handed over the command to the Rear Admiral.

Rear Admiral Faisal Amin got commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1992, a Pakistan Navy news release on Thursday said.



He is a graduate of Royal College of Defence Studies (UK), Army Command & Staff College (Quetta) and National Defence University (Islamabad). The Admiral has an illustrious naval career comprising vast experience of various Command and Staff appointments.

Bushra Bibi arrives in Peshawar after release from Adiala Jail

PESHAWAR (INP): PTI founder Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi arrived in Peshawar after being released from Adiala Jail in the Toshakhana-II case on Thursday.

Immediately after her release from Adiala Jail, Bushra Bibi went to Bani Gala, where she stayed for a while before heading to Peshawar, where arrangements had already been made for her arrival at the Chief Minister's House in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja announced on the social media platform X that Bushra Bibi will stay in Peshawar instead of Zaman Park in Lahore.

Security forces kill nine terrorists, including two suicide bombers in Bajaur

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Security Forces on Thursday killed nine Khwarij, including two suicide bombers and a High Value Target Kharij ringleader Said Muhammad alias Qureshi Ustad during an intelligence-based operation IBO conducted in Bajaur District on the night of October 23/24.

During conduct of operation, the Army troops effectively engaged the Khwarij location and after intense fire exchange, nine Khwarij were eliminated, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

A large quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives was also recovered from killed Khwarij, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces

as well as innocent civilians. Meanwhile President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday appreciated the security forces for carrying out a successful intelligence-based anti-terror operation in Bajaur.

The president and prime minister, in separately issued statements, appreciated the gallantry of the personnel and officers of the security forces in eliminating nine terrorists including suicide bombers and a mastermind of terrorists. "The whole nation is united against terrorism. The people as well as the security forces will collectively foil the nefarious designs of terrorists," the president said and reiterated the country's resolve for continuous action till the elimination of terrorists.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Curtain call

The controversy surrounding the full-court verdict, where a majority of eight Supreme Court judges favoured restoring PTI as a parliamentary party and granting it reserved seats, continues to simmer.

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, part of the minority in the case, has raised concerns about the legality of the majority's decision to issue clarifications on queries from the ECP. In his dissenting note, the CJP makes a valid point: once the full court had issued its verdict, the eight judges had no authority to act independently and issue clarifications to queries put forth to the court. He rightly contends that the responses should have been routed through official channels in line with protocol.

And yet, while his critique of the judges' overreach is valid, his leadership has faced criticism for failing to enforce the full court's decision. As chief justice, he had a responsibility to ensure that the ruling was implemented, even if he disagreed with it. His inability to push for its implementation gives one the impression he may have been quietly aligned with the view that the ruling should not be enforced. This failure to act raises concerns about his leadership during a critical period for the judiciary.

The CJP's note marks the end of a tumultuous tenure marred by decisions that some saw as unnecessarily divisive. His handling of cases like the ones pertaining to PTI's bat symbol and Article 63-A are examples where his rulings appeared more focused on technicalities and less on justice. In the bat case, he was clear in upholding the ECP's stance against the PTI, refusing the party its election symbol due to legal technicalities. Yet, this decision appeared to be more of a punitive gesture towards the PTI. Similarly, the timing of the Article 63-A ruling — which dealt with toying party lines — stirred significant debate. The forces that hunger for influence over the political and judicial landscape were firmly against the man at the start but appear sated now.

On the other hand, the chief justice, who was once viewed as a crusader for judicial integrity has left many of his initial supporters disillusioned. Once lauded as one of the finest jurists, he will now leave a complex legacy, with his dissent symbolising the divisions within the apex court.

Adding to this quagmire is the appointment of Justice Yahya Afridi as the new CJP, passing over Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, who was a strong contender being the next most senior judge.

There is, however, hope that under Justice Afridi, the court can move beyond the discord and heal the fractures that developed under CJP Isa's watch. The nation needs a judiciary that upholds justice without descending into internecine strife — a hope that rests on Justice Afridi's shoulders as he dons the robe.

Milk the public

F.S. Aijazuddin

Perhaps the inspiration came from milking the buffalo his father-in-law gave him. Or the hardships he endured during his training for the Olympics 2024, in which he won the gold medal for his record-breaking javelin throw. It is said that recently, when invited to be a motivational speaker at a school in Lahore, someone on his behalf demanded a fee of Rs50 lakhs.

Instant celebrities have just cause. In the 1960s, the British model Mandy-Rice Davies charged an exorbitant fee from a Sunday rag for her revelations about the Profumo scandal. Her justification? She needed to pro-vice for her "predictably insecure future".

Was that the rationale for the startling increase approved last year in the perquisites for Senate chairmen, past, present and future? Their benefits extend over nine pages and into the lifetime of the beneficiaries. Clearly, John F. Kennedy's advice is lost on our legislators: "Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country."

Milking our country is now a given. A former president is supposed to have told an incoming State Bank governor: "I am the president; therefore, understand that the State Bank is my bank."

A shameful example of this "your hand in the public pocket" attitude has been the Diamer-Bhasha dam project, located on the River Indus between Kohistan and the Diamer district in Gilgit-Baltistan.

In 1998, prime minister Nawaz Sharif inaugurated the Diamer-Bhasha project, designed to generate 4,500 megawatts of electricity. It should have been completed in nine years. Ten years later, in 2018, unfinished, its cost has ballooned from an

original Rs479 billion to Rs1,400bn.

Wapda (hitherto responsible for the construction of dams) warned that at least \$12bn would be required to build Diamer-Bhasha dam — \$7bn for power generation and another \$5bn for infrastructure. The hilly terrain precludes any arterial irrigation canals.

In July 2018, the then chief justice ordered a national fund to be established to finance its construction. Two days later, the then prime minister added his PMO's name to the CJ's project. Commercial banks and cellular companies became the conduits to receive contributions from a gullible public.

