

Independent

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Malaysian PM praises Pak Armed Forces' role in regional peace, stability

RAWALPINDI (APP): Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim on Friday praised the Pakistan Armed Forces' role in regional peace and stability, acknowledging their professionalism and sacrifices in combating terrorism.

He was talking to Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir during a meeting here at the General Headquarters.

The two sides discussed bilateral strategic interests, regional security, and defence cooperation, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

Prime Minister Anwar

Ibrahim emphasized on the need for increasing bilateral ties, particularly military relations amongst the two brotherly countries and extended an invitation to the COAS to visit Malaysia in the same context.

The COAS thanked the prime minister for the invitation and appreciated his successful visit to Pakistan, which would help further improve the enduring and historic ties between the two countries and the militaries.

The Army Chief also attended the investiture ceremony and state banquet held in honour of the Malaysian prime minister at the Presidency.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir exchanges views with Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim during meeting held at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi.

Imran Khan's sisters among At least 30 arrested as police fire tear gas to disperse PTI protesters in Islamabad

Section 144, peaceful assembly act enforced in Islamabad; Mobile service shut in twin cities due to PTI protest

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD: At least 30 protesters have been arrested as police fire tear gas to disperse PTI protesters attempting to reach Islamabad's D-Chowk for a planned party rally.

Incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan earlier again called on his supporters to gather for a "peaceful protest" as his party amped up preparations for today's demonstration despite a ban on gatherings. Another one is also scheduled for Lahore's Minar-i-Pakistan on Saturday.

The Islamabad Police on Friday arrested PTI founder Imran Khan's sisters Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan in D-Chowk.

According to details,



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar addressing a press conference.

Pakistan making landmark strides on foreign policy front under PM Shehbaz: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Friday that Pakistan under leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has been making landmark achievements on foreign policy front.

"Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's visit to Pakistan was highly successful and productive

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Police personnel detain sister of PTI Founder Aleema Khan during a protest.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and a delegation of Jamaat Islami led by Amir e Jamaat Islami Haafiz Naeem ur Rehman call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Army called in ahead of SCO summit in Islamabad

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD: In a bid to ensure law and order situation in the federal capital during the forthcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, the federal government approved the deployment of Pakistan Army's troops in Islamabad under Article 245 of the Constitution.

Islamabad is all set to host the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting on October 15 and 16 with major foreign leaders, including Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visiting the country.

According to the notification a "requisite strength" of the Pakistan Army, in aid of civil power, will be deployed from Oct 5 to 17 to maintain law and order situation with respect to SCO moot and visits of VVIP delegations for the said meeting.

Rabi-us-Sani moon sighted

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony announced the sighting of moon of Rabi-us-Sani 1446 AH in pursuance of the decision of the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee's meeting on Friday.

According to an official notification, the first of Rabi-us-Sani would commence from Saturday, (October 5).

Israel can't even think of launching attack on Pakistan: Khawaja Asif

ISLAMABAD (INP) - Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said that Pakistan is an atomic power and therefore Israel can't even think of launching an attack on us. In a statement issued on Friday, he said that the PTI founder is fulfilling the agenda of Israel in Pakistan. "The PTI founder is working on the agenda of Jewish lobby," he said.

Khawaja Asif said that PTI had staged sit-in in Islamabad when Pakistan was signing the agreements related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in 2014.

"They have once again started protest when Pakistan is going to host the meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Islamabad," said the defence minister.

Fire erupted in forests of Musakhail controlled: GoB spokesman

Independent Report
QUETTA: The spokesman, Government of Balochistan, Shahid Rind has stated that the fire erupted in the forests in the area of Musakhail has been controlled.

According to the spokesman, the fire was overcome after struggle made for 24 hours.

The spokesman said that hardships were faced in the fire because of the stormy winds.

Political parties decide to express solidarity with Gaza, Palestinians on national level

PM to host All Parties Conference on Palestine issue on Oct 7

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said an All Parties Conference (APC) would be held on October 7 to take a unified stance on Palestine issue.

The nationwide Day of Solidarity would also be observed on the day in order to show solidarity with the innocent Palestinian men, women and children facing the worst Israeli brutalities.

The prime minister

took the decision to the effect during his meeting with Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and the Jamaat-e-Islami delegation led by its Ameer Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman at the Prime Minister House.

It was also decided in the meeting that on October 7, public gatherings and seminars would be held across the country to show solidarity with the Palestinian people and to protest against the ongoing Israeli

aggression.

A committee comprising Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Sherry Rehman, Khawaja Saad Rafique, and Nayyar Bukhari was formed for organizing the All Parties Conference, and supervise events marking the Day of Solidarity.

President Asif Ali Zardari will also attend the All Parties Conference.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari extended his full support

Continued on page 2

Govt. laid network of dev projects in province: Zahoor Buledi

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Planning and Development, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi has stated that the present government has laid network of the development projects all over the province, and completion of these projects would start new era of progress in the province.

He said that the people can benefit from the fruits of development schemes with their early completion.

Mir Zahoor Buledi was speaking to people from different segments of the society at his residence, in Turbat on Friday.

The Deputy Chairman District Council Kech, Jamil Dashti, Chief Officer District Council Kech, Hamal Kashani, Assistant Bilal, Elahi Bakhs, and others met the Provincial Minister for Planning and Development.

During the meeting, projects of different sectors including health, education, water supply, agriculture, water supply and social sector were discussed.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, chairs a high-level review meeting to address the challenges hindering the development of Gwadar Port and the Free Zone.

Ahsan chairs meeting to review Gwadar Port development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Friday chaired a high-level review meeting to address the challenges hindering the development of Gwadar Port and the Free Zone.

Secretary Planning Awais Manzoor Sumra, along with senior officials from various provinces and ministries, attended the meeting, according to a press release issued by the ministry.

The meeting thor-

oughly discussed the key pending issues related to the Gwadar Free Zone's development, including water, electricity, gas and sewerage system, the Gwadar Port and the Free Zone and the Gwadar Safe City Project.

Ahsan Iqbal expressed strong displeasure over delays in the Gwadar Safe City project, reprimanding relevant authorities for the unacceptable pace, directing them to expedite the project's completion without further delay.

Applauds especially role of female teachers on World Teachers Day: Teachers can play crucial role in materializing dream of educated Balochistan, believes Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has believed that our teachers can extend cooperation and assistance to materialize the dream of educated Balochistan just because they have backbone status in the education system and curriculum.

He said that the teachers are held in high esteem in the civilized world and in the respect of a teacher can't be restricted to the religion, geography and colour.

This was stated by the Governor in his message

issued here on eve of the World Teachers Day being observed today, 5th October.

The Governor said that the role, dignity and duties of teachers are highlighted on the World Teachers Day, for formation of the minds of new generation all over the world.

He said that the teachers create sense among the students from the beginning and they put them on the path of higher education.

He appreciated the spirit of teachers for brightening the future of their students.

He said that the re-

sponsibilities of teachers increase manifold in perspective of the Balochistan province.

Moreover, the Governor said that cheating is a curse, due to which, the concerned degree becomes meaningless and worthless. He said that there is a strict vigil on the education sector and the cheating curse would be eliminated with timely completion of the course.

He noted with contentment that it is necessary to mention that female teachers are performing their duties honestly despite the lack of necessary facilities.

Indian FM Jaishankar to visit Pakistan for SCO meeting

ISLAMABAD (INP) - Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar will visit Pakistan to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting scheduled in Islamabad on Oct 15-16.

According to the spokesperson for the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, India will participate in the SCO meeting in Pakistan.

The spokesperson stated that Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar will go to Pakistan to attend the SCO summit on October 15-16, marking his first visit to Pakistan.

The Indian ministry further mentioned that details regarding bilateral meetings in Pakistan will be shared in a few days.

Pakistan had sent an invitation to India to par-

ticipate in the SCO Heads of State Summit. However, India had decided not to send its delegation to Pakistan and said it would participate online.

The spokesperson for the Foreign Office had also mentioned that an invitation had been sent to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The federal government approved a comprehensive plan to ensure strict security for the upcoming gathering of regional leaders.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi stated during the meeting that additional personnel from the Pakistan Army, Rangers, Frontier Corps (FC), and Punjab police would be deployed for security duties at the SCO summit.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi talking to media persons at D Chowk.

PTI activists plan to attack Islamabad with arms: Naqvi

ISLAMABAD (INP): While leadership and activists of the Imran Khan-founded party heading towards the federal capital despite roadblocks, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said everyone has the right to hold protest demonstration but the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters are going to "attack Islamabad with weapons".

"This is not the right way and we will not allow

this to happen," the security czar said while talking to journalists in Islamabad on Friday. With hoards of the PTI workers are travelling towards the federal capital amid visits of foreign dignitaries.

Naqvi said he had requested the PTI a day ago as well "not to hold rally for now". The minister added that he would not let anyone damage properties.

Russian general lauds professionalism of Pakistan armed forces

RAWALPINDI (APP): Deputy Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces of Russian Federation, Col General Sergey



Yuravich Istrakov who is on an official visit to Pakistan, Friday called on Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS), General Sahir Shamshad Mirza at Joint Staff Headquarters.

During the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction on positive trajectory of bilateral defence cooperation and discussed the evolving security situation in the region with a view to promote regional peace and stability, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The visiting dignitary lauded the professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged the sacrifices rendered by Pakistan Armed Forces in the fight against terrorism.

Khetran stresses need on adopting realistic dev. strategy in view of present financial situation

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE), Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran has underscored the need for adopting realistic development strategy in view of the present financial situation of the province.

He directed to the concerned authorities to focus on the ongoing development projects of public welfare on priority basis.

He also directed to take steps for ensuring comple-

tion of these projects well within the stipulated time line.

Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran was speaking to the senior officers of the department in his office on Friday.

During the course, the development strategy of provincial government, ongoing important development schemes of different sectors and development goals of future were discussed on the occasion.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding provision of Pirkoh, Dera Bugti

World Teachers' Day President emphasises teachers' empowerment, recognition

PM reaffirms commitment to create high performing educational system in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the international community observes World Teachers' Day on Saturday, President Asif Ali Zardari urged the countrymen to reaffirm their commitment to empowering the teachers, besides ensuring their respect and recognition.

"On this day, let us reaffirm our commitment to empowering our teachers and ensuring that they receive the respect, support, and recognition they deserve. Let's commit to improving our education system by investing in the capacity building and professional development of our teachers," the president said in his message to the nation on the Day.

He said the teachers were the architects of any society as they helped nurture young minds and the Day was meant to celebrate the contributions of teachers in shaping our future generations. "Capable teachers inculcate critical thinking, creativity, and ethical values in their students, helping them become responsible and productive citizens. They should help

in the moral development of students by promoting ethical values, love, tolerance, mutual respect and brotherhood," he stressed.

The president also acknowledged the challenges being faced by teachers, including inadequate training and lack of professional development opportunities.

He said that there was a dire need to equip our teachers with the tools to successfully fulfill their responsibilities.

"We need to set standards for teachers' recruitment, continuous education, training, and certification. A comprehensive monitoring and performance evaluation system is essential to improving the educational outcomes of our schools. We also need to provide a better working environment to teachers so that they can committedly discharge their duties," the president said.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed the government's resolve to create a high-performing educational system that

empowers both the students and teachers to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

"The Government of Pakistan remains committed to honour the promise that it has made with teachers. We recognize the importance of a motivated and well-supported teaching workforce, and we will continue to invest in modern infrastructure and educational resources," he said in a message on the World Teachers' Day, being observed across the globe on Saturday (October 5).

The prime minister extended his deepest gratitude to all teachers across Pakistan for their unwavering commitment to shaping young minds. "They are the architects of our future, and their dedication is essential to the goal of becoming a knowledge-based economy. Without their efforts, we cannot achieve the aspirations we have set for ourselves as a nation." Today, he said, "we join the global community in celebrating World Teachers' Day to recognise the valuable contribution of teachers in our nation's future".



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim is being presented an album comprising photographs of his three-day visit to Pakistan.

Quetta Administration takes concrete step to prevent Congo virus

QUETTA (APP): On the directions of Commissioner Quetta Division Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat, the Quetta administration has taken concrete step to prevent Congo virus in view of increasing cases of virus in various areas including provincial capital.

The Department of Livestock has sprayed animals at the entry and exit routes in the cattle markets to prevent outbreak of Congo virus.

District Livestock Officer Quetta Director Dawood Khan Kakar said teams have been deployed at 13 various locations in the city and mobile vans are taking part in the spray campaign launched against

Congo virus in Quetta city. He said as many as 45782 animals have been sprayed in the houses, dairy farms and cattle markets so far in Quetta to prevent Congo virus daises.

During the ongoing campaign, around 22317 sheep, 18453 goats and 5000 other small animals have been sprayed.

District Officer Quetta Dr. Dawood Khan Kakar instructed the butchers and those who slaughter animals in their houses to wear masks, use glasses for precautionary measures.

He said people who keep animals in their homes should inject ticks and spray their animals after 20 days through precautionary measures.

Ranjha blames PTI for sabotaging business activity in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N leader Barrister Mohsin Shahwan Ranjha on Friday blamed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership for sabotaging business activity in Pakistan.

"The SCO conference and meetings of high level delegations with Pakistan are going to be held in next few days and PTI leaders are trying to create hurdles through public rallies in the Federal Capital," he said while talking to a private television channel. The PTI leadership is trying to send wrong messages through public gatherings in the Federal Capital," he said. The party wanted to repeat the May 9 situation through public meetings, he added.

At least 30 arrested as police...

Continued from page 1

ment had issued a set of strict guidelines, which the PTI failed to follow fully, sparking clashes between its workers and the authorities.

The PTI today shared updates of its caravans departing various cities, despite being warned by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi a day ago not to hold any rally in Islamabad due to several high-profile visits by foreign dignitaries.

Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl Maulana Fazlur Rehman, with whom the PTI has been in frequent amicable contact recently, has also urged the party to postpone its planned gatherings till the foreigners have left.

The police have blocked all entry and points to the cities and tear gas shelling has also begun in an attempt to disperse protesters.

Talking to the media at D-Chowk, Islamabad Inspector General of Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said: "Proceedings are under way wherever there are at-

tempts to hurt police or damage property. Till now, there have been over 30 arrests. We are updating the exact numbers. It is very clear that we have a clear message that we will not allow the law to be taken into own hands."

Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) authorities have enforced Section 144 and the Peaceful Assembly Act across the capital, prohibiting gatherings and processions in restricted areas as part of tightened security measures.

According to a police statement, the high-security zone, red zone, and surrounding areas have been designated as restricted, with strict enforcement of the law.

He said that the ICT Police is always busy protecting people's lives and property.

He said anyone involved in illegal activities will be held accountable.

He said that citizens are requested not to engage in any unlawful gatherings.

He further stated that legal action will be taken against those who attempt

to disturb peace and order.

He said Observe traffic advisories for road closures while traveling.

Guidance can be taken from Islamabad Police FM 92.4 and Pukar 15 to know the latest traffic situation, he added.

Citizens are advised to report any emergencies by dialing 15.

Mobile service has been shut in twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi in view of PTI protest.

Issuing high alert section 144 has been imposed and all the roads connecting both the cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi have been closed.

Double containers have been placed on Murree road, T-chowk 26 No chungi, JIP road, Khaban-e-Sirsyed, six road, Peshawar road, Katarian and traffic has been suspended thereon.

Islamabad Express way too has been sealed on different spots JIP Double road has also closed for traffic. All the roads coming to Murree road have also been shut. Heavy contingent of police have been deployed on all the roads.



LAHORE: Golfer playing his shot during opening Day of 10th Chief of the Naval Staff Amateur Net Shield Golf Tournament at DHA Raya Golf and Country club Lahore.

Kuki Khel tribe announces march for IDPs' return to Tirah valley

Independent Report

JAMRUD: The Kuki Khel tribe organized a rally in Jamrud Bazaar, demanding the reopening of closed areas in Tirah Valley's Rajgal and the return of displaced persons (IDPs). The rally, held near the historic Bab-e-Khyber, drew participants from various political parties and schools of thought.

Speakers, including former Jamaat-e-Islami provincial chief Mushaq Ahmad Khan, Malik Naseer Ahmed Kuki Khel, and Sherin Afridi, president of Bara Political Alliance, urged immediate reopening of Tirah Valley's closed areas; return of IDPs, restoration of peace in Khyber District and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, end to imposed conflict.

The rally condemned recent firing and tear gas use on a grand jirga in Khyber.

The Kuki Khel tribe announced a massive peace and return march on October 14, joined by thousands of Pashtuns, if their demands remain unmet.

Political parties decide to...

Continued from page 1

for observing the Day of Solidarity, condemning the ongoing oppression of innocent Muslims in Palestine and Gaza.

The participants of the meeting resolved to raise their voice against the Israeli aggression and worst brutalities against the innocent people in Gaza and Palestine, and show solidarity with them.

They praised the Jamaat-e-Islami for taking an initiative to express solidarity with the innocent Palestinians and highlight Israeli aggression in Gaza and Palestine.

The JI Ameer also lauded the prime minister's speech at the United Nations General Assembly for raising the issue of ongoing Israeli atrocities against Palestinians, and commended the walkout by the Pakistani delegation, led by the prime minister, at the start of the Israeli prime minister's speech.

Pakistan making landmark strides...

Continued from page 1

forward matters regarding trade and investment.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had invited the Prime Minister of Malaysia to visit Pakistan on the occasion of the World Economic Forum in Riyadh.

Tarar informed that Halal meat and rice exports from Pakistan to Malaysia will be increased and initially one hundred thousand tons of rice will be exported.

He said it was worth appreciation that Malaysian PM stated that his country supported Pakistan's demand for implementation of the United Nations resolutions on Kashmir dispute.

About national economy, he said it was improving and it will become more stable with the visits of world leaders to Pakistan. He said Turkish President Yayıp Erdogan during his meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at UN General Assembly session, had acknowledged that Pakistan's economy was improving.

He said the government was now focusing on promoting trade with other countries which will boost

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Pakistan urges end to Israel occupation, calls for upholding Palestinian rights

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Secretary, Amna Baloch reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering stance on Palestine, calling for an immediate end to Israel's illegal occupation and urged the international community to uphold Palestinian rights during a debate at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) on Thursday.

Addressing the UNHRC debate on the situation of human rights in occupied Palestine, Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch presented Pakistan's consistent position on the urgent and imperative necessity of upholding international law, especially at a time of grave threats to regional peace, security, and the credibility of the international system.

She emphasized that all human rights flow from the right to self-determination, which was enshrined in the UN Charter and international human rights law.

"Aggression and settler-colonialism in Palestine could no longer be rewarded with impunity," she said adding that Israel's illegal occupation must end and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination must be realised to avert genocide and apartheid.

The foreign secretary also reiterated Pakistan's consistent support for a viable, sovereign, and contiguous State of Palestine based on pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

AJK president urges Kashmiri Diaspora to advocate for Kashmir cause

ISLAMABAD (APP): Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry, President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), has urged the Kashmiri diaspora to make every possible effort to highlight the Kashmir cause at international forums.

The AJK president was speaking during a meeting with International Kashmir Peace Forum (IKPF) Europe President Zahid Iqbal Hashmi, who called on him at Kashmir House here on Friday.

Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry emphasized the critical role of the Kashmiri community abroad in exposing the Indian government's nefarious designs in the region, particularly in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He urged the diaspora to unite and amplify their voices, ensuring that the plight of Kashmir is brought to global attention.

Chaudhry noted that the sham elections in IIOJK cannot substitute the Kashmiris' right to self-determination. He maintained that the people of Kashmir, who have made unparalleled sacrifices for the noble cause of freedom, would never compromise on their rights.

Noor Ahmed Domki urges transporters to reduce public transport fares

QUETTA (APP): Secretary Regional Transport Noor Ahmed Domki on Friday urged the transporters to voluntarily reduce the fares of public transport following recent cut in fuel prices in order to pass on relief to the masses.

He warned that stern action would be taken against those found were found involved in charging high fares from passengers.

The newly-appointed Secretary Regional Transport also directed the bus owners to remove illegal tolls on public transport and also avoid overloading of the transport, otherwise, action will be taken against them under the Vehicle Ordinance.

Noor Ahmad Domki said a meeting with all transporters would be also called to resolve public issues.

Earlier, Noor Ahmed Domki took charge of the Secretary Regional Transport and has started performing his duties.

TIME EXTENSION

With reference to the tender notice newspaper advertisement AB No. 283/11-09-2024 regarding Construction of Schools package 21 District Dera Bugti. The date for submission and opening of bids for BPPRA (TSE: 242509546943) has been extended to 7th October 2024, Submission 10:00 Hours and Opening at 11:00 Hours.

TENDER NOTICE

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer (Buildings) C W P P & H Department, District Killa Abdullah 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 2% for each work.

S.No	Name of Works	E/Cost
1	Construction of rooms & Rehabilitation work GPS Mohala Senta Kakaran Gulistan Karez District Killa Abdullah BEMIS Code 16985, PSDP # 6048 Z2024.2603 TSE-242510564003	13,276,102/-
2	Construction of rooms & Rehabilitation work GGMS Killa Ahmed Khailan Gulistan District Killa Abdullah BEMIS Code 15882, PSDP # 6318 Z2024.2529 TSE-242510564013	13,275,505/-

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 2 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 9,293,271 for S.No. 1 and RS: 9,292,853/- PKR for S.No. 2 Amount in 2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Procedure Of Procurement: Single Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 21 October, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 21 October, 2024 till 11:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM Address: Jangal piralizai Road Killa Abdullah Phone No: 0826920040 Email: executiveengr@killaabdullah@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(BUILDINGS) C W P P & H Department, District Killa Abdullah.

PRQ No.1334/4-10-2024



QUETTA: Employees of Balochistan University are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, outside Quetta press club.

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to the subject mentioned above that PRQ NO. 1167/23-09-2024 under TSE-242509555683 It is submitted that noncompliance about "BOQ error" has been again uploaded as per the direction of BPPRA. Tender will be open on 15th October, 2024 instead of 21st October, 2024, at the office of undersigned.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - ROADS

CW,PP&H DEPARTMENT DISTRICT KOHLU

PRQ No.1343/04-10-2024

www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dprbalochistan

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Officer District Council Pishin invites sealed bids from eligible bidders who can prove their eligibility and qualification as mentioned in the bidding documents for the work mentioned below. The work estimated cost and other information of works as under tender based on Composite Schedule of Rates 2023 Govt. of Balochistan as required from interested contractors / firms for the work listed below under BPPRA Rule. Tender Fee Rs. 1000/- for each work

S.No	Description of Work	Amount
1	REPAIR OF MOSQUES, MADRASSAHS SCHOOLDRAIN AT UC NO 28, DISTRICT COUNCIL PISHIN TSE-242510563863	7,195,000.00
2	REPAIR AND DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL BORES AT UC# 28 MANZAKAI. TSE-242510563873	8,000,000.00
3	PROVIDING AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANEL AT UC#46, NALI, DISTRICT COUNCIL PISHIN. TSE-242510563883	3,000,000.00
4	SUPPLY AND FIXING OF SOLAR STREET LIGHTS IN UC# 46 NALI, DISTRICT COUNCIL PISHIN. TSE-242510563893	2,986,000.00

The Chief Officer District Council Pishin invites technical proposal of contractors / firms along with sealed financial proposals) Single stage single envelope for above mentioned works. All interested bidders are required to submit as per following briefs in support of their technical / financial proposal. The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Rules 2014, and Pakistan Engineering Council By-Laws. BASIC ELIGIBILITY: The contractor must have valid registration i.e. 2024-25 with Pakistan Engineering Council in required Category C-6 and above in relevant discipline / specially code & all term condition mentioned in the bidding documents and fresh registration with tax authorities i.e. (NTN, Sales Tax Department and BRA) where applicable. The bidder must complete similar nature assignment mentioned in the bidding documents. METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Single stage - One Envelope Bidding Procedure. BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS: Issuance: The bidders can obtain the bidding document from the address mentioned above on production of green Chellan Form for an amount of above (non-refundable) for each work deposited in the head of account 3079134234 Civil Works through Govt. Treasury / National Bank of Pakistan or can be downloaded from the website of BPPRA (www.bppra.gov.pk) during working hour, from the date of publication of this invitation in newspapers till one day prior to the last date of submission. The contractors / Firms who obtain bidding documents by downloading them from BPPRA website will also be required to provide deposited green challan of the above mentioned fee. The bids must be accompanied bid security "Technical Bid" for each work in the shape of call deposit or bank guarantee of amount specified above in the office name of the undersigned from a schedule bank (No any Bank Drafts & Banker Cheque will be acceptable. DEAD LINE OF SUBMISSION: Technical and financial proposals from intending contractors / firms sealed in one envelope clearly marked with the work title & type of proposal must be delivered by hand or through registered mail to the address mentioned below on or before 22 October, 2024 at 11:00 Hrs. Opening: The envelope containing "Technical Bids" will be opened on the same day i.e. 22 October, 2024 at 11:00 Hrs before procurement committee in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend with authority letter. Bid Validity: (90) Days Place: The place issuance, submission, inquiries and opening will be the Chief Officer District Council Pishin. The firms providing unsubstantiated and / or legal action. The undersigned reserves the right to reject all bids as per the BPPRA Rules. Address: The Chief Officer District Council Pishin

CHIEF OFFICER DISTRICT COUNCIL PISHIN

AB No.362/04-10-2024

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ISLAMABAD: Policemen fire tear gas shells to disperse protesters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party during a protest in favor of their demands at Jinnah Avenue, in the Federal Capital.

Ahsan Iqbal encourages youth towards scientific research

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal here on Friday emphasized the importance of encouraging youth towards scientific research and space exploration.

"We need to foster a spirit of inquiry and exploration among our young people, as it is this spirit that once gave Muslims global leadership in space science during the early Islamic civilization," the minister said in a special message for Pakistan's youth and scientists on the occasion of International Space Week that runs from October 4 to October 10.

He said, space technology and exploration were among the forefront sectors shaping human development in today's world. He said, developed countries were launching research missions into space, opening new horizons for humanity.

Pakistan was one of the pioneering countries in Asia to establish a space agency in the early 1960s, but unfortunately, due to policy discontinuity and instability, we could not maintain our leadership, he added. Now, the government is committed to reclaiming Pakistan's lost position in space exploration. Regretting the Muslim world's lag in space

technology, he said, "It is a tragedy that while other nations are reaching the moon today, no Muslim country has achieved this milestone. The James Webb Space Telescope is probing the depths of the universe, yet no Muslim country is part of such endeavors."

He called for setting the right priorities for the nation, stating, "It is time to redirect the entire nation towards scientific research, creativity, and innovation. I hope that through the Ministry of Education and SUPARCO's programs during International Space Week, we will inspire our youth to explore the universe, with the goal of landing a Pakistani rocket on the

moon before 2035." Addressing the issue of climate change, Ahsan Iqbal mentioned the severe challenges Pakistan faces, as evidenced by the devastating floods of 2022 that affected over 33 million people and caused billions of dollars in damages. He stressed the importance of embracing modern technologies to tackle these challenges. He explained that space technologies could play a transformative role in combating climate threats in Pakistan. Earth observation satellites help monitor glaciers, deforestation, and land use, providing valuable data to predict climatic threats, allowing for better decision-making and damage prevention.

Senate body voices concern over lack of funds for Railway Police

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate's Committee on Railways Friday expressed concerns about scarcity of funds for the Railway Police and over incomplete briefing on theft incidents.

The committee, which met with Senator Jam Saifullah Khan in chair, was briefed on the issues raised by Senator Shahadat Awan regarding theft incidents, embezzlement of funds, scrap cases, and financial losses faced by the Pakistan Railways over the last five years.

The committee members expressed their displeasure over the briefing provided by the Railways Ministry on the theft inci-

dents and misappropriation, and directed that a detailed one should be provided on the issues in the next meeting.

Inspector General of Railway Police Rao Sardar Ali Khan highlighted that the Railway Police lacked human resources and necessary funds for maintaining law and order and curbing theft. Even it did not have funds to pay compensation to its Shuhada (martyrs), he added.

Committee Chairman Jam Saifullah Khan stated that the Railway Police played a pivotal role in ensuring the safety of commuters and preventing theft. He directed the Rail-

way Police to inform the committee about the problems being faced by the department and suggestions for betterment of its performance. The committee also urged the government to take steps for the capacity building of Railway Police. Senator Kamil Ali Agha remarked that people around the world preferred to travel by rail keeping in mind their safety though the railway fares were generally higher compared to those of aeroplanes. As regard the 105-kilometer long Tharparkar railway track, Secretary Railways Syed Mazhar Ali Shah informed the committee that the contract for the project.

