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SC nullifies decision in the case of article 63-A, accepts review appeals

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Thursday accepted the review petition and terminated the previous judgment pertaining to Article 63A of the Constitution.

The court ruled that the defecting lawmakers' votes should indeed be counted and said that the detailed judgment would be issued later on.

A five-member bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Amin ud Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Mazhar Alam and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan, announced the short order.

The chief justice said that the review petition of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) was accepted unanimously, adding that the detailed verdict

would be issued later on.

Earlier during the proceedings, Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI)'s lawyer Barrister Ali Zafar took the stance that his meeting with PTI's founder was not held independently. The lawyer said that the PTI founder had requested that he wanted to give arguments himself before the bench through video link.

On this point, the CJP said that you were making unreasonable request. He said what secret things did you have to discuss with PTI founder? You were only supposed to discuss a constitutional issue, he remarked.

Ali Zafar said that the PTI founders had objection on formation of bench and stated that they will not be a part of proceedings. The court on the occasion ap-

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President Asif Ali Zardari conferring the award of Nishan-e-Pakistan upon the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim, during a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President Zardari confers Nishan-e-Pakistan award on Malaysian PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday conferred the award of Nishan-e-Pakistan upon Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim in recognition of his support for Islamic causes and for being a great friend of Pakistan.

The top civilian award was conferred at a special investiture ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr and attended by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, federal ministers, services chiefs, diplomats, and senior government officials. During the ceremony, it was highlighted that the Malaysian prime minister was an avid reader of Allama Iqbal and acknowledged that his work

had been a source of inspiration for him.

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has been a prominent advocate of humanitarian causes and Islamic values throughout his political career. His leadership is marked by a profound commitment to promoting social justice and addressing global issues affecting the Islamic world.

He has also been a voice for the causes of self-determination movements and has particularly stood against oppression across the world. He continues to work tirelessly to counter Islamophobia striving to create interfaith harmony by fostering understanding and respect between different cultures and religions.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf inaugurating Bahria University College of Medicine.

Another case of poliovirus reported from Balochistan increasing tally to sixteen

Independent Report
QUETTA: The polio cases continue to rise as another case of poliovirus has been reported from Balochistan province increasing the tally to sixteen during current year.

According to the Health department sources, the new polio case has been reported from Zhob district where the virus was detected in 3-year-old girl child.

While it is 16th polio case reported from Balochistan this year, it is 2nd case reported from Zhob district.

According to National Institute of Health, this year, Balochistan has reported the highest number of polio cases, with 16 confirmed incidents, whereas the total number of cases across Pakistan has reached 28.

Earlier, six cases of polio were reported from Killa Abdullah district with two each from Quetta and Zhob.

One polio case has been reported from Dera Bugti, Kharan, Chaman, Killa Saifullah, Pishin and Jhal Magsi.

Despite extensive vaccination campaigns and efforts to raise awareness by the government and international agencies working on health issues, the virus continues to affect children, particularly in regions with limited access to healthcare and vaccination services.

Health officials associated with the federal government as well as provincial governments are urging parents to ensure their children receive the polio vaccine, which is crucial in preventing the spread of this debilitating disease.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim address a joint press stakeout.

Pakistan, Malaysia agree to deepen trade, investment cooperation; reiterate stance on Gaza, Kashmir

Shahbaz, Anwar Ibrahim reaffirm commitment to strengthen mutually beneficial partnership

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Malaysia on Thursday agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation in multiple areas including trade, investment, defence, and agriculture, besides reiterating their strong positions on regional issues including Palestine and Kashmir.

In a joint press stakeout following their one-on-one meeting and delegation-level talks, both prime ministers told the media that their discussions focused on strengthening the bilateral collaboration in multiple areas of mutual interest as well as regional and international issues including Palestine and Kashmir.

As part of the efforts to boost bilateral trade, both leaders agreed that Pakistan would export Halal meat worth \$200 million per annum and 100,000 metric tonnes of Basmati Rice to Malaysia.

Total trade between Malaysia and Pakistan stood at USD 1.4 billion with the trade goods included palm oil, apparel, textiles, chemical and chemical-based products, and electronics and electronic products. Among South Asian countries, Pakistan is Malaysia's third-largest trading partner.

In his remarks, Prime Minister Shehbaz told the media that besides discussing the export of Pakistan's Basmati Rice, two sides also discussed the possibilities

of exporting Halal meat from Pakistan to Malaysia worth \$200 million per annum, and assured that his country would make no compromise on the quality.

He said the Malaysian PM had also assured to address the discrepancies in the import of Pakistan's rice into his country.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that they had a 'wonderful' meeting to discuss the enhancement of trade and investment, besides exploring avenues of further cooperation in defence, tourism, agriculture, green energy, skilled labour and youth empowerment.

He said both sides were unanimous in believing that the two countries would collectively find new heights in trade and investment cooperation for a bright future for two nations.

Assuring his cooperation to further enhance Pakistan-Malaysia defence and security cooperation, he said that thousands of Pakistani students were currently studying in Malaysia to help strengthen the people-to-people contacts.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that Malaysia's development should be emulated as a role model for all Muslim countries where foreign direct investment and exports were on the increase.

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Naqvi warns of stern action against protestors during Malaysian PM's visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday warned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), of stern action against protestors if anyone disrupts law and order at the visit of Malaysian Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan.

The government will ensure fool proof security arrangements at the time of visit Malaysian Prime Minister, said the minister. According to the new law, specific place has already been allocated for public and political gatherings with the permission of concerned authorities, he added.

Naqvi said that the protest demonstration is a constitutional right of every citizen but the government will not allow anyone to sabotage the visits of foreign dignitaries.

He said that knowing well about government's action against protest demonstration during the visit of foreign guest, PTI's call to storm Islamabad is an enemy agenda.

Four employees including missing Dy suptd Adiala jail sacked

RAWALPINDI (Online): Home department Punjab has sacked 4 employees including missing deputy superintendent Adiala jail besides forfeiting service of one assistant superintendent and one warder.

The other officers and personnel who have been dismissed are assistant superintendent (incharge nafsiyati ward) and two warders. Secretary home department Punjab Noor ul Amin Mengal issued written order in this regard.

The sacked employees are Assistant Superintendent Executive Muhammad Akram, officer incharge (nafsiyati ward) assistant superintendent Riaz Khan, warder barrack warden Namir Abbas. Warder Saqlain Jalal has been pardoned.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking with media persons along with Chief of Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naem Ur Rehman after a meeting at Zardari House, in the Federal Capital.

Orders inquiry & action on negligence Bugti expresses sorrow over bus accident on Western bypass

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has expressed deep sorrow over the bus accident occurred on Brewery Bypass here on Thursday.

The Chief Minister said that the loss of precious human lives is sorrowful and matter of grief. He ordered an inquiry into the road mishap.

He said that dud action would be taken against the responsible if found negligence. The Chief Minister directed to provide better medical treatment facilities to the injured.

He said that we equally share the grief with the bereaved families of those who died in the accident.

He also prayed for the early recovery of the injured persons. Meanwhile, the Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar has expressed sorrow over the accident and loss of lives in it.

He issued directives to provide immediate medical assistance to those injured in the accident. He imposed emergency in the hospitals after the accident and directed to the doctors and medical staff remain present on duty.

Meanwhile, the Minister personally visited the hospital and inquired about the health of injured.



QUETTA: A large number of people are gathered after a bus fell into a ditch due to over speeding, near Hazara Graveyard located on Western Bypass in Quetta.

Chinese Consul General based in Karachi meets Mandokhail: Pak especially Balochistan to become hub of all economic activities with completion of CPEC

Governor

Jaffar Khan Mandokhail says Balochistan an important link of CPEC project and Gwadar is jewel in crown of mega project; stresses need to benefit from profitable opportunities of investment available in Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that Balochistan is an important link of mega project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) while Gwadar is the shining jewel in its (CPEC)'s crown.

He said that Pakistan especially Balochistan would become hub of all economic activities with completion of the CPEC and as such there is a need to benefit from the profitable opportunities of investment available in the province.

The Governor was speaking to the Chinese Consul General based in Karachi, Yang Yundong, who called on him here at the Governor House on Thursday.

During the course of meeting, the matters pertaining to the political and economic changes taking place in the region as well as healthcare facilities and educational scholarships for the students were discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor said that China is our time-tested friend, which has supported Pakistan at different times in history.

He stressed that we would have to learn modern skills along with modern education in view of the future challenges facing both the countries.

The Chinese Consul General on the occasion invited Governor to visit China. Both the leaders were agreed on extending cooperation and assistance in different sectors.



KARACHI: Chinese Consul General Yang Yundong meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Seven killed as wedding bus falls into gorge

QUETTA (APP): At least seven people died and 19 people including children and women received injuries as a bus plunged into ravine near Brewery Road's Bypass area of Quetta on Thursday.

According to police sources, the bus carrying wedding party plunged into gorge due to tyre burst.

As a result, seven people died on the spot while 19 people including woman and children sustained injuries.

The bodies and injured were shifted to Civil Hospital where started medical aid. The bodies were identified Naseebullah, Haji Naqibullah and small girls including Zeenat Bibi, Bibi Alia, Bibi Safia and Bibi Alia.

The injured including Habibullah, Bibi Nooria, Bibi Fatima, Bibi Khakija, Najiba, Bibi Tayyiba, Bibi Jamila, Palusha, Bibi Nadia, Bibi Ruqia, Bibi Ajwa, Bibi Abida, Bibi Malala, Bibi Zulikha, Bibi Alia, Bibi Jamila, Bibi Asia, Bibi Naqwa and wife of Naseebullah.

The dead bodies were handed over to the heirs after completion of medico legal formalities.

Further investigation was underway.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Health Bakht Muhammad Kakar being briefed by MD Trauma Center Dr. Arbab Kamran about treatment of injured of Western bypass accident.

We have to eradicate poliovirus together: CM takes notice of poliovirus case reported from Zhob; seeks inquiry report

Mir Sarfraz Bugti directs to launch special anti-polio campaign in province making it most effective

Independent Report

QUETTA: Highly concerned about the rise in cases of poliovirus in Balochistan, the Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has taken notice of the new case of poliovirus reported from Zhob district of the province, and sought the inquiry report about it.

The Chief Minister stressed that we would have to eradicate poliovirus, which otherwise cripple the children, together.

He said that each and every case diagnosed with poliovirus happens to be painful and matter of concern.

The Chief Minister said that at the time when world is finding new avenues of development, we are not ridding of the poliovirus.

He urged the parents to get their children administered the anti-polio drops voluntarily. Moreover, he directed to the Health Department and Emergency Operation Center for Polio Eradication to launch special anti-polio campaign in the province. He also directed to make the immunization campaign most effective.

Attack on DC Sherani: a cowardly attempt to undermine public service and progress

By Saleem Rind

SHERANI - In a deeply regrettable and condemnable incident, an attack was carried out on Deputy Commissioner Sherani, Sanaa Mahjabeen Umrani. This shocking act was not only a direct assault on her person but also an attack on her relentless dedication to public service, her efforts to improve governance, and her commitment to transparency in the region.

DC Umrani has tirelessly devoted her energies to the betterment of her community, launching and overseeing several key developmental projects in Sherani. This heinous act underscores the presence of certain elements who seek to disrupt the development process and intimidate

public servants. However, their efforts to instill fear and halt progress will undoubtedly fail.

Known for her bravery, resilience, and unwavering dedication to the rights of the people, Sanaa Mahjabeen Umrani has stood firm in her mission to uplift her community. Her primary focus has always been the welfare of the people and the advancement of the region. She remains steadfast in her mission, refusing to be deterred by such cowardly actions.

This attack is not merely a physical assault on her but a symbolic attack on the values she upholds—those of development, prosperity, and service to the most disadvantaged areas. Public service is a sacred duty, and the role

played by officers like DC Umrani is a beacon of hope for societal progress.

Despite this setback, Sanaa Mahjabeen Umrani's courage remains unshaken. Her exemplary services to the people of Sherani are well-known, and any attempt to obstruct her mission of public welfare is a blow against the aspirations of the community. It is essential that brave, hardworking officers like her receive the support and protection they deserve to continue serving with renewed passion and commitment. The community must stand with DC Umrani during this challenging time, ensuring that those who seek to halt progress through violence are not allowed to succeed in their destructive agenda.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi being presented an Australian Cricket team's autographed bat by the Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins.

Naqvi meets Australian HC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday met with Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins at Ministry of Interior and discussed mutual interest, bilateral relations etc.

Interior Minister welcomed the Australian High Commissioner upon his arrival. During the meeting, bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest were discussed in detail. It was agreed to enhance cooperation in border management and counter-human trafficking. It was also considered to designate Islamabad Capital Territory and Australian Capital Territory as sister cities.

Mohsin Naqvi stated that Pakistan cricket team will visit Australia on October 30, and hoped that the tour will provide an excellent opportunity for the people of both countries to witness exciting games. He further said that No Objection Certificates (NOCs) will be issued to Pakistani women cricketers to participate in Australia's Women Big Bash League. Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins as-

sured that Australia will provide cooperation in training, young women's cricket, and blind cricket team. The Australian High Commissioner also presented a cricket bat autographed by the Australian Cricket team to the Interior Minister.

Interior Minister stated that a full team has been deployed for border management and counter-human trafficking, which was working day and night to prevent human smuggling to Australia and other countries. He added that efforts are being made to enhance the capacity of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in this regard. Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins offered that Pakistan can benefit from Australia's modern border management techniques and equipment. Interior welcomed the High Commissioner's offer.

Both sides agreed to hold the meeting of Joint Working Group in Australia during December. Interior Minister also said that Pakistan is providing all possible facilities for the relocation of Afghan refugees in Australia.

PCB announces match officials for Pak-England test rubber

LAHORE (APP): West Indies' Sir Richie Richardson, who is a member of the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, will lead the playing control teams for the three ICC World Test Championship 2023-25 fixtures between England and hosts Pakistan.

Both teams are scheduled to play three-match Test series in Multan and Rawalpindi from 7 to 28 October. The first Test match will be played at the Multan Cricket Stadium from 7 to 11 October, while the second Test match will be played at the same venue from 15 to 19 October. The third Test match will commence on 24 October and will take place at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

For the first Test, Sri Lanka's Kumar Dharmasena and Bangladesh's Sharfuddoula Saikat - both ICC Elite Panel of Umpires, will perform duties as on-field umpires. New Zealand's Christopher Gaffaney, also part of the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires, will be the third umpire, while Pakistan's Asif Yaqoob (ICC International Panel of Umpires) will act as fourth umpire.