Within six months, the dam fund rapidly accumulated \$66.7 million. After July 2019, deposits dwindled to a trickle. The public was assured that the fund's status would be "regularly updated" before the Supreme Court of Pakistan. As if the backlog of 43,800 cases was not burden enough, the Supreme Court constituted an implementation bench of five apex court judges. It did not examine the progress reports. All five judges of the bench have since retired and never been replaced.

Meanwhile, Wapda disbursed Rs115.9bn for land acquisition, and Pakistan signed a Rs442bn contract with China Power and FWO to execute the project.

The billions spent on direct and indirect advertising has never been disclosed.

In October 2024, 26 years after its inauguration, the Supreme Court finally examined the fund's status. It was told that the fund had received Rs23.7bn, of which the amount collected was Rs11.5bn. The mark-up earned on it paid to the apex court by the federal government was Rs.12.2bn. The court noted that the fund's ac-

count constituted only 3.2 per cent of the money required to complete the dam.

Today, Wapda predicts the dam will involve a financial outlay of Rs1,406.5bn. It anticipates a completion date of February 2029. The Supreme Court has ordered the fund's assets to be transferred to the public exchequer and buried the moribund fund.

Are the court and the Prime Minister's Office liable for misrepresentation, because the public's contributions have not been applied towards their original purpose? The fund provided no mechanism for refunds to subscribers. Their money has disappeared in the federal government's bottomless well.

That the Chinese are now co-partners in the project's implementation is reassuring. They know something about dams. After the gigantic Three Gorges Dam, China is planning a 'mother of all dams' — a 60,000 MW Motuo mega dam on the Yarlung Tsangpo River in Tibet. This river (known in India as the Brahmaputra) supplies water to an estimated 1.8bn people within China and in India, Bhutan, and Bangladesh.

Understandably, India has retaliated with a plan to build a 11,000 MW hydropower and reservoir project on the Siang River in Arunachal's Upper Siang district. India fears that China's mega dam will allow China, being in the upper riparian, to "curtail the river's flow during the lean season and trigger artificial floods during the rainy season".

Could China's mega dam be our insurance against India's arbitrary abrogation of the Indus Waters Treaty? -- Courtesy Dawn

Divisive canals

Naseer Memon

Amid rapidly depleting water resources, Punjab has embarked upon an exercise to build new canals and develop new command areas. The Green Pakistan Initiative is pursuing its agenda of ploughing millions of acres of hitherto barren land, especially in Cholistan.

With an appetite for large-scale corporate agriculture, it is pressing the government to complete six strategic canals on a fast-track basis. These include the Chubara Canal as the second phase of the Greater Thal Canal, the Raheer Canal, the Raheer Right Bank Canal and the Cholistan Flood Feeder Canal. The total command area of these canals is 3.58 million acres.

Sindh, the lower riparian, is upset at the recent decision of the Central Development Working Party that disregarded its objections and approved the Cholistan Flood Feeder Canal. This canal is part of the Smaller Cholistan irrigation project proposed on the Sutlej River. The canal will further feed four canal systems to irrigate 0.6m acres in the Cholistan desert of Bahawalpur and Bahawal Nagar districts. Water availability for this project was certified by the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) in January 2024. Sindh has concerns that the Sutlej receives water when India releases surplus flows. Hence the entire canal system will be vulnerable to uncertain flows. Climate change has rendered flood flows unreliable.

Once water rights are established, Punjab will resort to diverting water from the Indus zone through link canals during dry spells to sustain the cropped area. Sindh's concerns are pending with the Council of Com-

mon Interests. The federal government should have deferred the project until the CCT's decision on Sindh's reservations.

The approval of this canal will pave the way for other components of the Smaller Cholistan project that will eventually irrigate 2m acres of land.

The Chubara Canal is a branch canal of the Greater Thal Canal which Sindh has objected to since the start. Irsa approved the project on May 7, 2002, whereas Sindh and Irsa's federal members opposed it. Subsequently, the Sindh Assembly adopted two consensus resolutions in 2003 dismissing the project. Later, the assembly also adopted a resolution spurning the Chubara Canal in November 2021. The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council advised the Planning Commission to hold meetings with the representatives of Sindh and Punjab. Sindh maintained its dissent yet Enec approved this project on March 16, 2022. Sindh has referred the matter to the CCT, where it awaits a final decision.

The Kachhi Canal is designed to irrigate 0.7m acres of land in the Dera Bugti, Nasirabad, Jhal Magsi and Bolan areas of Balochistan. The canal with a capacity of 6,000 cusecs starts from the Taunsa Barrage. Almost 75 per cent of the work on the canal has been completed. The canal is exposed to gushing hill torrents descending from the Dera Bugti hills. A drain has been proposed to divert the flows to protect the canal structure. Wapda, however, has ignored the critical aspect of the ultimate disposal of water from this drain. It suggested that the flows be offloaded in Sindh's Hamal Lake through the Right Bank Outfall Drain. What Wapda did not realise was that the estimated

flood could be of 100,000 cusecs, which is beyond the capacity of the RBOD and Hamal Lake.

Currently, four hill torrents drain into the lake with a flow of 44,000 cusecs. Excessive inflows can burst the banks resulting in devastation in Qambar Shahdakat and Dadu districts. These factors should have been thought of at the design stage but in its eagerness to comply with the orders of the then ruler Gen Musharraf, Wapda hastily executed the project.

Wapda constructed the Rainee Canal, handing it over to the Sindh government in January 2022. The canal, with a capacity of over 5,000 cusecs, was designed to irrigate 0.4m acres land in Ghotki district. No water has been allocated for the canal in the 1991 Water Accord. Hence, it depends on surplus flows during floods. Sindh opposed the next phase of the canal for not having been sanctioned water. The Thal Canal is proposed as an escape channel for the Rainee Canal, to be operated during high floods. Developing large-scale cropped areas on flood channels is imprudent due to erratic Indus flows.

