

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
Conciliatory approach

While visiting survivors of last week's heinous attack on coalminers in Duki, Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti said on Saturday that a military operation was not on the cards in the troubled province. He added that intelligence-based operations were "ongoing" to uncover the facts behind the atrocity.

Though a variety of militant groups are active in Balochistan, till date no one has claimed responsibility for the Duki massacre. While there is surely a need to neutralise violent elements that present a danger to public safety in the province, the fact is that militarised responses to terrorism and insurgency have been tried in Balochistan for decades, but have failed to bring permanent peace to this tortured land.

Therefore, there is a need to investigate the intelligence lapses that led to the Duki terrorist attack and earlier violent episodes, while kinetic responses can only work if there are complementary political and economic efforts to address the deprivation that fuels separatist sentiment.

However, it appears the state is determined to continue using the same old playbook against voices peacefully demanding their rights in Balochistan. In this respect, a terrorism and sedition case has been filed against rights activist Dr Mahrang Baloch for her alleged "anti-state campaign". Perplexingly, the case has been filed by a businessman from Karachi's Landhi area.

Unfortunately, these tactics are not new. Whenever elements within the state want to tar someone with the 'anti-national' brush, cases are filed by random individuals in far-flung cities with no connection to the activists or their cause. In some instances, the activism has 'hurt' the feelings of the random aggrieved parties, and they have dutifully filed cases based on extremely serious charges. Dr Baloch has termed the case "fabricated" and has vowed to "fight this in a court of law".

The sad truth is that when the powers that be marginalise and defame peaceful voices calling for change and rights, then disaffected populations are pushed towards radicalisation and confrontation with the state. The recently concluded jirga in Jamrud, organised by the proscribed PTM, raised many of the same points that Baloch activists have been highlighting for years. It includes the problem of enforced disappearances and the extraction of KP's resources, with few benefits reaching the common people from this natural wealth.

In order to stem the tide of disaffection, efforts to maintain law and order have to be supported by political initiatives that allow deprived segments of the population to freely air their grievances, with appropriate responses from the state. Pakistan can only move forward when disillusioned segments of society — particularly in Balochistan and KP — are brought into the mainstream, and are given their constitutional rights. In the long term, this can be amongst the most effective counterterrorism measures.

Whose supremacy?

Dr Niaz Murtaza

A debate is on about the right mix between parliamentary supremacy and judicial freedom. Regime circles say the former is democracy's core but our courts now act supreme. In fact, democracy actually means supremacy of people's will and welfare, and the first two are just democracy's tools to ensure these two. So, the right mix between the first two is one that maximises public welfare.

People in democracies delegate governance to elected agents. However, agents often cheat clients. So, many clients hire third parties to monitor big agents. Parliaments monitor executives, but both come from the same political parties and a political process rife with compromises. So, democracies globally make free courts their monitors as the courts' members imbibe the high principles of justice and lack political links. What if judges cheat? Democracies don't keep another formal monitor but use free media and civil society to informally influence all state pillars to pursue people's welfare. This system of checks and balances is imperfect but works better than absolute systems.

Courts punish elected violators of the law but, globally, also review laws that undermine basic human rights or democratic norms as well as the ability of courts, media and civil society to monitor elected agents. These powers cut parliamentary supremacy but ensure that bad laws don't harm the public welfare. Can courts nix constitutional laws passed by super majorities? As people's supremacy trumps parliament's, courts must nix such bad laws passed by

even a 100 per cent majority to protect the people, but not laws in technical or administrative areas where judges lack the needed expertise.

So, public welfare is not maximised by maximising parliament's supremacy but by balancing it with judicial freedom. Democracies flounder without such balance. Judicial freedom requires powerful executives to have no formal role in judges' hiring and accountability and court rules and work, as that may undercut their ability to monitor executives freely. This is more true for weak democracies, where executives use even informal powers to coerce the courts, which must be curbed.

It is better to have parliament, the judiciary itself, civil society and academia do these tasks. However, executive influence must be avoided while involving parliament by having committees with parity among ruling and opposition legislators, but no executive members. Our law ensures parity in committees while it involves executive members in judicial hiring. There is a case for adopting the system that the UK and India now have, where only judges do this, but by adding legal acers from civil society and academia to cut insularity. Our law rightly lets only judges hold judges accountable given the legalities involved, but gives too much leeway to chief justices in all court matters.

The new constitutional bill and other laws must be viewed via this lens. The key bad is a House with a rigged mandate amending the Constitution opaquely, hastily, and with possible horse-trading to alter the balance between state pillars for

'Here, take this'

Shahzad Sharjeel

The provenance of the gesture, 'lanat', can be traced back to ancient Greece. That the moutza or faskeloma, a gesture of disgust and condemnation, should survive many millennia and still be used in our part of the world is unsurprising, as some of our circumstances hark back to that era. Democracy and the flourishing of philosophy and arts are certainly not among them. Muddy and unpaved streets are the resemblances that survive, along with the lanat.

In the olden times, undertrials and condemned prisoners were paraded in the streets in shackles and handcuffs. The passersby, usually similar misfits, would dip their hands in the abundant muddy slush on the street and, with all five digits apart, rub it down the prisoner's face to record disgust over the actual or suspected misdeeds of the victim. Yet others, repulsed by these wretches, avoided physical contact and imitated the hand gesture from a distance. Lest their insult goes to waste, they would also yell 'na, meaning 'here, take this!' Precisely what it means in Sindhi — i.e 'the vath,' a necessary accompaniment of 'bujo' or 'bhundo', as lanat is called.

