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dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Hub

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No tolerance for parallel courts or armed rebellion, Naqvi warns PTM and its supporters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday warned that no one would be allowed to establish a parallel judicial system in the country, use foul language against state institutions, or take up arms.

Following the ban on the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM), all formalities will be completed, including the cancellation of identity cards, passports, and the closure of political offices and activities. Anyone who attempts to support or assist PTM will also fall under the same ban. A clear message has been sent to those backing PTM that if they act against the country, the same will be done to them, he said. The minister emphasized that

rights and taking up arms cannot go hand in hand. While addressing a press conference at the Ministry of Interior here Wednesday, Mohsin Naqvi stated that while tribal jirgas (councils) have been held before, led by tribal elders, bringing thousands of people to such gatherings is not considered a jirga but something else entirely. The government of Pakistan has decided that no parallel judicial system will be allowed under any circumstances, he said.

He further said that the main reason for the ban on PTM is the party's use of derogatory language against state institutions and the police, as well as inciting division among the nation

through ethnic discrimination. While discussing political issues and people's rights is permitted, no one will be allowed to incite people against the institutions.

Naqvi mentioned that it has come to their attention that individuals from one or two political parties, when meeting with PTM leaders, supported them on the issue of rights but also emphasized that rights cannot be discussed while simultaneously taking up arms.

He added that after the ban on PTM, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government had placed 54 individuals and the Balochistan government had placed 34 individuals on the Fourth Schedule.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of Cabinet Committee on Energy.

Soldier embraces martyrdom, two terrorists killed thwarting terrorist attack in Zhob

Pakistan repels Afghan aggression at Nushki-Ghaznali sector on border

RAWALPINDI (APP): A soldier of Pakistan Army on Wednesday embraced martyrdom while two terrorists were killed including a suicide bomber and high value target amid thwarting the terrorists attack at Frontier Corps (FC) Post in Zhob District of Balochistan.

"In early hours of 09 October 2024, a group of terrorists tried to attack a Frontier Corps' Post in Zhob District," an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The attempt to enter the camp was effectively

thwarted by the security forces personnel, and resultantly two terrorists, including a suicide bomber and high value target Terrorist Umar alias Umari, were killed before they could cause the intended damage, it said.

Terrorist Umar alias Umari was involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces as well as innocent civilians, including recent attack on convoy of the Deputy Commissioner, Sherani.

The martyred soldier was identified as Havildar

Jamsher Khan (age: 39 years; resident of: Dera Bugti District), having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced, Shahadat, during intense exchange of fire.

INP adds: Pakistani forces thwarted an act of aggression by Afghan soldiers at the Pak-Afghan border in the Nushki-Ghaznali sector on Wednesday.

According to security sources, Afghan troops opened fire on Pakistani posts while Pakistani forces were engaged in repairing the border fence.

Cabinet committee okays independent multiplayer market for power sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Cabinet Committee on Energy on Wednesday approved the establishment of an independent multiplayer market for power generation and purchase to pave the way for a competitive environment and gradually end the government's role as a sole purchaser of electricity.

The committee, in its meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, principally approved the formation of an Independent System and Market Operator (ISMO) which will be later endorsed by the federal cabinet and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan under the Companies Act 2017,

according to a PM Office press release.

The ISMO is aimed at gradually doing away with the government's role as a sole buyer of electricity and turning the electricity market into a multiplayer independent, transparent, and competitive market. It will also allow the power consumers to purchase electricity from suppliers other than power distribution companies.

Under the ISMO, long-term planning would be made to produce low-cost electricity and its transmission besides reducing the power prices and circular debt.

The ISMO Board will comprise the experts from the power sector.



ISLAMABAD: Investment Minister of KSA, Sh. Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Alfalsh welcomed by Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan.

Governor Mandokhail directs to Commissioner to pay focus on situation of cleanliness, roads & issues of traders in Quetta

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has directed to the Commissioner and Administrator Quetta to pay focus on the situation of cleanliness, poor conditioned roads and issues of traders in the metropolis.

In this regard, he also stressed that the visits of Quetta and its adjacent areas should also be paid to resolve the public problems.