Sindh has reservations about the new irrigation projects mainly because of insufficient water availability in the Indus basin. The average annual flow below Kotri Barrage between 1976 and 1998 was 40.69 MAF. The flow decreased drastically to 14 MAF from 1999 to 2022. The Indus delta is in the throes of an ecological disaster. Climate change is aggravating the water scenario. In these conditions, constructing new canals will stoke new conflict between Sindh and Punjab. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Seminars, meetings of foreign delegates held on 2nd day of TEXPO-2024

KARACHI (APP): The foreign delegates, exporters and the business community representatives visited the 5th Textile & Leather Exhibition "TEXPO-2024" on the second day of the three day event on Thursday.

As part of the TEXPO Talks and sideline event, two seminars, focusing on sustainability and innovation in Pakistan's textile and leather sectors, were held.

The first seminar, "Green Threads: Weaving Sustainability into Pakistan's Textile and Leather Sectors," featured speakers Omar Hameed (Economic Minister, Brussels) and Bianca Seidel (MD, Bianca Seidel Consultancy), with a panel discussion including Ivo Spauwen (Better Work Programme), Muhammad Fauz ul Azeem (Interloop), Imran Zaidi (Primark), and Dr. Hafsa Jamshed (NTU).

The second seminar, "From Waste to Worth: Circular Innovations in Pakistan," included presentations by Boudewijn Mol (Director, M/S Bedding House) and Usman Khan (Investment, Trade & Climate Finance Advisor, REMIT).

The panel, moderated by Khan, featured Shafiq Haider Virk (Trade & Investment Counsellor, The Hague), Salman Ahmad Chaudhary (Pakistan Single Window), Dr. Zeeshan Khatri (Mehran University), and Sheikh Muhammad Iqbal (Pakistan Textile Council).

Both sessions concluded successfully with engaging discussions and valuable insights from participants.

The distinguished foreign guests and local exhibitors appreciated the arrangements and the opportunity for cultural exchange.

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KARACHI: Investment Trade and Climate Finance Advisor REMIT, Usman Khan addressing during the Seminar from Waste to Worth Circular Innovations in Pakistan second day of the 5th International Textile and Leather Exhibition TEXPO 2024. Mr Boudewijn Mol Director M/S Bedding House, Mr Sheikh Muhammad Iqbal CEO Pakistan Textile Council and others also seen on the stage.

China, Pakistan sign MoU to leverage space technology for global sustainable goals

BEIJING (APP): A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS), China and Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), Pakistan

recently to collaborate on utilizing space and big data technologies for natural resource management and the assessment of regional sustainable development goals (SDGs).

It is learned that the collaboration is set to advance China-Pakistan joint research initiatives and leverage data from the Sustainable Development Science Satellite 1 (SDGSAT-1), which supports the attainment of the SDGs and fosters a data-driven approach to sustainable development. According to sources, this partnership aims to enhance data sharing.

Awais for enhanced energy cooperation with Power China, Energy China

QINGDAO, China (APP): Federal Minister for Power, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, held separate meetings with Mr Yao Huan, Vice-President of Power China and Mr. Ni Zhen Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee and General Manager of the Energy China on the sidelines of the Third Belt & Road Ministerial Conference in Qingdao, China.

During these meetings, the minister engaged in fruitful discussions aimed at strengthening energy cooperation between Pakistan and these leading Chinese energy companies,

according to a press release on Thursday. Recalling historic visit of Premier Li Qiang to Pakistan, Minister for Power conveyed Pakistan's desire to modernize power dispatch and transmission systems, aimed at cutting lines and other losses. At the meeting with Vice President Yao of Power China, both sides explored the possibility of establishing a state-of-the-art research and development center in Pakistan to facilitate the integration of advanced technologies and best practices into the country's energy framework.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where four ships, Maersk Cape Town, MSC Positano, Mahadah Silver and Bam Bam carrying Container, Palm oil and Gas oil berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal and FOTCO oil Terminal respectively.

PM calls for using technology to improve tax, revenue collection

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday directed the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to utilise modern technology to improve the collection mechanism of taxes and revenues.

The prime minister, chairing a review meeting on the FBR reforms, instructed the measures for capacity building of the FBR officers and its effective use, according to

a PM Office press release. He directed the formulation of a strategy for restructuring Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL) and called for enhancing the effectiveness of the systems to curb smuggling.

The prime minister directed the FBR to provide a friendly atmosphere to the taxpayers and asked the officers to accomplish the reform process.



QINGDAO: Federal Minister for Power, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, meets Mr. Yao Huan, Vice-President of Power China on the sidelines of the Third Belt & Road Energy Ministerial Conference in Qingdao, China.

ADB country director calls on Shaza Fatima

ISLAMABAD (APP): Country Director Asian Development Bank (ADB) Ms. Emma Fan called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Thursday and discussed matters of mutual interest.

According to news release during the meeting issues relating to further strengthening collaboration between Pakistan and ADB, Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program, and IT and Telecom sector were discussed in detail.

Secretary IT & Telecom Division Azfar Manzoor were also present in the meeting. Shaza Fatima said under the vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan present government is taking steps for the development of IT and Telecommunication sector of the country. The government is fully supporting the private sector, adding that Ministry of IT is taking alongside the IT industry for increasing IT exports. Pakistan's IT exports are increasing, she maintained. Shaza Fatima said Pakistan is embarking on the process of digital transformation.



exclusive, candid and detailed meeting, with FPCCI's demand of an end to harassment of genuine and regular taxpayers — and, only the tax evaders or defaulters should be served with notices.

However, FBR Chairman demanded that FPCCI should support the efforts of FBR to persuade all traders and industrialists to file their returns in a fair,

legitimate and transparent manner. To which the high-profile FPCCI delegation agreed to assist FBR, if the tax collection machinery is run and policymaking is undertaken in a consultative style. Mr. Atif Iqbal Sheikh

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that total liquid foreign reserves held by the central bank increased by \$18 million to \$11,040.7 million during the week ended on October 18, 2024.

