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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Lt. Col. Muhammad Ali embraced Shahadat while fighting with ter-

ists in North Waziristan, the other day.

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

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

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



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

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

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: The National Climate Change Authority (NCCA) in a high level meeting on Sunday agreed to roll out a roadmap for prioritising climate actions to take forward country's climate resilience-building in close coordination and collaboration with the provinces and other relevant stakeholders. The NCCA meeting was held to review the implementation of the various measures proposed in the national climate change policy for climate change resilience of various socio-economic sectors, particularly energy, water, agriculture, public infrastructure, a press statement issued here said.

The meeting discussed at length the future course of actions for enhancing collaboration with

all relevant federal and provincial government organisations for addressing various climate impacts, particularly floods, heat waves, glacial lake outburst floods, shifting rainfall patterns, changing river flows and groundwater depletion.

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

PTI wants to disrupt SCO summit in Islamabad: Kundi

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

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

"They are treading course of collision. They have nothing to do with the prosperity of the country. They just know how to commit corruption and dance," the KP governor said. In a statement, the governor said PTI supplies weapons to other cities in the name of political struggle, adding Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi had claimed that 100 Afghans were arrested from PTI protest in Islamabad.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

The anarchist movement cannot feel the grief of the family members on

the martyrdom of Abdul Hameed Shah, he said.

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

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

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

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

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

He said that they wanted to defame the country.

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

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

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

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

The complaint stated that, contrary to prison manual, Imran Khan was granted extraordinary illegal facilities while incarcerated. It alleged that he incited his political workers to violence against the state and institutions during visits and communications from jail.



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

Naqvi announces Shaheed package for martyred cop's family

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi on Sunday ruled out any possibility of talks with the protestors of a political party and announced the Shaheed package for the assistance of the bereaved family of Shaheed Islamabad Capital Territory Police Constable Abdul Hameed Shah to be delivered within upcoming days.

In a media talk after the funeral of the constable who was martyred during the PTI protest here, the Interior Minister said that those involved in the killing of the martyr would face law and vowed to bring the culprits to justice. He expressed his condolence to the police and the victim's family.

Naqvi informed that he

had received the information of Constable Abdul Hameed's martyrdom late at night. He added that the martyr has one son employed at CDA, who would be regularized, while the other son would also be provided employment in the public department, along with a martyr's package and a plot given to the martyrs' families would be given.

The minister expressed that they aimed to complete this process within next two to three days.

Interior Minister Naqvi added Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Ali Amin Gandapur was not present at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House and the Islamabad police is searching for him.

Reducing power tariff top priority of Govt: Leghari

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

Talking to a private news channel, he highlighted efforts to reduce the cost of electricity production, adding that the government is currently reviewing agreements with power plants and independent power producers (IPPs) through mutual understanding.

He noted that the power sector is struggling with several issues and urgently needs reforms, particularly regarding IPP contracts.

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

CM Gandapur resurfaces in KP Assembly after day-long disappearance

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

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

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



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

Upon his return to the

Gandapur highlighted the party's electoral success, questioning how the opposition secured votes: "PTI received over 4.5 million votes. Where did the opposition get their votes from?"

Gandapur denounced the raid on K-P House, calling it an attack on the province's autonomy. "The K-P House is our property, and they shelled and fired upon it. What gives them the right to treat it like this?" he asked.

PTI failed to unleash violence, bloodshed in capital despite massive attempt: Muqam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for State and Frontier Region, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs, Engineer Amir Muqam on Sunday in his response to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest said it had failed to unleash violence and bloodshed in the federal capital despite massive attempts.

The Minister appreciated the positive role of security forces and police for showing patience, a press statement said.

Muqam said Ali Amin Gandapur's role has been that of a film actor from day one and that too of a villain. "Thankfully, the 'Imrani agenda' has not been completed. However, despite the Article 144 in Islamabad, deployment of Army and many hurdles, PTI's purpose of bringing the innocent Pashtuns to create bloodshed could not be done. These anti-state

elements were expecting severe reaction and bloodshed but their aim was not fulfilled," he said.