Muqam criticizes PTI for disturbing peace, business activity in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister Amir Muqam on Friday criticized chief minister Ali Amin Gandapur for disturbing peace and business activity in country through public meetings.

He said Ali Amin Gandapur was using official resources of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for holding public rally in the federal capital.

Talking to a private television channel, he said the CM KP should resolve the problems of the people of province and refrain

from arranging public gathering in the capital.

"Important high level delegations are coming to this country to enhance bilateral and business relations with Pakistan," he said adding that PTI was trying to disrupt peaceful environment of the capital at this critical moment.

He said that PTI had a track record of derailing economic activity in the country. The PTI had tried to halt the development projects some years back after staging sit-in in the federal capital, he added.



ISLAMABAD: A view of security personal stand on red zone area due to PTI anti-government protest at D Chowk.

Secretary WPC along with MNAs visit NORI hospital

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Secretary Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) Shahida Rehmani along with women parliamentarians visited the Nuclear Medicine, Oncology and Radiotherapy Institute (NORI) hospital in Islamabad to commemorate the start of Breast Cancer awareness month.

The delegation was briefed by Director NORI, Dr. Muhammad Faheem, and Head of the Department of Oncology, Dr. Humaira Mahmood, said a news release.

The visit was organized to acknowledge the critical issue of breast can-

cer in Pakistan, assess the current state of healthcare delivery, and discuss the support mechanisms available for patients facing challenges in affording treatment.

The Women Parliamentarians also evaluated the hospital's capacity to manage the increasing patient load and reviewed the use of advanced technologies and medications that offer cutting-edge treatments.

During the visit, Dr. Humaira presented detailed statistics on breast cancer in Pakistan, highlighting that breast cancer remains the most prevalent form of cancer, affecting one in ev-

ery eight women.

She emphasized that the country has a significantly lower rate of early detection compared to Western nations, attributing this disparity to a lack of awareness, poverty, and cultural barriers.

The members stressed the urgent need for effective awareness campaigns, particularly for encouraging early detection, to help reduce the alarming number of cases.

The WPC underscored their commitment to amplifying awareness on breast cancer and acknowledged the efforts of NORI Hospital in providing comprehensive cancer care.



ISLAMABAD: An eye catching view of peacock replica installed by CDA at Cabinet Block to enhance the beauty of the federal capital.

Giving teachers rightful place in society must for promoting education: Ayaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Friday called for appreciating the profound impact that teachers have on individuals and the nation as a whole. "The teachers not only impart knowledge but also teach and nurture students to become responsible citizens and productive members of the workforce," the Speaker said in his message on the World Teachers' Day, being celebrated annually on October 5 across the globe.

"The teachers impart wisdom and instill ethics in their students often amidst challenging circumstances," he added.

Ayaz Sadiq emphasized the religious and cultural teachings that under-

scored the respect and reverence owed to the teachers. "Teaching is not merely a profession but a noble cause," he said that a great ambition and devotion was required to guide the youth in discerning right from wrong and in turn enabling them to make decisions that affect not only their lives but also the fabric of nation and the world.

Ayaz Sadiq, while urging the nation to honour the educators in Pakistan, stated, "Giving teachers the rightful place in society is essential for promoting education in the country."

The Speaker also highlighted the unwavering commitment of Parliament of Pakistan for uplifting and upholding the due respect deserved by teachers.

IHC seeks FIA's comments on Bushra Bibi's bail case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday sought comments from the respondents, including the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on the post-arrest bail petition of Bushra Bibi in the Toshakhana-II case.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the case filed by the wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder.

Gilani acknowledges invaluable contributions of teachers to society

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, on Friday expressed deep appreciation for the invaluable contributions of teachers to the society.

In his message on the occasion of World Teachers' Day, he highlighted the critical role teachers played in shaping the future by imparting knowledge, instilling values, and guiding students toward both personal and academic growth.

He also underscored the importance of providing teachers with the necessary resources and support to fulfil their duties, acknowledging the challenges they face in today's rapidly evolving educational landscape.

Gilani reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to enhancing the status of teachers, ensuring their well-being, and recognizing their pivotal role in the nation-building process.



ISLAMABAD: People facing problems to reach their destination due to container placed for PTI protest.

Drug peddler sentenced to 6 years in prison

ISLAMABAD (APP): A special court for the Control of Narcotic Substances (CNS), Attock on Friday sentenced nine-year imprisonment to an accused involved in a drug peddling case.

The accused Akash Shoukat was arrested by Police in April this year while selling hashish at his den located in Mohallah Chaudhrian subsequently a case was registered against him under section 9-C of control of narcotics substance act 1997.

The judge Zahid Mehmood after hearing the arguments of defense and prosecution counsels announced the verdict as the convicted was found guilty of selling drugs, subsequently awarded 9-year imprisonment and fine worth Rs 80,000.

Nation pays tribute to iconic singer 'Masood Rana' on 29th death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Nation remembered the legendary Pakistani playback singer, Masood Rana on his 29th death anniversary where the music industry, fans, and admirers come together to pay rich tributes for his unforgettable singing career which continues to inspire new generations of musicians and singers.

The death anniversary of famous playback singer Masood Rana, who lent his voice to scores of songs in Pakistani Films for three decades, was being observed on Friday, PTV news channel reported.

Masood Rana was born in Mir Pur Khas, Sindh

to a landowner family which had migrated from the east Punjab city Jalandhar.

Masood rana started his singing career from Radio Pakistan Hyderabad in 1955 and 1964. His Punjabi song "Tange Wala Khair Mangda" in the film "daachi" was a popular street song.

Masood Rana sang scores of songs for Pakistani films. His dozens of Urdu and Punjabi songs proved to be hit songs among people.

He sang in more than 550 films. Fateha Khawani was held at the residence for the departed soul.

19 criminals arrested; illegal weapons seized

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police apprehended 19 criminals involved in different criminal activities and recovered illegal weapons with ammunition from their possession.

According to a public relations officer (PRO), under the special directions of Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the ICT Police have intensified their crackdown on criminal elements to eliminate crime from the city, he told APP.

In this regard, he said Police Tarnol and Shams Colony police station teams took action against accused involved in possessing illegal weapons and arrested two accused.

He said police teams also recovered two pistols with ammunition from their possession. Moreover, 17 absconders were also arrested during the last 24 hours. According to PRO, DIG Syed Ali Raza, said that the Islamabad Police are actively working to ensure the safety of citizens' lives and property in the federal capital, emphasizing that no elements will be allowed to disrupt citizens' peace.

Protecting the lives, property, and dignity of citizens is top priority of Islamabad Police, Syed Ali Raza added.

Citizens are urged to report any suspicious activities to the relevant police station.

3-member bench of SC formed to hear double taxation treaty review case

ISLAMABAD (Online): A 3-member bench of Supreme Court (SC) has been constituted to hear double taxation treaty review case.

The bench will be presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan are also included in the bench.

The counsel Saad Hashmi while moving to CJP Qazi Faez Isa said Justice Mansoor Ali Shah had given dissenting note in double taxation case decision.

You had authored the decision. Former CJP Umar Atta Bandial had agreed with your decision. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah who had written dissenting decision be also included in review bench.

CJP Qazi Faez Isa said we include Justice Mansoor Ali Shah. The third judge of review bench will be Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan.

It is pertinent to mention here hearing of double taxation review case was fixed today in SC.

Counsel Saad Hashmi requested for formation of new bench by including Justice Mansoor Ali Shah.

SC 3-member bench will hear review case on October 21.

Governor KP, British HC for strengthening bilateral relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): A meeting took place on Friday between Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi and British High Commissioner Jane Marriott, focusing on strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation in multiple sectors.

The meeting was also attended by Ahmad Karim Kundi, Member of Provincial Assembly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Discussions centered on developmental projects, and collaboration in educa-

tion, health, culture, and sports.

The British High Commissioner assured support from the UK for developmental initiatives as well as cultural and sporting activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi emphasized the importance of investment and trade relations, along with the exchange of cultural delegations and the promotion of sports.

He said that these initiatives would help engage youth in positive activities.

IG Rizvi visits D-Chowk, various duty points

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, visited D-Chowk and various duty points and met with the officials of ICT Police and other law enforcement departments who were performing duties in order to maintain the law and order situation in the federal capital on Friday. According to police statement, IG Rizvi instructed the officials to be highly alert and ready all the time to deal with any emerging law and order situation.

Addressing the officials he said, "Will shall take every possible necessary measures to protect the lives and property of citizens as well as private and commercial property and ready to thwart adventurism from any elements."

He said all the officials who were performing duties were putting their best efforts to maintain the law and order situation in the capital. IG vowed ICT Police will never allow anyone to disturb the peaceful environment of the city and will take all necessary steps to protect the lives and property of the citizens.

Nasir Rizvi said all the officers have been directed to stay vigilant in their respective areas and brief the personnel to deal with any law and order situation and check the duties by themselves.



ISLAMABAD: Two men on their way carrying bundle of dry woods on head for domestic use.

NUST confers honorary PhD degree upon Malaysia's PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST-Islamabad) conferred honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy upon the Malaysian Prime Minister, Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, during a special convocation held at the NUST main campus, the other day.

At the occasion, the honourable dignitary also delivered a keynote address on Allama Iqbal, demonstrating a deep understanding of Iqbal's thought, and its continuing relevance to balanced development, inclusive growth, and individual well-being.

The Prime Minister said, "I am sincerely thankful for the warmth and hospitality extended to me by the government and people of Pakistan, and I hope that our two nations will con-

tinue to grow even closer, forging stronger ties for the future." Expressing his heartfelt gratitude upon conferment of the doctorate degree honoris causa by NUST, he said, "With great humility, and in the spirit of Iqbal, I accept this honour on behalf of the people of Malaysia as a symbol of the deep intellectual and cultural connection between our nations."

He maintained that it was a profound honour to be at NUST, terming the university a beacon of excellence in education, research and innovation.

Addressing the students, he remarked that their presence at NUST is a testament to their intellect, dedication and immense potential. He further said, "Just as Iqbal's philosophy calls for continual self-improvement.

ITP organizes road safety workshop at WAPDA Staff College

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Traffic Police ITP education wing organized one-day workshop on road safety at WAPDA Staff College on Friday.

The workshop was attended by education wing member, drivers and other staff of the government organization, the spokesman said.

Moreover, the workshop participants were briefed on road safety, cautious driving, and other traffic laws, he said.



ISLAMABAD: A view of deserted roads in the Federal Capital, creating life miserable for citizens.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
Saturday October 05, 2024

High cost of living

Over the past few months, the rate at which the prices of goods and services in the country have risen has slowed significantly. Headline fell to a 44-month low of 6.9pc last month.

This decline, driven by a high-base effect from last year when annual inflation stood at 31.4pc, along with plunging global oil and commodity prices, a stable exchange rate, falling demand due to eroding real wages, and, last but not least, aggressive monetary tightening, exceeds the projections of the government and the market. Latest figures from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics show that both sticky core inflation and the three-month average inflation rates, although higher than CPI inflation, have also fallen to single digits, signalling a substantial easing of inflationary pressures. The narrowing gap between the CPI and core inflation — which excludes energy and food prices — suggests a slowdown in imported inflation.

The improvement in the inflation outlook has already seen the State Bank slashing borrowing costs by 450bps to 17.5pc since June. The latest CPI reading has created further room for a cut in interest rates in November and December. The government's recent move to buy back its costly debt of Rs351bn maturing in December from the commercial banks at the much lower rate of 16pc compared to the 20pc-21pc at which it was originally sold, has deepened expectations of monetary easing earlier than anticipated. In fact, private businesses are already calling for an aggressive rate cut next month.

With inflation plunging below the target of 12pc for FY25, the next monetary policy session will test the State Bank's resolve of treading cautiously since risks remain elevated because of tensions in the Middle East and the fragile economic recovery at home.

No doubt, the recent decline in global energy and commodity prices has helped the government reduce domestic oil, transport and wheat rates. However, prices of goods and services consumed by the people continue to rise even as the inflation rate falls below 7pc.

In other words, the cost of living is increasing, though perhaps not as rapidly as earlier, showing that even when the inflation rate decreases, the prices do not. This means there will be no let-up in the pain of middle-class people when it comes to grocery expenses, school fees, and hospital bills. This will persist unless there is a sustainable economic turnaround and a much faster increase in real incomes that outpaces inflation.

With the government facing rising public discontent because of poor economic conditions, the big worry is that it might be tempted to go overboard to appease the voters and try to stimulate faster growth through inflationary measures. Although chances of such an eventuality are low with the IMF breathing down its neck, it cannot be ruled out.

Ghazan Jamal

To say that there is a breakdown of trust between the state and its populace in Pakistan is an understatement.

There is an ongoing, violent separatist movement in Balochistan; incidents of militant Islamist insurgency are increasing in the Pakhtun territories; dacoits roam freely in southern Punjab and inner Sindh; military exchanges along the Pak-Afghan border are becoming more common; sectarian violence is on the rise.

And all this while many across the country are mobilising and rioting, yearning for political and economic stability. In these tumultuous times, there is an opportunity presenting itself that can help bridge the trust deficit between the state and its Pakhtun population.

An effort is afoot to arrange a loya (grand) jirga of all Pakhtun tribes on Oct 11. This effort is deeply embedded in Pakhtun tradition and such gatherings have a centuries-old history in Pakhtun society. This might be an opportune moment for the state to do

something it probably should have done following 40 years of conflict in Pakhtun lands: set up a truth and reconciliation commission.

A TRC is an official body established to investigate violations and abuses that took place over a period, especially during times of armed conflict. TRCs aim to identify the causes and consequences of abuses, which may have been committed by repressive regimes or non-state armed groups. They provide victims and perpetrators an opportunity to candidly share their stories in an effort to foster reconciliation and a peaceful way forward as a society transitions out of the period of conflict. A TRC prepares a final report that includes recommendations for reform to prevent such acts from being repeated.

TRCs are one of the most prevalent approaches to transitional justice. The International Centre for Transitional Justice defines transitional justice as "how societies respond to the legacies of massive and serious human rights violations". Since the mid-1970s, over 35 such commissions

have been set up globally, many of which addressed far bloodier, more complicated and longer conflicts than the ones fought in Pakhtun lands.