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were recorded as \$ 4,976.4 million during the week under review, it added. Total liquid foreign reserves held by the country, in the previous week ended on October 11, 2024, were \$16,111.3 million. Among them foreign reserves held by the central bank were recorded as \$11,022 million while \$5,088.6 million were held by commercial banks.

Cabinet approves transfer of land for construction of Custom House in DI Khan

PESHAWAR (APP): The meeting of provincial cabinet chaired by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister, Ali Amin Gandapur here Thursday approved transfer of 40 kanal of land from Board of Revenue to Pakistan Custom for construction of Custom House & Warehouses in Dera Ismail Khan. The cabinet meeting was also participated by Provincial Ministers, Advisors, Special Assistants, Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, Senior Member Board of Revenue and administrative secretaries.

The meeting also demanded formation of a committee comprising representatives of government and political parties to look into proposals and demands of Pashtun Peace Jirga relating to federal government. The provincial cabinet also authorized Relief Department to take up a case of establishing a desk at Bacha Khan Airport Peshawar for providing the facility of transporting the dead bodies brought from abroad. Cabinet also approved Rs.36 million grant for purchase of three ambulances also allowing Rs.0.7 million per month budget to Rescue 1122 for the purpose. It was also decided that such transportation facility would be provided on

demand from the Islamabad International Airport. The cabinet approved federal government to legislation on the subject of "Explosive" for implementation of National Explosive Policy. Cabinet also decided to approve amendments in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Civil Servants (Appointments, Promotion and Transfer) Rules, 1989 for reservation of quota for transgender, revising the fourth condition of its decision taken in the 12th meeting of the Provincial Cabinet allowing partial relaxation of ban for creation of positions of project employees with domicile from other than Ex-FATA.



LAHORE: Ambassador of Belgium to Pakistan, Idesblad van der Gracht, called on Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan here today at Governor House.

Punjab govt to support pediatric transplantation, says health minister

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique announced the provincial government's commitment to providing all possible support for pediatric transplantation. He made this statement during the opening session of the three-day 3rd International Pediatric Urology Congress, organized by the Pakistan Society of Pediatric Urology at the University of Child Health

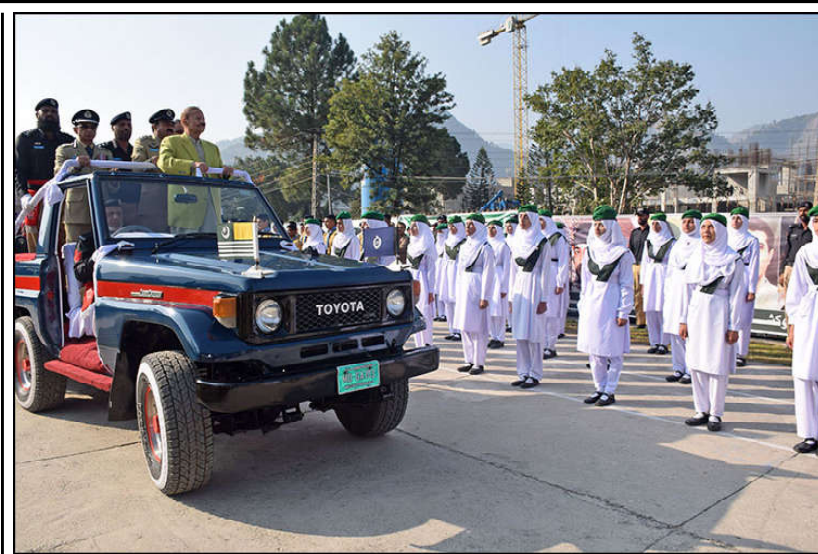
Sciences on Thursday. Addressing the attendees as the chief guest, the minister highlighted that Lahore's Children's Hospital is the second largest children's hospital globally and the largest in South Asia. He emphasized that, following the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the government is dedicated to enhancing healthcare services for the public.

16 killed, 1638 injured in 1467 RTCs in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least sixteen persons were killed and 1638 injured in 1467 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 739 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 899 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals.

ANF recovers 232 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting an operation managed to recover over 232 kg drugs, said an ANF headquarters spokesman here on Thursday. He informed that acting on a tip-off, ANF team conducted a raid near the Motorway Interchange, Balkasar and foiled a drug smuggling attempt from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa to Punjab.



MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry inspecting the parade on the occasion of the 77th foundation day of Azad Kashmir.

Punjab Governor says: Exchange of trade, various delegations from Belgium will bolster bilateral ties

Independent Report LAHORE: Ambassador of Belgium to Pakistan, Idesblad van der Gracht, called on Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan here today at Governor House Lahore. In the meeting, cooperation in the fields of trade, education and sports were discussed. Speaking

on this occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that promotion of trade and business activities is very important for boosting the economy of the country. Governor Punjab appreciated the proposal of the Ambassador of Belgium to promote sports diplomacy between the

two countries for the promotion of sports, especially hockey. He said that hockey is the national sport of Pakistan and there was a time when Pakistan was champion in hockey at international level. He said that the exchange of trade and various delegations from Belgium will bolster bilateral relations.

Progress on Chashma Lift Canal Project continues: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday said that the Chashma Lift Canal project is moving closer to completion, with the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) issuing tenders for its first two phases. In a statement issued here, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi announced that the project will be inaugurated this year, fulfilling a long-standing demand of the residents of Dera Ismail Khan.

The tenders for the first phase will be opened on November 22, followed by the second phase on November 25. WAPDA plans to complete the canal in six sections. Similarly, Ahmad Karim Kundi, the parliamentary leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, emphasized that the party believes in taking practical steps rather than making empty promises. He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and the Federal Minister and Chairman of WAPDA for their support.

WAPDA's North Project Manager has requested pre-qualification tenders for the initial two phases of the canal.



HYDERABAD: Members of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Lawyers Wing are holding protest demonstration for release of PTI Founder Imran Khan, outside Civil Court in Hyderabad.