Engineer Amir Muqam while appreciating the role of the security and law enforcement agencies said that the security agencies worked in the best interest of the country and worked patiently.

"However, the martyrdom of one constable and the injuries of many are deeply regretted," he added.

The way in which the resources, machinery and manpower of a poor province were used recklessly would have to be accounted for, he said.

Engineer Amir Muqam warned and said that he would also ask the government officials of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa not to be part of the work against the country's interest, otherwise they too would be held accountable.

Federal government imposes ban on PTM

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

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

Those involved in the killing of police constable Hameed will not be spared: IGP Rizvi

Says Islamabad Police fully alert to protect citizens' lives, properties

ISLAMABAD (Online): Inspector General of Islamabad Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi has said strict action will be taken against orchestrators, abettors and perpetrators of violent attacks on police, law enforcement agencies and public property.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, he said those involved in the killing of police constable Abdul Hameed Shah will not be spared. He said a strict First Information Report, as per the law, will be lodged against these elements. He



Pakhtunkhwa Government were used in this onslaught on the Federal Capital. He said eight Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police offi-

cers were arrested, while slingshots, live teargas shells, government and private weapons were recovered from the violent protestors. The Inspector General, however, said the Islamabad Police is fully alert and committed to protect the citizens' lives, property and honour. He said no one will be allowed to disturb peace and tranquility in the Federal Capital. He said now the police force is going after miscreants' hideouts in every nook and corner of the Islamabad Capital Territory. Answering a question, the Inspector General said Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is neither in the custody of police nor other law enforcement agencies.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Indian visitor

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

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

Basil Nabi Malik

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

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

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

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

Time for action

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Beirut on my mind

Muna Khan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commerce News

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

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

Pakistan's economy is showing promising signs of

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

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

In fact, Pakistan has planned to raise its exports to \$50 billion in five years, with an ambitious long-term target of \$100 billion, he added. Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan emphasized that eliminating the non-filer category will have a positive impact on exporters, boosting Pakistan's economic growth.

Coordinator to the Prime Minister also highlighted a significant shift in Pakistan's economy, adding, previously, investments were largely concentrated in the property sector, which did not contribute significantly to the country's economic growth.

Mian Abuzar Shad elected PBIT Director

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

middle-class citizens.

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

Fruits like grapes,

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

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

Iftikhar Malik says: Political stability crucial for economic growth

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

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

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

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

PCCC greets Sham Lal Manglani

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

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

SCCI stresses urgent steps to reopen Pak-Afghan highway

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

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

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

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

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



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

PFC delegation heads to US for expanding furniture export opportunities

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

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



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

Intl. carpet expo in Lahore from 9th

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Another incident akin to May-9 thwarted: Azma

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

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

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

A senior police officer was martyred and dozens

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

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

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

08 dead, 1504 injured in 1411 RTCs in Punjab

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

EPA confiscates over 1500kg plastic bags in drive against pollution

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

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

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

Man killed, brother injured over old enmity

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

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

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

District Dadu Police Boosts Security Measures for a Peaceful Environment

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

Opposition Leader criticizes absence of KP Chief Minister

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

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

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

Pakhtunkhwa House instead of fulfilling his responsibilities.

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

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

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



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

AJK observes World Teachers Day with due respect and honor

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

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

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

International News

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Lebanese security source said that ongoing Israeli strikes on Beirut's southern suburb — known as Dahiyeh — since Friday have kept rescue workers from scouring the site of the attack. Hezbollah made no comment on Saifedine since the attack. An Israeli spokesperson said the military was still assessing the Thursday night air strikes, which he said targeted Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters. The loss of Nasrallah's rumoured successor would be yet another blow to Hezbollah and Iran.

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

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

Russia targets Kyiv, Odesa in latest drone attack

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

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

Zelensky to hold defence talks with Biden in Germany

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

Iran FM calls for ceasefire in Lebanon and Gaza

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kazakhstan votes on whether to build first nuclear plant

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

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

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

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

to build the plant on, some locals hoped the project would bring jobs while others expressed concern about the impact on the quality of the lake water.