Every region and society adapts cultural norms, civil and vulgar, according to its temperament.

Punjab and Sindh have added the suffix 'lakh' to 'lanat' for added effect. The Seraiki-belt has taken the insult to another level by exclaiming 'gaharore kay' (rotating and grinding) while communicating it. The Baloch and Pakhtun do not seem to have an indigenous word for it,

and the insult is uncommon, though not entirely unheard of in their cultures.

Having established the antecedents and gravity of the word, let us discuss its latest usage and the currency it is given through a viral video. By way of a full public disclosure, I have issues with the chief justice. I also favour the public right to discuss, even criticise, observations made and verdicts passed by courts on judicial merits. The incumbent chief justice and his family have been persecuted in courts of law and subjected to media trials. His tormentors are on record as acknowledging that the reference filed against him in the Supreme Judicial Council was ill-advised. The same party's supporters are piling all kinds of abuse on him. Have they not heard 'what goes around, comes around'?

Does the PTI leadership not realise that they are inviting their opponents to get equal by showing disrespect not just to them but to anyone and everything dear to them? A judge may be seen as bristling in his courtroom, scolding attorneys pleading their clients' cases, coming under the clergy's pressure to dilute earlier decisions, engaging in verbal jousts with journalists. But that does not justify the treatment being meted out to him and his family.

He may not be the best this exalted office demands or deserves, but he is not the worst.

Our history is replete with prime ministers, presidents, and service chiefs seeking safe havens abroad when they leave office or are shunted out; we seem hell-bent on adding chief justices to

this category. Yes, judges need to earn the public's respect and goodwill through their rulings while in office, but if they have committed any wrongs, how do we make them right by forcing them to leave the country? Shunning someone socially is an individual choice, but resorting to violence, physical or otherwise, begets violence.

Prime ministers, judges, or generals, serving or retired, cannot be above the law. We, the people, must ensure that institutions and those who serve and, especially, head them, act according to the Constitution while in office. Those who do not abide by the law of the land should face it regardless of whether they are in or out of office.

One hopes that truth shall prevail in every instance, muckraking and sully the reputations of the upright stops, and those hurting the rights of the citizens are punished according to law and not given a safe passage to foreign lands. The wrongfully accused and defamed should take heart; Faiz Sahib, too, was taken through the streets in handcuffs, albeit in a tonga.

That we remember his famous verse, 'aaj bazar mein ba ba jaulan chalo...' (swagger through the bazaar in shackles today), is a testament to the abiding resilience of good repute and truth. Bhutto and Faiz have acquired iconic status.

Urfi, the Persian poet, famously said, "Barking of dogs doesn't impact the beggars' sustenance." War dogs, for their part, no longer lend an ear to their master's voice and are snapping at his heels. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pakistan Night highlights chances for IT sector growth

DUBAI (APP): A special networking event, 'Pakistan Night' held at Pakistan Association Dubai as part of the GITEX Global 2024 activities on Tuesday, highlighted opportunities for information technology sector growth.

This event was organized to foster connections among tech professionals and business leaders, which attracted hundreds of tech executives from various nationalities, providing a unique platform for collaboration and exchange of ideas.

Sheikh Mana Bin Muhammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum graced the occasion as a chief guest.

Ghanim Al Falasi, Senior VP Entrepreneurship and Innovation Dubai Silicon Oasis, and other Emirati dignitaries also attended the event.

Pakistan's Ambassador to the UAE, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, expressed his gratitude to his Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum for providing such a significant platform through GITEX.

"With events like these, we can substantially increase our IT-related exports and showcase Pakistan's technological potential on the global stage," the ambassador stated.

He further emphasized the importance of leveraging international platforms to promote Pakistan's growing tech industry and expand its global footprint.

On behalf of the Government of Pakistan, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, and Minister of State for IT & Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Ambassador Tirmizi thanked GITEX Global for declaring Pakistan as a tech destination in 2024.

The Ambassador highlighted the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications (MoITT), Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), Pakistan Software Houses Association (PASHA), and the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) for jointly working towards strengthening Pakistan's IT industry.



KARACHI: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program Rubina Khalid observing the facilities at textile and design center of Hunar Foundation Korangi.

PTCL Group reports 15.3% YoY revenue growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), the leading telecom and ICT services provider in the country, has reported a 15.3% year-on-year (YoY) revenue growth, reaching Rs. 160.6 billion.

This growth was primarily driven by the strong performance of the consumer segment, led by fixed broadband, mobile data, and wholesale & business solutions.

Announcing its financial results for the quarter ending September 30, 2024, following a

SCCI visits Thalassemia Blood Center

SARGODHA (APP): A delegation from the Sargodha Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) led by newly-elected President Khawaja Yasir Qayyum visited the Hilal-e-Ahmer Thalassemia and Hemophilia Blood Center on Sillanwali Road on Tuesday. The delegation included executive members Rubina Mukhtar, Usman Atiq and others.

President SCCI Khawaja Yasir Qayyum, along with other members, spent time with children suffering from Thalassemia besides distributing gifts among them.