Punjab Law Minister engages bar associations to resolve legal community's issues

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government has embarked on a journey to address the issues of lawyers and bar associations across the province. In this context, Provincial Law Minister Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bharth invited the presidents and general secretaries of six bar associations in the first phase to meet with him at the Lahore Civil Secretariat's Darbar Hall on Thursday morning. Imran Khakwani, President of the Multan Bar, Muhammad Ibrahim,

President of the Narowal Bar; Mariam Rana, President of the Mandi Bahauddin Bar; Mian Anwarul Haq, President of the Faisalabad Bar; Aamir Munir, President of the Gujranwala Bar; and Mohsin Shah, President of the Sargodha Bar, were welcomed by the Minister for Law Punjab and the Parliamentary Secretary for Law, Khalid Ranjnah. The meeting was also attended by the general secretaries of the bar associations and the Punjab Secretary for Law, Bilal Ahmed Lodhi.

PG Punjab declares minor domestic worker murder case high-profile

LAHORE (APP): Prosecutor General Punjab Syed Farhad Ali Shah on Thursday declared the minor domestic worker murder case as high-profile. Earlier, after taking notice of the incident in which a minor domestic worker girl was tortured and killed within the jurisdiction of Lahore's Defense-C Police Station, the Prosecutor General Punjab summoned the investigating officer and the investigation in-charge, along with the case record. The investigating officer briefed the

Prosecutor General that the accused had tortured the minor domestic worker girl, buried her body, and filed a false theft FIR against her. In response to a question from the Prosecutor General that why the Anti-Rape Act 2021 was not applied and why the investigation was not conducted by the SSIU Unit, the investigating officer failed to provide a satisfactory explanation. Expressing anger over the negligence and poor investigation, the Prosecutor General reprimanded the officers.

US delegation meets Punjab minorities minister

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora met a US delegation at his camp office on Thursday to discuss issues regarding protection of human rights, particularly for religious minorities in Punjab. The delegation, which included Deputy Assistant Secretary Jacobsen, Consul General Hawkins, Laskowski, Nelson, Lakhanpal and political specialist Daim. In the meeting they discussed the measures taken by the Punjab government to support minority communities.

International News

Israeli strike on Gaza shelter kills 17 as Blinken says cease-fire talks will resume

Monitoring Desk DEIR AL-BALAH: An Israeli strike on a school where displaced people were sheltering in the central Gaza Strip killed at least 17 people on Thursday, nearly all women and children, Palestinian medical officials said.

several strikes on schools-turned-shelters in recent months, saying it precisely targets militants hiding out among civilians. The strikes often kill women and children.

Blinken, speaking to reporters in Qatar, which has served as a key mediator between Israel and Hamas, said negotiators would reconvene "in the coming days."

The strike came as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Israel had accomplished its objective of "effectively dismantling" Hamas, and that negotiations over a cease-fire and the release of dozens of Israeli hostages would resume in the coming days. Another 42 people were wounded in the strike in the built-up Nuseirat refugee camp, according to the Awda Hospital, which received the casualties. Among the dead were 13 children under the age of 18 and three women, according to the hospital's records. The Israeli military said it targeted Hamas militants inside the school, without providing evidence. Israel has carried out

Lebanon media says 17 Israeli strikes hit Beirut suburbs, 6 buildings levelled

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Lebanon state media reported 17 Israeli raids on Beirut's southern suburbs, with six buildings levelled and the vacated offices of a pro-Iran broadcaster hit as the Iran-Hezbollah war reached its one-month mark. AFP TV footage showed a massive explosion followed by smaller blasts in the embattled southern suburbs after the Israeli army issued an evacuation warning for the area, where Hezbollah holds sway. The official National News Agency (NNA) reported at least 17 Israeli raids, marking one of the most violent nights in the area since the Israel-Hezbollah war erupted on Sep 23. Six buildings were destroyed around the suburb of Laylaki, NNA said, calling the raids "the most violent in the area since the beginning of the war". The strikes came shortly after the Israeli military's Arabic-language spokesman, Avichay Adraee, issued evacuation warnings on social media platform X. There was no warning, however, for a strike that hit the Jnah neighbourhood in southern Beirut.



Men walk on the rubble at a site damaged in the aftermath of Israeli strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs, amid the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, Lebanon.

Russia's proposed grain exchange for BRICS countries may take years to launch

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia's proposal for a new international grain exchange could take years to get off the ground even though the plan was welcomed by members of the BRICS group of countries at a summit this week in Kazan in Russia. Russia has been pushing to establish the exchange as part of a broader plan to create new financial instruments, detach its trade from the US dollar and

help Moscow combat Western sanctions. President Vladimir Putin said at the summit that BRICS countries, which are among the world's largest producers of grains, legumes, and oilseeds, could establish such an exchange, potentially expanding it to trade other major commodities. The plan to create the exchange has been approved by leaders of the BRICS countries, whose members include Brazil, Russia.

UN chief calls for peace in Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine and Sudan

Monitoring Desk KAZAN: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told BRICS leaders including Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday that the world needed peace in Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine and Sudan. "Across the board, we need peace," Guterres said at the BRICS summit in the Russian city of Kazan. "We need peace in Ukraine. A just peace in line with the UN Charter, international law and UN General Assembly resolutions."

Indonesia says its coast guard drove away Chinese ship that interrupted survey in disputed sea

Monitoring Desk JAKARTA: Indonesian patrol ships drove a Chinese coast guard vessel away from a survey vessel in a disputed area of the South China Sea for the second time in three days, Indonesian authorities said Thursday. Indonesia's Maritime Security Agency said a Chinese ship approached the MV Geo Coral on Monday and Wednesday, interrupting a seismic data survey being conducted by the state energy company PT Pertamina in a part of the South China Sea claimed by

both countries. Asked about the Indonesian statement, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said the Coast Guard vessel had carried out routine patrols in waters under Chinese jurisdiction. "China is ready to enhance communication and consultation with Indonesia through diplomatic channels and properly handle maritime differences between the two countries," he added. China's "nine-dash line," which it uses to roughly demarcate its claim to most of the South China Sea.