For the second Test, Kumar Dharmasena will join Christopher Gaffaney for on-field umpires' duties, while Sharfuddoula Saikat will perform duties of the third umpire. Pakistan's Rashid Riaz, also part of the ICC International Panel of Umpires, will be the fourth umpire. For third Test at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Christopher Gaffaney and Sharfuddoula Saikat will perform the duties of as on-field umpires, while Kumar Dharmasena will serve as a third umpire.

Malaysian PM given guard of honour at PM House

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister of Malaysia Anwar Ibrahim on Thursday was given the guard of honour here as he arrived at the Prime Minister House to meet his counterpart Shehbaz Sharif and hold the delegation-level talks.

As he arrived at the venue of the formal welcome ceremony, Prime Minister Shehbaz warmly welcomed the foreign dignitary who arrived here on a three-day state visit to Pakistan on Wednesday.

The national anthems of Pakistan and Malaysia were played as the foreign dignitary stood at the salute dias.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim being presented Guard of Honor upon arrival at the Prime Minister's House.

Women's T20 World Cup: Pakistan register 31-run victory over Sri Lanka

Lankans fail to chase 117-run target as Green Shirts' Sadia Iqbal dismisses three batters

Sports Desk

SHARJAH: Pakistan bounced back with their bowlers bamboozling Sri Lanka as they failed to chase the 117-run target in the second match of the Women's T20 World Cup on Thursday at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium.

The Sri Lankans fell 32 runs short of target and were only able to score 85 runs at the loss of nine wickets against the bowlers of Pakistan who are famous for their mastery.

Apart from Nilakshika Silva and Vishmi Gunaratne - they scored 22 off 25 and 20 off 34 respectively - of Sri Lanka, the rest of the batters failed to leave an impressive mark with their individual scores.

Pakistan's Sadia Iqbal topped the wicket-taking chart with her three scalps with Omaima Sohai, Nashra Sandhu and Fatima Sana turned the game in their teams' favour after taking two wickets each as the side successfully registered a 31-run win.

Earlier, the Green Shirts had bundled out on 116 runs after they won the toss and opted to bat first.

Sri Lankan bowlers excelled with the ball as Pa-

kistan women team bundled out on 116 runs in the second match of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024.

Opted to bat first, the Green Shirts had a dismal start to their innings with Sugandika Kumari dismissing both openers Muneeba Ali and Gull Feroza inside four overs with just 17 runs on the board. Adding further to the misery, Sri Lanka captain Athapaththu removed Sidra Amin in the sixth over of the innings. The right-handed batter scored 12 off 10 deliveries with the help of one boundary.

Experienced all-rounder Nida Dar then joined Omaima as they managed a 25-run partnership for the fourth wicket until the youngster fell victim to Kavisha Dilhari in the 10th over. She managed 18 off 19 deliveries, laced up with a four.

Dar then put on a brief partnership with Tuba Hassan (5) before getting bowled to Udeshika Prabodhani. The former captain smashed a six on her way to a 22-ball 23.

The wickets continued falling as Tuba Hassan and Aliya Riaz were dismissed by Chamari Athapaththu on back-to-back deliveries.

Pak-Iran PFG condemns Israel's aggression in Gaza, Lebanon

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan-Iran Parliamentary Friendship Group (PFG) in the National Assembly on Thursday condemned Israel's ongoing military aggression in Gaza and Lebanon, massacring hundreds of civilians.

During a meeting with Ambassador of Iran Dr Reza Amiri Moghadam here at the Iranian Embassy, Pak-Iran PFG Convener Syed Naveed Qamar said the Israeli aggression against the people of Gaza and Lebanon was a grave violation of the United Nations Charter and international law, according to a news release.

He said it was a dangerous escalation that had

further endangered peace and security in an already volatile region.

Qamar reaffirmed Pakistan's full support for Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, saying the people of Pakistan stood in solidarity with the people of Lebanon for their right to live in peace and security. He called upon the international community to take urgent steps to hold Israel to account for its adventurism in the region, and its acts of aggression and genocide.

Underscoring brotherly relations between Pakistan and Iran, Qamar reaffirmed the country's commitment to deepen and broaden the existing wide-ranging coop-

eration with the neighbour. The Iranian ambassador thanked the Pak-Iran PFG convener for his visit and affirmed his commitment for promoting the ties between the two countries.

He lauded the role of Parliamentary Friendship Group in devising ways and means towards enhancing cooperation in diverse fields. He also condemned the Israeli aggression in Gaza and Lebanon, and said such acts were destroying regional and global peace.

Qamar informed that during the forthcoming session of the National Assembly, a resolution would also be adopted to condemn Israel's aggression against Lebanon.

PTI challenges steps taken by PPC in absence of Justice Mansoor

KARACHI (Online): PTI has challenged the steps taken by practice and procedure committee in the absence of justice Mansoor Ali Shah.

PTI Additional secretary general Firdous Shamim Naqvi has filed petition through counsel Ali Zafar in Supreme Court (SC). The petitioner has taken plea that September 23 and October 01 decisions of practice and procedure committee comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Amin ud Din be declared illegal.



ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim present Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif his book titled "Asian Renaissance", at a MoU signing ceremony.

Dr Fai urges OIC to advocate for peaceful Kashmir settlement

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary General of the World Kashmir Awareness Forum, has called upon the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to advocate for a just and peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Dr. Fai addressing the OIC Contact Group Meeting on Kashmir at the UN headquarters in New York expressed gratitude for the opportunity to speak and emphasized the people of Jammu and Kashmir's appreciation for the OIC's consistent support, particularly since the 7th Islamic Summit in Casablanca, Morocco, in 1994, KMS reported.

Fai highlighted India's violations of UN Security Council resolutions and the UN Charter, stressing that the recent elections in occupied Jammu and Kashmir were "preposterous, pointless, and nonsensical." He cited concerns about fraudulent elections, draconian laws, and human rights abuses, including the detention of Kashmiri leaders like Yaseen Malik and Shabir Ahmed Shah.

He called for the release of political prisoners and the repeal of draconian laws, particularly the domicile law designed to alter Kashmir's demography.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

TSE-242510563763 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. The Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Killa Saifullah invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee Rs. 1000/- and Bid Security 3%

| S.No | Name of Works | E/Cost |
|------|--|------------|
| 1 | BED CLEARANCE OF GUT SHADEZAI TGANI DAM, MUSLIM BAGH KILLA SAIFULLAH | 74,285,722 |

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 52,000,005 PKR Amount in 2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-4 and above (Upto 200 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE04(iii) (dams only), CE10(i) (General Civil Engineering Works), Credit Line Certificate having of cost of Rs.45 Million Bidder Must have completed 1 No's of Similar nature (Dams De-silting) in last Five Years Minimum cost of project is 50 million Green Challan Rs.1000/- Call Deposit 3% The bidding firm must not be presently blacklisted on stamp paper of Rs.100 duly signed by notary Public 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 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 23 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: Executive Engineer Office Near Circuit House Killa Saifullah Phone no: 0823610660 Fax no: 0823610660 Email: irrigationkillasafullah7002@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
IRRIGATION DIVISION
KILLA SAIFULLAH

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LAHORE: Commander Central Punjab Pakistan Navy Admiral Azhar Mahmood briefing media about 10th Chief of Naval Staff Amateur Net Shield Golf Tournament.

Pakistan, Malaysia agree to deepen...

Continued from page 1

He said that both sides also discussed the "heart-wrenching" and "heart-breaking" situation of Gaza where innocent children, men and women were being killed.

He said under the unparalleled genocide and carnage by Israeli forces, the cities were being demolished in Gaza and both sides stressed the immediate ceasefire.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that both sides discussed the Kashmir issue where people were being denied their right to self-determination despite rendering huge sacrifices for the last several decades. Thousands of Kashmiris have been martyred, many were in detention in 3rd class jails and made subject to severe punishment.

He expressed the hope that the Kashmiris would soon get their right to self-determination in light of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

In his remarks, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said that both sides had agreed on a number of matters and follow-up discussions would be held in the upcoming joint commission meeting in Kuala Lumpur this month to ensure swift implementation of the decisions.

He assured that the Malaysian trade office would be opened in Karachi soon to strengthen economic collaboration be-

tween the two countries.

He said Malaysia was seeking more skilled labour in various sectors including IT, artificial intelligence, and semiconductors and Pakistan could also be a source for such skilled labour.

The Malaysian PM said that Malaysia had agreed to import 100,000 tonnes of Basmati Rice from Pakistan.

Anwar Ibrahim appreciated Prime Minister Shehbaz's address at the United Nations General Assembly in which he had pleaded the case of Gaza effectively.

He also appreciated Pakistan's strong stance against Israel's genocide of Palestinians and escalation of hostilities on the Middle East by Israel.

He said the ongoing aggression in Gaza and Lebanon was not a war between the two countries rather it was a disregard for international order and also questioned the inaction of the global community.

Prime Minister Ibrahim reiterated that Malaysia was committed to the UN Security Council resolutions on Kashmir and believed in an amicable resolution of the dispute.

The two prime ministers also witnessed exchange of signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and a Letter of Cooperation. This included MoU between Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and Malaysia

SC nullifies decision...

Continued from page 1

pointed Barrister Ali Zafar as amicus curiae and asked him to assist the bench.

Ali Zafar, as amicus curiae, said that the objection was not against any personality, and instead it was on the formation of bench.

He said that the original petition was related to the vote in the no-confidence motion but the top court linked the presidential reference with the constitutional petitions. The court disposed of the constitutional petitions by declaring that

it had given an opinion on the reference, and the review petition's scope was limited, he said.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan said that one may be unhappy with the Constitution or the death penalty, but everyone was bound to implement it. "Can a judge take an oath

and saying that he is not happy with this provision of the Constitution," he questioned.

The CJ said that the head of the party had the authority to give or not to give a declaration of defection to someone. The members of the assembly or political parties were subordinate to their leader, not the judges, he said.

On the query of the bench, Farooq H. Naek said that party elections were held under the Election Act, in which the decision of the party chief was taken.

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa said that the decision of Article 63A was a majority decision by the margin of one judge. He questioned that if the opinion of one judge was heavy on the parliament.

He asked that whether the court should send the matter to the President to decide which opinion he agreed with.

Additional Attorney General Aamir Rehman opposed the option and said that the constitutional petitions had also been dealt with the reference. The matter of dealing with the constitutional petitions could not be sent to the President, he added.

The chief justice said that if Article 63A was clear, then what was the need for its interpretation. Appeals of disaffected members also have to come to the Supreme Court, and if the court decision leads to disqualification, the appeal will be ineffective, he remarked.

The Additional Attorney General said that the decision on Article 63A was full of contradictions. He said that on the one hand it said that vote was a fundamental right but at the same time this right was abolished on the direction of the party.



QUETTA: Members of Grand Health Alliance Balochistan are holding protest rally against privatization of government hospitals, in Quetta.

ISSI signs working protocol with Myanmar think-tank

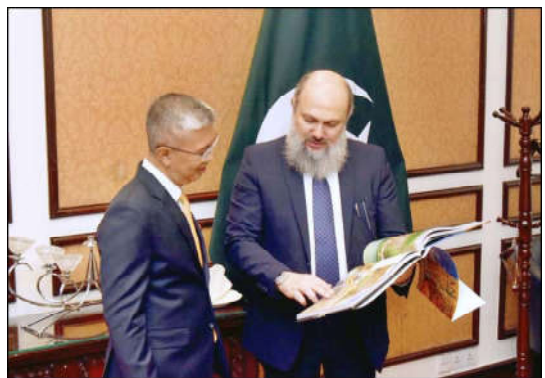
ISLAMABAD (APP): The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) on Thursday signed a Working Protocol aimed at fostering deeper collaboration between the two think-tanks.

The virtual signing ceremony marks a significant milestone in enhancing cooperation on both sides. The event was attended by the Myanmar Ambassador in Islamabad and the Pakistan's Cd'A in Yangon, a news release said. Dr. Khurram Abbas, Director of the India Study Centre at ISSI, moderated the event, who highlighted that this Protocol was a testament to the commitment of both institutions to develop joint research and promote policy advisory on issues of mutual interest.

In his remarks, DG

ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood emphasized the importance of this collaboration, particularly in the wake of rapidly evolving international landscape. He noted that robust research, informed analysis, and scholarly cooperation are essential in understanding global changes and their impacts.

Furthermore, he underlined Pakistan's longstanding relationship with Myanmar, noting that the two countries shared decades of cooperation across diplomatic, economic, security, and cultural spheres. Additionally, he stated that the Protocol was part of ISSI's broader efforts to strengthen ties with think-tanks in ASEAN member states, and lauded the valuable contributions of the Embassies in Islamabad and Yangon for the establishment of ASEAN Corner at ISSI.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan presents "Exploring Pakistan" tourism guide to Malaysian Minister Tengku Zafrul.

NDRMF Business Policy 2024 envisages paradigm shift in disaster, humanitarian sector: Bilal Anwar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Executive Officer (CEO), National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), Bilal Anwar on Thursday said the Fund have launched its first Business Policy 2024 that helped in repurposing and redefining it over a course of 18-month to change the donors' mindset for well-informed disaster resilience interventions.

The document is a 10-year long-term policy intervention being implemented after extensive consultations with all stakeholders, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), NDRMF, Bilal Anwar

said in an exclusive interview with APP while showcasing the efforts and accomplishments of the Fund.

"Resilience building is a long-term process and its challenging amid growing climate catastrophes as every intervention has its impacts but a long-term strategy is necessary and the NDRMF Business Policy is addressing it.

There have been repeated discussions with relevant bodies, provinces, fund implementing partners (FIPs), researchers, practitioners and experts related to the subject which resulted into culmination of



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf in a group photo with officials of Bahria University College of Medicine during ceremony held in Islamabad.

Toshakhana-2 case Bushra Bibi files bail after arrest plea in IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Bushra Bibi wife of PTI founder Imran Khan has resorted to Islamabad High Court (IHC) in connection with her bail after arrest plea in Toshakhana-2 case.

Bushra Bibi has filed bail after arrest plea in IHC through Khalid Yousuf Chaudhry. The petitioner said the petitioner is house wife and she wears veil. The allegations are false and these were got leveled by blackmailing the witnesses. FIA has violated law while case and investigation are based on ill intent.

