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ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari attending All Parties Conference (APC) on Palestine and Gaza held at Aiwan-e-Sadr

Visits Chinese embassy to condole over Karachi incident Perpetrators of Karachi attack sworn enemies of Pakistan: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): The prime minister, in a statement on his X timeline, also prayed for the early recovery of the injured. He said that an immediate investigation was underway to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice. Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday



Expressing his deep shock and sadness over the incident, the prime minister offered his heartfelt condolences to the leadership and the people of China, particularly the families of the victims.

visited the Chinese Embassy, where he met the Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong to offer his heartfelt condolences over the loss of Chinese citizens' lives in a terrorist attack in

To avoid the country spiraling into chaos, Achakzai demands immediate release of all political prisoners

Issues a stark warning that country could head toward civil war if political prisoners not released immediately

By Sardar Khondai

QILLA SAIFULLAH: Chairman of Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party and head of the Movement for the Protection of Pakistan's Constitution, Mahmood Khan Achakzai, has issued a stark warning that the country could head toward civil war if political prisoners, including former Prime Minister Imran Khan, are not released immediately.

Speaking at a public gathering commemorating the October 7 "Martyrs of Democracy" and the October 11 "Martyrs of the Nation," Achakzai condemned the government's treatment of political detainees, drawing parallels to the execution of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali

Bhutto. Achakzai emphasized that political instability and uncertainty in Pakistan will persist as long as the military remains involved in politics. He stated that he will firmly resist any attempts to amend the Constitution under the guise of reforms, cautioning against undermining democratic principles.

Achakzai expresses concern for Imran Khan's safety, warning that his fate may mirror that of Bhutto's if the current trajectory continues. He further demanded the immediate release of all political prisoners, including PTI members, to avoid the country spi-

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QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Sadiq Umrani, Nawabzada Tariq Magsi and MP Mir Zabid Reki meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

'Don't lecture us, fix your own domestic problems,' Pakistan to Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan on Monday categorically rejected a statement by the Afghan foreign ministry regarding the political situation in the country, asking the Afghan interim government (AIG) to focus on fixing its own domestic problems instead of lecturing a democratic country.

In a statement today, Foreign Office spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch rejected the "frivolous" statement made by the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of

Afghanistan on Sunday calling it an "unacceptable" and "deplorable" interference in the domestic affairs of Pakistan.

"Instead of lecturing a democratic country, the AIG should focus on fixing its own domestic problems; prioritize inclusivity; and be responsive to needs and aspirations of its own people including the right to education for women and girls rather than curtailing their rights through misguided interpretation of religion," the spokesperson said.

PTI founder banned from meeting family, lawyers

RAWAPINDI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has been banned from meeting his family, lawyers, and party leaders at Adiala Jail, where he is currently incarcerated. According to media reports, jail authorities have cited security concerns as the reason for this ban.

It revealed that the ban on meetings imposed by the Punjab government will be in place until October 18 and will also apply to other prisoners at Adiala Jail. Earlier, Security agencies expanded investigations and arrested six more members of the jail staff over aiding PTI founder.

The detained staff members of the jail also included three women, sources said. "The detained jail employees have been included a sweeper, two lady wardens and three CCTV monitoring personnel," sources said.

Security officials taken mobile phones of the employees in their custody. "Women staffers were exchanging messages between Bushra Bibi and the PTI's founder," sources said. Former Adiala jail deputy superintendent Zafar Iqbal recently returned home after his arrest on charges of aiding former prime minister Imran Khan, sources said.

Health Minister condemns tragic blast near Karachi Airport

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar on Monday strongly condemned the tragic explosion near Karachi Airport. Expressing deep sorrow and regret over this tragedy, he said that such cowardly acts could not affect long-standing friendly relations between Pakistan and China. Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar said that the Pakistan government and the people of Balochistan expressed sympathy and condolences with the families of the victims.

All Parties Conference held

Pakistan calls for end to Israeli atrocities in Gaza on war footing

APC urges Islamic unity against Israeli aggression in Palestine; President Zardari vows to continue raising Tel Aviv's human rights violations at every forum; PM Shehbaz urges world to act swiftly in stopping Israel from further bloodshed; Bilawal proposes high-power committee to raise voice for oppressed Palestinians; JUI-F does not support two-state solution of Palestine issue; Fazal; Calling for two-state solution tantamount to reversing principled stance: JI chief; MQM-P demands sponsoring Palestinian children in Pakistani universities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Political parties from across Pakistan came together on Monday at the All Parties Conference (APC) at the President House, and passed a forceful declaration condemning Israel's ongoing aggression in Gaza and expressing unwavering support for the Palestinian people.

Representatives from all major political parties, reflecting a wide cross-section of Pakistani society, raised their voices in solidarity with Palestine, calling for an immediate ceasefire and urgent international action.

The APC was also attended by President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The declaration issued at the end of the Conference said "We, the representatives of the political parties of Pakistan, representing a cross-section of Pakistani society, met today to express the following with one voice":

No corruption, commission and safarish tolerable:

CM directs to finalize Youth Skills Development Programme; send 1st batch to abroad by end October

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has directed to the concerned authorities to finalize the CM Youth Skills Development Programme at the earliest and send first batch of youngsters to abroad by end of this (October) month.

The Chief Minister was presiding over a meeting to review progress of the CM Youth Skills Development Programme here on Monday.

Those who were present in the meeting were included: Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, besides other concerned high ups.

The meeting reviewed in detail the progress on the CM Youth Skills Development Programme. Addressing the meet-



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a meeting to review progress of Chief Minister Youth Skills Development Program

ing, Chief Minister mentioned that CM Youth Skills Development Programme is the very big project of history of the province and adding asserted that no corruption, commission and safarish is tolerable in its implementation.

He on the occasion directed to ensure merit in the Youth Skills Development Programme at every level.

He said that the future of Balochistan depends on provision of livelihood to the youth by utilizing their positive capabilities.

He said that the required resources would be provided for implementation on the CM Youth Skills Development Programme as surely thousands of youngsters would get the opportunities of respectable livelihood abroad.

The parties stated their deep concern at the continuing brutal aggression and genocide being committed by Israel against the Palestinians, despite repeated calls for ceasefire from the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), UN General Assembly, UN Security Council, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and the international community.

Furthermore, the parties also expressed their profound alarm at the im-

penalty with which Israel is expanding the war theatre and threatening regional peace and security, and its continued violations of international law and the UN Charter, including its recent aggression against Lebanon, attacks in the West Bank, the assassinations of leader of Hamas in Tehran and the Secretary General of Hezbollah in Lebanon, which constitutes a threat to regional peace and security.

Recalling the resolution titled "Condemnation of

vering support for the inalienable right of the people of Palestine and Kashmir to self-determination; and for the relevant OIC and UN resolutions on Palestine that call for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Palestinian territories, and for a peaceful and negotiated solution to the conflict," the declaration added.

"We express our unwa-

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President condemns Karachi blast, killing Chinese nationals

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday condemned the blast took that place near Karachi airport on Sunday night in which two Chinese nationals were killed.

He expressed his deep grief over the killing of Chinese nationals and conveyed condolence to the bereaved families.

He said that the anti-state elements were poised to damage Pakistan's progress and prosperity.

Sympathising with the victim families, President Zardari emphasised the effective action against the perpetrators of the attack.

Seven terrorists killed in Mianwali CTD operation

MIANWALI (INP): Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) police on Sunday night claimed to have eliminated seven terrorists near Makarwal.

According to CTD sources, an intelligence-based operation (IBO) was conducted in the area.

In an exchange of fire between the militants and the CTD personnel, seven Khawarij terrorists were sent to hell whereas their eight accomplices escaped under the cover darkness, the sources said. Read more: Two terrorist attacks repulsed in Mianwali Six hand-grenades, seven Kalashnikovs, bullets and explosives were seized from the possession of the outlaws.

A search operation was launched to arrest the fleeing militants. Dead bodies were shifted to hospital for autopsy. The terrorists had a plan to carry out massive destruction in Punjab.

KARACHI: A view of the cordoned-off area where the wreckage of destroyed vehicles lies following a deadly explosion near Karachi Airport occurred late Sunday night.

Romina for working together with provinces to tackle climate challenges

QUETTA (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister for Climate Change and Environment Romina Khurshid Alam on Monday said that she was striving to work together with all provinces to tackle the climate challenges, forests and wildlife in country.

She said that Federal government was also paying special attention on durable development of Balochistan.

She expressed these views while chairing a meeting held on the occasion of a visit to the office of the Department of Forests and Wildlife in Quetta.

Secretary Forests and Wildlife Dostain Jamaldini, Chief Conservator North Muhammad Aslam, Chief

Conservator Masroor Jamal Kakar, Chief Conservator Sharifuddin Baloch, Wildlife Project Director Niaz Muhammad Kakar, Forestry Project Director Imran Khan and others were also present on the occasion. Addressing the meeting, she said that there is a need to strengthen linkages at the federation and inter-provincial levels.

We should work on the best projects for the interest of our country and people, she said.

Romina Khurshid said that Balochistan has always been her priority since the Department of Climate Change has taken over the charge and the environment is working as a team.

QUETTA: Coordinator of Prime Minister for Climate Change and Environment Romina Khurshid Alam presiding over a meeting during her visit to Forest and Wildlife Department

QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Sadiq Umrani, Nawabzada Tariq Magsi and MP Mir Zabid Reki meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

QUETTA: Coordinator of Prime Minister for Climate Change and Environment Romina Khurshid Alam presiding over a meeting during her visit to Forest and Wildlife Department

Shan Masood, Abdullah Shafique lead Pakistan to 328/4 on Day 1 of Multan Test

The pair put on a solid 253-run stand for the second wicket after Pakistan won the toss and batted.

MULTAN (INP): Pakistan ended the opening day of the first Test against England at the Multan Cricket Stadium with a solid score of 328/4, thanks to brilliant centuries by captain Shan Masood and Abdullah Shafique. Pakistan's captain Shan Masood won the toss and opted to bat first. Abdullah Shafique and Saim Ayub opened the innings for Pakistan, but Saim Ayub returned to the pavilion after scoring just 4 runs at a total of 8. After Saim Ayub's early dismissal, Abdullah Shafique and Shan Masood batted responsibly and took the score forward, with Shan Masood completing his century with 2 sixes and 10 fours. Abdullah Shafique also scored a century before getting out for 102 runs. The partnership between the two was 253 runs. Shortly after Abdullah Shafique's dismissal, captain Shan Masood was caught out for 151 runs with only 2 more runs added to the score. Shortly before the end of the first day's play, Babar Azam was also dismissed for 30 runs. Saud Shakeel remains unbeaten on 35, and Naseem Shah is yet to score. For England, Gus Atkinson took 2 wickets, while Chris Woakes claimed 1 wicket. Pakistan will resume their innings tomorrow at 328 runs for 4 wickets. Earlier, Shan Masood mentioned that they have two spinners

and three fast bowlers in the team, and they want to get back on track by changing things up.

On the other hand, English captain Ollie Pope said they would have batted if they had won the toss.

Pakistan XI: Captain Shan Masood, Saud Shakeel, Babar Azam, Saim Ayub, Abdullah Shafique, wicketkeeper batsman Mohammad Rizwan, Salman Ali Agha, Aamir Jamal, Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah, and Abrar Ahmed are all part of the playing XI.

England XI: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope (captain), Joe Root, Harry Brook, Jamie Smith, Chris Woakes, Gus Atkinson, Brydon Carse, Jack Leach, Shoaib Bashir



QUETTA: Commuters are passing through a road during downpour, at Airport road in Quetta.

Mohammad Haris to lead Pak Shaheens in ACC Men's T20 emerging teams Asia Cup

LAHORE (INP): Mohammad Haris, who has featured in nine T20Is and six ODIs for Pakistan, will lead Pakistan Shaheens in the ACC Men's T20 Emerging Teams Asia Cup commencing in Oman from 18 October. Before the Shaheens' departure to Oman on 16 October, the squad will undergo a camp at the Hanif Mohammad High-Performance Centre in Karachi from 11 to 15 October. Abdul Samad, Ahmed Daniyal, Yasir Khan and Zaman Khan will represent Pakistan Shaheens for the first time. Samad featured for UMT Markhors in the recently concluded Bahria Town Champions One-Day Cup 2024-25 and scored at a strike-rate of 122.88. Ahmed Daniyal playing for Nurpur Lions bagged 10 wickets, while Yasir and Zaman featured for Allied Bank Stallions in four and two matches, respectively. Eight teams will participate in the event with four teams divided into two groups. All matches will take place at the Oman Cricket Academy Ground in Muscat. Group A consists of Afghanistan 'A', Bangladesh 'A', Hong Kong and Sri Lanka 'A', while defending champions Pakistan Shaheens are slotted in Group B alongside India 'A', Oman and UAE. Haris-led Shaheens will take on last year's finalists India 'A' in their opening match on 19 October. Shaheens' second outing in the tournament will be against hosts Oman on 21 October, followed by their final group match will be against the UAE on 23 October.

Quetta girls shine at mini drama festival 2024

QUETTA: Ghawara-e-Fun organization hosted the All Quetta Inter Girls School Mini Drama Festival 2024, a successful three-month event held across 12 schools in the city and its outskirts. The festival featured stage dramas where students performed as artists, while teachers contributed as writers, directors, musicians, set designers, and makeup artists. The competition comprised 20 categories. Provincial Education Minister Rahila Hamid Khan Durrani praised the event, saying, "Such festivals promote artistic expression, talent, and confidence among students, essential for their overall development."

Soldiers martyred in North Waziristan laid to rest with full military honour

RAWALPINDI (INP): A large number of retired and on-duty officers of Pakistan Army, relatives and locals attended the funeral prayers of Pakistan Army personnel who were martyred in North Waziristan clash on Monday.

According to ISPR, the martyred soldiers included Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Ali Shaikat 43 who was laid to rest in Faisalabad, Lance-Naik

Mohammad Ullah aged 31 buried in Khyber, Lance-Naik Akhtar Zaman 30, in Faisalabad, Lance-Naik Shahid Ullah 29 in Tank, Lance-Naik Yousaf Ali 31 in Orakzai and Sepoy Shaheed Jamil Ahmad aged 26 in Swat.

It is necessary to mention here that these Pakistan Army personnel embraced martyrdom while fighting bravely with Fitna al-Khawarij in North Waziristan.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Prisoners on their return to Pakistan from Sri Lanka at Islamabad International Airport.