Some of the most famous examples are the TRC in South Africa in 1995, that allowed South Africa to deal with the horrors of apartheid, and the National Commission for Truth and Reconciliation in Chile, set up in 1990 to investigate the abuses committed under US-backed dictator Gen Augusto Pinochet. This commission played a key role in allowing Chilean society to move past this dark period in their history. Another instructive example is the TRC of Canada in 2008, that looked at the impacts of the Canadian Indian residential school system on Indigenous families.

In many ways, the underlying principles of a TRC are similar to the long-established practice of Pakhtun qauri (tribal) jirgas. Unlike jirgas in other parts of Pakistan, Pakhtun jirgas tend to be more egalitarian and inclusive, with this jirga being unique in that it is aiming to have representation from across

Pakhtun society including professional organisations/associations and women, segments of society conventionally not associated with jirgas, which will add to this jirga's broader appeal to the population.

Furthermore, the Pakhtun tradition of prioritising compensation for victims over punishment of culprits has contributed to a long history of successful reconciliations through jirgas. This tradition may prove key in promoting an amnesty consensus which could allow Pakhtun society to move forward from this violent period in recent history.

Over the past 40 years, this region has been at the centre of two global superpowers' foreign policy priorities — first, the Soviet Union in the 1980s and then the US through the 2000s. It was not an ideal time for the Pakistani state to open a candid conversation with the local population about its policies, role and/or compulsions. Unrest is again brewing in the region, but this time without a global superpower intricately involved. Bruce Hoffman,

widely seen as the father of counterterrorism, has argued that the key ingredient for terrorism to breed is indigenous support, and this support is possible if there is a deeply aggrieved populace. This might be the state's last chance to cut off all-important lifeline to militants and have the Pakhtun public stand firmly beside it in what are surely going to be some very testing years ahead.

The organisers of the grand jirga hope to provide a forum to bear witness to the devastation that has rocked the region over the past few decades, especially following the war on terror. They will highlight the causes behind and the consequences of the conflict. They also look to highlight the competitive advantages and natural resources the region possesses that can be developed for creating livelihood and promoting growth in the country. Subsequently, they hope to chalk out a way forward to safeguard their rights and in pursuit of peace in their homeland through consensus formed by the jirga members.

The state should

make use of this occasion and become part of the conversation, rather than attempt to suppress this indigenous effort. By the state's own admission, it had to make some very complex decisions during this period. Importantly, in the era of misinformation and social media, facts and fiction are very often blurred.

What matters most in moments like these are perceptions, which currently are not in favour of the state. As such, the state should use this opportunity and, in the model of a TRC, tell its side of the story and present the facts as it sees them. To move forward, the past cannot be buried. It has to be accepted, owned and then steps need to be agreed to ensure that past mistakes are not repeated, to build trust and hope for the future.

The state must engage with the collective intuition of the jirga to carve out a way forward that satisfies the local population and in so doing strengthens the federation of Pakistan. -- Courtesy Dawn

Winning back the Pakhtun belt

Renegotiating the treaty

Hassan Abbas

From a hydrological perspective, the water distribution and management plan of the Indus Waters Treaty is one of the most unscientific strategies when it comes to the world's large transboundary river basins.

Consequently, it has not been able to succeed — legally, environmentally, economically or politically. Before the damage already done becomes irreversible, the IWT must be re-evaluated through the lens of rigorous science.

The IWT is unique in the sense that it was devised to divide the waters of the Indus basin between Pakistan and India at a time when no country was facing a water shortage in the basin area, which was divided by a political boundary in 1947. The Standstill Agreement of 1947, signed between Pakistan and India to keep the Indus basin waters flowing the way they were before the political division, is a testimony to this fact.

However, after the expiration of the agreement

in 1948, East Punjab began shutting down the canals that flowed into Pakistan from the headworks now under its control — not because India was running short of water but out of political malice — thus depriving the civilian population of Punjab (Pakistan) of life-giving water supplies for irrigation. This constituted a war crime under international law, which stipulates: "It is ... prohibited to attack, destroy, remove or render useless, for that purpose, objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, such as foodstuffs, agricultural areas for the production of foodstuffs, crops, livestock, drinking water installations and supplies and irrigation works."

In 1948, the chief minister of East Punjab, Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava, ordered the closure of canals, and Jawaharlal Nehru, the Indian prime minister, supported him. Thus began a water conflict, which had nothing to do with water scarcity in India or Pakistan.

Lawyer David E. Lilienthal, in his essays published in 1951, suggested that, by flowing

into the sea, the Indus waters were being 'wasted', and that India and Pakistan should build infrastructure to 'utilise' it. To date, this unscientific view of a lawyer, instead of being scrutinised by experts, remains at the heart of the treaty to justify every new large infrastructure project in both Pakistan and India.

Lilienthal further suggested in his essays that "counting noses in Kashmir" (referring to the proposed plebiscite) would not "solve any problems" and in order to prevent war in the region, the two countries, instead, needed to develop their water resources. He told the then World Bank president that there were business opportunities for the bank in the development of infrastructure in India and Pakistan. The bank thus got involved in brokering a treaty between the two countries and also invited other peace-loving countries to 'contribute' through aid and grants to finance infrastructure projects in the Indus basin.

It must be kept in view that Lilienthal was, at the time, a consultant

to Lazard Freres, who, in turn, was a consultant to the World Bank. Thus there was a clear conflict of interest in Lilienthal's proposals.

Pakistan and India went on an infrastructure-building spree aimed at preventing the Indus from flowing into the sea, while the rest of the world was made to believe that the treaty would prevent war between them.

More than six decades since the treaty, there have been multiple wars between the two countries, with tensions and hostilities continuing to this day. The treaty failed to achieve its aim. To date, it is serving financial institutions and enabling building contractors to continue business in the region, albeit with devastating environmental and social consequences.

Consequent to the massive infrastructure development based on the treaty — dams, diversions and unprecedented shutting down of major rivers — the Indus delta has been deprived of life-sustaining silt/water supply, and the world's fifth-largest mangrove forest (a significant global carbon sink) has al-

most vanished; the empty riverbeds of the Ravi and Sutlej are being used for untreated wastewater, municipal garbage and industrial waste; toxic waste is being dumped into the rivers and it enters the food chain, causing severe health issues; groundwater is contaminated with arsenic in irrigated areas; millions of tons of salt, which used to drain out into the sea, are accumulating; water logging and salinity continue to destroy farmland, the natural environment and urban landscapes situated in the basin; wetlands alongside the rivers have vanished; and so on. The list is endless.

In line with today's global mind — which is aware of the environment, health and socioeconomic issues — we need to restore our degraded rivers — from the headwaters to the delta; we need to bring back the lost wetlands, vanishing mangrove forests and disappearing Indus delta; we need to remove garbage from and prevent the pollution of our waterways; we need to restore the lost ecological services of entire river systems, making our river

water potable again. For this, we must invoke new economic engines for a water economy founded on sustainability, thus leading to peace and harmony among those inhabiting the river basin.

Wasteful and outdated irrigation methods invoked since the time of the Raj are the prime reason for the unreasonable damming and diversions in the Indus basin.

Not only did the IWT strengthen outdated irrigation practices, encouraged more water diversions and led to the shutting down of complete rivers, it also paved the way for environmentally destructive and expensive large hydro-power projects (touted as 'cheap' and 'green') in the Indus basin. This must change in the 21st century — and with our current knowledge base and tools, a more systematic and sustainable manner of water-sharing can be evolved. We must bridge the distance between outdated ideas and the current global mind to shape a healthy, sustainable and peaceful environment in the Indus basin for future generations. The treaty must be renegotiated along these lines.

Act of conscience

Zubeida Mustafa

"If the pain has often been unbearable and the revelations shocking to all of us, it is because they indeed bring us the beginnings of a common understanding of what happened and a steady restoration of the nation's humanity. The TRC [Truth and Reconciliation Commission] that is guiding us on this journey is the TRC of all of us" — Nelson Mandela

Coming from a leader who spent 27 years of his life in prison on Robben Island crushing stones, these words show sagacity and astuteness. They must be reflected on. Mandela, who led South Africa out of the black hole of apartheid, allowed his people to protest but prevented a bloodbath when the transition took place. Protest was the silent voice of the people's conscience. Hence it had to be peaceful. If it turned violent, then it was not protest but vendetta. And that can never be justified.

Mandela was a shrewd statesman. He understood how his people had been brutalised by their White Boer colonisers and how bitter they felt. Hence he convened a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to listen to the outpourings of people who had suffered all kinds of indignities and injustice. What was the outcome? Nothing in practical terms but it brought closure to the South Africans, enabling them to come to terms with their past and work for their future.

Protest is said to be a potent force for political change. Yet few in Pakistan organise themselves to protest against the injustices meted out to them in abundance by the powers that be. Why this apathy? We are such a divided society where what is a bane for one is a

boon for the other. People protest if they are directly affected. They turn a blind eye to the injustice that affects the weak and underprivileged classes, who lack the capacity to mobilise themselves and create awareness about the issue that is at the root of the problem.

But that does not mean we do not have protesters. To be a protester, one must be an activist and have a social conscience. These qualities are inborn and it is difficult to inculcate them in a person who inherently lacks empathy and a sense of justice.

The women's movement in Pakistan would not have considerably changed the status of women in the country had we not had women like Anis Haroon and Sheema Kermani and many others who lined sidewalks with banners in their hands. They created original slogans and managed to evoke passion and protest among like-minded men and women. The younger generation went further and the Aurat March was born.

Fearing resistance from civil society, autocratic governments have clamped down on protesters and in fact banned organisations that have organised protests, such as student bodies and labour unions.

That had an impact on the culture of protesting and made the youth apathetic.

Mercifully, we still have men of conscience who have not given up. Take Naeem Sadiq, who spends a lot of time doing research to unearth facts and gets them from the horse's mouth so that he can convey the magnitude of the injustice being meted out to the powerless — be they sanitary workers or bodyguards employed by

banks and other organisations. Another demand he supports is a ban on guns.

Only recently I discovered another protester of a unique kind. He is Abdul Hamid Dagia, who has been protesting against the injustices done to Karachi since 2015. Eighty years of age, he has chalked up 1,440 one-man protests, which is a record of sorts. A chartered accountant by profession, Dagia held coveted jobs at the Karachi Electric Supply Corporation and the stock exchange until the mid-1990s, when he gave up a stable career that he found dissatisfying because of the abundance of wealth surrounding him and the opportunities it offered for financial misappropriation. It was the inequality of the situation, leading to injustice, that touched his conscience.

What makes him unique is that he protests single-handedly. Thrice a week, he is out on the road — a quiet, aged figure holding his placard announcing the injustice that is bothering him. His causes are Karachi-centric. One banner says, 'Lawaris Karachi' (ownerless Karachi).

Another is 'Darakhton kee katai bund karo' (stop cutting trees), which earned him the wrath of the KMC's tree cutters who allegedly attacked him. Yet another says, 'Sindh budget dugna, Karachi ka hissa kahan?' (Do people join you in your protest?) I asked him. He says that an odd passerby or two does come and stand with him for a moment or so. "Once a judge noticed me. He stopped his car and joined me in solidarity," Dagia sahib remarks. A judge with a conscience. We need more of them. -

Courtesy Dawn

Loaded dice

Adel Wahid

Heads I win, tails you lose. The amendments made to the Election Act, 2017, on the fly, to paper over the various discrepancies in the elections held on Feb 8, 2024, change the entire electoral dynamic ex post facto. After the elections, the purported 'winners' are being given a free pass to change the rules of the game, to maintain their claim of being the winners, upending the manner by which those seeking to question the winning status could have brought that challenge before neutral arbiters.

As in the case of many elections held before, the ones that were held earlier this year were tainted. Concocting numbers in the Forms-47 was the new modus operandi.

In the past, elections have been managed through other means as well. In recent memory, in the 2021 Daska by-elections, almost a couple of dozen presiding officers simply went missing, and remained so for an entire night. They emerged in the morning, to present figures to the Returning Officer that were entirely different from the ones they had before they went missing. At that time, the Election Commission of Pakistan had some teeth; and the top court upheld the ECP's directions for a re-poll in the entire constituency. The returned candidate after the re-poll was from the PML-N — and not a favoured horse then.

That was then, this is now. The intrusions of that time were not kosher, we are told. The intrusions of today, they say, are not only kosher, but are, in fact, necessary. It appears that if meddling took place in

the past, it gives a complete carte blanche for meddling in the present, and also probably in the future.

An election is a competition of sorts. And in any competition, changing the rules ex post facto, that is, after the fact, is considered to be completely out of bounds. In systems where fairness matters, the rules of the games are decided before the game is played. Fairness also dictates that the rules not be changed once the game has been played. In a race, the winner is to be determined in accordance with the rules that exist before the race begins, and in keeping with the manner prescribed by those rules.

But in our system, where fairness has limited value, the reality played out like this: a bunch of candidates were said to be elected. When those contesting against the deemed successful candidates challenged the 'win', the ECP members initially twiddled their thumbs, buying time so that the issue could be punted to the election tribunals.

According to the rules existing at the time, the election tribunals were to comprise the justices of the high courts. On seeing that some may not rubber-stamp the victory, the rules of the game were changed. Into the mix were introduced retired justices, who were previously out of a job but now had been bestowed with one. The dice were loaded.

But what about fairness? What about it, they say. The previous win of the now-out-of-favour horse was also achieved with the help of those who back horses. In the previous round, a horse, in fact, had to be

taken out of the race altogether — disqualified. One may bring up the saying that two wrongs do not make a right, but those who back horses know that one wrong may also mean — even when the wrong is of their own doing — that a strong justification now exists for another.

The Supreme Court in the 'Sunni Ittehad Council' case held, in so many words, that the reserved seats be allocated to a party that was hamstrung, and its members forcibly compelled to take a route that could then be made the reason for being deprived of reserved seats.

Granting those seats to other parties — the beneficiaries — just did not add up to fairness, no matter how the issue was sliced. The current members of the National Assembly, who stood to lose, already having blocked efforts to check the veracity of the claims questioning their eligibility as members, swung into action again. More amendments followed. The rules of the game were changed some more. Conflict of interest? You bet. Fairness? You tell me.

