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Modern projects unavoidable in view of future requirements:

Govt. committed to provide conducive environment for foreign investors in Balochistan, assures Chief Minister

Independent Report

GWADAR: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that formation of modern projects are unavoidable keeping in view the requirements of future.

He said that we want to develop Gwadar as developed city of the world standards and as such would provide conducive environment for the foreign investors in the province.

The Chief Minister was presiding over the 29th meeting of governing body of the Governing Body of Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) here on Wednesday.

The meeting discussed the smart port city, Gwadar Master Plan,

Gwadar Safe City, Infrastructure and environment besides different other agenda points.

The short term projects and achievements of Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) besides long term strategy were also discussed.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister stressed the need to move ahead through increase of the partnership and comprehensive planning.

He directed to uphold the interests of local population in the development process.

In addition to this, he also directed to remove reservations of fishermen and local people about the master plan and ships breaking

yard. The Chief Minister said that Gwadar is not only the important city of Balochistan and Pakistan but also of the world level.

He also directed to ensure consultation of local people in process of development.

Besides, the provision of clean drinking water should also be ensured to the citizens of Gwadar.

He also stressed the need to clearly determine the responsibilities between Public Health Engineering and GDA.

Both the institutions couldn't fulfil their responsibilities due to dependence on each other, he opined.

Continued on page 2



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif welcoming the prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim upon his arrival on a 3-day official visit at Islamabad.

Malaysian PM arrives to a red carpet welcome

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday warmly received Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim who is undertaking a three-day official visit to Pakistan.

Upon his arrival at the airport, children clad in traditional attire presented bouquets to the Malaysian Premier. He was also given a static guard of honour by smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Army while 21-guns boomed in the background as gesture of warm welcome.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and members of the federal cabinet were also present to welcome the visiting dignitary.

The Malaysian prime minister is accompanied by a high level delegation. Dur-

ing his stay, he will hold meetings with the leadership of Pakistan.

Premier Anwar Ibrahim is undertaking the official visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The two sides will discuss a wide-ranging agenda to further strengthen Pakistan-Malaysia ties in diverse fields including trade, connectivity, energy, agriculture, halal industry, tourism, cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts.

They will also discuss regional and global developments.

"Pakistan and Malaysia enjoy strong bilateral ties anchored in history, culture and faith. This visit provides an important opportunity to further strengthen Pakistan-Malaysia relations," Foreign Office said in an earlier press release.

Pakistan calls for de-escalation of hostilities, conflict resolution in ME

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Wednesday expressed deep concern over the escalating hostilities in the Middle East, urging all parties to prioritize peace.

"In recent months, Israel has increasingly acted in violation of international law and the UN Charter resulting in grave humanitarian crisis. Israel has endangered regional peace and security with the ongoing genocide in Gaza. The recent invasion of Lebanon has further intensified these tensions, affecting the lives of innocent civilians," the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press statement.

The people of Palestine, Lebanon, and the wider region deserve to live free from fear and violence. It was crucial for all sides to step back from the brink and for the international community to take swift action to de-escalate the situation.

Nawaz asks Imran to learn humility, refrain from making tall claim

"As you sow, so shall you reap", PML-N president tells incarcerated PTI founder

LAHORE (INP): Amid ongoing protests by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in different areas of Punjab, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif asked incarcerated party founder Imran Khan to learn humility and refrain from making tall claims.

"You reap what you sow," the three-time prime minister said to jailed PTI founder while addressing a ceremony related to "Apna Ghar Apni Chat" Scheme. His statement came as

PTI continues its anti-government campaign, with party workers and supporters staging protests in different areas of Punjab.

Without naming the PTI, the ruling party president said the ruling party of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was not interested in the development of the province.

"They come Punjab with tear gas shells," the PML-N chief said hinting at PTI protesters.

Nawaz also asked

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar welcomes the Foreign Minister of Malaysia Dato Seri Utama Haji Mohamad Bin Haji Hasan, on his arrival at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Six top BLA terrorists killed in major Harnai operation

QUETTA (INP): Security forces personnel have killed six top terrorists belonging to banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) during a major intelligence-based operation in Harnai area of Balochistan.

According to sources, security forces successfully conducted the intelligence-based joint operation against BLA hideouts on September 12, 2024 in Harnai region of Balochistan.

According to reliable sources in BLA, as a result of the operation, six important terrorists of BLA were gunned down in the operation.

The slain terrorists

were identified as Shafu Samalani alias Tadin, Sardar Khan alias Dasteen, Muhammad Gul Murri alias Wahid Baloch, Ghulam Qadir Murri alias Anjeer Baloch, Ubaid Baloch alias Fida and Taj Muhammad alias Babul, the sources added.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid rich tribute to the security forces for the successful intelligence-based operation against the banned BLA in Harnai.

In his message, the Interior Minister said that the security forces once again carried out a successful operation and killed six terrorists.

Bilawal warns of confrontation if constitutional amendment not passed before Oct 25

"Matter will be resolved peacefully, if the amendment passed before October 25," says PPP chief

ISLAMABAD (INP): As the coalition government determined to pass a judiciary-centric constitutional package, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari warned of potential confrontation if the proposed amendments did not pass before October 25 — the retirement date of the incumbent chief justice.

Last month, the coalition government made a futile attempt to pass a 'closely-guarded' constitutional package amid speculation about a potential extension in the tenure of

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa.

However, the government failed to even table the amendments in parliament after JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman refused to support the government's judicial package, leaving the contentious amendments hanging in the balance.

Ostensibly, the government was short of 13 votes in the National Assembly and nine in the Senate as the said legislation requires a two-thirds majority in both houses.

In an informal conver-

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Sadiq Umrani meeting with Provincial Minister for PHE Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran

Govt committed to enhancing healthcare access, especially for women: Dr Mukhtar

QUETTA (APP): Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on National Health Services, has said the government was fully committed to enhancing healthcare access, especially for women in marginalized and underserved regions.

"We are working to-

wards a system where every woman can receive the healthcare she needs, when she needs it, free from stigma or fear," he added.

He made these remarks while addressing the launch of the report titled 'Safeguarding Women's Health: Trends, Inequities, and

Continued on page 2



GWADAR: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over 29th meeting of Governing Body of Gwadar Development Authority

CJP Qazi Faez Isa rejects PTI's objection to bench hearing Article 63-A review plea

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa on Wednesday rejected the PTI's objection to the formation of the bench hearing review petition of the Article 63-A case.

Earlier, the hearing turned sour when there was a bitter exchange between PTI's Syed Mustafin Kazmi and the chief justice.

As PTI's Barrister Ali Zafar came to the rostrum, his fellow counsel Kazmi followed him and objected to two judges — Justice Naeem Afghan and Justice Mazhar Alam — on the re-constituted bench.

The chief justice expressed his anger and called police to oust Advocate Kazmi from the courtroom.

When the hearing resumed, Barrister Ali also objected to the formation of the CJP-led bench.

The bench took into account his objection dur-

ing the proceedings and "unanimously" rejected the objection.

Barrister Ali submitted that he filed the review application late due to which it was not fixed for hearing. Chief Justice Isa asked him when the application was filed; you must have filed it in the morning?

Barrister Ali replied that he filed the application but the office of the Supreme Court did not approve it.

He said he needed time to present arguments. He has to consult PTI founder Imran Khan on the case.

He submitted that you [the CJP] said it is a constitutional matter. "Imran Khan is a former prime minister and is also a petitioner, he understands the constitution and he knows what to say. Consult him on the matter."

The chief justice asked

him to start arguments, and Barrister Ali said that means "you are rejecting my request to meet Imran Khan."

Justice Naeem Afghan said you could have met him yesterday, to which Ali said the PTI founder is in jail.

The chief justice said that if he had to consult the PTI founder, he would have told him yesterday and the court would have issued an order. In the past, the court had called the PTI founder on video link, and had arranged a meeting with the lawyers.

Barrister Ali again raised question on the objection and said that first it should be decided whether the bench is legal or not. "After that, I can give arguments."

The court rejected his objection regarding the formation of the bench.

Pakistan, Denmark sign MOU for restructuring in Maritime sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh on Wednesday signed the memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the behalf of Pakistani government and Denmark's Minister for Industry, Business and Financial Affairs Morten Bodskov from the Danish government.

Denmark's Ambassador to Pakistan Jacob Linulf presented the signed document of Danish Minister in this ceremony, said a press release.

After this MOU, Maersk (Danish Shipping Company) was ready to invest almost two billion dollars in Pakistan's maritime sector. Minister for Finance Mohammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal, Minister for Industries Rana Tanveer, Additional Secretary Maritime Affairs Umar Zafar Sheikh and Secretary SIFC Jameel Qureshi were also present in this MOU signing ceremony.

On this occasion, Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh said that we are extremely thankful to the Government of Denmark on this remarkable breakthrough in maritime sector.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi chairing a meeting regarding preparation of SCO Summit.

Pakistan's railway system most inexpensive and safest source of transportation: Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor

Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the railway system is still the most inexpensive and safest source of transportation in the country.

He said that it is matter of pleasure and contentment that Pakistan Railways has announced to resume the Jaffar Khan Jamal between Quetta and Peshawar.

It may be mentioned here that the resumption of Jaffar Khan Jamal is being made because of the personal interest and whole-hearted efforts of the Gov-

ernor Mandokhail.

Needless to mention here is that Governor had played pivotal role in launching the direct flights from Quetta to Jeddah.

The resumption of train would not only provide travelling facilities to thousands of passengers besides saving their precious time.

This would also relink two provinces and promote trade and economic activities between them.

This initiative would also highlight the prospects of joint efforts for enhancing the trade and coordination and relationship among the people in country.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh signed the MoU on behalf of Government of Pakistan with Danish Government. Finance Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal and Federal Minister for Industries Rana Tanveer were present on the occasion.

Babar Azam resigns as Pakistan team captain

"By stepping down, I will gain clarity moving forward and focus more energy on my game and personal growth," says Babar; Mohammad Rizwan emerges as favourite to captain

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan skipper Babar Azam on Tuesday announced that he was stepping down from the white-ball captaincy, saying that it was time for him to focus on his playing role and personal growth.

"By stepping down, I will gain clarity moving forward and focus more energy on my game and personal growth," Babar said in a statement.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had reappointed Babar as the national team's captain for T20I and one-day internationals (ODIs) on March 31.

He had earlier ended his years-long stint as skipper in November 2023 after he stepped down as captain of the national side.

"I'm sharing some news with you today. I have decided to resign as captain

of the Pakistan men's cricket team, effective as of my notification to the PCB and Team Management last month," said Babar.

Speaking about his role as the skipper, Babar said captaincy has been a rewarding experience but it added a significant workload. "I want to prioritise my performance, enjoy my batting, and spend quality time with my family, which brings me joy," he stressed.

"By stepping down, I will gain clarity moving forward and focus more energy on my game and personal growth," Babar wrote.

Expressing his gratefulness for the support, the star batter said he is excited to continue contributing to the team as a player.

This is second time Babar left captaincy of the national side. He had stepped down from captaincy amid severe

criticism after Pakistan failed to perform in the Asia Cup and continued the same performance into the World Cup — where they crashed out before reaching the semis.

Following star batsman Babar Azam's resignation from captaincy, wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Rizwan is being considered as the favourite candidate to lead Pakistan's white ball team.

Sources indicated that high-ranking officials of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) were in agreement on Rizwan's potential captaincy.

Several former cricketers have also advocated for his leadership of the national team.

There is a strong possibility that Mohammad Rizwan will be named captain for the upcoming tour of Australia.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Mir Liaquat Lehri and Provincial Advisor Meena Majeed Baloch meeting with Deputy Speaker Provincial Assembly Ghazala Gola

Govt committed to enhancing...

Continued from page 1

Opportunities in Pakistan's Abortion and Post-Abortion Care Services, said a press release issued on Wednesday.

The event unveiled findings from a comprehensive national study by the Population Council, in partnership with the Guttmacher Institute, highlighting the urgent state of women's reproductive health in Pakistan, with a focus on abortion and post-abortion care.

"With maternal mortality at 186 deaths per 100,000 live births, the research underscores the need for comprehensive reforms in reproductive healthcare," Dr. Malik emphasized.

He also stressed the importance of balancing population and resources, reaffirming the government's commitment to achieving this through policies and improved access to family planning services.

"The government plans to implement the report's recommendations by investing in infrastructure, capacity building, and an enhanced referral system to improve emergency response capabilities, strengthening reproductive health services nationwide," he informed.

Govt. committed...

Continued from page 1

Director, Population Council, emphasized the importance of the report. "Pakistan has made strides in improving health care, but this report reminds us that there is still much work to be done, especially in ensuring women have access to family planning and safe reproductive health services."

She also emphasized that women's empowerment through access to family planning and safe healthcare services was fundamental to achieving broader social and economic goals and contributing to a more just and equitable society.

Speaking at the event, Thomas Dahl, Deputy Head of Mission, Royal Norwegian Embassy Islamabad, expressed Norway's support for the initiative, stating, "This is an issue that impacts not just the health of women but the overall well-being and development of societies. Norway is proud to support efforts that improve access to reproductive health services in Pakistan."

The event featured an expert panel discussion on "Safeguarding Women's Health in Pakistan" moderated by Dr. Luay Shabaneh, Country Representative of UNFPA.



MULTAN: England cricket team has arrived in Multan to play a three-match Test series against Pakistan.

Interior Minister reviews preparations for SCO's meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi chaired a high-level meeting at the Ministry of Interior regarding the preparations of upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit.

The meeting was attended by top officials, including the Federal Secretary Interior, Additional Secretaries, Chief Commissioner Islamabad, IG Police Islamabad, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Deputy Commandant FC, Sector Commander Pakistan Rangers, and representatives from security agencies.

During the meeting, security arrangements for the SCO Summit were reviewed in detail.

The Interior Minister

approved a comprehensive plan to ensure foolproof security during the summit. He emphasized the significance of hosting the SCO Summit in Pakistan, stating that several heads of state will attend.

He called it an honor for the entire nation. He stated that special arrangements for beautification and cleanliness of Islamabad will be made on the occasion of the SCO Conference.

The Interior Minister stated that in order to ensure foolproof security, additional personnel from Pakistan Army, Rangers, FC, and Punjab Police will be deployed. He underscored that all relevant departments should play their assigned role with mutual cooperation.