Achakzai demands immediate...

Continued from page 1

raling into chaos.

Achakzai also criticized the recent general elections, accusing the authorities of rigging the results through manipulation, coercion, and bribes. He claimed that the true will of the people was ignored and that PTI emerged as the most popular party, despite official results indicating otherwise.

He raised concerns over widespread corruption, particularly allegations of the Chief Minister of Balochistan's office being sold for Rs. 6 billion. He urged the military to refrain from engaging in politics and protect its integrity, while condemning the exploitation of Pashtun resources and the occupation of tribal lands.

Addressing the broader geopolitical context, Achakzai condemned Israel's ongoing aggression against Palestinians and called on the international community, particularly the Muslim world, to intervene and halt the genocide. He reiterated the need for a two-state solution to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Concluding his address, Achakzai called for unity among Pashtuns, urging them to resolve internal disputes through traditional "jirgas" and stand united against external threats. He paid tribute to the martyrs of democracy and vowed to continue the struggle for a truly democratic Pakistan where all national policies are formulated by an empowered, elected Parliament. Party members, including central secretary Nawab Muhammad Ayaz Khan Jozzeai and district leader Haji Dara Khan Jozzeai, also addressed the gathering, emphasizing the need for peaceful democratic struggle and expressing concerns over the deteriorating law and order situation in Qilla Saifullah.

Pakistan calls for end to Israeli...

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Israeli oppression and Brutality against people of Palestine" adopted by the National Assembly of Pakistan in its session held on 2nd August 2024, as well as other relevant resolutions adopted by the Parliament of Pakistan, the All Parties Conference expressed its unequivocal condemnation in the strongest possible terms of Israel's genocidal campaign that has resulted in the loss of over 42,000 lives, mostly women and children, as well as grievous injury to over 96,000 Palestinians, in addition to the widespread destruction and displacement of nearly the entire population of Gaza.

The APC also condemned Israeli attacks against schools, hospitals, places of worship, shelters and refugee camps and its killing of aid workers and journalists in unprecedented numbers and in complete violation of international humanitarian law. It also demanded an immediate and unconditional ceasefire and end to brutalities against the Palestinian people; lifting of the siege of Gaza; provision of unimpeded humanitarian and medical aid; and to hold Israel accountable for its violations of international law, war crimes and acts of genocide.

The APC urged the international community to take urgent measures to prevent Israel from further undermining regional peace and stability, including the prevention of Israeli aggression against Lebanon and other regional countries. In addition it also expressed full support for the ongoing political and diplomatic efforts by the OIC, the League of Arab States, the United Nations, and other brotherly countries in addressing the prevailing situation in Occupied Palestine, as well as for the peace and stability of the broader region.

It called on the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to convene an Emergency Summit to discuss the situation in Palestine, Israel's brutal aggression in the region and its implications for regional peace and security and underscores the need for unity of the Islamic Ummah.

The APC called for full implementation of the UN General Assembly resolution ES-10/24 of 18 September 2024, which, inter alia, demands an end to Israeli occupation; the provisional measures by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that call for prevent-

ing Israel from committing further acts of genocide against the Palestinian people; as well as ICJ's Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024 that reaffirms the illegality of the Israeli occupation;

It also recalled the Joint Communiqué of the Arab-Islamic summit of 11th of November 2023 that called for all countries to stop exporting weapons and ammunition to the Israeli occupation authorities; Expressing its support to the role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Refugees (UNRWA) in providing relief to the Palestinian people, the APC affirmed Pakistan's determination to redouble its efforts for all possible political, diplomatic, moral and humanitarian support for the brotherly people of Palestine.

APC appreciated the dispatch of 10 consignments of humanitarian aid from Pakistan for the people of Gaza, and medical relief assistance for the people of Lebanon; and urges continued humanitarian aid to the brotherly people of Palestine, including educational opportunities for Palestinian students and medical treatment of wounded Palestinian children in Pakistan;

It also declared unwavering support for the realization of the right to self-determination and other fundamental rights of the Palestinian people, as well as for the establishment of a viable, secure, contiguous, and sovereign State of Palestine, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, as well as for the State of Palestine's full UN membership.

The Conference called on the government of Pakistan to continue extending political, diplomatic and humanitarian support to the brotherly people of Palestine and to support diplomatic efforts for bringing an end to the genocide in Gaza.

It also decided to observe, with special fervor, 29 November 2024 as a Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

The APC strongly affirmed the right of the people of Kashmir to self-determination and call for the settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir Dispute in accordance with the wishes of Kashmiri people and the relevant resolutions of UNSC.

President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday expressing deep concerns over the growing Israeli adventurism in the region and Gaza.

and escalation of tension, called for the international community's role to take swift action to restore peace and prevent conflict from spilling over.

The president, in his opening remarks at the All Parties Conference, convened by the government to mark a year of Israel's barbarism in Palestine, said that during the last year, the Israeli occupation forces had killed over 41,800 Palestinians besides destroying the infrastructure.

The president said that Israel had even expanded its relentless attacks to target Lebanon, Syria and Yemen and endangered regional and global peace and security.

He said that regrettably, the international community had failed to stop Israel from committing genocide against the Palestinian population, specifically in Gaza and also questioned the prevailing situation of impunity.

President Zardari said that it was crucial for the international community to take swift action to de-escalate the tension and prevent further loss of lives and conflict from spilling over to other parts of the region.

He also emphasized the UN Security Council to fulfill its responsibility of establishing peace and security in Palestine and Lebanon and reiterated Pakistan's decades-old stance for a two-state solution by establishing an independent Palestine state on the basis of pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds as its capital.

President Zardari stressed that peace in the Middle East could not be achieved without resolving the Palestine issue in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

Calling for a total withdrawal of Israeli forces from Palestine, he also asked the UNSC to restrain Israel from violation of international laws to restore peace in the Middle East.

The president reiterated Pakistan's position of total withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem and restoring the inalienable right of Palestinian people to self-determination.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday emphasized the urgent need for a ceasefire in Palestine, urging the international community especially the Muslim World to act swiftly in stopping Israel from further bloodshed in Gaza.

Addressing the All Parties Conference on Gaza at the President House, the prime minister said it was the time for the Muslim World to move forward and take practical steps to prevent Israel from further bloodshed in Palestine.

He condemned Israel's ongoing violence and barbarism, expressing deep sorrow that innocent Palestinians were being killed daily. "The first priority should be to stop the bloodshed in Palestine, which is a foremost duty, and for this, the platform of the OIC is available."

Commending the participation of all political parties in the conference, the prime minister said the gathering reflected that whenever Pakistan faced challenges, either external or internal, the country's entire political leadership gets united to present solid recommendation and offers full cooperation in implementing the proposals.

The prime minister announced to formulate a working group that would take decisions in the light of proposals presented in the Conference.

He also agreed with other participants' views that instead of adhering to a two-state solution, the focus should be on demanding for an independent state of Palestine with Al-Quds as its capital.

The prime minister highlighted that he forcefully raised the government's stance against Israel's barbarism in Palestine without take care of the consequences.

Additionally, he said he along with the delegation, also staged a walkout at the UN General Assembly when Israel's PM Netanyahu came to address the assembly.

"I knew that my speech would cause a stir, but I didn't care and boldly raised my voice in support of the oppressed Palestinians at the UN General Assembly."

The prime minister pointed out that developing the country's economy was the foremost priority of the government as without overcoming poverty and getting economically strong, "our voice would not be heard in the world".

As regards dispatching relief goods to Palestine, PM Shehbaz said the government was making full efforts in this regard. He also appreciated the Al-Khidmat Foundation for cooperating with the government.

TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, Urban Planning & Development Department, Sibi Division invites sealed tenders based on Composite Schedule of Rates 2023, Government of Balochistan, amended up-to-date from interested Contractors / Firm who have the renewal for the year 2024-25, for the following works:

S.#	Name of Works.	E/Cost
1.	REHABILITATION AND ADDITIONAL WORKS OF SANTOASH PURI MANDIR LAHRI DISTRICT SIBI (PSDP No.6037) TSE-242510568323	9,905,580
2.	REHABILITATION WORK OF MATA MANDIR AND SOLARIZATION JUHLAY LAL MANDAR / LAL G MANDAR / JAMANDASS / GURUDWARAAT SIBI (PRQ No.4321) TSE-242510568343	19,802,374

The Procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority rules, 2014 amended up to date. **BASIC ELIGIBILITY:** The Firm/ Contractors must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council who also has deposited case for renewal (2024-25) in relevant Category. Firms (Single Entity) having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in the Category C-6 or above and the relevant Specialized code. The firm must be registered in Balochistan Revenue Authority and presence in active tax payer list (ATL) Valid Registration with Income Tax & Presence in Active Tax Payer List in FBR (ATL) Turnover at least of last three years. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work. The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Call Deposit or Bank Guarantee of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Other Mandatory conditions and Detail Criteria mentioned in the Bidding Documents. Sequential page numbering of Bid Proposal. Signing and stamping of bid proposal wherever indicated as well as initial/ signature and seal on all other pages of proposals. The Proposal is bound as hard book to deny addition/ removal of pages' **METHOD OF PROCUREMENT:** Single Stage-Two Envelope Procedure. **ISSUANCE:** The firms/contractors can also download the bidding documents from the BPPRA website at www.bppra.org.pk. The tender processing fee of Rs. 1,000/- must be deposited in the government treasury under the head of account C-03870 through the Green Challan Form at the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP). **Deadline of Submission:** The bidding Documents duly filled and attached with copies of supporting documents must be delivered in sealed envelopes by hand or through registered mail to the address mentioned below on or before on 23/10/2024 at 11:00 am. **Opening:** The bids will be opened on 23/10/2024 at 12:00 pm, before the procurement committee in the presence of firm/ contractors or their authorized representatives/agents. Place of issuance and submission will be: - Address: Office of the Executive Engineer Urban Planning & Dev: Department, Sibi Division. Telephone No. 3003826691 Bid Validity Period: Ninety (90) Days. Email: euupdsibi4201@gmail.com.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
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RE-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The procuring agency, in exercise of powers conferred under Rule-38 of Balochistan Public Procurement Rule, 2014, hereby cancel the bidding process of TSE-242507507643 under PRQ No.369/24-07-24024 and the same is re-tendered now

The Executive Engineer, Urban Planning & Development Department, Sibi Division invites sealed tender based on Composite Schedule of Rates 2023, Government of Balochistan, amended up-to-date from interested Contractors / Firm who have the renewal for the year 2024-25, for the following works:

S.#	Name of Works.	E/Cost
1.	RE-TENDER FOR BLACK TOP ROAD SEWERAGE, STREET LIGHT AT BALMIK COLONY SOLARIZATION OF BABA MANDHO DASS MANDIR ADDITIONAL WORK MATA MANDIR AND LACHI MANDIR SIBI (PSDP No.8085) TSE-242510567343	39,618,886/-

The Procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority rules, 2014 amended up to date. **BASIC ELIGIBILITY:** The Firm/ Contractors must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council who also has deposited case for renewal (2024-25) in relevant Category. Firms (Single Entity) having valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in the Category C-5 or above and the relevant Specialized code. The firm must be registered in Balochistan Revenue Authority and presence in active tax payer list (ATL) Valid Registration with Income Tax & Presence in Active Tax Payer List in FBR (ATL) Turnover at least of last three years. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work. The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Call Deposit or Bank Guarantee of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Other Mandatory conditions and Detail Criteria mentioned in the Bidding Documents. Sequential page numbering of Bid Proposal. Signing and stamping of bid proposal wherever indicated as well as initial/ signature and seal on all other pages of proposals. The Proposal is bound as hard book to deny addition/ removal of pages' **METHOD OF PROCUREMENT:** Single Stage-Two Envelope Procedure. **ISSUANCE:** The firms/contractors can also download the bidding documents from the BPPRA website at www.bppra.org.pk. The tender processing fee of Rs. 2,000/- must be deposited in the government treasury under the head of account C-03870 through the Green Challan Form at the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP). **Deadline of Submission:** The bidding Documents duly filled and attached with copies of supporting documents must be delivered in sealed envelopes by hand or through registered mail to the address mentioned below on or before on 23/10/2024 at 11:00 am. **Opening:** The bids will be opened on 23/10/2024 at 12:00 pm, before the procurement committee in the presence of firm/ contractors or their authorized representatives/agents. Place of issuance and submission will be: - Address: Office of the Executive Engineer Urban Planning & Dev: Department, Sibi Division. Telephone No. 03003826691 Bid Validity Period: Ninety (90) Days. Email: euupdsibi4201@gmail.com.

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Institute of Regional Studies, an Islamabad-based autonomous and not-for-profit think tank, invites applications along with detailed CVs from qualified candidates to fill the following positions on open merit basis.

S.No	Designation	BPS	Post	Minimum Qualification
1.	Research Officer	18	2	a. Mphil. in Social Sciences (Preferably international relations, defence and strategic studies, economics, political science, peace and conflict Studies, IT) from a Reputable University. b. 5 years Research Experience. c. At least five research papers published in Reputable National and International Research Journals. d. Should not be more than 40 years of age on the last date for submission of CVs, i.e., 22 October 2024. e. Initially 1 x required for one year and 1 x required for 6 months (both are likely to be extended).
2.	Assistant Research Officer	17	1	a. MPhil./Master in Social Sciences (Preferably international relations, defence and strategic studies, economics, political science, peace and conflict Studies) from a Reputable University. b. Should not be more than 35 years of age on the last date for submission of CVs, i.e., 22 October 2024. c. Required for six months and extendable.

CV's and copies of published papers may please be sent to the address given below before 22 October 2024: -

Postal Address:
Institute of Regional Studies, F-5/2 Ataturk avenue Islamabad
You can also send your CV on irssfellow@yahoo.com / PID (I) No.2419/24



Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam addressing a seminar on World Habitat Day in Islamabad.