The petition said the prosecution has raised the case for keeping the petitioner in jail. Case was challenged already in high court before its registration. Running a case repeatedly through different angles is violation of constitution.

Gilani highlights literature's role in capturing history and inspiring change

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, on Thursday emphasized the essential role of literature in capturing history, reflecting cultural diversity, and inspiring meaningful change.

Speaking at the launch of Testament of Love, a captivating collection of short stories by Dr. Nasir Hussain Bukhari, he said, "Testament of Love beautifully encapsulates the essence of the human experience, shedding light on the struggles faced by ordinary individuals in our society."

The event celebrated

not only Dr. Bukhari's remarkable literary achievement but also the profound impact storytelling has on society.

Gilani praised Dr. Bukhari for his exceptional talent and his unwavering commitment to education, democracy, and literature.

He commended Dr. Bukhari's ability to create authentic characters whose stories resonate deeply with readers, fostering empathy and understanding across societal divides.

Gilani also recognized the invaluable contributions of the Founda-

tion for Education, Entrepreneurship, and Literature (FEEL), led by Engr. Dr. Zakaullah Khan and Dr. Salahuddin Darwesh, for their dedicated efforts in promoting literature and addressing pressing social issues.

He further acknowledged the collaboration of the Shaheed Bhutto Foundation and the Pakistan Academy of Letters in organizing the significant event.

Chairman Senate reaffirmed his commitment to advocating for authors' rights and underscored the importance of nurturing literary creativity.

Naval Chief inaugurates Bahria University College of Medicine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Thursday inaugurated Bahria University College of Medicine (BUMC) in the Federal Capital.

Speaking on the occasion, Admiral Naveed Ashraf appreciated the Bahria University's services and achievements in providing quality education in various fields, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

He underscored that while there were many opportunities and challenges ahead, BUMC would evolve into a premier institution for providing top-quality medical education.

The Naval Staff emphasized that the professionalism, commitment and

dedication of faculty members were crucial to establish the campus as one of the leading medical institutes in the country.

Earlier, during his welcome address, Rector Bahria University Vice Admiral @ Asif Khaliq acknowledged the support provided by Pakistan Navy in developing the campus.

The Project Director of Bahria University Health Sciences Islamabad presented details of the project and highlighted the facilities available for students.

The Naval Chief also visited various facilities at the campus and appreciated state of the art infrastructure.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim offering a prayer for tree plantation by the Malaysian Prime Minister.

Dastgir challenges Gandapur to replicate Punjab's dev. success

ISLAMABAD (APP): A senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Khurram Dastgir on Thursday challenged

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to shift focus from criticizing and prioritize development in his province, drawing inspiration from Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's progress.

In an exclusive interview with a private news channel, Dastgir highlighted the stark contrast between the leadership styles of the two provinces, praising Maryam Nawaz Sharif's historic public welfare initiatives and significant strides in Punjab.

By prioritizing development and learning from Punjab's successes, Gandapur can improve the lives of citizens and drive

economic growth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he mentioned.

Dastgir criticized Ali Amin Gandapur's politics, specifically his tenure as Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, adding, Gandapur's is just only focused on personal goals, rather than the well-being of his people.

As a leader, it is essential to prioritize the needs of the people, particularly in areas like education, healthcare, and infrastructure, he added.

In contrast, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's initiatives demonstrate a commitment to progress and development, he mentioned. Her focus on education, skills development and infrastructure projects sets a positive example for other leaders to follow, he appreciated.



ISLAMABAD: Special Envoy & Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia Mr. Jemal Beker Abdula called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.

Hurriyat leaders reiterate call for self-determination, slam India's Intransigence

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a renewed push for resolution of the Kashmir dispute, Hurriyat leaders Thursday reaffirmed the need for self-determination, emphasizing that lasting peace in South Asia hinges on settling the Kashmir dispute in its historical context.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the leaders in their statements issued in Srinagar contended that India's obstinacy jeopardizes peace in South Asia and globally. They also criticized Indian Prime Minister Modi's August 5,

2019, actions as violating UN resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir.

They said, for decades, Kashmiris have awaited fulfillment of their fundamental right to self-determination in the light of the UN's January 5 resolution roadmap as solution to the Kashmir dispute, but always impeded its implementation. The leaders urged the world community to urgently intervene to implement the UN resolutions to resolve the Kashmir dispute according to Kashmiris' aspirations.

IHC halts closure of Tandoori Junction, seeks responses from involved parties

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday adjourned the hearing of a petition challenging the closure of Tandoori Junction, a private hotel in F-7 Markaz, and ordered all involved parties to respond to the court within 15 days.

Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court (IHC) Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case.

Advocate Qaiser Imam represented the petitioner Javed Asif, while Director General of Building Control Authority Faisal Naem, Director of Municipal Ad-

ministration (MDA) and Municipal Corporation Islamabad (MCI) lawyer Yaqoob Mastoi, Deputy Director of CDA Raheel Junejo, CDA's lawyer Shehryar Tariq, and Advocate Zaheer ud Din Babar appeared before the court representing a private hotel, Hill View.

During the hearing, Advocate Zaheer ud Din Babar requested that all related cases be heard together. Chief Justice Aamer Farooq remarked that the other cases were unrelated but agreed to combine them at Babar's request.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to PM on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam chairing a meeting on green Islamabad programme in the Federal Capital.

Not marking Imran video link attendance ATC issues show cause notice, seeks reply from Jail authorities

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad has issued show cause notice to jail authorities and sought reply from them for not marking attendance of PTI founder Imran Khan via video link.

Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra of ATC took up for hearing case registered against PTI leaders with reference to Azadi March Thursday. The counsels for former Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan appeared in the court.

Khurram Nawaz, Aamir Mehmood Kiyani and Jamsheed Mughal too appeared in the court.

The counsel Tanvir Hussain filed exemption from attendance plea in respect of Ali Nawaz Awan.

Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra inquired where is Asad Umar.

The counsel told the court Asad Umar has been discharged from this case.

The ATC judge remarked medical certificate of Tanvir Hussain be attached with the application Attendance report in respect of Imran Khan has come wherein it is stated that internet is not available. Online attendance cannot be marked. Such report had come on previous day. Show cause notice was issued.

Today I am issuing notice too. I will write if net is not available then Imran Khan be presented in person.

The court while issuing show cause notice to jail authorities for not marking attendance of Imran Khan

via video link adjourned the hearing of the case till October 21.

On the other side the court has maintained arrest warrants of KP Chief Minister (C M) Ali Amin Gandapur and Wasiq Qayyum in the case registered against them in police station I-9 Islamabad. The exemption from attendance plea of Rashid Hafeez was accepted.

Exemption from attendance plea was presented on behalf of Shibli Faraz in protest and vandalism case while Murad Saeed, Daniyal Ahmad, Hammad Azhar, Hassan Niazi, Ali Nawaz and Shibli Faraz did not appear.

The court adjourned hearing of further cases till October 21.



ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad High Court Bar Association Riasat Ali Azad addresses a press conference at IHC Bar.

Lawyers back constitutional amendment and creation of constitutional court

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prominent lawyers on Thursday expressed strong support for the constitutional amendment aimed at establishing a Federal Constitutional Court, emphasizing that such a reform is essential for judicial efficiency and modernization of the legal system.

Advocate Asif Irfan, former Secretary of the Islamabad Bar Association, highlighted the urgent need for judicial reforms to address the deficiencies of the outdated judicial system.

Talking to APP, he called for collective efforts to modernize the judiciary, stating that the proposed changes would enhance the speed and quality of justice

in the country.

Welcoming the establishment of a Federal Constitutional Court, Advocate Mazhar Javed, another former Secretary of the Islamabad Bar Association, noted that the new court would be dedicated to cases of a constitutional and political nature.

This, he said, would allow the Supreme Court of Pakistan to focus on general cases, ultimately speeding up the dispensation of justice for the people.

Advocate Supreme Court, Javed Iqbal Banday, echoed this sentiment, pointing out that the creation of the Constitutional Court would significantly reduce the workload on the Supreme Court.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Health Dr. Mukhtar Bharath visited NIRM Hospital to review the medical facilities.

IHC issues notice to secretary aviation, CAA on complaint from handicapped woman

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued notices to secretary aviation and Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on the petition filed against discriminatory treatment meted out by private airline company to an handicapped woman. The court has ordered respondents to file reply within 10 days.

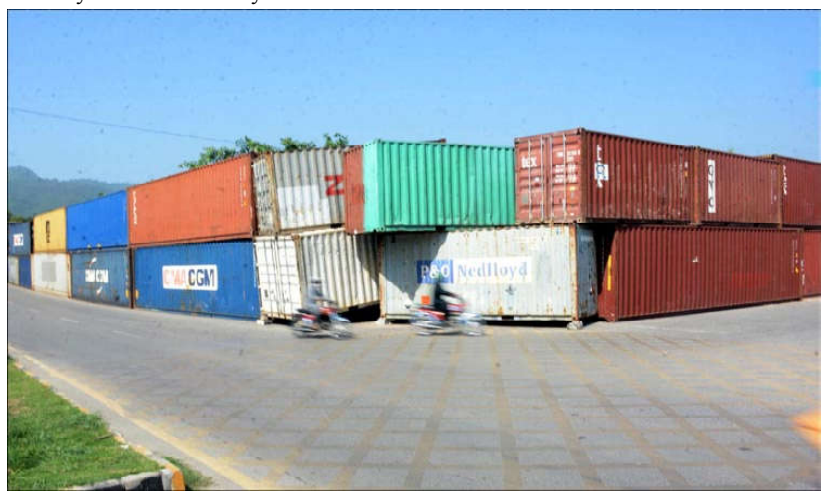
Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer Farooq took up the case for hearing Thursday. Lady Zohra Sami, resident of Karachi filed petition in IHC stating that the petitioner lady is disabled person and she uses wheel chair for movement. She booked ticket of private airline company from Lahore to Karachi. She had to face extremely discriminatory

treatment by private airline company. The company forbade her to board on plane in absence of servant.

She further said in the petition that no information in this regard were available on website of private airline company. She had to miss flight. On the other hand private airlines company did not even bother to give any clarification.

The petition said this attitude of private airline company constitutes violation of basic rights enshrined in article 9, 14 and 15 of the constitution.

Rule No 81 of civil aviation authority gives right to handicapped person to decide about presence of servant with him or her.



ISLAMABAD: Containers have been placed at D Chowk due to PTI protest.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
Friday October 04, 2024

Judicial infighting

The ongoing spat within the Supreme Court has raised serious concerns about the integrity of the country's highest judicial forum at a time of unprecedented crises.

Instead of articulating their differences through formal judgments, which judges are expected to do, senior justices have taken to airing their grievances in public. Their sparring has eroded the court's power and left it vulnerable. The chief justice has been made the target of much criticism in recent days — owing, perhaps, to his seemingly contradictory positions before and after taking office.

However, to blame any individual would be unfair. Other senior judges equally share the responsibility for the ongoing turmoil. For example, the recent note addressed by the senior puisne judge to the chief justice questioning the exclusion of a third judge from the Supreme Court's apex committee should perhaps not have ended up in the public domain. Nor should, for that matter, the response to it. Indeed, it would have been much better for the issue to have been addressed internally through consultation and debate. Alas, the bitter exchanges have added fuel to the fire. The episode has only solidified the perception that the judges have chosen to take sides against each other and do not wish to work towards a resolution, thus further damaging the judiciary's prestige and weakening public confidence in its ability to function impartially. As other state institutions grow more assertive, continued failure to present a united front will increasingly endanger the apex court's authority. It is also painful to note how the current schism is turning into a rather disturbing reflection of a past crisis. One cannot help but recall former chief justice Sajjad Ali Shah's troubled tenure, which culminated in his downfall because of persistent discord within his court. While that comparison seems crude at this point — and one sincerely hopes that the situation never comes to pass — the present judiciary should guard against the path leading to it.

The judges must recognise that their squabbling has proven to be a godsend for those who have long wished to weaken the court and capture the state. The government's refusal to implement the court's decision in the reserved seats case is example enough of how other institutions will take advantage of the situation.

The responsibility for restoring the court's writ lies with the senior-most judges of the Supreme Court. They must prioritise their institution over their personal differences and make a sincere, concerted effort to resolve their problems. There is time still for them to come together and settle all disputes amicably. The judiciary has survived many challenges in the past, and it can do so again. For that, its leaders must let bygones be bygones and act with wisdom and restraint.

Sakib Sherani

Designed to be the international lender of last resort and help countries facing short-run balance-of-payments distress, the IMF has a rich history of being the quack physician that killed the patient.

Driven by myopic market fundamentalism and riddled with policy missteps, its advice and actions have too often in the past proven to be detrimental to the long-run interests of its borrowers, whether in Latin America, East Asia, Greece or Pakistan.

Since its founding, but more overtly since the 1990s, it has allowed the interests of its shareholders, including the geopolitical objectives of the largest, to trump the well-being of smaller sovereign borrowers.

To those not familiar with the IMF's history of flawed advice to developing countries, Pakistan's latest programme encapsulates many of the Fund's failures over the decades. Bad lending policy, bad programme design, bad policy advice, and suspect projections are the hallmarks of its latest lending arrangement.

For a start, perhaps the

most egregious failure has occurred with the Fund's lending practices. Countries seeking the Fund's safety net are typically low- or low-middle income, debt-distressed nations experiencing an exogenous shock. Like Pakistan, they have been tipped into a sovereign debt crisis by a combination of poor national policy choices, bad economic management, and unfavourable external developments. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, however, developing countries have been compelled to accumulate unsustainable levels of debt, with the IMF itself being a leading international voice calling for concerted global action to deal with the consequences.

Rather than playing a more assertive role in constructing a proactive and flexible framework for dealing with the debt-distress of developing countries, it is forcing distressed borrowers such as Pakistan to close even small financing gaps by punitively high-cost commercial borrowing.

With a financing gap of only around \$2 billion needing to be filled, Pakistan's current IMF loan was on hold for months as the coun-

try was made to camp at the door of creditors seeking loan rollovers while also scouring the globe for fresh financing.

In doing so, it became the target of predatory lending, agreeing to a short-term commercial loan at an 11 per cent interest rate, the most expensive external borrowing in its history. This interest rate will not only set the benchmark for additional foreign currency commercial borrowing that the country is going to require in FY25, estimated at \$13.9bn, but will also seriously undermine its external debt sustainability.