Nawaz asks Imran to learn...

Continued from page 1

which of the "tall promises" the PTI had fulfilled. "Their performance is zero and they stage protest whenever they get a chance," he added.

"I think such elements should be dealt with strictly."

Moreover, the former premier also expressed disappointment with his supporters and voters, stating that they never raised their voice against his ouster from power in 2017.

"You never asked that so many good things are taking so why Nawaz Sharif is being removed [from power]," the PML-N chief said adding that proud and dignified nations always raise their voices against any injustice.

"Where is the Billion Tree [programme], where are the 350 dams [...] They [PTI] claimed to build 5 million houses. Still, they could not provide a single one," the PML-N presi-

dent questioned as he accused the Imran Khan-founded party of promoting "violence, bloodshed and politics of protests" in the country.

Pointing out the development work carried out in his tenures, the former premier said that his government laid the network of motorways and highways and metro bus services, eliminated terrorism, made Pakistan a nuclear power, overcame energy crisis, ended loadshedding and stabilised the rupee.

"We even said goodbye to the IMF [International Monetary Fund], but our opponents brought it back," the ex-premier noted, adding: "Had the momentum of my 1990 government continued, the world would have been watching the country's development with envy today."

"Name any other party that has carried out this much development in the country," he challenged.

Syedaal, Mandokhail discuss Balochistan's development issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman of Senate Syedaal Khan Wednesday met with Fazal Qadir Mandokhail, a Member of the Balochistan Provincial Assembly from Zhoab, and discussed key issues related to the development of Balochistan.

During the meeting, Fazal Qadir Mandokhail praised Syedaal Khan's performance, describing him as a beacon of hope for the people of the province.

He also commended the Deputy Chairman's significant role in fostering a positive political environment in the Upper House, highlighting his efforts to transcend party lines and prioritize the region's progress.

Syedaal Khan expressed his appreciation for Mandokhail's visit, emphasizing the importance of new political faces.

"Their involvement brings fresh hope for the public, while also placing a great responsibility on them to serve beyond party politics for the greater good of Balochistan's development," he noted.

Information minister's mother visits school

LAHORE (APP): Sajida Farooq Tarar, mother of Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, visited the Government Girls Primary School in Pindi Rajputan, Kot Lakhpat, located in Union Council 224 of NA-127 constituency, on Wednesday.

The visit was aimed to assess the school's facilities and operational arrangements. Accompanying her were Rabia Afzal, Coordinator of the NA-127 Women's Wing, Shahbaz Talib, Personal Staff Officer to the Federal Minister and Mehwish Arshad, President of the Women's Wing PP-162.

Sajida Farooq Tarar toured various classrooms and interacted with students.

PTI failed to timely conduct intra-party elections: ECP

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has said that under Sections 208 and 209 of the Elections Act 2017, all political parties are required to hold intra-party elections within five years in accordance with their party constitution.

Initially, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was supposed to conduct its intra-party elections by June 13, 2021, but were not held on time, said a statement issued by ECP here Wednesday.

The ECP served repeated reminders on PTI and before serving a show-cause notice on July 27, 2021, it further said. In response, PTI requested a one-year extension, citing COVID-19 pandemic. The ECP granted extension on the request of PTI, extending the deadline to June 13, 2022.

However, PTI submitted incomplete intra-party election documents under Form 65 in June 2022 to the ECP and despite repeated reminders, the party continued to delay the sub-

mission of required documents.

Despite inordinate delay, the ECP has shown flexibility throughout the process and granted many opportunities to PTI to meet its constitutional requirements. "However, the responsibility for the slow progress rests with the PTI, as the ECP continues to work to legally resolve the matter," the statement further said.

PTI held its recent intra-party elections on March 3, 2024, but the process was marred by several shortcomings. The ECP served a notice regarding these issues on April 23, 2024, with the first hearing on April 30, 2024. Between April and October 2024, the case has been heard six times. However, PTI has requested adjournments including hearing on October 2, 2024, seeking more time.

The ECP held several hearings in this regard, but the matter remained unresolved due to PTI's repeated requests for adjournments.



GWADAR: Director General Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) Shafqat Shahwani presenting souvenir to Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan

Bilawal warns of confrontation...

Continued from page 1

sation with journalists today, Bilawal—who is leading from the front in pushing the package—warned that if constitutional amendments were not passed before October 25, the country might face a "face-off"-like situation.

"Matter will be resolved peacefully, if the amendment passed before October 25 [...] Otherwise, the situation would lead to confrontation," he said, adding that amendments would be passed even after October 25 but the situation might turn tense.

He vowed that the PPP will pursue the matter of constitutional court till its completion—a goal he says set in the Charter of Democracy (COD) by slain former prime minister Benazir Bhutto and the PPP's manifesto.

He was of the view that the 18th Amendment had restored the supremacy of the Constitution of Pakistan and put an end to dictatorship in the country. "Why a discussion is not being held on the timing of what the judiciary did," he said, asking why the timing of the stay order on reserved seats verdict was not being questioned.

Bilawal was referring to Supreme Court's May 6 judgment, suspending the order of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) as well as the verdict of the Peshawar High Court (PHC) denying the Sunni Itehad Council (SIC) the reserved seats for women and minorities and giving it to other political parties.

Later, the election watchdog suspended the victory notification of the 77 candidates elected on reserved seats in the national and provincial assemblies.

TENDER NOTICE

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer Irrigation division Pishin invites bids for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

S.No	Name of Work's	E/Cost	T/Fee	Bid Security
1	CONST OF PCC FLOOD WATER CHANNEL AND FLOOD PROTECTION WALL AT KILLI HAUZIA DISTRICT PISHIN (PSDP 2817/2024-25) TSE-242509562093	24,750,000	1,500 PKR	3%
2	EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF SANZALA KARAIZ, MULOOK KARAIZ, MANZARI KARAIZ, TEHSIL HURAMZAI DISTRICT PISHIN (PSDP 3328/2024-25) TSE-242510562103	49,500,000	2,000 PKR	5%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List Undertaking on Judicial paper (Duly signed by First Case Magistrate that the firm was never black listed & is not on litigation with/by any Government/Semi Government organization Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above (upto to 25 million) for S.No 1 and C-5 and above (upto 65 million) for S.No 2 and in Relevant Category and Specialized Code is CE04 (Irrigation & Flood Control) CE10 (General Civil Engineering Works) for both serial No 1 and 2. For S.No 1, Two (02) No's of similar nature of work (Protection wall) and one (01) similar nature of work (Flood Channel) of Amount not less than 10 Million for each work completed in last 4 years along with work orders and completion certificate attested by issuing authority. For S.NO 2, Four (04) No's of similar nature of work (Karez) of Amount not less than 14 Million for each work. Completed in last 4 years along with work orders and completion certificate attested by issuing authority. Name of technical supervisory staff along with their qualification and proof of stay with the firm on judicial stamp paper. Detail of Machinery & Equipment on Judicial Stamp Paper as per details mentioned in bidding documents (complete with all respect giving their model, make, condition and location Last three-year audit reports 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 Non satisfactory performance Audit Report Bidder in past or present with any executing agency will lead to the disqualification of Firm/ Contractor It is mandatory that the Contractor must show the original fresh PEC valid registration i.e. 2024-25 with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) on the time of submission opening the Technical Proposals The Contractor quoting their bid more than 10% below on Engineer's Estimate shall submit along with their bids 2% Additional Security of Engineers Estimated cost in addition to bid security, as well as rate analysis to justify the rates. **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 3 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,500 PKR issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 18 October, 2024 during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 18 October, 2024 till 11:00 AM. **Tender opening:** Technical Bid will be opened on the same day financial bid will be opened after evaluation of technical bid on 21st Oct at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM **Address:** Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation division Pishin **Phone no:** 0331802784 Fax no: 0826420533 **Email:** irrigationdivisionpishin@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION PISHIN

PRQ No.1288/02-10-2024

TENDER NOTICE

The FOOD DIRECTORATE invites bids from eligible Bidders for the supply of following items. **TSE-242510562952 Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Not required**

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Transportation and Storage and Mail Services	60,000 PKR

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 2.Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexly Worked PKR. 1 Million each in Previous 5 Years Accumulated Turn over of at least PKR. 1 Million in 3 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List B/CRA Registration Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of amount 60,000 PKR specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 17 October, 2024 till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System **Address:** Balochistan Food Directorate Mir Jaffar Khan Jamali Road Near Chaman Phatak Quetta **Phone no:** 0819201993 Fax no: 0819202475 **Email:** dgfoodbalochistan@gmail.com

DIRECTOR GENERAL FOOD BALOCHISTAN

PRQ No.1297/02-10-2024

VACANCIES

The following vacant posts in Sessions Division Ziarat are to be filled from among the candidates having local domicile Ziarat.

S	Name of Posts	Grade	No	Required Qualification
1	Assistant Computer Operator	BPS-14	01	2nd Class BCS/BS (CS)/BS (IT) With Working Experience.
2	Driver	BPS-06	01	LTV license With Five Years' experience
3	Process Server	BPS-04	01	Matriculation.
4	Sweeper	BPS-03	01	Matriculation/Middle

Terms and Condition.

- The age required is 30 years, However, as per Government of Balochistan rules age relaxation may be granted.
- Already Government Employed persons can apply through the proper channel with prior N.O.C from concerned Departments.
- The eligible candidates should submit their applications along with 03-passport size photograph and Attested educational documents before 18-10-2024 in the Superintendent office of Sessions Court Ziarat.
- Incomplete and late submitted applications will not be entertained.
- The test and interview will be held on 19-10-2024.
- No TADA will be paid for applicants in interview.
- The appointments will be made under Balochistan District Judiciary Stapp rules 2021.

DISTRICT AND SESSION JUDGE, ZIARAT

PRQ No.1312/02-10-2024

<h4>PUBLIC NOTICE</h4> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Ghulam Bibi with regards to movable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Bai Khan (Son)4. Muhammad (Son)5. Rashid (Son)6. Bibi (Son)7. Bibi (Daughter)8. Bibi (Daughter)9. Bibi (Daughter)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE S.F.U. NADRA MEGA QUETTA S.F.U.</p>	<h4>PUBLIC NOTICE</h4> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Mehr Bibi with regards to movable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Dil Puri citizen number 522032023007 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Mehr Bibi (Spouse)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE S.F.U. NADRA KECH S.F.U.</p>	<h4>PUBLIC NOTICE</h4> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Hasaan Shaikh with regards to movable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Samina Habib citizen number 544006753178 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Hasaan Shaikh (Son)2. Fatma Habib (Daughter)3. Imran Sheik (Son)4. Habib Ur Rehman (Spouse)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE S.F.U. NADRA KECH S.F.U.</p>
<h4>PUBLIC NOTICE</h4> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Rani Bibi with regards to movable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Elahi Bakshah citizen number 552011073539 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Ahsan Hani (Son)2. Muhammad Arif (Son)3. Muhammad Azeem (Son)4. Yasir Khan (Son)5. Rasbi Bibi (Spouse)6. Bibi Samina (Daughter)7. Bibi Ali (Son)8. Bibi Fazila (Daughter)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE S.F.U. NADRA MEGA QUETTA S.F.U.</p>	<h4>PUBLIC NOTICE</h4> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Shaker Bibi with regards to movable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zameer Ali citizen number 534033141259 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Shaker Bibi (Spouse)2. Mariam Bibi (Daughter)3. Muhammad Sulman (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE S.F.U. NADRA KECH QUETTA S.F.U.</p>	<h4>PUBLIC NOTICE</h4> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Sakina Bibi with regards to movable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Zareef Ahmed citizen number 52030993227 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Zameer (Son)2. Zainab Zareef (Daughter)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE S.F.U. NADRA KECH S.F.U.</p>
<h4>PUBLIC NOTICE</h4> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Abdul Rehman with regards to movable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Abdullah Jan citizen number 5630414341381 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Abdul Rehman (Son)2. Wajai Bibi (Daughter)3. Sharon Bibi (Daughter)4. Muhammad Khan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE S.F.U. NADRA MUSAKHEL S.F.U.</p>	<h4>PUBLIC NOTICE</h4> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Alam Bibi with regards to movable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Ali Dost citizen number 5130140741579 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Feroz Khatoon (Spouse)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE S.F.U. NADRA PANJIGUR S.F.U.</p>	<h4>PUBLIC NOTICE</h4> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Arif with regards to movable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Shirena citizen number 54400357467 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Razia Bibi (Spouse)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE S.F.U. NADRA JAFFARABAD S.F.U.</p>
<h4>PUBLIC NOTICE</h4> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Mah Jan with regards to movable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad number 5220477655331 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Muhammad Naseem (Son)2. Muhammad (Son)3. Nadeem Ahmed (Son)4. Saheem (Son)5. Mah Jan (Daughter)6. Munir Ahmed (Son)7. Malik Jan (Daughter)8. Aadaib (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE S.F.U. NADRA KECH S.F.U.</p>	<h4>PUBLIC NOTICE</h4> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Alam Bibi with regards to movable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Shirena citizen number 5650380443234 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Alam Bibi (Spouse)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE S.F.U. NADRA ZHOAB S.F.U.</p>	<h4>PUBLIC NOTICE</h4> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Razia Bibi with regards to movable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Sakina Bibi citizen number 5340393318966 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Muhammad Arif (Son)2. Tariq Ahmed (Son)3. Shehzadi (Daughter)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE S.F.U. NADRA QUETTA S.F.U.</p>

President directs CAA to appoint deceased employee's son

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has directed the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) to process the appointment of a deceased employee's son in accordance with the law within a month. As per details, Faheem Ahmed (the complainant) had complained against the PCAA for his non-appointment against the deceased employees' quota, according to a President House press release.

The complainant stated that his father was an employee of PCAA, who had died in the year 1999 during service due to cancer. He said as he was a minor at the time, he could not apply for appointment against the deceased employees' quota. He said that when he applied for a job, his request was turned down without any justification. He approached PCAA for the redressal of his grievance but to no avail. Feeling aggrieved, he approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib for the resolution of his complaint.

The Mohtasib decided that the complainant had failed to make out any case of maladministration against PCAA as the Family Assistance Package was not applicable at the time of his application.