Ahsan for empowering youth with science, technology

ISLAMABAD (APP): Highlighting the importance of professional education, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan said here on Monday that the government's focus was on promoting science and technology in the country. Addressing the 'World Space Week' function at Islamabad Model College, the minister asserted that the future of the Muslim Ummah lies in the revival of science and technology. It is pertinent to mention here that International Space Week is being celebrated globally from October 4 to 10. The planning minister said that when Muslims

abandoned knowledge and research, they became victims of decline, citing the example of Israel, a population of 10 million dominating two Arab countries. He was of the view that Muslims' honor has been affected due to their distance from knowledge and research adding Muslims today were plagued by intellectual decline and polluted thinking. Ahsan Iqbal quoted the Quran's encouragement to unravel the mysteries of the universe and reminded that Allah has commanded humans to conquer the moon and stars, but Muslim countries have failed to do so. Ahsan Iqbal urged returning to science and re-

search in accordance with Quranic teachings.

He regretted Muslims' weak role in unraveling the universe's mysteries. He said, Allama Iqbal called youth 'Shaheen' and encouraged them to move forward. The minister said the current era is driven by technology and artificial intelligence adding the Fourth Industrial Revolution and Big Data were changing human leadership and predicted that future progress belongs to nations that excel in science and technology. Ahsan Iqbal said that the Ministries of Planning and Education plan to utilize Space Week as a platform for youth and stressed the importance of increasing young people's interest.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Prisoners on their return to Pakistan from Sri Lanka at Islamabad International Airport.

ICT admin issues guideline for public transportation vehicles

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Transport Authority has issued guidelines for public transport vehicles in the Federal Capital to ensure safe and fair services. These new guidelines focussed on passenger safety, prioritization of vulnerable commuters, and curbing overcharging and violations, said the spokesman of ICT administration here.

These guidelines were included that all the public transport vehicles must have their fitness certificates and route permits displayed clearly on the front glass. While, both the front and back glass of rental cars must clearly show signage indicating their status as rental vehicles. Similarly, women and senior citizens should be given priority seating at the

front of public transport vehicles.

Furthermore, vehicles were required to complete their assigned routes as per the route permit. Any failure to do so would result in legal action against the relevant transport coordinator (Adda Munshi).

Meanwhile, the vehicles equipped with CNG cylinders must obtain a Cylinder Pass Certificate from stations approved by OGRA to ensure safe operations. And the drivers must adhere to the proper road lanes and designated routes while operating their vehicles. The spokesman said that overcharging passengers and overloading vehicles were strictly prohibited.

Pressure horns and playing music inside the vehicle are not allowed, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Austrian Charge d'Affaires, Hannes Makhor, inaugurating an Art Exhibition organized by Austrian Embassy in collaboration with Pakistan National Council of the Arts at PNCA in the Federal Capital.

IPRI hosts special lecture on Gaza's aggression, genocide

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) on Monday marked a year of aggression and genocide in Gaza by hosting a Special Lecture of His Excellency Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the State of Palestine, Nader K. Alturk, who spoke eloquently on "A Year of War in Gaza."

Addressing the special lecture, he listed out the trials and tribulation of a year, and said hapless Palestinians and Gazans were on the receiving end as more than 50,000 were killed, millions are displaced, and almost 80 percent of Gaza has been obliterated. He said that Israel had attacked each and every human and civil installations, under the guise of taking out military targets, and destroyed mosques, schools and hospitals, said a press release. He said that under International Law, besieged

Palestinians had every right to defend themselves and use measures at their disposal in self-defense.

Alturk said that Gaza, a region of 365 km, today is in rubble and more than a million were displaced, leaving behind the rest to live in a squeezed territory of less than 30 kms.

He particularly mentioned the tactics that Israel and the United States were employing to hoodwink the definition of "Right to return" of Palestinians under the UN Resolutions. The Palestinian envoy talked about "Greater Israel" plans and showed a map wherein the Zionist state had explicit aggressive designs over almost all of its neighbours up to Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

He said that one year of death and destruction had simply proved the incapacity and failure of international organisations.

All roads reopened for traffic in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Traffic in Islamabad has returned to normal, with all major roads now open following earlier disruptions due to protests. The Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) have confirmed that routes across the city are operational. According to ITP statement SSP Traffic along with all traffic officers, are present on the roads to ensure smooth traffic flow. He said traffic officers are actively engaged in maintaining the flow of traffic and assisting citizens.

Citizens can also get traffic updates by contacting 1915 or tuning into FM 92.4 for real-time information, he said. He said Rawat T-Cross has been opened to traffic in both directions. Korang Chowk has also been cleared and re-

opened for vehicles from both sides he said.

He said Khanna Pul is now open for traffic in both directions, ensuring smooth flow in this area.

Faizabad and Murree Road, along with the Expressway, have been cleared, and traffic is now moving freely in both directions, he added.

He said Peshawar Mor and Golra Mor are both open for traffic from both directions.

Traffic has resumed at 26 Number Chungi and Motorway Link Road in both directions, he said.

He added Colonel Sher Khan Shaheed Road is now fully operational in both directions.

He said Iran Avenue has been opened to traffic in both directions.

IGP visits D-Chowk, emphasizes vigilance in ensuring capital's law & order

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, on Monday visited D-Chowk and various duty points. According to police statement IG Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi met with the officials of ICT Police and other law enforcement departments and boost their morale who are performing duties in order to maintain the law-and-order situation in the capital.

On the occasion, IGP Islamabad has instructed the officials to be highly alert and ready all the time to deal with any emerging law and order situation, he

"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" Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said while addressing the officials.

Rizvi further said that, all the officials who are performing duties are putting their best efforts to maintain the law-and-order situation. All the officers have been directed to stay vigilant in their own respective areas and brief the personnel to deal with any law-and-order situation and check all the duties by themselves.



ISLAMABAD: Jamaat Islami Women Wing hold a protest demonstration against Zionist regime on the occasion of the first anniversary of Operation Tufan Al-Aqsa in the Federal Capital.

Ayaz flays blast near Chinese vehicle in Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, on Monday strongly condemned the tragic blast near a vehicle carrying Chinese nationals in Karachi, expressing profound sorrow over the loss of two Chinese lives and the injuries sustained by several others.

In his statement, he conveyed his deep condolences to the bereaved families of the victims, calling the loss of Chinese nationals "profoundly saddening." He expressed sympathy and solidarity with the families affected by the tragedy.

He said that such heinous acts of terrorism cannot weaken the strong and time-tested bond between Pakistan and China. "The malicious intentions of our enemies cannot sabotage the strong bond of Pak-China friendship," he said reaffirming that the friendship between the two nations remains as high as the Himalayas and as deep as the ocean.

Condemning the enemy's attempts to create unrest in the country, he urged law enforcement agencies to act swiftly in apprehending the perpetrators and bringing them to justice. He also directed authorities to ensure that the injured receive the best possible medical care.

KSRelief to ink MoUs for aid, humanitarian projects with various organizations today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) is set to sign several agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with various organizations in the Federal Capital on Tuesday. According to the Saudi Press Attaché, Dr. Naif Al-Otaibi, the event will be attended by the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki along with government officials and representatives from international and local humanitarian organizations.

These agreements will encompass aid and construction projects in multiple underprivileged regions of Pakistan, in alignment with KSRelief's comprehensive aid plans, he added. Briefing on the KSRelief, Dr. Naif said it was an international organization dedicated to relief

and humanitarian work. It was launched in May 2015 under the direction and patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. This organization is based on high humanitarian goals in its operations, which aim to provide assistance to the needy and disaster victims anywhere in the world. These tasks are carried out under right monitoring procedures and modern methods of rapid transition, which are carried out by United Nations organizations and international and local non-profit organizations. The plans and programmes offered by the KSRelief vary according to the needs of the beneficiaries and their circumstances. These aid projects cover all areas of relief and humanitarian work, including food security, camp management, shelter, initial rehabilitation, conservation.



ISLAMABAD: Officials of Capital Development Authority (CDA) leaving Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House after sealed, in the Federal Capital.

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

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

Addressing a press conference, the Minister appreciated the positive role of security forces and police in showing patience.

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

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

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

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

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

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

state, it should think about employment and welfare for them," Federal Minister Amir Muqam said.

The minister said that the PTI regime badly failed to launch a new mega project for the welfare of people in the province in the last six months as compared to the other all other provinces working very smoothly but the KPK Chief Minister and his team protesting against the federation.

Amir Muqam said that under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, a number of mega projects have been launched and in the upcoming day Pakistan will host the Conference of Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC). The federal government will take stern action against the facilitators of PTI protestors who massively misused the resources of the poor province of KPK.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Army is standing upside down in D Chowk for peace and order in the country.

IHC orders SSP, RWP, IBD to appear with progress report in 4 missing brothers case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has summoned police officers of twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad in recovery of 4 missing brothers case.

The police officers who have been summoned include SSP Rawalpindi and SSP Islamabad.

The court while giving warning has remarked both the SSPs should appear with progress report otherwise arrest warrants will be issued.

The court has called report from ministry of interior and ministry of defence about the kidnapped persons.

The Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer Farooq remarked such impression is being given that police is colluding. Where are the abducted persons. Should I issue arrest warrants of SP. Ask him to appear in the court.

He expressed annoyance over police.

The case for recovery

Senator questions PTI's silence on Palestinian issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary leader of PML-N in Senate, Senator Irfan Siddiqui has strongly criticized PTI for their silence on the Palestinian issue, questioning why they're hesitant to speak out for Palestine, seemingly fearful of offending someone.

In a statement posted on his social media account X, Siddiqui, who is also the chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, said that the false propagandists are brazenly ignoring the blood-soaked streets of Gaza and the innocent children dying from hunger.

Criticizing the PTI for refusing to attend the government's All Parties Conference (APC).

Toshakhana-2 case: IHC issues notice on bail plea of Bushra Bibi

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued notice on bail plea of Bushra Bibi for this week in Toshakhana-2 case.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb has issued written order.

According to court's order the court was told punishment has been awarded in another reference like this. FIA should file reply on bail plea till next hearing.

of 4 brothers who went missing from limits of Khanna police came up for hearing in IHC Monday.

Mufeed Khan advocate appeared in the court on behalf of petitioner who is mother of the missing citizens.

The counsel for missing brothers said Rawalpindi police lifted the four brothers from Khanna area of Islamabad. Now police authorities say they have not lifted them.

The CJ IHC expressed displeasure over non recovery of missing brothers.

The CJ IHC Aamer Farooq inquired what is pay of an SHO.

Police officer replied maximum it comes to Rs 150000.

The CJ IHC inquired can home be built in F-6 or F-7 within the salary of Rs 150000.

Police officer replied No. My lord it is impossible.

The CJ IHC inquired

then how the homes are being built therein. Are the angels giving the money.

The CJ IHC inquired why SP Rawalpindi has not come. Where is he.

Police officer replied he is on the way. Ways are closed.

The CJ IHC Aamer Farooq remarked he will always remain on the way.

CH IHC remarked such impression is being given as if police is colluding. Where are abducted persons. Should I issue arrest warrants of SP. Ask him to appear in the court.

The CJ IHC remarked it has been alleged Rawalpindi police lifted all the four brothers in January.

The court while directing SSP Rawalpindi and SSP Islamabad to appear in person on Thursday summoned report about the abducted persons from ministry of interior and ministry of defence too on Thursday.

Pak strengthens global efforts to establish Snow Leopard as symbol of climate adaptation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCCEC) has accelerated efforts, in collaboration with the 12 member countries of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP) to propose that the snow leopard be designated as an international symbol of climate adaptation at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

During a high-level meeting at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam outlined the steps of this initiative. The plan includes sending formal communications to the UNGA, the countries where snow leopards thrive, and key wild-

life conservation organizations, said a press release on Monday. Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs will also be closely involved to ensure a unified national approach. Global diplomatic efforts will be launched in coordination with snow leopard range states and institutions, Pakistan intends to present a strong case at the upcoming COP 29 conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November. Speaking at the meeting, Romina Khurshid emphasized Pakistan's longstanding commitment to wildlife conservation. She remarked, "The snow leopard is more than just a symbol of natural beauty, it is a critical indicator of climate change. Pakistan is among the nations most affected by climate change, and we stand ready to take every necessary action to raise awareness and support efforts.

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Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
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A bloody year

A year after Hamas and other Palestinian fighters launched an unprecedented attack on Israel, the Middle East stands at the precipice of a wider, and potentially catastrophic war.

The Oct 7, 2023, events were a watershed moment in this region's turbulent history, comparable to the two intifadas or the various Arab-Israeli wars. Many in the West have pushed the simplistic and dangerous narrative blaming the Palestinian side for sparking the violence, and attracting the barbaric Israeli backlash that has few parallels in modern history.

But they forget that the suffering and humiliation of the Palestinian people predates Oct 7, and can be traced back to the Nakba in 1948, and the earlier Zionist colonisation of historical Palestine. Over the decades, the Israelis have killed and pillaged the Palestinian people with reckless abandon, and what happened in October last year was akin to an explosion of volcanic anger from a population that had been brought to its knees through a cruel siege.

Using the Oct 7 attacks as an excuse to wage endless aggression on the region, Israel has crossed all red lines — not that it greatly respected the laws of war in earlier conflicts. It has turned Gaza into a graveyard, slaughtering nearly 42,000 people to date. Hospitals, schools and refugee camps have all been turned into a grim mix of blood and rubble, as Israel applies mediaeval methods of violence to this small strip of land.

The apparent goal at the start of the conflict was the elimination of Hamas and the repatriation of Israeli hostages; one of the world's best-armed militaries — amply supported by the US and many European states — has miserably failed on both these counts.

Along with Gaza, Tel Aviv has set its sights on Lebanon, again supposedly to destroy Hezbollah. But while the Lebanese armed group has been severely pounded, its fighters continue to resist the Israeli invaders. Meanwhile, Lebanon has said that over 2,000 people have been killed in Israeli violence over the last year. Going by UN official Francesca Albanese's sharp observation, for Israel "there are no civilians" in Palestine and Lebanon.

Along with highlighting Israeli barbarity, the post-Oct 7 scenario has exposed the hypocrisy of the Western bloc, and the paralysis of Muslim states. The West loves to hold forth on protecting human rights, but perhaps to these states the people of Gaza and Lebanon are sub-human.

The Islamic 'fraternity', meanwhile, has refused to take any meaningful action against Israel and its supporters as the Zionist state continues its genocidal campaigns.

Today, thanks to Israeli aggression, and Western appeasement, the Middle East could be consumed by an immense conflagration, especially if Tel Aviv strikes Iran. Meanwhile, the core issue of Palestinian freedom has been all but eclipsed in the fog of war.

Maleeha Lodhi

The Middle East is precariously poised on the brink of a full-blown regional war that has been widely feared for months.

