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Zardari, Putin emphasise

strengthening bilateral ties

Earlier, the president,

who arrived here on

Thursday for a two-

day visit, also ad-

dressed the Forum which

was also attended by Ira-

nian President Masoud

Pezeshkian, Russian Presi-

dent Vladimir Putin,

Kazakhstan President

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev,

Uzbekistan President

Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Tajik

Rehmon, Kyrgyz President

Sadyr Japarov and others.

president lauded the

Turkmen leadership and

people for hosting the event

which also provided him an

opportunity to interact

with the leaders of regional

families of the remaining 44

of total 64 officials of ICT

Police martyred in the line

contingent of Islamabad

Police gave guard of honour

to the prime minister who

later laid a wreath at the

Martyrs Monument at the

Police Lines and penned his

remarks in the visitors'

book. He also offered

Fateha for the police mar-

During the visit, the

In his address, the

Emomali

President

countries.

(APP):

22 labourers killed, seven injured in terrorism attack in Duki coalmines

No justification of attacking innocent mine labourers busy in earning livelihood: Governor

QUETTA: As many as 22 coal mine labourers were killed and seven others iniured by unknown armed assailants in a terrorist attack in coalmine field of Duki on late Thursday

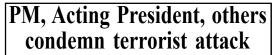
Independent Report

The reports reaching here suggested that some armed assailants approached the coalmines in Duki area and attacked the same with rockets and hand grenades. The assailants also resorted to indiscriminate fire targeting the coalmine labourers engaged

in the mining of coal there. tack, at least 22 coalmine workers were killed while seven others got injured. The armed assailants fled from the scene after the horrific attack. The reports suggested that they also burnt the machinery used for the coalmining in the field before fleeing from the

However, the local police, Levies, Frontier Corps and administration reached the spot and cordoned off the area. The bodies of illfated labourers and injured

Continued on page 2



SLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as strongly condemned the terrorist attack on miners n Duki district of Balochistan.

In a statement, he expressed grief and sorrow over he loss of precious lives in the incident. Commiserating with the bereaved families, he prayed

or the departed souls. The Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitnent to root out terrorism in all its forms.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif also held elephonic conversations with Governor Balochistan affar Khan Mandokhail and Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz

Shehbaz Sharif expressed his resolve to uproot the errorism in all its forms. He also assured to provide all *Continued on page 2*

ASHGABAT

President Asif Ali Zardari

on Friday met his Russian

counterpart Vladimir Putin

wherein they emphasised

further strengthening of bi-

The informal interac-

tion was held on the side-

lines of two-day interna-

tional forum on "Interrela-

tion of Times and Civiliza-

tions- Basis for Peace and

Development" here in the

Turkmen capital to com-

memorate the 300th birth

Magtymguly Faragi, a great

Turkmen thinker, poet and

good wishes for each other,

according to a President

House press release.

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif on Friday announced

to immediately increase the

salaries of Islamabad Police

at par with Punjab Police

and an Executive Allow-

ance for the officers of ICT

Police as well as the

Islamabad administration,

on the pattern of provinces.

addressing an event held at

the Police Lines Headquar-

The prime minister,

Both leaders expressed

anniversary

philosopher.

lateral relationship.



ASHGABAT: President Asif Ali Zardari in a group photo with Heads of States/Governments/Parliaments participating in the International Forum on "Interrelation of Times and Civilizations - Basis of Peace and Development.



Balochistan cabinet members addressing a press conference for Duki incident at Governor House.

Agenda of terrorists is to destabilize Pakistan:

CM strongly condemns Duki terror attack, orders quick & effective action against terrorists

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir involved in the Duki terror-Sarfraz Bugti has strongly condemned the terrorist attack in the coalmines in Duki and killing of innocent coal mine workers in it.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Friday, the Chief Minister expressed deep grief and sorrow over killing of innocent coal mine labourers in the terrorism incident occurred in Duki

Expressing his anguish over the incident, Chief Minister directed to the ards.

Federal Capital.

ISLAMABAD (Online):

PPP chairman Bilawal

Bhutto Zardari has said

numbers are complete with

government but it wants to

work as per law and con-

evolved constitutional

amendments with consen-

sus, he said this while talk-

ing to media men after par-

liamentary committee meet-

has always

stitution

concerned authorities to take quick and effective action against the terrorists ism incident.

He also directed to the prime minister was cardon off the entire area and apprehend the terrorists involved. The Chief Minister

asserted that the terrorists have done extreme of the barbarism and cruelty by targeting the innocent labourers once again.

He said that commor poor labourers are targeted considering them the soft target, so they are cow-



Shehbaz Sharif writes his remarks in the visitors' book at the Police Lines Headquarters. PM pledges financial support

for capacity building of police

(APP):

PTI announces protest at D-Chowk during SCO summit **Monitoring Desk**

PM reviews

SCO Summit

preparations

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif on Friday visited the

capital city to review the

arrangements being made

for the upcoming Shanghai

Cooperation Organization (SCO). On the occasion,

briefed on the reception ar

rangements for the guests

attending the SCO Summit.

Mohsin Naqvi, Information

Minister Attaullah Tarar

and other key officials ac-

companied him. Interior

Minister Mohsin Naqvi

and relevant authorities

briefed the prime minister

about the arrangements.

Minister

Interior

ISLAMABAD: Imran Khan's party has announced its decision to protest at Islamabad's D. Chowk on October 15the day the country would host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in the federal capital—to seek the incarcerated former prime minister's release.

'We announce the cancellation of the protest in the districts of Punjab in view of the preparations for the peaceful protest of D-Chowk on October 15," the PTI said in a statement on X after the party's political committee meeting on Friday.

Full court reference for

Full court reference for Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa will be held

Registrar Supreme Court (SC) has issued notice in respect of full court reference and as per this notice full court reference will take place in connection with retirement of CJP Qazi Faez Isa on October Senior lawyers including president Supreme Court Bar Associaton (SCBA) have been invited ters here to pay tribute to tyrs and paid tribute to the the police force for their sacrifices of the police persacrifices and dutifulness, Accompanied by Intealso announced to extend Shuhada Package to the Continued on page 2

PM telephones to Governor on Duki terrorism; assures stern action against terrorists

QUETTA: The Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif telephoned to Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail over the terrorism incident

The Prime Minister discussed with the Governor the tragic incident of Duki in which innocent labourers were killed.

lies of those lost their lives in the incident of terrorism. The Premier also as-

the incident. In his message to the bereaved families, the Prime Minister said that we share their grief and stand with

call, the Prime Minister also prayed for the departed souls of those labourers

Jaffar Khan Mandokhail says Prime Minister would

Govts, whole nation united against incidents of terrorism: Governor

Funding being done for terrorism incidents from abroad:

Security forces, provincial & federal

come to Quetta in couple of days to personally condole over the incident of terrorism in Duki terrorism attack like inci-

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the security forces as well as federal and

provincial governments and whole nation are united against the incidents of terrorism in the province and as such wholehearted steps would be taken to prevent

them in future. The Governor said those involved in the Duki

dents have nothing to do with the nationalism and they are just terrorists. The Governor was

speaking to the hurriedly called press conference along with the Provincial Ministers and parliamentary secretaries here at the Governor's House on Friday evening. The Provincial Minis-

ters and Parliamentary Secretaries present on the occasion were Mir Zahoor Buledi, Mir Sadiq Umrani, Ms. Raheela Hameed Durrani, Ms. Mina Majeed Baloch and others.

Referring the terrorists attack in Duki coal mine field that claimed lives of 20 coal mine labourers in late Thursday night, Governor said that we share the grief with the bereaved famies of those martyred in the

Continued on page 2

Nobody allowed to disrupt SCO **Conference in** Islamabad: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Friday said Islamabad has been made fully safe and secure to welcome foreign delegations including 12 heads of the governments for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Conference, scheduled for Octo-

ber 15-16. "Those who have a mindset to conspire against the country should better stay at home as no miscreant will be allowed to disrupt the SCO Conference in Islamabad," the minister said while talking to the

"The announcements do not make any difference as Islamabad has been made fully safe and secure," he said while referring to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf which had announced to hold protest in coming

Bakht visits Trauma Center; inquires about health of Duki injured labourers

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar visited the Trauma Center of the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital here on Friday. During the visit, the Minister inquired about health of the labourers iniured in the terrorists attack in the coal mine field of

Speaking on the occasion, he said that wholehearted medical treatment facilities would be provided to the injured labourers.

He said that the injured labourers would be shifted to Karachi if needed so, on directives of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti.

President for enhanced focus on regional connectivity, cultural cooperation

ASHGABAT President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday addressed an international forum held here in the Turkmen capital, where he emphasized an enhanced focus on the promotion of regional connectivity as well as cultural and economic collaboration in the region. The president, addressing the forum on "Interrelation of Times and Civilizations- Basis for Peace and Development" said that Pakistan and Turkmenistan shared a deep-rooted bond of brotherhood which was built on mutual respect and commonalities of faith and a

and peaceful future. The event, held to mark the 300th birth anniversary of Magtymguly Faragi, a

shared vision for a better

poet and philosopher, was also attended by several regional leaders including Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Tajik President Rehmon, Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov and others.

President Zardari, who arrived here on Thursday on two-day visit, called Magtymguly Faragi a "towering figure" of Turkmen literature and a "beacon of spiritual enlightenment.'

The great Turkmen poet and Pakistan's national poet Allama Muhammad İqbal shared several commonalities in their poetry and thoughts on Sufism and nationalism, he added.



QUETTA: Director General Khana Farhang Iran Quetta Dr. Syed Abul Hassan Meeri meeting with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai

Drum beaters should first read court's decision and then criticize: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has refused to give more adjournment in intra party election review case due to absence of PTI lawyers from hearing remarking dilatory tactics are being used.

marked they want headlines but Supreme Court (SC) will not give them any such headline. Intra Party Election re-

The CJP further re-

view case came up for hearing before a 3-member bench of SC presided over by CJP Qazi Faez Isa Fri-No lawyer from PTI

ide appeared in the court. Ahmad Hassan counsel for Akbar S Babar said ap-

has come from advocate Hamid Khan. The CJP while moving to counsel for Akbar S

plication for adjournment

Babar remarked "read paragraph No 2 of application for adjournment. Paragraph regarding the family engagement of Hamid Khan was The CJP remarked this

is application for some novel adjournment. Application of such nature has not been seen before. This case was to be fixed for hearing in proposed cause list of May 29. There was application from advocate Ali Zafar for general adjournment till June 4. Open heart surgery of one member of bench took place.

Continued on page 2 Ministers, parliamentary secretaries; hold fruitful negotiations with protestors **Independent Report**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking with Chief of Jamiat

Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Maulana Fazlur

Rehman during a meeting at his residence, in the

Numbers are complete but

govt wants to work as per

law, constitution: Bilawal

ing here Friday,

He held government

wants consensus. It will be

our full endeavor to bring

consensus draft in consul-

tation with all parties. PPP

presented in committee

proposals of its original draft which include matters

related to constitutional

court. We presented this

draft before all parties too.

QUETTA: On directives of the Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, the Provincial Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries visited Duki on Friday afternoon. They met the bereaved families of those martyred

in the terrorism incident occurred in Duki and others lodging protest against the incident They held negotiations with the protestors per-

suading them to end their protest, which were protesting along with the bodies of slain mine workers. There was consensus

between the government delegations and the protestors that they have to work together for prevention of the incidents of terrorism in the province together. It was decided during

the negotiations that the bereaved families of the deceased labourers would be paid Rs. 1.5 million each.

Similarly, the seriously injured labourer would get Rs. 0.5 million while the minor injured would get Rs. 0.25 million. Meanwhile, the bereaved families left the scene for burial of their dear ones, after successful negotiations

CJP to be held on October 25 SLAMABAD (Online):

on October 25.

in full court reference.

row with the bereaved fami-

Independent Report occurred in Duki area of the

While strongly condemning the tragic incident, the Prime Minister expressed deep grief and sor-

sured that quick and stern action would be taken against those involved in

them in their time of grief.

During the telephonic

killed in the terrorist attack.

DUKKI: Members of Government committee negotiating with protesters on the directives of Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti

Leach pulled off a stun-

ing to remove Shaheen

Afridi before having

Naseem Shah stumped to

seal the victory.
England had declared

after making their highest

total in 86 years, a colossal

823-7 in 150 overs after

Harry Brook's 317 and Joe

Root's 262, and extracted

the most out of a lifeless

pitch at the Multan Cricket

Stadium to rattle Pakistan

on Thursday. The hosts

had flexed their muscles in

the early part of the test with 556 in the first innings

but found themselves un-

der the gun trailing England

by 115 runs at the end of

the fourth day and they

Masood (captain), Saud

Shakeel (vice-captain),

Saim Ayub, Abdullah

Shafique, Babar Azam,

(wicket-keeper), Salman

Ali Agha, Aamir Jamal, Shaheen Afridi, Naseem

Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope

(captain), Joe Root, Harry

Brook, Jamie Smith, Chris

Woakes, Gus Atkinson,

Brydon Carse, Jack Leach,

England: Zak Crawley,

Shah, Abrar Ahmad

folded under pressure.

Playing XI

Pakistan:

Mohammad

Shoaib Bashir

England thrashes

Pakistan by innings,

47 runs in 1st Test

pleted an extraordinary in- ning catch off his own bowl-

MULTAN: England com-

nings and 47-run victory over Pakistan on the fifth

day of their record-break-

ing opening test after staving off a fightback from the

depleted home side on Fri-

day.
With Abrar Ahmed not

batting due to illness, the

tourists reduced Pakistan

to 220-9 after some early

resistance to spark huge

celebrations among a small

but vocal group of travelling English fans.

precarious 152-6 and

Salman Agha was the first

to depart in the morning after a defiant 63, with the

introduction of Jack Leach

helping England snap his

109-run partnership with

peppered the two over-

night batsmen with bounc-

ball from Brydon Carse to

bring up his own half-cen-

lifeline when stand-in cap-

tain Ollie Pope put down a

difficult chance at square-

leg - England's fifth

dropped catch of the in-

nings - and remained not out

He was then granted a

England's pace bowlers

Aamer Jamal.

Pakistan resumed on a

Parliamentary special committee meeting:

PPP, PML-N share their drafts for consensus on constitutional amendment

ISLAMABAD (Online): under Syed Khurshid with committee soon. And PPP and PML-N have Ahmad in parliament then efforts will be made to drafts in the meeting of parliamentary special committee on forging consensus on constitutional amendments.

PTI showed its inability for opposing or supporting any draft till the meeting with chairman PTI and his approval.

On the other hand Maulana Fazlur Rehman while showing flexibility in his stance made it clear he will share the government draft with other parties and then he will give his stance. However no final date has been determined for presenting constitutional amendment draft in the parliament. Meeting of parliamentary committee will continue today (Saturday)

Meeting of parliamentary committee was held a draft and it will be shared have also come to fore.

Continued from page 1

possible support to the

Yousuf Raza Gilani also

strongly condemned attack

in Duki area of Balochistan,

which claimed lives of sev-

pressed deep grief over the

loss of lives in the attack

and conveyed his sympa-

said perpetrators of this hei-

nous incident should be

awarded strict punishment

Gilani also prayed for early

recovery of the injured and

directed the relevant au-

thorities to ensure best

medical treatment to the

terior Mohsin Naqvi has

strongly condemned the

brutal attack on coal min-

ers in the Duki area of

Balochistan, where 20

workers were tragically

killed by armed individuals.

deep sorrow over the inci-

dent, labeling it a grave trag-

conveyed his heartfelt con-

dolences to the families of

the deceased, offering sym-

pathy and support to those

affected by the loss. "We

share the grief of the be-

reaved families equally," he

stated, emphasizing the

edy for the nation.