When the Assembly members, changing all possible rules to remain in power, continued to act in their own interest, which among the institutions of the government, could and should have possibly raised a challenge? The judiciary, probably. And hence, the 26th amendment. The desire to win at all costs is a terrible thing. It makes one forget the basic norms, the ideas of fairness and truth that are necessary for any semblance of the game to remain relevant. But above all, it makes one forget that a win with a loaded dice is no win at all. -- Courtesy Dawn

CM orders to stop illegal sale, purchase of land in RUDA area

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Friday approved the establishment of a special police force to prevent encroachment along the Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA) land.

A special meeting related to RUDA was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, in which a detailed review of the completion of RUDA projects and ongoing projects was conducted.

CM Maryam Nawaz ordered to stop illegal sale and purchase of land in RUDA areas. In a meeting, it was also decided to

cooperate with China and other international organisations for the completion of RUDA projects. Maryam Nawaz was briefed about the progress on increasing the forest area in RUDA from 20 per cent to 35pc. Chief Executive Officer RUDA Imran Amin gave a detailed briefing about the project.

Senator Pervez Rasheed, Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Azma Bokhari, Chief Secretary, Secretary Housing, CEO RUDA Imran Amin, Principal Secretary and other officials were also present.



LAHORE: A teacher performing her duty at a local school as world celebrates the World Teacher's Day, also known as International Teachers Day.

Minister inaugurates Pakistan's largest students' financial aid scheme

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Higher Education Rana Sikandar Hayat Khan inaugurated Pakistan's largest scholarship programme for the financial assistance of talented students in Punjab. In this regard, a launching ceremony was organised at Punjab University in which PU Vice Chancellor Dr Muhammad Ali, Secretary Higher Education Dr Farrukh Naveed, Punjab Higher Education Commission Chief Operating Officer Dr Mansoor Ahmed Baloch, faculty members and a number of students were present.

Addressing the ceremony, Minister Hayat said Honhaar Undergraduate Scholarship Programme was the largest scholarship programme in the history of Pakistan under which the fee of 30,000 intelligent students of public and private

universities would benefit. The minister said that the fee of the four-year BS degree programme of the intelligent students would be paid every year on behalf of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and every year new students would also be included in the scholarship scheme.

He said that the eligibility criteria regarding family income range had been set with the monthly income of Rs300,000 to support upper middle class families in the scholarship programme. He said that students of government medical colleges would also be included in the scheme. The minister said that students would be given scholarships in 67 disciplines which were in high demand worldwide. Sikandar said that the Honhaar Undergraduate Scholarship Programme would help in producing the best human resource.

PPP will actively participate in Gaza Million March: Khuhro

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Sindh President Nisar Ahmed Khuhro on Friday said that the party workers would actively take part in the Gaza Million March under the auspices of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) in Karachi on October 6 and in Islamabad on October 7.

He made the announcement in light of the directives of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Khuhro said that

the PPP stood in solidarity with the people of Gaza, Palestine and Lebanon against Israeli aggression.

Khuhro said that he strongly condemned the Israeli aggression against Gaza, Lebanon and Palestine, and urged the United Nations play its role in stopping the Israeli aggression.

He appealed to all political parties to take a strong united stand against the Israeli aggression by keeping their political differences aside.



PESHAWAR: Activists and supporters of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are holding protest rally at the entrance to the Motorway-1 in Peshawar.

Kurram tribes assure implementation on ceasefire agreement

KOHAT (APP): In order to maintain law and order and ensure lasting peace in the Tribal District Kurram, a Grand Tribal Jirga was held with Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah in the chair at the Jirga Hall of District Headquarters Orakzai the other day. The grand tribal Jirga beside the Regional Police Officer Kohat Sher Akbar Khan, Deputy Commissioner Kurram Javedullah Mehsud and Deputy Commissioner Orakzai Muhammad Irfanuddin,

was also participated by the authorities concerned of respective departments and institutions, Law Enforcement Agencies, leaders of all tribes of District Kurram, members of Kurram Aman Jirga and Divisional Grand Jirga and Tribal Elders. On this occasion, all the tribes reiterated their cooperation in maintaining peace in the district and full implementation on government writ in future. They also assured to fully abide by the law and avoid any kind of provocation.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz offering Dua after inaugurating first Autism School in Pakistan.

Enabling environment being provided to youth for skill based training: Nasir Shah

KARACHI (APP): Provincial Minister of Energy, Development and Planning Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Friday said the government was creating an enabling environment to provide skill-based training to the youth so that they could increase their livelihood through small and medium enterprises development.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the 8th annual Microsoft Conference here at a local hotel, minister said the provincial government had already initiated projects aimed at supporting interest based financing of the large scale businesses such as Day Fresh Milk facility at Bhambhore, multiple Control shed poultry farms, cold storages and other agri-based value addition

private projects in Sindh. He said SEDF project had already been launched by Sindh Government in 2012 and it was working successfully since last one decade.

He said PPP government through Peoples Poverty Reduction Project (PPRP) and SRSO have reached out to more than 300,000 lower middle class families to disburse interest free loans for small business initiatives in more than 16 districts of the province.

Recently government has enhanced the loan limit from Rs.200000 to 3 million to support medium size enterprising project, Shah added.

He said recovery of these interest free loans was satisfactory and 90% people were paying back their loans since last 8 to

10 years.

Shah further said that Sindh Government through other donor funded project such as PAIDAR (EU Funding of USD 40 M), IFAD (Funding of USD 163 M) and LivAqua (WB Funded Project of USD 135 M) for Fisherfolk agro based microfinance project. "All these projects are primarily focusing on localized skill training leading towards interest free loans for small community-based business development", he added.

Sindh Social Protection Authority established under Govt of Sindh was working day and night to provide sustainable financing to all the marginalized communities who are living under poverty score in the province of Sindh.

NIH issues dengue advisory

LAHORE (APP): The National Institute of Health (NIH) issued a dengue advisory here on Friday, in the wake of increasing dengue cases in the country.

So far this year, 8,909 cases of dengue had been reported in the country, the advisory reads.

The purpose of the advisory is to inform the health related institutions about the prevention of dengue.

Over 100 countries including Pakistan are suffering from dengue epidemic.

Minister Arora visits Parliamentary Secretary for HR&MA office

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora visited the office of Parliamentary Secretary for Human Rights and Minority Affairs (HR&MA) Sonia Asher in Gulberg here on Friday. He held a meeting with the parliamentary secretary and discussed the issues, being faced by religious minorities and their solutions.

Arora emphasized the need to ensure protection of rights of religious minorities and the necessity of adopting a joint action plan to address their issues on a priority basis. Sonia Asher also reiterated the commitment to remain united in safeguarding the rights of religious minorities.

Coordinator Anil Sahotra, Focal Person Punjab Dawood Sharif Sahotra, former MPA Tariq Masih Gul, Kamran Bhatti and Akab Alam were also present on that occasion.



LAHORE: A delegation of Gujrat Hospital meeting with Punjab Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhary Shafay Hussain.

PHC approves transit bail of CM KP till Oct 25 in two cases

PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar High Court (PHC) has approved transit bail of Chief Minister (CM) KP Ali Amin Gandapur in two cases till October 25.

Transit bail plea of KP CM came up for hearing before Chief Justice (CJ) PHC Ishtiaq Ibrahim Friday.

Alam Khan advocate counsel for the petitioner said CM KP Ali Amin Gandapur has filed petition for transit bail in high court. Cases have been registered against the petitioner in respective courts. The petitioner wants to appear in respective courts. But he fears he will be arrested.

Lahore police conduct 3,243 search operations

LAHORE (APP): In connection with the Jummah prayers security, the Lahore police carried out 3,243 search-and-combing operations in various areas of the city.

A police spokesman said in a statement on Friday that over 94,000 houses, more than 57,000 tenants, and over 216,000 individuals were checked during operations. More than 338,000 individuals were cleared after verification. Legal action was taken against 1,586 people for violations.

Federal govt to hand over Green Line Bus Service to Sindh govt: Sharjeel

KARACHI (APP): The Federal government will hand over the Green Line Bus Service to the Sindh government in December 2024.

The Sindh government has finalized preparations to assume control of the Green Line's operations, said a communique on Friday.

A high-level meeting was held in Karachi under the chairmanship of Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon. The meeting was attended by Transport Secretary Asad Zamin, Managing Director of Sindh Mass Transit Authority Kamal Hakeem Dayo, Trans Karachi CEO Shumaila Mohsin, and other officials.

In the meeting, the operations of the Green Line Bus Service were thoroughly reviewed, and Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon received a comprehensive briefing on the Green Line project.

A detailed discussion was also held on the plan to connect the Green Line with the Orange Line project.

During the meeting, Sharjeel Inam Memon directed the swift completion of the project connecting the Green Line with the Orange Line. The meeting also covered discussions on the Sindh Government's ongoing operations in the public transport sector, utility

Voices concern over 7 new polio cases CM Murad calls for elected representatives' involvement to avoid refusals

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, presiding over a provincial meeting to review polio eradication efforts, expressed concern over the detection of seven cases and reaffirmed his commitment to eradicating polio from the province.

The meeting was held at the CM House on Friday. It was attended by provincial ministers, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Saeed Ghani, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Additional IG Police Imran Yakooob, provincial secretaries, and others. The divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners attended the meeting through video link.

Irshad Ali Sodhar, Provincial Coordinator of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) gave a detailed briefing to the CM on the current polio

situation and the performance of the Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) program.

It was pointed out that Sindh had reported seven polio cases this year, including three from Karachi, two from Hyderabad, and one each from Sujawal, and Shikarpur. On this, the CM emphasised the urgent need for coordinated actions to reach every child and eliminate the threat of polio. Murad Shah directed the Minister of Health Dr. Azra and the Minister of Local Government Saeed Ghani to improve immunisation by involving elected representatives to avoid refusal.

Secretary of Health Rehan Baloch, Secretary Local Government Khalid Hyder Shah, and commissioners from various divisions shared their insights on the challenges encountered in their respective divisions

and the measures being taken to ensure complete immunization coverage.

Minister Health Dr. Azra highlighted the progress made during recent campaigns, including the fractional Inactivated Polio Vaccine (f-IPV) campaign in August and the S u b - N a t i o n a l Immunization Days (SNID) campaign in September, which successfully vaccinated over 9.4 million children across the province.

The CM expressed concern over the continued detection of the poliovirus in environmental samples, underscoring the need for intensified efforts to safeguard all children from the disease.

Adl IG Police Imran Yakooob (on behalf of IG Police) assured the meeting of the police's unwavering commitment to the safety of frontline workers, recognizing their critical role in reaching every child.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over the high level meeting to review anti-polio campaign.

SHC moved against sealing of dental clinic of Arif Alvi

KARACHI (Online): Petition has been filed in Sindh High Court (SHC) against sealing of Alvi Dental Clinic of former president Arif Alvi.

Wife of former president Arif Alvi and his son Awab Alvi have requested SHC for immediate hearing of the petition which has been accepted by SHC.

The petitioner said SBCA has sealed dental clinic located in Sindh Muslim Society.

Barrister Ali Tahir of petitioners has taken plea that sealing the clinic is only political victimization. Dr Arif Alvi is being harassed on political basis.

Dental clinic is running since long and no notice has been given before sealing it, the petitioner stated.

10 killed, 1417 injured in 1371 RTCs in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least ten persons were killed and 1417 injured in 1371 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

Out of these, 579 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 803 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals.

Furthermore, the analysis showed that 739 drivers, 52 underage drivers, 177 pedestrians, and 476 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics showed that 307 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 322 persons placing the Provincial Capital.

Revolutionary changes underway in Punjab's health sector: Khawaja

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Khawaja Imran Nazir said on Friday revolutionary changes were being implemented in the health sector under the Punjab chief minister's vision.

He made this statement during a meeting with a delegation from the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI). Secretary of Health Nadia Saqib was also present, where the GAVI delegation was briefed on the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), polio campaign goals, results, child vaccinations, and other related matters by Dr. Mukhtar Awan, Director of EPI.

Khawaja Imran shared that the vaccination rate for children under five years old was expected to exceed 92 per cent by the end of October. He

highlighted that children aged two to five years, who missed earlier vaccinations, are now being immunized against 12 different diseases. The minister said that two million children under the age of five would be vaccinated as part of the ongoing campaign.

In addition, Khawaja Imran Nazir underscored the broader health initiatives, revealing that over 4 million people have already benefited from medical services provided by 32 field hospitals and more than 250 mobile clinics. He also emphasized the government's efforts to revamp 3,000 basic and rural health centers, which he believes will transform the healthcare system in Punjab.

Nadia Saqib, Secretary of Health, highlighted the rapid progress of these initiatives.



KARACHI: People are participating with their animals in the walk taken out by the Government Veterinary Hospital on the occasion of World Animal Day.

LG department decides to implement new model of waste collection

LAHORE (APP): The Local Government & Community Development (LG&CD) Department developed a comprehensive plan to implement a new waste collection model across the province.

Under this plan, solid waste collected door-to-door will be directly transported to the dumping site. The first phase of implementation will focus on housing schemes managed by the Lahore Development Authority (LDA).

This was disclosed in a meeting chaired by Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq at Civil Secretariat here on Friday. Secretary LG&CD Shakeel Ahmed Mian and Additional Secretary Maria Tariq were also present.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz "Suthra Punjab" program was reviewed in detail and various suggestions were discussed for the implementation of the new model of sanitation in the provincial capital.

Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq said that garbage will be collected from every house under the supervision of Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC). He added that instead of dumping garbage at different points, it will be directly moved to the dumper.

The Minister said that LWMC will provide waste bins in every house. "Twice a week, the garbage will be emptied into the dumper", he added.



KARACHI: Senior Provincial Minister Sindh Sharjeel Inam Memon presides over the high level meeting.

FDI rises by 55%, remittances up by 44%: Dr. Musadik Malik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik said on Friday that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has increased by 55%, while remittances have seen a 44% rise.

Addressing a press conference, he highlighted the government's efforts to create an investor-friendly environment, which has contributed to this significant uptick in FDI.

He said that the increase in remittances showcases the trust and support of overseas Pakistanis in bolstering the national economy.

"These figures reflect a positive trajectory for Pakistan's economic

stability and growth," Dr. Musadik Malik said, adding that the government remains committed to sustaining this momentum and expanding investment opportunities.