Is this what the IMF's lending policy should be designed to achieve? This self-defeating behaviour on the part of the Fund is an abdication of its mandate and responsibility to distressed borrowers such as Pakistan. To make matters worse, the IMF's own charges and all-in cost of funds are punitive, with Pakistan reportedly being charged 5.09pc on the recent Stand-by Arrangement. Since 2022 alone, Pakistan has paid the IMF a whopping \$750 million in interest and charges.

To ensure Pakistan bounces back sustainably

money supply has managed to nip the problem in the bud. As an aside, this should put to rest the questions raised during the period the State Bank ran record-high interest rates to combat the record-high inflation.

Numerous people have asked whether high interest rates have ever helped bring inflation down in Pakistan. The answer is that high interest rates are pretty much the only tool that has ever succeeded in putting out inflationary bushfires, whether in the late 2000s or the early 2020s.

But compare some macroeconomic indicators shared in the latest IMF statement following the Executive Board's approval. The final report has still not been released, so we will have to wait a few more days for the finer details. Broadly speaking, though, almost all projections show improving fundamentals when compared with the same projections from the staff report of May 2024, which came at the conclusion of the last Stand-

by Arrangement. Here are some examples of what was projected for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 in May. Revenue grants were seen coming in at 12.5pc and 12.4pc of GDP, whereas they are now projected at 12.6pc and 15.4pc, respectively. The primary balance on the fiscal account was projected to show a surplus of 0.4pc of GDP for both fiscal years back in May.

Today, it is projected at 0.9pc and 2pc of GDP instead, a marked improvement. Back in May, general government and government-guaranteed debt was projected to come in at 76pc and 73.6pc of GDP for both fiscal years. Today, it is projected at 73pc and 75.1pc, showing some improvement in the current fiscal year, but something is driving it back up again next year. To find out why it is projected to rise in the next fiscal year, we will have to wait for the staff report.

The story continues, though. On the external side, projections drawn up in May on the current account showed a deficit of

0.8pc and 1.2pc in the two respective fiscal years. In the latest projections for the same fiscal year, these have come down to 0.2pc and 0.9pc respectively. Projections of gross reserves are more or less unchanged in both scenarios, hinting possibly at higher debt-service payments on the external side in the next fiscal year, but once again, we will have to wait for the final staff report to be released before being able to say anything definitively.

The story goes on and on. The economy has not seen a period of stability like this since at least 2019. Calm is returning to the markets, to the outlook, to the macro indicators, the fiscal equation, and the monetary aggregates after a period of intense volatility that ran at least from 2021 to 2023. This much is undeniable, and it needs to be said.

However, another thing also needs to be said. This is a fragile calm reached after a hard-fought struggle. It has taken more than 13 months of relentless adjustment and heaving to

very tough and narrow conditions to achieve it. But it can be lost in 13 weeks if the rope of adjustment is let go prematurely. The staff report to be released in the next few days will tell us how long this bout of austerity and stability must last before the country can be said to be out of the woods. But it is safe to say that not much can change until end FY25.

Periods of calm have been brought about in the past as well. The year 2019 was the last example. Before that, we had a volatile period of destabilising growth in the mid-2010s. Prior to these was another period of very difficult adjustment and absorption of the consequences of the great financial crisis as well as the escalating war on terror.

In each case, the hard-fought stability was squandered as the government of the day gunned for growth without reform. Rather than making changes to the economy's productivity, growth was induced by showering resources upon economic agents,

whether in the form of subsidies, artificially low exchange rates and interest rates, amnesty schemes, and other such gimmicks. That is what created the boom. That is also what created the bust.

This is the temptation that must be avoided now. In the weeks to come, the rulers are likely to feel that enough has been done to stabilise the economy, and the time has come to shift gears towards growth. But the economy is not ready for growth, and pumping the accelerator will only squander this stability and bring back volatility and shrill warnings of default.

It is important to draw up a vision of reform that can help the economy shed its baggage of unproductive state-owned enterprises that have been kept afloat only by government bailouts and uncompetitive private sector firms addicted to rents. Without such a vision, Pakistan will forever remain trapped in a low-growth equilibrium.

Mixed developments**Khurram Husain**

The news is not all bad, though the outlook remains gloomy and will take at least a year to rectify. The stabilisation phase of economic management is drawing to a close.

The government is making the right moves with plans for a debt buyback to retire a large amount of maturing Treasury bills, although one hopes this won't simply be swapped with one debt instrument or another. The sheer size of the domestic debt, standing at slightly below 50 per cent of the total GDP (at current market prices), certainly makes it the elephant in the room, and it seems the government might finally be turning its attention to bringing this under control.

Inflation dropping to below 7pc, based on the year-on-year increase in the Consumer Price Index, is also a welcome development. This was supposed to happen by the same time next year as per projections, but tightly controlled

real progress in the country." From this was born his slogan: 'The peasant is master of this country.'

In another, at a dinner given by the Soviets in their embassy, he tweaked his communist hosts: "I don't see among us any of the men who prepared this feast." Within minutes, the cook and other servants were called to the "classless table".

Daringly for his time, Atatürk advocated gender equality. In a national meeting of teachers, he taunted the organisers: "Why did you make them sit apart from the men? Don't you trust your selves, or have you no faith in the virtue of these ladies?"

Regarding religion, Kinross tells us that Atatürk was not for the eradication of Islam. What he sought was "to disengage it from the condition of being a political instrument, which it had been for centuries of habit".

Kinross describes Atatürk's tortuous efforts to reform the Turkish alphabet. Atatürk spent hours poring over old and new dictionaries in search of "pure Turkish words". His aim was to purify the language of Arabic and Persian infusions. Eventually, he compromised by "naturalising" words that had no Turkish equivalent. Atatürk's achievement was to give his countrymen a language and alphabet comprehensible to anyone who had learned the new ABC, thereby reinforcing 'Turkishness'.

Muslims in India saw in Atatürk's Turkey the possibility of a viable Muslim state. The Indian khilafat committee evidenced its support through an Indian fund. Its contributions were used for the construction of a new parliament building in 'Angora' and the foundation of Turkey's first nationalist bank.

Western historians

have written much about Winston Churchill's disastrous failure at Gallipoli in 1915-16. Kinross provides a corrective account from a Turkish perspective. He highlights Atatürk's military success there as a military commander, despite being heavily outnumbered.

Even in defeat, though, Churchill admitted that "loaded with follies, stained with crimes, rotted with misgovernment, shattered by battle, worn down by long disastrous wars, his Empire falling to pieces around him, the Turk was still alive". Many Pakistanis will recognise in Churchill's words the present condition of our beleaguered homeland.

Kinross analyses traits found in many of our own Atatürk facsimiles: "Kemal was not born for cooperation, except in so far as necessity demanded it. He was born to dominate. Aware of this, [his closest supporters] while following him loyally, had watched him warily. They accepted his leadership but remained on guard against the personal ambition that conditioned his patriotism."

In one paragraph, Kinross comes uncomfortably close to our present political situation. Gen J.G. Harbord, an envoy of US president Woodrow Wilson, meets Atatürk. He asks him how he proposes to reconstruct Turkey: "Kemal as he talked had been playing with a string of prayer beads [...] He pulled the string apart, and the beads were scattered all over the floor. Picking them up one by one, he remarked that here was the answer to the general's questions. He meant to draw the pieces of his country together."

It took Atatürk only 15 years (three times a Pakistani prime minister's ordained term) to restring his rosary into today's Turkey. -- Courtesy Dawn

from its unstable low-growth trajectory, the IMF should be leading the effort for a broad-based external debt restructuring that gives the country sufficient breathing space to put in place appropriate policies under the aegis of a Fund programme. Instead, the international lender has consistently worked to defer the inevitable, while focusing its efforts on unwarrantedly singling out China for a 'bail in'.

In order to ensure that Pakistan can continue to repay the Fund, and the latter's preferred and superior creditor status remains protected, the IMF has worked hard to make sure that the country's access to commercial and bilateral foreign currency loans is not choked off. To achieve this has required the maintenance of a façade of sustainability of Pakistan's external debt — which the IMF has provided periodically via its ambiguous and questionable Debt Sustainability Analysis or DSAs.

With the country's mounting sovereign debt distress clear to all for several years, the IMF continued to term it 'sustainable'

until as recently as January 2024, albeit noting the risks as 'high'. This equivocal signal to capital markets marks a serious failure of the Fund's fiduciary responsibility.

I have written quite extensively over the years on the failings of IMF programme design and will not delve too deeply into this aspect here. The bottom line is that the design of Fund programmes is fatally flawed in most cases, in that it creates perverse incentives and has unintended consequences. In the case of Pakistan, poor programme design has set up perpetual negative feedback loops in tax collection and the energy sector, which have worsened rather than helped the underlying structural problems.

Furthermore, the near-exclusive focus on fiscal austerity via asphyxiating tax collection from the formal sector while giving the government a free pass on unwarranted expenditure, mostly political bribes to constituents and institutional backers, points to the political undertones of its lending. It also misses the root cause of Pakistan's boom-bust growth: an abysmally small export sector

and its supply chain which need to be nurtured rather than suffocated.

Instead, the programme has mounted an assault on the survivability of the formal sector, treating it as the problem, rather than focusing on capturing the large non-compliant segments of the tax base. In doing so, the programme appears to have been designed by diligent bean-counters rather than competent economists. Additionally, the IMF's programme design has failed repeatedly to get the burden of adjustment right. While it rightly calls for expanded safety nets for the poorest and most vulnerable, it impoverishes the lower- and middle-income segments of society through 'shock therapy' involving steep increases in administered prices, increased incidence of taxation, removal of subsidies, and growth-stifling austerity that produces unemployment and turbocharges poverty. Numerous countries under the IMF's stranglehold, ranging from Argentina, Indonesia, Greece, and Egypt, and now Pakistan, have seen spiralling poverty due to programme conditionality. -- Courtesy Dawn

very tough and narrow conditions to achieve it. But it can be lost in 13 weeks if the rope of adjustment is let go prematurely. The staff report to be released in the next few days will tell us how long this bout of austerity and stability must last before the country can be said to be out of the woods. But it is safe to say that not much can change until end FY25.

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It is important to draw up a vision of reform that can help the economy shed its baggage of unproductive state-owned enterprises that have been kept afloat only by government bailouts and uncompetitive private sector firms addicted to rents. Without such a vision, Pakistan will forever remain trapped in a low-growth equilibrium.

Modern facsimiles**F.S. Aijazuddin**

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was born in Turkey, in 1881. Since then, facsimiles have been spawned many times: Soekarno in Indonesia, Lt-Col Rawlings in Ghana, Col Nasser in Egypt, Field Marshal Ayub Khan et alia in Pakistan. Each wore the uniform of a patriot, tailored for him, as he believed, by destiny.

Patrick Kinross' definitive biography Atatürk: The Rebirth of a Nation (1964) is a must-read for anyone (in jail or out of it), with time on his hands and thwarted patriotism smouldering in his heart.

Atatürk's political ideas assumed a "coherent shape" early in his life, while he was still a lieutenant at the military training school at Montastir. "He began to devour history as he had previously devoured mathematics and poetry. He read all he could about the career of Napoleon who became (with qualifications) one of his heroes."

Like Napoleon, Atatürk suffered from the highest form of narcissism. "In so far as Atatürk was capable of love," Kinross explains, "he loved his country." In time, Atatürk would have a loyal mistress Fikriye whom he later discarded for a wife, Latife. Fikriye later committed suicide.

When Latife became too demanding and possessive, he divorced her. Childless, Atatürk adopted eight children. Turkey though remained the enduring love of his life. That, and the people of Turkey.

Two incidents in Kinross' biography present little known facets of Atatürk's innate egalitarianism. One day in Sofia, Atatürk notices a peasant being denied service in a tea house. He hides the waiter: "As long as the peasant is not master of the country, there can be no

real progress in the country." From this was born his slogan: 'The peasant is master of this country.'

In another, at a dinner given by the Soviets in their embassy, he tweaked his communist hosts: "I don't see among us any of the men who prepared this feast." Within minutes, the cook and other servants were called to the "classless table".

Daringly for his time, Atatürk advocated gender equality. In a national meeting of teachers, he taunted the organisers: "Why did you make them sit apart from the men? Don't you trust your selves, or have you no faith in the virtue of these ladies?"

Regarding religion, Kinross tells us that Atatürk was not for the eradication of Islam. What he sought was "to disengage it from the condition of being a political instrument, which it had been for centuries of habit".

Kinross describes Atatürk's tortuous efforts to reform the Turkish alphabet. Atatürk spent hours poring over old and new dictionaries in search of "pure Turkish words". His aim was to purify the language of Arabic and Persian infusions. Eventually, he compromised by "naturalising" words that had no Turkish equivalent. Atatürk's achievement was to give his countrymen a language and alphabet comprehensible to anyone who had learned the new ABC, thereby reinforcing 'Turkishness'.

Muslims in India saw in Atatürk's Turkey the possibility of a viable Muslim state. The Indian khilafat committee evidenced its support through an Indian fund. Its contributions were used for the construction of a new parliament building in 'Angora' and the foundation of Turkey's first nationalist bank.

Western historians

have written much about Winston Churchill's disastrous failure at Gallipoli in 1915-16. Kinross provides a corrective account from a Turkish perspective. He highlights Atatürk's military success there as a military commander, despite being heavily outnumbered.

Even in defeat, though, Churchill admitted that "loaded with follies, stained with crimes, rotted with misgovernment, shattered by battle, worn down by long disastrous wars, his Empire falling to pieces around him, the Turk was still alive". Many Pakistanis will recognise in Churchill's words the present condition of our beleaguered homeland.

Kinross analyses traits found in many of our own Atatürk facsimiles: "Kemal was not born for cooperation, except in so far as necessity demanded it. He was born to dominate. Aware of this, [his closest supporters] while following him loyally, had watched him warily. They accepted his leadership but remained on guard against the personal ambition that conditioned his patriotism."

In one paragraph, Kinross comes uncomfortably close to our present political situation. Gen J.G. Harbord, an envoy of US president Woodrow Wilson, meets Atatürk. He asks him how he proposes to reconstruct Turkey: "Kemal as he talked had been playing with a string of prayer beads [...] He pulled the string apart, and the beads were scattered all over the floor. Picking them up one by one, he remarked that here was the answer to the general's questions. He meant to draw the pieces of his country together."