"I support the power plant," said Dametken Shulgeyeva, who has lived in the village of 1,200 people for more than 20 years. "This is our future."

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

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

NDRMF supporting National Climate Finance Strategy to be launched at COP29: Bilal Anwar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Executive Officer (CEO), National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), Bilal Anwar on Sunday said the Fund is assisting the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination in formulation of the National Climate Finance Strategy that would be launched at the COP29.

The NDRMF is supporting the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination by extending financial and technical assistance in establishing the COP pavilion, pre-COP events and writing position papers on different agenda items like Article 13, Article 6 and

others under the Paris Accord, the CEO NDRMF said in an exclusive interview with APP while showcasing the efforts and accomplishments of the Fund. The Fund is also assisting in formulation of the National Climate Finance Strategy that would be launched at the COP29, he said. Denouncing the criticism on COP Pavilions, Bilal Anwar said the criticism on the COP pavilions established by the country at previous conferences was unfair.

"Pakistan's pavilion has enhanced its utility in the previous two to three COPs as during the COP27 due to 2022 floods it has garnered much attention

whereas during the COP28, some 29 events were organised throughout the moot at the pavilion. Pakistan this time has a wonderful story to tell at COP29," Bilal said.

The Fund, he said have launched its first Business Policy 2024 that helped in repurposing and redefining it over a course of 18-month to change the donors' mindset for well-informed disaster resilience interventions.

The document is a 10-year long-term policy intervention being implemented after extensive consultations with all stakeholders, he added.

"Resilience building is a long-term process and its

challenging amid growing climate catastrophes as every intervention has its impacts but a long-term strategy is necessary and the NDRMF Business Policy is addressing it. There have been repeated discussions with relevant bodies, provinces, fund implementing partners (FIPs), researchers, practitioners and experts related to the subject which resulted into culmination of our efforts in the form of the strategy," Bilal Anwar said. The Business Policy, he said has bagged huge acclaim from the donors who have demanded a framework under the Policy to continue their operations in line with the national document.



ISLAMABAD: Army and Rangers are standing in reverse to control PTI's protest and situation at D Chowk.



ISLAMABAD: Commandant Frontier Constabulary (FC), Muhammad Riaz Nazir Gara visiting the troops at D Chowk on Sunday to boost their motivation and enthusiasm.

Education, tolerance in society crucial in preventing radicalization: Analyst suggests

ISLAMABAD (APP): A prominent research analyst Syed Imran Sardar at the Institute of Regional Studies on Sunday advocated for robust laws to counter extremist narratives that threaten the well-being of Pakistan's youth due to unchecked social media.

Talking to the PTV news channel he made a pressing appeal to policymakers for controlling the social media's harmful influence and proposed societal tolerance as an antidote to extremism.

Syed Imran Sardar fur-

ther emphasized that promoting tolerance within society is crucial to countering extremism.

"We need to foster an environment where diverse perspectives are respected and encouraged," he said.

"This can be achieved through education, community engagement and inclusive dialogue," he added.

By promoting tolerance, "we can create a society where our youth are resilient to radical ideologies," he noted.

The analyst underscored the need for collec-

tive responsibility in promoting tolerance, adding that it is not just the government's duty; every citizen, community leader and institution must play a role in fostering inclusivity and respect."

Sardar cautioned that societal polarization and intolerance provide fertile ground for extremist ideologies to flourish.

"We must bridge the gaps between communities and promote mutual understanding to prevent the spread of hatred," he urged.

Siddiqui says: PTI introduced ominous tradition of provincial onslaught on federation

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

In a post on his official X-handle, the Senator wrote, "It happened many times in the past that the government of the PML-N

and the Pakistan People's Party was in some parts of the federation and provinces. Despite the mutual tension, it has never happened that any of the federating unit has attacked the federation under the leadership of the Chief Minister." He regretted that this sad tradition was introduced by PTI in 2016 when then Chief Minister, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pervez Khattak launched the first attack on Islamabad. In 2022, the PTI founder attacked the federal capital with the help of then Chief Minister.