The complainant then filed a representation with the president against the orders of the Mohtasib. In his decision, the president observed that the complainant's father expired in 1999 during service and at that time the petitioner was only six years of age. He noted that the petitioner applied for appointment, after coming of age, under the policy of 2005, according to which the son of a deceased employee was to be considered for appointment in the same department without undergoing the formality of advertisement.

He rejected the claim of PCAA that it adopted the Family Assistance Package Policy in 2005 and that the provisions of the said package did not merit consideration due to the factual and legal position in the instant case. The president pointed out that the contention of the Civil Aviation Authority was not legally correct in the circumstances of the present case as the petitioner attained the age of maturity after the introduction of the policy as he was not eligible to be appointed prior to the introduction of the policy.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam chairs a high-level meeting on the Country Programme Framework 2024-28 with the Global Green Growth Initiative in the M/o Climate Change & Environmental Coordination.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with the Ambassador of Ethiopia, Jamal Bakar Abdullah.

Ethiopia, Pakistan discuss ways to strengthen people to people ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr. Jamal Bakar Abdullah and Prime Minister's Youth Programme Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Wednesday discussed ways to promote people-to-people relations by enhancing youth exchanges between the two nations.

During a meeting between the two sides explored bilateral cooperation to empower youth by offering education, skills training, and exposure to modern technologies, including Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain.

Ambassador Dr. Jamal Bakar highlighted that both Ethiopia and Pakistan have young populations that need to be equipped with advanced technological skills to form a productive workforce, essential for rapid economic growth. He emphasized the potential for both countries to share experiences and best practices for youth empowerment. During the meeting, the ambassador briefed Rana Mashhood on Ethiopia's "Home-Grown Economic Reforms 2.0," a continuation of its first phase, which successfully addressed macroeconomic imbalances, boosted productivity, and attracted foreign investment.

Dr. Jamal also pointed to Africa's significant potential in the IT services sector and urged Pakistani entrepreneurs to participate in the Single Country Exhibition scheduled for January 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Highlighting Ethiopia's role in Pakistan's "Look Africa, Engage Africa" policy, Dr. Jamal mentioned the launch of Ethiopian Airlines operations in Karachi, which has strengthened both people-to-people and business-to-business relations.

Rana Mashhood praised Ethiopian Airlines for enhancing connectivity between Pakistan and Africa, a continent of 1.4 billion people. He also lauded Ethiopia's socio-economic progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed and expressed Pakistan's intent to further strengthen bilateral ties.

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Rana Sanallah for stern action against PTI's tactics

ISLAMABAD (APP): Rana Sanallah, a key Advisor to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and prominent PML-N leader Wednesday condemning PTI's undemocratic tactics said action would be taken against those seeking to unleash chaos, intolerance and violence to disrupt the nation's peace.

Talking to a Private news channel, he warned that the government is committed to maintaining law and order and will not hesitate to take strict action against PTI's attempts to create chaos and anarchy.

He emphasized that PTI's undemocratic tactics will not be tolerated and that the government will ensure the nation's peace and stability are upheld.

Rana Sanallah has strongly criticized Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for its undemocratic attitude, stating that they are unwilling to engage with the government and are not serious about addressing public issues.



ISLAMABAD: Parents of more than 450 children caught in blasphemy cases hold Protest outside NPC.

Punjab, Sindh to face 16% water shortage in Rabi season: IRSA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Advisory Committee on Wednesday approved an anticipated 16 per cent water shortage for Punjab and Sindh during the ongoing Rabi Season 2024-25 that began on October 1.

"The Basin-wise shortage for Rabi 2024-25 was approved as 16%," said IRSA after a meeting of its Advisory Committee presided over by its chairman/member Balochistan Abdul Hameed Mengal. The meeting approved anticipated water availability criteria for Rabi season.

The meeting was participated by IRSA members, Engineering Advisor (Civil) MoWR, Secretaries irrigation of Punjab and Sindh, senior Technical Advisors of WAPDA, senior representatives of Tarbela, Mangla and Chashma Reservoirs, T4 and T5 HPPs, senior representatives of Provincial Agriculture Departments and Director (Opr)/ Secretary IRSA, along with senior technical personnel of IRSA.

IAC reviewed the Khari 2024 system operation and observed that the actual Rim-Station inflows of 105.81 MAF till 30 September were 1% more than the maximum forecasted volume of 104.60 MAF and 7% more than 10 year average of 99.34 MAF. The overall provincial canal withdrawals were short with respect to shares. Indented supplies as per Para 2 shares were released to the provinces as per IRSA decision 13.05.2024. Less utilization by provinces from Aug 01 to Sep 20, 2024 was due to heavy rainfall & flooding. The actual system losses were 11.90 MAF as compared to maximum anticipation of 14.80 MAF. Downstream Kotri releases were 21.52 MAF. IRSA Advisory Committee (IAC) was informed that due to better inflows and efficient regulation of available supplies, the storage volume available for transfer to Rabi 2024-25.

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Pakistan needs tapping resources to gain opportunities amid Saudi rise: Amna Khaishgi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior journalist and filmmaker, Amna Khaishgi Wednesday said Pakistan is in need of tapping its immense resource-bases at home and abroad, and it has to gradually adjust to the realities and opportunities that Saudi Arabia has for it amid the latter's rise in the region as a key player.

She recalled the rise of MBS and pointed out as to how astutely and courageously he has impacted on the domestic mosaic of a conservative society, and made inroads in the region and beyond.

She said that staying away from Abraham Accord, as the UAE and other Gulf States recognised the Jewish State, was a masterstroke of his diplomacy, and goes on to hint that he has a bigger plan for the region which might see the resolution of Palestinian dispute.

She was addressing the Distinguished Lecture Series at Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), on the topic titled, "The MBS Effect: Transforming South Asia's Geodynamics", a news release said.

Amna Khaishgi elucidated as to how India and Saudi Arabia are emerging as the strategic partners, and how Riyadh sees its ties with China in the long run.

She stressed that unfortunately Pakistan has not been able to cajole its priorities with the Kingdom, and the latter too does not see it more important than a country sending in millions of people for religious tourism.

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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.

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.

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 further appreciated the landmark initiative 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.



ISLAMABAD: A view of heavy shipping containers placed alongside Islamabad Highway near zero point due to PTI protest on October 4, Friday, in the Federal Capital.

IG Islamabad holds law and order meeting at CPO

ISLAMABAD (APP): According to the details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, chaired an important meeting at the Central Police Office Islamabad on law and order situation in Islamabad.

The meeting reviewed the law and order situation in the federal capital. The officers provided IG Islamabad with a detailed briefing on the security measures taken to ensure law and order.

On this occasion, IG Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that all possible measures would be taken to ensure the protection of the lives and property of the citizens of Islamabad and to maintain peace and tranquility in Islamabad.

ICT admin cracks down on dengue breeding, 16 arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP): In response to the rising threat of dengue in Islamabad, the district administration has launched a citywide operation targeting business centers, industries, and construction sites.

Highlighting the preventive measures, the administration emphasized the importance of eliminating stagnant water, which is a breeding ground for dengue larvae. Business centers and industries were urged to ensure there is no standing water in refrigerator trays, air coolers, or air conditioning units.

As part of the crackdown, the district administration has already arrested 16 individuals for violating anti-dengue SOPs. All the assistant commissioners have conducted raids across the city, targeting construction sites.

He added that the families expressed their gratitude to the Islamabad Police for their swift action and assistance.

He urged the citizens to dial the emergency helpline "Pucar-15" or report via the "ICT-15" app regarding any suspicious person or activity.

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Advisor Wafaqi Mohtasib calls for sharing of experiences to mutual advantage

ISLAMABAD (APP): A five-member delegation from the Secretariat General of the Ombudsman Office of Bahrain, headed by Mohamed Tafweeq Ali Taqi, Chief of the Development Division, visited the Wafaqi Mohtasib Office here on Wednesday.

The delegation is currently on a visit to Pakistan to study the growth and development of ombudsmanship in the country. They were briefed by the Advisor, Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat (WMS), Mr. Shahid Humayun on the role, functions and working of the organization with special reference to the new initiatives taken for providing speedy relief to the general public against mal-administration.

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Later, the delegation also visited the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA) Secretariat, Islamabad, wherein it was apprised of the role and functions of the Association by the Executive Secretary, AOA, Ambassador Moiz Bokhari.

ICT admin cracks down on begging; 15 arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP): The district administration has launched a crackdown on professional beggars across the Federal Capital, resulting in the arrest of 15 professional alms-seekers.

He emphasized that such activities could create an undesirable environment and could often be linked to organized groups. The administration has taken this step to not only clear public spaces but also to ensure that vulnerable people, who may be exploited through begging networks, were not harmed. Memon called on the public to avoid giving money to individuals begging in public places, as it could inadvertently support these networks.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon urged the citizens to discourage professional beggars.

He emphasized that such activities could create an undesirable environment and could often be linked to organized groups. The administration has taken this step to not only clear public spaces but also to ensure that vulnerable people, who may be exploited through begging networks, were not harmed. Memon called on the public to avoid giving money to individuals begging in public places, as it could inadvertently support these networks.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Qurat Ul Ain Marri, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee On Planning, Development And Special Initiatives presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

Daily Voice of Masses
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Thursday October 03, 2024

Constitutional courts

The decision-makers in Rawalpindi and Islamabad should have taken the hint. Instead, their determination to have the controversial 'constitutional package' bulldozed through parliament with another attempt is now uniting the legal community in anger and indignation.

Over the weekend, some 300 lawyers from across the country — including some of the most notable names in the profession — signed on to an open letter addressed to the judges of the superior judiciary, urging them to refuse to take any part in a 'constitutional court' that is set up under this government's secretive legislative agenda.

Saying that they recognise the Supreme Court and the high courts as the only 'constitutional courts' of the country, the lawyers warned the judiciary against repeating past mistakes, regretting, in particular, that "Our higher judiciary has, for many decades now, lent legitimacy to a sustained assault on our Constitution and on our democracy".

Underlining their opposition to the proposal to set up a new 'constitutional court', these representatives of the legal community have made it clear that, in their eyes, such a court would be considered a PCO court, "and those who take the oath to serve on it will be PCO judges".

This is unusually strong phrasing by the lawyers' community. While they doubtless would have debated the merits and demerits of a constitutional court more congenially in a different context, right now, the brightest minds in the profession are seeing it as an existential challenge: a move that represents a continuation of the series of assaults launched by military dictators on Pakistan's constitutional order in the past.

There is no question that the timing of the move has tainted its intent — perhaps irrevocably. After all, the government has made it clear that it has little regard for the judiciary and its prerogatives. Perhaps the proposal would have been seen more charitably had the government demonstrated that it is as subservient to the law like everyone else. Instead, it chose to disregard, even sabotage, express orders of the Supreme Court on multiple occasions, with the latest being in the reserved seats case.

Given that it has established that it will not obey legal authority except when it is bent in its favour, how can it expect any court established by it to be seen as fair and impartial? It is even more troubling that the government wants to handpick the judge who will sit atop this proposed constitutional court. This will not only compromise the new court further but also potentially sully the reputation of whichever judge agrees to lead it.

The lawyers have agreed that they will not engage with this idea because they do not see it as rooted in good faith. The judiciary, too, must soon make its position known.

Rafia Zakaria

One might say that nothing will happen and that the world will continue just as it has so far. However, after last week and the endless volley of attacks, bombings and assassinations we witnessed, it certainly feels like something is imminent.

True to their métier, the world's astrologers portend events based on an annular solar eclipse set to take place today. Solar eclipses — or so they say — represent the death of a 'solar' figure: perhaps a monarch or a leader who dies, is deposed, or loses power in some other way. Adding to all the malevolent possibilities, astrologers say that the reappearance of several 'stars', whose earlier presence had brought discord, does not augur well and that these stars feature prominently in the astrological chart of the United States.

Astrology must always be taken with a grain of salt: after all, there are soothsayers on both sides of the fence, and the way an event — any event un-

der discussion — plays out will prove one side more 'accurate' than the other.

However, prophecies and auguries are not needed. It does not take much looking around to note that the world, always tumultuous, is undergoing exceptional mayhem. It is not only the events that have dominated the Middle East which portend terrible outcomes. Undoubtedly, the ongoing war in the Middle East, the barbarous Israeli bombings of Gaza, and now Beirut and southern Lebanon, are significant factors in the assessment of the dire international situation. But on a wider scale, too, everything points to escalations, one-upmanship, covert actions, and undisclosed secret actors.

Even if we choose to ignore the specifics of these conflicts and carefully insulate ourselves so that we are not exposed to the news and its macabre content, the general malaise is contagious. Anxiety is heightened because in witnessing the helplessness of others one dwells even more on

one's own set of circumstances.

Repeatedly watching people suffer — thanks to the age of social media — is a particular predicament of our age. Experts have already found that it increases levels of latent anxiety in people. So does confronting problems that one is not able to address. And in our world, we seem to be surrounded by challenges that do not appear to have a solution.

Wars undoubtedly belong to this latter category. This weekend, as Beirut was pummeled by the Israeli Defence Forces, it was dispiriting to watch members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) talk past one another while people were being killed in real time. As a recent report issued by the charity Oxfam notes, this multilateral body, which was created with the specific intent of preventing catastrophe, has failed miserably in its mandate.

The report, Vetoing Humanity, says in its summary: "A handful of powerful nations who represent only 25 per cent of the world popu-

lation but hold its nuclear button, have too often manipulated the global peace and security system to meet their geopolitical and economic interests. Between 2014 and 2024, one or more of the five permanent UNSC member states ... vetoed 30 UNSC resolutions on protracted crises, including resolutions on the Occupied Palestinian Territory ... and Israel, Ukraine, Syria and Yemen."

The Middle East war may dominate the headlines, but other major conflicts may be waiting in the wings.

Over in the South China Sea, a situation is escalating. For several years, China has been constructing and lately fortifying islands that are decreasing the physical distance between itself and the Philippines. In the past two weeks, China and the Philippines' coastguard have had skirmishes. The fight is over an area of the South China Sea called the Sabina Shoals, which the Philippines wishes to control because it is key to its trade routes with

the rest of the world. Given that China has also had tussles with Taiwan, the area seems poised to become a major flashpoint for a wider conflict.