The Governor was speaking to a delegation of traders and office bearers of Anjuman Tajran Balochistan, who called on him under leadership of Abdul Rahim Agha, here at the Governor House on Wednesday.

During the course of meeting, issues being faced by the traders were dis-

ussed. The members of delegation sought cooperation of the Governor to resolve their issues. The Governor stressed the need to promote economic activities and protect traders community in the province. He said that once Quetta was called as "Little London" due to its scenic beauty and administrative attractions.

He on the occasion directed to the concerned authorities to take notice of the increasing street crimes, traffic issues and lawlessness.

The Governor stressed the need to promote economic activities and protect traders community in the province.

He said that resolving the issues of citizens of Quetta means to resolve the issues of half of Balochistan.

Lt Gen (Retd) Akhtar Nawaz sworn in as FPSC chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Lt. General (Retd) Akhtar Nawaz Satti on Wednesday took the oath of the office of Chairman of the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC).

President Asif Ali Zardari administered the oath to the newly appointed chairman at a swearing-in ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The ceremony was attended by notables including senior government officials.

Governor summons BA session on October 14

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has summoned the session of provincial assembly at 03:00 PM on October 14, 2024.

Deputy Speaker BA, other speakers emphasize Long term planning needed to cope with impacts of climate change

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Ms. Ghazala Gola, Provincial Minister for Education, Ms. Raheela Hameed Durani and other speakers have stressed the need to make long term planning for coping with the impacts of climate change in the province.

They stressed that the students would have to prepare them to cope with these challenges.

In this regard, necessary legislation and implementation on the measures are unavoidable in the provincial assembly.

They were addressing the closing session of climate conference organized under the auspices of FDI here on Wednesday.

The Deputy Speaker of Provincial Assembly said that we would have to promote the measures for saving from the impacts of climate changes. The women

parliamentarians caucus would extend wholehearted cooperation for legislation in this regard, she added.

The Minister Education on the occasion said that the climate change issue is in top priorities of the provincial government.

She said that we are going to include the subject of climate changes in the curriculum of the province.

While on the other hand, all educational institutions of the province would be shifted on solar system gradually.

She said that for the first time a comprehensive scholarship programme has been introduced in the province.

The Executive Director of Forum for Dignity Initiatives, Uzma Yaqoob also addressed the conference. She assured to continue mutual cooperation to deal with the extraordinary challenges of the climate change in the province.

Saudi delegation arrives in Pakistan on three-day visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Saudi investors, led by Minister of Investment Khalid bin Abdulaziz, arrived in Islamabad today on three-day visit to Pakistan.

Federal Ministers Musadik Malik, Jam Kamal Khan and Abdul Aleem received the delegation at the Noor Khan Airbase.

The delegation comprises representatives from various sectors, including energy, mining, minerals, agriculture, business, tourism, industry, and manpower.

According to the schedule, the Saudi delegation will hold business-to-business meetings with Pakistani companies, and several agreements will be signed during the visit.

PM visits martyred Lt. Col Ali Shaukat's residence for condolence

FAISALABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday visited the residence of Lt. Colonel Muhammad Ali Shaukat Shaheed here to offer condolence and pay tribute to the sacrifices made by the security forces to safeguard the country. Lt. Col Ali Shaukat, along with five security personnel including Lance Naik Muhammadullah, Akhtar Zaman, Shahidullah, and Yousuf, and a sepoy Jameel Ahmed embraced martyrdom during a firefight with the terrorists in the Spinwam area of North Waziristan on October 5, 2024.

During interaction with the bereaved family members, the prime minister conveyed his condolence and offered Fateha for the martyred soul and strength for the family members to bear the loss.

President greets Shahzaib on winning World Karate Combat C'ship ; presents 100mn cheque

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday felicitated Shahzaib Khan on winning the World Karate Combat Championship title in Singapore. The president presented a cheque worth Rs100 million to Shahzaib. Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti was also present on the occasion, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The president praised Shahzaib Khan for bringing laurels to the country and expressed the hope that he would register more triumphs in the future.