Pak envoy to US Rizwan Sheikh begins visit to Texas in effort to expand economic ties

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, met with the leadership of U.S. state of Texas, business community, and Pakistani diaspora in Dallas and Houston in his efforts to further strengthen Islamabad-Washington relationship, according to a Pakistani embassy press release.

"There are immense opportunities to forge a strong partnership between Pakistan and Texas in diverse fields, including IT, agriculture, textiles, and sports," the ambassador said as he began a 3-day visit to Texas on Monday with that message.

"Our diaspora in the United States can play a pivotal role in strengthening economic ties with the U.S. while also helping their counterparts capitalize on economic opportunities in Pakistan," he said.



PESHAWAR: Ex Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali addressing to the meeting of Mohmand Chamber of Commerce.

SNGPL disconnects another 121 illegal connections

LAHORE (APP): In a significant enforcement operation, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has disconnected another 121 illegal gas connections across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad, imposing fines totaling over 3.5 million PKR.

According to a spokesman for the department, in Multan and Sahiwal, 26 connections were severed for illegal gas usage, while Lahore and Faisalabad saw 19 more connections cut, resulting in fines exceeding 600,000 PKR.

Additionally, in Shikhpura, Gujranwala, and Sargodha, eight illegal connections were removed, incurring fines of 1.1 million PKR. Bahawalpur and Gujrat faced the disconnection of 13 connections, with penalties amounting to 20,000 PKR.

SCCI calls for joint initiatives to improve Pak-Iran trade

PESHAWAR (APP): President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Fazal Moqem Khan called for cementing bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Iran, said a release issued here Tuesday.

He was talking to Ali Banafshekhan, Iranian Consul General in Peshawar during a meeting held here at the Chamber House.

The meeting was attended by SCCI vice president Shehryar Khan, members of the executive committee and Aftab Iqbal, Muhammad Ashfaq and Nadeem Rauf, Secretary General Muqtasid Ahsan, Secretary Sohail Anjum and others.

Ali Banafshekhan who was accompanied by commercial attaché Hossein Mailli, said Iran wants to improve trade and economic relations with Pakistan and all neighboring countries.

SBP to Celebrate Women Entrepreneurship Day on November 19, 2024

ISLAMABAD (Online): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will celebrate Women Entrepreneurship Day (WED) on November 19, 2024. The event will be inaugurated by Governor SBP Jameel Ahmad at the SBP. The event is expected to bring together top officials from banks and non-bank institutions and working women associations to recognize the significant contributions of women entrepreneurs in the economy.

Besides other activities, the event will also include recognition awards to high-performing banks that have consistently extended loans to female borrowers. Additionally, awards will be presented to women-led businesses across various categories, acknowledging their remarkable achievements in the entrepreneurial landscape.

PSX turns around to bullish trend, gains 578 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 578.96 points, a positive change of 0.68 percent, closing at 85,840.34 points against 85,261.39 points on the last trading day. A total of 422,107,359 shares were traded during the day as compared to 477,642,675 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 24.467 billion against Rs. 23.474 billion on the last trading day.



ISLAMABAD: A view of closed Petrol Pump due to Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Islamabad.

IMF says global public debt to top \$100 trillion, growth may accelerate

NEW YORK (INP): The world's total public debt is set to exceed \$100 trillion this year for the first time, and may grow more quickly than forecast as political sentiment favors higher spending and slow growth amplifies borrowing needs and costs, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Tuesday.

The IMF's latest Fiscal Monitor report showed global public debt will reach 93 per cent of global gross domestic product by the end of 2024 and approach 100pc by 2030. That would exceed its 99pc peak during COVID-19. It would also be up 10 percentage points from 2019, before the pandemic exploded government spending.

Released a week before the IMF and World Bank hold annual meetings in Washington, the Fiscal Monitor said there are good reasons to believe future debt levels could be well higher than currently projected, including a desire to spend more in the US, the world's largest economy.

"Fiscal policy uncertainty has increased, and political red lines on taxation have become more entrenched," the IMF said in the report.

"Spending pressures to address green transitions, population aging, security concerns, and long-standing development challenges are mounting."

KP CM directs For implementation of minimum monthly wages

PESHAWAR (APP): KP Chief Minister Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has ruled out compromise on the rights of the labourers and directed the concerned authorities for the implementation of minimum monthly wages in any circumstances.

He issued these directives while presiding over a meeting of the Labour Department here on Wednesday. Besides, the Provincial Minister for Labour, Fazal Shakoor, the Secretary Labour and Advocate General and other concerned authorities also attended the meeting.

The meeting took various steps and decisions for the welfare of labourers and workers of the

industrial units and brickkilns. The chief minister directed the authorities for the opening of the bank accounts of labourers and workers of the industrial sector to transfer their salaries to them. The chief minister also directed the authorities to sit with the owners of industries and framed a comprehensive policy for the protection of the rights of labourers. He further directed for provision of protection to the employment of the workers of the industrial sector and a platform for the redressal of the complaints and prevention of injustice in this regard.

The chief minister further directed for fixation of a job quota for

employment of the local labourers and its strict implementation.

He on this occasion said that workers of brickkilns are met out cruelty and excesses and said that they will not allow the exploitation of those workers in any circumstances and directed for special focus on the prevention of excesses with workers of brickkilns.