Then there is Europe. American newspapers in the past two weeks have been full of ominous editorials warning that Ukrainian soldiers are about to bleed out of the conflict because of the lack of support from the US. Others point out that the issue is not only the Russia and Ukraine theatre but also Russia's assistance to Iran, which could cross the nuclear finish line, causing a huge shift in the power balance in the region.

It is a good time to keep a diary or a journal. Accounts of such documents kept by people during World War II show a variety of perspectives of the same sets of events.

In fact, much before the war broke out, even before the rise of Hitler, some people had recognised the pockets of hostility that would propel tensions towards a massive conflict.

Others felt safe until the Gestapo came knocking at their door and dragged them out of their comfortable homes in Berlin or Vienna or Krakow or Paris to be transported to the deathly gas chambers. All of them have perished but their accounts remain to tell who was right and who had no idea of what was going happen.

So, too, will it be with us. Whoever is ultimately right about the future — the ones that prophesy peace or those who warn of war — will be dead by the time the ultimate outcome is known.

In this sense, the accounts of the past provide an odd source of solace: Whatever ills may be peculiar to this age of internet, wars have wreaked havoc on human lives for far longer.

Then again, perhaps those are the rationalising words of someone who is not directly facing the rain of bullets or barrage of bombs, which are taking lives thousands of kilometres away from their vantage point. -- Courtesy Dawn

At war with itself

Zahid Hussain

It has gone beyond polemics. The internal fracas has split the country's top judiciary. While tensions had been simmering for a long time, the latest presidential ordinance amending the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act has brought the conflict in the judiciary to a head.

With just weeks left until his retirement, an embattled chief justice now faces a virtual revolt in the ranks, with senior judges challenging the legality of the controversial amendment. The war within has intensified, with the institution facing an unprecedented onslaught on its independence from a military-backed regime trying its level best to clip the apex court's wings.

A divided house — in which the chief justice's own role is being questioned by his fellow judges — seems to have made the fightback by the bar and the bench against the attack on the judiciary much harder. The dispute over the formation of a five-member bench hearing the review petition on the ruling on the deflection clause has heightened tensions, with Justice

Munib Akhtar refusing to be part of the bench.

Third on the seniority list, Justice Akhtar, who was the author of the 2022 ruling, was earlier removed from the three-member Practice and Procedure Committee reconstituted by the chief justice, following the promulgation of the presidential ordinance. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, the senior puisne judge, has also refused to be part of the committee, objecting to the exclusion of Justice Akhtar. He has questioned the legality of the ordinance.

With the two senior-most judges opting out, the committee, which was handpicked by the chief justice, has become questionable, as has the five-member bench reconstituted under it. In his letter to the chief justice, Justice Akhtar expressed his reservations over the bench formed by the reconstituted committee, citing it as the reason for his decision not to be part of the bench.

Many observers believe that the outcome of the review petition on the deflection clause is very predictable, given the composition of the bench. The overruling of the 2022 judgment, which not only un-

seated the defector but also did not allow their vote to be counted, could help the ruling coalition get the votes of PTI legislators who have been coerced into changing party loyalties.

That could help the ruling coalition muster the two-thirds majority in parliament required to pass amendments that would change the very foundation of the Constitution and curb democratic rights. The previous attempt by the regime was defeated because of insufficient numbers. The urgency in fixing the hearing of the review petition has also raised questions about possible motives.

Justice Akhtar has also objected to the chief justice heading the bench against the decision of the previous committee; it was pointed out that the review bench was to be headed by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah. The overturning of the decision also raises questions about the chief justice's impartiality. There have been observations that the judgment on the review petition won't take much time and will be announced well before Oct 26, the day the chief justice is supposed to retire. Some federal minist-

ters and members of the ruling coalition are already talking about attempting to get the controversial constitutional amendment passed in the next couple of weeks.

Apparently, the ruling coalition is banking on the removal of restrictions on the defectors to muster the required numbers in parliament. There may be a strong argument for overturning the ruling on 63-A. Yet the way the bench has been structured reinforces concerns that it was meant to ensure a positive outcome.

One would not expect the chief justice to replace Justice Shah with himself just weeks before he is supposed to doff his robes. Such a controversial move would not be good for his legacy, which, many point out, has already been tarnished by allegations of playing a divisive role. Instead of uniting the judges and defending the independence and sanctity of the apex court, recent decisions by the chief justice are being seen as widening the divide. The existing polarisation has immensely damaged the image of the top judiciary. The open polemics among the senior judges have made a mock-

ery of the highest judicial forum.

It is true that historically our top judiciary does not have an enviable record. It has endorsed the actions of military dictators. In the recent past, we have seen chief justices trying to undermine the powers of the executive and parliament through populist actions, creating a serious imbalance of power among the state institutions.

With the courts becoming the main battleground of political parties, it has seemed inevitable that the judges would be given a political colour. The involvement of the security establishment in judicial matters has also distorted the system of justice. It is apparent that judicial expansionism, which is encroaching on the domain of the executive and parliament, has had the backing of a security establishment that seeks to undermine elected civilian dispensations and parliament.

The independence and authority of the institutions should not be destroyed through controversial laws. There is a need to establish a balance among all state institutions. But what the current regime and

the establishment are trying to do is to check the assertion of independent voices in the judiciary. Those judges who have dared to speak out about the establishment's interference are being targeted.

The proposed amendments to the Constitution are not just about making the judiciary subservient to the executive and the security establishment but also about curtailing the public's fundamental democratic and human rights. The amendments would virtually clear the way for the establishment of authoritarian rule. Not surprisingly, the rupture in the judiciary is being encouraged by the military-backed dispensation. It is a dangerous game, which will weaken not only the judiciary but also the democratic process in the country. Without a strong and independent judiciary, the country cannot experience a viable and robust democratic process. The country needs political reconciliation and a strong parliament; what it does not need are weakened constitutional foundations. More importantly, a weak and divided judiciary can defend neither its independence nor the rule of law.

Unseen horrors

Mahir Ali

When yet another Sudanese civil war erupted in April 2023, the then year-old Russian invasion of Ukraine continued to hog the attention of the so-called international community. Now, as Israel supplements its bombardment of Beirut with ground incursions into Lebanon almost a year after launching an open-ended genocidal assault on Gaza, the intensifying catastrophe in Sudan is still struggling to attract anything more than cursory concern and the usual platitudes.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has a possible explanation. "I think race is in the play here. ... We see the pattern now," he told the BBC last month, after describing the "destruction, displacement, diseases everywhere, and now famine" that he witnessed during a visit to Sudan.

The violent tussle for power between rival military forces has claimed at least 20,000 lives, mostly among civilians; up to 12 million people have been displaced from their homes; there is mass starvation bordering on famine as the cultivation of food crops has dwindled and the conflict interferes with aid delivery. On top of everything, there are appalling indications of the 2003 genocide in Darfur being resumed by the same perpetrators: the Janjaweed militia, which evolved into the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) now competing for power with the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF).

The RSF and the SAF jointly carried out the 2021 coup that crushed tentative hopes of a transition to some kind of democracy after a popular uprising in 2019 led to the end of Omar al-Bashir's 30-year dictatorship

ship. The duumvirate formed by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, the RSF chief better known as Hemedti, and the SAF's General Abdel Fattah el-Burhan crumbled when the latter insisted on a relatively rapid integration of the RSF into the regular armed forces. Sudanese civilians have paid the price, as evidenced last week when the SAF embarked on a fresh effort to retake Khartoum.

Both sides have justifiably been accused of atrocities, although the RSF and its associates appear to be well ahead of the SAF in perpetrating sexual violence. Systematic rape as a weapon of war was a prominent part of the Janjaweed modus operandi, and it remains a favourite form of torture for the RSF, alongside arbitrary executions of young males, especially in its vicious campaign against non-Arab ethnic groups.

At the UN General Assembly last month, Burhan, invited as Sudan's de facto head of government despite the limits of his authority, appealed for international initiatives to stop the flow of weapons to the RSF in order to end the war (and, although he didn't say it out loud, consolidate his power). His remarks were widely interpreted as a salvo aimed primarily at the UAE, which, notwithstanding denials from Abu Dhabi, has been outed as the RSF's biggest arms supplier, its largesse ranging from hi-tech Chinese drones to Serbian munitions.

A New York Times investigative report co-authored by Declan Walsh revealed last month how an Emirates Red Crescent hospital in Chad, near the Sudanese border, set up ostensibly to aid refugees from Sudan, mainly treats injured RSF combatants, and is situated next to

drone hangars and a munitions storage facility. The drones help to stave off threats to arms delivery convoys. Back in July, a Guardian report revealed that Emirati passports had been found in a part of Omdurman, across the Nile from Khartoum, after it was retaken by the SAF from the RSF, indicating that the UAE may be "covertly putting boots on the ground". The discovery was described by analysts as "a smoking gun" that called into question Abu Dhabi's denials about its alleged favouritism in the Sudanese conflict.

The UAE president stuck with his narrative during his meeting with Joe Biden last week, as the US president hailed his country as a "major defence partner" — an accolade hitherto reserved for India — and refused to call out the controversial role of a key Gulf ally that is a reliable customer for the US military industrial complex. The UAE leadership, seen as indebted to the RSF for its nation's misadventure in Yemen, may also be guided by Israel's penchant for disregarding the occasional verbal diatribes from Washington, as long as the military and intelligence supply chains it relies on remain intact. And they do.

Sudan is coveted for its vast gold reserves and extended Red Sea coastline, and the UAE is not the only pebble on the beach. The Wagner Group was once allied with the RSF, but Russia now backs Burhan, reports suggest, alongside the likes of Egypt, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and even Ukraine — not to mention Iran. Russia and China, alongside the US and its European allies, are all part of the 21st-century scramble for Africa. But the UAE might possibly have trumped them all. -- Courtesy Dawn

New generation

Sohail Habib

At a recent parent-teacher meeting at an elite school, a parent complained of her son's poor performance in Urdu. The teacher told her not to worry, as all his classmates were facing problems in Urdu. This is the dilemma of our new generation, the Gen Z-ers, born between the mid-1990s and the late 2010s. In fact, Gen Z-ers are the first true digital natives, with technology seamlessly integrated into their lives, unlike previous generations, who are digital immigrants. Among their two billion worldwide, Pakistan is home to seven million — the fifth-largest Gen Z cohort after China, India, Indonesia and Nigeria.

American sociologist George Ritzer explains the dilemma of the new generation in The McDonaldisation of Society. 'McDonaldisation' refers to the pervasive expansion of the principles of the fast-food chain: speed, convenience and standardisation for diverse societies and geographies. The ensuing cultural globalisation has the advantage of being democratic in nature, but the associated homogenisation threatens diversity.

Previous generations learnt through auditory delivery and manual practices; Gen Z-ers learn digitally and visually. Not surprisingly, many skills are becoming redundant such as calligraphy, classical music and the learning of oriental languages. Parenting styles are also changing. Previously, we saw helicopter parenting, with excessive parental involvement and control in children's lives. Today, Gen Z students are experiencing a 'CIA' style of parenting, where progress and grades are monitored through technology.

Cultural globalisation also features speed and ef-

ficiency, manifested in automated banking services, online shopping and self-checkout counters. However, the downside of excessive automation is dehumanisation which leads to poor tolerance in times of stress. Dubbed the 'loneliest generation', Gen Z-ers face anxiety owing to disruptive technologies, economic uncertainty and loss linked to the Covid pandemic. Moreover, previous generations would spend their free time socialising in person, which releases mood-elevating chemicals in the body. But this is missing in the emoji- and text-driven interactions of our youth on social media platforms today. They frequently suffer from FOMO, 'the fear of missing out', and so cannot stay away from their phones for too long.

Gen Z-ers are relatively more pragmatic than their predecessors. They focus more on skills than on theory and prefer certification over degrees. Although they exhibit more entrepreneurial qualities compared to previous generations, they are more conservative and prudent when it comes to finances. This shift is mainly shaped by the perma-crisis of the 2008 Great Recession, Covid-19 and 9/11 hyper-terrorism.

The new generation prefers personalised experiences, self-enrichment and an adventurous lifestyle. This has spurred local tourism from Kalash to Kumrat and Insta selfies from Deosai to Phander. However, this hyper-mobility has two associated trends. Firstly, there is a hyper-exodus of youngsters from Pakistan. According to the UN World Population 2024 report, 1.6m Pakistanis left the country in 2023. This exodus is more than the numbers from the two most populous countries:

India (980,000) and China (570,000). This may be considered 'brain drain' but also proves to be a primary source of remittances in the long term.

The second trend is the declining attachment to ancestral lands. An example is the third generation of Kashmiris who have settled in the UK. Older generations of the Kashmiri diaspora wo-uld invest back in Kashmir and bring the bodies of relatives for burial there. However, the new generation of Kashmiri expats has diminished emotional and financial interest in their ancestral land. A similar trend can be observed in rural-urban migration.

The grooming and blooming of Gen Z-ers in the virtual world has made it a generation of 'scroll & troll'. Like the gig economy's short TikTok reels, McJobs, micro-celebrities and freelancing, our youth display a short attention span and an appetite for instant gratification. This makes it harder to focus on deep learning or long-term projects. Casual relationships — 'situationships' — are developed online and terminated by ghosting.

The age of marriage age is moving to the late 20s.

During Juma prayers, worshippers arrive late and leave quickly after the prayers. The reliance of Gen Z-ers on social media has made them more vulnerable to fake news and synthetic content. According to the Global Risks Report 2024, the top five risks that Pakistan faces today include fake news and misinformation.

In short, technology has transformed the 'global village' into the 'global street', but Gen Z-ers' excessive usage of gadgetry may lead to a 'tech neck'. -- Courtesy Dawn

CM, Nawaz distribute cheques to beneficiaries qualified for loans under ACAG program

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, along with PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, attended a cheque distribution ceremony for the "Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar" (ACAG) program at the Expo Center, here on Wednesday.

During the event, they personally engaged with beneficiaries who qualified for loans under the program, distributing cheques to them. A documentary related to the "Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar" initiative was presented at the ceremony.

In her address, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz expressed her gratitude to Nawaz Sharif, stating that his presence was essential for the event's significance. She emphasized that the vision behind this program was driven by PML-N President Nawaz Sharif.