It took Atatürk only 15 years (three times a Pakistani prime minister's ordained term) to restring his rosary into today's Turkey. -- Courtesy Dawn

Bringing them home**Rabiya Javeri Agha**

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's visit to Pakistan is a crucial opportunity to address an important humanitarian and diplomatic issue — the signing of a long-awaited prisoner transfer agreement. A PTA would allow our nationals imprisoned in Malaysia to serve the remainder of their sentences in Pakistan, close to their families and communities. This is a matter of protecting the fundamental rights and dignity of our citizens, many of whom are vulnerable and facing harsh conditions abroad.

Pakistani prisoners in Malaysia have skyrocketed to 463 as of September 2024, a staggering 55 per cent surge in just seven months from February's count of 299. More disturbingly, it marks a massive 142pc increase since September 2022. These numbers don't just represent statistics; they reflect disrupted lives and separated families, underscoring an urgent need for action and diplomatic intervention.

These Pakistanis face a range of charges, from immigration violations and petty offences to more serious crimes, often under harsh laws like the Dangerous Drugs Act. Many face harsh penalties due to inadequate legal representation, language barriers, and limited consular support. Pakistan must act by securing a PTA with Malaysia, following the example set by neighbouring countries such as Iran.

A growing prisoner count highlights the need for systemic solutions. With international labour migration key to Pakistan's economy, protecting citizens abroad is vital. Over 85,000 Pakistanis in Malaysia con-

tributed \$71 million in remittances in 2024 alone. However, these migrant workers often find themselves at a disadvantage as foreign nationals in Malaysia's strict immigration system, leading to prolonged detentions and harsh sentences.

A PTA would allow our nationals to serve their sentences in a familiar environment where they can access support networks, family visits, and culturally sensitive legal assistance. Without a PTA, these individuals remain isolated, facing legal challenges and the emotional toll of separation from their families.

In recent years, Pakistan and Malaysia have strengthened commercial ties through increased trade and migration. As this relationship continues to grow, it is imperative that both nations ensure adequate protections for their citizens. The high rate of Pakistani migration to Malaysia means that more Pakistanis will inevitably face legal issues abroad. The absence of a PTA would mean continued detentions under foreign systems.

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's empathy for human rights is well-known, making this visit a timely opportunity to bring the issue to the forefront of diplomatic talks. His recent leadership in signing a PTA with Iran in 2024 serves as an example that Pakistan can follow. Malaysia's consistent engagement with Iran and other countries demonstrates a growing international recognition of the importance of these agreements. Since 2020, Malaysia has signed PTAs with Ukraine, Brunei, and Iran facilitating not only the transfer of prisoners but also strengthening diplomatic and consular relations. With Pakistan's

rapidly increasing population in Malaysia, it must aim to be the next country to formalise such an agreement.

In light of this pressing issue, the National Commission for Human Rights of Pakistan is taking proactive steps to address the situation. We are collaborating closely with SUHAKAM, Malaysia's National Human Rights Institution, to gather comprehensive data on Pakistani prisoners in Malaysia. This partnership allows access to crucial information that might otherwise be difficult to obtain. We are also working in tandem with the Pakistan High Commission in Malaysia, which has been instrumental in sharing data and providing support for our efforts.

NCHR and SUHAKAM's collaboration facilitates better understanding of the situation and strengthens diplomatic ties between our two nations. By working together, we can ensure that Pakistani prisoners' rights are protected, and their cases are handled with care and consideration. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's state visit presents a unique opportunity to address this critical issue. His human rights commitment makes him an ideal partner for Pakistan. The NCHR-SUHAKAM collaboration sets a strong foundation for PTA discussions, showing both countries' commitment to this humanitarian concern. It is time for Pakistan and Malaysia to sign a PTA. This is a diplomatic necessity and moral obligation. NCHR is ready to support the Pakistani government, using our collaboration with SUHAKAM and the Pakistan High Commission to uphold Pakistani nationals' rights abroad. -- Courtesy Dawn

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AJK President still remembers bleak memory of earthquake

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that painful memories 19 years ago of the tragic October 8, 2005 deadly earthquake that shook Azad Jammu Kashmir and other areas of Pakistan still haunt its inhabitants.

Those who witnessed the ravages of the natural calamity with their own eyes will hardly ever forget it," he said in a message on 19th Anniversary of history's worst killer earthquake being observed on October 8.

Sultan added that the cataclysmic tremors left thousands of people, including men, women and

children dead, while many cities, towns and villages were completely destroyed.

He said that compensation for the loss of human lives caused by the earthquake was not possible, but the government tried its best to rehabilitate the victims, rebuild and reconstruct the damaged infrastructure.

The president said that the memories of all those who lost their lives on 8 October 2005 were still fresh and alive in our hearts.

He thanked the international community, especially Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, the United King-

dom, European countries and the People's Republic of China, for providing relief and rescue to the people of AJK in the difficult time.

The president said that the international community's generous support besides the exceptional financial relief by the government of Pakistan helped the state government and the people to successfully tackle the major challenge emerged of the history's worst natural catastrophe.

He recalled that the unparalleled help provided by the Pakistan armed forces to the earthquake victims would never be forgotten by the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique presides over the high level meeting regarding Chief Minister Children Heart Surgery Program at Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education Department.

Bilawal fulfilling Benazir's unfinished agenda, says Hassan

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Punjab General Secretary Syed Hassan Murtaza said on Thursday that party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was dedicated to realising the unfinished mission of his mother, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, with the supremacy of parliament being at the heart of her legacy.

In a sharp rebuke to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi's recent comments on Thursday, he said, "How can those who manipulated the Constitution during their government now claim to be its defenders?"

He said the Bhutto family's contributions to

Pakistan's constitutional history, stating, "Bilawal's grandfather, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, gave the nation a consensus Constitution, Bilawal's father, Asif Ali Zardari, restored it, and now Bilawal is striving for a new consensus constitutional amendment."

He said: "Bilawal knows well how loyal Shah Mehmood was to Shaheed Benazir Bhutto. He asserted that Shah Mehmood Qureshi's current plight was a result of his own actions. He praised Bilawal's relentless efforts for constitutional supremacy, expressing hope that these endeavors would soon culminate in a new consensus constitutional amendment for the country's betterment."

Child Protection Unit inaugurated in Bajaur tribal district

PESHAWAR (APP): In a significant step towards ensuring the protection and welfare of children in the merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a Child Protection Unit (CPU) was inaugurated in District Bajaur on Thursday.

The CPU aims to safeguard and promote the rights of children, providing prevention and response to cases of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation, said a press release issued here.

The Chief Guest was Additional Secretary Social Welfare Department KP, Muhammad Farooq, Director Social Welfare Department (MDS), Muhammad Naem, Deputy Commissioner Bajaur Shahid Ali, Obaid Ur Rahman Deputy Director Social Welfare MDs, representatives from members of District Child Protection Committee Bajaur. Male and female members of the community Based Child Protection Committees. The establishment of this CPU reflects the Government's strong commitment to ensuring the protection of children at

risk and fostering a safer environment for the most vulnerable members of society.

In his Opening Remarks, the Additional Secretary, Social Welfare, Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, expressed his appreciation to the Department of Social Welfare for the successful inauguration of the Child Protection Unit Bajaur.

He said that the establishment of Child Protection Unit, is a direct response to this persistent need, adding that children face various forms of abuse, neglect, and exploitation, here and it was a shared responsibility to build stronger systems to protect them from all forms of abuse and exploitation.

He said the unit would focus on identifying, preventing, and responding to child at risk, ensuring their fundamental rights to life, development, participation, and protection. Muhammad Farooq also stressed the importance of collective action in addressing the complex challenges of child abuse, violence, exploitation,

ANF recovers 58 kg drugs in eight operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting raids in different areas managed to recover 58 kg drugs worth Rs 6.5 kg and arrested 11 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He informed that 82 intoxicated tablets, 70 grams ice and 168 grams hashish were recovered from an accused arrested near a college in Lahore. 105 grams opium and 90 grams hashish were recovered from an accused rounded up near a university in Lahore.

198 ecstasy tablets and 130 grams hashish were recovered from a drug dealer netted near a major university in Lahore.

The arrested accused confessed to selling drugs to the students of educational institutions.

Establishing drug-free educational institutions is first priority of ANF, the spokesman added.

In an operation at Peshawar International Airport, 55 grams hashish was recovered from the luggage of a passenger leaving for Dubai.

9 dead and 1,366 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): Nine people were killed and 1,366 others injured in 1,302 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 576 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 790 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

The data analysis showed that 732 drivers, 55 underage drivers, 188 pedestrians, and 455 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. The statistics showed that 275 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 305 persons, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by Faisalabad with 93 accidents and 95 victims, and at third

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SARGODHA: Provincial Minister for Higher Education Department Rana Sikandar Hayyat addresses the 'Future Innovator contest-2024' seminar held at University of Sargodha.

Price hike, shortage of essential medicines will not be tolerated: Khawaja

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Khawaja Imran Nazir has declared that price-hike and shortage of life-saving and essential medicines can never be tolerated.

He made these remarks while presiding over an emergency meeting on Thursday on drug shortages and price hikes, convened on the directives of chief minister Punjab.

During the meeting, a detailed review was conducted on the factors contributing to the shortages and rising prices of essential medicines. Director General Drug Control Muhammad Sohail provided an in-depth briefing on the current situation.

Addressing the meet-

ing, Khawaja Imran Nazir highlighted that the Chief Minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif is deeply concerned about the extraordinary price hikes affecting critical medicines.

"The increase in prices of old stock medicines is unacceptable and will be halted at all costs," he said, emphasizing the government's commitment to ensuring that the public has access to affordable and quality healthcare.

He assured that every possible measure would be taken to strengthen the pharmaceutical industry and enhance the transparency of the system. He also revealed that surveillance has already been initiated in markets across the prov-

ince to monitor shortages and price hikes, as per the Chief Minister's orders.

According to the briefing, a survey found that the prices of 73 medicines had increased. Efforts are underway to track the distribution of all medicines through advanced software systems to curb any further issues.

The pharmaceutical industry has assured its full cooperation with the Punjab government to address drug shortages and stabilize prices.

The meeting was attended by Additional Secretary Drug Control Dr. Qalandar Khan, Chief Drug Controller Azhar Jamal Salemi, and representatives from the pharmaceutical industry via video link.

LHC directs to provide pick and drop service to students on school and college buses

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has directed to provide pick and drop service to students on school and college buses in Punjab.

Justice Shahid Karim of LHC heard the petitions from citizen Haroon Farooq and others besides issuing written order on the petitions for eradication of smog Thursday.

As per court's order schools and colleges in Punjab should provide pick and drop service on their buses. School Education department should take

action against school and colleges which don't comply with these orders of providing pick and drop service. The court directed Tollinton market be restored as per map.

It was said in the written order that action be taken against the persons involved in disrupting sewerage system in Tollinton market. The court has further said in the written order that judicial commission should hold meeting in connection with tree plantation in the surrounding areas of Ring road.

Couple killed in restaurant

MULTAN (APP): A couple was killed in a restaurant by firing of unidentified assailants in Old Kotwali police limits.

The deceased were identified as Muhammad Imran, 33, and Anna Imran, 29, of Gulghast colony.

CPO Sadiq Ali Dogar, taking notice of the incident, reached the spot and ordered to trace the criminals at the earliest. He constituted an investigation team under supervision of SP Gulghast division Saifullah Gujjar to arrest the accused.



PESHAWAR: Lady Health Workers are holding protest demonstration against non-payment of their salaries, outside KPK Assembly in Peshawar.

Grand tribal jirga demand basic facilities in South Waziristan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): A grand tribal jirga was held in Wana, demanding the provincial government to take measures for ensuring basic facilities of life in the area.

The people hailing from different walks of life including tribal elders, scholars and youth attended the grand meeting which was held on the directives of the provincial

government.

Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) Ajab Gul Wazir and Deputy Commissioner of Lower South Waziristan, Muhammad Nasir Khan led the meeting. During the meeting, the elders highlighted various local issues including the lack of basic facilities and the non-functional existing health and education institutions.

The tribal elders demanded that instead of constructing new infrastructure, existing schools and dispensaries should be made operational in order to provide better education and health services to the citizens. They also raised concerns regarding the security situation, with elders saying that development was impossible without peace.

Awareness seminar calls for effective efforts to fight drug abuse

PESHAWAR (APP): The speakers at an awareness seminar on Thursday called for collective and effective measures to curb use of drug among youth and serious social issues arising out of it.

The one-day seminar was organized by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Center of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism (KPCEVE) on prevention of increasing drug use among youth and elimination of crime.

The aim of the seminar was to create awareness and awareness regarding the increasing use of drugs among the youth and the serious social and security issues arising out of it.

Dr Qasim Khan, Director General of

KPCEVE in his opening remarks emphasized the importance of community involvement and collective efforts in the fight against drug abuse.

He said that drug addiction among the youth increases tendency to engage in criminal activities, adding that it was an alarming issue that not only threatens the health and future of the youth but also the wider security concerns in the region.

He said that the aim of KPCEVE was to promote dialogue for lasting solutions to these problems and to provide a platform for all partners where they can come up with better strategies for protection, guidance and rehabilitation of youth. Can discuss effective measures.

Dr Ayaz Khan called for collaboration between

government agencies, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations to develop a comprehensive strategy for drug prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation.

Professor Dr Abdul Rahman, head of the Islamic Center University of Peshawar, while speaking about the use of drugs in Islam, emphasized that Islam strictly prohibits the use of narcotic substances, and also advocates compassion and rehabilitation for those suffering from the addiction so that they could quit drugs and become useful citizens of the society. In the seminar, renowned psychologists, health experts and KPCEVE officials shed light on the causes of drug

Minister reviews education department's performance

SARGODHA (APP): A performance review meeting of the Department of Education was held under the chairmanship of Provincial Minister for Education Rana Sikandar Hayyat, at the Commissioner's Office, here on Thursday.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Task Force on Education Mazhar Mahmood, Advisor and Member of the Chief Minister's Advisory Committee Shakeel Bhatti, Chairman of the Punjab Education Foundation Malik Shoaib Awan, Commissioner Jahanzeb Awan and Deputy Commissioner Captain (ret'd) Muhammad Waseem, along with parliamentarians and administrative officers.

Director of Colleges Sarfraz Gujjar and Chief Executive Officer Education Sardar Akhtar Abbas Baloch provided detailed briefings on their respective institutions.