Two terrorists killed during encounter with CTD in Karachi

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

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

He said that a terrorist namely Ahmed Hassan who belonged to the banned Sipah-e-Sahaba facilitated these terrorists through the recce of the deceased Ali Raza. Two other terrorists, identified as Hamza and Naeem were arrested from Cantt Railway Station soon after their return from Multan. During interrogation, the arrested terrorists provided key information to CTD about the exact location of the terrorists. Both hardcore terrorists were killed in the exchange of fire with CTD personnel. CTD personnel also recovered arms, ammunition and other material used for making suicide jackets and a list of target killings from their possession.

Protests erupt in Jammu over blasphemous remarks by Hindu priest

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

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

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

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

protesters gathered outside the local mosque and raised slogans and demanded action against Narsinghanand.

The Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Personal Law Board and other organizations have condemned Narsinghanand's remarks, terming them "highly provocative and blasphemous."

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

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

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

PDMA issues fresh rain alert, departments ready to respond: Director

ISLAMABAD (APP): Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Director-General Irfan Ali Kathia Sunday assured that all concerned departments of Punjab are on high alert, following Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's instructions as the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) had issued a fresh rain alert.

In his message on a private news channel, he

said we are fully prepared to tackle any emergency-like situation, citing the rain prediction till October 8.

"Our control rooms are monitoring the situation 24/7 and rescue personnel with machinery are on standby," he added.

Kathia confirmed that water flow in all rivers and canals is normal. Measures have been taken for water drainage in low-lying areas.

NAVTC hosts international delegates to boost vocational training

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC) on Sunday organized a meeting with international delegates to explore collaboration in technical and vocational education in Pakistan.

According to a NAVTC statement, the participants including Lord Paul Boateng, Dr. Tony Degazon, and Prof. Wendy Thomson highlighted the importance of partnerships in addressing skill development challenges and enhancing job opportunities for Pakistani youth.

Lord Boateng said, "Fostering strong international partnerships is vital to advancing Pakistan's TVET sector and equipping the youth with necessary skills."

Dr. Degazon emphasized the commitment to work closely with

NAVTC to improve vocational training and enhance employability. Prof. Thomson added, "Together, we can create meaningful opportunities for the young workforce in Pakistan."

NAVTC Chairperson, Ms. Gulmina Bilal Ahmad, highlighted the significance of these discussions, calling it a pivotal moment for Pakistan's vocational training. She said, "We are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead."

Mr. Muhammad Aamir Jan, Executive Director NAVTC, said the commission is committed to enhancing the technical and vocational education landscape in Pakistan and looks forward to fruitful collaborations that will create meaningful employment opportunities for the skilled workforce.

Chairman CDA reviews completion of renovation work at Convention Centre

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, conducted a thorough visit of the renovation work at the Jinnah Convention Centre (JCC) on Sunday.

The Member Engineering and other relevant officers of CDA accompanied him during the visit.

During the visit, Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa was briefed on the upgrades and renovation being made to the JCC.

Expressing satisfaction with the overall

progress, he directed to swiftly complete any minor remaining tasks and stressed to facilitate the timely handover of the Jinnah Convention Centre to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

The Chairman also closely examined the installation of state-of-the-art equipment and furniture including SMDs, modern conferencing systems, advanced lighting, high-speed internet, and sound systems, ensuring that the facility is fully prepared for upcoming the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit.

IRSA releases 151,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 151,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 121,600 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1536.90 feet and was 138.90 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. The water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 71,400 cusecs and 68,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1209.90 feet, which was 159.90 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.



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

Capital's residents enjoying eco-friendly rides in electric buses

ISLAMABAD (APP): The residents of federal capital were enjoying and feeling comfortable by commuting in electric buses, providing cheap and environmental friendly travel and access to various sectors of the metropolis.

Talking to APP, Waqar Ali, a resident of G-11, lauded the standards of the e-buses and said that with the commencement of mass transit public transport system in Islamabad the swarms of automobiles would reduce and enable a

modern commute facility in a modernized fashion for the citizens.