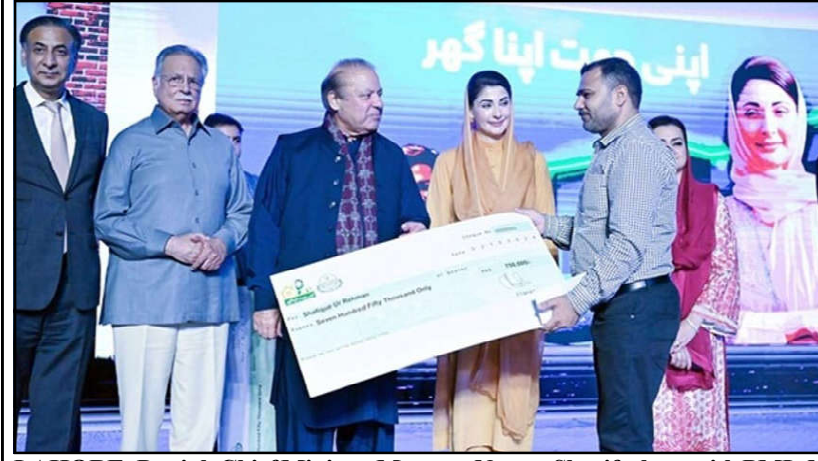
The CM noted that the dream of Pakistan's progress, which began in the 1980s, is personified by Nawaz Sharif. She stated that the "Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar" program is a manifestation of his vision, and she often updates him on its progress. She highlighted his guidance to dedicate her efforts to public service and maintain integrity in her work.

The CM announced that this program, which aims to provide 700 billion rupees over five years, is making significant strides. She expressed satisfaction in disbursing the first tranche of loans to the public within a short span of one and a half months.

Maryam Nawaz mentioned that they received 500,000 applications, leading to the decision to assist the same number of individuals. The initiative aims to provide loans for landowners in urban areas (from one to five marlas) and rural areas (from one to ten marlas) to help realize the dream of home ownership. She emphasized the importance of hard work in fulfilling this vision, assuring that the government has gained public trust in the project.

The CM emphasized the streamlined processes for obtaining loans, stating that all previous stringent requirements have been removed.

Beneficiaries only need to present their identification cards and property documents to qualify for loans. She announced plans to issue 100,000 loans through a transparent lottery system within the



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, along with PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, distribute cheques during a ceremony for the "Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar" (ACAG) program at the Expo Center.

Murad directs education dept to complete reconstruction of 3328 flood-affected schools

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah directed the education department to complete the reconstruction of 3328 schools out of 19,808 damaged by the 2022 floods during the current financial year. He issued these directives while presiding over a review meeting of the school education department here at CM House on Wednesday.

Minister P&D Syed Nasir Shah, Minister Education Syed Sardar Shah, Chairman P&D Najam Shah, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoti, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary School Education Zahid Abbasi and others attended the meeting.

The CM was told that out of 19808 schools, reconstruction and repair of 3328 schools under different projects have either been started or in the tender process. The CM directed the minister of education to personally monitor the construction work so that these schools could be reconstructed by the end of June 2025. During the briefing, the CM was informed that the repair of 1769 schools and the reconstruction of 1559 school buildings have been taken up under 10 different local and foreign-assisted projects for Rs114.3 billion.

They include the SSEIP (flood-assisted) project 1026 schools will be repaired/reconstructed for Rs 62.6 billion, for which tenders have been issued. The repair and reconstruction of 31 schools under SSEIP (regular) have been taken up for Rs 4 million and work is in progress. Under the SELECT project, 166 schools will be reconstructed for which tenders have been floated.

Through the DEEP project, 111 schools are under construction for Rs 2.44 billion. In the ASPIRE project, four schools are under construction for Rs112.7 billion. China has given a grant of Rs 7.6 billion for reconstruction of 100 schools and the scheme is under approval process. Under the PSDP tenders for repair/reconstruction of 456 schools have been floated for Rs10.7 billion.

MAP hosts luncheon in honor of Governor KP

KARACHI (APP): The Management Association of Pakistan (MAP) on Wednesday organized a special luncheon in Karachi to welcome the esteemed Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi. The event saw the participation of MAP's senior officials and prominent business figures.

Notable attendees included MAP members Farukh Janidi, Muhammad Intisaruddin, Khalid Zaman, Ahmad Zaheer, Advocate Tariq Khattak, Athar Abbas, Suleman Mehdi, Rashid Siddiqui, Ali Hasan Naqvi, Sameer Hussain, Dr. Farhan Isa, Adnan Rizvi, Amjad Waheed, Zubair Qureshi, and Farukh Mazhar.

The purpose of the luncheon was to discuss business opportunities, investment prospects, and ways to enhance the business environment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In his address, Governor Kundi highlighted the economic development and investment opportunities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

At the conclusion of the event, participants reaffirmed their commitment to contributing to the province's progress and praised Governor Kundi for his efforts, wishing him success for a bright future for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



FAISALABAD: Protest demonstrations on the call of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf in the city.

Transport fares slashed in Punjab after fuel prices reduction: Azma Bokhari

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that public transport fares have further been slashed in Punjab for passing on relief to the common citizens, after a reduction in petroleum prices by the federal government for the fifth time in a row.

The biggest fare cut, Rs190, has been applied to the Lahore-Karachi route, she said and added that Punjab is the only province where public fares are reduced whenever petrol and diesel prices dip down. Passengers have started receiving relief after the price reductions. She mentioned that other major reductions include a Rs 50 cut for the Lahore-Peshawar route and a Rs 20 reduction for Lahore-Rawalpindi.

Azma stated that the district administration and Transport department officials are present in the field to ensure the implementation of the fare reductions. New fare boards have been displayed at all bus terminals. "We are also grateful to the transporters in Punjab who cooperate with the provincial government," she added.

She further noted that since Maryam Nawaz's government took office, fares in Punjab have been decreasing with the reduction in petrol prices.

Court seeks reply from NAB on Muhammad Khan Bhatti's application

LAHORE (APP): An accountability court on Wednesday sought a reply from the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) regarding an acquittal application filed by Muhammad Khan Bhatti, the former principal secretary to the former chief minister of Punjab, Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, in the Gujrat development projects reference.

Accountability Court Judge Zubair Shahzad Kiyani conducted the proceedings, during which Chaudhry Parvez Elahi appeared on a wheelchair, while Muhammad Khan Bhatti and other accused were also produced after being brought from jail.

The counsel for the accused requested the court to decide the issue of jurisdiction before indicting their clients in the case.

At this stage, Bhatti's counsel submitted an acquittal application, stating that his client had not taken any monetary benefit, and therefore, the court could not proceed against him.



LAHORE: Disabled blind persons are holding protest demonstration for demanding employment, outside CM House in Lahore.

PA body discuss measures to solve problems of labors

PESHAWAR (APP): The introductory meeting of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Standing Committee on Labor was held here Wednesday wherein members were briefed by the Secretary of Labor about the performance of the department. The meeting was chaired by the chairman of the committee, Muhammad Rishad Khan, and attended by Labor Minister, Fazal Shako Khan, Gul Ibrahim, Ubaidur-Rehman, Muhammad Khurshid, Zar Alam and concerned officials.

Secretary labor and officials briefed the committee about the performance of the labor department and plans. Later, briefing the media about the meeting of the Standing Committee, Rishad Khan said matters including child labor, performance, and recruitment were discussed in the meeting.

He said that efforts would be made to improve the performance of the department and added that a probe would be initiated to identify recruitments that were made on a political basis.

He said that representatives of mine workers' associations would be invited to the next meeting to identify their problems and devise a strategy to resolve them. He said that suggestions would be taken from the labor department to make plans for the welfare of workers.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a meeting of the school education department at CM House.

MoU signed to synergize efforts towards developing micro, SMEs, home based workers

PESHAWAR (APP): In order to continue its journey of evolution, Krafters signs an MoU with Handicrafts Association of Pakistan to synergize efforts towards development of Micro, Small & Medium enterprises and home based workers. Under the MoU both the organizations will endeavor to undertake projects and activities together with particular focus on digital financial inclusion, enterprise development and youth empowerment.

Krafters is an e-commerce platform with a developed network of over 9000 artisans and is striving to revive and sustain craft tradition and to empower artisans to live a life of respect. As part of its App based initiative for digital financial inclusion of home based workers and SMEs under Pakistan Innovation Fund (PIF) initiative, Krafters also arranged a session on "Digital Financial Inclusion" at IMA Haripur for women led enterprises of District Haripur.

The session, organized in collaboration with JazzCash, focused on the importance of digital financial inclusion, onboarding and its effects towards fostering economic growth, reducing poverty, and empowering individuals.

JazzCash team from Islamabad undertook a session on need of digital onboarding to the participants followed by registration of women led enterprises for jazz cash accounts enabling them towards financial economic empowerment.

"Digital financial inclusion plays a significant role in empowering women-led businesses, particularly in developing regions, where traditional financial systems often marginalize women entrepreneurs," observed Syed Zahid Ali Shah, CEO Krafters while speaking at the training session.

Krafters in partnership with JazzCash & Government Technical Teachers Training College (GTTC) Peshawar also held a session about "Digital Financial Inclusion" for women led enterprises on GTTC, Hayatabad Peshawar.

The event besides creating awareness on digital financial inclusion also involved on-boarding of women entrepreneurs on hashtag #kraftersapp & hashtag #Jazzcash app to lead these women towards economic empowerment.



KARACHI: Members of Lawyers Action Committee are holding protest demonstration against the establishment of the Federal Constitutional Court and proposed constitutional amendments, outside the Supreme Court Karachi Registry building.

Commissioner directs DCs to coordinate relevant departments for timely completion of uplift projects

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi on Wednesday directed deputy commissioners to provide full support through coordination and cooperation and assist the relevant organizations in removing obstacles to timely completion of development projects in their respective districts.

He visited Malir and Korangi districts to inspect different development projects, including Korangi causeway bridge, three projects of education and works departments being carried out under the Annual Development Program. The commissioner also directed the DCs to ensure that ongoing projects in their districts meet desired standards and fulfill legal requirements.

In Malir, he visited three schools located in Gul Goth, including Government Boys and Girls Primary and Secondary Schools. Deputy Commissioner Malir Irfan Salam, Dputy Commissioner Korangi Masood Bhutto and Director Finance commissioner office Naseem Bhutto and senior officers of concerned departments were accompanied him.

The commissioner while visiting district Malir schools directed the Deputy Commissioner Irfan Salam to resolve issues hindering in utilizing SMC funds. He also directed DC to improve the science laboratory of the Government Girls Secondary School, utilizing funding from organizations through their Corporate Social Responsibility programs.

Amir Maqam visits home of martyr child 'Iqtidar' in Swabi for condolences

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Amir Maqam on Wednesday visited the home of martyr child 'Iqtidar' in Swabi for condolences.

Prominent PML-N politician and former member of the provincial assembly, Babar Saleem, warmly welcomed the federal minister.

Both leaders met the family of martyr child Iqtidar, who lost his life in the recent Swabi blast, and offered condolences.

Amir Maqam comforted the grieving family, stating, "In this moment of sorrow, we stand with you. I will speak to Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif regarding your financial assistance."

Following this, Amir Maqam, along with Babar Saleem, visited Swabi Hospital to meet those injured in the blast and prayed for their swift recovery.

The Medical Superintendent and other officials were also present during the visit.

The federal minister directed the hospital administration to take special care of the injured and provide them with all possible medical treatment.



RAWALPINDI: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq inaugurates SRO Grain storage facility. MNA Isphanyar M. Bhandara is also present on this occasion.

Education worst affected sector of militancy in merged districts: Tarakai

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education Faisal Khan Tarakai on Wednesday said that education was the worst affected sector due to militancy in the all merged tribal districts. The terrorists had particularly targeted the girls' schools, which were now being made functional, he said while chairing a meeting to review the progress on education sector projects in the Khyber District.

Besides, KP Minister for Religious Affairs Adnan Qadri, Member of the National Assembly Iqbal Afridi and Member of the Provincial Assembly Abdul Ghani Afridi, officers of the District Education Department and students from the Khyber District attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed in detail the situation of the education sector, completed and ongoing schemes and other problems. Minister Tarakai assured the elected public representatives that the second shift in area schools would be started within a week, so that all boys and girls of the district get the opportunity of getting education in their respective localities.

He said that the provincial government was initiating the rented building school project in the province, including the merged districts. Along with the provision of free textbooks, a project of free school bags was also being started for the merged districts.

Besides the opening of 150 affected primary and 50 middle schools in rented buildings, 150 more middle level schools were also being established in rented buildings across the merged districts, he added.

PTI's education emergency slogan proves false

PESHAWAR (APP): In Dera Ismail Khan, the hometown of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 31 schools lack roofs, while Peshawar has 2, and Upper Dir has 22 such schools, according to media sources. Thousands of students in government schools across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are forced to study under the open sky.

Overall, 516 primary, middle, and high schools in the province lack roofs. In settled districts, 344 government schools do not provide shelter to students.

According to the Department of Education documents, 172 schools in the merged tribal districts are without roofs. In settled districts, 489 schools operate in rented buildings. In the merged districts, 138 boys' and 34 girls' schools lack roofs.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Local Government Zeeshan Rafique presiding over a meeting of Special Committee.

Govt committed to transform Pakistan into cashless economy: Shaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms Shaza Fatima Khawaja said on Wednesday that the present government was committed to transform Pakistan into cashless economy. During a meeting with Ambassador of Ethiopia Jemal Beker Abdula, she said steps were being taken to promote digital payments in the country as it had an important role in driving economic growth and efficiency.

Minister Shehbaz Sharif, steps were underway for digital transformation in the country. The society, economy and governance were being digitalised, she added. The minister said that Ethiopia could benefit from Pakistan's experiences in the field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT). She also assured Pakistan Government's full support to Ethiopia regarding digitalization. The Ethiopian ambassador said that the IT sector of Pakistan had great potential. He said Ethiopia wanted to increase ties with Pakistan in the field of IT and telecommunication. "We aspire to get benefit from Pakistan's experiences in the ICT infrastructure development."



MOSCOW: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan meeting with President Moscow Chamber of Commerce Platonov Vladimir.