Israel's assassination of Hamas and Hezbollah leaders and an Iranian Revolutionary Guard commander as well as its invasion of Lebanon put Iran in a bind, leaving it with little choice but to respond. And respond it did by raining a barrage of missiles over Israel.

The aim was to send a clear message that it had the capability and reach to punish Israel for its murderous actions and re-establish a level of deterrence. It was also designed to push the US to rein in Israel.

Tehran's hand was forced by Israel's unrelenting aggressive actions even though Iranian leaders repeatedly stated they had no interest in entering a conflict which they saw as a trap by Tel Aviv to widen the war. Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian reiterated this after the missile attack. At a press conference in Doha, he declared Iran did not seek a war. It had shown patience but

that emboldened Israel to act with greater impunity.

In remarks to a cabinet meeting, he disclosed that Western powers had urged Tehran to exercise restraint after the assassination of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh, holding out the promise of a ceasefire in Gaza. The truce didn't happen while Israel's continuing military offensive in Gaza was met by silence by those calling for restraint. He warned of a tougher response if Israel attacked Iran but stressed the need to prevent the crisis from escalating.

Israel of course threatened retaliation for Iran's ballistic missile attack with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying Tehran made a big mistake and will "pay for it". Perhaps Israel chooses Oct 7, the anniversary of the Hamas assault, to launch an attack. While Tel Aviv is reported to be assessing several military options, the region is on a knife-edge. This dangerous situation prompted UN Secretary General António Guterres to call for urgent efforts to prevent an all-out war, which would have "profound and devastating consequences" for the re-

gion. He told an emergency UN Security Council meeting that "the raging fires in the Middle East were fast becoming an inferno".

Can a full-scale conflict be averted in the Middle East? One scenario is that tit-for-tat actions between Iran and Israel take place in a measured way while the international community weighs in decisively to ensure that confrontation between the two foes remains limited and doesn't escalate out of control. There is indication such efforts are underway. The role of the US is obviously crucial. Although Washington has declared its backing for Israel's right to militarily respond to Tehran's action and said it is considering sanctions against Iran, President Joe Biden is urging Tel Aviv to "respond in proportion".

The US and its G7 allies have cautioned Netanyahu against an attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, which would mark a major escalation leading to a full-fledged Israel-Iran war that would plunge the region into uncharted territory. Biden has made it clear he will not support an Israeli strike on Iran's

nuclear sites. As for Israel targeting Iran's oil facilities, Biden first said he had discussed that possibility. But later he claimed he had advised Israel to consider "other alternatives" to oilfield strikes.

Such an attack would shake the global energy market and trigger an oil price surge. Prices have already started rising especially after Biden's earlier remarks. Would Washington really want American consumers to face higher oil prices at election time in the US? Disruption in oil supplies would have global repercussions. Half of China's oil imports, for example, come from the Middle East, including from Iran.

There are fears an Israeli strike on Iranian oil installations could provoke Tehran to disrupt the oil flow from the Strait of Hormuz, which will send the oil price soaring. These considerations are driving appeals to the Israeli leadership from the US and its Western allies to avoid a major step up the escalatory ladder.

The other scenario is of a massive attack by Israel followed by equally

strong retaliation by Iran, which descends into a no-holds-barred military confrontation between them with uncertain and devastating repercussions for the region. It is possible that

urgings for "proportionality" from its Western benefactors including a lame-duck Biden administration are spurned by the Israeli leadership. Emboldened by assassinations of Hamas and Hezbollah leaders and "weakening" of the axis of resistance, Israel may now want to deliver a "decisive blow" to Iran in order to reshape the region's strategic landscape.

For its part, Tehran has reportedly conveyed to the US that while it doesn't seek war, "the phase of unilateral self-restraint" is over, indicating it would respond with full force to an Israeli retaliatory strike. An Israeli strike would be met by an "unconventional response" that could include targeting Israeli infrastructure. Iran's armed allies in the axis of resistance are already threatening to intensify their operations against Israel. In the worst-case scenario, a full-blown war could erupt with unpredictable consequences

for the region and global stability.

While the region and the world wait to see how the Israel-Iran confrontation will play out, Israel has continued its fierce military campaign in Gaza, bombing schools, refugee camps and an orphanage, with the death toll now exceeding 41,000. It has carried out a ground invasion of Lebanon despite US objections, with over 2,000 people killed in Israeli attacks across the country.

In intense clashes with Hezbollah fighters several Israeli soldiers have also been killed. Israeli air strikes continue to pound Beirut. No condemnations are heard from Western governments of Israel's aggressive actions on multiple fronts.

Meanwhile, the Western media still reports these developments from an extremely biased lens. Interviews with freed hostages and killings of Israeli soldiers receive prominent coverage, while the carnage and killings of thousands of innocent people in Gaza are mostly ignored, reinforcing the trend of the past year of dehumanising Palestinians. -- Courtesy Dawn

Karachi's historical culture**Marvi Mazhar**

The urban centres of Pakistan are investing heavily in developing real estate but are neglecting the humanistic infrastructure that makes cities livable.

The investors of capitalistic pursuits are focusing on maximum profit through invasive methodologies such as the conversion of agricultural land, turn-key projects to procure decayed heritage properties and turn them into staggered apartment complexes, encroachment of natural wastelands and wetlands, and the constant extension of reclaimed land to build luxury gated communities.

In fact, there are many urban strategies to make cities viable and prosperous. Development and preservation can be one of the most important strategies where proper maintenance can bind the two forms together. Karachi's infrastructural landscape is increasingly vulnerable and is challenged every monsoon season. One of the main reasons for this is the lack of care management. Any form of disaster prepared-

ness is a long-term commitment and cannot be adopted just before a challenging season sets in.

In order to adopt resilient strategies, Karachi has to employ sustainable urban methods which guard against the threats of climate challenges. I feel that one of the most important of these methods is related to protection and prevention during the monsoon season, to avoid disaster — especially in Old Town Karachi.

In order to prevent devastation, the Heritage Antiquity Department of Sindh has to be awarded a special grant to undertake three critical analyses. One is to document the current status of the listed buildings and their condition in the existing document and develop a comparative study. Seco--nd, it is essential to enhance and upgrade the historical building listings for a wider cultural understanding of the city. Third, it is necessary to implement a city-wide awareness programme, in different languages, regarding the importance of safe---guarding Karachi's historical and ecological built environment and of the Sindh Heritage Act,

1994.

The first study will help to create different categories of building conditions — that may range from average to dangerous. This would mean involving residential tenants and commercial owners and encouraging them to participate actively in maintenance strategies. This can be accomplished through a special provincial endowment where the owners are given a small grant to rehabilitate the property and gain heritage scores.

The Sindh government has to start strategising a Karachi heritage incentive programme in order to encourage property owners to develop the heritage infrastructure of their area. Incentives can come in the form of tax deductions or electricity bonus initiatives. These would encourage heritage property owners to rehabilitate portions of buildings and be a part of the Old Town cultural narrative. Karachi, with a population of more than 20 million people, lacks access to neighbourhood town halls, libraries, parks and art districts.

The second part per-

tains to a very important and critical aspect of social understanding — the lack of cultural investment in the city. Karachi has no policy regarding the number of mosques and madrasahs per square kilometre. In a residential neighbourhood, within a radius of 2km, one can often find four to five mosques. However, there is a dearth of small-scale museums and community centres where social learning from book readings, mushairas, cultural debates, theatre, painting and other such activities for all age brackets can take place.

The Heritage Antiquity Department has to take charge by enhancing the heritage list and declaring more sites of interest. By initiating Sindh Arts Council grants it must take historical information beyond state-run large museums and extend it to community centres as well as small-scale centres, allowing them to develop their own narratives.

The last city-wide awareness heritage programme can be further divided into three parts. First, the Sindh Heritage Act, 1994, must be made

bilingual and shared through workshops with property owners. Second, a public knowledge platform can be developed through curated projects. These can be advanced through the Sindh government's Peoples Bus Service. History-related information can be given to bus passengers through pre-recorded short historical notes while the vehicle plies near public buildings such as the KMC building, Mereweather Tower, the Quaid's mausoleum, Mohatta Palace, etc. so that the people can become acquainted with these structures and their history. These announcements can be a part of the 'Karachi heritage learning programme'.

Lastly, there should be recognition of and collaboration with grassroots initiatives such as Heritage Walk Karachi by the Pakistan Chowk Community Centre, the Super Savari Express, and independent storytellers like Karachi Walla with their everyday visual documentation of the city, mystapaki whose interests comprise finding new histories, and

karachikhatmal's indigenous food tours. They use various methods to share their experiences and interact with historical streets, music collectors, food vendors, thrift markets, and much more.

Projects like the self-driven/self-funded Citizens Archive of Pakistan, Mehr Ghar, T2F, Lyari Youth Café, TDF Ghar, and the Climate Action Centre should be part of Karachi's larger cultural networks and supported by the Sindh government, so that their chances of sustainability and survival are long-term. These independent initiatives can collaborate with the government sector to enhance possibilities of starting cultural projects such as a people's archive museum and food museum.

Lastly, recognising the wide gap between Sindh's culture department and the existing sub-culture will be a huge problem in the future. This is the time for the government to invest in heritage preservation and cultural possibilities and work with existing young platforms to enhance a more tolerant social landscape in the city.

Genocide in Gaza**Muhammad Ali Siddiqi**

The motto of the Israeli Defence (IDF), according to its website, is: "Defence is our mission, security is our goal." One wonders what the connotations of the original in Hebrew are.

Israel is the one country in the world where rivers of civilian blood do not stir the rulers' conscience. There is a reason why. It wants the world to know what matters is Israel's survival. It will pursue this aim fanatically. If in the process people, communities and countries enter a vegetative state, that is not Israel's concern. Astonishingly, the world has surrendered to Israel's 'right' to target non-combatants as its official policy. Visualise, for a minute, the horrific number of civilian casualties when the Likud government attacked Khan Yunis on Dec 1 using air power, destroying 50 apartment buildings bustling with life.

Defending one's country is the right of every state, but this right is exercised within the framework of accepted international laws and usage. Israel has no concept of such restraint in theory or practice. That is one reason why we do not hear formal regrets from Tel Aviv even when civilians are killed by Israeli fire.

In fact, IDF unleashes its fire on hospitals, schools and temporary shelters notified in advance, and gets away with these crimes. The only condemnation comes from UN Secretary General António Guterres and occasionally the International Court of Justice, as well as organisations such as Reporters without Borders, Human Rights Watch, etc.

Collectively, the Jewish people haven't forgotten the trauma of their

nearly 2,000 years in Europe. Despite the relief provided by modern age, their persecution continued well into the 20th century — Russian pogroms and Nazi gas chambers. These memories, besides their expulsion from Palestine in AD 70, made them cling to one idea — never again! Israeli policies are guided by this raison d'être.

A list of the civilian targets IDF has chosen to attack since the Hamas offensive of Oct 7 last year will be incomplete no matter how much you google it. But by late March this year, UN records showed "more than 200 Israeli attacks on schools in Gaza, with at least 53 schools totally destroyed". By July, "all 19 Gaza universities had suffered severe damage with 80 per cent of university buildings destroyed, 103 academics killed, and 90,000 students enrolled in higher education no longer able to pursue their studies". Unicef stated 85pc of all schools in Gaza had been hit by Israeli attacks. Rescue teams said most of the dead in schools were women and children.

One particular phenomenon that deserves special attention concerns Israel's air and artillery attacks on apartment buildings in the Gaza Strip. So far, nearly 43,000 Palestinians have been killed. Besides the attacks on Palestinian civilians in the West Bank, including occupied eastern Jerusalem, the IDF has hit the Jabalia and al-Shati refugee camps, ambulances and hospitals — Al-Ahli Arab Hospital, Al-Shifa Hospital and Nasser Hospital.

Israelis are PR specialists. They don't telecast anything self-incriminating. So why did they allow the world to view their acts of barbarism in the Mediterranean Strip on TV? In fact, their TV showed the attacks on

apartment buildings in Gaza round the clock. Obviously, the purpose behind exhibiting the carnage was to give a clear message to the world: "this is what we do to our enemies. Is there anyone who can stop us?" There is no one.

There is a long list of Muslim and Christian religious sites destroyed by Israel; the minimum number of mosques destroyed is 378. The BBC has confirmed 72 incidents of mosques being damaged or destroyed.

Less than a fortnight after the Ha-mas offensive on Oct 7, 2023, Israeli bombing hit the Church of Saint Porphyrius, where 500 people were sheltering. On Nov 8, Israel flattened a Khan Yunis mosque named after the great Muslim general Khalid bin Walid. The number of mosques destroyed in November was 60, while December 2023 saw Gaza's Great Mosque pulverised. Other mosques hit included the Great Omari Mosque in Gaza City, Sayed al-Hashim, Othman bin Qashqar, Katib al-Wilaya, Al-Bukhari, Khalil Al-Rahman, Al-Ansar, Ahmed Yassin (at Al-Shati refugee camp in Gaza City) and the Al Amin Muhammad mosque at Khan Yunis. The list is endless.

Among the churches hit were the Holy Family Church, the Byzantine Church of Jabalia and St Hilarion Monastery.

Throughout history, the Jewish people have lived in peace and prosperity in the Muslim world. In his remarkable book My People, one-time Israeli foreign minister and scholar of Arabic and Hebrew Abba Eban, calls the Jewish people's stay in the Arab-Turkish world their golden period. Today, the Zionist gratitude to the Muslim world is seen in the Gaza Strip. -- Courtesy Dawn

Dangerous trap**Zarrar Khuhro**

Last week an unusual press conference took place at the National Press Club in Islamabad. Held by the parents and relatives of youth who are languishing in jail on charges of having posted and/or shared blasphemous content online, the speakers called for the federal government to constitute an inquiry commission to probe into the activities of the 'blasphemy business group,' that they claim had entrapped their loved ones in false cases.

The existence of such a group isn't a figment of their imagination or an attempt to shield their loved ones from consequences; the term originates from a report prepared by the special branch of the Punjab Police.

In it, the special branch accuses this group of "trapping" young people in blasphemy cases in an "organised manner". This gang is, as per the special branch, the complainant in about 90 per cent of such cases reported to and registered by the FIA and the vast majority of those entrapped are Muslim boys and girls in their 20s or even younger, and who invariably hail from poor or lower-middle class families. Several hundreds of these young people are languishing in jails across Pakistan.