The chief minister said that the provision of justice and protection to the rights of such oppressed class of the society is the responsibility of the government and directed the concerned authorities to register brickkilns and compile data of labourers working in them.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan along with delegation of Down Syndrome Association Pakistan led by Member Provincial Salma Hashmi offering Dua after sapling tree at Governor House.

Suthra Punjab outsourcing bidding completed in 64 tehsils: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq has said that in line with the vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif regarding Suthra Punjab, the bidding process has been completed in 64 tehsils of the province and the pre-qualification process will be completed in the rest of tehsils during October.

He was chairing a meeting at the Civil

Secretariat here on Tuesday. Secretary Local Government Department Shakeel Ahmed Mian, Additional Secretary Maria Tariq, CEO of LWMC Babar Sahib Din were also present while CEOs of other waste management companies participated through video link. On this occasion, the progress on Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's Suthra Punjab program and outsourcing model was reviewed in detail.

'Maryam Ke Dastak' now covers 22 districts

LAHORE (APP): The 'Maryam Ke Dastak' initiative, launched by Chief Minister of the Punjab (CM) Maryam Nawaz and executed by the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), has expanded to 22 districts across Punjab to enhance public service delivery. The citizens of Kasur, Jhang, Attock, Bhakkar, Khanewal, Muzaffargarh, Bahawalnagar, Sialkot, Jehlum, Mianwali and Sheikhupura can also now avail over 60 government services from the comfort of their homes. Previously these services were available in 11 districts: Lahore, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Multan, Gujranwala, Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, Sargodha, Sahawal, Okara and Pakpattan. Since its launch on June 4, 2024, the program has rapidly expanded from offering 10 essential public services in the Lahore district to over 60 services across 22 districts within a mere three months.



KARACHI: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Chairperson, Senator Rubina Khalid visiting the Hunar Foundation in Karachi.

KP Law Minister says: Work on under-construction building of LMH Kohat will resume soon

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Aftab Alam Afridi Advocate has said that work on the under-construction building of Liaqat Memorial Women and Children Hospital Kohat will be resumed soon for which the PDWP has already approved revised estimate of more than Rs.2.44 Billion.

This he said while talking to the local people on the occasion of his visit to the Union Council Ziarat

CM forms committee to probe rape case

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif constituted a 7-member high-powered committee to investigate the private college alleged rape case, and directed it to submit a detailed investigative report within 48 hours.

The CM directed the investigation committee to record evidence of the abuse case, besides statements of the parties concerned. She also directed them to examine police action and response of the college administration to the case.

The CM appointed the Chief Secretary convener of the committee. Other members of the committee include Secretaries Home.

Federal Ombudsman intervenes to waive fine for widow, restore ID card

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Federal Ombudsman, Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi Tuesday successfully intervened to waive a fine imposed by NADRA and restore the ID card of a widow from Havelian.

The woman had filed a complaint at the Abbottabad regional office, reporting a fine of 10,000 rupees for the issuance of a duplicate ID card, which had led to the suspension of her identification.

Upon receiving the complaint, the Federal

Ombudsman Secretariat's Regional Office promptly issued notices to NADRA officials and requested a comprehensive report on the case.

Following a thorough investigation and hearing, Ombudsman Qureshi ruled in favor of the complainant, ordering NADRA to immediately waive the fine and restore her ID card in compliance with these directives. NADRA Abbottabad has reinstated the widow's ID card and waived the fine.

Health adviser visits UNICEF Office Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Health Ihtisham Ali and Health Secretary Adeel Shah visited UNICEF Peshawar office and express gratitude for support and assistance being provided to provincial health authorities.

They were received by UNICEF Health Team Lead Dr Imamullah, Program Manager Wisam Hazem and Nutrition Specialist.

Taking care of special children is nothing less than a virtue: Governor

Independent Report LAHORE: A delegation of Down Syndrome Association Pakistan led by Member Provincial Salma Hashmi called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that taking care of special children and equipping them with education is nothing less than a virtue. Governor Punjab appreciated the efforts of Dawn Syndrome Association to educate and train the children with Down Syndrome in an inclusive environment. Governor Punjab said that

such institutions which are serving humanity should be encouraged in every way. Governor Punjab assured the delegation of all possible support for Down Syndrome Association. Member Provincial Assembly Salma Hashmi informed the Punjab Governor about the efforts of Down Syndrome Association to provide inclusive education to children with Down syndrome like the developed countries and make them active members of the society. On this occasion, Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan along with the delegation also planted a sapling in the Governor's House.



KARACHI: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Chairperson, Senator Rubina Khalid exchanging views with Saeed Ghani, Sindh Minister for Local Government during meeting held in Karachi.

PDWP approves five development schemes worth Rs 8.471b

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) in its 37 meeting of fiscal year 2024-25 here Tuesday approved five development schemes worth of Rs 8.471 billion.

Chaired by Acting Chairman of P&D Board, Dr Asif Tufail, the meeting approved the following schemes: Establishment of a State-of-the-Art Wildlife Hospital at Safari Zoo, Lahore, at a cost of Rs 2482 million. Chief Minister Wildlife Rescue Force at a cost of Rs 2363 million. Immersive Wildlife

Experience (cinema and moving theatre) in Punjab at a cost of Rs 1765 million.

Environmental Monitoring of Industrial Units (DLI 1-3, PGDP World Bank) at a cost of Rs 861 million.