The minister announced that all 596 vacant teaching positions in government colleges of

Sargodha division would be filled with College Teaching Interns (CTIs). He said that the education-friendly initiative had led to record enrollments in public educational institutions this year, with students achieving top positions at the board level. The minister said that new BS programs and essential facilities were being ensured in government colleges. He also mentioned the encouraging results of the newly introduced MDCAT programme in government colleges. Additionally, he directed the deputy commissioner to identify a location for the establishment of an alternative institution to Government College in Sargodha city and a Teachers Training Centre at the University of Sargodha, and to submit a report to his office. The provincial minister also took notice of the four vacant positions of district officer secondary and deputy district education officers in Sargodha, issuing immediate orders for their appointments.

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KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) MPA Muhammad Aamir Siddiqui along with others addresses to media persons during press conference outside Sindh High Court building in Karachi.

Minister announces expansion of Children's heart surgery programme

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique revealed plans to enhance the capacity of children's hospitals across Punjab under the Chief Minister's Children's heart surgery programme.

The announcement was made during a meeting, chaired by the minister, at the Department of Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education, here on Thursday.

The minister received a comprehensive briefing from the Punjab Information Technology Board

(PITB) on the progress of the heart surgery initiative. He expressed his satisfaction, stating, "Alhamdulillah, over 200 children have been successfully operated on within the first two weeks of the programme. The government is committed to expanding the scope of this initiative, Insha-Allah."

He emphasised that the programme had significantly reduced the waiting time for surgeries. "Before this initiative, parents faced long delays, sometimes months, for their children's surgeries."

Arora pays tribute to services of teachers

LAHORE (APP): An event was held here on Thursday at Forman Christian College Lahore on the occasion of Teachers' Day, specially attended by Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora. The purpose of the event was to honour the services of teachers and highlight their crucial role in society. In his address, the minister paid tribute to the hard work and dedication of teachers, stating,

"Teachers are the foundation upon which the development and prosperity of a nation depend." He emphasised that the field of education is where the thoughts and skills of the future are nurtured. Arora remarked that no society could thrive without safeguarding the rights of its teachers, and that the Punjab government is committed to ensuring the protection and provision of essential facilities.



BAJAUR: Deputy Commissioner Shahid Ali along with other officials inaugurating Child Protection Unit in collaboration with UNICEF.



LAHORE: Members of All Pakistan Clerks Association (APCA) are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products and inflation price hiking, at Lahore press club.

Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited launches high-performance, fuel-efficient NH-850 tractor

Independent Report
LAHORE: Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited launched its latest product the New Holland NH-850. The 85-horsepower engine tractor is designed to set new standards in modern farming.

The exclusive launch event, hosted at Pearl Continental, Lahore, was graced by the chief guest, Director General Strategic Project of Green Initiatives

tors will continue the journey of bringing more machines of this kind into the field so that we can serve our farmer community."

The event was well attended by government officials, corporate clients, dealers, vendors, and Al-Ghazi personnel alike. Among the prominent participants, the CEO Al-Ghazi, Sakib Eltaff, and the Chairman of the Board at



(Pvt) Limited, Maj General Shahid Nazir. Congratulating Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited, Maj General Nazir said, "I congratulate Al-Ghazi Tractors for introducing this new variant of 85hp tractors and I can assure you this will become high in demand in coming days and months because of that a lot of land will be developed. I congratulate the team, for producing this machine with a lot of innovation, Al-Ghazi Trac-

Al-Ghazi, Robert McAllister were also present. During the opening remarks, CEO Al-Ghazi Sakib Eltaff emphasized Al-Ghazi's longstanding commitment to advancing the agricultural sector in Pakistan. He stated, "It is an honor and a privilege to introduce the NH-850, a tractor that sets new standards for performance, efficiency, and durability. Al-Ghazi's journey in Pakistan,



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and his Malaysian counterpart Tengku Zafrul Aziz discuss strengthening trade, focusing on rice, halal meat exports, and business cooperation.

Pak-Malaysia agree for fostering deeper economic, trade cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Malaysia on Thursday agreed to take significant steps towards fostering deeper economic cooperation and exploring new business opportunities that benefit both nations.

Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan held a meeting with Datuk Seri Utama Tengku Zafrul Bin Tengku Abdul Aziz, the Malaysian Minister for Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI).

This meeting underscored the brotherly relations both countries cherish in all fields, according to a release issued.

The Minister for Commerce welcomed Minister Tengku Zafrul Aziz to Pakistan and highlighted

the longstanding friendship between the two nations.

Jam emphasized that there is huge potential to grow bilateral trade between the two sides.

The Minister urged for enhanced business engagements to transform this potential into reality.

Moreover, Mr Jam Kamal Khan stressed that there is a potential for growth in almost all the sectors of Pakistan.

He mentioned that Pakistan is exporting high-quality rice and mangoes all over the world.

He apprised the visiting Minister that recently Government of Pakistan had removed the Minimum Export Price (MEP) for rice which will allow

Pakistani exporters to negotiate competitive prices.

He encouraged Malaysia may engage more with Pakistan to import rice.

A significant focus of the dialogue was on the potential for exporting halal meat from Pakistan to Malaysia.

The Minister reiterated Pakistan's commitment to maintaining high halal standards, which are essential for expanding access to the Malaysian market.

He called for facilitation in the accreditation process for Pakistani meat and gelatin exporting companies, emphasizing that cooperation in this sector could greatly enhance trade flows.

Malaysian side acknowledged the difficulties faced by Pakistani businessmen in the procedural processes of JAKIM for exporting meat to Malaysia and reassured their commitment to ease these procedures for Pakistani businesses.

Moreover, Malaysian Minister for Trade invited Pakistan to participate in the activities of the ASEAN as Malaysia is taking the chair of ASEAN.

In closing, the Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to creating a conducive environment for foreign investment, expressing optimism for the future of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Malaysia.

Over 50 federal, provincial officials trained on integrating Carbon Markets into project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Over 50 federal and provincial planning officials have been trained on integrating carbon markets into government project approvals in an effort to support Pakistan to combat climate change and meet its international obligations.

SPAR6C, in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination and the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, organized a two-day Carbon Market Training Workshop for Federal and Provincial planning and development officials, a news release said.

The two-day workshop brought together officials responsible for appraising public investment projects. The event aimed to enhance their understanding

of carbon credits and how these can be leveraged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, align with global climate goals and secure vital international financing.

Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, the SPAR6C programme supports developing countries, including Pakistan, in navigating carbon markets.

This initiative is part of the Supporting Preparedness for Article 6 Cooperation (SPAR6C) programme, aimed at boosting Pakistan's participation in international carbon markets, which could generate between \$2 billion and \$5 billion by 2030. Pakistan has set a bold target of cutting projected emissions by 50% by 2030.



PESHAWAR: President of Petroleum Dealers Association Abdul Majid Khan addressing a press conference at PPC.

Services' trade up by 0.13% in July-August

ISLAMABAD (APP): The export of various services witnessed 0.13 percent increase during the first two months (July-August) of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding months of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

According to the latest PBS data, Pakistan earned \$1.252 billion from the export of services during July-August 2024 as compared to services' export of \$1.250 billion in July-August 2023.

On the other hand, the services' imports witnessed a decline of 0.45 percent during the months under review and were recorded at \$1.724 billion as compared to the import of \$1.732 billion in July-August 2023.

Based on the figures, the services' trade deficit shrank by 1.95 percent during the months under review as compared to the corresponding months of previous year. The services trade deficit was recorded at \$471.71 million during current months against the deficit of \$481.09 million during same months of last year.

Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the exports of services in August 2024 decreased by 6.51 percent to \$619.73 million from \$662.91 million in August 2023. On the other hand, the imports however increased by 2.03 percent by going up from \$883.05 million to \$900.98 million, according to PBS data.

Pakistani IT companies shine at AI, 'Big Data Exhibition Europe 2024 in Amsterdam'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Four leading Pakistani IT companies — REACH THE GLOBE, ICILtek, NorthBay Solutions, and Sofizar / ConstellationCK — proudly represented Pakistan at the 'AI and Big Data Exhibition Europe 2024' at the RAI Convention Centre in Amsterdam.

Sponsored by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), the companies showcased cutting-edge

solutions in AI and Big Data, positioning Pakistan as a key player in the global tech arena, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

The Embassy of Pakistan in The Hague played a pivotal role in promoting the participation of these companies.

In collaboration with the event organizers, the Embassy ensured seamless setup of the Pakistan Pavilion and facilitated the booths for the participat-

ing companies. Additionally, the Embassy actively promoted the presence of Pakistani IT firms, attracting visitors from various sectors to explore innovative solutions offered by the country's top tech talent.

To further strengthen ties and foster business collaborations, the Embassy hosted a networking dinner, bringing together Pakistani IT firms and key stakeholders from Dutch companies.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb holding a virtual meeting with Keith Svendsen, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of APM Terminals, at Finance Division in Islamabad. Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh, Ambassador of Danish Embassy Jakob Linulf, Chairman FBR are also present during a meeting.

Bayer Crop Science for Asia Pacific delegation meets Punjab agriculture minister

LAHORE (APP): A Bayer Crop Science for Asia Pacific Head Malu Nacheriner, along with a delegation, met Punjab Agriculture and Livestock Minister Punjab Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani on Thursday.

During the meeting, consultations were held regarding the introduction of new types of seeds with high productivity of cotton, corn and soybeans in the Punjab. Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani said there was a need to introduce high productivity seeds of cotton, maize and soybeans. He said that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz was deeply interested in introducing GM technology of cotton and

maize in the province.

The incumbent government had launched mega programmes worth more than Rs 400 billion under the Transforming Punjab Agriculture Plan for agricultural development and farmers' prosperity. He further said that Punjab was facing the challenges of climate change, especially the control of whitefly in cotton crop was a big challenge for which the private sector and research institutions have to work together.

On this occasion, Agriculture Secretary Iftikhar Ali Sahoo said that the agriculture department and the private sector have to work together to achieve the agricultural production

targets and increase per acre production of crops. The Department of Agriculture was encouraging the private sector and in this regard policies were being formulated to support the private sector.

On this occasion, the Head of Bayer Crop Sciences said that modern innovations of biotechnology have to be adopted to increase the production of cotton and soybeans. The private sector would join hands with research institutes for agricultural development. He said, "Our company will fully cooperate with the department of Agriculture to introduce seed technology and provide financial support to farmers in crop protection."

Aamir declares proposed merger between Telenor Pak & PTCL as significant

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jazz CEO Aamir Ibrahim stressed the importance of healthy competition and market repair to drive innovation and benefit customers. Commenting on the proposed merger between Telenor Pakistan and PTCL, Aamir acknowledged it as a significant development for the telecom sector. "While we support initiatives that create synergies and efficiencies, we must also recognize the need for market repair," he stated, referring to the ongoing decline in industry-wide penetration and profitability. "Without addressing these fundamental issues, achieving the vision of Digital Pakistan becomes increasingly difficult." According to com-

pany news release Aamir emphasized that the merger should lead to a healthier, more competitive landscape, which in turn benefits consumers. "Jazz has always supported efforts that push the industry forward, but it's vital that any consolidation ensures a level playing field, fair competition, and customer-centric innovation," he added. He also highlighted the critical need for regulatory fairness, particularly in terms of spectrum allocation. "If operators are allowed extra spectrum without a transparent process, we will have no choice but to explore all legal remedies. Equal access to spectrum and infrastructure is essential for fostering a truly competitive.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships, Maersk Cabo Verde, Al-Areesh and Centurion Signifer carrying Container, LNG and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Port Gas Terminal and Pakistan International Bulk Terminal respectively on Wednesday.

Meanwhile another bulk cargo carrier 'World Virtue' is also arrived at outer anchorage port on same day.

Nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Maersk Cabo Verde and Ice Fighter left the port on today morning while two more ships, Acadia Park and Clipper Trent are expected to sail on Thursday.

Cargo volume of 147,934 tonnes, comprising 100,291 tonnes.



FAISALABAD: Farmers are working hard in the fields to plant sugarcane, an important crop in the sugar industry in the outskirts area of the city.

Sikandar Kuli Khattak elected as chairman KP Textile Mills Association

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Textile Mills Association (KPTMA) has elected Mr. Sikandar Kuli Khan Khattak of Bibojee Group as its new Chairman, with Mr. Muhammad Kamran Shah of Amin Group of Industries appointed as Vice Chairman, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

The election marks a significant leadership transition at a time when the textile industry in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa faces considerable challenges.

The meeting was graced by the presence of eminent members, including Syed Aftab Hayat, Mr. Abid Hussain, Mr. Yahya Paracha, Mr. Usman Paracha, Mr. Muhammad Ayub, Mr. Kaleem Aslam,

Malik Abdul Muqet, and Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad.

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Sikandar Kuli Khan Khattak expressed his deep gratitude for the confidence placed in him and laid out his priorities for tackling the pressing issues facing the industry. Rising energy costs, which have escalated by 300% in the past year, and delays in resolving wheeling charges by concerned government authorities are at the forefront of these challenges. Mr. Khattak pledged to work closely with both provincial and federal authorities to find sustainable solutions.

"The textile industry in KP is facing significant hurdles, particularly in terms of energy costs and regulatory delays.

Standing committee on livestock holds introductory meeting

PESHAWAR (APP): The introductory meeting of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Standing Committee on Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives was held Thursday wherein members were briefed by officials concerned about working and ambit of the department.

The meeting was chaired by chairman of the committee, Sher Ali Afridi and attended by members Shafi Jan, Ubaid-ur-Rehman, Tariq Saeed,

Iftikharullah, secretary livestock and concerned officials.

Secretary Livestock briefed the committee about ambit, performance and future plans of the department.

Later, briefing the media about the meeting, Sher Ali Afridi said the government was committed to increase output of livestock department owing to its importance to strengthen provincial economy.

PR generates over Rs 20 mln from ticketless passengers

MULTAN (APP): The Railways Multan Division earned over Rs 20 million from ticketless passengers under fares and fines head in September. A spokesperson for PR Multan Division said on Thursday that under the directives of Divisional Superintendent Railways Multan, Yousuf Laghari, a vigorous crackdown on ticketless passengers was conducted led by the Divisional Commercial Officer (DCO) Ramla Shahid. He informed that a total of Rs over 20 million had been collected in fares and fines from ticketless passengers in September this year.

Over 2 million cotton bales arrival recorded

MULTAN (APP): Seed Cotton (Phutti) equivalent to over two million bales have reached ginning factories across Pakistan till September 30, registering a decrease of 59.4 per cent as compared to corresponding period of the last year.