Typically, the process starts by setting up Facebook accounts and WhatsApp groups which purport to be discussion forums for religious affairs. Invitations to join such groups are then sent to the targeted youth, with the invite usually coming from the account of a female gang member.

Up until here it all sounds innocent enough, but what follows is any-

thing but: in one case, related by the father of one of the victims, his son was contacted by a woman who started an online relationship with him before sending him some objectionable content. When he questioned her, she claimed her phone had been hacked and asked him to send her the material she had posted so she would know what he was talking about. Once he did so, his father reports, the FIA showed up to arrest him a few hours later on the charge of disseminating blasphemous content.

Similar stories could be heard from all the 40 or so families who participated in the press conference, almost all of whom point out that the FIA was ready to swing into action against their loved ones in record time, which speaks to the possible complicity of at least some of its officials in this entire case of entrapment.

As for what motivates this group, the report points to extortion and blackmail as possible objectives and recommends that the FIA launch a probe against this gang and conduct forensic examinations of the mobile phones of the complainants.

Disturbingly but perhaps unsurprisingly, the press conference got little attention in our national media (I have seen no reports on TV and only one in print) and even the original special branch report was only covered by the independent media outlet FactFocus.

More disturbingly, though unsurprisingly, even though the report was sent to the FIA, the chief secretary Punjab and also the chief minister Punjab's secretary in January this year, no action at all has been taken.

Governor KP marks one year of ongoing violence against Palestinians

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday expressed deep sorrow and concern over the ongoing violence and brutality against the Palestinian people.

While marking one year since the escalation of the conflict, the Governor emphasized the urgent need for the international community to take concrete actions to protect Palestinian rights and support their quest for freedom.

He highlighted that in the past year, innocent civilians, including women and children, have been targeted, and violations of their fundamental human rights have intensified. Palestinians are being forced to live in an environment of uncertainty and fear in their homeland, he said. The Governor urged the global

community, the United Nations, and Muslim countries to listen to the voices of the Palestinian people and unite to take action against Israeli aggression. He said that Israel's illegal settlements and atrocities not only threaten Palestine but also pose a risk to peace worldwide. Kundi reaffirmed Pakistan's longstanding support for the Palestinian struggle for freedom, stating, "We stand with the Palestinian people." He pledged to continue advocating

for the restoration of their rights and the liberation of their lands on every possible platform. He called on human rights organizations and global powers to take practical steps against this oppression, ensuring that Palestinians receive their rightful entitlements and can live freely in their own country. The Governor concluded his statement with a prayer for the Palestinian people, asking for divine assistance in overcoming their suffering and achieving freedom.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a meeting to review law and order situation, at CM House in Karachi.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif along with students of Girls College inaugurate Chief Minister Transport Program for Women.

No one can stop Pak from progress: Rana Mashood

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister's Youth Program (PMYP) Chairman Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan has said that Pakistan is destined to progress and no force can derail it from the path of progress and prosperity.

Addressing the prize distribution ceremony of the Annual Volunteers Congress (VCON) at the Ali Auditorium, Ferozpur Road here on Monday, he said, "Our forefathers made innumerable sacrifices for the creation of Pakistan and it is the responsibility of the youth to preserve this land from all challenges in all sectors including health."

The ceremony was

held under the aegis of the Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Foundation for the Volunteer Force Against Hepatitis Transmission (VFAHT). Some 3500 volunteers from various medical colleges and universities work for creating awareness among the masses on the infectious diseases.

Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan said Pakistan's detractors have made efforts to turn Pakistan into a failed state, adding that their efforts will end in smoke.

He said the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit is going to be

held in Pakistan next week in Islamabad.

Hailing the young volunteers, the PMYP Chairman Rana Mashood said a large number of young volunteers are present at the ceremony who have worked with dedication to create awareness among the masses on Hepatitis B & C, HIV, Tuberculosis and Hepatitis A & E.

Rana Mashood urged the youth to continue their efforts for building a healthy and prosperous Pakistan. He said that their efforts for purging the country of disease and malady will go a long way in making Pakistan a global force.

Punjab Governor says: Pakistan attaches great importance to bilateral relations with Australia

LAHORE (APP): Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins on Monday called on Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan and discussed climate change, education, agriculture, dairy sector and promotion of bilateral relations in the field of sports during a meeting at the Governor's House.

The Governor Punjab said that Pakistan attaches great importance to bilateral relations with Australia, adding that Pakistan wants to collaborate with Australia to develop agriculture sector on modern lines.

He said Pakistan wants to enhance bilateral relations with Australia in education, livestock, agriculture, science and technology.

He said that a large number of Pakistani students are studying in Australian universities.

The Governor Punjab hailed the Australian government's initiative of giving scholarships to Pakistani students.

Sardar Saleem Haider further said climate change is a big problem and underscored the need that Australia and Pakistan should work together to deal with it.

The Governor Punjab said Australian support for the promotion of cricket and hockey is commendable, adding that the hockey team will be invited to the Governor's House after October 10. He said that the Australian High Commissioner will also be invited on this occasion.

Maryam inaugurates transport program for women in girls' colleges

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif inaugurated Chief Minister Transport Programme for Women with 76 buses for girls' colleges across Punjab.

Nineteen buses were given to women's colleges under the programme in phase-I. The CM on Monday during a ceremony met the students of women's colleges, who presented her a bouquet. The CM called the girls students on stage while inaugurating the transport

programme. She handed over keys of buses to the principals of 19 women's colleges. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz inspected the buses, and evaluated a proposal to provide air-conditioned buses for girls' colleges. She was briefed in detail by Secretary Higher Education Dr. Farrukh Naveed about the Program. The CM was apprised that 76 colleges in Punjab in three phases.

In the first phase, buses have been given to

19 tehsils deprived of transport. These tehsils include: Bhakkar, Sialkot, Chiniot Kamalia, Hasilpur, Malakwal, Ferozewala, Shorekot, Jatoi, Fateh Jang, Hasan Abdal, Kot Momin, Jalalpur Pirwala, Kallar Syedan, Pindi Ghep, Manchanabad and Sharqpur. In the second phase, girls colleges of Nowshera Virkan, Dina, Yazman, Pindi Bhattian, Lalian, Bhawana, Kot Addu, Taxila, Sarai Alamgir and Pellaan would get buses.

CM pays condolence visit to Chinese Consulate

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday visited the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Karachi and offered his condolences to the Chinese Consul General Yang Yundong over the killing of Chinese nationals in an explosion near Karachi airport the previous night.

Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hasan Lanjar, Chief Secretary of Sindh Syed Asif Haider Shah, Home Secretary Iqbal Memon, and IGP Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon were along with the Chief Minister.

The CM Murad said, "I am deeply saddened by the killing of the Chinese in the explosion near the airport."

He offered his condolences to the Chinese government and bereaved families for the loss of lives of Chinese citizens.

Murad also recorded his comments in the condolence book.



LAHORE: Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins meeting with Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan.

PPP KP Assembly demands removal of CM

PESHAWAR (APP): Parliamentary leader of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Ahmad Karim Kundi on Monday calls for Chief Minister's resignation.

Addressing press conference, outside KP Assembly Hall, Ahmad Karim Kundi said that the chief minister is mentally retarded and not suitable for this post.

He described the Chief Minister as a "self-imposed absentee" and accused him of evading accountability during a crucial time for the province.

Kundi emphasized the urgency of convening a meeting of the Council of Common Interests within the next 90 days, which he claimed had not been called, further

undermining governance. He pointed out the deteriorating law and order situation in the southern districts, saying that the Chief Minister failed to communicate with anyone during his periods of absence. "He talks about traversing 12 districts, but that is simply unbelievable," Kundi asserted, insisting that the sensitive province needs a serious and engaged leader not a film star. He criticized the Chief Minister's past six-hour disappearance and called for a leader capable of facing the media rather than avoiding it. Ahmad Kundi, revealed that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership has passed a resolution in KP Assembly regarding the Chief Minister's disappearance.

Legislation to be done to set up tourism authority: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Law Minister Sohaib Ahmad Barth has said that under new authority all departments of tourism will be clubbed together at one place.

He said this while presiding over the meeting of the sub committee of Punjab Tourism Promotion and Development, here on Monday.

The sub committee proposed that one authority should deal with all affairs related to

tourism. It was further proposed to form 'Punjab Tourism Culture and Heritage Authority'. The minister said that legislation would be done for setting up authority and added that currently different departments and agencies were handling tourism separately.

He further said that for legislation purpose the committee would forward its recommendations to high-ups.

ATC sends 129 PTI workers to jail on judicial remand

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Monday sent 129 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers, involved in the October 5 violence, to jail on a 14-day judicial remand.

Earlier, the police produced the accused workers before ATC Judge Irfan Haider and sought their physical remand. The police submitted that the custody of the accused was required for recovery and investigations.

In response, the counsel for the accused opposed the remand plea and requested the court to discharge their clients.

However, after hearing the arguments of both parties, the court declined the plea for physical remand and sent the accused to jail on a 14-day judicial remand. The court ordered their production upon the expiry of the remand term.

Mussarat Jamshaid Cheema and PTI Lahore secretary general Owais Younus were among the accused.

Islampura police, Masti Gate police, Lari Adda police, and Shafiqabad police.



LAHORE: Participants of "Talba Palestine Million March" marching through the Mall Road carrying the flag of Palestine in the provincial capital.

New model of waste collection in city

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq on Monday said that 100 per cent door-to-door waste collection will be ensured in the provincial capital, under the new sanitation model.

He said this while chairing a meeting in which Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's Suthra Punjab programme and the new model of sanitation for Lahore were reviewed.

Secretary Local Government Shakeel Ahmed Mian and

Additional Secretary Maria Tariq were also present. Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) CEO Babar Sahib Din gave a briefing on various aspects of the new model.

Addressing the meeting, Minister Zeeshan said making Punjab a zero-waste province was a priority of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. "Currently, Lahore has a population of 13 million and the city generates 5500 tons of garbage every day.



LAHORE: Chairman Prime Minister Youth Program Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan addressing the Annual Voluntary Congress Seminar of Ali Institute of Education.

LDA seals 60 properties for illegal commercial use

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Development Authority (LDA) on Monday sealed 60 properties in its ongoing operation against illegal commercial use and non-payment of commercial fees.

According to a spokesman for the authority, the town planning wing had successfully sealed over five dozen properties of the provincial capital.

LDA teams focused their efforts on Johar Town, Khayaban-e-Firdousi and surrounding regions, sealing two dozen illegal commercial properties, including well-known restaurants, food outlets, showrooms,

bakeries, and cafes. The operation was conducted under the supervision of Chief Town Planner-II Azhar Ali and directed by Ali Nusrat, the Director of Town Planning Zone IV.

Previously, LDA teams had targeted properties on Multan Road and in Gulberg, sealing approximately three dozen properties in total. On Multan Road alone, a dozen illegal commercial properties were sealed. Additionally, teams from Town Planning Zone III took action in Gulberg, sealing two dozen properties involved in illegal commercial use and outstanding commercial fees.



KARACHI: Supporters of Tehreek-e-Bedari-e-Ummat-e-Mustafa (SAWW) are holding protest demonstration against Israeli aggression and atrocities on the Gaza Strip and solidarity with the Palestinians, held at M.A Jinnah road in Karachi.

Constable shot dead over marriage dispute

FAISALABAD (APP): A police constable was shot dead over marriage dispute in the area of Chak Jhumra police station, here on Monday.

Police spokesman said that one constable Shahid Haleem r/o Chak No. 191-RB Malloani Harlan was purchasing daily use items from a shop when his rivals opened fire at him.

As a result, the constable received serious bullet injuries and was rushed to hospital but in vain as he breathed his last amid intensive care treatment.

Receiving information, City Police Officer (CPO) Kamran Adil took serious notice and directed the Superintendent of Police (SP) Madina division to probe into the matter in addition to ensure arrest of the culprits, spokesman added.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister Information and Broadcasting, Uzma Bukhari talking to the media in the provincial capital.

"Act on emergency basis" health minister directs for anti dengue measures

RAWALPINDI (APP): Punjab Health Minister, Khawaja Salman Rafique has directed the district administration to utilize all resources in the fight against dengue issues which has hit with accelerated momentum.

"Act on an emergency basis as our top priority is to reduce the dengue outbreak in Rawalpindi," said the minister while charging a meeting to review the recent dengue situation. He directed the administration to further accelerate and widen the outgoing awareness campaigns along with strict surveillance and monitoring.

Salman Rafique urged the public representatives

to consistently visit their constituencies for a regular eye on the situational developments of dengue. He said that CM Maryam Nawaz has been reviewing the dengue situation in the district and has directed the public representatives to play their due role in the dengue eradication.

He further observed that the dengue issue could be completely defeated by the support of citizens.

The meeting which was held at the DC Office was attended by the parliamentarians including the Focal Person on Dengue, Tahira Aurangzeb, Parliamentary Secretary Information and Culture Shazia Rizwan.

2 killed over land dispute in Lakki Marwat

LAKKI MARWAT (APP): A father and son were gunned down on Monday in the Wanda Zarif area of Lakki Marwat.

According to the private news channels, the incident happened over a land dispute.

The police reached the spot immediately after the incident was reported.

The police officials said that the first information report (FIR) was lodged against the killers and further investigation is underway.

Jam calls for boosting rice exports, meeting EU food safety standards

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Monday emphasized the need to increase Pakistan's rice exports and ensure compliance with European food safety standards, citing the country's 25% share of the European rice export market.

He said during a meeting with the representative of the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP), a news release issued here.

Pakistan holds 25% of the European rice export market compared to India's 16%. To maintain this competitive edge, Jam Kamal highlighted the necessity of collaboration between the government and exporters.

Rice exports play a vital role in Pakistan's economy, ranking second in export value after cotton. Rice exporters are a primary source of revenue and employment, with the government aiming

to increase exports from \$4 billion to \$6-7 billion in the near future.

"We are focusing on improving our standards to meet international food safety requirements, especially in Europe," Jam Kamal added.

Recent diplomatic developments include discussions with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on expanding rice and meat exports to Malaysia. A Pakistani business delegation, led by Jam Kamal, will visit Malaysia in November to explore new opportunities.

Malik Faisal Jahangir, Chairman of the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP), said that Pakistan's rice exports face fewer regulatory challenges, with only 74 Rapid Alerts for pesticides were issued last year, compared to 264 for India.