The minister expressed

In a statement, Naqvi

Federal minister for In-

injured.

Sved Yousuf Raza

deceased workers.

In a statement, he ex-

The Acting President

eral miners.

Acting President Syed

families of the martyrs.

PM, Acting President, others....

swift recovery of those in-

the country.

Duki

he said.

manity.

ers across the political spec-

trum expressing their con-

demnation and calling for

urgent measures to prevent

such atrocities in the future.

Assembly, Sardar Ayaz

Sadiq, on Friday, strongly

condemned the armed at-

tack on coal miners in the

Balochistan, which claimed

the lives of 20 miners.

district

In a statement, he ex-

ressed deep sorrow over

the tragic loss and extended

heartfelt condolences to the

families of the victims.

"My thoughts and prayers

are with the bereaved fami-

lies in this difficult time,

for the swift recovery of

the injured miners and con-

demned the terrorists re-

sponsible for the attack

calling them enemies of hu-

Ayaz Sadiq also prayed

Speaker of the National

shared their respective house. Bilawal Bhutto evolve consensus. Zardari and Maulana Fazlur Rehman participated in the meeting specially.

Gohar and Aamir Dogar attended the meeting from PTI side. Parliamentary leaders of other political parties were also present.

As per sources PPP shared its written draft with has given its proposals in regard to establishment of constitutional court.

Government informed the committee verbally about its proposals.

Azam Nazir Tarar said he would bring to fore written draft in committee meeting today (Saturday). Maulana

Fazlur Rehman took the plea his party has also worked out

Ahmad in parliament then efforts will be made to

Talking to media men after meeting Azam Nazir Tarar said we have placed Chairman Barrister our proposals and proposals of the lawyers. This is the draft wherein mention has been made about constitutional court . We have proposed judicial commission, system for accountability of judges and enactthe committee wherein it ment of law against judges who don't work. PTI has sought time to see the draft but it has not given its opinion. Maulana Fazlur Rehman has not given his draft so far. We are waiting for his draft. Maulana

Fazlur Rehman said we have heard each other stance. Government has shared its draft for the first time. Now we see the things go where. PPP proposals



Minister

Saturday October 12, 2024

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief the occasion, was briefed Khyber about the security and Pakhtunkhwa. Ali Amin other arrangements for the Jirga. The chief minister has directed the administration to take immediate steps for providing all necessary facilities for the Jirga, adding that water, temporary washrooms, lighting, medical camps, and other essential facilities must be provided on priority basis further directing them to provide five thousand blankets The chief minister on for the Jirga participants.

Peshawar set to sparkle:

of Turkmenistan, Serdar Berdimuhamedov.

KP CM visits venue

of Aman Jirga

First-ever sports grand gala on the horizon

PESHAWAR – A significant meeting of the Sports Executive Body was held under the Peshawar Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, where it was decided to organize the Sports Grand Gala for the first time.

This large-scale event will feature games such as table tennis, badminton, lawn tennis, squash, throw ball, and baseball. On this occasion, several prominent figures were present, including Prof. Dr. Saeed Khattak, Principal of Government Post Graduate College Landi Kotal; Dr. Attaullah, Vice President; Dr. Johar, Principal of Government Higher Secondary School Bara Sheikhan; Manzar Khan, Director of Sports Peshawar Board;

Arshad Hussain, Director of

Sports; Ali Hoti, Director

of Sports Islamia College Peshawar; along with Abdul Rasheed, Noor Sher, and Safdar Khan, as well as all the Directors of Sports. Addressing the meeting, Prof. Dr. Saeed Khattak stated that under the leadership of Peshawar Board Chairman Nasir Khan, an excellent sports gala will be organized, with every effort made to provide all possible facilities to players and of-

He further credited Chairman Nasir Ullah Yousafzai and all the Directors of Sports for their continued promotion of healthy activities throughout the year in sports grounds. This grand event will be an exciting opportunity for the people of Peshawar, and all schools and colleges will be invited to participate in the gala.

Abid Kashmiri passes away

Kashmiri passed away in Lahore on Friday. He was

lated to kidney and breath-

The performing artiste had a long-standing career as one of the veterans in Lahore with his work getting immense acclaim in theatre, television and films with his versatility shining across these diverse platforms in the country's entertainment industry.

He has worked in numerous TV and stage shows as well as films. He showcased his comedic prowess in the 1988 movie Bazar-e-Husan' and won the Nigar Award for his performance. Besides that, he appeared in various dramas on PTV and other TV channels.

Some of his memorable works include Lohari Gate, Suraj ke Sath Sath, Samundar, Apnay Log and Teesra Kinara, among others. The actor during his recent visit to the homeland appeared on television talk

He had been residing abroad for a long time. During his time there, he conhealth allowed him to do so.

ASHGABAT: President Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with the President Veteran actor

LAHORE (APP): Veteran Pakistani actor Abid

Kashmiri's family revealed that he had been ailing for some time and had serious medical issues reers earlier and Jamal recovered after being hit on the side of the head by a fiery

The award-winning artiste is survived by two sons and two daughters.

tinued working until his frail



21 labourers killed, seven injured....

Continued from page 1 to the strike. The strong

ones were shifted to the district headquarter hospital

After necessary first aid, most of the injured were shifted to the teaching hospital Loralai. Afterwards, four of them were shifted to Trauma Center Quetta.

belonged to different areas of Balochistan besides Afghanistan. The sources said that six of all 20 deceased mine workers hailed from Zhob while four of them belonged to Killa Saifullah. Three of them were from Pishin while one each was from Loralai, Musakhail, Harnai and Kuchlak area of

Investigations have been started into the terrorism incident. However, no arrest could be reported till ours going to the press.

Meanwhile, shutter down strike was observed against killing of the innocent labourers in Duki. All the business concerns and shops remained closed due

protest was also lodged along with bodies of the deceased persons by the relatives of the deceased and others in Duki.

They demanded of the government to take the elements involved in the killing to task immediately. They also demanded pro-Those died in the attack tection of the coalmine workers in the coalmine field of the area

Meanwhile the Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has condemned the incident of killing of innocent coal mine labourers in Duki in strongest words and said that there's no justification of attacking innocent mine labourers who were busy in earning livelihood for them and their families.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Friday, the Governor directed to the concerned authorities to apprehend the elements involved in the terrorism incident and bring them to the court of justice.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-242510570123 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer Irrigation Department Zhob invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee 1000 PKR and Bid Security 3% Name of Work/s

CONSTRUCTION OF SUR GHOOUZHAI CHECK 10,395,000 DAM IN SHAHGHALO KAKAR KHURASAN ZHOB PSDP NO.3069 (2024-25)

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 7,276,500 PKR Amount in1 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million)In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE04(iii) (dams only). 2 completed work of similar nature 7.5 million minimum value along with completion certificate in last 05 years in case of authorized personal, the authority letter must be issued on letter head of the firm duly signed from the owner along with the attested copy of cnic of the owner from notary public, in case of failure the firm shall stand as non-eligible 3% CDR in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Zhob from a schedule bank of Pakistan Affidavit of Declaration of all documents that are provided are true and genuine on stamp paper duly attested by oath commissioner in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Zhob along with the work name and TSE no of the subject work, on Rs. 100 Stamp Paper Presence in Active Tax Payer List of BRA Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee, Deposit at Call of 3 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 25 October 2024during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 25 October, 2024till 09:30 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 10:30 AM Address:

office of Executive Engineer irrigation Zhob Phone no: 0331247696 Email: fazalrehmanirr@gmail.com

PRQ No.1432/11-10-2024 www.dpr.gob.pk. @dpr_gob @dpr.gob f @dgpr.ba

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT ZHOB



jured in the attack and reasincident. sured the public that jus-He mentioned that tice would be served. "The the Prime Minister malicious elements in-Muhammad Shahbaz volved in this tragic inci-Sharif also called him dent will not escape the on the tragic incident law," Naqvi declared, vowand expressed deep ing that the perpetrators of

grief over it. this heinous crime would The Governor said face the full force of justice. that the Prime Minister Naqvi firmly stated has told that he would that those responsible for come to Quetta in the senseless killing of incouple of days to perthies to the families of the nocent workers would not sonally condole over be granted any leniency, the incident. stressing the need for ac-

He said that the incountability and ensuring cident of Duki is very the safety of laborers across inhumane. He said that the poor labourers are The attack on the coal not killed anywhere in miners has sparked widespread outrage, with leadthe world. He said that this in-

cident makes it clear that the very motive behind it was extortion of money. He expressed the

government's resolve o prevent such incidents of terrorism and take wholehearted action against those involved in them.

It is our full endeavour and attention to take wholehearted steps against the terrorists, adding he asserted.

He on the occasion categorically said that funding is being done for such incidents from abroad.

He particularly mentioned that funding is being done from India.

However, we, the security forces, provincial and federal departments and nation is united against the terrorism in Balochistan.

He also said that labourers happen to be above from any geography due to their labour work and ser-

He said that the whole family gets af-fected due to killing of a labourer and the antisocial elements snatched the only bread earner from them.

He said that we realize that our few words can't lessen their grief and pain. But we are standing with them for solidarity, he added.

Besides, the provincial government also announced financial compensation for the deceased and injured labourers In addition to this,

the injured labourers are also being provided necessary medical treatment in the Trauma Center, he added. The Provincial Min-

isters Sadiq Umrani and Zahoor Buledi also addressed and strongly condemned the terror ism attack in Duki that labourers.

PM pledges financial support.... Continued from page 1 protest when a provincial government marched on Islamabad in sheer violation of the constitution at

QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over

rior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Federal Information and Broadcasting Minister Attaullah Tarar, IG Islamabad Police Ali Nasir Rizvi, Islamabad Chief and both sides agreed to Commissioner Muhammad Ali Randhawa and parliamentarians, he also interacted with the family of members of police Constable Abdul Ĥameed who embraced martyrdom in the line of duty during the protest by Pakistan Tehreek-

e-Insaf on October 6, 2024. Addressing the gathering, the prime minister instructed for an immediate completion of a Police Hospital at the Police Lines he had announced on June 21, 2023, assuring to remove all the impediments in the

project He paid tribute to Constable Abdul Hameed for his sacrifices and also his family whom he found in high morale despite losing their dear one. He particularly appre-

ciated Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and IG Islamabad for their efforts to facilitate the Islamabad Police in fulfillment of their duties. He instructed the interior minister to immediately initiate the recruitment of constables and officers in the ICT Police, purely on a merit basis, to overcome the shortage.

Prime Minister Shehbaz recalled and appreciated the dutifulness of ICT Police during the 2013-14 sit-in by PTI which badly impacted the national economy and also led to the postponement of the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping. Several police officials including SP Asmat Junejo were injured as they struggled to overpower the rioters who attacked the parliament as well as Paki-

He also appreciated the ICT Police's performance in professionally handling the recent PTI

stan Television buildings,

he recalled.

a time when Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim was in the capital

enhance bilateral trade. The prime minister said the Pakistan Muslim League-N, under the leadership of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, always reformed the police culture and the incumbent Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz was also pursuing

the course. Referring to his tenure as Punjab chief minister, he recounted the projects including the establishment of the first Safe City project, the counter-terrorism department, Elite Force, and Dolphin Force.

He also assured the federal government's support for police reforms to the provincial governments and called for providing maximum resources and training of the police force to enhance their effi-The prime minister,

who earlier conferred Shujaat medals on two police officials, also asked the Cabinet Division to accomplish the process of conferment of Quaid-e-Azam Medal and other awards to the police.

Earlier, in his address, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi told the gathering that during the last five months, the crime rate in Islamabad had dropped by 38% and the overdue promotion of 400 police officials was carried out.

Besides, a women's police station was set up in Safe City and a patrol unit for Margalla hikers was introduced besides launching the renovation of 27 police stations. 10 Khidmat Marakiz were serving the people and a separate facility would be established for the diplomatic community,

Numbers are complete... Continued from page 1

He said Maulana Fazlur Rehman reiterated his stance that his party wants to work out draft in consensus with PPP. We have enormous

trust on federal government, he said Law minister told he has two thirds majority but we are sitting for consensus among all political parties. APP adds: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party

(PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, on Friday said that the proposed draft of constitutional amendments presented by his party included the establishment of a Constitutional Court and amendments to Articles 175 A, B, D, E, and F.

Speaking to the media in his chamber at Parliament House, he said that the government has given time to reach a consensus on constitutional amendments related to judicial reforms. Bilawal said that while

the PPP's final document has been released, the draft from Maulana Fazlur Rahman has not yet been formally received. He also mentioned that the PPP's draft has been with Kamran Murtaza for over a week.

"If the government has a two-thirds of majority and still seeks consensus, it is commendable," he said. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

stressed that the government intends to work within the framework of the constitution and the law, noting that the PPP has always pursued constitutional amendments through consensus. "The PML-N has the right to amend the constitution in line with the Charter of Democracy," he said. Expessing gratitude to the government, Bilawal said, "I appreciate their willingness to insist on consensus among all political parties. However, if consensus cannot be reached, how long will the govern ment wait?'

government's solidarity with the mourning families during this difficult time. He also prayed for the

TENDER NOTICE

The Assistant Director Local Government Department, Dera Bugt invited sealed percentage tender based on composite schedule o rates 2023, GOB, from interested contractors / firms for the works listed below. Bid Security 2% (in the head of account) and Time Limit is up to 30 June 2025 Tender Fee Rs.1000/- for each work. Name of Scheme E/Cost

SEWERAGE LINE AT KILLI WADARA DEER MUHAMMAD KOHO DERA BUGTI TSE-242510571993 BT ROAD AND SEWERAGE SYSTEMAT KILLI

M.FAROOQ MADWANI BUGTI TSE-242510571333

The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan

Public Procurement Regulatory Authority rules 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: The Contractor must have valid registration with Pakistar Engineering Council in relevant category(C-6) and above and registration with tax authorities i.e. (NTN and Sales Tax Department and BRA). Relevant Work Experience and turn over of Last Three years. Method of procurement: Single stage - One envelope procedure. Bid Security: The bid must accompany bid security in the form of call deposit of amount specified above in the name of undersigned from a scheduled bank. Bid Validity is 90 days. Issuance of Tender Documents: Documents will be issued from the date of publication till submission of presentation of requisite documents during office time and may also be uploaded from BPPRA official website by submitting tender fee of 1000 in head account No. C-03870 Deadline of Submission: Last date of Submission will be 28/10/2024 at (9:00 am) Opening: The tender document will be opened on 28/10/2024 at (10:00 am) (bid shall be opened within One hour of the deadline for submission of bids) before procurement committee in the presence of contractors or their authorized representatives / agents in the office of Assistant Director Local Government Department, Dera Bugti Place of issuance, submission, inquiries and opening will be:- Address: Office of the Assistant Director Local Government Department, Dera

Bugti Contact No. 0333-7339077 Terms and conditions: Other

terms and conditions are attached with tender documents

PRO No.1435/11-10-2024

Local Government & Rural Development Dera Bugti www.dpr.gob.pk. wadpr_gob odpr.gob fadgpr.bale

NA body raises concerns on MDCAT irregularities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination on Friday raised serious concerns over the reported irregularities in the MDCAT examination result, 2024.