Replacement of Old/Condemned Equipment of PFSA at a cost of Rs 1,000 million. Additionally, the Punjab Tourism for Economic Growth Project (PTGGP) - World Bank-assisted scheme is recommended for CDWP at a cost of Rs 12.472 billion.

International News

21 killed in Israeli strike on Lebanon's Christian village

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Lebanon's health ministry said at least 21 people died in a rare Israeli strike on a northern Christian-majority village, far from Hezbollah strongholds, with DNA tests being conducted to identify body parts.

A Lebanese security official said the building "housed families displaced from Lebanon's south, and was targeted shortly after a man had arrived in a car".

"The Israeli enemy strike on the village of Aito... killed in a preliminary toll 21 people and injured eight. DNA tests are being conducted to determine the identity of body parts recovered at the strike site," the ministry said, referring to a village in the Christian-majority Zgharta district. The official National News Agency said Israel targeted a "residential apartment" in the village.

A photographer at the site of the strike said it had levelled a residential building at the entrance to the village. Body parts were scattered in the rubble, with Red Cross volunteers searching for survivors in

the wreckage while ambulances evacuated the wounded.

The Lebanese army

imposed a security cordon in the area, where the strike also sparked a fire, he said.

Israel kills at least 40 in Gaza, tanks deepen raid in the north

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: Israeli military strikes killed at least 40 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip as Israeli forces tightened their squeeze around Jabalia in the north of the enclave on Tuesday, amid fierce battles with Hamas-led fighters.

Palestinian health officials said at least 11 people were killed by Israeli fire near Al-Falouja in Jabalia, the largest of Gaza's eight historic refugee camps, while 10 others were killed in Bani Suhaila in eastern Khan Younis in the south when an Israeli missile struck a house.

Earlier on Tuesday, an Israeli airstrike destroyed three houses in the Sabra suburb of Gaza City, and the local civil emergency service said they recovered two bodies from the site, while the

search continued for 12 other people who were believed to have been in the houses at the time of the strike. Five others were killed when a house was struck in the Nuseirat camp in central Gaza.

Jabalia has been the focus of an Israeli offensive for more than 10 days, with troops returning to areas of the north that came under heavy bombardment in the early months of the year-long war. The operation has raised concerns among Palestinians and UN agencies that Israel wants to clear residents from the north of the crowded enclave, a charge it has denied.

The United Nations human rights office said on Tuesday the Israeli military appeared to be "cutting off North Gaza completely from the rest of the Gaza Strip."



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, with Minister of Foreign Affairs Melanie Joly, and Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Inter-governmental Affairs Dominic LeBlanc, takes part in a press conference about the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's investigation into "violent criminal activity in Canada with connections to India", on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

North Korea blows up roads connecting it to the South

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: North Korea blew up sections of the deeply symbolic roads connecting it to the South on Tuesday, Seoul's military said, adding it had conducted a "counter-fire" operation in response.

Pyongyang's military last week vowed to permanently seal its southern border after spending months laying mines and building anti-tank barriers in the wake of leader Kim Jong Un declaring the South his

country's "principal enemy".

The North also accused Seoul of using drones to drop anti-regime propaganda leaflets on the capital Pyongyang, with Kim convening a security meeting to direct a plan of "immediate military action" in response, state media reported on Tuesday.

"North Korea has detonated parts of the Geoeungui and Donghae roads north of the Military Demarcation Line."

India to buy 31 armed drones from US

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: India signed a deal with the US State Department on Tuesday to buy 31 armed MQ-9B SkyGuardian and SeaGuardian High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) drones, the South Asian nation's defence ministry said. The deal follows talks that began in 2018. It is expected to significantly increase India's surveillance and intelligence capabilities and is in line with US efforts to coax India away from buying Russian military equipment and counter China's growing dominance. India's apex defence body approved the procurement last year just before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Washington.

Saudi crown prince visits Cairo

Monitoring Desk CAIRO: Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is visiting Cairo on Tuesday to discuss trade and investment as well as the crises in Lebanon and Gaza with Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Egyptian diplomatic sources said. The visit comes amid speculation about potential Saudi investments in Egypt.

US, Philippines launch war games a day after China's Taiwan drills

Monitoring Desk MANILA: Thousands of US and Filipino marines launched 10 days of joint exercises in the northern and western Philippines on Tuesday, a day after China held huge drills around Taiwan. The annual Kamandag, or Venom, exercises are focused on defending the north coast of the Philippines' main island of Luzon, which lies about 800 kilometres from self-ruled Taiwan.

Beijing considers Taiwan part of its territory and has vowed it will never rule out using force to take it, calling Monday's drills a "stern warning" to "separatist" forces on the island. The joint US-Filipino

exercises come amid a series of escalating confrontations between China and the Philippines over reefs and waters in the South China Sea, which Beijing claims almost in its entirety.

Philippine Marine Corps commandant Major-General Arturo Rojas stressed at Tuesday's opening ceremony in Manila that Kamandag was long planned and had "nothing to do with whatever is happening in the region".

The drills' primary focus will be live-fire exercises along Luzon's north coast, while other activities will be conducted on tiny Philippine islands between Luzon and Taiwan.