He said the country is expecting around 3% GDP growth due to the policies of the government, led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The minister expressed optimism that with the increase in GDP, more job opportunities would emerge, improving the living standards of the common people.

Dr. Musadik Malik said that food inflation has decreased by 1.7%, from 48.1%, while overall

inflation has dropped to 6.7% from 38%. Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves have also improved. Growth has been observed in the agriculture and large-scale manufacturing sectors, he added.

He highlighted the government's focus on the information technology sector, mentioning that a large IT delegation from Saudi Arabia is expected to visit Pakistan.

The minister also pointed out that the trade deficit has decreased and Pakistan's stock exchange is achieving new milestones, with the renowned financial journal Bloomberg recognizing it as the most emerging market

in Asia.

He said that due to the government's efforts, the confidence of the international community has improved.

He further shared that the Malaysian Prime Minister has completed his visit to Pakistan, while delegations from Saudi Arabia and other countries are expected to arrive for agreements.

He reiterated that the government's priority is to provide maximum facilities to the people. All economic indicators are positive, with exports increasing, the trade deficit decreasing, and inflation dropping to 6.9%, surpassing even expert projections.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori and Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah along with foreign delegates inaugurate the Pakistan First 2 day International Date Palm Festival in collaboration with Khalifa International Awards (UAE) organized by Ministry of National Food Security at Expo Center.



KARACHI: A delegation of Pakistan Business Council led by Shabeer Dewan meeting with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah.

Azfar says: Pak success hinges on creating sustainable investment climate

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Board of Investment (BOI) chairman Azfar Ahsan on Friday emphasized that investment success in Pakistan hinged on supporting and facilitating existing investors which was a crucial step towards creating a sustainable investment climate.

He stressed the critical need for a comprehensive strategy to attract both local and foreign investors.

Azfar Ahsan was speaking as guest speaker at a special talk on "Pakistan's Investment Landscape: Challenges, Opportunities and Way

Forward" organised by the China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), a news release said.

He strongly advocated for a long-term national approach including framing of a "country strategy" to improve investor confidence and ensure economic stability.

Ahsan highlighted the importance of foundational reforms across all sectors of the economy.

He argued that Pakistan must move away from reactive policies and focus on creating a business- and investment-friendly environment.

"This requires consistent policy frameworks, regardless of political changes, as well as a commitment to improving infrastructure, governance, institutional capacity, and law and order."

These efforts, he noted, would not only attract new foreign direct investment (FDI) but also strengthen relationships with existing investors, which was critically important.

Azfar Ahsan also highlighted the potential for joint ventures between Pakistani and foreign investors, particularly in sectors like technology, agriculture.

KPCS directs authorities for full facilitation of gemstone businesses

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Afzal Chaudhry Friday directed the authorities for provision of comprehensive facilitation to investors, entrepreneurs and businessmen of the gemstone sector.

He issued these directives while presiding over a meeting of the representatives of the business community and authorities including Secretary Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Secretary Sports and Director General (DG) Peshawar Development Authority (PDA).

The Chief Secretary

highlighted the immense untapped potential of the gemstone sector in the province. "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa holds a wealth of precious gemstones that, if fully capitalized, can significantly contribute to the province's economic growth and create new opportunities for local and international investors," he stated. He emphasized that the government was committed to creating a conducive environment that encourages private sector investment, ensuring ease of business processes, and providing the necessary infrastructure for the gemstone trade to flourish.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships, Tubul, Khairpur and World Virtue carrying Container, Gasoline and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, FOTCO oil Terminal and Pakistan International Bulk Terminal respectively on Thursday.

Meanwhile three more ships, Apex, Nord Taipei and Al-Deebel are also arrived at outer anchorage port during last 24 hours.

Nine ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Tubul and Al-Areesh left the port on today morning while three more ships, Clipper Trent, Ashico Victoria and Centurion Signifer are expected to sail on today first half.

Farmers advised to start turnip cultivation

FAISALABAD (APP): The agronomists have guided the farmers to start turnip cultivation immediately as the current weather is pleasant for getting better production.

They said on Friday that fertile land with good drainage is most suitable for cultivation of turnips. They advised them to plough the soil once, two or three times to make it soft and apply fertilizers before cultivation of crops. They said that field staff of the agriculture department could be further consulted in this regard.

Short term inflation goes up 0.44 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.44 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on October 03, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 319.17 points as compared to 317.76 points during the past week.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 13.18 per cent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 = 100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

Likewise, SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732 witnessed increase of 0.68 per cent and went up to 313.20 points from last week's 311.09 points.

The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732 to 22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-

44,175 and above Rs 44,175, increased by 0.63 percent, 0.53 percent, 0.49 percent and 0.36 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 21 (41.18%) items increased, 10 (19.61%) items decreased and 20 (39.21%) items remained stable.

The items, which recorded major decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included eggs (1.45%), sugar (1.39%), diesel (1.32%), bananas (1.29%), potatoes (1.08%), petrol (0.81), pulse mash (0.80%), gur (0.59%), rice basmati broken (0.53%) and pulse masoor (0.38%).

The commodities which recorded major increase in their average prices on week-on-week basis included tomatoes (18.51%), onions (5.89%), chicken (3.72%), wheat flour (3.63%), garlic (2.47%), pulse gram (1.41%), LPG (0.98%), match box (0.97%), pulse moong (0.92%), mustard oil (0.58%), firewood (0.51%) and cigarettes (0.10%).

On-year basis, the commodities that witnessed decrease included wheat flour (35.67%), petrol (23.51%), diesel (22.48%).

On-year basis, the commodities that witnessed decrease included wheat flour (35.67%), petrol (23.51%), diesel (22.48%).



LAHORE: Shopkeeper display pottery to attract customers at his roadside setups.

Bilal Yaseen says: Action under way against fraud food business operators

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yaseen has said that strict action is being taken against all those involved in doing fraud in food business.

According to official sources here, the minister, along with Punjab Food Authority director general (DG), carried out an operation in the city area. Raids were conducted on four famous bakeries and 'Nimko' units. On violation,

one unit had been sealed while fine of Rs 0.8 million had been imposed on other three units. As much as 3,200 litres of used and substandard oil had been discarded besides 55-kg of 'Rang Kat' and banned food colours.

Bilal Yaseen said that action had been taken because substandard oil was being used for preparing 'Nimko'.

He further said that poor cleanliness arrangements had been witnessed in the processing area while there was no training or medical certificates of employees.

Bakery and confectionery items were being prepared in untidy area and there was a lot of foul smell as well, he said and added that rats and other insects were also seen in storage area.

Bilal said, "Use of substandard oil and prohibited items in food preparation process results in spreading diseases."

Livestock sector contributing greatly to stabilise economy: Ashiq

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister of Livestock and Agriculture Syed Ashiq Hussain Kimani said on Friday that the livestock sector was contributing greatly to stabilising national economy. He was addressing a ceremony, held at a local hotel in connection with the World Animal Protection Day observance, with the help of a non-governmental organisation (NGO) Brooks and Livestock Department of Punjab. The minister said that an organisation like Brooks was indeed providing

valuable services in the field of equine health in Pakistan. He said the sector was playing an important role in providing employment to a large part of population. Those farmers who could not afford to buy land, could purchase animals, he added.

The minister said the Livestock Department was continuing its efforts to strengthen all animal welfare organisations. According to the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, the Punjab government, in the recent budget, had allocated a huge amount.

1st Pakistan Intl Date Palm Festival kick starts

KARACHI (APP): The 1st Pakistan International Date Palm Festival and Exhibition aimed at bolstering country's production and export of dates and its value-added products kick starts here at Expo Center Karachi on Friday.

The festival and exhibition are being organized by Ministry of National Food Security and Research and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan in collaboration with Embassy of United Arab Emirates in Pakistan and Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and agriculture innovation.

Besides local growers and processors of date palm, 150 delegates from 8 different countries were taking part in the festival and exhibition.

The Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori,

Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, UAE Envoy to Pakistan Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Alzaabi, Federal secretary NFSR Ali Tahir, Chief Executive TDAP Zubair Motiwala and Secretary General Khalifa International Award Dr. Abdel Wahhab Zaid cut the ribbon to inaugurate the two-day festival and exhibition.

Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the festival, termed the festival as a reflection of friendly ties of Pakistan and UAE and said that it would not only open new avenues of sharing and cooperation for both the brotherly countries but also help in the promotion of Pakistani dates.

He said that there was a vast potential for Pakistani dates in the

global market and full access of Pakistani dates to the global market could earn precious foreign exchange for the country.

Tessori while stressing on the unity and collaboration among the Muslim countries said that these countries possessed enormous capital, resources and power and they could gain their due share in international trade through unity, coordination and collaborative efforts.

The governor stressed on need of commercial plantation, reducing post-harvest losses, value addition and provision of technical assistance to farmers for enhancing production as well as export of dates. He urged the local growers, manufacturers and exporters to leverage form the technical expertise of UAE friends.

SBP injects Rs1,012 billion into market

KARACHI (APP): State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Friday, injected Rs1,012.3 billion in the market through reverse repo purchase Open Market Operation (OMO).

According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on October 4, 2024 for 7-day and 28-day tenors and accepted 11 bids totaling to Rs1,012.3 billion.

The central bank received 9 bids for 7-day tenor cumulatively offering an amount of Rs882.3 billion at the rate of return ranging between 17.56 to 17.65 percent while 2 bids amounting to Rs130 billion were received for the 28-day tenor at the rate of return ranging between 17.60 to 17.61%.

People throng UAF to attend Kisan Mela

FAISALABAD (APP): On the fourth day of Kisan Mela held at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), a large number of farmers thronged the university to enjoy various kinds of recreational and entertainment activities including tent pegging, farmers' convention, art & literature festival.

On Friday, a two-day regional tent-pegging championship concluded in addition to arrangement of a Farmer's Convention at Directorate of Farms in which scientists created awareness about the modern agricultural technology and suggestions to ensure food security in order to develop agriculture on modern lines.

Moreover,

photography and videography were organized in the art and literature festival organized by the Senior Tutor Office.

UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan said that tent pegging connects us with the rural culture. The participants in this sport develop a sense of balance and consideration. He said that such competitions not only promote rural culture but also keep our young generation connected with rural traditions.

He said that the aim of Kisan Mela is to strengthen ties between agricultural scientists and farmers.

Former Minister Hussain Jahania Gardezi said that by making farmers familiar with modern research and technology,



QUETTA: Anjuman-e-Tajran Balochistan Central President, Abdul Rahim Kakar along with others addressing to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club.

SIDB KP notifies Rs.36000 minimum wage

PESHAWAR (APP): Small Industries Development Board (SIDB) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa notified the payment of the minimum wages of Rs. 36000/- to the daily-wages employees of the board on Friday.

Orders in this regard have been issued by the Managing Director (MD) SIDB Habib Ullah Arif on the request of a committee constituted on the request of the Employees Union. Chairman of the committee was Deputy Managing Director (DMD) Nauman Fayyaz. It said that beside the employees of the wood sector, the decision will also benefit 45 other employees of the board.

President SIDB Employees' Union, Sahibzada Naseem Khan has expressed gratitude to the provincial government.

Handicraft Development Centre: South Punjab's craftspeople to find new hub soon

MULTAN (APP): In a significant initiative aimed at reviving traditional crafts and welfare of artisans, a Handicraft Development Centre (HDC) is being established in Shah Rukn-e-Alam Colony, Multan.

Overseen by the Punjab Small Industries Corporation, the center promises to be a game changer for artisans across South Punjab. It would be similar to Tea House which was established for writers and serve as academy for promotion of literature.

According to Regional Director Ammara Manzoor, the project will offer artisans a long-awaited platform to display their unique work,

collaborate with peers, and share their experiences.

"The Handicraft Development Centre will be a common hub for all artisans, giving them the opportunity to come together and exchange knowledge," said Ammara Manzoor. The building, currently under construction, is designed to serve as a focal point for craftspeople from across the region. "This will be the first of its kind, offering a dedicated space for the artisans of South Punjab," she added. South Punjab has long been known as a hub of traditional crafts. Artisans from the region were renowned for their exceptional skills in pottery.



KARACHI: A large numbers of people protesting against K-Electric.

Dozens more killed as Israel continues attacks on Lebanon

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Israel's military said it had hit Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters in the Lebanese capital, as troops battled the group's fighters near the border and warplanes bombed their strongholds around the country, killing dozens of people over the past 24 hours.

The Israeli army's death toll from fighting in southern Lebanon also rose to nine. "Captain Ben Zion Falach, aged 21... fell yesterday (Wednesday), during combat in southern Lebanon," the army said in a statement.

Hezbollah also carried out new strikes, targeting what it called Israel's "Sakhnin base" for military industries in Haifa Bay on the Mediterranean coast of northern Israel with a salvo of rockets.

Israel announced this week that its troops had started "ground raids" into

parts of southern Lebanon, a stronghold of Hezbollah, after days of heavy bombardment of areas across the country where the group holds sway.

The bombing has killed more than 1,000 people, according to Lebanon's health ministry, and forced hundreds of thousands to flee their homes in a country already mired in economic and political crisis.

Israel, which has been launching attacks in Gaza since last year after the Oct 7 attack, says it shifted its focus to secure its northern border and ensure the safe return of more than 60,000 people displaced by Hezbollah attacks over the past year.

Hezbollah says it has repelled several land operations by Israeli troops, including with ambushes and in direct clashes. Lebanese security sources say Israeli troops have entered Leb-

anese territory and been pushed back several times in recent days, without setting up a permanent presence. Rocket sirens wailed constantly in northern Israeli towns, sending residents running for shelter, as Hezbollah kept up its cross-border fire.

The Israeli military said it hit "targets belonging to Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters in Beirut".

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported three air strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs, with a source close to Hezbollah telling AFP the target was an evacuated building that housed the group's media relations office. Israel told Lebanese people to evacuate more than 20 villages and the city of Nabatiyeh. "For your own safety, you must evacuate your homes immediately and head north of the Awali River."



A view of damaged buildings and debris in the aftermath of a strike amid ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, in Beirut's southern suburbs, Lebanon.