Digital retail payments rise to 84% in FY24, Governor SBP

KARACHI (APP): Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Jameel Ahmad, Wednesday, stated that the share of digital payments in total retail payments by volume has risen from 76% in FY23 to 84% in FY24 while the overall number of digital retail transactions has increased by 30%. The number of transactions processed using mobile and internet banking is growing at an annual rate of 70% and 30%, respectively, he said and added, "This is not surprising as the majority of our population is young and adept at using mobile apps."

The meeting was also attended by Director General International Coordination Syed Jawwad Ali Sherazi. He said digitalization and e-governance were also discussed in the meeting, said a news release. Shaza Fatima said that boost in relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia in IT and telecom sector was vital. She said the IT and telecommunication sector of Pakistan was rapidly progressing. Shaza Fatima said under the vision of Prime

commitment to fostering innovation and digitalization within the banking sector and paving the way for a dynamic financial sector in Pakistan. He noted that rapid technological change has not only enabled banks to offer innovative financial services to customers but also empowered regulators to ensure compliance effectively and efficiently through advanced data collection and processing capabilities. To facilitate the entry of IT-enabled, non-banking entities into the financial services industry, the governor said that, the central bank issued the framework for establishing Digital Banks in Pakistan in 2022 and later in-principle approvals were issued to five applicants who will shortly start pilot operations in the country. The Governor shared that as a result of SBP's efforts, today in Pakistan, we have around 59 million branchless banking wallets, 19 million mobile banking apps, another 3.7 million e-money wallets, and 12 million internet banking users.

'Pakistan Economy Dashboard' provides easy access to Socio Economic data: Ali Perviaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Ali Perviaz Malik said that "Pakistan Economy Dashboard" is huge initiative in the direction of making the socio-economic data easily accessible to everyone. The launch of the Pakistan Economy Dashboard represents a major leap forward in our mission to modernize the dissemination of economic information, he said while addressing the launching ceremony of "Pakistan Economy Dashboard" here Wednesday. "I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed, Economic Adviser at the Finance Division, and his team, whose relentless efforts have successfully brought this initiative to fruition," he said. He appreciated the appreciation to the EU-funded PFM-II Programme for providing technical assistance to the Finance Division.

vision in these crucial areas. In today's rapidly evolving global economy, access to accurate and timely economic data is more critical than ever, he said. Ali Perviaz Malik said this portal has been designed to be a user-friendly resource, providing all stakeholders—whether policymakers, researchers, investors, or citizens—with the data they need to make informed decisions. "We stand on the cusp of a new era in economic management, the integration of technology into governance has never been more crucial."

He said that this initiative marked a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to promote transparency and enhance the accessibility of economic data, particularly for academia and research institutions. On the other hand, the internal section of this portal will empower the Finance Division with real-time access to economic data and outlook, thereby strengthening the evidence base for our policymaking, he said. The Finance Division, Government of Pakistan has been striving to enhance transparency of fiscal and budgetary initiatives and in this regard, many important documents are now made available to everyone on Finance Division's website. "We have been regularly sharing the budgetary documents and Economic Survey of Pakistan every year."



ISLAMABAD: Aamir Rafiq, Rizwan Farooq, Ashfaq Abbasi, Irfan Butt Nizam Khan, Yakub, Zahir Shah and other business leaders of vegetable and fruit market are holding a press conference.

Envoys of Tajikistan, Maldives visit ICCI to greet new leadership

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Tajikistan, Yusuf Sharifzoda, and the High Commissioner of Maldives, Mohamed Toha visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Wednesday to extend congratulations to the newly elected President, Senior Vice President, Vice President and the executive committee. During his address, Ambassador Sharifzoda emphasized the deep-rooted ties between Tajikistan and Pakistan, underscoring the extensive potential for trade and investment that exists between the two brotherly nations, said a press release issued here. He highlighted the mutual benefits that could be harnessed through enhanced cooperation, stating that both countries stand to gain significantly by leveraging these opportunities for the welfare of their people.

High Commissioner Mohamed Toha of Maldives, while expressing the close brotherly ties between Pakistan and the Maldives, emphasized the wealth of investment opportunities in his country despite its smaller size. He encouraged Pakistani entrepreneurs to explore these opportunities and to enhance trade relations for mutual benefit. Highlighting the potential for importing high-quality Maldivian tuna at competitive rates, he suggested Pakistani businesses could reciprocate by exporting vegetables and fruits to the Maldives.

FCCI welcomes Pak-Russia barter trade deals

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) President Rehan Naseem Bharara has welcomed barter trade deals between Pakistan and Russia in the field of agriculture and urged the government to sign similar agreements with other neighboring countries including China. In a statement here on Wednesday, he said that under this barter trade agreement, Pakistan would import chickpea and lentil and in return it would export rice, mandarins and potatoes to Russia. He termed this agreement in best national interest as it would help Pakistan to maintain its foreign exchange reserves.

Malaysian PM's visit to Pakistan boosts bilateral trade: Iftikhar Ali Malik

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik has said that Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's three-day visit to Pakistan marks a significant step in strengthening the existing bilateral trade relations between the two nations. In a statement issued here on Wednesday, popular octogenarian trade leader of South Asia said that current visit holds substantial potential for enhancing economic cooperation, particularly in key sectors of trade, investment, energy, agriculture and technology and activity would serve as an

opportunity to deepen these relations further. He said visit would lead to the signing of new agreements and memorandum of understandings (MoUs) aimed at diversifying trade portfolios and increasing market access for two countries. He said his visit would underscore the importance of regional partnerships in overcoming economic challenges posed by the global market. Enhanced cooperation between Malaysia and Pakistan would not only strengthen bilateral trade but also contribute to broader regional economic stability and growth, he added.



KARACHI: Pakistani stockbroker monitors the share prices during a trading session at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi.

SDPI launches booklet on debunking myths about electric power system, tariff structure

ISLAMABAD (APP): The experts at a webinar on Tuesday emphasised the need to simplify the existing electric power system and tariff structure for reducing burden on the domestic consumers. The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) organised the webinar to launch its latest booklet "Understanding Electric Power System and Tariff Structure in Pakistan: A Basic Guide", a news release said. SDPI's Research Associate Zainab Babar, while moderating the webinar, said the recent changes in tariff and energy policy mounted unrest not only among consumers but also energy policy makers.

"However, the SDPI has formed a booklet on power system working and tariff setting to clarify the unrest and queries of the consumers in a comprehensible way," she added. Engineer Ahad Nazir, Associate Research Fellow and Head Center for Private Sector Engagement, in his opening remarks, said Pakistan's power sector was technical and complex whereas the booklet was an endeavour to make the complex subject understandable from the value chain approach from power generation to transmission, distribution and finally how tariff is determined as even experts qualified in energy subjects are finding it hard

to grasp. "The most frequently asked questions by the consumers are pertaining to fuel price adjustment and quarterly tariff adjustment whereas the booklet sheds light on these aspects," he added. The consumer, he said, needed to be aware of the myths and confusions regarding power sector in terms of exchange rate, fuel prices, generation efficiency. He said the tariff was set by NEPRA (National Electronic Power Regulatory Authority) and the Ministry of Energy and other organizations be that GENCOs or DISCOs could unilaterally decide power tariffs.

Drawing attention to the longstanding camaraderie, the Ambassador likened the two nations to "part of the same body and soul," and remarked on the high demand for Pakistani products not only in Tajikistan but across Central Asia. He highlighted the potential for importing high-quality Maldivian tuna at competitive rates, he suggested Pakistani businesses could reciprocate by exporting vegetables and fruits to the Maldives.



PESHAWAR: Members of All Pakistan Agriculture Produce Traders Federation are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands.

Rupee gains 05 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Wednesday appreciated by 05 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.63 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.68. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 278.50 and Rs 280 respectively. The price of Euro decreased by Rs 1.32 to close at Rs 307.31 against the last day's closing of Rs 308.63, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.92, whereas a decrease of Rs 1.43 was witnessed in the exchange rate.

CCP hearing on PTCL, Telenor merger continues

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) is actively progressing with the Phase II Merger Review of PTCL's proposed acquisition of 100 percent shareholding in Telenor Pakistan (Private) Limited (TP) and Orion Towers Private Limited (OT). The hearing was conducted by CCP Chairman, Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, with the presence of members Salman Amin and Abdul Rashid Sheikh, said a press release issued on Wednesday. During the proceedings, Mian Sami-ud-Din, partner BNR counsel for Wateen Telecom Limited, presented his submissions, urging the Commission to assess competition dynamics within the sub-markets (Indefeasible Right of Use (IRU), Tower colocation and fiberization of towers) of the telecom sector. He emphasized the need to consider all aspects of competition that may be affected by the merger. Jazz Telecom's counsel Khalid Ibrahim argued that PTCL's acquisition of Telenor could give it a dominant position in the market. Therefore, the Commission should impose both pre-merger and post-merger conditions. These conditions could include requiring the merged entities to allow other mobile operators to

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Shipping Activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where five ships, Maersk Kinloss, Phoenician-M, Clipper Trent, Ice Fighter and Acadia Park scheduled to load/offload Container, Rices, Fuel oil and Chemicals, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminals, FOTCO oil Terminal and Engro Vopak Terminal respectively on Tuesday. Meanwhile two more ships, Centurion Signifer and Al-Areesh carrying Coal and LNG are also arrived at outer anchorage port during last 24 hours. A total of eight ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, MSC Positano, Maersk Kinloss and Ice Fighter are expected to sail on today. Cargo volume of 95,743 tonnes, comprising 41,664 tonnes imports cargo and 54,079 tonnes export cargo carried in 3,919 Containers.

LCCI president discusses economic situation with JI delegation

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) President Mian Abuzar Shad held a meeting with Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) delegation, led by its Lahore Ameer Ziauddin Ansari here on Wednesday and discussed the economic situation of the country. LCCI Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman and Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry also spoke, while Malik Shahid Aslam, Rashid Daud, Shahid Naved and Engineer Ikhtlaq were members of the delegation. Key initiatives to promote entrepreneurship, create job opportunities and enhance collaboration aimed at fostering economic development in the region came under discussion. LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad underlined the importance of a strong partnership between the business community and political entities to address the challenges

being faced by the economy. They discussed various initiatives that could enhance trade, promote entrepreneurship and create job opportunities for the youth. He highlighted the crucial role of the private sector in driving economic development and expressed the LCCI's commitment to working with political leaders to create a conducive environment for business growth. He said that a stable economic framework is essential for attracting investments and improving the overall business climate in Lahore and beyond. Ziauddin praised the LCCI office-bearers for their dedication and cooperative spirit. He acknowledged the contributions of the business community to the economy and assured full support from Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) in collaborative efforts that promote local businesses.



PESHAWAR: Carpenters making part of a traditional bed (charpai) at his workplace in Dabgari area.

Exports increase by 14.11% to \$7.875 bln during Jul-Sep 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports from the country increased by 14.11 percent during the first three months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding months of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. Exports during July-September (2024-25) were recorded at \$7.875 billion against \$6.901 billion during July-September (2023-24), according to PBS data. On the other hand, imports into the country also went up by 9.86 percent by growing from \$12.115 billion last year to \$13.310 billion during the first three months of the current year. Based on the figures, the trade deficit during the months under review was recorded at \$5.435 billion

against the deficit of \$5.214 billion last year, showing an increase of 4.24 percent. Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the exports in September 2024 increased by 13.52 percent to \$2.805 billion from \$2.471 billion in September 2023. On the other hand, the imports also increased by 16.08 percent by going up from \$3.950 to \$4.585 billion, according to PBS data. On a month-on-month basis, the exports from the country increased by 1.56 percent when compared to the exports of \$2.762 billion during August 2024. The imports also witnessed increase of 1.69 percent when compared to the imports of \$4.509 billion in August 2024, PBS reported.

Minister meets DG LIMS, discusses farmer's problems

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani met Director General (DG) Land Information Management System (LIMS) Major General Shahid Nazir at Agriculture House, Lahore, on Wednesday. The DG told the minister that the LIMS had been established under the management of the federal government and with cooperation of the Pakistan Army. It was primarily working to make uncultivated and barren areas to convert into cultivable and till now, 3 lakh acres of ca-

nal area of Punjab was being made cultivated, he added and said that the organisation would also provide agricultural machinery services on rental to small farmers in Punjab. In this regard, all the farmers was being registered to resolve their field emergent problems and to increase per acre production, he said. Shahid Nazir added that 16 private companies related to the business of agriculture sector under the management of LIMS would provide all the facilities to the farmers. Seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, agricultural machinery and equipment on rental basis and all other items would be available to the farmers in the established agricultural malls covering a wide area, he maintained. He endorsed that the main objective was to reduce the production cost of the farmers and to promote smart agriculture farming. The DG said, "We have purchased heavy duty tractors and drones. Training of farmers will also be arranged in agricultural malls and marketing platform will be provided to farmers."

LAHORE: Artisans prepare warm jackets ahead of winter at a local factory in the provincial capital.



LAHORE: Artisans prepare warm jackets ahead of winter at a local factory in the provincial capital.

UN Security Council calls emergency meeting amid aggravation in Middle East

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: A day after Iran struck back against Israel after launching a slew of missile attacks in Tel Aviv following the killing of top leadership of Hezbollah by the Zionist state, the United Nations Security Council called an emergency meeting on Wednesday to discuss ways to avoid escalation in the Middle East.

Recent episodes of bloody confrontation between warring parties of the Middle East brought the matters on edge, culminating into a full-blown conflict in the powder keg region of West Asia.

United Nations Secretary General António Guterres once again called for an immediate ceasefire while British Prime Minister Kier Starmer condemned Iran's attack on Israel by reaffirming Britain's unwavering support for Israel's defence. The British PM urged Iranian leadership to abandon support for proxies aiming to target the Zionist state.

Earlier, United States of America President Joe Biden also vowed to stand by Israel come what may. Iran fired a salvo of ballistic missiles at Israel in retaliation to the latter's campaign against Tehran's Hezbollah allies in Lebanon and the killing of its chief and that of Hamas.

Alarms sounded across Israel and explosions could be heard in Jerusalem and the Jordan River valley after Israelis piled into bomb shelters. Reporters on state television lay flat on the ground during live broadcasts.