Sending a THAAD air defense system to Israel adds to strain on US Army forces

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The deployment of a U.S. Terminal High Altitude Area Defense battery to Israel and roughly 100 soldiers to operate it will add to already difficult strains on the Army's air defense forces and potential delays in modernizing its missile defense systems, Army leaders said Monday. The service's top two leaders declined to provide details on the deployment ordered by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin over the weekend. But they spoke broadly about their concerns as the demand for THAAD and Patriot missile batteries grows because of the war in Ukraine and the escalating conflict between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah and Hamas militants.

"The air defense, artillery community is the most stressed. They have the highest 'optempo' really of any part of the Army," Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said, using a phrase meaning the pace of operations. "We're

just constantly trying to be as disciplined as we can, and give Secretary Austin the information he needs to accurately assess the strain on the force when he's considering future operational deployments." Wormuth said the Army has to be careful about "what we take on. But of course, in a world that's so volatile, you know, sometimes we have to do what we have to do." The Pentagon announced the THAAD deployment Sunday, saying it was authorized at the direction of President Joe Biden. U.S. officials said the system will be moved from a location in the continental United States to Israel and that it will take a number of days for it and the soldiers to arrive. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details of troop movements.

The move adds to what have been growing tensions within the Defense Department about what weapons the U.S. can afford to send to Ukraine.

UN Security Council voices 'strong concern' for UN peacekeepers after Israeli attacks

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: The U.N. Security Council expressed "strong concern" Monday as Israel has fired on and wounded U.N. peacekeepers in southern Lebanon during intensified fighting, reiterating its support for their role in supporting security in the region. It's the first statement by the U.N.'s most powerful body since Israel's attacks on the positions of the peacekeeping force known as UNIFIL began last week, drawing international condemnation.

U.N. peacekeeping chief Jean-Pierre Lacroix told reporters that Secretary-General António

Guterres confirmed Monday that peacekeepers will remain in all their positions even as Israel has urged the peacekeepers to move 5 kilometers (3 miles) north during its ground invasion in Lebanon.

Israel has been escalating its campaign against Hezbollah in Lebanon across a U.N.-drawn boundary between the two countries.

The sides have been clashing since the Iranian-backed militant group started firing rockets a year ago in solidarity with its ally Hamas in Gaza. Hamas' deadly attacks in southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, launched the war.

Iran summons Hungarian ambassador, condemns EU and UK sanctions

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Iran's foreign ministry summoned Hungary's ambassador on Tuesday to protest against new European Union sanctions on Tehran and denied Western allegations that it has transferred ballistic missiles to Russia, Iranian state media reported.

The EU agreed on Monday to impose sanctions on seven people and seven organizations, including airline Iran Air, for alleged links to Iranian transfers of ballistic missiles to Russia. Britain, which is not in the EU, also imposed new sanctions.

Canada's Trudeau slams India as tensions soar over Sikh separatist's murder

Monitoring Desk OTTAWA: Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused India on Monday of making a "fundamental error", as an escalating row over the killing of a Sikh separatist on Canadian soil last year saw both countries expel each other's ambassadors.

A grave Trudeau branded New Delhi's actions as "unacceptable" during a press conference in Ottawa on the diplomatic expulsions, which saw tensions reach a new height after the 2023 mur-

der of Canadian citizen Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Trudeau has previously said there were "credible allegations" linking Indian intelligence services to the killing. Both countries have traded barbs since then, culminating with the expulsions Monday of each other's ambassadors and five other top diplomats in both countries. "The government of India made a fundamental error in thinking that they could engage in supporting criminal activity against Canadians here on Canadian soil."

Pakistan calls India's occupation of Kashmir 'worst manifestation' of colonialism; urges peaceful settlement

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Describing India's occupation of Jammu and Kashmir as the "worst manifestation of modern-day colonialism," Pakistan has underscored the need for the resolution of the decades-old dispute over the Himalayan state to achieve durable peace in South Asia.

"The United Nations and all its Member States are bound by the UN Charter to promote a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people," Ambassador Munir Akram, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the General Assembly's Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth) Committee on Monday.

Noting that since 1946, 80 former colonies have gained independence, he said, "There are still peoples who are denied the right to self-determination, among them the people of occupied Kashmir and Pal-

estine."

Condemning Israeli genocidal war against the Palestinian people and the aggression against Lebanon, the Pakistani envoy said, "Israel's massacres and brutalities will not extinguish the struggle for freedom and self-determination of the people of Palestine". In this context, he advocated a two-state solution to usher in lasting peace in the Middle East.

"Similarly, India's occupation of Jammu & Kashmir is another worst manifestation of modern-day colonialism," he added.

The right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people, Ambassador Akram said, was explicitly recognized in UNSC resolution 47 (1948) and several subsequent resolutions, which prescribed that the final disposition of the State of Jammu & Kashmir should be decided by its people through a free and fair plebiscite held under UN auspices.

These resolutions were accepted by both India and Pakistan, he said.

"Under Article 25 of the UN Charter, both parties are obliged to implement these resolutions," he added.

On Kashmir, the Pakistani envoy said, "For 75 years, through force and fraud, India has avoided the implementation of UN resolutions, and since 1989, it's 'brutal' campaign of repression killed 100,000 Kashmiris.

Since August 5, 2019, he said, "India has taken 'unilateral and illegal steps' to annex occupied Kashmir in what its leaders have termed as a 'Final Solution'."

"Resolution 122 (1957) of the Security Council provides that unilateral measures 'to determine the future shape and affiliation of the entire state or any part thereof, would not constitute a disposition of the state'," Ambassador Akram said.