According to a fortnightly report of the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) issued to media on Thursday, over 1.8 million bales have undergone the ginning process in converted into bales. Cotton arrivals in Punjab were recorded

ticketless passengers were caught, and the collected amount had been deposited into the railway treasury, he said adding that complaints from passengers on trains were heard and resolved on the spot.

The DCO stated that this was the first time in history of the Multan Division that such a large-scale action had been taken against ticketless passengers. She emphasized that traveling without a ticket was a crime and urged passengers not to do so. Any passenger found traveling without a ticket will be charged fare and fines from the point of origin of the train, the spokesperson concluded.

726,767 bales registering a decrease of 64.88 per cent as compared to the corresponding period of last year when arrivals were recorded 2,09,433 bales.

Sindh generated 1,31,196 bales registering decrease of 55.57 per cent as compared to corresponding period of last year when arrivals were recorded 2,95,849 bales. Arrivals in Baluchistan were recorded at 58,133 bales.

Exporters/traders bought 400 cotton bales while textile sector bought total 18,48,905 bales.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Muhammad Tullal Badar, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Privatization presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament lodges in Federal Capital.

65 killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza orphanage, school

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO/DOHA: Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip killed at least 65 Palestinians overnight, including in a school sheltering displaced families, medics said, as Israeli tanks advanced in areas of Khan Younis in the south of the enclave.

Meanwhile, in a joint press conference with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani expressed a resolve to continue mediation efforts to end the war in Gaza amid a heightening of regional tensions.

Qatar has been one of the mediators working on a ceasefire deal in Gaza, although talks have stalled in recent days.

The health ministry in Gaza said on Wednesday that at least 41,689 people have been killed by Israeli aggression in nearly a year.

Israeli tanks carried out raids on several areas in eastern and central Khan Younis before partially retreating, leaving at least 40 people killed and dozens wounded.

Meanwhile in Gaza City, at least 22 Palestinians were killed in two airstrikes. One Israeli strike on a school sheltering displaced families in Gaza City killed 17 people, while another hit the Al-Amal Orphan Society, which also houses displaced persons, killing at least five others, the medics said.

Later on Wednesday, an Israeli strike on the Nuseirat Girls School, where displaced Palestinian families were sheltering, killed three people and wounded 15.

The escalation came after Iran launched a salvo of ballistic missiles at Israel on Tuesday in retaliation for Israel's campaign

against Lebanon, and Israel vowed a "painful response".

Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, locked in nearly a year of war with Israel, celebrated as they watched dozens of rockets en route to Israel. Some of those rockets fell in the Palestinian enclave after being intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome missile defences, but caused no human losses, witnesses said.

Starting his first trip to Qatar as president, Pezeshkian said his country wanted "security and peace", but Israel had triggered an escalation by assassinating Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

"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," he said.



Palestinian rescuers and locals search the debris of a collapsed building in Khan Younis after an Israeli air strike.

New NATO chief Rutte reaffirms support for Ukraine on Kyiv trip

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: NATO chief Mark Rutte told Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy "Your security matters for us" on Thursday during his first visit to Kyiv since becoming the alliance's secretary-general.

Rutte also reiterated NATO's pledge that Ukraine would one day be a NATO member, but Zelenskyy said he wanted the Western allies urgently to provide the kind of active military support that

some of them have given to Israel in its battle with Iran.

"Your security matters for us, and your fight for freedom reflects our core principles and values," Rutte told a joint news conference, stressing that his first foreign trip as NATO chief demonstrated the alliance's staunch support for Kyiv.

"Ukraine is closer to NATO than ever before, and it will continue along this path until it secures NATO membership."

Six migrants killed by Mexican soldiers during highway chase

Monitoring Desk
CHIHUAHUA: Soldiers chasing suspicious vehicles on a highway in Mexico opened fire and killed six migrants, the defence ministry said on Wednesday.

The patrol found 33 migrants from countries including Egypt, Nepal, Cuba, India and Pakistan, it said, without specifying the nationalities of those killed in the incident late on Tuesday in southern Chiapas state.

The killing happened on the same day that Claudia Sheinbaum took office as Mexico's new president with a vow to respect human rights and avoid repression by security forces.

The two soldiers who

opened fire have been removed from their duties pending an investigation, according to a statement.

It said the patrol saw a vehicle — followed by two flatbed trucks like those used by criminals — travelling at high speed and apparently attempting to flee. "Military personnel reported hearing gunshots, so two soldiers activated their weapons, stopping one of the flatbed trucks," the statement said. Four of the migrants died at the scene while two of the 12 injured lost their lives at the hospital, it added.

The 17 migrants who were unharmed were handed over to the immigration authorities, the statement said.

CIA launches drive to recruit informants in China, Iran, North Korea

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The US CIA on Wednesday launched a new drive to recruit informants in China, Iran and North Korea, adding to what it says has been a successful effort to enlist Russians. The premier US spy agency posted instructions in Mandarin, Farsi and Korean on its accounts on X, Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, LinkedIn and the Dark Web on how to contact it securely.

South Korea to send military aircraft to evacuate citizens from Middle East

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol ordered on Wednesday military aircraft to be deployed immediately to evacuate its citizens from Israel and other parts of the Middle East amid escalating tension, his office said.

Yoon met with his national security and economic advisers over the Middle East conflict and called for a swift but measured response to any impact on the country's energy supply, trade and supply chains, his office said.

Yoon said the safety of its citizens in the region is the top priority and all necessary measures must be taken, it said.

UN secretary-general warns against further escalation in Lebanon

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations chief is appealing for an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon, warning that escalation to an all-out war between Israel and Hezbollah militants must be avoided "at all costs."

U.N. spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric, who delivered the message from Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, stressed that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon must be respected.

Guterres spoke earlier Tuesday to Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati and told him the U.N. system is mobilized to assist those in need, Dujarric said. He also ap-

pealed to the international community to urgently support a \$426 million humanitarian appeal to help the people of Lebanon.

Meanwhile, The State Department has ordered all U.S. diplomats and their families based in Israel and the West Bank to shelter in place until further notice as the security situation becomes increasingly uncertain with Israel's ground incursion in Lebanon and potential threats of an Iranian missile attack.

"As a result of the current security situation, the U.S. Embassy has directed all U.S. government employees and their family members to shelter in place until further notice."

Italy to host G7 leaders' call on Middle East crisis

Monitoring Desk
ROME: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni will host a call of Group of Seven (G7) leaders later on Wednesday to discuss the crisis in the Middle East, her office said.

"Italy will continue to strive for a diplomatic solution, including in its capacity as chair of the G7. I have convened a leaders' level meeting for this afternoon," Meloni was quoted as telling her cabinet.

Italy holds the rotating presidency of the G7 - the club of major Western democracies, which comprises the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Japan.

Meloni told her ministers that there was "deep concern" about latest developments, including Israel's missile attack on Israel on Tuesday and the instabil-

ity in Lebanon, her office said.

"The goal is the stabilisation of the Israeli-Lebanese border through the full implementation of Resolution 1701," she was quoted as saying, referring to the UN resolution which halted the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war in south Lebanon.

"In this framework, Italy has called on the UN Security Council to consider strengthening the mandate of the UNIFIL mission in order to ensure the security of the Israel-Lebanon border," she said.

Italy is a major contributor to the United Nations peacekeeping force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Italian media reported on Wednesday that her government was considering pulling its forces out of the area given the recent border violence.

Taiwan shuts down for Typhoon Krathon, torrential rain forecast

Monitoring Desk
KAOHSIUNG: Taiwan shut down on Wednesday, grounding hundreds of flights and closing schools, offices and financial markets ahead of the arrival of a weakening Typhoon Krathon, forecast to lash the coast with storm surges and torrential rain.

Officials in the key port city of Kaohsiung, set to be in the eye of the storm, told people to stay home and avoid the sea, rivers and mountains, warning of a repeat of 1977's Typhoon Thelma that killed 37 and devastated the city of 2.7 million.

Although the typhoon has weakened, the threats from a storm surge, strong winds and rain remain as it slowly makes its way towards Taiwan's coast, weather forecasters said.

The typhoon would lose power once it hit land, said Kaohsiung mayor Chen Chi-mai, but would still bring intense winds and rain. "But if it moves north,

the winds will strengthen again, so the threat to Kaohsiung will continue to exist, and people cannot take this lightly," he told reporters.

All the island's cities and counties declared a day off, shutting financial markets and cancelling domestic flights, along with 246 international ones, while more than 10,000 people were evacuated, mostly in the south and east.

Typhoons often hit Taiwan's mountainous and sparsely populated east coast facing the Pacific, but Krathon is set to make landfall on its flat western plain.

It is forecast to hit between Kaohsiung and its neighbouring city of Tainan in the early hours of Thursday, before heading northeast up towards Taipei, the capital, the Central Weather Administration (CWA) said. "Because of Typhoon Gaemi being quite severe earlier this year, everyone is more cautious and prepared this time around."

Study reveals long-term death toll as cyclones batter the world

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: As a typhoon battered Taiwan and rescuers searched for hurricane survivors in the United States on Wednesday, a study estimated that the long-term death toll of such tropical cyclones is around 300 times greater than official figures.

Hurricane Helene has killed at least 155 people in the southeastern US, Hurricane John killed at least 16 in Mexico last week and two people have died in Taiwan even before Typhoon Krathon makes landfall, expected on Thursday morning.

However the immediate deaths recorded during tropical cyclones — also called hurricanes or typhoons, depending on where they hit — represent just a fraction of the real toll they take on lives in the years after the storm clears, according to new research. And with human-driven climate change expected to make tropical cyclones more intense, the US researchers called for people in the affected regions to receive more support.

The research published in the journal Nature is the first to use statistical modelling to estimate how cyclones affect the overall

number of deaths in a region over a long time frame, lead study author Rachel Young said. The researchers looked at 501 tropical cyclones that hit the continental US between 1930 and 2015, analysing the number of excess deaths from all causes recorded in the 15 years that followed. The average number of deaths officially reported during individual storms was 24. But if indirect deaths in the years after the storm were counted, the average toll for each was between 7,000 and 11,000, around 300 times higher than government figures, the study estimated.

This would mean that cyclones contributed to between three and five per cent of all deaths recorded in the affected areas on the US Atlantic coast over those 85 years, the study said. The total death toll over that time could be as high as five million, meaning that cyclones may have contributed to more deaths than car accidents, infectious diseases or deaths in war, it added. When the researchers first saw how long the devastating effect of cyclones lasted on communities — which drove the huge numbers — they were "very surprised."



Migrants seeking asylum wait on the border of Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua state, Mexico.

Concern over use of AI to influence US election

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The US sees a growing threat of Russia, Iran and China attempting to influence the Nov 5 elections, including by using artificial intelligence to disseminate fake or divisive information, according to an annual US threat assessment released on Wednesday.

Russian "influence actors" have amplified stories about migrants entering the US in an attempt to stoke discord, according to the Department of Homeland Security report, and have used generative AI to create fake websites that appeared to be authentic US-based media outlets.

Iran has become "increasingly aggressive in its foreign influence efforts," the report said. In one ex-

ample, Iranian actors posed as activists online to encourage protests over the conflict in Gaza, DHS said.

The US is gearing up for a close presidential election between Vice President Kamala Harris, a Democrat, and Republican former President Donald Trump that could further inflame partisan tensions and offer opportunities for foreign adversaries to try to disrupt the democratic process.

The DHS assessment anticipates Russia, Iran and China "will use a blend of subversive, undeclared, criminal, and coercive tactics to seek new opportunities to undermine confidence in US democratic institutions and domestic social cohesion."

Smugglers force migrants to jump into sea; 100 missing in Djibouti

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: Rescuers are searching for more than 100 migrants off the coast of Djibouti after smugglers forced them to jump into the sea, the UN migration agency said on Wednesday.

At least 45 bodies have been recovered from Tuesday's incident, a death toll that makes 2024 the deadliest year on record for sea crossings on the migration route between East Africa and Yemen, the International Organisation for Migration said. Another 154 people have been rescued from the two boats, which left Yemen for Djibouti with a total of 310 passengers, IOM said in a statement. "Ongoing search and rescue operations are underway by the Djiboutian Coast Guard.

Food aid to Gaza falls as Israel sets new aid rule

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: Food supplies to Gaza have fallen sharply in recent weeks because Israeli authorities have introduced a new customs rule on some humanitarian aid and are separately scaling down deliveries organised by businesses, people involved in getting goods to Gaza said.

The new customs rule applies to truck convoys chartered by the United Nations to take aid from Jordan to Gaza via Israel, seven people familiar with the matter said. Under the rule, individuals from relief organisations sending aid must complete a form providing passport details, and accept liability for any false information on a shipment, the people said.

As a result, shipments have not been getting through the Jordan route — a key channel in Gaza supplies — for two weeks. In a parallel move, Israeli authorities have restricted commercial food shipments to Gaza.

Bangladesh recalls 5 envoys in major diplomatic reshuffle, including India's

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Bangladesh's interim government has recalled five envoys, including the ambassador to neighbouring India, in a major diplomatic reshuffle, a foreign ministry official said on Thursday.

Major political changes in the South Asian nation ushered in the interim government led by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus after weeks of violent protests forced then-prime minister Sheikh Hasina to resign on August 5 and flee to India. The foreign ministry

ordered envoys in Brussels, Canberra, Lisbon, New Delhi and the permanent mission to the United Nations in New York to immediately return to the capital, Dhaka, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

They were asked to hand over their responsibilities immediately and return, the official added, without elaborating.

The step follows the recall of Saida Muna Tasneem, the high commissioner, or ambassador, to Britain, who was similarly asked to return.

Japan records second-hottest September

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japan had its second-hottest September since records began with some regions the warmest yet, the weather agency said, in a year likely to become the warmest in human history.

Across the archipelago the month's average temperature was 2.52 degrees Celsius higher than usual, the Japan Meteorological Agency said on Tuesday.

This was "the second highest figure since the start of the statistics in 1898, after last year's high", a statement said.

But some regions, including eastern and western parts of mainland Japan,

logged the highest ever average temperatures for September since comparable data began available in 1946, the agency added.

The subtropical jet stream's peculiar northward movement, as well as the Pacific high pressure system that extended towards Japan, made it easier for warm air to shroud the archipelago, the agency said.

"The temperature of the ocean surface near Japan was also markedly high, which possibly contributed to high temperatures on the ground," it added, citing the "long-term effect of global warming" as well.