Reuters journalists saw missiles intercepted in the airspace of neighbouring Jordan. Israeli media reports said as many as 100 missiles had been launched.

After about an hour, the military announced there was no longer a threat and "it was decided that it is now permitted to leave protected spaces in all areas across the country", with a "large number" of Iranian missiles intercepted.

Reports said between 150 and 200 missiles had been fired in the attack.

It was Iran's second on Israel after a missile and drone attack in April in response to a deadly Israeli air strike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus.

Israel vowed to retaliate with an army spokesman saying it would respond at the time and place of its choosing.

"This attack will have consequences. We have plans, and we will operate at the place and time we decide," said Israeli military spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari.



Palestinians gather to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, in the northern Gaza Strip.

US vice-president rivals defend Trump and Harris in polite election debate

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: US vice presidential contenders JD Vance and Tim Walz faced off in a surprisingly civil debate on Tuesday, despite tense moments on the hot topics of migration, abortion and the threat of war in the Middle East.

Republican Vance and Democrat Walz dug into policy and avoided the bitter personal attacks that presidential candidates Donald Trump and Kamala Harris exchanged during an often heated clash in September.

But the shadow of their bosses hung over the CBS debate, with Walz attacking Trump as a threat to democracy and unfit to lead America on the world stage, and Vance slamming Harris's record on the economy and illegal migration as part of President Joe Biden's administration.

A key moment came near the end, when Vance refused to say whether he backed Trump's false claims to have won the 2020 election against Biden.

Minnesota governor Walz accused him of a "damning non-answer" and blasted Trump over the January 6, 2021 attacks on the US Capitol by pro-Trump supporters.

There was also a fiery moment when Vance, who mostly restrained his persona as Trump's attack dog, had his microphone briefly muted when the moderators tried to factcheck him on migration. Walz said false stories spread by Vance and Trump about migrants in the town of Springfield.

At least 150 people missing after boat capsizes in Nigeria

Monitoring Desk
MOKWA: At least 150 people are missing after a boat capsized in western Nigeria, officials said on Wednesday. The incident occurred late on Tuesday night in the Mokwa region of Nigeria, said Abdullahi Baba, director general of the emergency agency of Niger state. According to Baba, the boat carried about 300 persons on their way to attend an annual Muslim religious celebration. Rescue efforts are underway to locate more survivors, he said. Meanwhile, on September 15, eight migrants died when their overcrowded vessel capsized while trying to cross the English Channel from France to England.

Almost 13 million US customers still without power from Hurricane Helene

Monitoring Desk
FLORIDA: Almost 1.3 million homes and businesses were still without power in the US Southeast and Midwest on Wednesday after Helene slammed into the Florida Panhandle as a major hurricane on Sept 26, according to data from PowerOutage.us. Those outages were down from around 1.7 million on Tuesday as utilities continued to restore power. In total, the storm knocked out service to around 5.5 million customers, predominantly in the Southeast. Helene's winds, rain and storm surge killed more than 160 people. The utility with the most outages was US energy company Duke Energy in the Carolinas with about 323,000 customers still out in South Carolina and 299,000 still out in North Carolina, according to PowerOutage.us.



Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani meets with Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian, in Doha, Qatar.

Palestinian officials say 51 killed in Israeli strikes on southern Gaza

Monitoring Desk
DEIR AL-BALAH: Israeli strikes killed at least 51 people in southern Gaza overnight, including women and children, as the military launched ground operations in the hard-hit city of Khan Younis, Palestinian medical officials said Wednesday.

Israel has continued to strike what it says are militant targets across Gaza nearly a year after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack ignited the war there, and even as attention has shifted to Lebanon and

Iran. Israel has launched ground operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Tehran fired ballistic missiles on Israel late Tuesday.

Separately, Hezbollah said its fighters clashed with Israeli troops in the Lebanese border town of Oadiseh, forcing them to retreat. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military or independent confirmation of the fighting, which would mark the first ground combat since Israeli troops crossed the border this week.

Unexploded US bomb causes minor blast at Japan airport

Monitoring Desk
KYUSHU: An unexploded US bomb caused a minor blast at a regional Japanese airport, officials said on Wednesday, with reports saying that the device likely dated from World War II.

Footage on Japanese media showed a cloud of dust rising from a blast on a taxiway at Miyazaki Airport on the island of Kyushu. The airport in southern Japan originated in 1943 as an Imperial Japanese Navy base, sending dozens of "kamikaze" aircraft on suicide missions. There were no reports

of injuries but dozens of flights were cancelled. The airport confirmed part of a taxiway had caved in.

"After investigation with the Self-Defense Forces, we concluded that it is an explosion of a US unexploded bomb," a transport ministry official told AFP. The official added that it was not known whether the bomb was dropped during World War II, though local media reported it likely was. Other unexploded ordnance dropped by the United States was reportedly found at a nearby construction site in 2009 and 2011.

Russia rules out nuclear talks with US given its stance on NATO expansion

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia has dismissed the possibility of nuclear talks with the United States citing Washington's stance on NATO expansion, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Wednesday.

"We see no point in dialogue with Washington without respect for Russia's fundamental interests."

Bangladesh factories reopen amid garment sector unrest

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Most garment factories in Bangladesh reopened on Tuesday, a day after violent protests over a pay hike left one worker dead and several others injured, officials said.

Bangladesh, one of the world's largest garment producers and a supplier to western brands such as H&M, Zara and Carrefour, has been facing widespread protests in recent weeks, leading to the closure of dozens of factories. The protests have worsened an already significant production backlog caused by recent political turmoil and devastating floods.



US Senator and Republican vice presidential candidate JD Vance and Minnesota Governor and Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim Walz participate in the Vice Presidential debate hosted by CBS News at the CBS Broadcast Center in New York City.

Defector arrested in failed bid to return to North Korea on stolen bus

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: A North Korean defector to the South was apprehended after he crashed a stolen bus near the border in a failed bid to return to his isolated homeland, police told AFP on Wednesday.

The suspect had fled to the South in 2011, and was attempting to re-enter the North aboard the stolen bus when he crashed into a barricade on a bridge just south of the heavily fortified demilitarised zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas, according to Gyeonggi Bukbu provincial police. "He lives under difficult economic conditions as a construction worker and misses his family still in the North," an investigator told AFP, explaining the man's reasons for the attempted crossing.

Philippines' Taal volcano erupts but alert level low

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: The Philippines' Taal Volcano near the capital region has erupted, spewing a plume of steam that was more than 2 km (1.24 miles) high, the seismicology agency said on Wednesday.

Taal, located about 70 km (45 miles) south of central Manila, is one of the world's smallest active volcanoes and some of its previous eruptions have impacted the capital and air travel.

The agency's chief Teresito Bacolcol described the eruption as phreatomagmatic, where magma interacts with wa-

Greece to spend 20 bln euros on lifting low birth rate

Monitoring Desk
ATHENS: Greece, which saw its lowest number of births in 2022, plans to spend 20 billion euros (\$22 billion) through 2035 on incentives to halt the decline, including cash benefits and tax breaks, its family ministry said.

Greece currently spends around 1 billion euros a year on pro-child measures but, like other European countries, to little effect. At 1.3, Greece's fertility rate is among the continent's lowest and well below the 2.5 needed for population growth.

Rare exoplanet, smaller than Earth, discovered

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: A rare exoplanet smaller than Earth has been discovered orbiting one of the closest stars to the Sun, although its surface is far too hot to sustain life, astronomers said on Tuesday.

The planet orbits Barnard's Star, which is just six light years away, according to observations made over five years by the Very Large Telescope in the Chilean desert.

The astronomers were looking for planets outside our Solar System which are in the "Goldilocks zone" — where it is neither too hot nor too cold for liquid water, which is considered an essential ingredient for extra-terrestrial life.

Iran's president visits Qatar, aims to rally opposition to Israeli crimes

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian arrived in Qatar on Wednesday for bilateral talks and a summit at which he said he hopes to enlist Asian countries' help in preventing what he called "Israeli crimes" in the Middle East. Starting his first trip to Qatar as president, Pezeshkian criticised Israel over the killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh. Iran blames Israel for Haniyeh's assassination on July 31. Israel has neither claimed nor denied responsibility for his death.

Since then, Israel has assassinated the leader of the Iran-backed Hezbollah group in Lebanon, Hassan Nasrallah, and sent troops

into southern Lebanon on what it called a limited operation. Iran responded by firing a barrage of missiles at Israel on Tuesday.

"We also want security and peace. It was Israel that assassinated Haniyeh in Tehran," Pezeshkian was quoted saying on his arrival in Qatar by Iran's Student News Network. "Europeans and the US said if we do not act, there will be a peace in Gaza in one week. We waited for them to have peace but they increased their killing". Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose country faces conflicts against both Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Iran's Khamenei warned Nasrallah of Israeli plot to kill him, sources say

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned Hezbollah leader Syeed Hassan Nasrallah to flee Lebanon days before he was killed in an Israeli strike and is now deeply worried about Israeli infiltration of senior government ranks in Tehran, three Iranian sources said.

In the immediate aftermath of the attack on Hezbollah's booby-trapped papers on Sept 17, Khamenei sent a message with an envoy to beseech the Hezbollah secretary general to leave for Iran, citing intelligence reports that suggested Israel had operatives within Hezbollah and was planning to kill him, one of the sources, a senior Iranian official, told Reuters.

The messenger, the official said, was a senior Iranian Revolutionary Guards commander, Brigadier General Abbas Nilforoushan, who was with Nasrallah in his bunker when it was hit by Israeli bombs and was also killed. Khamenei, who has remained in a secure location inside Iran since Saturday, personally ordered a barrage of around 200 missiles to be fired at Israel on Tuesday, a senior Iranian official said. The attack was retaliation for the deaths of Nasrallah and Nilforoushan, the Revolutionary Guards said in a statement. The statement also cited the July killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, and Israel's attacks on Lebanon. Israel has not claimed responsibility for Haniyeh's death.

South Korea's Yoon, Japan's Ishiba agree united response needed against North Korea

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol held his first telephone call with Japan's new Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on Wednesday and agreed a united response together with the United States is needed to counter North Korea's threats, his office said.

South Korea last week welcomed Ishiba's election as the head of Japan's ruling party, saying it looked forward to the two countries continuing to improve ties and working together on security and economic issues under his leadership.

Yoon told Ishiba during their call the neighbours are important partners who share values and interests and invited him to continue to communicate closely and enhance cooperation, Yoon's office said.

"The two leaders agreed that South Korea and Japan, South Korea, the United States and Japan

need to unite to respond to North Korea's continued provocations," it said.

Ishiba, who was confirmed as prime minister on Tuesday, pledged to seek deeper ties with friendly nations to counter the gravest security threats his country has faced since World War Two.

Yoon has made it a diplomatic priority to improve ties with Tokyo and build trilateral security cooperation together with the United States by putting years of animosity stemming from Japan's wartime history behind.

Ishiba's predecessor Fumio Kishida and Yoon oversaw a newfound partnership after orchestrating an about-face in ties that had sunk to their lowest level in decades before Yoon came to office, prodded by US President Joe Biden.

Both Yoon's office and Japan's foreign ministry said the two leaders agreed to meet soon.

Myanmar civil war fuels surge in cross-border drug trade, Thailand official says

Monitoring Desk
BANGKOK: Thailand has seen a surge in illegal drugs trafficked from neighbouring Myanmar and a sharp increase in methamphetamines and heroin seizures, as a civil war adds fuel to the regional drug trade, a senior Thai counter-narcotics official said.

Apikit Ch.Rojprasert, deputy secretary-general of Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), said the northern region remains the main trafficking route into Thailand, with dealers going through the mountains or on the Mekong river to bring in methamphetamine tablets and crystal meth, also known as ice.

Thai authorities say organised crime networks have allied with militias and rebel groups to set up "super labs" in Myanmar's Shan and Kachin States.

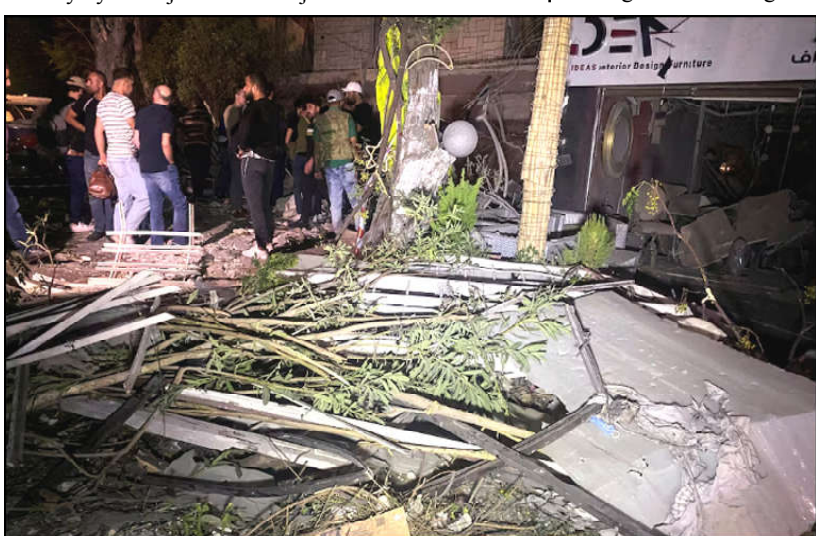
A junta spokesperson declined to comment for this story but Myanmar's ruling junta has previously said it is committed to working with neighbouring countries to tackle narcotics.

"Because of the armed conflict, the drug trade is one of the factors used to fund weapon purchases or drive the fighting forces," Apikit told Reuters in an interview.

"We have to be vigilant about crimes that are linked to drug trafficking and work with neighbouring countries."

Myanmar is locked in a civil war, with the military fighting on multiple fronts and losing territory to an armed resistance movement loosely allied with several ethnic minority rebel groups. The military took over the Myanmar government in 2021. Seizure of meth tablets in the first eight and a half months of this year in Thailand's northern provinces of Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai and Mae Hong Son increased by 172% from the amount seized in all of 2023 to 346 million pills, ONCB data showed.