"Consequently, all unilateral actions taken by India on and after August 5, 2019 are not only illegal, but, ipso facto, null and void," he added.

"Resolving the connectivity, particularly through initiatives like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Gawadar."

Pakistanis are known for their genuine warmth and welcoming nature, which is deeply ingrained in the country's cultural fabric, she added.

This remarkable hospitality has the power to convey a strong message to the world, showcasing Pakistan's soft image and its people's kindness, she added. By leveraging its hospitality, Pakistan can improve its international image, promote intercultural harmony and create employment opportunities for future, she mentioned.

In an exclusive interview, Senator Sherry Rehman highlights connectivity potential and said it is best time for Pakistan's Chance to Shine globally.

Senator Sherry Rehman emphasized the importance of Pakistan leveraging its momentum to strengthen regional connectivity, she mentioned.

SCO holds strategic value for Pakistan's foreign policy: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, emphasized on Thursday that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit holds significant strategic value, presenting a crucial opportunity to open new economic and diplomatic avenues for the country.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that the SCO offers a vital platform for multilateral engagements, enabling member states to collaborate on a broad spectrum of issues.

He stated that the successful hosting of the SCO will significantly boost regional cooperation and strengthen Pakistan's global standing.

In response to a query about bilateral talks with India, he clarified that, according to SCO regulations, bilateral issues cannot be addressed or discussed through this forum.

Through the successful hosting of the SCO summit in Pakistan, we can hope that bilateral talks with neighboring countries will take place through other platforms.

Sherry urges Pakistan to harness momentum for regional connectivity, growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior leader of the Pakistan People's Party & former Ambassador Senator Sherry Rehman Tuesday stressed that Pakistan has a historic opportunity to leverage momentum and achieve its connectivity goals, particularly with numerous dignitaries from various states participating.

Governor assents to anti-narcotics force bill

KARACHI (APP): The Governor of Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori has signed the Anti-Narcotics Force Bill here on Tuesday.

The legislation is aimed at establishing special anti-narcotics courts.

The Anti-Narcotics Force will play a more active role to bring criminals to justice, he said adding that this legislation is the need of the hour.

The Governor said that drug dealers are making the youth of the society addicted to drugs.

He said that the establishment of special courts will help in drug prevention.

Saeed Ghani chairs 1197th meeting of KDA's Governing Body

ISLAMABAD (APP): Several international and domestic flights departing from Karachi Airport have been suspended due to technical and operational reasons.

According to flight schedule, Karachi to Islamabad AirBlue flight PA-200 have been cancelled while flight QR-611 from Karachi to Doha Qatar has also been called off.

Moreover, SereneAir flight ER-524 from Karachi to Lahore has been cancelled while SereneAir flight ER-504 from Karachi to Islamabad has also been deferred.

Further, flight PF-143 of AirSial from Karachi to Lahore has been cancelled and AirSial flight PF-125 from Karachi to Islamabad has also been called off.

Likewise, PIA flight PK-306 from Karachi to Lahore was cancelled PIA flight PK-536 from Karachi to Sukkur was also cancelled.

Technical reasons persist as more flights cancelled at Karachi Airport

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PPP's manifesto includes implementation of welfare projects for farmers: MNA

MIRPURKHAS (APP): Member National Assembly (MNA) Pir Aftab Hussain Shah Jilani has said that the implementation of welfare projects for farmers was included in the manifesto of Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

This, he said while addressing the opening ceremony of Benazir Hari Card distribution ceremony held here.

The MNA further said that the distribution of Benazir Hari Card reflected the great love of Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for the poor farmers.

Earlier MPA, Hari Ram Kishori Lal said that Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had fulfilled his promise for distributing Benazir Hari Card to the people which he made during his election campaign and said that the farmers



KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister, Saeed Ghani presides over the meeting of 1197th governing body of Karachi Development Authority (KDA), held in Karachi.

BISP Chairperson underscores need of promoting skill development for poverty alleviation

KARACHI (APP): The Chairperson, Benazir Income Support Program, Senator Rubina Khalid underscoring the need of promoting skill development for poverty alleviation, Tuesday, said that BISP is determined to equip the youth with vocational training for ensuring employment opportunities to them.

While chairing a meeting during visit of Hunar Foundation in Korangi area of Karachi, she said that our focus is on provision of the vocational training to young members of families registered with BISP in accordance with international standards and global market demand so that they

could be able to earn decent livelihood for their families and contribute in economic stability of the country.

Senator Rubina Khalid highlighting the BISP's key role in social protection and providing financial assistance to the deserving families across the country said that BISP was trying to meet the gap in expenditure and income of the deserving households through financial assistance.

Currently around 9.3 million registered families were getting financial assistance through quarterly stipends and the number was expected to enhance more than 10 million after completion of dynamic registration process, she in-

Industries playing a key role in employment in Sindh, says Shahid Thahim

KARACHI: Sindh's industries are providing large-scale employment and are performing better compared to Punjab, said Provincial Minister for Labour and Human Resources, Shahid Thahim. Speaking at the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) conference, he highlighted the need for a "One Window Operation" to simplify interactions between various government departments.

Abdul Salam Thahim. He emphasized that under the manifesto of Pakistan People's Party, industries are playing a crucial role in fulfilling the promise of "Roti, Kapra, and Makan" (bread, clothing, and shelter). Speaking at the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) conference, he highlighted the need for a "One Window Operation" to simplify interactions between various government departments.