People watch the news on television inside a bar in Wisconsin.

ECC approves increase in ARV retail price, ANF allowances

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Thursday approved many proposals including a summary proposing increase in retail price of Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) from Rs 891.65 to Rs 1,980 per vial of 0.5ml/ dose. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the ECC meeting, which among others was attended by Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari and Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik along with federal secretaries and senior officers from the ministries and divisions concerned.

The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, in its summary, informed the committee about the short supply of Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) at Federal General Hospital Chak Shahzad Islamabad.

It was told that the Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) used at Federal General Hospital Chak Shahzad was manufactured by the National Institute of Health Islamabad, which was currently priced at Rs 891.65 whereas the WHO-approved ARV was sold at Rs 2,126.40 and the non-WHO approved ARV at Rs 1,266.14 in the market. After due consideration, the ECC approved the proposal to increase the Maximum Retail Price of ARV manufactured by the National Institute of Health, Islamabad, from Rs. 891.65 to Rs 1,980 per vial of 0.5ml/ dose to cover the landed cost of imported material and ensure its sufficient production and supply to the public sector hospitals.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Egypt Dr. Ihab Mohamed Abdelhamid Hassan called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.

Governor orders arrest terrorists involved in incident of firing on vehicle of DC Shirani

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has ordered to arrest the terrorist elements involved in the incident of firing at the vehicle of Deputy Commissioner Shirani, Sana Mah Jabeen near Tanga area of Killa Saifullah.

The Governor stressed on zero tolerance for the heinous crimes and directed to the Commissioner Zhob Division to enhance patrolling and security in the concerned areas. He also directed to mobilize all available resources to eliminate terrorists.

The Governor appreciated the bravery of Deputy Commissioner Shirani and expressed satisfaction over that she and her staff remained safe in the attack.

He also praised the staff of Deputy Commissioner for quick response to the assailants that forced them to flee from the scene.

GoB grieved over bus accident on Brewery bypass

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the bus accident occurred on the Brewery bypass.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, the spokesman of provincial government, Shahid Rind said that the medical treatment is being provided to the injured of the bus accident.

He said that provincial



ISLAMABAD: Maulana Fazlur Rehman, head of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan addressing a press conference.

BGHA takes out protest rally; opposes privatization of government hospitals

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Balochistan Grand Health Alliance took out protest rally against the proposed privatization of the public sector hospitals, here in the provincial metropolis on Thursday. The rally taken out from the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital ended at the Quetta Press Club passing through different roads.

The Alliance comprising the Young Doctors Association, Paramedical Staff Association and other representative organizations of the health workers were carrying the banners and placards inscribed the slogans against privatization of the public sector hospitals and other health establishments in the province. The rally turned out into the protest demo outside the Quetta Press Club. They vehemently rejected the decision of provincial government regarding privatization of the government hospitals and recruitment of doctors and other medical staff on the adhoc and temporary grounds. The Grand Health Alliance leaders said that we would not accept the government's decision anyway and would intensify the protest if it was not averted.



QUETTA: Advocate, Qari Rehmatullah addresses during the General Body meeting of Quetta Bar Association, in Quetta.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Prime Minister of Malaysia YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim in a group photo at Malaysia-Pakistan High Level Business Dialogue.

To boost bilateral trade PM Sharif pledges optimal support for Pak-Malaysian business communities

Pak, Malaysia business communities sign 4 MoUs to boost trade ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday pledged to offer the best possible facilities to the Pakistani and Malaysian business communities to boost their commercial activities.

Speaking at the Pakistan-Malaysia High Level Business Dialogue, he emphasized the strong bilateral relations between the two countries and highlighted the significance of collaboration between their business sectors for mutual prosperity.

Referring to his discussions with visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim, he stated that their meetings were highly productive, wherein they discussed issues being faced by the two countries.

He said the Malaysian prime minister had assured of his complete support for both Pakistani and Malaysian businessmen to collaborate on joint ventures in sectors such as Halal meat, information technology, and other areas of mutual interest.

He said that PM Anwar Ibrahim's visit would further enhance relations between the two countries.

He said that Pakistan was fully geared up to grab the opportunity of exporting high-quality Halal meat to Malaysia as the agreement to the effect, besides many others, would be finalized during his forthcoming visit to the brotherly country.

Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim on the occasion emphasized the importance of close contacts between the business communities of two countries to foster economic cooperation.

He assured that Malaysia would continue its efforts to strengthen bilateral relations with Pakistan.

The business communities of Pakistan and Malaysia signed four Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) on Thursday with an aim to promote trade relations between the two countries.

According to press release issued by Commerce Ministry, Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, witnessed the signing of MoUs.

Fauji Meat Limited and NSK signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) for a profit-sharing partnership in the distribution, wholesale, and retail of meat. Gobi VC Investment Fund committed \$300,000 to Qistbazar and announced plans to raise a \$50 million fund to support Pakistani startups.

The statement added, SNA Equity invested \$5 million in Gamalux Pakistan, with a total investment goal of \$15 million by 2026. Additionally, Pakistan and Malaysia's Business Councils signed an MoU to enhance cooperation in Halal trade.

These agreements mark a step towards strengthening trade and business relations between the two countries.

Cannabis cultivation destroyed in different areas

QUETTA (APP): Assistant Commissioner (AC) Pashin Zaheer Ahmad Zahri took action against narcotics and conducted a raid on the land of Abdul Fateh Al-Kuzai in Surkhob, Afghan refugee camp area of Pashin on Thursday.

According to detail, Frontier Corps (FC), Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Levies, Customs and Excise Department personnel participated in the operation. Grand operation was conducted in different areas where cannabis cultivation was destroyed.

ANF officers seized the goods and registered a case against Abdul Fateh Al-Kuzai.

Panjgur police continues crackdown on thieves, robbers

Independent Report
QUETTA: Under the directives of SP Panjgur Syed Fazal Shah Bukhari, Panjgur Police continues its operations against thieves and robbers.

A suspect was arrested in a successful operation led by DSP/SDPO Panjgur Sadurro Khan Lashari, SHO City PSI Zahoor Ahmed Garmakani, and their team.

The arrested suspect is Shabbir s/o Muhammad Rafiq, resident of Khudadan Panjgur.

Case No. 138/2024 under Section 392 PPC registered at City Police Station.

Further legal action will be taken against the arrested suspect.

DC Sohbatpur holds open court, resolves public grievances

Independent Report
SOHBATPUR: Deputy Commissioner Sohbat Pur, Farida Tareen, chaired an open court session in Manjhi Pur Tehsil to address public grievances. The session aimed to provide citizens with an opportunity to voice their concerns and seek solutions. Attended by district officials and Colonel FC, the open court allowed locals to present their issues verbally and in writing. DC Tareen promptly resolved minor problems and assured the public that the district administration prioritizes their well-being.

"We are committed to providing all facilities to citizens," DC Tareen stated. "Education, healthcare, water supply, irrigation, and infrastructure development are our key focus areas." The Deputy Commissioner directed officials to address education and healthcare issues.

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) at the Finance Division in Federal Capital.

Egyptian, Ethiopian envoys call on NA speaker ; discuss bilateral relations, regional, int'l issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly (NA) Speaker, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday said Pakistan valued high its cordial ties with Egypt and intended to further expand the existing relations through enhanced parliamentary and economic cooperation. He expressed these views in a meeting with Ambassador of Egypt Dr. Ihab AbdelHamid Hassan who called on him at the Parliament House.

Ayaz Sadiq said the relation between the two brotherly countries was based on common religion, culture, history, mutual respect and brotherhood. He expressed grave concern over the current situation in the Middle East and condemned Israeli aggression in Palestine and Lebanon. He urged upon the international community to play its role in ending Israeli occupation and aggression so that durable peace can prevail in the region.

Highlighting the importance of parliamentary diplomacy, the speaker said parliamentary diplomacy could play a vital role in strengthening the bilateral relations. He further said the exchange of parliamentary delegations would enable parliamentarians of both countries to learn from each other's experiences.

He also said enhanced contacts between Parliamentary Friendship Groups (PFGs) of both countries would result in strengthening of bi-lateral relations as well.

Ayaz also extended invitation to his Egyptian counterpart to visit Pakistan along with parliamentary delegation.

Egyptian Ambassador Dr. Ihab AbdelHamid Hassan appreciated the remarks of the speaker for further expanding relations between both brotherly countries and parliaments. He further said Egypt attached great importance to its cordial relation with Pakistan. He also commended Pakistan's efforts for promotion of durable peace in the region. Later on, Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan, Jamal Beker Abdula also called on the speaker at the Parliament House.

The matters pertaining to bilateral relations and important regional and international issues were discussed during the meeting. Ayaz said Ethiopia was the gateway to the African Continent and Pakistan accorded great importance to its friendly relations with Ethiopia. He further said Pakistan according to its "Look Africa Policy" sought to strengthen its trade and diplomatic relations with African countries.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Moazzam Jah Ansari addressing under trainee officers of National Institute of Management Quetta.

Proposed constitutional package Lawyers organizations of Islamabad announce to convene APLC on Oct 7

ISLAMABAD (Online): All lawyers organizations of Islamabad while forging unity against proposed constitutional amendment has announced to convene All Pakistan Lawyers Convention (APLC) on October 7.

All the representative bar associations of Islamabad High Court Bar, Islamabad district bar and Islamabad Bar Council while rejecting the proposed constitutional package have announced to put up resistance.

Islamabad High Court bar, Islamabad district bar and Islamabad bar council held joint press conference.

Aleem Abbasi of Islamabad Bar council held joint press conference along with other office bearers.

All the three representative bar associations rejected constitutional package besides announcing to hold Pakistan Lawyers convention on October 7 against constitutional package.

Aleem Abbasi said that we not only reject it but also we will put up resistance to stop them. Amendments are being made based on specific political parties and persons.

Aleem Abbasi said following the implementation of these amendments, SC judges will have no more powers than a session judge. Letter from 6 judges was not liked. Now amendment is being made to keep aside these judges.

NA body seeks complete details of contracts made with IPPs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly Standing Committee on Power Division on Thursday sought complete detail of contracts made with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) in the next meeting. The committee which met with Muhammad Idris in the Chair appreciated the constitution of Special Task Force to review the contracts made by the successive governments with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to lessen the overburden on consumers in terms of electricity bills. The Committee however, directed that M/o Energy (Power Division) may take stringent measures to prevent the consumers from overcharging in different heads of electricity bills and unnecessary load-shedding in different areas of the country and report back to the Committee in its next meeting.

The Committee expressed concern over the poor performance of K-Electric and decided to convene its next meeting in Karachi to witness the performance of K-Electric so that complaints against K-Electric could be addressed properly.

Earlier, the Secretary Energy (Power Division) briefly apprised about the efforts made by them to overcome the problems of overbilling and other issues related to electricity and problems faced by them in this regards. The meeting was attended by the MNA's, Amir Muqam, Raja Qamar Ul Islam, Bilal Azhar Kiyani, Ch. Naseer Ahmed Abbas, Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar, Rana Muhammad Hayat Khan, Muhammad Shaharyar Khan Mahar, Khurshid Ahmed Junejo, Nouman Islam Sheikh, Syed Abrar Ali Shah, Syed Waseem Hussain, Junaid Akbar, Sher Ali Arbab (through video link) Haji Imtiaz Ahmed Ch. & Ali Afzal Sahi and Movers Dr. Mahreen Razzaq Bhutto & Syed Amin Ul Haq and officials of ministry of power division.



ISLAMABAD: PPP senior leader and Balochistan Advisor for Trade and Industry Mir Ali Hassan Zehri meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari.

Asim Kurd announces digitalization of revenue records in Hub

Independent Report
HUB: Provincial Revenue Minister, Mir Asim Kurd Gello, announced that the provincial government is working towards the digitalization of revenue records to ensure good governance. Speaking at a media briefing during his visit to Hub on Thursday, the minister revealed that the settlement process in the district would soon commence. Minister Asim Kurd Gello emphasized that his primary focus is to address public grievances related to the Board of Revenue and Settlement Tehsildars.

He stated that, in line with the decision of the Balochistan cabinet, there is currently a ban on land transfer records, which will be lifted once the settlement process is completed.

The minister assured that the settlement process in Hub would be carried out transparently, in accordance with the settlement manual.

He instructed revenue officers to ensure fairness and prevent any injustice against stakeholders. The Balochistan government is also working on the digitalization of land records under the Revenue Act.

Asim Kurd Gello credited the current government for initiating the computerization of revenue records and affirmed their commitment to resolving legitimate public complaints regarding the Board of Revenue in a timely manner. He also announced the organization of open forums to address governance issues and meet public expectations. During his visit, the provincial minister inspected the record room of the settlement office and received a briefing on settlement affairs. He directed relevant officers to strictly follow the settlement manual and ensure the protection of government land under the Land Revenue Act.



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durran inspecting class room during her visit to Sandeman School.

3 die, 108 others injured in 60 accidents on various highways in Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: As many as three passengers died while 108 others injured in 60 traffic accidents reported on N-50, Quetta-Kuchlak-Zhob-Dera Ismail Khan highway.

Two passengers died while 33 others got injured in the road accidents occurred on N-50 highway.

As per the MERC report, its centers located on different highways responded to the accidents and provided necessary medical aid there.

In these accidents, one person died while 59 others injured. Similarly, a total of 22 road mishaps were reported on N-50, Quetta-Kuchlak-Zhob-Dera Ismail Khan highway.

According to the report of Medical Emergency Response Center (MERC) shared on Thursday, highest number of road accidents i.e. 29 were reported on N-25, Chaman-Quetta-Karachi highway.

Karim pays tribute to PM for presenting cases of Kashmir, Palestine in GA

QUETTA (APP): Central senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League- Nawaz (PML-N) Chaudhry Naeem Karim on Thursday paid tribute to the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Shehbaz Sharif for presenting the case of Kashmir and Palestine in a better way in the United Nations General Assembly (GA).

In his statement issued here, he said that the Prime Minister has represented the nation by giving a resolute response to any aggression.

The entire Pakistani nation is on the same page for the defense of the country, he said.

He said that the Prime Minister tried to wake up the world in front of the Israeli Prime Minister and the Indian leader which was followed by the entire Muslim world.

He said that the PM has won the hearts and minds of the Muslims around the world by highlighting the plight of the Kashmiri and Palestinian people at the highest forum.

This speech reflects the true sentiments of not only the Kashmiri people but the entire Muslim Ummah, he noted.