Pakistan remains one of the lowest-risk countries concerning food safety standards.

However, Jahangir expressed concern over potential harm to Pakistan's export reputation from negative campaigns.

Jam Kamal stressed educating farmers to improve rice production quality and reduce pests. Balochistan, despite producing a small quantity of rice, cultivates some of Pakistan's best organic rice.

He called for a joint effort by stakeholders to develop a five-year strategy enhancing Pakistan's rice export capacity and compliance with international standards.

Jam Kamal urged REAP to propose actionable suggestions for achieving the government's export targets within the next year, emphasizing the importance of addressing food safety concerns, especially in the European Union, where standards are becoming increasingly stringent.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi visits Daudsons Army at Industrial Estate.

Governor praises industries for enhancing Pakistan's global standing

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday commended industries for their hard work, dedication, and capabilities that have heightened and enhanced Pakistan's reputation internationally.

He expressed these views during his visit to Dawood Sons Arms Industry here where he was welcomed by CEO Hakeemuddin Dawood and Ali.

The event was attended by senior officials, including Maulana Abdul Jalil Jan Senior Vice President of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Waheed Arif Awan President of the Small Industry Chamber, businessman Mueem Khan, and other political and business figures.

During the visit, business leaders raised their problems.

Governor Kundi assured them that he would liaise with relevant authorities to ensure proper electricity supply and gas pressure, emphasizing that meeting the industry's energy needs would enhance productivity and contribute to economic development in the province.

He highlighted that Dawood Sons Arms Industry holds a significant position not only within the province but also nationally and internationally, deserving commendation for its contributions.

The Governor toured various sectors of the factory, where he was introduced to modern methods and technologies

in arms manufacturing.

Factory representative Waleem Khan provided insights into the various stages of weapon production, offering a detailed briefing on the manufacturing processes and adherence to global standards.

Kundi praised the management's efforts, saying that the visible progress in local arms manufacturing is commendable.

He pledged the government's support in further promoting this sector and ensuring the adoption of advanced technologies in arms production.

The administration of Dawood Sons expressed appreciation for the Governor's visit and hoped for increased governmental collaboration to enhance the industry.

FBR poised to bring 2.8m households into in tax net

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) is all set to bring around 2.8 million potential households into the tax net that would contribute approximately Rs1.6 trillion to the national economy.

"There are around 3.5 million top households liable to pay taxes to the government, however out of which 2.8 million are not paying taxes," Spokesperson FBR, Bakhtiar Muhammad told APP here.

The incumbent government had embarked upon a comprehensive plan to enhance tax-to-GDP ratio and resultantly the number of tax filers as well as tax collection went up during the current fiscal year (2024-25).

Bakhtiar said the filing of tax returns witnessed an impressive increase of 105 percent by going up from last year's 1.8 million to 3.7 million owing to prudent policies adopted by the government.

The board has

decided to impose 15 restrictions on non-filers within two to three months through a finance bill, he said adding the non-filers would not be allowed to purchase of properties and vehicles and would not also travel abroad or open current account in any bank.

He highlighted that the taxpayers enjoyed deduction in bank transaction rates while non-filers have to pay some extra amount to get this job done, however, now FBR is going to totally finish non-filer category.

"This development will lead to mandatory tax filing for individuals", he added.

He emphasized that earned income could be used in two ways either by investment or by spending, however added FBR would make both these activities inaccessible (absolutely impossible) for non-filers with the help of automation where FBR would integrate payment and invoicing systems.



HYDERABAD: Laborers prepare bangles at a workshop as demand of bangles increased in Hyderabad.

ICE, ASITA sign MoU of Cooperation, expect direct flights to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The International Creatives Exchange (ICE) and the Association of the Indonesian Tours and Travel Agencies (ASITA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to start a direct air flight operation between Pakistan and Indonesia.

The ICE signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the oldest tourism association in Indonesia, ASITA (Association of the Indonesian Tours and Travel Agencies) at the Al Barkat Palace, South Jakarta on Monday.

The MoU consists of 11 points which aims to increase tourism for the two friendly countries, Indonesia and Pakistan.

Meanwhile talking to the APP in Jakarta

(Indonesia) Atta Ul Karim, he Chairman of ICE expressed his appreciation on the mutual cooperation, since his self was born in Pakistan and grew up in Indonesia.

He unquestionably wishes to do something impactful for the benefits of both countries.

"I was born in Pakistan, but grew up and successful in Indonesia. So, I have to thank the two countries," Atta told the APP in Jakarta, who was wearing golden brown batik at that time. "One of the best way for it is by continuously trying in all possible ways to improve tourism in the two brotherly countries," he added. Atta looks at ASITA as the right partner in realizing his wishes.



FAISALABAD: Members of Chamber of Commerce and Industry hold a banner during a pro-Palestinian protest to mark the first anniversary of the Israel-Hamas conflict, at FCCI in the city.

Jazz brings iPhone 16 to Pakistan for its customers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator, has announced a partnership with Mercantile, the authorized Apple distributor for Pakistan and South Asia, to officially introduce the iPhone 16 series phones to the Pakistani market.

According to news release, this collaboration marks a pivotal moment in delivering world-class technology to local consumers, further cementing Jazz's position as the country's foremost digital leader. The iPhone 16 will be available at all

Jazz Business Centers nationwide, ensuring a seamless purchasing experience for customers, complete with PTA approval and a limited Apple warranty claimable through Apple-authorized sellers in the country.

Jazz and Mercantile will also be introducing an exclusive trade-in program, offering competitive trade-in values to make it easier for existing iPhone users to upgrade and enjoy the latest features effortlessly. To further enhance customer value, Jazz is offering complimentary bundle packages.



LARKANA: A vendor skillfully arranges fresh flower garlands at his shop in Larkana, attracting customers with colorful blooms.

Ch. Shafay chairs TEVTA Board meeting

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain chaired the first meeting of new Board of TEVTA (Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority) here at TEVTA Secretariat on Monday.

The meeting, which lasted for three hours, reviewed TEVTA's performance, goals and future action plan, while TEVTA Chairman Brig. @ Mohammad Sajid Khokhar gave a detailed briefing.

Provincial Minister Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said that a new TEVTA Board has been formed. "Together we will improve

the quality of technical education," he said and mentioned that a phased programme of up-gradation of 388 institutions of TEVTA has been initiated across Punjab. Under which, the labs and courses of TEVTA institutes are being established and formulated according to international standards, he added. He said that a mechanism has also been devised to provide employment for the trainees from the institutes of TEVTA. He said that under the "Chief Minister's Skill Development Programme", 1,000 children have completed three-month IT short courses.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs278.25 and Rs279.75 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by Rs1.47 to close at Rs304.47 against the last day's closing of Rs305.94, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen came down by 02 paisa and closed at Rs1.87, whereas a decrease of Rs1.50 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs363.89 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs365.39.

SNGPL cut 179 gas connections

LAHORE (APP): The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL), in its on-going campaign against gas theft and illegal usage, disconnected 179 gas connections across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad, imposing fines exceeding 4.8 million rupees.

According to a spokesman for the SNGPL, in Multan and Sahiwal, 38 connections were severed due to illegal gas usage, resulting in fines totaling 210,000 rupees. Meanwhile, Lahore and Faisalabad saw 44 connections cut, with fines amounting to over 2 million rupees.

In Sheikhupura, Gujranwala, and Gujrat, 17 connections were disconnected for illegal gas use, incurring fines of 1.55 million rupees. Additionally, 21 connections were dismantled in Bahawalpur and Rawalpindi for similar violations.

Rupee sheds 13 paisa against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Monday depreciated by 13 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.64 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.51.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs278.25 and Rs279.75 respectively.

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Dr Sajid-ur-Rehman says: Cotton has significant role in national development

FAISALABAD (APP): Cotton has a significant role in national development by stabilizing national economy, therefore, a comprehensive program has been launched for revival of this most precious crop on war-footing, said Dr Sajid-ur-Rehman Director General Research Punjab.

Addressing a function arranged at Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI) to mark the World Cotton Day here on Monday, he said that Pakistan was the fifth major cotton producing country and its economy mostly depended on this crop.

He said that cotton was playing an important role in national development in addition to

creating employment opportunities for a large number of people while southern Punjab had a lion's share in the production of this crop.

He expressed concern over decline in cotton production and said that use of latest technology was imperative for increasing production of this crop.

He stressed the need of close liaison among cotton producing countries including Pakistan and said that experts of these countries should exchange their expertise and research works so that cotton sector could be promoted on sustainable basis to cater to future needs of the burgeoning population at national as well as at international level.

LCCI urges SBP to ensure facilitation for businesses

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Mian Abuzar Shad Monday urged the government and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to ensure adequate facilitation to the business community.

"Enabling the business sector to function smoothly is essential for driving the country's economic growth and prosperity," he remarked in a meeting with Chief Manager of the State Bank of Pakistan Tariq Riaz here at Lahore Chamber.

The meeting was also attended by the LCCI Executive Committee members.

Mian Abuzar Shad acknowledged the efforts of the Federal Shariah Court which has directed that the country's conventional banking system be transitioned to Shariah-compliant Islamic banking by 2027. He said that the State Bank of

Pakistan is already taking various steps toward achieving this goal. He commended these initiatives and described them as both timely and crucial given the increasing demand for Islamic banking across the country.

The LCCI chief added that the Lahore Chamber is focusing on several key areas including taxation reforms. He urged the government to take swift action in digitizing the economy as this is essential to modernizing the financial system and making it more transparent and efficient.

Mian Abuzar Shad also raised concerns of the business community regarding the Federal Board of Revenue saying that traders have voiced their reservations over certain practices. He urged the government to address these concerns to create a more business-friendly environment.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presides over the meeting to review Kissan Card.



KARACHI: Members of National Trade Union Federation are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Karachi press club.

MoITT launches RoW 1-Window Operation to expedite NOC process for telecom operators

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT) has introduced the Right of Way (RoW) One-Window Operation, aimed at simplifying and speeding up the process of securing No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for telecom operators.

One significant barrier to improving fiber penetration in Pakistan is the complicated process of obtaining Right of Way (RoW) No Objection Certificates (NOCs).

Telecom operators are required to seek approvals from multiple government agencies, each with its unique procedures, causing delays and inefficiencies.

This disorganized system has hindered the progress of Pakistan's

National Fiberization Vision, a plan designed to expand fiber connectivity nationwide. An official from the Ministry of IT said the RoW One-Window Operation minimizes paperwork, allowing telecom operators to electronically submit their RoW applications for NOCs, eliminating unnecessary delays in approvals.

The process also facilitates online fee payments, enhancing transparency and efficiency. A dedicated online system for complaint and dispute management will ensure quicker resolutions, while Fiberization Mapping will track fiberization progress nationwide.

By consolidating all procedural steps into one

platform, the system aims to make the process more transparent, cost-effective, and time-efficient. Operators can track their applications in real-time, reducing delays and ensuring smoother project execution. This streamlined approach will also lower telecom companies' operational costs and accelerate the rollout of fibre optic networks, contributing to the faster implementation of the National Fiberization Vision, which seeks to enhance connectivity across Pakistan.

This initiative, he said, would be available through both an online portal and a mobile app, and it includes several key features that are expected to positively impact the telecom sector.

Israeli strikes batter Beirut in heaviest bombardment so far

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Israeli air attacks battered Beirut's southern suburbs overnight in the most intense bombardment of the Lebanese capital since Israel sharply escalated its campaign against Iran-backed group Hezbollah last month. During the night, the blasts sent booms across Beirut and sparked flashes of red and white for nearly 30 minutes visible from several kilometres away. It was the single biggest attack of Israel's assault on Beirut so far, witnesses and military analysts on local TV channels said.

On Sunday a grey haze hung over the city and rubble was strewn across streets in the southern suburbs, while smoke columns rose over the area. "Last night was the most violence of all the previous nights. Buildings were shaking around us and at first I thought it was an earthquake. There were dozens of strikes - we couldn't count them all

- and the sounds were deafening," said Hanan Abdullah, a resident of the Burj al-Barajneh area in Beirut's southern suburbs. Videos posted on social media, which Reuters could not immediately verify, showed fresh damage to the highway that runs from Beirut airport through its southern suburbs into downtown. Israel said its air force had "conducted a series of targeted strikes on a number of weapons storage facilities and terrorist infrastructure sites belonging to the Hezbollah terrorist organization in the area of Beirut". Lebanese authorities did not immediately say what the missiles had hit or what damage they caused. This weekend's intense bombardment came just ahead of the anniversary of the October 7 attack by Palestinian militant group Hamas on southern Israel in which some 1,200 people were killed and more

than 250 taken hostage, according to Israeli figures. The target of Israel's airstrikes across Lebanon and its ground invasion in the south of the country is the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah, Iran's chief ally in the region. More than 2,000 people have been killed in nearly a year of fighting, most of them in the past two weeks, according to the Lebanese health ministry. The ministry said on Sunday that 23 people had been killed on Saturday. The United Nations' refugee chief said on Sunday that there were "many instances" where Israeli airstrikes had violated international law by hitting civilian infrastructure and killing civilians in Lebanon. Israel says it targets military capabilities and takes steps to mitigate the risk of harm to civilians, while Lebanese authorities say civilians have been targeted. Israel accuses both Hezbollah and Hamas of hiding among civilians.



Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a mosque sheltering displaced people, in Deir Al-Balah, in the central Gaza Strip.

Cash-strapped Maldives president in India to repair frail ties

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu was given a red carpet welcome on his first state visit to India Monday, a trip Prime Minister Narendra Modi said marked a "new chapter" to reset troubled ties.

Pro-China Muizzu came to power a year ago on a promise to evict dozens of Indian troops deployed in his small but strategically located archipelago.

Most South Asian leaders are invited to New Delhi soon after they assume office, but it has taken almost a year for India to accord Muizzu a state visit. India however on Monday rolled out financial support to bolster Male's struggling economy, with Muizzu and Modi discussing "energy, trade, financial linkages and defence cooperation", India's foreign ministry said.

Khamenei decorates commander for Israel attack

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader has decorated the Revolutionary Guards aerospace commander for the Islamic republic's missile attacks on arch-foe Israel, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's website said on Sunday. "Ayatollah Khamenei presented the Order of Fath (Conquest" in Farsi) to General Amirali Hajizadeh, commander of the Guards Aerospace Force," it said. Hajizadeh, 62, has headed the Guards aerospace unit since its creation in 2009.