Thahim announced that this matter would be raised in a meeting with the Chief Minister of Sindh to streamline the process.

International blind day observes in Larkana

LARKANA (APP): Pakistan Association of the Blind celebrated the International Blind Day at Begum Nusrat Bhutto Hall, Jinnah Bagh, Larkana here on Tuesday.

On this occasion, Mayor Larkana Advocate Anwar Ali Lular participated as a special guest and on the occasion of International Day of the Blind, Mayor Larkana paid tribute and encouraged to them.

Speaking on the occasion, Mayor Larkana said that these special people are a part of our society and we always stand with them and they will never be left alone. He said according to the manifesto of Pakistan People's Party, we are always ready to help these special people socially, morally and economically.

A large number of blind people senior citizens and School children's participated in the event.

IT large-scale investment expected in Sindh in next few years: Dharejo

KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikrumullah Dharejo has said that due to the initiatives of the Sindh government, it is hoped that there will be large-scale investment in Sindh in the next few years, which will help in the elimination of unemployment. Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikrumullah Dharejo said this in a meeting with office bearers of Pakistan Ready-made Garments

Manufacturers and Exporters Association in his office. Secretary Industries and Commerce Muhammad Yasin Baloch

Shar, Chairman of Pakistan Ready-made Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association Aamir Cothani and other office bearers were also present on the occasion. The office bearers of the association apprised the provincial minister about the problems faced by the garment manufacturers and exporters.

One killed, several injured near Bahria Town traffic accident

KARACHI (APP): One person was killed and several others sustained injuries in a traffic accident that occurred near Bahria Town Karachi, tv channels quoting rescue sources reported on Tuesday.

According to details, one person lost his life in a traffic mishap that reported near Bahria Town located in Karachi area. Several other persons including women and children were also injured in the incident.

Rescue team rushed to the site and shifted the dead and injured to nearby hospital. Further investigations are underway.

Safety & security of citizens top priority: SSP Amjad Shaikh

SUKKUR (APP): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Sukkur, Amjad Ahmed Shaikh on Tuesday said that no laxity would be tolerated in the safety and security of the citizens.

He was chairing a meeting to review the crime situation in the district. All SDPOs and SHOs of all the police stations attended the meeting. The meeting reviewed the overall crime situation in the Khairpur district.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Soomro warned the officers that no laxity towards safety and security of the citizens would be tolerated and strict disciplinary action would be initiated against them.

He said that we are servants of the people and their safety is our prime priority, he added. He further directed all officers to arrest the offenders involved in heinous crimes especially dacoities, snatching, Robbery and murder cases adding that the ratio of challan of the cases and recoveries should be increased.

He asked police officials to accomplish all their responsibilities in a professional manner. He also directed the officials concerned to submit challans in the cases that had been pending for years and also submitted a report in this regard to his office within 15 days.

World Food Day 2024 celebrated in Karachi

KARACHI: The Sindh Food Authority celebrated World Food Day 2024 in collaboration with university students, representatives from the food business, NGOs, government institutions, and the farming community. The theme for this year's celebration was "Right to Food for a Better Life and a Better Future," emphasizing the importance of

International white cane safety day observed in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (APP): Visually impaired people deserve our special attention and the responsibility of their better education and training is mandatory for society.

These views were expressed by the President of Hyderabad Good Hope Lions Club, Lion Shamsher Ali Sheikh while addressing a ceremony organized by Hyderabad welfare association of the Blind in connection with International white cane safety day at Hyderabad Press club

HWAB General Secretary AD Pirzada, Nusrat Memon, Ghulam Mohiuddin, Jay Prakash, Kamran Chani wala, Haji Mohammad Aslam Nirban, Abdul Ghani Ansari, Mohsen Salim.

Cadets of Pakistan Naval Academy shine at Int'l Sailing Regatta in Brazil

KARACHI (APP): The Cadets of Pakistan Naval Academy (PNA) Sailing team achieved a historic feat by securing Silver medal and overall second position in 79th International Naval Academy Sailing Competition held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

A total of nine teams competed from around the world in J24 Boat category, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

The participating teams included Cadets from Naval Academies of Pakistan, Brazil, China, Italy, Portugal, Argentina, Colombia, Peru and India. Speaking on the occasion,

KU conference highlights geopolitical importance of central Asia for economic sustainability

KARACHI (APP): The Department of History of the University of Karachi and the Institute of Central and West Asian Studies (ICWAS) organized an international conference on "Central Asia in the Changing World" at the KU's Jinnah Auditorium of the Dr. A.Q. Khan Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering on Tuesday. A renowned historian Professor Dr Syed Jaffar Ahmed said that Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan,

Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan have acquired a renewed importance in regional and international politics in the last three and half decades after the liquidation of the former Soviet Union, these states, along with certain others, acquired independence, and renegotiated their affairs among themselves and with the rest of the world. Secretary of Pakistan Institute of International Affairs Professor Dr Tanveer Khalid shared that Central Asia is viewed as a credible.

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ensuring access to adequate, nutritious, and safe food for all.

Speaking on the occasion, Director General Sindh Food Authority, Muzamil Hussain Halepoto, said that ensuring food security and combating hunger is essential for improving the quality of life and fostering sustainable development.

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