North Korea's Kim threatens to use nukes if attacked

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his country would use nuclear weapons "without hesitation" if attacked by the South and ally the United States, state media reported on Friday. Relations between the two Koreas are at one of their lowest points in decades, with Seoul this week staging a military parade where it showcased its bunker-busting "monster" missile and President Yoon Suk Yeol warned Kim that using

nukes would mean the end of his regime. Pyongyang has also been bombarding the South with balloons carrying bags of trash, and a fresh flurry was seen floating over Seoul early on Friday by AFP reporters. Seoul's military confirmed it had detected the balloon launches overnight. If an enemy's forces were "encroaching upon the sovereignty" of the North, Pyongyang would "use without hesitation all the offensive forces it has possessed, including nuclear weapons."

Hundreds of Americans leave Lebanon on US contract flights

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: The U.S. State Department says some 350 American citizens, green card holders and family members have now left Lebanon on US-organized contract flights this week. The department announced the new number — up by about 100 since Thursday — after another flight from Beirut landed early Friday in Frankfurt, Germany. The flight had the capacity to carry 300 passengers but only 97 people were aboard, it said.

Iran's Foreign Minister warns his country will retaliate harshly if Israel carries out an attack on

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Iran's Foreign Minister warns his country will retaliate harshly if Israel carries out an attack on Iran. Iran's Foreign Minister is warning Israel that if it carries out an attack on Iran, Tehran will retaliate harshly. "If the Israeli entity takes any step or measure against us, our retaliation will be stronger than the previous one," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said, referring to this week's attack on Israel with 180 missiles.

was in "legitimate self defense" after its attacks on Iran and the Iranian consulate in Syria in April.

He said Iran backs any step that leads to a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah but added this will only happen when a cease-fire in Gaza goes into effect. He said Iran backs any cease-fire on the condition that it "preserves the right of the Lebanese people, that it be accepted by the resistance (Hezbollah) and coincides with a cease-fire in Gaza."

Israel's military said Friday that militants in Gaza had fired two rockets into Israeli territory, the first time Israel has seen rocket fire from Gaza.

Malaysia PM to visit Bangladesh, focus on labour issues

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim is set to arrive in Bangladesh on Friday for talks primarily focused on labour issues, according to Dhaka officials.

This will mark the first high-level visit by a foreign head of government since the interim administration, led by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus, assumed office following the resignation of Sheikh Hasina's government in August. Prime Minister Anwar is expected to meet with Yunus, where a broad spectrum of issues will be on the agenda.

Russia decides 'at highest level' to remove Afghan Taliban from terrorist list

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia's foreign ministry said on Friday that a decision to remove the Afghan Taliban from a list of terrorist organisations had been "taken at the highest level", the state TASS news agency reported.

The decision needs to be followed up with various legal procedures in order to make it a reality, President Vladimir Putin's special representative on Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov, was quoted as saying.

Putin said in July that Russia considers Afghanistan's Taliban movement an ally in the fight against terrorism.

Russia has been slowly building ties with the Taliban since it seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021 as US-led forces withdrew after 20 years, but the movement is still officially outlawed in Russia.

No country has formally recognised the Taliban as the country's legitimate leadership, although China and the UAE have accepted its ambassadors.

Russia added the Taliban to its list of terrorist organisations in 2003. Removing it would be an important step by Moscow towards normalising relations with Afghanistan.

US discusses strikes on Iran oil sites as Israel presses Lebanon offensive

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: The United States is discussing strikes on Iran's oil facilities as retaliation for Tehran's missile attack on Israel, President Joe Biden said on Thursday (Oct 3), while Israel's military pressed ahead with its campaign against Iran-backed armed group Hezbollah in Lebanon.

As Israel weighs its options after its arch-foe Iran launched its largest-ever assault on Tuesday, Biden was asked whether he would support Israel striking Iran's oil facilities.

"We're discussing that," Biden told reporters.

His comments contributed to a surge in global oil prices, and rising Middle East tensions have made traders worry about potential supply disruptions.

"There is nothing going to happen today," Biden said. On Wednesday, the president said he would not support any Israeli strike on Iran's nuclear sites.

Israel's United Nations Ambassador Danny Danon told CNN on Thursday his country has "a lot of options" for retaliation and would show Tehran its strength "soon".

A US official said Washington does not believe Israel has decided yet how to respond to Iran.

Beirut's southern suburb of Dahiyeh, a stronghold of the Iran-backed armed group Hezbollah, came under renewed strikes near midnight on Thursday after Israel ordered people to leave their homes in parts of the district, residents and security sources said.



Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran, Iran.

Iran's Khamenei says missile attack on Israel 'legal and legitimate'

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei defended Iran's missile attack on Israel as "legal and legitimate."

"The operation of our armed forces a few nights ago was totally legal and legitimate," he said during a rare Friday prayer sermon.

Khamenei had a rifle by his side during his address to worshippers in Tehran days after Iran's missile attack on Israel.

Khamenei delivered the sermon — his first in nearly five years — to thousands of worshippers carrying portraits of slain leaders of Iran's "axis of resistance" against Israel and the United States.

Khamenei attended "a commemoration ceremony" at 10:30 am (0700

GMT) for Hassan Nasrallah, the slain leader of Tehran-backed Lebanese armed movement Hezbollah.

Khamenei said Iran and its regional proxies will not back down from Israel hours after an Israeli attack on Beirut that is thought to have targeted the heir apparent to Hezbollah's slain secretary general. Beirut's southern suburb of Dahiyeh, a stronghold of the Iran-backed Hezbollah, came under renewed strikes near midnight on Thursday after Israel ordered people to leave their homes in some areas, residents and security sources said. The air raids targeted Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine, rumoured successor to its assassinated leader Hassan Nasrallah.

Poland to start beefing up northeastern defences by year-end, minister says

Monitoring Desk
WARSAW: Poland will start building the first elements of enhanced defence lines on its borders with Russia and Belarus by the end of 2024, a deputy defence minister said on Friday. Spurred by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Warsaw laid out plans in May to spend 10 billion zlotys (\$2.6 billion) to beef up its northern and eastern borders with fortifications, surveillance, reconnaissance and anti-drone systems by the end of 2028 to deter adversaries or help repel a potential attack. "In the next three weeks, we will be able to carry out the first tests of the East Shield elements on Polish military training grounds."

Prepare for attack, with best regards — Houthis issue email alert to shipping fleets

Monitoring Desk
ATHENS: On a warm spring night in Athens, shortly before midnight, a senior executive at a Greek shipping company noticed an unusual email had landed in his personal inbox.

The message, which was also sent to the manager's business email address, warned that one of the company's vessels travelling through the Red Sea was at risk of being attacked by Houthi fighters.

The Greek-managed ship had violated a Houthi-imposed transit ban by docking at an Israeli port and would be "directly targeted by the Yemeni Armed Forces in any area they deem appropriate," said the message.

"You bear the responsibility and consequences of including the vessel in the ban list," said the email, signed by the

Yemen-based Humanitarian Operations Coordination Centre (HOCC), a body set up in February to liaise between Houthi forces and commercial shipping operators.

At least two Greek-operated shipping companies that received email threats have decided to end such journeys via the Red Sea, two sources with direct knowledge said, declining to identify the companies for security reasons. An executive at a third shipping company, which has also received a letter, said they decided to end business with Israel in order to be able to continue to use the Red Sea route.

The email, received at the end of May, warned of "sanctions" for the entire company's fleet if the vessel continued "to violate the ban criteria and enter the ports of the usurping Israeli entity".

French 'Golden Owl' treasure hunt ends after 31 years

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: A mass treasure hunt launched in France in 1993 appeared to have been solved on Thursday, with the guardian of the elusive "Golden Owl" prize saying someone had finally found it.

The find marks the end of a three-decade search across France and a string of legal and financial battles over the Owl, which has inspired thousands of people to test their grey matter against riddles set by a long-dead man.

"We confirm that the replica of the Golden Owl was dug up overnight," Michel Becker wrote on a Discord forum used by would-be sleuths to collaborate on the puzzle. The forum has more than 7,000 participants.

"Don't go digging", he urged others who might think they had also worked out the answer.



North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un (C) inspecting a training base of the Korean People's Army's special operations forces in the western region, at an undisclosed location in North Korea.

Germany, France, other EU states push to speed up migrant returns

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: Seventeen European countries called on the European Commission on Friday to sharpen the EU's rules on returning irregular migrants to their home countries, a document showed, a week ahead of a summit where migration is likely to be on the agenda.

The letter to the bloc's executive body was signed by 14 of the 27 EU member states, including Germany, France and Italy, and three countries from the European passport-free Schengen area - Norway, Switzerland and

Liechtenstein.

It came after a run of elections across the EU dominated by the issue of migration, and signs of growing support in parts of the continent for parties calling for tougher controls.

"The key message that all agree on is a clear signal to the Commission that we need a stricter EU returns system with clearer obligations for cooperation from the returnees and less interpretation by the European Court of Justice," a diplomat from one of the EU states that signed the letter said.

Japanese theatre comes to London in cultural exchange

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: A central London playhouse and a theatre from Osaka, Japan, are this month working to prove any cultural differences between the two are superficial.

Theatres around the world have turned to international cooperation to maximise their impact, and Charing Cross Theatre and the Umeda Arts Theater first joined forces for production in 2019.

After an interruption caused by the pandemic, they are jointly staging two plays in London.

Taiwan re-opens, mopping up after Typhoon Krathon

Monitoring Desk
KAOHSIUNG: Southern Taiwan worked on Friday to clear up damage from flooding and high winds after Typhoon Krathon slammed into a major port city, while most of the rest of the island resumed work and financial markets reopened.

Krathon, now downgraded to a tropical depression, hit land in the southwestern city of Kaohsiung, inundating streets, blowing out the windows of some buildings and scattering debris amid record-breaking winds.

While the rest of Tai-

wan resumed work, the governments in Kaohsiung and neighbouring Pingtung county declared a fourth successive day off work as they scrambled to pump away floodwaters, remove fallen trees, and clear roads.

"We hope as fast as possible to resume transport, water and electricity supplies, so work and life can get back to normal," Kaohsiung Mayor Chen Chi-mai told reporters.

The city government said it was tackling more than 2,000 trees that had fallen on roads, but reported only two injuries.

India asks top court not to toughen marital rape penalties

Monitoring Desk
MUMBAI: India's government has asked the country's top court not to toughen criminal penalties against marital rape during an ongoing case brought by campaigners seeking to outlaw it.

The penal code introduced in the 19th century during British colonial rule of India explicitly states that "sexual acts by a man with his own wife... is not rape". Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government enacted an overhauled code in July which retains that clause, despite the decade-long court challenge by activists seeking to make marital rape illegal.

Yahya Sinwar, Hamas' hunted leader, remains committed to Israel's destruction

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar is unrepentant about the Oct 7 attacks a year ago, people in contact with him say, despite unleashing an Israeli invasion that has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians, laid waste to his Gaza homeland and rained destruction on ally Hezbollah.

For Sinwar, 62, architect of the Hamas cross-border raids that became the deadliest day in Israel's history, armed struggle remains the only way to force the creation of a Palestinian nation, four Palestinian officials and two sources from governments in the Middle East said.

The Oct 7 attacks killed 1,200 people, mainly civilians, and captured 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies, in the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust. Israel responded by launching a massive offensive, killing 41,600 people and displacing 1.9 million, according to Palestinian health authorities and

UN figures. Now the conflict has spread to Lebanon, with Israel heavily degrading Iranian-backed group Hezbollah, including killing most of its leadership. Hamas patron Tehran is at risk of being pulled into open war with Israel.

Sinwar has drawn Iran and its entire "Axis of Resistance" — comprising Hezbollah, Yemen's Houthis and Iraqi militias — into conflict with Israel, said Hassan Hassan, an author and researcher on Islamic groups. "We're seeing now the ripple effects of Oct 7 Sinwar's gamble didn't work," Hassan said, suggesting that the Axis of Resistance may never recover.

"What Israel did to Hezbollah in two weeks is almost equal to a whole year of degrading Hamas in Gaza. With Hezbollah, three layers of leadership have been eliminated, its military command has been decimated, and its important leader Hassan Nasrallah has been assassinated," added Hassan.

Supreme Court will weigh Mexico's \$10 billion lawsuit against U.S. gun makers

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The Supreme Court said Friday it will decide whether to block a \$10 billion lawsuit Mexico filed against leading U.S. gun manufacturers over allegations their commercial practices have helped caused much bloodshed there.

The gun makers asked the justices to undo an appeals court ruling that allowed the lawsuit to go forward despite broad legal protections for the firearm industry.

A federal judge has since tossed out the bulk of the lawsuit on other legal grounds, but Mexico could appeal that dismissal. Mexico argues the companies knew weapons were being sold to traffickers who smuggled them into Mexico and decided to cash in on that market. The government estimates 70% of the weapons trafficked into Mexico come from the United States.

The defendants include big-name manufacturers such as Smith & Wesson, Beretta, Colt and Glock. They say Mexico has not shown the industry has purposely done anything to allow the weapons to be used by cartels and is trying to

"bully" gunmakers into adopting gun-control measures.

Originally filed in 2021, the lawsuit was initially tossed out by a district court who cited legal protections for gun makers from damages resulting from criminal use of firearms.

Mexico's Sheinbaum keeps doing morning briefings, though her style is unlike her predecessor's.

But the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals revived the case under an exception to that law. The gunmakers appealed that ruling to the Supreme Court, arguing they have followed lawful practices and the case has no business in American courts.

U.S. District Judge F. Dennis Saylor in Boston again dismissed the case against six of the eight companies in August, ruling Mexico had not provided concrete evidence that any of those companies' activities in Massachusetts were connected to any suffering caused in Mexico by guns.

Still, with some claims remaining and an appeal possible, the gun makers argue the 1st Circuit ruling could hang over the industry for years if allowed to stand.



Afghan women prepare dough to make traditional cookies inside a bakery in Kabul, Afghanistan.

At UN Pakistan reaffirms pledge to crush Indian-sponsored terrorism, sparking clash

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan, despite being a terrorism victim, has the will, determination and capability to defeat externally-sponsored scourge, "ironically" aided and financed by India, a senior Pakistani diplomat has told a UN panel on Thursday.

"We have led the fight against terrorism over the last two decades," Ambassador Usman Jadoon, acting permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, said during a debate in the General Assembly's Legal (sixth) Committee on "Measures to eliminate International Terrorism".

Noting that this menace continues to mutate into various new forms, he underscored the need for UN's counter-terrorism architecture to incorporate

the new types and cyber-tools of terrorism, including cryptocurrencies and online terrorism recruitment.