The committee also raised concerns over the inconsistencies in the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) 2024 results.

The committee voiced apprehension over the alarmingly high scores, with the top students achieving 199 out of 200 marks in the admission test.

This unprecedented result had prompted questions about the integrity of the examination process, pointing towards potential discrepancies within the

The meeting which was held under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mahesh Kumar Malani, MNA, emphasized that the MDCAT's credibility and fairness are critical to the future of Pakistan's aspir-

committee stressed the importance of both students and their parents, noting that the issue

by the Sindh High Court. The committee recommended several reforms aimed at restoring confi-dence in the MDCAT examination process. One key recommendation was making complete FSC result a mandatory criterion

was currently under review

for eligibility in the MDCAT. The committee proposed that all educational boards should conduct their exams earlier, allowing students to appear in the MDCAT based on their final board results, ensuring more accurate assessments.

The committee also took a firm stance on universities found to have involved in discrepancies in the MDCAT process, suggesting that they should not be given the opportunity to conduct the exam again in the future.

ing medical and dental stu- sues, the committee proposed that a centralized committee should be made be responsible for creating addressing the concerns of the examination paper, with accountability measures in place in case of errors or discrepancies.

The committee called for the implementation of IT-based systems to enhance the transparency and efficiency of the exam pro-

A detailed post-hoc analysis of MDCAT results provided by various universities revealed significant inconsistencies with UHS Lahore and DUHS Karachi with the highest score of

Given these results the committee suggested that if allegations of misconduct were proven true, a reconduct of the MDCAT exams should be considered to safeguard the interests of the students. The meeting concluded with a call for swift and decisive action to ensure the integrity of future MDCAT exams and re-



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets the family of Shaheed Constable Abdul Hameed

Pak first Energy Climate Data dashboard launched to address information gaps

dashboard to address scarcity of reliable data that as impeding access and analysis of essential information for effective decision-mak-

mate Insights (PECI) dashboard was launched, along with the release of the second edition of the study "Powering Pakistan's Future: Pathways to Optimize Affordable and Sustainable Electricity Generation Bevond IGCEP 2024-34" during the event "From Data to Decisions" co-hosted by Renewables First (RF) and the Policy Research Institute for Equitable Develop-ment (PRIED) here on Friday, a news release said.

In his keynote address, Chairman of NTDC, Dr. Fiaz Chaudry emphasized the importance of ad-

ISLAMABAD (APP): proach in energy planning, noting, "Unfortunately, we launched the country's first energy and climate data principle." He remarked deshboard to address against the country of the count that the energy sector is complex, stating, "It is not child's play.'

He explained that while generation, transmission, and distribution may Pakistan's pioneering seem straightforward, they lenges that require thorough study and strategic plan-

The PECI dashboard consolidates fragmented energy data from various sources, presenting information in a user-friendly, interactive digital format covering data from 2004 to 2024, i.e., two decades of data. With interactive and visual data representations. it allows better understanding of key trends and projections in the power sector. "It simplifies complex energy information, making it accessible for everyone

involved in addressing hering to the least-cost ap- Pakistan's energy crisis. neeting's secretary.



ISLAMABAD: Zamurd Khan, Patron-in-Chief of Pakistan Sweet Homes watching Fastest Athlete' competition during the 100-meter race in the 'Search for the Fastest Athlete among Pakistan Sweet Home students and cadets at Sweet Home's

IHC reserves decision on petition seeking recovery of PTI's Intazar Panjotha

ISLAMABAD (APP): vehicle's black number The Islamabad High Court plate had made tracking (IHC) on Friday reserved its decision on a petition seeking the recovery of Intazar Panjotha, a focal person for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), as law enforcement agencies court that letters had been intensify their efforts to trace his whereabouts.

During the hearing, Chief Justice Aamer Farooq directed the DIG Police to expedite cooperation with relevant agencies in the search for Panjotha.

After a break in proceedings, DIG Islamabad Police, SP Khalid Awan, and DSP Sajid Cheema appeared before the court. The DIG explained that Panjotha's vehicle had been seen traveling from Faizabad to Shamsabad in Rawalpindi. However, the vehicle then made a U-turn, returning to its original location. The police also

more difficult, and they requested additional time to trace the vehicle's move-

Before the break, the DIG had informed the sent to all intelligence agencies, and a special team had been formed to investigate the case. CCTV footage had confirmed that Panjotha was headed towards Rawalpindi, and the police had requested further footage from Rawalpindi to aid the in-

vestigation. At the request of the petitioner's lawyer, Chief Justice Aamer Farooq appointed Faisal Chaudhry as the focal person for the case, directing that all progress be communicated

After hearing arguments from all parties, the mentioned that the court reserved its decision.

HEC approves funding for 23 travel grants, 17 academic events

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has approved funding for 23 travel grants and 17 academic events during its 21st Travel Grant/Seminar Conferences Management Committee meeting held here yesterday.

According to the offisources from HEC, out of 50 applications for travel grants, the committee recommended 23, and all 17 requests for seminar and conference funding were approved.

The meeting, chaired by Prof. Dr. Anwar-ul-Hassan Gilani, brought together several prominent figures from the academic sector, including Prof. Dr. Shahid Mehmood Baig, Prof. Fayyaz Ul Hassan Sahi, and Prof. Dr. Hazir

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Umar joined the session online, while Muhammad Javed Iqbal, Director (Research & Innovation Division), served as the

ICT admin target 'agent mafia,' 6 arrested in G-10 raid

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad district administration on Friday launched a campaign against unauthorized agents operating near government of-fices in the Federal Capital and arrested 6 agents.

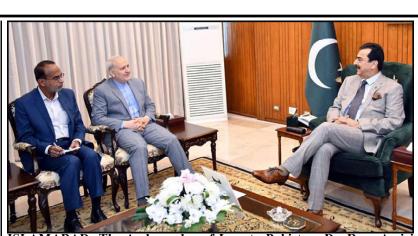
According to the spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration, these agents were arrested outside the Passport Office in G-10 area, marking a step toward curbing this illegal ac-

In a recent move to tackle the presence of unauthorized agents near government buildings, the Assistant Commissioner Saddar, Maheen Hassan raided with the district administration teams and arrested these agents.

On the occasion Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon emphasized the need for daily operations outside all government offices to address the growing issue of unauthorized intermediaries.

He also urged citizens to cooperate with the authorities to help elimi-nate the so-called "agent mafia" operating in these

The district administration is hopeful that with consistent efforts and public support, it can tackle the problem and restore order near public offices.



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam, called on the Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, at Aiwane-Sadr in Federal Capital.

Muqam says:

Under the leadership of the present regime, Pakistan is heading in the right direction

Federal Minister for State and Frontier Region, Kashmir & Gilgit Baltistan (GB) Affairs, Engineer Amir Muqam, Friday expressed confidence that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan was heading in the right direction, where the country was successfully reviving its foreign ties, particularly with Saudi Arabia. In an interview with

Speaker of the National As-

sembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

on Friday suggested that

the modern education &

training must for the girls for the survival of future

In a message on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl

Child, he said the day

holds great significance in

highlighting and addressing the protection of girls' rights and the challenges they being faced.

He said that the protection of girls' rights, their

proper upbringing, and en-

suring their education and

health are top priorities. He said that Islam and the Con-

generations.

the PTV news channel, he said, "This renewed diplo-matic effort is crucial for Prime Minister's initiatives Ayaz Sadiq declares

modern education

necessary for girls

growth and combating inflation." He also expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Saudi government for their unwavering support of Pa-kistan. Amir Muqam had congratulated the nation on Pakistan's economic stability and improving condi-

"Continued public

stitution of Pakistan pro-

gender discrimination.

nation's social and eco-

nomic development," he

that legislation to pre-

vent child marriages is a

government's commitment

to protecting children from

testament to

exploitation.

He also highlighted

tions, crediting Prime Min-

ister Shehbaz Sharif's re-

lentless efforts and vision-

future," Muqam stressed.

Responding to a uery, he said, "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) fragile peace requires urgent attention beyond politics, emphasizing the need for the provincial government to prioritize stability and public welfare." "To achieve lasting peace, the KPK govary leadership for this ernment must focus on economic development, boosting industries, and creating jobs, particularly for young individuals," he added.

Planning Minister pays tribute PIDE outgoing VC,

vide women equal rights. ISLAMABAD (APP) The Constitution of the country guarantees children, both boys and girls aged 5 to 16, the right to free education without any With over half of the country's population conopment sisting of women, ensuring their participation in all sectors of life is crucial for the

> Haq's contributions to promoting economic discourse in Pakistan and encouraged PIDE staff to build upon his achievements. He emphasized the importance of working tirelessly towards Pakistan's national agenda and development priorities.

Dr Nadeem

Federal Minister for Planning and Development Professor Ahsan Iqbal here on Friday paid tribute to Dr Nadeem ul Haq, the outgoing Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Devel-Economics (PIDE), for leading the institution for last five years.

At the farewell ceremony, Ahsan praised Dr.



Uz Zafar (SI), addresses the media during the 'Data Fest 2024' meet and greet session at the PBS conference room in Federal Capital

Islamabad Traffic Police issues

Diversion Plan for SCO Summit

Rawat via GT Road will be

diverted through Taxila,

Motorway, Chakri Inter-

change, Chak Beli Road,

and Rawat. Drivers are

urged to follow these routes

to avoid the blocked roads

from Lahore to Peshawar

via GT Road will be redi-

rected to Rawat, Chak Beli

Road, Chakri Interchange,

Motorway, and Taxila. The

ICT Police have advised

motorists to use these al-

ternatives to ensure smooth

Margalla Road heading to-

wards Rawalpindi will be

Traffic coming from

Vehicles traveling

during the summit.

Saba appointed as UNICEF National Ambassador for child rights in Pakistan KARACHI (APP): UNICEF has appointed actress Saba

Qamar as its first National Ambassador for child rights in Pakistan. The announcement was made on International Day of the Girl Child, a day that recognizes girls rights and the unique challenges girls face around the

"It's an honor to join UNICEF. I will echo our shared mission of achieving every right for every child wherever

"In my recent travels, I have seen both the challenges children and women face in this country and the difference UNICEF's dedicated efforts are making". She promised to play her vital part for the children and young people of Pakistan so that they can dream and have the chance to fulfill their dreams.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Islamabad Traffic Po-

lice (ITP) have announced

a comprehensive traffic di-

version plan for the Shang-

hai Cooperation Organiza-

tion (SCO) summit, sched-

uled for October 14, 15, and

ficers will be deployed

across the city to manage

traffic flow. Citizens are

advised to use alternative

routes to avoid inconve-

nience caused by road clo-

sures and diversions due to

spokesperson, traffic trav-

According to the ITP

high profile movement.

Over 1,100 traffic of-

16, 2024.

IHC approached **KP** employees

to terminate the FIR regispersonnel.

Additionally, traffic from

Faisal Avenue to Zero Point

will also be redirected to

9th Avenue, ensuring a clear

from Bhara Kahu to

Rawalpindi, the police have

recommended using Korang

Road, Bani Gala, and

Lehtrar Road as alternative

routes. These roads will

vehicles traveling during the

Rawalpindi to Islamabad

will be redirected to 9th

Avenue via Saddar and

Traffic coming from

For those commuting

route for other vehicles.

against arrest of in during protest ISLAMABAD (APP): A

petition has been moved to the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday against registration of cases and arrest of KPK government's employees for participating in protest march of CM KP Ali Amin Gandapur.

The petition prayed the court to issue directives tered by Sangjani Police Station Islamabad against the

CDA embarks on

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad is undergoing a citywide beautification drive ahead of the highly anticipated Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit. Capital Development Authority (CDA) has launched a detailed initiative aimed at enhancing the city's aesthetic appeal, feaprovide easier access for turing vibrant floral displays, intricately designed peacock structures, and decorative globes strategically placed at prominent

These installations

trade links with Iran ISLAMABAD (APP): need to explore options for Acting President Syed expanding the existing vol-Yousaf Raza Gilani on Friume of bilateral trade to day called for further \$10 billion between the strengthening bilateral cotwo countries.

Acting President calls for

strengthening business and

operation with Iran in

historical, religious and cul-

tural ties and the people of

Pakistan had great respect

and affection for the people

views while talking to the

Ambassador of Iran to Pa-

kistan, Dr. Reza Amiri

Moghadam, who called on

the acting president under-

scored that Pakistan and

Iran had been active mem-

bers of many international

and regional fora. "There is

a need to harness the true

potential of the existing co-

operation for promoting

connectivity between the

two countries as well as

him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Gilani expressed these

During the meeting,

While discussing the trade, security, culture and volatile regional situation, the ambassador said "we He said that Pakistan are witnessing acts of genoand Iran had deep-rooted cide in Lebanon and Gaza"

He commended the Government of Pakistan for holding the All Parties Conference (APC) on 7th Oct 2024 and added that it could serve as a model for the Islamic World to extend support to our Palestinian brothers and sisters. Gilani reiterated that Pakistan was firmly committed to its support for the Palestinian

The acting president highlighted the significance of enhancing people-topeople contacts including exchanging Parliamentary delegations to further strengthen bonds of friendship between the two brotherly countries.

with the broader region.3 Towards the end, he The ambassador thanked the Government of noted with satisfaction that Iran for its warm hospital-Pakistan was the fifth-largity in facilitating Pakistani est trading partner of Iran Zaireeen who visit Iranian last year and stressed the religious sites every year.



emony of the International Shanghai Organization, people are standing at the Faizabad bus station to go to their native areas.

NDMA hosts national conference on Humanitarian Response for Gaza, Lebanon

ISLAMABAD (APP): manitarian partners and the The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Friday convened a National Conference on Humanitarian Response for the war-ravaged people of Gaza and Lebanon under the directions of non, emphasizing the ur-Prime Minister Shehbaz

vened at National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) at NDMA Headquarters which was chaired by Federal Minister for Planning and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal along with Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Atta Tarrar, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Cheema, PM's Advisor on Political Affairs, Rana Sanaullah Federal Secretaries and representatives from the media, NGOs, and international NGOs, a news release said.

The primary objective mobilize support from hu-

community for relief efforts in Gaza and Lebanon.

Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the severe humanitarian needs arising from the ongoing crises in Palestine and Lebagent necessity to extend support to the affected Government of Pakistan's commitment to aiding the people in distress and underscored the importance of partnerships with humanitarian organizations and the people of Pakistan to amplify these efforts.

Minister Iqbal announced the establishment of a special account titled "Prime Minister Relief Fund for Gaza and Lebanon," created under the Prime Minister's directives to gather and channelize aid from the people of Pakistan for those in Gaza and Lebanon. The Chairman NDMA provided an overview of of the conference was to the humanitarian assistance dispatched to Gaza



belt at Taramri Chowk with beautiful artificial flowers and fancy lights in preparation for upcoming the 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in the Federal Capital.

beautification drive for SCO Summit symbolize Islamabad's

locations throughout the

commitment to hosting international events in style and with grandeur. The city's main roads,

intersections, and public spaces are being adorned with seasonal flowers, adding a burst of color and life to the urban landscape. Iconic figures, includ-

ing peacocks, butterflies, and globes, have been installed, reflecting themes of peace, unity, and progress.

CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa expressed his satisfaction with the ongoing progress.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Dost Ali Jeesar, presiding over a meeting of the Senate Committee on rules of procedure and privileges at Parliament House Islamabad.