France to host Lebanon aid conference

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: France will host an international conference this month to help drum up humanitarian aid for Lebanon and strengthen security in the southern part of the country, French President Emmanuel Macron said on Saturday. "We will hold in the next few weeks a conference to provide humanitarian aid, support the international community, and support the Lebanese armed forces boost security, especially in southern Lebanon," Macron said after a meeting of French-speaking countries in Paris. Israel has begun an intense bombing campaign in Lebanon and sent troops across the border in recent weeks.

26 killed in Israeli strike on Gaza mosque, school

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

neighbourhood has displaced people," imam Ahmed Fleet said. The Hamas-run Gaza government media office said Israel had struck 27 houses, schools and displacement shelters across Gaza in the past 48 hours. Medics said an Israeli airstrike killed three Palestinians in Rafah, near the border with Egypt, where Israeli forces have been operating since May. The Israeli army on Saturday issued new evacuation orders in parts of the Nuseirat camp in the central Gaza Strip forcing families to flee. Palestinian and UN officials say no place in the enclave is safe, including the humanitarian zones.

The Israeli military alleged there were command and control centres of Hamas in Ibn Rushd School and the Shuhada al-Aqsa Mosque, in the area of Deir al-Balah in central Gaza. The mosque has been here for 20 years, and the

Saudi king to undergo medical tests for lung infection: royal court

Monitoring Desk
RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's King Salman has a lung infection and was set to undergo medical tests on Sunday night, the Royal Court said in the latest update on the ageing monarch's health. King Salman "will undergo some medical tests this evening...based on the recommendations of the royal clinics, due to a lung infection," said the statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

being rarely discussed, but the Royal Court disclosed in May that he was undergoing a treatment programme involving antibiotics after he was admitted to hospital for tests. Soon after it announced he had recovered. The previous month he was admitted for "routine examinations" and left later the same day. Prior to that, he was hospitalised in May 2022, when he went in for a colonoscopy and stayed for just over a week for other tests and "some time to rest", the official Saudi Press Agency reported at the time. He was also admitted to hospital in March 2022 to undergo what state media described as "successful medical tests" and to change the battery of his pacemaker.

Thousands worldwide demand ceasefire in Middle East

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Tens of thousands of protesters marched in cities around the world over the weekend calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon as the conflict in the Palestinian territory neared the one-year mark. In Washington, more than a thousand protesters demonstrated outside the White House, demanding the United States, Israel's top military supplier, stop providing weapons and aid to Israel. One man attempted to set himself on fire, journalists saw, succeeding in lighting his left arm ablaze before bystanders and police extinguished the flames. Thousands of pro-Palestinian supporters also gathered in cities across Europe, Africa, Australia and the Americas to demand an end to the conflict, which has killed nearly 42,000 people in Gaza. A pro-Palestinian protest in Rome that drew thousands of people turned vio-

lent, as dozens of young demonstrators threw bottles and firecrackers at police, who responded with tear gas and water cannon. At least one policeman was wounded and two protesters were detained, journalists said. "Israel is a criminal state!" the demonstrators shouted. A pro-Palestinian demonstration drew over 1,000 protesters in the German capital, police said. At the "National March for Palestine" in London, chants of "stop bombing civilians" were joined by shouts of "hands off Lebanon". While the rally in London was largely peaceful, at least 15 people were arrested, including three on suspicion of assaulting an emergency worker and one on suspicion of supporting a proscribed organisation. In France, thousands of people marched in Paris, Lyon, Toulouse, Bordeaux and Strasbourg to express solidarity with Palestinians, journalists said.

US scientist duo win Nobel for gene regulation breakthrough

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US scientists Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun won the Nobel Prize in Medicine on Monday for their discovery of microRNA and its role in how genes are regulated. Understanding the regulation of gene activity has been an important goal for decades, the Nobel jury said. If gene regulation goes awry, it can lead to serious diseases such as cancer, diabetes, or autoimmunity. "Their groundbreaking discovery revealed a completely new principle of gene regulation that turned out to be essential for multicellular organisms, including humans," the jury said. Collaborating but working separately, the pair conducted research on a 1-millimetre roundworm, *C. elegans*, to determine why cell mutations occurred and when. They discovered microRNA, a new class of tiny RNA molecules that play a crucial role in gene regulation, which in turn allows each cell to select only relevant instructions. Their findings were published in two articles in 1993. "The seminal discovery of microRNA has intro-

duced a new and unexpected mechanism of gene regulation," Thomas Perlmann, secretary general of the Nobel Assembly, told reporters. "MicroRNAs are important for our understanding of embryological development, normal cell physiology and diseases such as cancer," he said. Ambros, 70, is a professor at the University of Massachusetts medical school while Ruvkun, 72, is a professor at Harvard Medical School. The pair will receive their Nobel prize, consisting of a diploma, a gold medal and a \$1 million cheque, from King Carl XVI Gustaf in Stockholm on December 10, the anniversary of the 1896 death of scientist Alfred Nobel who created the prizes in his last will and testament. Last year, the medicine prize went to Katalin Kariko and Drew Weissman for work on messenger RNA (mRNA) technology that paved the way for Covid-19 vaccines. The Nobel season continues this week with the announcement of the winners of the physics prize on Tuesday and the chemistry prize on Wednesday.



Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei awards Fath Medal of honour to IRGC Aerospace Force Commander Amir Ali Hajizadeh, in Tehran, Iran.

Pope Francis slams world's 'shameful inability' to stop Israel-Hamas war

Monitoring Desk
VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis criticised on Monday what he called the "shameful inability" of the international community to end the war in the Middle East, one year after Hamas' devastating attack on Israel. "A year ago, the fuse of hatred was lit; it did not sputter, but exploded in a spiral of violence," he said in an open letter to Catholics in the region. "It seems that few people care about what is most needed and what is most desired: dialogue and peace," he wrote. "Violence never brings peace. History proves this, yet years and years of conflict seem to have taught us nothing," Francis, who has also made Monday a day of fasting and prayers for

peace for Catholics globally, has spoken more openly in recent weeks about the Hamas-Israel conflict, and has become more vocal in his criticism of Israel's military campaign. On Sept 29, the 87-year-old pontiff criticised Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon that killed Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah as well as non-combatants, suggesting the airstrikes went "beyond morality". Earlier in September, the pope called Israel's actions in Lebanon "unacceptable" and urged the international community to do everything possible to halt the fighting. In his letter on Monday, Francis directly addressed Gazans: "I am with you, the people of Gaza, long embattled and in dire straits."

Indian man charged with rape and murder of Kolkata doctor

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Indian police on Monday charged a man with the rape and murder of a 31-year-old doctor, a crime which appalled the country and triggered wide-scale protests. The discovery of the doctor's bloodied body at a government hospital in the eastern city of Kolkata on August 9 sparked nationwide anger at the chronic issue of violence against women. The suspect, named Sanjoy Roy, arrested the day after the murder and held in custody since, was formally charged on Monday with a confidential document of evidence submitted to the court. "Sanjoy Roy has been charged with the rape and murder of the on-duty trainee post-graduate doctor inside the hospital."

Trump on the stump, Harris hits airwaves in razor-edge US election

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: With just one month left in a deadlocked US presidential election, Donald Trump headed to the battleground state of Wisconsin on Sunday, as rival Kamala Harris kicked off a week-long media interview blitz. Polls have the Republican and Democrat candidates neck and neck, fueling a high-cost, high-intensity scramble for each and every wavering voter in the seven key states that are likely to decide the outcome on Nov 5. Trump lost Wisconsin in 2020 and this will be his fourth visit in eight days.

Harris was there earlier this week, holding a rally in Ripon, birthplace of the Republican Party, where she appealed to moderate and disgruntled conservatives. Trump's visit comes on the back of a theatrical campaign return on Saturday to the same venue in Butler, Pennsylvania, where he narrowly avoided a would-be assassin's bullet back in July. The former president campaign's team had hoped to recapture the momentum he enjoyed at that time — riding high in the polls before President Joe Biden upended the race by withdrawing and being replaced by Harris.



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu shake hands after a joint media briefing at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi.

Polish armed forces chief says country needs to boost its army

Monitoring Desk
WARSAW: Poland will need a much larger army, something that could be hard to achieve given its aging population, if it is to defend itself from what seems to be a war this generation will inevitably face, a top general was quoted as saying by state news agency PAP. "Everything is indicating that we are the generation that will stand up in arms to defend our country. And neither I nor any of you intend to lose this war," armed forces chief of staff General Wieslaw Kukula was

quoted as saying in an address on Friday to a military academy, the University of Land Forces, in Wroclaw. "We will win it, we will come back and we will continue to build Poland, but something has to happen. We have to build armed forces prepared for this type of action," Kukula said the demographic crisis would reduce the pace of recruitment. "The adversary's potential is so large that we must build a much larger army, which means that we must also implement the general service model."

Europe's far-right rallies round Salvini ahead of boat verdict

Monitoring Desk
ROME: European far-right leaders rallied on Sunday to the side of Italian Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini, who faces a possible six-year jail term for refusing to let a migrant boat dock when he was interior minister in 2019. Hungary's Viktor Orban and Dutch nationalist Geert Wilders joined across the continent to address the annual rally of Salvini's League party in the northern Italian village of Pontida. "You are our hero. We stand with you. That's why we are here," said Wilders,

whose anti-Islam party joined the government in the Netherlands for the first time this year—an indication of the growing power of the far-right in Europe. A number of like-minded parties joined forces at a European level in June, creating the Patriots for Europe group—the third biggest bloc in the EU parliament, which is looking to curb the power of Brussels and halt unauthorised immigration. Salvini bashed his standing as an anti-immigrant firebrand last month when a prosecutor demanded he be handed a six-year prison term over his 2019 decision.

UK PM Starmer's chief of staff steps down, takes new role

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's chief of staff Sue Gray has resigned just over three months after the Labour Party won a parliamentary election, after rumours about in-fighting in Starmer's team. "In recent weeks it has become clear to me that intense commentary around my position risked becoming a distraction to the government's vital work of change," Gray said in a statement. Gray will take up a new post as Starmer's envoy for the regions and nations.

Mexican mayor assassinated days after taking office

Monitoring Desk
MEXICO CITY: The mayor of the capital of Mexico's violence-plagued state of Guerrero was killed on Sunday less than a week after he took office, the state's governor confirmed. Alejandro Arcos was killed just six days after he took office as mayor of the city of Chilpancingo, a city of around 280,000 people in southwestern Mexico. "His loss mourns the entire Guerrero society and fills us with indignation," Guerrero Governor Evelyn Salgado said in a statement shared on social media.

Floods in Bangladesh leave five dead, thousands stranded

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: At least five people have died and more than 100,000 remain stranded as devastating floods, triggered by heavy rains and upstream torrents, continue to ravage northern Bangladesh, officials said on Sunday. In Sherpur, one of the hardest-hit northern districts, the water levels of major rivers have surged, submerging new areas and displacing thousands of families. Local authorities fear widespread damage to agriculture, with crops and farmlands, particularly rice fields, facing potential devastation. Many homes and roads are under several feet of water, cutting off villages and leaving residents in desperate need of rescue. "I have never seen such flooding in my life,"

said Abu Taher, a resident of the district. Army personnel, using boats and helicopters, have joined rescue efforts, delivering emergency supplies and evacuating those trapped by the floods. Bridges have collapsed, and roads have been submerged, making it difficult for local authorities to reach affected areas. "Our priority is to evacuate people to safe shelters and provide them with essential supplies," said Sherpur district administrator Torofdar Mahmudur Rahman. He said another decomposed body, suspected to have floated from India, had been found. As water levels continue to rise, concerns grow about the long-term impact on the region's agriculture, particularly rice crops.

Italian prosecutors accuse 7 people, 2 firms over flawed Boeing plane parts

Monitoring Desk
MILAN: Italian prosecutors on Saturday accused seven people and two sub-contractors of crimes including fraud and breaching airplane safety rules following an investigation into suspected flawed parts produced by an Italian company for Boeing. The prosecutors launched their investigation in late 2021, opens new tab after Boeing said some parts for its 787 Dreamliner plane supplied by a company working for Italian aerospace group Leonardo (LDO.FM), opens new tab had been improperly manufactured. Investigators found that two Italian sub-contractors used cheaper and non-compliant forms of titanium and aluminium to make certain parts, saving significant sums of money on their raw material costs.



Doctors shout slogans during a protest demanding justice following the rape and murder of a trainee medic at a hospital in Kolkata, in New Delhi, India.

Efficient coordination, development of contingency plans critical for national resilience: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that efficient and effective coordination, development of contingency plans and risk communication to farthest communities was critical for national resilience.

"National Resilience Day" is a motivation for us to embrace the best practices and implement policies and strategies aimed at fortifying our nation's resilience, the prime minister said in a message on the occasion of National Resilience Day. He said the government's policy initiatives should encompass various sectors, including safe development of infrastructure, improved disaster preparedness, poverty alleviation, safer spatial land use planning, adherence to building codes, efficient water resource management, sound agricultural

practices, and increased afforestation nationwide, including coastal areas.

"The 8th of October reminds us of the devastating earthquake of 2005 – a great tragedy that befell upon Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. Our heartfelt prayers go to all those who endured loss of lives and properties," he added. After the devastating 2005 earthquake, the floods of 2022 were a mega disaster surpassing all past records, he said adding that the people and institutions of Pakistan had always shown immense resolve and demonstrated ability to re-surface amidst catastrophes and national crises, induced by climate change and environmental hazards.

He said Pakistan was facing an immense impact of climate change despite not being responsible for it. Frequent recurrence of un-

predictable extreme events have given devastating blow to our struggling economy.

He commended the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of Pakistan for its hard work to have evolved a tested mechanism as a national response towards such natural calamities.

Key components of our national response include proactively working at reducing vulnerability to disasters and providing coping mechanisms and framework for effective disaster management. He expressed his satisfaction that NDMA's National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) had the best capacities in management of national disasters. "NEOC is founded on high-end technology inputs to create disasters' early warnings much ahead of time - saving lives and infrastructure."



QUETTA: MPA Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman and others meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti

GoB appoints 150 religious leaders, 290 FWW to create awareness

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan govt appoints 150 religious leaders including 290 family welfare workers in order to create awareness regarding family planning and to make the delivery service smooth at the union council level.