Bomb attack in Kabul market kills child, injures 11 others

Monitoring Desk KABUL: An attacker carrying a bomb in a bag killed a child and wounded 11 others in a market in Afghanistan's capital, police said on Thursday. The attack took place in a central area of Kabul on Wednesday afternoon, although Taliban officials did not confirm the incident until Thursday. "Yesterday, there was an explosion in the Pami Cinema area of Kabul from explosives a person was carrying in a bag," Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadrani said in a statement. "Due to this explosion, a child was killed and some civilians were lightly wounded," he said, telling

AFP later that 11 people had been hurt in the blast. A suspect, who was also wounded, has been arrested, he added in the statement. Italian organisation Emergency NGO, which operates a hospital in Kabul, said on Wednesday it treated 11 wounded, including two young children, a 16-year-old and two women. "The explosion took place at a second-hand clothes market when it opened and people crowded to get in," said deputy country director Stefano Gennaro Smirnov. "This is the Pami Cinema neighbourhood, one of the most densely populated in Kabul."

Thai PM apologises for crackdown that killed 85 Muslims as hopes for justice fade

Monitoring Desk BANGKOK: Thailand's prime minister on Thursday apologised for the deaths two decades ago of dozens of Muslim protesters who were piled up in army trucks, hours from the expiry of the statute of limitations on an incident over which no state official has been convicted. The security crackdown in the southern town of Tak Bai in 2004 caused the deaths of 85 people and was one of the most high-profile events of a separatist insurgency that re-ignited that same year and has since killed more than 7,600 people. "I am deeply saddened for what happened and apologise on behalf of the government," Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra said, vowing to ensure no repeat of such events.

while bound and piled on top of each other in army trucks. Seven others were shot dead. The crackdown was widely known as the Tak Bai massacre and took place under the administration of Paetongtarn's father, Thaksin Shinawatra, a key figure behind her ruling Pheu Thai Party. Attempts to prosecute security personnel have failed, including two in the past two months. In August, a court accepted a criminal lawsuit by victims' families against seven senior officials, among them a retired general and ruling party lawmaker, but all of those failed to show up at a hearing. A separate case against eight other personnel filed by the attorney-general last month has made no progress. Paetongtarn said the incident should not be politicised, adding the statute of limitations could not be extended because it would be a breach of the constitution.

Bangladesh bans student wing of ousted Sheikh Hasina's party

Monitoring Desk DHAKA: Bangladesh's interim government has officially banned the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League party, declaring it a "terrorist organisation". This move comes in response to escalating demands from the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, which outlined five key demands, including the abolishment of the current constitution, the removal of President Mohammed Shahabuddin, and the dissolution of the BCL. The Ministry of Home Affairs cited the BCL's history of serious misconduct over the past 15 years, including violence,

harassment, and exploitation of public resources. The ban under the Anti-Terrorism Act takes effect immediately, it said in a gazette notification issued late on Wednesday. The country has been rising tensions and protests in recent months, after violent protests forced Hasina to flee to India on Aug 5 and an interim government led by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus took charge. The protests, which began as a student-led movement against public sector job quotas in July, escalated into some of the deadliest unrest since the country's independence in 1971, resulting in over 700 deaths and numerous injuries.

'The whole city shook' after Israel pounded ancient Tyre

Monitoring Desk TYRE: Israeli strikes on Wednesday pounded Lebanon's Tyre, an ancient coastal city which boasts a UNESCO World Heritage site, leaving swaths of its centre in ruins. The raids, among the worst since the start of the Israel-Hezbollah war last month, hit the "heart of Tyre", said Rana, a resident who asked to only use her first name over security concerns. "The whole city shook," said Rana, after fleeing to the seafloor following an Israeli military warning for people to evacuate much of Tyre's centre in the morning. Thick black plumes of smoke were seen rising from several neighbourhoods, with parts of the evacuation area just 500 metres (yards) from the city's ancient ruins.



PISHIN: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti addressing participants of inaugural ceremony of shifting of agriculture tubewells on solar energy.

Bugti inaugurates project of transferring agri. tube wells to solar energy in Pishin

Mir Sarfaraz Bugti highly appreciates cooperation of federal government in implementation of mega project

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti formally inaugurated the project of solarization of the agricultural tube wells in Pishin district on Thursday.

The inauguration ceremony of the project was attended by the Provincial Minister for Agriculture and Cooperative Society, Mir Ali Madad Jatak, members of the provincial assembly, Asghar Khan Tareen, Syed Zafar Ali Agha, Zarak Khan Mandokhail, office bearers of Zamindar Action Committee, Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, Secretary Energy, Bashir Khan Bazai, Secretary Finance, Babar Khan, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat, Chief Executive Officer, Quetta Electric Supply Company and elders of the area.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister noted with pleasure that we are going to resolve the long-standing issue of electricity faced by the zamindars in Balochistan on permanent basis. He said that this project of solarization of the agricultural tube wells would bring revolutionary changes in the agriculture sector of the province. The Chief Minister also said that we have materialized the dream of mega project of solarization today. He said that the Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif extended his wholehearted cooperation with the provincial government.

He said that we are pleased that the federal government endorsed the stance of provincial government. He said that there was good intention behind delay in the project. He said the government would send the amount for solarization direct to the accounts of zamindars saying that this is their money and they should get it. The Chief Minister said that transparency would be ensured in the whole process. Moreover, he once again reiterated his resolve to ensure merit and transparency in the recruitments to be made in the education sector.

Quetta administration cracks down on hazardous petrol pumps

Independent Report
QUETTA: Quetta's district administration has taken swift action against hazardous mini petrol pumps at Hazarganji Truck Adda, sealing 10 pumps to ensure public safety. The administration acted on public complaints and visited the site, finding pumps in high-risk areas that posed severe threats to human life.