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Saturday October 12, 2024

Disaffected voices

A fresh stand-off is brewing between the state, and the recently banned PTM, principally over the tribal jirga that had been planned for today by the latter in KP. Both the centre and the KP government have made it clear that the outfit cannot proceed with the gathering, while there have been violent clashes between PTM supporters and law enforcers, with the group saying that three of its activists have been killed.

Moreover, the interior minister held a presser on Wednesday offering a few carrots — but mostly sticks — to the PTM. Mohsin Nagvi said that talks could be held in a "proper manner", but that the state would not tolerate incitement against institutions. While it is hoped that a peaceful resolution to this impasse is found, the state must ask itself why such movements emerge in the first place, and what mistakes made by successive rulers aggravate the situation in what is sometimes referred to as the country's 'peripheries'.

Looking at KP and the former Fata region, from where the PTM gathers most of its support, this part of Pakistan — especially areas close to the Afghan border — have experienced violence, displacement, and militancy ever since the 'war on terror' arrived in this region over two decades ago. Moreover, lack of development, and claims of state excesses, have added tional 400 attached depart- they have also become emfuel to the fires of discontent. ments of 650,000 personnel, and autonomous armies of unskilled peons,

It is these factors, amongst others, which led to the rise of the PTM. Similar factors are spaces. Excluding the cost responsible for the popularity the of groups such as the Baloch Yakjehti Committee in Balochistan. In fact, many of the BYC's grievances mirror those of the PTM. Baloch activists have for years been calling for the state to deliver to them their constitutional rights, particularly when it comes to the issue of enforced disappearances. But it is not just the peripheries that are verbal agreement implies

The PTI's protest campaign treaty, an end to family — which finds most resonance in Punjab and urban KP—can lise to meet at a certain be traced to the state's efforts time, it entails a firm to cancel the party and cut its leadership down to size.

Instead of considering all these and other critical voices ried out; the former is a as threats, the state needs to treat them as opportunities, hear out the disaffected populations, and find a democratic way forward. Yet it must be said that all movements and political parties must remain pression of intent or depeaceful and respect the law; while legitimate criticism of state institutions is kosher, incitement to violence or rebellion against organs of the state can simply not be condoned.

Meanwhile, the state of Reckoning)" (17:34). should engage with critical voices, and refrain from forcibly silencing them, as this the door opens radicalisation, militancy, and separatist sentiments. For the sake of national harmony, disaffected groups both in the peripheries and the mainstream must be engaged in a spirit of conciliation and respect to prevent further divisions.

Faisal Bari

Sometime ago, I had to apply for a visit visa to a country that required a 'police certificate' as well. This was the first time I had heard of the police certificate. I asked around and was told that the police in Lahore had Khidmat Centres and I could go to anyone of them and apply for a certificate. I did exactly that.

On the day I did not have to teach in the afternoon, I reached a Khidmat Centre at about 2pm. There was a long queue of some 45 men waiting to submit their applications. It was hot and all had to queue under the sun. I stood for a couple of hours and then came back. In the two hours that I had been there, the line outside had barely moved. I realised there was no way I would be able to submit my application before closing

the Khidmat Centre opening time in the morning. There were still some service, while citizens point where most of they spend on going to ances will remain. In a

fore me. I waited for about three hours and then had to leave as I had a class to teach. In those three hours, the documents of only seven to eight people in the men's line

how many got through among the women. On both days, the men had to queue in the sun with no shade overhead. It was the height of summer and there was no water cooler installed nearby that could allow them to have a drink. The Khidmat Centre is supposed to help people. Why do we make it so

hard for people to access

khidmat?

Eventually, I got the report and a police officer to whom I wrote about this was very kind and not only had a shade and a water cooler installed at the centre, but also had the police double the number of desks checking applications so that the processing time about 30 minutes before could be shortened. But

of such services everywhere. A friend told me that he had to submit some documents in a Gulf country where he was asked to have them verified by the Ministry of appeared to have been Foreign Affairs, the processed. I am not sure country's embassy in Pakistan and then the Pakistani embassy in that country. This means a lot of time and effort in of-

fices that are not really

designed for dealing with

and facilitating people.

But it had to be done, and

time and effort were ex-

pended on it. Look at the issue of degree verification in Pakistan. My university gives me a degree after years of work. If I apply to the public sector or abroad I have to get my degree 'verified' from the Higher Education Commission (HEC), and in the case of applications abroad, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well. Most of these pro-

this is one centre and one that we have arrived at a

cesses are neither online

nor very quick.

For the people? 30 people in the line be- need to go for hundreds those inside Pakistan and especially those outside the country do not trust the documents we submit. They feel they need

layers of verifications and attestations before they accept the documents, and us, as trustworthy. We have not reached this stage in a day and will not get out of it in a day either. But we can at the very least work towards making the process of obtaining attestations and verifications smoother. Unfortunately, we are not doing that either.

Why does HEC need to verify degrees in this day and age? All universities in Pakistan are now sufficiently online. Why can they not submit the list of the students and their degrees to HEC at the time of graduation and then give or send the verified/ attested degrees to the student. If need be, they can charge the students for the service.

This will save the hassle of verification go-One understands ing forward. It will also save students the time

HEC and getting the verification done. Since it would be a university-to-HEC transaction, the HEC and universities can work out the details to make the process as smooth as possible.

This could be done

for some years once the

system is set up. The universities have records of their graduates. And this is how they verify degrees when HEC asks about a particular candidate. The record of the last few years must be digital. The universities could send the names and degrees of the graduates from the last few years either in batches or in some other way permitted by the system — and HEC could attest/ verify them. People who received their degrees long ago, when their records were not digitised, might have to go through a longer process but for the bulk of degree holders, life could be made a lot easier. The queues outside HEC offices would

disappear quickly. Checks and bal-

incompetence, and fraud are high, and trust levels low, we will have multiple checks in all processes. We should work on getting trust levels up, but that is a medium- to longterm issue. It should be someone's job to make the checks as efficient as possible. Tolls are going to be levied when you enter certain roads and cross some bridges, but what should be the right number of booths and how many of them should work during rush hour is important to figure out. It can save citizens time and hassle. Firms are under pres-

society where corruption,

sure to engineer processes in order to compete and to attract and keep customers. For governments, this pressure does not exist, and given the nature of the state in Pakistan, citizen pressure is also not very effective. Not to design and implement better solutions is costly, counterproductive and reinforces the impression that the state and its organs just do not care. - Courtesy Dawn

Restructuring government

Shahid Kardar

We continue to operate old systems of governance, with the government performing functions beyond what should be its staple role. The trend has been for structures to grow, despite many tasks having become redundant. And this, despite the challenges of rapidly changing technological and global environments and the increased presence and capability of the private sector to perform various roles more efficiently.

Although enough lesons learned have suggested that empowered and truly representative local governments deliver basic social services, we persist with bloated federal and provincial governments.

Even after the 18th Amendment, under which several functions were transferred to the provinces, we still maintain a large federal government with 43 divisions, an addiorganisations with 520,000 also occupying prime, poorly utilised commercial of losses of, or subsidies to,

organisations and the opportunity cost of office and residential buildings, over Rs750 billion is spent annually on functions actually reassigned to the provinces, on intra-provincial schemes and on agencies and activities whose cost should be shared by the provinces

Drive down Blue Area in Islamabad and one can see government-funded organisations with exotic names, but with few in government knowing what functions were mandated to them, let alone those they actually perform. Any reduction in divisions (and associated departments) is opposed by politicians and bureaucrats; the former seek ministerial positions and the latter secretaries positions

The case of the provincial governments is even more disconcerting. Not only are they doling out all kinds of allowances to those on their payrolls. chowkidars drivers and clerical and supervisory staff, while lacking personnel with adequate domain knowledge. We find, for exautonomous ample, that Punjab, which come is that the pension liability of the centre and provinces, excluding such liabilities of other statesponsored entities such as public universities, has crossed Rs30 trillion.

This structure has contributed to the state's huge footprint on the economy. According to a PIDE study, it is almost 67 per cent of the economy, with 122 regulatory agencies constraining economic activity and raising the cost of doing business by operating excessive, obsolete regulatory frameworks with little clarity on why an activity needs control.

Hence, the time has come to restructure government for improved service delivery; this requires the government's role to be redefined, which would determine its size and skill mix. The best way to explain this is in terms of what the government should neither do nor pay for (for example, Utility Stores, banks, and airlines), should do and pay for (for example, defence, foreign policy, taxation and monetary policy, justice, law and order, natural monopolies, and physical and social infrastructure that the

had 22 departments in market and private sector 2000, now has 48! One outcannot provide), and should pay for but not necessarily do it itself (for example, many social and economic services).

Aligning structures and skillsets with such an objective would depend on the type of basic social and economic services that can be delivered efficiently and effectively, directly or through outsourcing by the appropriate government tier. This would need a combination of reorganised structures, delegation of administrative and financial powers and re-engineering of business processes and work-flow through simplification and automation with each tier of government and relevant ministry independently designing the performance of its functions through its own emplovees, having its own pay structure and harnessing a growing range of more efficient, cost-effective lo-

cal outsourcing options. Rejigging a new federal framework (proposed earlier) to address institutional fragmen-

establishing a strategic direction, policymaking and standard setting in collaboration with the provinces through an effective Council of Common Interests. This thinning — mainly Grades 1-16-because of their sheer numbers and share of salary outlay should be complemented by a) the surrender of all vacant posts, and b) finalisation of attached departments, agencies and autonomous organisations to be liquidated wound up (because of redundancy). Only a handful of autonomous organisations can be privatised — also because some would become monopolies without unbundling or retooling of the delivery mode of goods and

For the two proposals above, we should conhave completed 25 years of cult to retire them, they should be placed in a 'surplus pool', thereby saving tation and worsening trust on rent, utilities, mainte-

cropped by two-thirds. Its role should be restricted to governments.

Reducing the number of agencies and personnel, complemented digitalising and modernising governance systems and their capacity will help in the diminution of the various layers of processing approvals for policy actions, and conducting activities and transactions. This would improve resource and functional allocations and administrative efficiency, leading to lower management costs.

The defence establishment needs to shed its noncore and commercial activities - NLC, FWO and projects of the Fauii Foundation and Welfare Trust. There is also a need to pare down conventional forces and review other non-combat expenditure, such as the continuous upgrading of a wide range of posts to acsider retiring those who commodate the growing numbers of officer cadre service (protecting pension entitlements), while ban-military-related pensioners, government's role and re-casting the Constitution for it becomes politically diffi-it becomes politically diffithree-fourths of annual federal pension allocations. Soldiers and even medical personnel such as lab assisdeficit will require nance of cars, etc. A similar tants, radiologists, etc, are Islamabad's size to be exercise needs to be conretired at the age of 40.

Keeping promises

Nikhat Sattar

In our everyday lives as well as in matters of great import, such as governance and national and international dealings, human beings make promises. On a one-to-one basis, or collectively, the signature or stamp of a person or entity such as a government, or even a a commitment to a deed. Whether it be a peace or tribal feuds, or some-thing as minor as a promcommitment on the side of the persons involved. A promise is distinct from intention. The latter may or may not be car-

This is the meaning that a promise holds for a true Muslim. The word has been used 151 times in the Quran, and tens of times Muslims have been enjoined to fulfil their word to another person. It is not merely an exsire, but a wholehearted communication meant to indicate that whatever is being said or written will be carried out as per the terms of commitment.

The Holy Quran states: "...and fulfil (every) engagement, for (every) engagement will be enquired into (on the Day Here, engagement means promise or a commitment.

In Islam, promises are of three types: the promises that God had made to human beings both in this life and the Day of Judgment; promise that all human souls made to God before coming to the world: that He was their Creator and one and only Lord; and promises that humans make to each other. Each of these three are sacred for they define the relationships between God and His cre-

ation and among the lat- of ethics that will demand ter. Breaking any of the latter two by human beings is to deny themselves the dignity, respect and courage that are the hall-

marks of humanity. Prophet (PBUH) is believed to have said: "The signs of a hypocrite are three: Whenever he speaks, he tells a lie; and whenever he promises, he breaks his promise" (Sahih Bukhari,

And yet, how easily and almost without missing a heartbeat do we break promises, both to each other and to God. For our promises to God are nothing but lip service and mechanical rituals without meaning and spirit, and our promises to each other are trivial and made to be broken. We commit to things we know we shall never do and sign papers knowing we shall default. From politics to simple trade, our commitments are

worth nothing at all. This is exactly what hypocrisy involves: saying something while meaning something different. At every level of Muslimhood, whether it be Muslim organisations, or diplomatic assurances of support and unity of brotherhood, or a casual promise to meet tomorrow, our actions are far from our intent.

It is often commented that keeping promises is a part of simple ethics and there is no need to bring Islam into the concept.

Anyone who thinks so is probably unaware of the difference between Muslims and the rest of the world. Muslims are supposed to be bound by the belief that they shall return to God and are accountable for whatever they have done in this life, for their real life begins after this one ends. A Muslim will, therefore, go through life with a code

justification for their deeds in front of God. And thus, each will be asked as to why they broke their promise, umpteen times at umpteen places, to umpteen people and to God Himself. One should, therefore, think many times before making promises, about whether one shall be able to fulfil them or

It has become a habit to make promises to do something or be somewhere and break such promises easily. One such example is our promise to be at a given place at a given time, including at ceremonies. Guests often arrive at an occasion hours later than the time of invitation.

The other side of hypocrisy is sycophancy. Sycophants tell lies; they exaggerate and often create larger-than-life images of whoever's virtues they extol, and defend the most appalling statement, policy or act as something that is beneficial for the people.

Two such examples are the bloated expenditure of government officials in the wake of the current economic crisis in Pakistan, and the repression of human rights in the country. Promises made to defend democracy and human dignity are brought to naught.

The ever-increasing tide of extreme religiosity, demonstrated so ably in devising intricate ways to prove the 'Islamic' nature of the state is one that is breaking each of the two types of promises: to God and to each other. Hypocrites and sycophants are aplenty and seldom it is that a promise is seen to have been made and fulfilled.

Promises are a serious matter. If only we, as a nation, could understand this. -- Courtesy

Punjab has the key **Aasim Sajjad**

To say that Punjab is Pakistan's heartland is to state a simple fact. Even if one were to separate the Seraiki belt from the administrative unit that is the province. Puniabis are still the country's single biggest ethnic-linguistic group. Punjab retains control over the single largest share of economic resources and is the most politically powerful prov-

Akhtar

Punjab has long been the crucial cog that has sustained military hegemony. Not only has a majority of the military rankand-file and top brass been recruited from Punjab, but barring exceptional historical moments, a critical mass of Punjab's people has provided consent to the national security state.

Is this consensus now fracturing? The political tug-of-war between the establishment and the PTI has certainly been accompanied by a greater and far more vocal critique of the former's role in Pakistan from within Punjabi society than at any time in the recent past, especially amongst younger generations. Interrogating this contradiction is important not just to gauge what the future may hold for the PTI but for Pakistan's historic militarised structure of

power generally. Elite wrangling or popular challenge: A notable feature of the current political imbroglio is fragmentation of Punjab's political elite. Urbane DHA dwellers hailing from army families and dynasties like the Chaudhrys of Gujrat are positioned against the current top brass. Meanwhile, somewhat autonomously of the ruling-class rebels, working-class Punjabi youth have flocked to the PTI's

as vociferous in their antiestablishment rhetoric.