Seizure of crystal meth in those provinces increased by 39% over the same period to 6.48 tons, the data showed. Heroin is also making a comeback with 327 kg (721 lb) seized this year, nearly seven times the amount seized in 2023. The political unrest in Myanmar has led to a surge and expansion of synthetic drugs production and trafficking as well as a resurgence of opium cultivation, according to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.



People gather near the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted a residential building in the Mezzah suburb in western Damascus, according to Syrian state media, Syria.

PM lauds Dr Zakir for global Islamic outreach efforts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday lauded eminent scholar Dr Zakir Naik's exceptional efforts in spreading the true essence of Holy Quran and Hadith, besides promoting Islamic values worldwide.

The prime minister warmly welcomed Dr Zakir, expressing his admiration for his scholarly work.

He said the entire Ummah was proud of him for projecting the real image of Islam across the world. It was heartening to note that a vast majority of youth listened to his lectures. PM Shehbaz said that he had personally benefited from Dr Zakir's lectures, enriching himself from the valuable teachings of Islam.

He said that the people of Pakistan fully admired the great personality of Dr Naik and were happy over his presence in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Ahead of the mid-October Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit, a high-level review meeting on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects was convened under the chairmanship of Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal.

Govt. decides against taking loan from commercial bank at 11% interest rate

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has 'decided' against taking loans from commercial bank at higher interest rate, sources said Wednesday.

As per sources, the finance ministry has decided not to proceed with borrowing from a commercial bank at an 11% interest rate. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reportedly directed the finance minister to avoid taking expensive loans.

Although an agreement had been made with commercial banks for a loan at 11% interest, the government has now decided not to take the funds. In case of a financing gap, loans will be sought from other sources at lower interest rates, the sources aware about the development said.

CPEC projects' review meeting held ahead of SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ahead of the mid-October Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit, a high-level review meeting on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects was convened under the chairmanship of Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal here Wednesday.

The meeting brought together Secretaries and Additional Secretaries from all relevant ministries, reflecting a unified and collaborative approach towards enhancing the bilateral relationship with China, according to press release issued by planning ministry. During the session, an extensive briefing was given on the progress of ongoing CPEC projects. In anticipation of the forthcoming visit of the Chinese Premier, the discussions centered on amplifying cross-sectoral cooperation and preparing a comprehensive action plan aimed at advancing bilateral economic and developmental goals.

Minister Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the essential role of all ministries in the successful implementation of CPEC, emphasizing that collaboration across government sectors is crucial to unlock the full potential of this flagship initiative.

He stressed the importance of leveraging the upcoming high-level engagement with China to advance business-to-business (B2B) investments, secure concrete deliverables, and showcase Pakistan as an investment destination.

In this context, all ministries were urged to finalize their preparations and proposals to ensure impactful outcomes from the visit.

Minister Iqbal further underscored the urgency of achieving substantive advancements in priority sectors such as infrastructure development, road connectivity, information technology, agriculture, industrial cooperation, education, healthcare, water resources, energy, and artificial intelligence.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to deepening collaboration in these strategic areas, signaling a shared vision for growth and modernization between the two countries.

Reflecting on the historical context, Ahsan Iqbal reiterated that since 2013, Chinese investment and financial assistance have played an instrumental role in stabilizing Pakistan's economy during challenging times.

He highlighted that the government's recent diplomatic engagements underscore its proactive efforts to attract foreign investment and integrate the national economy into global value chains—efforts that will contribute significantly to sustainable economic growth and development.

Perimetric Security System comes in action at Gwadar Port, 675 cameras installed

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a major development, the Perimetric Security System (PSS), with the installation of 675 high-tech security cameras, has been put into full operation in the jurisdiction of the Gwadar Port area. With this significant move, the Perimetric Security System, costing Rs 252.350 million, has installed a sense of heightened security coverage for Gwadar Port, allied infrastructures, buildings of Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), Gwadar Free Zone South, and Gwadar Free Zone North.

According to a Gwadar Pro's report, the PSS is a built-in multipurpose system that detects threats, performs surveillance, and analyzes attack patterns, installed with the objective of ensuring a safe and secure environment in Gwadar Port and the adjoining Free Zone.

Chairman GPA

Passand Khan said that after the installation of the modern security system, the entry and exit of goods and services have been facilitated.

MPA Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman Baloch appreciated this noble initiative and further invited domestic and foreign investors to invest in Gwadar, applauding the efforts of the port operator in ensuring the security of Gwadar Port.

Jahangir Sabir, a local travel agent in Gwadar, said that the security system is the need of the hour, keeping in view Gwadar's economic output.

"The PSS is an insurance policy for upcoming development, the tourism industry, hotel industry, recreational sites, and large shopping plazas," he added.

Meanwhile, the Government of Balochistan is also working on the Gwadar Safe City Project.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail in a group photo with a delegation of PML (N) Youth Wing led by Sajjad Raisani

Bakht Muhammad Kakar says GoB making every possible effort to improve health sector

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar has stated that the provincial government is making every possible effort to bring improvement in health sector of the province, as per the vision of Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

He said that our aim is to provide quality and easy healthcare facilities to the people. In this regard, improvement of the basic infrastructure and provision of modern medical equipment is being ensured.

This was stated by the Provincial Minister for Health during his visit to Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan Institute of Cardiology on Tuesday night.

The management of Institute of Cardiology

briefed the Minister about its overall functioning and the medical facilities available to the patient there. Also present on the occasion were CMO of Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan Institute of Cardiology.

Meanwhile, he also visited different parts and sections of the Institute including Cardiology Unit, Operation Theatres and other parts.

The Minister for Health appreciated performance of the Institute of Cardiology and assured to extend wholehearted support of the government to it. He said that the institutions like Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan Institute of Cardiology are important for medical care of the cardiac patients.



QUETTA: PB-43 candidate & Parliamentary Secretary GAD Mir Kiliqat lehrli along with Deputy Commissioner Saad bin Asad listening problems of people during Khuli Kachehri.

Special Sec. Health announces: Joint Task Force of Health and Livestock Depts to be formed for prevention of Congo virus

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Special Secretary Health, Mujeeb Rehman Qamrani has announced that Joint Task Force of the Health and Livestock departments would be formed for prevention of the congo virus in the province.

The Special Secretary Health said that the Joint Task Force would hold programmes for awareness of the general public against the Congo virus in different areas of the province. He was chairing a meeting on prevention of the Congo virus here on Wednesday.

The Director General of Health, Dr. Amin Khan Mandokhail, Provincial Head of Malaria Control Programme / Vector Borne Diseases, Balochistan, Dr.

Aamir Iqbal Raisani, Director Institute of Public Health, Dr. Safia Mengal, District Health Officer Quetta, Dr. Asfandyar, Executive Director TB Sanatorium, Dr. Shirin Khan, Deputy Director Livestock, Dr. Khushhal Khan Kasi, and other concerned officials. The meeting discussed the measures for prevention of Congo virus in the province. They also talked about the treatment facilities for the patients and precautionary measures for the doctors treating the patients in isolation wards, besides the need of awareness. Speaking on the occasion, Special Secretary Health said that the Health department is fully active to overcome the epidemic of Congo virus.



KILLA SAIFULLAH: Provincial Ombudsman Nazar Muhammad Baloch talking with students during his visit to Government Girls High School



ISLAMABAD: Renowned Islamic Scholar Dr. Zakir Naik calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

GoB determined to resolve problems being faced by public: Khetran

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE), Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran has stated that the provincial government is determined to resolve the problems being faced by general public in the province.

In this regard, practical steps are being taken, stated the Minister for PHE, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran while speaking to different delegations who called on him here on Wednesday.

Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran said that welfare and development of the people is priority of the provincial government.

For this purpose, we

would get rights of the province that concerned about the federation.

The Minister said that it is right of our people which we would get anyway.

In the meantime, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran contacted the Managing Director WASA over telephone and issued orders for taking emergent measures to provide adhoc relief to the employees taking notice of the employees.

Sardar Khetran said that increase in salaries of the employees is right of the employees. He assured that all the genuine rights of employees would be given.



GWADAR: Director General Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) Shafqat Shahwani presenting souvenir to Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti

Govt to privatize PIA by end of year: FM

ISLAMABAD (INP): Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has reaffirmed the government's commitment to privatizing Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and three power distribution companies (Discos) before the end of 2024.

In a media interview he said that the incumbent government will complete the privatisation of the national carrier along with three power distribution companies (Discos) before 2024 culminates.

The privatization of PIA, initially set to conclude by October 1, has

been postponed to October 31 due to low bidder interest, ongoing court cases, aging fleet issues, and civil aviation concerns.

He further said that government is working on privatization of sick units, and power sector reforms and for this, all necessary steps have been taken to achieve the objectives.

The outsourcing of Islamabad and Karachi airport would be made in phases, he added. Right sizing and restructuring of some ministries and departments would also be made before the next fiscal year, he stated.

Step afoot to activate MERC 1122 for medical aid to people, says DG

QUETTA (APP): Director General (DG) of Medical Emergency Response Centers (MERC) 1122 Dr. Mir Noorullah Musakhail on Wednesday said that measures were being afoot to activate MERC 1122 and expand it to other National Highways for the provision of first medical aid to people in case of accidents.

Talking to APP, he said that about 22 centers of MERC 1122 are fully operational on national highways across the province.

He said that the MERC 1122 would be further activated and expanded to other highways under the leadership of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti. Dr. Mir Noorullah Musakhail said that in October 2019, Medical Emergency Response Centers

(MERC) 1122 were established.

From that day till today, the fully trained staff of MERC 1122 provided a first response in case of accidents or emergencies on national highways N25, N50, N85, N65 and N70 of Balochistan, he said.

From October 2019 to September 2024, Merck has collected data of accidents on the national highways of the province so that these data are being tested, he said.

He said that 53457 accidents have occurred in Balochistan during the last 5 years, in which 73084 people were injured and 1327 people lost their lives.

He said that 24206 OPDs have been conducted in 1122 MERC centers so far and first aid has been

provided to the people.

He said that currently there are 22 active centers on 5 national highways of Balochistan, while more new centers would be set up and made active soon so that other highways could be monitored and medical assistance to be provided to people in case of accidents.

He said that in Balochistan, most accidents are caused by motorcycles, the rate of which is 82 percent, the rate of accidents of large vehicles is 6, while the rate of mishaps of small vehicles is 12 percent.

MERC 1122 is tasked with providing first aid to the victims of accidents on the national highways and transporting them to the hospital while living in limited resources, he said.



GWADAR: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti distributing cheques among flood affectees of tehsil Ormara. MNA Malik Shah Gorgage, MPA Maulana Hidayatur Rehman and other officials are also present

Attacker and child killed in firing on Tank police

PESHAWAR (APP): A passerby child was killed when a man started firing at a police van in Wazirabad area of Tank district on Wednesday.

Police said the incident occurred in Wazirabad area where area SHO and his team were on routine patrolling. A man whose identity could not be immediately ascertained, started firing at the police van.

As a result of indiscriminate firing, a pedestrian child was killed while in retaliatory fire, police also killed the attacker.

Police said the SHO and police team remained unhurt in the incident.

Deputy Chairman Senate urges political unity for national progress

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman Senate, Syedaal Khan, on Thursday called on all political parties to play an active role in steering the nation out of its current crises.

Speaking during a meeting with a delegation that included Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training, Senator Bushra Anjum Butt; former Member of the National Assembly, Agha Syed Mahmood Shah; Balochistan Provincial Assembly Member, Fazal Qadir Sherani; former District Nazim, Mir Nizamuddin Lehrli; along with tribal elders, social workers, journalists, and students, he stressed that the country cannot afford political instability and unrest at this critical time.

He said that the government is actively working to provide relief to the public and address the nation's pressing issues.

He urged all political forces to unite for the country's development and prosperity, adopting strategies that offer real solutions to the people and propel the nation towards progress.

He further noted that Pakistan is blessed with abundant natural resources, making it essential for all stakeholders to collaborate for the nation's advancement.

He reiterated that through unity and effective planning, both the public and the country can achieve long-term prosperity and success.

Arshad Bugti transferred; Muzaffar posted as Secretary WDD

Independent Report

QUETTA: The senior bureaucrat of Grade-20, Arshad Hussain Bugti, serving as the Secretary Women Development Department has been transferred and directed to report in the Services and General Administration Department on Wednesday.

According to the official notification issued here by S&GAD, the Commissioner BESSI, Muzaffar Zeeshan Lehrli has been transferred and posted as the Secretary Women Development Department.

Similarly, Saeed Ahmed Umrani, who was awaiting posting orders, has been posted as the Commissioner BESSI with immediate effect.

PTA indicates end of internet slowdown by end of October

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has indicated that the ongoing internet disruptions in the country are expected to be resolved by the end of October.

PTA Chairman Major General (ret'd) Hafeezur Rahman addressed journalists, reaffirming that the authority does not intend to slow down internet services further.

Rahman noted that there has been a 93% compliance rate with social media platforms, with the exception of X (formerly Twitter), which is currently only complying with 27% of regulations. He clarified that decisions regarding the closure of X are made by the federal government.



CHITRA: Ameer Jamaat Islami Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman addressing a public gathering

On directive of CM Sick girl operated successful at Children Hospital Quetta

QUETTA (APP): On special directive of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Health Minister, a little girl belonging to Musakhail was successfully operated by Prof. Surgeon Ghulam Nabi Nasir, Head of Peds Surgery at Children's Hospital Quetta on Wednesday.

Balochistan Chief Minister and Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar had taken notice of the sick girl after viral video of the sick small girl on social media. According to press release, the sick girl was admitted to the Children's Hospital and treatment was started.

Today, Surgeon Ghulam Nabi Nasir, Head of Peds Surgery at

Children's Hospital Quetta, performed a two and a half hour Sacrococcygeal teratoma (SCT) surgery on the girl. The tumor to be removed through the operation was 5 kg.

He said that Sacrococcygeal teratoma is a rare tumor that develops under the spine near the tailbone (coccyx), SCTs are congenital, meaning they are present at birth and are usually benign.

SCT occurs in about one in every 35,000 babies, making it the most common tumor found in newborns, he mentioned. The girl's parents also went to Punjab for treatment, but due to lack of money for the operation, they were unable to treat the girl.



KILLA SAIFULLAH: Provincial Ombudsman Nazar Muhammad Baloch talking with students during his visit to Government Girls High School