Assistant Commissioner (Sariab) Mariyah Shmeoun ordered the closure of all mini petrol pumps at Hazarganji Truck Adda and issued stern warnings, cautioning that no pumps will be allowed in high-traffic areas. Those who reopen pumps in such areas will face severe consequences. This action is part of the administration's efforts to protect citizens and maintain order in Quetta.

Justice Mansoor writes another letter to outgoing CJP Isa

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (INP): Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, a senior member of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, has penned another letter while addressing outgoing Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa.

Justice Mansoor emphasized upon self-accountability. "People are watching our actions, and history never forgives," said Justice Mansoor.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti along with others witnesses MoU signing agreement during signing ceremony of four projects run under Public Private Partnership, held in Quetta.

Peace not just aspiration but necessity for future of humanity: Gilani

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Thursday said that peace is not just an aspiration but a necessity for the future of humanity, calling on all nations to prioritize conflict prevention.

He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony in Islamabad in connection with UN Day, marking the 79th anniversary of the United Nations. Reflecting on Pakistan's 77 years as a dedicated member of the UN, Gilani reaffirmed the country's commitment to the UN Charter's principles, including sovereignty, equality, and respect for human rights.

Awais discusses crossborder energy coop. with Iranian counterpart

Independent Report
QINGDAO (CHINA) (APP): Federal Minister for Power, Sardar Awais Leghari, met with the Iranian Energy Minister Abbas Ali Abadi on the sidelines of the Third Belt & Road Ministerial Conference held in Qingdao, China. Minister Awais Leghari underscored the importance of cross-border energy projects in boosting connectivity and trade, said a press release issued here Thursday.

Both sides discussed future collaboration, particularly focusing on the development of electricity projects in Gwadar, Balochistan. Exchanging views on the need for enhanced energy connectivity amongst the regional countries, both sides underlined the importance of strengthening energy cooperation in power plants operations and maintenance. They emphasized the need for regular coordination and communication.

Big changes happening in health department

Independent Report
QUETTA: Two officials have been transferred: Dr. Tahira Kamal, Division Director Health Services Kalat, is now Medical Superintendent Teaching Hospital Khuzdar, while Dr. Nooruz Khan, Medical Superintendent Teaching Hospital Khuzdar, takes on a new role as Medical Officer (B-17) and Deputy Medical Superintendent Teaching Hospital.

Additionally, Provincial Minister of Health Bakht Muhammad Kakar has ordered action against absent health staff. During a recent visit to Prince Abdul Karim Khan Hospital in Kalat, pharmacist Waqar Ahmed Kakar was found absent without notice. The Minister directed the Secretary of Health to take disciplinary action against him. It's clear the government is cracking down on absenteeism and reshuffling key positions to improve healthcare services in the region.



QUETTA: Different delegations meeting with Provincial Minister for PHE Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran.

PM deplors UN's inability to address Kashmiris' self determination right

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (INP): As the world observes 79th anniversary of the United Nations today, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has deplored the United Nations' inability to enforce its Charter in an equitable manner, especially "when the matter involves the question of the right to self-determination for peoples under foreign occupation such as in Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir."

The prime minister, in a social media post on X, reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to multilateralism and highlighted the world body's inability to enforce its charter in an equitable manner. He said that the growing number of international conflicts including unconventional crises such as climate change, heightened geo-political tensions, major power rivalry and deepening economic woes of Global South were a strong evidence of world order being in massive disarray.

He highlighted that the growing number of international conflicts including unconventional crises such as climate change, heightened geo-political tensions, major power rivalry and deepening economic woes of Global South were a strong evidence of world order being in massive disarray. He said that at the heart of the global crisis was the United Nations' inability to enforce its Charter in an equitable manner, especially "when the matter involves the question of the right to self-determination for peoples under foreign occupation such as in Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir."

He called the UN Day an occasion to reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to multilateralism and highlighted the world body's inability to enforce its charter in an equitable manner. He said that the growing number of international conflicts including unconventional crises such as climate change, heightened geo-political tensions, major power rivalry and deepening economic woes of Global South were a strong evidence of world order being in massive disarray.

Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to multilateralism, Prime Minister Shehbaz reiterated that Pakistan would continue to work with the UN to make this world a better place for all where rights of all peoples especially those struggling for their just, legitimate and inalienable rights were realized.

APP adds: As the world observes 79th anniversary of the United Nations today, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to multilateralism and highlighted the world body's inability to enforce its charter in an equitable manner. He said that the growing number of international conflicts including unconventional crises such as climate change, heightened geo-political tensions, major power rivalry and deepening economic woes of Global South were a strong evidence of world order being in massive disarray.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, chairing a meeting of the Prime Minister's Committee for Planning and Execution of Foreign-Funded Development Projects in Federal Capital.

Govt. ended nepotism establishing merit, claims Provincial Minister PHE

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE) and WASA, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran has stated that the incumbent provincial government has been paying special attention on resolving the public issues of the province. He said that the provincial government has ended nepotism by establishing merit in the province.

Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran maintained that the government is taking steps to provide relief to the people. He announced that appointments would be made in the government departments purely on merit. He said that the modern system of reforms has been enforced in the province. Marked improvement has been made in the law and order, health, education and other social sectors of the province.

Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran also mentioned that health card programme has been launched for the poor people of the province.

The Minister was speaking to the officers and different delegations in the PHE office here on Thursday. Also present on the occasion was Managing Director of WASA, Muhammad Hamid Rana.

Bakht pays surprise visit to Teaching Hospital Khuzdar

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar paid surprise visit to the Teaching Hospital Khuzdar on Thursday.

He expressed dissatisfaction over performance of the Medical Superintendent of Teaching Hospital and ordered to transfer him. He also directed to improve performance of the hospital in order to provide best medical treatment facilities to the people.

Also accompanied him were the Secretary Health, Mujeebur Rehman Qambrani and other concerned high ups.