If palace intrigues take yet another turn and Punjab's ruling-class rebels currently on the outside of the power equation are let back in, will anti-establishment sentiment amongst young, working people also dissipate? There are no guarantees in politics, and the criminalising natio-nal asanswer will be determined by other related questions.

Economic factor: It is generally understated that the anti-establishment vote cast by many young people on Feb 8 was as much about the economy as anything else. The selective but successful argument peddled by the PTI was that inflation, unemployment and economic hardship were and BYC are subject to largely absent during Imran Khan's reign and that the establishment committed a grave sin by booting out the PTI government and bringing back the Sharifs and Bhuttos. What is missing in

this story is that the establishment's power is not just based on its manipulation of mainstream political parties, but also on an historic economic arrangement that would have to be undone if things are truly to change in this country. This establishment-centric economic orbudgetary allocations to defence, huge hidden subsidies provided to business entities like the NLC and FWO as well as the establishment's broader footprint in natural resource grabs and profitable sectors such as real Only when estate. Punjab's disaffected working-class youth get behind a substantive project to displace the bloated national security apparatus with a welfare-oriented political economy, and redistribute wealth away from the militarised ruling

cause, united in their adu- class as a whole, will we lation for Imran Khan and see the crystallisation of a substantive anti-establishment politics in Punjab. The national ques-

tion: The final piece of this puzzle has to do with Punjab's relationship with the rest of Pakistan's ethnic nations. Establishment hegemony has been based on a dominant ideology that has privileged Islam Ûrdu sertion by Bengali, Bal-o--ch, Sin-d-hi and other ethnic groups. Alongside ques-tions of ident-i--ty, the oppression of non-Punjabi peripheries has pivoted on the allocation of economic re---s-ou-rees and control over the state ap-

At a time when movements like the PTM intense state repression, effectively repeating the cycle of history that started with the contentious accession of Kalat state, jailing of Bacha Khan and more, the question is whether Punjab's youthful masses are willing and able to extend their fledgling anti-establishment sentiment to the ethnic peripheries and align themselves with the broader demand to end a colonial social contract and start afresh. This may be the hardest sell of all, but if there is a future to Pakider includes ever-inelastic stani politics beyond palace intrigues, the core-periphery divide must be addressed, not least of all because ecological crises bind all geographical regions together whether we ike it or not.

Punjab has never been a monolith. Anti-establishment politics has always survived in Pakistan's heartland despite military hegemony. As this hegemony frays, Punjab's working people hold the key to how our putatively collective future unfolds. -- Courtesy

India, Afghanistan lands used against Pakistan: Governor Kundi

Khyber Faisal Karim Kundi, on Friday, emphasized the importance of restoring peace and stability in the province, adding India and Afghanistan lands are being used against Pakistan.

Addressing a press conference at the Governor House, he called for collective efforts to lift the region out of darkness and addressed the urgent need to manage internal affairs

Kundi highlighted the ongoing challenges, saying, "Our province is facing serious circumstances with

rising incidents of acknowledged terrorism. I have always advocated for peace, and the law and order situation is deteriorating.

He urged both the federal and provincial governments to take the situation seriously and implement measures to improve security.

He mentioned recent political gatherings aimed province's issues, saying that a committee led by the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will engage with local representatives to present their demands to the federal government.

Governor

constructive role played by Federal Interior Minister Naqvi, who showed flexibility in accepting recommendations during these discussions.

Kundi reiterated the significance of dialogue and reconciliation, referencing the ideals of former President Asif Ali Zardari, addressing the who has consistently advocated for peaceful negotiations.

He also encouraged local leaders to voice their parliamentary representation, asserting, "We will support their

Furthermore, reflected on the historical hospitality extended to Afghan refugees, urging them to contribute to peace and stability in the region. Addressing the rise in

terrorist activities, he reaffirmed government's position that India and Afghanistan must prevent its territory from being used against Pakistan. The press conference was attended by Jalal Khan, a member of the Provincial Assembly from the Pakistan Muslim

League-Nawaz.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a cabinet meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

stations.

Azma calls for laws to regulate social media LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has stated that there is a need to establish laws and

regulations governing the use of social media in the She emphasized that the humiliation and defamation of women on social media should not be tolerated. "I am fighting not just for myself but for all women who do not have access to the courts," she said during a media

Court here on Friday. Azma revealed that the main accused in her case is connected to a service that her husband

briefing at the Lahore High

operates. "To date, over 500 mobile SIMs have been issued in the accused's name, which are being used to blackmail people. This is more dangerous and cruel than one can imagine. They present themselves as innocent while victimizing others in court," she added.

"We do not have fake accounts, nor do we intend to create them. I simply want to ensure that what happened to me does not happen to anyone else. Laws and regulations must be established for social media use. Brazil took action when a similar issue arose with X (formerly known as Twitter) for not franchise of a mobile responding. This is my



FAISALABAD: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), inspects the Benazir Income Support Program Registration Center at Al Fateh Sports Complex, Salimi Chowk.

IGP signs MoU for healthcare discounts for police

LAHORE Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman signed Anwar memorandum understanding (MoU) with a private hospital (Hameed

Latif) for treatment discounts for the Punjab Police employees. A ceremony in this regard was held at the Central Police Office on Friday. A Punjab Police spokesperson said that police employees and their families will receive a

discount of 15 to 27 per

cent on medical expenses

across all departments.

discount on OPD services, while police employees and their families will receive a 22 per cent discount on OPD services. Police employees and their families undergoing treatment at the hospital will receive discounts of 15 to 22 per cent on overall expenses. A 25 per cent discount will be offered to police employees at the Lahore Institute of Fertility and

Endocrinology Centre.
IG Punjab expressed gratitude management of the private hospital for their support Families of police martyrs will receive a 27 per cent welfare of the police force.

MNA calls for SCO common currency to boost regional cooperation

a need to build a consensus to introduce a common currency among the SCO countries to facilitate trade and strengthen economic

Kamran, while talking to

Sehar expressed these views in reference to as

LAHORE (APP): There is Heads of Government meeting in Islamabad on

> economies and bring together cultures. Let's utilize this opportunity to unite the people of this region and ensure economic prosperity for all. "United She said this unique

> idea should be echoed in the background of sentiments cooperation and

Sindh cabinet allows PSCM to maintain waiting list, strengthens SHOs powers KARACHI (APP): Sindh management of police Management) Regulations,

Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, presiding over a Cabinet meeting, called on the federal government to stop power to the Station House joining of various distribution companies Officers (SHOs) all over recommended candidates from penalising citizens make necessary expenditures to run their under the pretext of line make losses, approved the Sindh Public Service

Commission's proposal to maintain a waiting list of successful candidates for future vacancies, created 434 clinical care positions in teaching hospitals, sanctioned Rs. 367.5 million for a new 36-bed hospital in Taiser Town, and empowered SHOs with Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO)

terrorism court (ATC) on

Friday handed over an

accused involved in the

Jinnah House attack case

to police on a 10-day

produced the accused,

singer Umar Aftab Malik,

before ATC Judge Irfan

Haider and sought a 30-day

physical remand. The

investigating officer stated

that the accused was

involved in the Jinnah

House attack case and his

custody was required for

for the accused opposed

the remand plea and

requested the court to

discharge his client from

the case, arguing that if the

accused was involved, he

should have been arrested

the arguments from both

parties, the court reserved

its decision for a short

Arora

celebrates

birthday

with staff

celebration was held at the

Human Rights Department on the occasion of Provincial Minister for

Minorities Affairs, Sardar

Ramesh Singh Arora's

strong participation from

the department's officials

minister cut the cake

alongside his staff, who

surprised him with a

delightful party. During the

event, the staff offered

heartfelt wishes for his

expressed his gratitude to

long and healthy life.

Ramesh

The event saw a

provincial

birthday.

and staff.

The

LAHORE (APP):

Upon completion of

However, the counsel

investigation.

Earlier, the police

physical remand.

Friday, was attended by provincial ministers, advisors, the Chief Secretary, the Chairman P&D and other concerned officers.

Sindh Public Service Commission (SPSC) proposed an amendment in SPSC (Recruitment (Recruitment Commission.

police stations in the

The cabinet meeting, held at CM House on

public interest.

2023 regarding the The Cabinet also maintenance of a waiting approved the Drawing & list' to fill in the vacancies Disbursing (DDO) Powers arising as a result of non-Sindh so that they can during the recruitment process. The amendment was proposed in Regulation No.148 to enable the Commission to maintain a waiting list of next-in-line successful candidates to be further recommended to the concerned department if some posts remain unfilled during the same recruitment process. The cabinet was told that a similar provision already exists in the Federal Public Service

powers for effective BISP registration starts, Jinnah House attack: **ATC** remands transparency to be ensured accused in police custody at all levels: Robina Khalid AHORE (APP): An anti-

FAISALABAD (APP): and said that BISP was Registration for Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) has been started and transparency would be ensured at its all levels, said Senator Robina Khalid Chairperson BISP.

Talking to APP during her visit to BISP Registration Center at al-Fateh Sports Complex their complaints she Friday, she said that improve facilities for the eligible people could get them registered by visiting BISP offices at Tehsil and District level.

She said that there were 9.3 million people registered with BISP and now its scope would be expanded to 10 million people who were unable to earn sufficient income to meet their expenditures.

She paid tribute to the visionary leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

initiated to improve life standard of the poor by providing them financial assistance and now its payment process is being improved to ensure transparency. She also interacted with the women present at registration center and after hearing Saleemi Chowk here on directed the center staff to visitors. Later, she also visited BISP Center Dhuddiwala and reviewed the payment process. Some women complained that they were forced to pay Rs.500/- as bribe before getting BISP support money. Therefore, the BISP Chairperson took serious

notice on these complaints and handed over an accused to the police who had allegedly received illegal gratification from the BISP



FAISALABAD: Chairperson Punjab Chief Minister's Directorate of Inspection and Monitoring, Evaluation and Feedback Brigadier Retired Babar Alauddin is addressing the press conference in the Committee Room of the Deputy Commissioner's Office.

41 drivers of Rescue Sindh complete their training

(APP):

Emergency

Services, Dr. Rizwan Naseer, took the oath from 41 passing-out rescuer drivers and congratulated them on the successful completion of their professional training and emergency vehicles for becoming part of this carefully and stay within life-saving emergency service. The passing-out emphasizing the critical parade was held at role of Rescue Drivers in Emergency Services responding to emergencies Academy (Rescue 1122), Lahore here on Friday in which the Secretary Emergency Service, Dr. Rizwan Naseer was the chief guest. The Administrator Emergency Services Academy, Head of

LAHORE

Secretary

Medical Wing, Deputy Director Fire & Rescue, senior Officers from Emergency Services Headquarters & Academy also attended the passing out ceremony. Large number of trainee rescuers from different provinces and instructors also since its inception.

witnessed the passing out parade. These rescuers have been trained for the Emergency Service in Sindh from Emergency Services Academy, Lahore.

Dr Rizwan Naseer advised them to drive speed limit, and ensuring the timely transport of critical patients to hospitals. Addressing

passing-out ceremony, Dr.

Rizwan Naseer share the journey of the Emergency Services since its inception to the latest achievement of getting UN-INSARAG certification and response to the Türkiye earthquake. He also shared the performance of Emergency Services, which includes rescued over 15.8 million victims of emergencies



represents voice of masses LAHORE Governor Punjab Sardar Khan, to a query, said the Saleem Haider Khan has PPP has neither committed said that PPP Chairman an unconstitutional act Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's throughout its history nor stance on the creation of did it broker legislation for constitutional courts an individual, adding that represents collective voice PPP is the only political of the masses in the

Talking to the media men at the residence of deceased journalist Ikhlaq Bajwa here on Friday evening, he said that while the favored party (I need of the hour, adding a carrot. From the that litigants had to move martyrdom of PPP from pillar to post in search Chairperson Benazir the third generation of a

the constitutional court takes care of the constitutional matters, the Supreme Court will be able to number of pending cases," of Supreme Court of he said, adding that people Pakistan, PPP leadership have to wait decades for delayed is justice denied.

Sardar Saleem Haider party which has no blocs in bureaucracy, judiciary,

"History is witness to the fact that PPP has always received a stick constitutional courts are will not name) was handed of justice while justice Bhutto to incarceration of remains a far cry even for President Asif Ali Zardari and

disqualification from office of Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, PPP has always faced the wrath," he added.

He said whoever dispense with the large becomes the Chief Justice will have to stand in decision on a case of one deference before the court marla of land and justice from the morning till



HYDERABAD: Members of Civil Society are holding rally in favor of Pakistan Armed Forces.

KMC to launch training program for Certified **Nursing Assistants: Mayor**

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that under the City Institute of Health Sciences that has been established in the Karachi Institute of Heart Diseases, the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation is launching a training program for Certified Nursing Assistants and Certified Nursing Aides.

This program will offer one-and two-year diplomas, with 100 percent scholarships for participants.

In a statement on Friday, he said that the aim of this program is to provide modern training for nursing staff in Karachi's medical institutions, including expertise in accidents, emergency and cardiac nursing. The availability of such skilled nursing staff will enhance the quality of medical services in KMC hospitals and other public and private hospitals in of nursing in Karachi to Karachi, ensuring that take advantage of this citizens have access to modern and quality healthcare facilities, he said.

He said that in the start of admissions for the one-year and two-year diploma programs for Certified Assistants and Nursing Aides at the City Institute of Health Sciences, which operates under the KMC.

He noted that the KMC Institute of Health Sciences is registered with the Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council and affiliated with the Sindh Nurses Examination Board to ensure the best training for diploma program participants under the guidance of these important institutions. Additionally, registered nursing staff working in various hospitals in Karachi can apply for a one-year Post-Basic Specialty Program, which will provide them with advanced training in emergency and cardiac nursing. He encouraged young students associated with the noble profession

program and secure their

future by obtaining nursing

certifications

According to the notification, Assistant

(ACs).

Commissioner Gojra Noman Ali Dogar has been made an OSD [officer on special duty], while Kamran Ashraf has been given transferred as Gojra Ayesha Badar has

15 ACs

transferred

LAHORE (APP): The

Punjab government on

Friday transferred 15

assistant commissioners

been posted as AC Hazro while services of Khurram Mukhtar has been handed over to the C&W. Jawad Hussain has been appointed Assistant Commissioner Quaidabad and Ahsan Mumtaz as AC

Ghulam Fatima has been appointed as AC Sambarial, while Ms Sana has been made an OSD after her transfer as AC Bahawalpur city.

L i k e w i s e , Muhammad Shakib Sarwar has been given the post of AC Bahawalpur City, and Muhammad İbrahim Khar has been posted as AC Liaquatabad.

ANF recovers 75 kg drugs in

8 operations RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting eight operations across the country managed to recover 75 kg drugs worth over Rs 2,5 million and arrested nine suspects including two women, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday.

He informed that 1200 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused arrested from Sector, I-11/ 3, Islamabad.

9 kg opium and 3 kg 600 grams hashish were recovered from a vehicle rounded up near the motorway toll plaza, Islamabad.

250 grams hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused netted in Korangi area in Karachi.

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

Police launch public councils to enhance community policing in Malakand

SWAT (APP): Deputy Inspector General of Police Malakand Division (DIG) Irfanullah Khan has launched an initiative to form Citizen-Police Liaison Committees across the Malakand Division, including Swat Valley. Talking to APP on

Friday at his office, Saidu Sharif, the DIG said that these committees aim to strengthen ties between police and communities, bridging communication gaps, and improving law and

These views were expressed by Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Member of National Assembly (MNA) Sehar October 15 and 16. She said the SCO has the potential to bridge

we stand, divided we fall,' MNA Sehar Kamran said.