Ambassador Jadoon also called for addressing the unresolved conflicts, foreign occupation and denial of right to self-determination, especially in Kashmir and Palestine, in order to completely wipe out terrorism that has spread across the world.

Ambassador Jadoon's pointed words on Indian-sponsored terrorism and occupation of Kashmir drew a response from a delegate of India, asserting well-known claims on disputed territory that a Pakistani delegate rejected in his right to reply.

At the outset of his speech, Ambassador

Jadoon strongly condemned Israel's ongoing aggression against Lebanon and its genocidal war in Gaza, saying it was also seeking to provoke a wider war across the Middle East region, and must be held accountable.

"Unless we act firmly against this terror regime, and uphold the UN Charter and international law, we will descend into a Hobbesian world of violence and chaos where life is 'ugly, brutish and short'."

Highlighting that Pakistan had suffered 80,000 casualties in fighting terrorism, he said the country continues to suffer from state sponsored cross-border attacks by the TTP, Fitna al Khawarij, Da'esh and insurgent groups such as the Majeed Brigade.



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif bidding farewell to Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim before his departure at PAF Nur Khan Air Base in Rawalpindi.

Malaysian PM calls for exploring untapped trade potential with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister of Malaysia Anwar Ibrahim has stressed the need to utilize the untapped potential of trade and economic collaboration with Pakistan in diverse areas including minerals, new energy resources, food, industry, and information technology.

The Malaysian PM, in an interview with PTV on Friday, expressed optimism about the future of Pakistan-Malaysia relations. "The time is ripe. I had a detailed discussion with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to pursue collaboration in all these fields."

He said there was enormous untapped potential in trade in which bilateral collaboration could help develop the respective economies.

He specifically praised Pakistan's rich history in education, research and nuclear development,

especially during 1970s. Reflecting on Malaysia's progress in the region, particularly in the semiconductor industry and digital transformation, the prime minister said that his country was ahead in the semiconductor industry in the region from which Pakistan could also take benefit.

PM Anwar Ibrahim, expressing his personal interest in Pakistan, said, "I chose Pakistan and engaged with its prime minister closely because we both see enormous untapped potential. We can learn from each other and collaborate for mutual benefit."

To a question, he emphasized the importance of collaboration within the ASEAN region and beyond. "ASEAN is fortunate to be considered an economically vibrant region, and the potential is enormous."

However, he stressed

the need to work together which was very crucial. In addition to economic cooperation, the Malaysian prime minister commended his Pakistani counterpart's address at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), particularly for his strong stance on Israel's aggression in Palestine.

He also stressed that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was an international forum and its member countries should collaborate and take a unified stance on critical issues.

As regards the Kashmir issue, the Malaysian prime minister expressed his concern over human rights issues around the world, including in Gaza, Kashmir, and other regions.

The prime minister also paid tribute to Allama Muhammad Iqbal, describing the poet-philosopher as "outstanding."



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong meets with Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal ahead of the upcoming historic visit of Chinese Premier, Li Qiang.

Ahsan Iqbal, Chinese envoy discuss strategic initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong on Friday discussed key strategic initiatives between the two countries, with a focus on the upcoming visit of the Chinese premier.

The discussion was held during a call on meeting of the ambassador with the minister ahead of the upcoming historic visit of Chinese Premier Li Qiang, marking a significant milestone in China-Pakistan relations after 11 years.

Both the dignitaries emphasized that the visit presented a strategic opportunity to further deepen bilateral cooperation and achieve meaningful outcomes. To ensure the suc-

cess of the visit, they agreed to establish a dedicated working group that would focus specifically on aligning and maximizing the outcomes of Premier Li's visit.

During the discussion, Minister Ahsan Iqbal praised China's unwavering support in Pakistan's development journey, particularly in infrastructure, energy, and industrialization. He highlighted the strategic importance of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for Pakistan's economic revival and regional connectivity.

The minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to providing all necessary facilitation to ensure the smooth execution of ongoing projects.

He also stressed that Pakistan remained focused on overcoming economic

challenges through long-term partnerships that promote inclusive growth.

He assured the ambassador that any obstacles impeding the progress of critical projects would be addressed on a priority basis to ensure their timely completion.

Ambassador Jiang Zaidong expressed his satisfaction with Pakistan's economic growth, policy continuity, business environment, and security.

He praised the progress made under the current government. "Pakistan's GDP grew from 0.9% last fiscal year to 2.8% this year, and we foresee it reaching 3.2% in the upcoming fiscal year."

"The improvement in foreign exchange reserves is also a positive sign for Pakistan's economy."



LASBELLA: Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism and Culture Nawabzada Zareen Magsi addressing khuli kutchery in Circuit House Uthal

Counters being set up in hospitals on health card panel for patients: CEO

QUETTA (APP): Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Health Card Balochistan Dr. Samiullah Kakar on Friday said that counters were being set up in the hospitals on the health card panel for the convenience of the patients and the public.

He expressed these views while talking on the occasion of his visit to Balochistan Institute of Nephro-Urology.

The CEO said that the transparency of all administrative and financial affairs of Health Card should be prioritized in any case

and any illegal action would not be acceptable.

Dr. Samiullah Kakar also inspected the list of admitted patients at the counter of Balochistan Health Card established in Balochistan Institute of Nephro-Urology.

Dr. Samiullah Kakar, CEO of Balochistan Institute of Nephrology Hospital, Prof. Dr. Syed Liaquat Agha and Dr. Faisal discussed in detail the important issues related to health card system and kidney transplant in Kidney Hospital.

Irfan Siddiqui calls on PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Muslim League-N Parliamentary Leader in the Senate Senator Irfan Siddiqui on Friday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here and discussed the matters related to the parliamentary party in Senate and the country's overall political situation.

Senator Irfan Siddiqui briefed the prime minister about the performance of the PML-N's parliamentary party in the Senate, according to a PM Office press release.

Discussing the political matters, he apprised the prime minister of the details of his recent meeting with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

Australian HC meets Nawaz, discusses coop. in various sectors

LAHORE (APP): Australian High Commissioner (HC) Neil Hawkins called on Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) President Mian Nawaz Sharif here on Friday and discussed matters of mutual interest.

The meeting stressed the need to expand cooperation between both countries in trade, education, IT and agriculture sectors.

Nawaz Sharif said, "Pakistan and Australia's partnership is very important and we laud Australia's cooperation."

Farmers to submit data for tube-wells solarization in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Revenue (DCR) Quetta on Friday issued notice to the Zamindars (Farmers) of the four sub-divisions of Quetta, Kachlak, Sadar and Sariab to submit all data regarding their tube wells to the Zamindar Action Committee (ZAC) within a week.

So that the work of transferring agricultural tube wells to solar energy is expedited.

Govt working on digitalization of revenue record for establishing good governance: Asim Kurd

says no injustice would be done with stakeholders

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Revenue, Mir Muhammad Asim Kurd has stated that the provincial government is working on digitalization of the revenue record of land for establishing good governance in the department.

He announced that the process of settlement of land would be started in Hub soon.

Mir Muhammad Asim Kurd was speaking to the media persons during his visit to Hub the other day.

The Provincial Minister Revenue said that the basic objective of his visit is to review the public complaints about board of revenue and settlement in the area.

He on the occasion said that the process of settlement would be completed in Hub district in

transparent manner. He said that the necessary directives have been issued to the revenue officers according to the settlement manual. During the process, no injustice would be made with any stakeholder during the settlement, the Minister Revenue assured.

He said that the credit of digitalization of the revenue record goes to the incumbent government.

He said that it is our firm resolve to remove the public complaints regarding board of revenue. In this regard, open courts would be conducted to resolve the issues and thus ensure good governance, he added.

Meanwhile, the Minister inspected the record room of settlements and got briefing from the concerned officials. He directed to the concerned to ensure preservation of the land record.



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani distributing shields among participants during concluding ceremony of Community Mobilisation Strategy training organized by Dara ul Amal Welfare Organization

ECP appoints DRO, RO, ARO for re-polling in 15 Polling Stations of PB-45, Quetta-III

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has appointed District Returning Officer, Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer for conducting re-polling in 15 polling stations of PB-45, Quetta-III.

According to the notification of ECP issued the other day, the Additional Commissioner Quetta, Soban Saleem Dashti has been appointed as the DRO while Additional Deputy Commissioner Quetta (General), Muhammad Anwar Khan Kakar and

Tehsildar Quetta Sadar, Abdul Karim have been appointed as Returning Officer and Returning Officer respectively.

It may be mentioned here that the re-polling in 15 polling stations of the PB-45, Quetta-III is scheduled to be conducted on October 17, 2024.

The ECP has already issued schedule for conducting repolling in the polling stations of the constituency. The Election Tribunal comprising Mr. Justice Abdullah Baloch had ordered to conduct re-polling in 15 polling station.

Awareness drive to be launched for prevention of narcotics in educational institutions

Independent Report
QUETTA: The district administration has decided to launch awareness campaign for prevention of the use of narcotics in educational institutions of Quetta.

The religious leaders would be engaged in the awareness campaign to be launched in schools, colleges, universities and madaris.

The decision to this effect was made in a meeting chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), Muhammad Anwar here the other day.

In the meeting, teams were formed in all sub-divisions of Quetta. These teams included: Assistant

Commissioner of the respective areas, main Khateeb as well as the representatives of Police and Anti-Narcotics Force.

The teams would run the awareness campaign together with the religious scholars in educational institutions, it was decided.

Addressing the meeting, Additional Deputy Commissioner Quetta said that the role of religious scholars is important for prevention of narcotics.

He said that religious scholars would also highlight the issue in their speeches and sermons against use of narcotics in the mosques.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for PHE Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran listening problems of medical students

All Parties announce protest against gas suspension in Chiltan Town

Independent Report
QUETTA: Leaders of various political parties, including Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, National Party, Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, and Balochistan Awami Party, have jointly condemned the suspension of gas supply to Chiltan Town, Hazarganji, Quetta.

In a press conference at Jamiat House, they threatened to stage an indefinite protest on Western Bypass if the gas supply is not restored within a week.

The leaders, including

Maulana Muhammad Tahir Tahidi, Abdul Aleem Kebzai, Hamid Khan, and Dr. Zafarullah Jatak, termed the suspension as "inhumane" and "discriminatory" against 400-plus bill-paying consumers.

They demanded immediate restoration of gas supply with pressure, action against gas thieves, not paying consumers, resolution of Chiltan Town's basic issues.

The parties will launch a door-to-door contact campaign from Sunday and prepare for the protest.



KHUZDAR: Provincial Minister Mir Sadiq Umrani meeting with former Chief Minister Balochistan, MPA Nawab Sanaulah Zehri

UoG to host 1st Int'l conference on Gwadar's significance as regional, commercial hub

QUETTA (APP): The CPEC Study Center at the University of Gwadar (UoG) is set to organize a prestigious two-day 1st international conference on the theme "Significance of Gwadar as a Regional and Commercial Hub: History, Challenges, Opportunities, and the Way Forward."

The conference, expected to attract scholars, policymakers, business leaders, and experts from around the world, will take place on November 5th-6th, 2024, at the University of Gwadar.

The primary objective of the conference is to delve into the strategic importance of Gwadar, a key city in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), in shaping the economic landscape of the region and beyond, the event will feature a range of sessions that explore Gwadar's historical

context, the challenges it faces, the opportunities available, and strategies for ensuring its sustainable growth as a commercial hub.

The conference will host renowned national and international experts, including academicians, policy analysts, diplomats, business representatives, and industry leaders. Their diverse perspectives will contribute to insightful discussions on how Gwadar can maximize its potential and overcome the challenges it faces.

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Gwadar, Prof. Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir, along with the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Manzoor, emphasized the importance of this conference in fostering meaningful dialogue about Gwadar's future as a strategic and economic hub.



QUETTA: Director General Health Amin Mandokhail and Deputy Commissioner Quetta Lt (Retd) Saad bin Asad addressing a Press conference

Health dept foils attempt to embezzle Rs. 220million

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Balochistan Health Department has thwarted an attempt by Taha Traders, a pharmaceutical company, to embezzle 220 million rupees through fake bills.

An inquiry committee, established by the Secretary Health Balochistan, discovered that Taha Traders had submitted bogus bills for 22 crore 12 lakh 72 thousand 800 rupees, despite being contracted to supply medicines worth only 63 lakh 65 thousand 840 rupees in 2019.

The inquiry committee, comprising Additional Secretary Development Health Department Arif Achakzai, Logistic Officer Dr. Ghulam Mustafa, and Additional Director MSD Dr. Ismail Mirovani, found that Taha Traders had falsified records and obtained fake signatures from officials.

Taha Traders submitted bills for 220 million rupees, exceeding the contracted amount by 219 million rupees.

Man gunned down in Kalat

QUETTA (APP): Unknown armed men shot dead a man near Narmuk area of Kalat district on Friday.

According to Levies sources, the victim was on way to some where when armed assailants opened fire at him and fled from the scene.

As a result, a man namely Jan Muhammad died on the spot after receiving bullet wounds.

The body of deceased was handed over to the heirs after completion of medico legal formalities.

The motive behind the killing could not be ascertained so far.

Big catch-up vaccination campaign launched to boost immunization coverage across Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The big catch-up campaign was launched by the Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) here on Friday.

The bit catch-up drive launched with support of the UNICEF and WHO is aimed at boosting immunization coverage across the province, particularly for children who have missed routine vaccinations.

The provincial launching ceremony of the campaign was held at the Basic Health Unit (BHU), Wahdat Colony here.

The Director General of Health, Dr. Amin Khan Mandokhail, Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Saad bin Asad, Provincial Coordinator of EPI, Dr. Kamalan Gichki, and other concerned officials of Health department, district administration and representatives of the UNICEF and WHO were present at the launching ceremony.

Addressing the launching ceremony, the Deputy Commissioner Quetta said that the vaccination of left over children would be done during the big match-up drive.

He said that the basic aim of the campaign is to save the children from measles, polio and other diseases. In first phase of the big catch-up drive, some 44,000 children below five years of age would be vaccinated, the Deputy Commissioner added.

Director General Health, Dr. Amin Khan Mandokhail expressed deep concern over increasing cases of polio virus in Balochistan. He said that reemergence of polio cases in Balochistan is matter of great concern.

The Director General Health said that the parents refusing to the vaccination poses threat to the whole society regarding polio disease.