He said that he was travelling regularly to these electric buses and feeling relaxed till the destination, as the buses were established on international standards with spacious seats, inbuilt air conditioning system as compared to poor public transport vehicles with untidy seats, tightly packed occupancy and pathetic services of the transporters. He further appreciated the landmark initia-

tive of the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, who directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to launch the electric buses in various sectors of the city that were not covered under the erstwhile Metro Bus service. Huma Rafique, a student reside of G-8 Markaz, said that being a student, she was commuting on the public e-transport which she considered as cheaper and eco-friendly as compared to others.

Miftah Ismail links foreign investment to political stability

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

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

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

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

The government should give PTI permission for a peaceful demonstration.

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

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

PTI's hidden agenda threatening national security: PML-N leader

ISLAMABAD (APP): A prominent leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) MNA Asyia Naz Tanoli Sunday criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership, accusing them of harbouring an anti-state agenda that can threaten the upcoming Shanghai summit.

Talking to the PTV news she expressed that PTI's nefarious plans could undermine Pakistan's diplomatic efforts and damage its reputation on the international stage.

She said the SCO is a

crucial summit which is bringing together leaders from regional powerhouse nations and resistance or any disruption to it could have far-reaching consequences. She strongly criticized the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for his alleged role in the current unrest in Islamabad.

Tanoli held Gandapur responsible for the worsening of the situation, stating that the government had tried to reason with him, but he remained unwilling to listen and was overstepping all bounds.

Wedding joy turns to horror as 14 participants critically injured in road mishap

ISLAMABAD (APP): A joyous wedding celebration turned into a nightmare on Sunday afternoon when a horrific road accident left 14 participants, including women and children, fighting for their lives in Khairpur on Sunday afternoon. According to local police, an idyllic scene was shattered when a Suzuki van carrying wedding revelers collided with a motorcycle in Khairpur, unleashing a trail of devastation that left 14 innocent lives hanging in the balance, a private news channel reported.

'Lawyers to defend judiciary from threats'

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

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

"We will not allow anyone to strike at the judiciary. Lawyers will protect the judiciary at all costs.

We will neither allow the formation of a separate Federal Constitutional Court nor let it operate. Two hundred thousand lawyers across the country will not let any such attempt succeed," he added.

The proposed consti-

tutional amendment package includes some major changes to the country's legal system including formation of a separate constitutional court as well as extension in the tenure of the chief justice of Pakistan. The lawyer referred to the 2007 Lawyers Movement that resulted in the exit of former military ruler General Pervez Musharraf and said, "Like in 2007, we will observe a day of protest every Thursday."

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

Joint efforts by Naqvi, Aleem lead to repatriation of 56 Pakistani prisoners from Sri Lanka

ISLAMABAD (APP): The combined efforts of Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Federal Minister for Privatisation Abdul Aleem Khan have successfully led to the return of 56 Pakistanis imprisoned in Sri Lanka for several years.

A chartered plane was dispatched to bring the prisoners back to Pakistan, and they are expected to arrive home on Sunday.

The repatriation effort was a result of three months of coordination between the Ministry of Interior, under the direction of Mohsin Naqvi, and Sri Lankan authorities.

Naqvi had tasked the ministry with facilitating the release and safe return of the Pakistani nationals.



ISLAMABAD: An elderly person on the way carrying bundle of dry branches of tree for domestic use in Federal Capital.

Four perished as car hits rickshaw

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Four people including a child died in a road accident near Sandheela Chowk in Kot Addu on Sunday.

According to police, an extended family was heading towards Jannu village from Vehari by a rickshaw when a rashly driven car hit the three-wheeler at Head Taunsa Road, Kot Addu.

As a result of which rickshaw driver Riaz Hussain, Fozia Batool w/o Muhammad Ali, Shereen Akhtar w/o Riaz Hussain and a minor Talal s/o Muhammad Ali died on the spot.

Police were investigating.



ISLAMABAD: Labourers busy in fixing cemented blocks along Club Road in Federal Capital.