LAHORE: Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan, Secretary Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Amir Habib and Director Passport Khalid Abbas, offering Dua after inauguration ceremony of passport desk for members Punjab assembly at old Punjab assembly building, in the Provincial Capital.

skill training but it is not

provide targeted training

so that these children could

get respectable jobs

without any hassle, she

question, she said that

currently two banks are

authorized to disburse

financial assistance which

was causing problems for

the large numbers of

was contemplating to

authorize 6 banks for this

purpose in addition to

transferring approved

stipend in the bank

beneficiaries. without any

She said that BISP

beneficiaries.

Responding to a

Aleem Khan advises

Saudi delegation to invest in Pak communications sector

Investment, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Friday advised Saudi business community to public invest in Pakistan's projects, particularly in the communications sector.

Saudi business delegates headed by KSA Minister for Investment Sheikh Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Al Faleh, Round Table Ministerial Conference was held in which both the countries reviewed in to further strengthen bilateral ties in (G2G)

Government relations, said a news country. He offered Saudi Investment Minister along delegation to come forward and invest in different sector organizations. He said that there are many attractive and profitable projects for

Saudi investment in During the visit of Pakistan. The government welcomed all kinds of partnership investment in Pakistan from Saudi Arabia even in the mode of Public Private Partnership. He invited Saudi investors to invest in the profitable projects like M6 and M9 motorways to develop communication sector on

modern lines. The two sides discussed mutual

On this occasion Saudi Investment Minister expressed special interest in the presentation of Minister Abdul Aleem Khan and said that doing something for the people

has always been the first priority of the KSA Government and will continue in the future as well to make more Joint

Abdul Aleem Khan informed the delegation that in order to reduce the routes easier, we want to connect the Karachi Port with the Motorway, while the



Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs) at the Finance Division, Islamabad.

Australia to provide AUD. 3 million for water project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Australia will provide AUD. 3 million to Pakistan for 'Climate Resilient and Adaptive Water Allocation in Pakistan' project which is to be completed in a period of five years (by

After the approval by the Federal Minister for achieving Economic Affairs, Ahad Cheema, Secretary EAD, management, and equitable Dr. Kazim Niaz signed a Subsidiary Agreement on the project with Chief Executive of the Australian Center for International

Agricultural Research

(ACIAR), Prof. Wendy Umberger here Friday. release issued by Economic Affairs Division (EAD), it is a research project aiming to help improve canal

water reliability through improved water allocation decisions and practices in Pakistan by updating the Water Apportionment Accord Tool to include mid-season planning and operations, exploring onfarm water storage options.

All this is aimed at climate resilience, adaptive water use for better social and economic outcomes for farming communities, the press release added.

On the occasion, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs thanked the Australian government extending According to press continuous support to the ase issued by Economic government of Pakistan in its efforts towards development of agricultural sector of the country.

TDAP organizes national exporters training program

Independent Report QUETTA: The Trade

Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), in collaboration with the Taraqee Foundation and (GRASP), successfully organized the highly anticipated National Training Exporters Program (NETP) in Quetta.

The event, long awaited by the business community, attracted significant attention from new and aspiring exporters across the province. It was regarded as a crucial step in equipping local entrepreneurs with the tools and knowledge necessary to compete globally.

Opening the session, Mr. Idrees, Program Officer (NETP), delivered welcome remarks and set the tone for an impactful day. Ms. Afshan Uroos, Deputy Manager at TDAP, led the technical session with a dynamic presentation. She introduced four distinct modules aimed at converting export inquiries into successful export transactions and shared a detailed sectoral analysis of Balochistan. Ms. Uroos the Taraqee Foundation,

potential in sectors such as minerals, (particularly apples and dates), and livestock, while identifying key international markets such as the Middle East, China and Central Asia.

highly valued for its

Her presentation was

practical and regionspecific insights, offering participants tangible strategies to boost their export efforts.Mr. Zain-Ul-Abideen, GSP Officer at TDAP Quetta, played a central role in organizing the event and facilitating discussions throughout the day. His strategic input and leadership were recognized by participants who appreciated his efforts in ensuring the smooth execution of the program. Mr. Zain-Ul-Abideen engaged with attendees, answering questions and sharing valuable insights on Balochistan's unique strengths in international His involvement helped foster an environment of learning and collaboration. The session concluded with remarks from Mr. Hubdar

Ali, Programme Manager at



RAWALPINDI: Women are busy in buying secondhand clothes in Jumma Bazaar at Ganjmandi area in the city.

investment projects.

SBP injects

Rs8.62 trillion

into market

KARACHI (APP): The

State Bank of Pakistan

(SBP) injected Rs8,623.85

billion into the market

through a reverse repo purchase Open Market

Operation (OMO) on

results issued here, the SBP

conducted an Open Market

Operation, Reverse Repo

October 11, 2024, for 7-

day tenor cumulatively

offering an amount of

Rs3,722.7 billion at the rate

of return ranging between

17.56 to 17.62 percent while 15 bids amounting to

Rs4,901.15 billion were received for the 28-day

tenor at the rate of return

ranging between 17.56 to

The central bank accepted all 23 bids for 7-day tenor and 15 quotes

for 28-day tenor at a

Compliant Mudarabah-

based Open Market Operation for the 7-day

and 28-day tenors but no

bid was received for both

PSX gains

30 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the

Pakistan Stock Exchange

(PSX) gained 30.18 points

on Friday, showing a

nominal positive change of

0.04 percent, closing at

85,483.40 points against

85,453.22 points on the

A total of 560,740,534 shares were

traded during the day as compared to 503,750,595

trading day, whereas the

price of shares stood at Rs

26.121billion against Rs.

27.912 billion on the last

companies transacted their

shares in the stock market

130 of them recorded gains

and 251 sustained losses.

whereas the share price of

54 companies remained

companies were Hub

Power Company XD with 58,159,761 shares

at Rs 106.90 per share, PTCL with 51,351,566 shares at Rs 15.70 per share and WorldCall

45,693,545 c... 1.18 per share. Pakistan

Limited witnessed a

maximum increase of Rs

153.70 per share price, closing at Rs 6,931.45,

whereas the runner-up

Rafhan Maize Products

Company Limited with Rs

116.35 rise in its per share price to Rs 7,144.35.

45,693,545 shares at Rs

The three top trading

shares the previous

As many as 435

last trading day.

trading day.

unchanged.

Telecom

Meanwhile, SBP also

Shariah

Project.

17.56% rate of return.

conducted

the tenors.

According to OMO

Group photo on reception in honor of KSA Investment Minister, Sh. Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Al Faleh by Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization & Communications Abdul Aleem Khan in Islamabad. ECC allows additional export of 0.5 million MT of surplus sugar

ISLAMABAD (APP): meeting was attended Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet here on Friday approved export of 500,000 metric tonnes of surplus sugar keeping in view of availability of sufficient surplus stocks.

The surplus stock were available even after catering for the proposed and ongoing exports, the requirement for remaining two months of the ongoing crushing year, as well as maintenance of strategic reserves. The summary for the sugar exports was moved by the Ministry of Industries and Production to ECC, the meeting of which was chaired here by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, according to a press release issued by finance ministry.

Hussain; Minister for Power, Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari; Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema; Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Ali Pervaiz Malik, Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Chairman Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) along with federal Secretaries and senior officers from the concerned

Minister for Industries and

Production, Rana Tanveer

ministries and divisions. The meeting was told that as per data provided by Provinces and FBR, existing stock of sugar stood at 2.054 Million MT as on 30.09.2024, while total consumption during the last ten months of ss release issued by current crushing year 2023-24 staying at 5.456 Among others, the Million MT.

Finance Minister chairs CCoSOEs meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Muhammad Senator Aurangzeb chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs) here Friday.

The Committee considered a proposal by the Ministry of Planning, Purchase (Injection) on day and 28-day tenors and accepted 38 bids cumulatively amounting to Rs8,623.85 million The central bank received 23 bids for a 7-

Development and Special profit public owned organization working for enhancing resilience to natural disasters, as a strategic State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) under Company Limited.

Paragraph 9 of the SOEs (Ownership and Policy, Management) 2023. The Cabinet Committee reviewed the proposal and decided to declare the entity as an essential SOE, according o press release issued by finance ministry.

The Committee also considered and approved Development and Special Initiatives for submitted by the categorization of the Industries and Production National Disaster Risk Division for appointment on the Board of Directors two separate proposals of the Pakistan Industrial **Development Corporation** (PIDC) as well as the Board of Directors of the Pakistan Steel Fabricating

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Economic Affairs Dr. Kazim Niaz and CEO

Australian Center for International Agriculture Research Prof. Wendy

Umberger are signing Memorandum of Subsidiary Arrangement for a Water

6.4 billion, and the value of

increasing from Rs403

trillion to Rs547 trillion—

a growth of around 35% in

both volume and value, the

report stated adding that

the share of digital

payments by volume has

surged from 76% in FY23

attributed to the growing number of digital channel

users, facilitated by the

convenience and variety of

products offered through

mobile banking apps,

internet banking portals, and mobile wallets," the

highlights the pivotal role

of digital payments made

through mobile banking

apps and internet banking

collectively saw a 62%

increase in transactions

to 1,346 million, with the

of

transactions rising by

74% to Rs70 trillion.

The report also

which

these

This expansion is

to 84% in FY24.

SBP report said.

portals.

value

transactions

SBP says:

Share of digital

payments surged to 84% in FY-24

KARACHI (APP): The rising from 4.7 billion to

these

State Bank of Pakistan,

Friday, said that ongoing

Pakistan's payment landscape towards digital

payments underwent

significant advancements as

share of digital payments

surged to 84% during fiscal

Systems Review - FY24'

report issued here, attributed the continued

growth of digital payments

during the period from

July 2023 to June 2024

to the increasing

accessibility and adoption of digital

payment channels as

well as introduction of

new and innovative

products and services

offered by Electronic Money Institutions

(EMIs) and Branchless

have seen extraordinary

growth in FY24, with the

volume of transactions

The retail payments

Banking (BB) players.

The central bank, in

'Annual Payment

transformation

year 2023-24.

figure this year: Chairperson FAISALABAD (APP): gradually drag out for the country Chairperson Benazir registered families from abysmal poverty. She said that earlier institutions are providing

Waseela-e-Rozgar

it was abundant in its

nestling stage. "We are

again considering to

restart it by equipping

children

registered families

particularly girls to get

market-driven skills

with the support of BISP", she said and

added that the ultimate

objective of her visit to

FCCI was to identify

She said that this

Scheme" was launched but targeted. We would

added.

BISP beneficiaries to reach 10m

Income Support Program (BISP) Senator Ms. Rubina Khalid said that the number of BISP beneficiaries would jump to 10 million from existing 9.3 million by the end of this year as the Prime Minister had provided more funding

Talking to the media and addressing the business community in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), she said that the programme provides partial relief to the poorest of the poor families to bridge difference between income expenditures.

the areas where these children could be absorbed instantly. skilled human resource She said that she was could also start their own contemplating to promote businesses or could be accounts skilled development exported abroad to earn

program under BISP to precious foreign exchange human intervention

Gold prices up further by Rs 2,700 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 2,700 and was sold at Rs 273,900 on Friday compared to its sale at Rs 271,200 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 2,315 to Rs 234,825 from Rs 232,510 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs 215,256 from Rs 213, 134, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs 3,050 and Rs 2,614.88, respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$27 to \$2,640 from \$2,613, Association reported.

Shipping

activity at

Port Qasim

Shipping activity was report at the port where six

ships, Atlantic Ibis, Hyundai Hong Kong, Wan Hai-316, Christos-K, Bristol Trader and Yasa

Aysen scheduled to load/

offload Container, Cement,

Chemicals and Coalberthed

at Qasim International

Container Terminal, Multi-

Purpose Terminal, Engro

Vopak Terminal and

Pakistan International Bulk

Terminal respectively on

ships, African Harrier, PVT Aurora, Marangas Klymnos and Berge Catherine scheduled to

Chemicals, LNG and Coal

are also arrived at outer

anchorage the port on

today morning.

A total of eleven ships

were engaged at PQA

berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three

ships, Wan Hai-316, Hyundai Hong Kong and

Al-Wajbah left the port on

today morning, while four

more ships, Phoenician-M, Abu-Al-Abyad, Petrl-1

and Helsinki Eagle are

expected to sail on today.

Meanwhile four more

Thursday.

load/offload

KARACHI



partnership to bring Saudi expertise to Pakistan ISLAMABAD (APP): A Saudi and Pakistani sides

memorandum understanding was signed between Saudi Arabia's Al Baik Food System Company and Gas and Oil Pakistan Ltd (Go) under the Saudi Ministry of Investment. Reflecting Saudi

Vision 2030 to enhance exports of rich national expertise and open new horizons for Saudi commercial expansion globally, this agreement would explore the possibility of establishing a strategic partnership to set up and operate Al Baik restaurants in Pakistan, marking a key step in Al Baik's expansion strategy across the country.

The signing ceremony was held under the patronage of Saudi Minister of Investment, Engineer Khalid Al-Falih, and high-ranking both redelegations from both globally.

This event is the result of the Saudi Ministry of Investment's persistent efforts to empower Saudi brands to expand internationally and enhance the Kingdom's standing in the global economic arena.

Go, in which Saudi Aramco has acquired a 40 percent stake, is a leading player in Pakistan's oil and sector. This partnership underscores Kingdom's commitment

diversifying its economy and creating new growth opportunities in foreign markets. This initiative highlights the crucial role played by the Saudi Ministry of Investment in realizing the objectives of Vision 2030 and reinforcing the Kingdom's position as a leading economic force both regionally and



PESHAWAR: Vendor arranging and displaying oranges to attract the customer at the fruit market.

Short term inflation eases by 0.08 percent

combined consumption the base year 2015-16 groups during the week =100 covers 17 urban groups during the week ended on October 10, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

under review in the abovementioned group was recorded at 318.91 points as compared to 319.17 points during the past

As compared to the corresponding week of last

combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 12.74 per cent. The weekly SPI with

centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure Likewise, SPI for the

312.91 points from last week's 313.20 points. The SPI consumption groups of Rs 17,732 to 22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517.

ISLAMABAD (APP): year, the SPI for the The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed a decrease of 0.08 percent for the

According to the PBS lowest consumption group data, the SPI for the week of up to Rs 17,732 witnessed decrease of 0.09 per cent and went down to week.

Israeli strikes on Gaza, Beirut kill 50 people

CAIRO: An Israeli airstrike on a school sheltering displaced people in central Gaza killed at least 28 people, including women and children, on Thursday, while 22 people were killed in an attack that targeted a senior Hezbollah figure in central Beirut.

Israel has repeatedly pounded Beirut's southern suburbs, the bastion of Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah movement, over the last two weeks but Thursday's raid was only the third time the city centre has been targeted.

Medics in Gaza said three hospitals in the north were told to evacuate, putting patients' lives at risk. The strike, in which many more were wounded, occurred in the city of Deir Al-Balah where a million people have taken shelter after fleeing fighting elsewhere after more than a

The Israeli military

"precise strike' on the injured," the ministry said in an updated toll statefighters who allegedly had a command and control centre embedded in a

school Palestinian group Hamas denies such accusations. Medics said 54 other people were injured at the school.