"Due to the province's scattered population, the Population Welfare Department is integrating services with the health sector to improve outreach.

The Population Welfare Department has limited resources to expand FP/RH services in rural areas, but it is working closely with the Balochistan Human Capital Investment Program (BHCIP), WHO, and UNFPA to provide services," said Abdullah Khan, Balochistan Secretary population welfare department. The rapid population growth increases challenges for the province. Balochistan accounts for 43% of Pakistan's land area and faces significant challenges, including providing health and education to children, developing infrastruc-

ture, creating job opportunities, addressing poverty, distributing resources across districts, and equipping the youth with technical skills to contribute to Balochistan's development.

The latest census data for Balochistan, released in 2023, reveals a substantial population growth, raising the population from 12.34 million in 2017 to 19.26 million in 2023. This represents the highest growth rate among all provinces in Pakistan. Balochistan's annual population growth rate stands at 3.2%, significantly higher than the national average of 2.55%.

Talking to APP, Secretary Population Welfare, government of Balochistan Abdullah Khan said implementing population-related policies in Balochistan can be particularly challenging due to several cultural and societal norms, such as cultural traditions that emphasize large families, socioeconomic factors, and healthcare access policies. The views of local leaders and influencers can impact

the acceptance of population policies.

Referring to Balochistan government stance on rapid population growth, the secretary said Balochistan prefers the term 'balance' rather than 'control' when addressing the rapid population growth.

"The Population Welfare Department has committed in FP2030 to increasing the Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) to 36% by 2025 and 46% by 2030," he said adding that service integration with the health department is another strategy to manage population growth by engaging health professionals and healthcare providers.

He said awareness campaigns are also being conducted in all districts to educate the public about the issue of overpopulation. Improving maternal and child healthcare can help reduce fertility rates, as better access to prenatal and postnatal care may encourage families to have fewer children.

Govt to dissolve two authorities of Health Ministry

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government has announced plans to dissolve two authorities under the Health Ministry, sources said on Monday. According to source, the decision will be taken to ensure cost-cutting measures and streamlining healthcare services.

Sources said that the Islamabad Blood Transfusion Authority and the Human Organ Transplant Authority will be merged with the Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority, resulting in a significant reduction in staff.

Earlier today, the Pakistan government decided to dissolve the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON).

The SAFRON ministry will be merged into the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), following recommendations from the Rightsizing Committee.

The administrative wing of the Ministry of SAFRON will be dissolved, and a special committee will be formed to decide the future of Jammu & Kashmir State Properties.

As per sources, the sale of state properties will occur as needed, and the revenue generated will be spent on the welfare of Azad Kashmir and GB.

Additionally, the Directorate of Health Services (DHS) of Kashmir and GB will undergo a review, with plans to transfer control to the Azad Kashmir government. DHS funding for GB will be managed in consultation with the Ministry of Health, the sources said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Refugee Rehabilitation Organization is also set to be dissolved, and staff reductions will take place in the Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Councils, as well as in the CC Office.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong in Federal Capital.

Pak assures to apprehend perpetrators of Karachi attack killing Chinese engineers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Monday strongly condemned the heinous terrorist attack near Karachi airport took place on Sunday night killing two Chinese engineers and injuring another, and assured to bring the perpetrators to justice.

"This barbaric act will not go unpunished," she assured. The spokesperson extended deepest condolences and sympathies to the families of the victims, both Chinese and Pakistani, and prayed for the swift recovery of the injured.

She said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was in close contact with the Chinese Embassy for coordination and facilitation.

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a statement. She said that Pakistan's security and law enforcement agencies would spare no effort in apprehending the perpetrators and their facilitators.

"This barbaric act will not go unpunished," she assured. The spokesperson extended deepest condolences and sympathies to the families of the victims, both Chinese and Pakistani, and prayed for the swift recovery of the injured.

She said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was in close contact with the Chinese Embassy for coordination and facilitation.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani and Provincial Advisor Barkat Rind talking with Provincial Minister PHE Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran

Imran Khan, Gandapur among PTI leaders booked for vandalism, violence

ISLAMABAD (INP): A case has been registered against several senior leaders of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for their alleged involvement in acts of vandalism and blockage of GT Road during a recent protest in Islamabad.

The case, filed at Tarnol police station, names prominent PTI figures such as party Founder Imran Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, Chairman Barrister Gohar, opposition leader Omar Ayub, Azam Swati, Amir Mughal, Barrister Saif, and 350 unidentified activists.

The charges against them are severe, including terrorism, attempted murder, and other serious offences. According to the first information report (FIR), the suspects opened fire on police officers, held them hostage, and detained them during the protest. Ali Amin

Gandapur is accused of misusing government resources, while Azam Swati allegedly provided financial backing to the demonstrators.

Investigations revealed that the arrested individuals claimed they were instructed by PTI Founder Imran Khan to gather at D-Chowk in Islamabad.

Imran Khan is also named in the FIR for inciting party workers to carry out acts of violence against the state. Law enforcement agencies have intensified their efforts to apprehend the remaining accused, as further investigations continue.

On Saturday, normal life in Islamabad and Rawalpindi was severely disrupted for the second consecutive day as the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protests continued to paralyse the twin cities. Major highways and mobile services were suspended.



QUETTA: Advisor on Climate Change and Environment Balochistan, Naseem-ur-Rehman addresses during the protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and expressing unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at Assembly Chowk in Quetta.

Information dept goes digital Secretary Information chairs first ever online meeting via Google Meet

Independent Report

QUETTA: In a landmark move, Balochistan's Information Department held its first-ever online meeting via Google Meet, chaired by Provincial Secretary Information Imran Khan, marking a significant leap towards digital transformation.

The virtual session, attended by Director General Public Relations Noor Kehtran and other officials, aimed to enhance departmental performance, efficiency, and effectiveness in promoting government initiatives.

Imran directed officials to leverage technology for seamless communication, innovative strategies, and timely information dissemination. Key discussions addressed streamlining information, media engagement, and showcasing Balochistan's development projects, aligning with Pakistan's Digital Pakistan Initiative and National Digital Policy 2024.

This shift towards digitalization is expected to improve governance, citizen engagement, and economic growth in the province.

Ghazala Gola flays Israeli brutalities against Palestinians

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Deputy Speaker of Balochistan Assembly, Ms. Ghazala Gola has strongly condemned the Israeli aggression against brutalities unleashed against innocent Palestinians.

In a statement issued here on Monday, the Deputy Speaker expressed sympathy with the aggrieved families of Palestinians and said that we stand by the Palestinians for justice and equality in their hard time and appeal to the world community to cope with the human crisis in Gaza and Palestine.

She also urged the federal government to make coordinated diplomatic efforts for supporting the Palestine cause.



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani addressing concluding ceremony of All Quetta School Drama Festival

World Karate Combat Champion meets CM: Shahzaib Rind beacon of light for youngsters of Balochistan, maintains Mir Sarfraz Bugti

Chief Minister prays for success of Shahzaib Rind in international karate event to be held in Miami; assures every possible cooperation

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has congratulated the world karate combat champion, Shahzaib

maintaining the world record.

He also expressed best wishes for his next international fight to be held in Miami.

The Chief Minister

Monday.

He said that Shahzaib Rind is the beacon of light for the youngsters of Balochistan and assured him of every possible cooperation and support to him on behalf of the provincial government.

He said that we are providing sports opportunities to youth of the province. He said that it is for the first time that the sports department has prepared calendar of sports and other healthy activities for the whole year.

He also said that the government is committed to encourage talented youth of the province.

Visits Pak-China Friendship Hospital:



Rind on his marvelous victory in the Karate Combat Championship and maintaining the world record.

Democratic Panel expresses concern over non-payment of salaries to UoB employees

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Democratic Panel has expressed deep concern over the non-payment of salaries to University of Balochistan teachers and employees for the past two months. Despite clear orders from the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the university's staff has been denied their fundamental right to receive their salaries. The panel stated that the respected teachers have

become psychologically distressed due to the recurring financial struggles. For the past five years, they have been forced to protest every two to three months, disrupting the academic activities. The university's employees are struggling to make ends meet amidst soaring inflation. The Democratic Panel attributed the crisis to the provincial government's failure to establish its own Higher Education Commission.

Pak raising effective voice against Israel's barbarism: Jan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary General National Party, Senator Jan Muhammad Buledi on Monday said that Pakistan was raising its effective voice on all international forums against Israel's barbarism and atrocities to impede the genocide of Palestinians. Addressing the All-Parties Conference to express solidarity with Palestinians, the senator said that the main purpose of calling the APC to form a joint strategy.

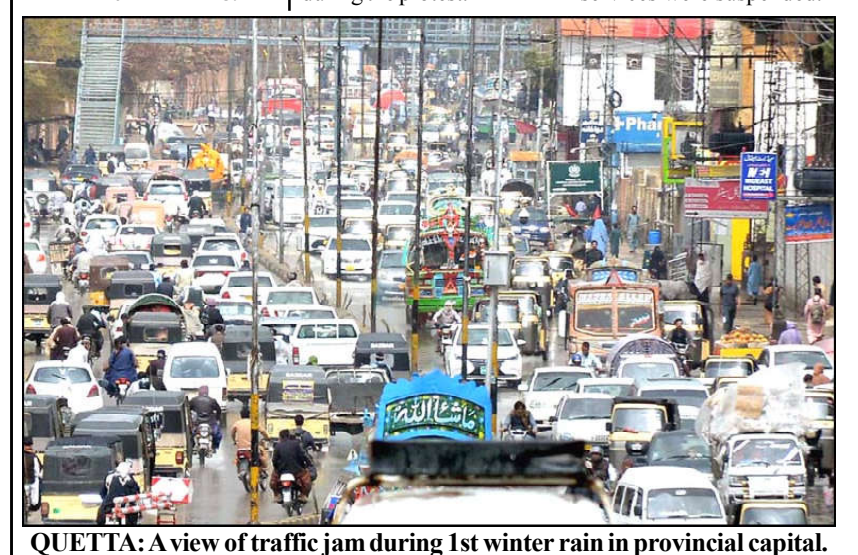
Medical Technician of one-year diploma course initiated in Jafarabad

QUETTA (APP): Medical Technician series of one-year diploma courses in the fields of Tech, Assistant, Lab Assistant and Technician commenced in Jafarabad area of Nasirabad division under NAVTAC.

According to press release issued on Monday, in the first batch, which was started from July, 100 boys and girls from Naseerabad division, Suhbatpur, Jafarabad, Dera Allah-yar, Usta Muhammad, Jhal

Magsi and Kachchi, while from Sindh, Jacobabad and Kashmir were included.

On this occasion, Chairperson Dr. Muhammad Hayat Jamali, Program Manager, Noor Mengal, Business Development Officer, Izhar Jakhari, Administration Manager, Sajjad Rind said that all courses were being conducted and free of cost with 70 percent guaranteed jobs in Pakistan and overseas.



QUETTA: A view of traffic jam during 1st winter rain in provincial capital.

District Jail DMJ Firing Incident: Officials suspended over negligence

Independent Report

DERA MURAD JAMALI: An inquiry committee has submitted its report to the Inspector General of Prisons regarding the firing incident outside District Jail Dera Murad Jamali, recommending suspension and disciplinary action against officials and wardens found negligent and lax in their duties.

The incident occurred on October 2, when unidentified individuals opened fire on a van transporting prisoners to a court hearing, resulting in the death of three individuals, includ-

ing a police officer and a prisoner, and injuring two police officers.

The inquiry committee, headed by DIG Ziaullah Khan Train and AIG Admin Shakil Baloch, recorded statements from officials and personnel, gathering evidence to complete the report. The full report will be submitted to the Additional Chief Secretary Home Department for further action.

This incident highlights concerns about prison security and the need for stringent measures to prevent such incidents in the future.

2 killed, 5 injured as tractor crashes into hotel

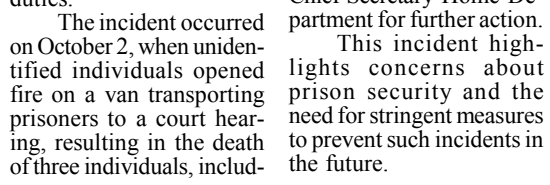
Independent Report

QUETTA: A tragic incident occurred on Quetta's Kasi Road, near Khudaidad Chowk, when a speeding tractor lost control and crashed into a hotel, resulting in the deaths of two individuals and injuring five others.

According to police officials, the tractor veered out of control and entered the hotel, causing instant fatalities. The victims were sitting inside the hotel when the accident occurred.

Police responded promptly to the incident and arrested the tractor driver. A case has been registered against the driver.

The injured individuals have been shifted to a nearby hospital for medical treatment, where their condition is reported to be critical. An investigation into the incident is underway to determine the cause of the accident.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Zahoer Ahmed Buledi inaugurating Mir Ahmed Bakhsh Lehri Auditorium in Pakistan China Technical Vocational Institute

Buledi inaugurates Mir Ahmed Bakhsh Auditorium in PCT&VI

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Planning and Development, Mir Zahoer Ahmed Buledi inaugurated the Mir Ahmed Bakhsh Lehri Auditorium in Pakistan China Technical and Vocational Institute (PCT&VI) Gwadar on Monday.

Also present on the occasion were the Chairman Gwadar Port Authority, Pasand Khan Buledi, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Gwadar University and Executive Director, Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute, Dr. Manzoor Ahmed besides others.

He praised the cooperation of GPA in making

the Institute effective.

He stressed on the need of provision of facilities for producing skilled human resource.

He said that this institute is compatible with the development vision of initiatives taken for the CPEC.

He said that Mir Ahmed Bakhsh Lehri Auditorium is equipped with modern facilities. The Auditorium has been designed for arranging educational conferences, seminars and other technical training programmes.

Meanwhile, the Provincial Minister for Planning and Development, Mir Zahoer Ahmed Buledi vis-

ited the Pak-China Friendship GDA Indus Hospital in Gwadar.

During the visit, Chief Executive of the Hospital, Dr. Affan briefed the Provincial Minister about overall functioning of the hospital. He also apprised the Minister about the issues being faced by the Hospital including the financial ones.

On non-provision of funds, the Minister P&D contacted the Secretary Finance for release of the funds.

The Secretary Finance released the requisite funds for the hospital on directives of the Minister.