During the visit, the Provincial Minister expressed deep concern over the poor cleanliness situation and non-functioning of the dialysis machines in the hospital. He also found the pharmacist and some other staff of the hospital.

He expressed dissatisfaction over performance of the Medical Superintendent of Teaching Hospital and ordered to transfer him. He also directed to improve performance of the hospital in order to provide best medical treatment facilities to the people.

Also accompanied him were the Secretary Health, Mujeebur Rehman Qambrani and other concerned high ups.



Provincial Ministers Bakht Muhammad Kakar and Mir Shoaib Nausherwani visiting Prince Abdul Karim Khan Hospital Kalat.

Ahsan Iqbal reviews 'Foreign-Funded Development Projects'

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, chaired a meeting of the Prime Minister's Committee for planning and execution of foreign-funded development projects here on Thursday. Attendees included Secretary Planning Awais Manzoor Sumra, Secretary Economic Affairs Division (EAD), Member Infrastructure, Waqas Anwar and senior officials from the Ministry of Planning. Federal Minister for EAD Ahad Cheema participated via video link, said a press release.

The committee discussed in detail the planning and execution of foreign-funded projects and the need to refine policy guidelines in line with the Economic Coordination Committee's (ECC) decisions. During the briefing, it was highlighted that the challenges posed by scarce resources and huge demand for development projects needs to be addressed during the financial year. The ministries demanded PKR 2,900 billion whereas approved development budget was PKR 1,100 billion. The PSDP currently stands at PKR 1,100 billion, with an allocation of PKR 220 billion in foreign funding as rupee cover.

JUI-F to celebrate Youm-e-Tashakur today

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (APP): The spokesperson for Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F), Aslam Ghauri, said on Thursday that his party will observe Youm-e-Tashakur (Thanksgiving day) Friday across the country.

BFA fines 20 food centers on violation rules in Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Food Authority (BFA) fined the owners of more than 20 food centers in respective areas of Balochistan including Quetta, Dhadar, Loralai and Gwadar for violating the rules. According to the spokesperson of BFA, the BFA's teams were carrying out indiscriminate actions against the food centers and factories to remedy the poor food with aim to maintain quality of edible items. He said that in this regard, the authority teams have busted an illegal factory making unhealthy and harmful candy toffee in Eastern Bypass Quetta. The sanitary and drainage arrangements in Plummet factory are very

poor, the walls of the unit are dirty, the machinery is contaminated while the air circulation arrangements were found to be inappropriate during action, he said. The spokesman said that the manufacture and date of cancellation were not shown on the candy toffees produced in the factory, while the colors, chemicals and other ingredients used in the manufacture of Plummet were found to be non-food grade, all the products were unregistered and the water used in the processing was found to be contaminated. The condition of personal hygiene of factory employees was poor and fitness certificate masks, head covers etc. were also not available, he said.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir interacts with aircrew during the Multinational Exercise Indus Shield-2024, at an operational Air Base of Pakistan Air Force (PAF).

Humanitarian situation caused by Israel's Gaza siege blot on human conscience: FO spokesperson

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Thursday strongly condemning the Israeli forces' attack on UN peacekeepers in Lebanon, said that the humanitarian situation caused by Israel's siege of Gaza was a blot on human conscience.

Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, at her weekly press briefing, unequivocally condemned the brutal and indiscriminate Israeli airstrikes on Beit Lahia, which resulted in the tragic loss of over 80 Palestinian lives, including women and children. She called upon the international community to press Israel to cease all aggressive actions against UNIFIL immediately and forthwith cease.

She said that targeting the densely populated residential areas without warning and collective punishment of civilians by depriving them of food, water and essential medicines constitute war crimes. The spokesperson told the media that the UN peacekeepers had become the latest victim of Israeli aggression in Lebanon "Pakistan strongly condemns the deliberate and unlawful attacks by Israeli forces on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) peacekeepers. The Peacekeepers must be able to fulfill their mission without fear of attack or obstruction."

Pakistan values its enduring relationship with Sri Lanka: CJCSC

Independent Report
RAWALPINDI (APP): Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), General Sahir Shamshad Mirza on Thursday said that Pakistan valued its enduring relationship with Sri Lanka, and highlighted the shared commitment to fortifying bilateral ties, particularly in defense and security.

Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. During the meeting, both sides reiterated their commitment to enhancing bilateral security and defense collaboration. Air Marshal RAUP Rajapaksa, appreciated the high professional standards of Pakistan Armed Forces, their achievements in fight against terrorism and continued efforts for regional peace and stability. Earlier, upon arrival at Joint Staff Headquarters, a smartly turned out tri-services contingent presented "Guard of Honour" to Commander of the Sri Lankan Air Force.



QINGDAO: Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan meets with Iranian Energy Minister Abbas Ali Abadi on the sidelines of the 3rd Belt & Road Ministerial Conference in Qingdao, China.

US congressmen urge Biden to secure PTI founder's release

Independent Report
WASHINGTON (INP): More than 60 members of the US House of Representatives have written a letter to President Joe Biden urging him to pressure Islamabad to release PTI founder Imran Khan.

The congressmen stressed the president that efforts should be made to also secure release of other political prisoners in Pakistan. They also asked the US embassy officials to visit Imran in Adiala Jail. The letter marked the first such collective call from congressmen for the release of Imran, "who otherwise has had testy relations with Washington as a long standing critic of US foreign policy."

The former prime minister has been incarcerated since August last year after his conviction in several criminal case ahead of the February 8 elections. In their letter, the lawmakers belonging to the Democratic party urged President Biden to prioritize human rights in the US policy towards Pakistan. "We write today to urge you to use the United States' substantial leverage with Pakistan's government to secure the release of political prisoners including former Prime Minister Khan and curtail widespread human rights abuses," they wrote. They also asked the US embassy officials to visit Imran in Adiala Jail. The letter marked the first such collective call from congressmen for the release of Imran, "who otherwise has had testy relations with Washington as a long standing critic of US foreign policy."