The health officials said the Israeli military on Wednesday gave patients and medics 24 hours to leave the Indonesian, Al-Awda and Kamal Adwan stormed as happened earlier in the war at Al Shifa

Hospital in Gaza City.
At least 22 people were killed in Israeli strikes on a densely populated area of central Beirut on health ministry said, with an Israeli tank fired at a a security source saying a watchtower at the force's Hezbollah figure was the main headquarters in Ras

Beirut this evening sualties in the other two resu-lted in a new toll of incidents, a UN source 22 people killed and 117 said.

Women mourn after an Israeli strike hit the Rafida school housing displaced

diplomatic push by Iran to

fluence with Washington

could target Iran's oil pro-

During meetings this week, Iran warned Saudi

Arabia it could not guar-

antee the safety of the

Gulf kingdom's oil facili-

any assistance in carrying

ties if Israel were given

out an attack, a senior Ira-

nian official and an Iranian

minister's visit, along with

Saudi-American commu-

nications at defence min-

coordinated effort to ad-

dress the crisis, a Gulf

diplomat said.

The

duction facilities.

people at Deir al-Balah in central Gaza Strip.

Stop Israel from bombing

Iran's oil sites, Gulf

states urge US

DUBAI: Gulf states are lobbying Washington to neighbours to use their in-

Iran's oil sites because amid rising concerns Israel

Monitoring Desk

stop Israel from attacking

they are concerned their

own oil facilities could

come under fire from

Tehran's proxies if the

conflict escalates, three

tempts to avoid being

caught in the crossfire,

Gulf states including Saudi

Arabia, the United Arab

Emirates and Qatar are

also refusing to let Israel

fly over their airspace for

any attack on Iran and

have conveyed this to

sources close to govern-

ment circles said.

As part of their at-

Gulf sources said.

A Lebanese security source, requesting anonymity to discuss sensitive matters, told AFP that Israel had attempted to kill a Hezbollah official who often frequented the locations targeted.

Israeli forces fired on positions used by UN peacekeepers in Lebanon on Wednesday and Thursday, the UN force said, as hospitals or risk being Israel warned Lebanese civilians not to return to homes in the south and pursued a widening offenve against Hezbollah.

The UNIFIL force said two of its peacekeepers were injured in Thursday, the Lebanese one of the incidents when target.

"The Israeli enemy's tower and causing them tower and causing them to be a second to be attacks on the capital to fall. There were no ca-

Taiwan's

provocations

will bring

disaster: China

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: China warned on

Thursday that "provocations" by Taiwan leader Lai

Ching-te, who earlier gave

a speech on the self-ruled

island's National Day,

would result in "disaster"

for its people. "(Lai's) provocations

in seeking 'independence

are the root cause of trouble

for peace and stability in

the Taiwan Strait and will

bring disaster to the people

of Taiwan," said Chen

Binhua, a spokesman for

China's Taiwan Affairs Of-

out using force to bring the

democratic island under its

control, which Lai and his

government oppose. Lai

pledged in his speech to defend the island's "na-

tional sovereignty".

China has not ruled



Russia's Vladimir Putin held talks with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Friday in Turkmenistan. where the two leaders hailed their countries growing economic ties and similar views on world affairs, an entente viewed with concern by the U.S.

At odds with Washington and the European Union over Russia's war in Ukraine, something he casts as part of a wider agency.

against an arrogant and self-interested West -Putin is keen to deepen ties with what he calls the Global East and Global

Putin, whose country s hosting a summit of the BRICS nations in Kazan on Oct. 22-24, invited Pezeshkian to come to Russia on an official visit, a proposal the Iranian leader accepted according to Russia's state RIA news

Hezbollah forges new command for crucial ground war after heavy Israeli blows

Monitoring Desk

BEIRUT: Hezbollah is preparing for a long war of attrition in south Lebanon, after Israel wiped out its top leadership, with a new military command directing rocket fire and the ground conflict, two sources familiar with its operations said.

Hezbollah has been diminished by three weeks of devastating Israeli blows
– most notably the killing of its leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah Friends and foes alike are now watching how effectively it resists Israeli troops that have crossed into Lebanon with the stated aim of driving it away from the border.

The Iran-backed group still has a considerable stockpile of weapons, including its most powerful precision missiles which it has yet to use, four sources familiar with its operations said, despite waves of airstrikes that Israel says has severely depleted its arsenal.

Hezbollah's command was disrupted for the first few days after Nasrallah's Sept. 27 assassination until Shi'ite militants established a new "operations room" 72 hours later, the two sources - a Hezbollah field commander and a source close to the group told Reuters.

soon in New York **Monitoring Desk**

on Thursday.

The group brings to-

Ryabkov did not announce a specific date or say what level of officials would attend.

Germany's Scholz to discuss Middle East, Ukraine with Erdogan in Istanbul

BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will meet with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan in Istanbul on Oct 19, where they will discuss the war in Ukraine and the situation in the Middle East, a German government spokesperson said on Friday. Migration as well as bilateral and economic policy issues will also be on the agenda, said the spokesperson at a regular government news conference, without giving

Russia says 'Nuclear Five' states to meet

MOSCOW: A group of five nuclear weapons states will hold a meeting in New York in the next two weeks, Russian state media quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov as saying

gether Russia, the United States, China, France and Britain, all of which are nuclear-armed states and permanent members of the United Nations Security

Monitoring Desk more details.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz shake hands as they meet in Berlin, Germany.

Hurricane Milton leaves at least 16 dead as Florida cleans up

Washington, the three istry level, are part of a

Gulf states come after a ment circles said.

The moves by the source close to govern-

Monitoring Desk FLORIDA: The death toll from Hurricane Milton rose to at least 16 on Friday, officials in Florida said, as residents began the painful process of piecing their lives and homes back

Nearly 2.5 million households and businesses were still without power, and some areas in the path cut through the Sunshine State by the monster storm from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean remained flooded.

Milton crashed into the Florida Gulf Coast late on Wednesday as a Category 3 storm, with powerful winds smashing communities still reeling from Hurricane Helene two weeks ago, which killed 237 people across the US southeast, including in

So far, though, it appeared that tornadoes. rather than floodwaters, were responsible for many of the storm's deaths.

"It was pretty scary," said Susan Stepp, a 70-year-old resident of Fort Pierce, a city on Florida's Atlantic coast where four people died in a tornado spawned by

'They did find some people just outside dead, in a tree," she told AFP. "I wish they would have evacuated." Stepp's husband Bill said a tornado "picked up my 22-ton motor home and threw it across the yard."

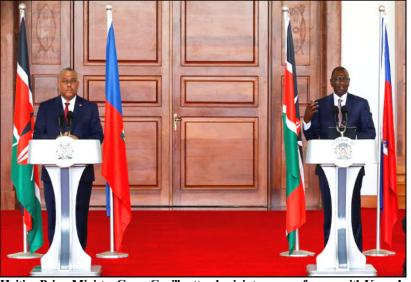
"Scary and heartbreaking at the same time, to see much damage and all things you really love just gone, but it's only things. and we're still here," the 72-year-old said.

Japan's Nihon Hidankyo wins **2024** Nobel **Peace Prize Monitoring Desk**

Japanese organisation Hidankyo, a grassroots movement of atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki also known as Hibakusha, won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday.

"Hibakusha is receiving the Peace Prize for its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again," the Norwegian Nobel Committee said in its citation.

Witnesses to the only two nuclear bombs ever to be used in conflict have dedicated their lives to the struggle for a nuclear-free world. "The Hibakusha help us to describe the indescribable, to think the unthinkable, and to somehow grasp the incomprehensible pain and suffering caused by nuclear weapons.



Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille attends a joint press conference with Kenya's President William Ruto during his visit to the State House in Nairobi, Kenya.

Bangladesh Islamist chief backs crimes against humanity trial for ex-PM

Monitoring Desk DHAKA: Bangladesh's top Islamist politician says he supports the extradition of ousted premier Sheikh Hasina to face trial for crimes against humanity in the same tribunal that convicted his colleagues.

Shafiqur Rahman is the leader of Jamaat-e-Islami, whose members were hounded, driven underground and sentenced to death during Hasina's autocratic 15-year rule.

Her government justified the crackdown on the nation's largest Islamist party by accusing it of also face injustice."

sponsoring extremist attacks - charges Rahman denies. After Hasina's toppling and exile in neighbouring India following a student-led revolution in August, the ban on Jamaat's activities was lifted. Rahman is leading its public revival.

Now back in the political mainstream, he says Hasina must be extradited to face trial with her allies for abuses committed during her tenure. "We don't believe in the theory that just because we faced injustice, someone else should

Indian doctor on hunger strike over medic's rape and murder has been hospitalised

Monitoring Desk KOLKATA: A junior doc-

tor on hunger strike in India over the rape and murder of a fellow medic has been hospitalised with severe dehydration, authorities said on Friday.

Aniket Mahato and six others began their hunger strike on Sunday, to protest against what they say are inadequate facilities and security for doctors, many of whom work long shifts in crowded, squalid hospitals. "When he was admitted he was severely dehydrated, pulse rate was very high and was in a very unstable condition." Soma Mukhopadhyay, a professor at the hospital, said. His pulse, blood pressure and fluid levels had im-

proved by Friday afternoon, she said but added more investigation was needed about other possible damage. Mahato, a junior doctor at RG Kar Hospital in Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal state, was taken to the hospital on Thursday night. The rape and murder of a 31-year-old doctor at the hospital has triggered a wave of protests by doctors across the country, demanding greater workplace safety for women and justice for their colleague.

Everest climber's remains believed found after 100 years Monitoring Desk

mentary team discovered human remains on Mount Everest apparently belonging to a man who went missing while trying to summit the peak 100 years ago, National Geographic magazine reported on Fri-

Climate change is thinning snow and ice around the Himalayas, increasingly exposing the bodies of mountaineers who died chasing their dream of scaling the world's highest Briton Andrew Irvine

went missing in 1924 alongside climbing partner George Mallory as the pair attempted to be the first to reach Everest's summit, 8,848 metres (29,029 feet) above sea level.

Mallory's body was found in 1999 but clues about Irvine's fate were elusive until a National Geographic team discovered a boot, still clothing the remains of a foot, on the peak's Central Rongbuk Glacier. On closer inspection, they found a sock with "a red label that has A.C. IRVINE stitched into it", the magazine reported.

The discovery could give further clues as to the location of the team's personal effects and may help resolve one of mountaineering's most enduring mysteries: whether Irvine and Mallory ever managed to reach the summit.

Repeating his claim that Israel's actions in Gaza constituted "genocide", he branded it the "shame of humanity", at a joint press

Erdogan says Gaza 'shame

of humanity', calls for

permanent ceasfire

conference with Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama. "The international community, we must do our best to urgently guarreliable. antee a permanent ceasefire and exert the

necessary pressure on Israel," he added.

Monitoring Desk

TIRANA: Turkey's Presi-

dent Recep Tayyip Erdogan

renewed his attacks on Is-

rael as he arrived in Tirana

Thursday, the first stop of

a Balkans tour that will also

take him to Serbia.

the past year is the common shame of all human-

ity," he added. The Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023 resulted in the deaths of 1,206 people, most of them civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official

Israeli figures. According to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry, 42,065 people have been killed in Gaza since the start of the war, mostly civilians. The UN has said the figures are

Erdogan has branded Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu the "butcher of Gaza" and com-"The genocide that has pared him to Nazi been going on in Gaza for Germany's Adolf Hitler.

Zelenskiy seeks pope's help to free Ukraine POWs held in Russia

Monitoring Desk VATICAN CITY: Ukrai-

nian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy asked Pope Francis during a meeting at the Vatican on Friday for help in securing the release of Ukrainians held captive by Russia.

Zelenskiy, who is touring major European capitals to discuss his proposed "victory plan" for the war with Russia, said he had also invited the Vatican to take part in a conference on the prisoners-of-war, due to be held in Canada later this month. "We are counting on the Holy See's assistance in helping to bring back Ukrainians who have been taken captive by Russia," Zelenskiy said in a post on social media, adding this was the main topic of his 35-minute conversation with the pope. A Vatican about the pope's talks with in spring 2022.

Zelenskiy, but said a subsequent meeting between the Ukrainian leader and the Vatican's chief diplomat had included discussions "dedicated to the state of the war ... as well as the ways in which it could be brought to an end"

It was Zelenskiy's second face-to-face meeting with Pope Francis in four months. The two men also met on the sidelines of a Group of Seven (G7) summit in southern Italy in June. At the end of Friday's meeting, Francis gifted Zelenskiy a piece of bronze artwork with a flower growing next to a bird, inscribed with the phrase "Peace is a fragile flower".

Zelenskiy gave the pope an oil painting showing a child amid ruins in the Ukrainian town of Bucha, which was occupied by readout provided no details Russian forces for 33 days

Blinken says Asia concerned about spread of Middle East conflict

Monitoring Desk VIENTIANE: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Friday prospect of conflict spreading in the Middle East, as the U.N. chief called for everything possible to be done to avoid

'all-out war' in Lebanon. The conflict in the Middle East was a central issue during Friday's East Asia Summit in Laos, where Blinken said Washington was dedicated to using diplomacy to try to control the situation in the face of what he called an Iranianled axis of resistance 'The intense focus of

the United States, which has been the case going back a year... (is) preventing these conflicts from spreading. And we're working on that every day," Blinken told a press conference.
"We're working very

hard through deterrence and through diplomacy to prevent that from happening. There's also obviously

deep concern that we share about the plight of children, women, and men in Gaza.

The US has stressed there was deep concern in to Israel the importance of meeting the humanitarian needs of people in Gaza, Blinken said, adding it was in Israel's interest that people forced from their homes by hostilities in Lebanon are able to return.

The annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) also included meetings with leaders and top diplomats from India, China, Japan, the United States, Russia, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, as well as United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Friday's discussions included the war in Ukraine, Myanmar's civil war, climate change, tensions in the Taiwan Strait and concern about confrontations in the South China Sea, a key conduit for at least \$3 trillion in annual ship-borne trade.

ASEAN plays 'stabilising' role on regional tensions, secretary-general says

VIENTIANE: The ASEAN bloc remains a "stabilising force" in Southeast Asia despite making only incremental progress on key issues, including Myanmar's civil war and the drafting of a code of conduct for the South China Sea, its secretary-general said.

Monitoring Desk

Leaders of the 10member Association of Southeast Asian Nations are meeting in Laos this week with heads of government and top diplomats from partners including the United States, China, Japan and Russia.

The bloc, home to over 685 million people and representing around 8% of global exports, has been unable to push resolutions on difficult regional issues, which analysts say risks undermining ASEAN's central role in its backyard.

But ASEAN's Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn insisted the grouping has constantly pushed for dialogue and diplomacy, ensuring that negotiations move ahead.

"ASEAN has been, I would say, the stabilising force," the former Cambodian diplomat told Reuters in an interview late on Wednesday. "We take the issues head on," he said.

"People always put too much emphasis on problems, but the way I look at ASEAN, we have come a long way."

For instance, Kao Kim Hourn said, with member economies increasingly integrated and trade agreements in place with many external partners, ASEAN attracted \$230 billion in new investments in 2023.

"The fact that there is confidence and trust in ASEAN, that's why the \$230 billion investment moves into ASEAN," he said. "The future is here." ASEAN has made

little progress with its "Five Point Consensus" peace plan for Myanmar, unveiled months after a 2021 coup, but Kao Kim Hourn said the leaders of ASEAN remain adamant that the grouping will stay engaged with Myanmar.

"We need time and patience," the secretary-general said. "Myanmar is such a complicated, a complex issue... We should not expect a quick fix." Conflict has raged in Myanmar, with an expanding armed resistance against the military government. Some 18.6 million people, more than a third of the population, are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance.

No country can progress without a high-quality education system: PM

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday emphasized that the provision of quality education and technical training was the government's top priority, as no nation can progress without a high-quality edu-

He was chairing an important review meeting on Federal Education and

Technical Training Affairs. The Prime Minister stated that, in today's education landscape, skills development, information technology, and digitization have become indispensable, stressing the urgent need to align Pakistan's education system with these modern principles. He further highlighted that, in line with the government's commitment to ensuring no child in Pakistan is left out of school, the incumbent administration had implemented an

educational emergency. Additionally, he underscored the importance of holding a National Curriculum Summit to facilitate the introduction of a uniform education system across

The Prime Minister directed relevant authorities to expedite the construction of Daanish Schools in underprivileged areas, including Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, and Balochistan.

He also instructed that daycare centers be established in all educational institutions in Islamabad to support the convenience of female teachers.

In his directive to set up e-libraries in parks and recreational areas of Islamabad, the Prime Minister emphasized that acshould be free, with complimentary internet facili- ment of teachers' skills.

called for the formulation of a strategy to provide monthly stipends to female students in rural areas of Islamabad, aiming to increase enrollment in these schools. "Technical training

should be integrated into the curriculum of Islamabad schools," the Prime Minister said. He added that students who had dropped out of education for any reason should be offered free technical training, and an awareness campaign should be launched to encourage them to return to school. "Teachers are the

builders of the nation," he said, highlighting the critical need to establish a highquality teacher training institution in Islamabad. He also directed a third-party cess to these libraries audit of teacher training programs and the assess



ASHGABAT: President Asif Ali Zardari and the Speaker of Turkiye's Parliament, Numan Kurtulmus, in a meeting on the sidelines of the International Forum on "Interrelation of Times and Civilizations - Basis of Peace and Development" being held in Ashgabat.

Issues of women prisoners to be resolved on priority basis, says Deputy Speaker BA

Independent Report QUETTA: The Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Ms. Ghazala Gola has stated that the issues of women prisoners would

be resolved on priority basis. She said that endeavours would also be made to ensure welfare of the women prisoners in Quetta district jail.

of Provincial Assembly was on visit to the Quetta jail

Assembly, Ms. Shahida Rauf as well as the representatives of FDI and Women Development De-

During the visit, she expressed his resolve to resolve the issues being faced

by the women prisoners. She also said that we are determined to resolve the issues of all prisoners especially of the women prisoners. She said that our very focus is on promotion of education and skills of the prisoners. The Deputy Speaker Ghazala Gola assured cooperation between the pro-

vincial assembly and Jail authorities for enforcement of She was accompanied the reforms in prisons. Ear-Member of Provincial lier, the Inspector General of Prisons, Shujauddin Kasi and Superintendent of Jail apprised the Deputy Speaker of Provincial Assembly about the ongoing initiatives.

Gilani calls for promoting cooperation with UAE

SLAMABAD (APP) Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Friday said that Pakistan greatly valued its longstanding relationship with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and highlighted the importance of enhancing bilateral cooperation in key sectors such as Information Technology, renewable energy, agriculture and tourism. The acting president expressed these views while talking to the Ambassador of UAE Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Yousaf Raza

Gilani applauded the vision

of the late Sheikh Zayed bin



QUETTA: MPAs Shahida Rauf, Uzma Yaqoob, Sheyan Imran and others meeting with Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly Ghazala Gola

Documenting Friendship: 'from Xi'an to Gwadar Port' marks 75 years of Sino-Pak ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Gwadar Port" was offinew cultural documentary titled 'From Xi'an to Gwadar Port' has been launched to celebrate the enduring friendship between China and Pakistan. This joint venture commemorates the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The documentary was selected as an "Asian Film and Television Exchange Project" by the China National Film and Television Bureau, receiving major cultural quality support from the Publicity Department of the CPC Shaanxi.

At a press conference held on Friday at Pakistan Television (PTV), the largescale humanistic documentary "From Xi'an to rivers, lips and teeth."

On this occasion, Director Producer Bai Zhijun addresses to the press conference, said that the total planning "One inch road am inch of blood during Krakoram road construc-

tion process. 'Road workers many people lost their lives, average every Kilometer is a staff sacrifice. The two peoples paid a huge price, the people with life and sweet to build the road. Belt and Road as important part of economic corridor is known as the road of friendship," The director of the documentary said that China and Pakistan are connected by "mountains and

Health Dept directs NGOs to obtain NOC from MNCH

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan Health Department has informed all nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working on maternal and child healthcare to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the provincial coordinator of the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) program before operating in

any district of the province. The directive aims to ensure the proper utilization of available resources and prevent duplication of efforts. According to the circular issued by the Director General of Health Services, obtaining an NOC will be mandatory for all NGOs working on maternal and child healthcare ser-

Pakistan Business Forum says Termination of IPP accords marks beginning of broader reforms providing economic relief to public

man of the Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) for termination of the IPP Balochistan and former President FPCCI, Daroo Khan Achakzai lauded the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and federal cabinet efforts to terminate five Power Purchase Agreements (PPA's) termed a first step for an efficient electricity tariff for the public and industry.

As this move will benefit electricity consumers to the tune of Rs60 billion annually, reducing per-unit electricity costs, and saving the national treasury Rs411 billion overall. Addressing the press

said PBF believes that the agreements marks the beginning of broader reforms while ensuring the sustainability of the energy

recent approval by Federal Cabinet to terminate Power Purchase Agreements with five Independent Power Producers (IPPs) marks a significant step in the country's efforts to reform

its struggling power sector. The decision, stemming from recommendations by the Task Force on to neighboring countries.

QUETTA (APP): Chair- conference on Friday, he Power Sector Reforms, targets HUBCO, Lalpir Power Limited, Saba Power, Rousch Power, and Atlas Power, he said.

aimed at providing eco-nomic relief to the public on July 2024, PBF President sent a letter addressed to Federal Minister for Power Awais Khan Laghari, Daroo Khan said the to expressed strong dismay over the electricity tariff hike in Pakistan, emphasizing its adverse effects on both industries and the general public.

PBF were urged the government to reevaluate its agreements with IPPs, citing substantial disparities in electricity costs compared



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on matters related to Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training.

Ahsan Iqbal, Saudi Minister explore strategies to strengthen bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, on Friday emphasized Pakistan's commitment to increasing its trade volume with Saudi Arabia by collaborating with the current Saudi lead-

During a meeting with Saudi Investment Minister Khalid Bin Abdulaziz Al Faleh, the minister highlighted that trade between the two countries stood at \$4.6 billion in 2022

He stated that the relationship between the two countries was unique and had always withstood the test of time.

However, he stressed that the challenge now is to align the relationship with modern realities by enhancing trade. "Our political relationship will strengthen with robust economic cooperation," the minister as-

Reflecting on the beginning of Chinese cooperation in the form of CPEC projects, he recalled, "In 2013, I was entrusted with the responsibility of launching a game-changing project with China. It started with a piece of paper, and within 3-4 years, Pakistan secured \$25 billion in investments under

Quoting the success of CPEC, the minister added that by 2017, Pakistan had reached a point where every American and European businessman was keen on joining CPEC projects. "Unfortunately, due to the poor policies of the thennew government, our policies were discontinued, weakening the economy, he remarked.

When the current government took office again, the challenge was to stabilize the economy for longterm growth. To achieve this, the government cre-

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Investment Minister Khalid

Bin Abdulaziz Al Falih meeting with Federal Min-

Saudi Minister praises

Pakistan's private sector,

abundant natural resources

ISLAMABAD (APP): stating that the country is

Saudi Minister for Investment, Sheikh Khalid Bin recovery and sustainable

prosperity.

This positive outlook

is backed by actions al-

ready taken by Pakistan's

leadership, including imple-

menting enabling regula-tions and easing business

operations for both local

opment, 27 separate agree-

ments were signed between

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia,

aiming to boost investment

This move is expected to

create a vibrant economy,

unlocking new opportuni-

ties for growth and devel-

onstrate the commitment of

both nations to foster eco-

nomic cooperation and col-

The agreements dem-

In a significant devel-

country.

and Saudi investors.

the

opment.

laboration

QUETTA: Members of Pakistan Mine Workers

Federation are holding protest demonstration

against the attack on miners in Duki area of

Train service resumed

from Quetta for interior

country after 46 days

Independent Report

QUETTA: The train service was resumed for the interior

country from Quetta as Jaffar Express departed for

Peshawar after suspension of some 46 days, on Friday

The Divisional Superintendent of Pakistan Railways Quetta, Imran Hayat saw off the passengers left for

mained suspended from Quetta to other parts of the coun-

try due to destruction of a railway bridge located in Dozan

area of Bolan. The railway bridge had been destroyed by

some miscreants in a subversive act on August 26, 2024

However, it was reconstructed by the Pakistan Railways

and with this, the train service was resumed. It may also

be mentioned here that the trial of the bridge was done on

It may be mentioned here that the train service re-

Peshawar from the Quetta Railway station.

Thursday in presence of the DS Railways

Balochistan, at Quetta press club.

ister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal.

Abdul Aziz Al Faleh on

Friday expressed his admi-

ration for Pakistan's private

sector and abundant re-

with the private sector of Pakistan and the resources

available, including natural resources, fantastic hu-

man resources, technol-

ogy, manufacturing, and in-

novation," the minister

View City, he emphasized

that empowering these re-

sources with increased in-

vestment, such as the ini-

tiatives announced earlier,

will further unlock

expressed optimism about

Pakistan's economic future,

The Saudi Minister

Pakistan's potential.

During a visit to Park

"We are impressed

sources

ated the 5Es framework which, according to the minister, was developed after consulting 1,000 opinion leaders and sector ex

Discussing Pakistan' future trajectory, the minister said that the country's most pressing challenge over the next 5-7 years would be increasing ex-

ports.
"Our weakness is that, over the past 77 years, we have failed to adopt an export-led growth strategy.

He further noted that a significant challenge Pakistan faces is the capacity of low-skilled labor working in Saudi Arabia. "If the labor class returns to Paki stan, it will result in a considerable decrease in FDI,' he added.

The minister sug-gested training Pakistan's workforce and upgrading their technical capabilities to retain them within the Saudi economy.

Provincial Ministers flay Duki terrorism incident

QUETTA: The Provincial Ministers Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran and Bakht Muhammad Kakar have strongly condemned the terrorism incident occurred in the coalmine field in Duki

In their separate condemnation statement issued here on Friday, the Provincial Minister for PHE, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran and Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar expressed deep grief and sorrow over killing of the innocent coal mine labouers in the terrorish incident.

They said that killing of labourers is inhumanity and intolerable. They said that killing of labouers is gross violation of the justice and human rights.

Ulema, Mashaikh of Kohat division pledge support to Pakistan Army

PESHAWAR Ulema & Mashaikh, and Madrassah students from Kohat Division visited Kohat Garrison, where they expressed their solidarity with the Pakistan Army in efforts to maintain peace and eliminate the threat of Khawarij. During the visit, the group paid tribute to the Pakistan Army and security forces for their sacrifices in safeguarding the nation. The participants unanimously pledged to cooperate with the relevant authorities in preventing the spread of Khawarj ideology and other disruptive elements that threaten peace.

Two terrorists killed in 'accomplices' firing: CTD

LAHORE (APP): Two terrorists were killed allegedly in the firing of their own accomplices when five militants in two police vans were being shifted from Sahiwal jail in the wake of a threat alert.

According to the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) spokesman, the eliminated militants were the masterminds behind the Dasu Dam attack. and facing life sentence. Five terrorists were being shifted from Sahiwal jail in two police vans when on Samundri Road when some unidentified terrorists attacked one of the vans to get their accomplices freed from police custody.

President Zardari for railroad connectivity with Turkiye to boost trade, economic coop.

on Friday highlighted the need to improve railroad connectivity between Pakistan and Turkiye to boost trade and economic cooperation as well as peopleto-people contacts.

In his meeting with the Speaker of Turkish Parliament, he called for further improving bilateral ties and exchanges of delegations to bring the two brotherly countries further President Asif Ali

Zardari and the Speaker of Turkiye's Parliament, Numan Kurtulmus held a meeting in Ashgabat on the sidelines of the International Forum on "Interrelation of Times and Civilizations - Basis of Peace and Development'

Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, and Chief Minister Turkiye.

ASHGABAT (APP): Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz President Asif Ali Zardari Ahmed Bugti, were also Ahmed Bugti, were also

present during the meeting. During the meeting, the president said that Turkiye was a great and sincere friend of Pakistan and the Muslim World and had been taking principled positions on the issues faced by the Muslim Ummah as well as raising its voice against injustice.

The meeting expressed concern over the grave humanitarian situation in Palestine and Lebanon where Israel was killing innocent people. It was emphasized that the Muslim World needed to make sincere and serious efforts to address the challenges being faced by the Ummah

President Zardari said that Turkive was on its way to becoming an economic power and expressed his best wishes for the success and prosperity of



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail formally inaugurating Fine Arts exhibition at Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's Uni-

Pakistan's stability will not be compromised by political ambitions: Defence Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): stabilize Pakistan and halt Khawaja Asif, on Friday responding to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf's (PTI) call for protest, warned that any attempts to destabilize the country will be met with the full force of the state. Speaking to a private news channel, he highlighted that hosting the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) conference was a major diplomatic

achievement for Pakistan. He accused PTI of trying to hinder the country's our economic growth.'

He further criticized PTI, alleging that the party was aligned with international conspiracies aimed at destabilizing the nation. This is a continuation of their efforts to ensure that Pakistan remains unstable, he remarked. Khawaja Asif also condemned PTI's silence over the frequent martyrdom of soldiers, saying, They have not issued a single statement condemning the losses our security

forces suffer, and instead progress, stating, "This is they seem focused on weaka deliberate attempt to de- ening Pakistan.'



Command Scroll to Commander Karachi Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi.

Vice Admiral Faisal Abbasi take over as Commander Karachi KARACHI (APP): Vice ral Abdul Munib and Rear

Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi took over as Commander Karachi and Rear Admiral Abdul Munib assumed the Command of Commander Pakistan Fleet during Change of Command ceremonies held here on

Muhammad Faisal Abbasi handed over the command

Admiral Muhammad Saleem handed over the command of Commander Karachi to Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi, a news release said. Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College (Lahore), Naval Command College (USA), and National Defence University

Minister Health says: BUMHS has key status in progress of medical sector Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar has stated that the Bolan University of Medical and Health Sciences (BUMHS) has key status in development of the medical sector of province and as such its progress is included in priorities of the provincial gov-

ernment. The Minister for Health was speaking on occasion of the visit to BUMHS here on Friday. Also accompanied with him were the Secretary Health, Mujeebur Rehman Panezai, Director General Health, Amin Khan Mandokhail. The Principal of Bolan

Medical College, Professor Raz Muhammad Kakar briefed the Minister Health about overall functioning of the institute. He also informed the

Minister about the challenges being faced by the BMC including lack of infrastructure besides its future needs Bakht Muhammad Kakar maintained that the

provincial government is taking all possible steps for raising standard of the medical education in the province During his visit, the

Minister also went round of the under construction boys and girls hostel in the college.



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar enquiring about injured of Dukki coal mine firing