He observed that the youth in Balochistan province was gifted with immense talent which required provision of opportunities.

He stressed that the youth should be encouraged to excel in arena of sports.

CM Bugti directs to develop effective mechanism for route and timing of Green Buses to facilitate students

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has directed to the Secretary Transport to develop an effective mechanism for route and timing of the Green Buses that facilitates students during their school and college timings in Quetta.

In his orders, the Chief Minister directed to provide better travelling facilities to the students in Green Buses. Particularly, he directed to provide quality transportation facilities to the students of schools and colleges in the morning and evening compatible to facilitate them.

In this regard, adding he directed to the Secretary Transport to submit a report to him by preparing comprehensive recommendations within five days.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Communication Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa and Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Sadiq Umrani holding a meeting

BHC reserves verdict on demolishing of BA

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan High Court on Wednesday reserved the verdict challenging the demolishing of historic Balochistan Assembly building.

Former President Supreme Court Bar Association Senator Amanullah Kanrani had filed a constitutional petition against the demolition of an old and historical building of Balochistan Assembly terming the government move tantamount to damaging the historical national heritage.

The division bench of the BHC comprising Justice Hashim Khan Kakar and Justice Mohammad Amir Nawaz Rana reserved the decision.

Senator Kanrani contended that the decision of demolishing the historical building of Balochistan Assembly is a sheer violation of article 28 of the constitution of Pakistan.

He said Article 28 of the constitution of Pakistan says, "subject to article 251, any section of citizens having a distinct language, script or culture shall have the right to preserve and promote the same and subject to law, establish institutions for that purpose deploring that the incumbent government is going against the constitution."



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan meeting with Provincial PHE Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran.

Sardar Khetran directs to pay special attention on timely completion of projects

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE), Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran has stressed the need to pay special attention on timely completion of development projects. For the purpose, all necessary measures should be taken.

The Provincial Minister for PHE was speaking to the Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan here on Wednesday.

During the course of meeting, mutual and departmental matters were discussed between the Provincial Minister PHE and Chief Secretary.

There was consensus on expediting pace of work on the development projects and paying special

attention on their timely completion.

It was decided that monthly review meetings would be conducted to speed up the pace of development work.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary said that the emergent steps would be taken for resolving the issues, which could not be resolved at the level of secretaries.

They were also agreed on identifying new projects for different districts.

Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran stressed that such projects should be identified which may benefit the general public.

He said that the development projects are very important for Barkhan and Musakhail districts.

Election Tribunal orders re-elections of PB-44

QUETTA (APP): The Election Tribunal on Wednesday ordered re-elections in 16 polling stations of PB-44, de-seating the Pakistan People's Party MPA Ubaidullah Gorgage.

The Balochistan High Court Election Tribunal, headed by Abdullah Baloch announced the decision.

PPP's Ubaidullah Gorgage is no longer a member of the Balochistan Assembly; the notification has been annulled, the order read.

Ubaidullah Gorgage's victory was challenged by Atta Muhammad Bungalza of the National Party.

Justice Abdullah Baloch, after hearing the both sides delivered the reserved verdict.

SC adjourns dam funds case till Friday

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Wednesday adjourned hearing of Dam Fund case till October 11 and directed WAPDA counsel, representatives of the Auditor General and the Attorney General to suggest a workable solution to the problem. A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa heard the case.

During the proceedings, the chief justice questioned that whether the amount of dam funds could be kept in private bank for mark up? He said that the court wouldn't go toward the top court's judgment regarding the construction of dams.

Additional Auditor General informed the court that the SC couldn't keep this amount with itself. He said that the dam fund account was opened in line with the order of the top court and registrar office had been looking after it.

He said that there were no irregularities found in dams' fund and its mark up, adding that mark up couldn't be received if the money was kept in public account. Former attorney general Khalid Javed Khan said that there was no objection on changing of account name.

He said that this amount should be used only for construction of dams. The chief justice remarked that no review petition was filed when the judgment was issued.

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QUETTA: A delegation led by Vice President Institute of Architects Pakistan Quetta Chapter Saif Durrani meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Palestine MPC

Pakistan has a long history of showing solidarity with the Palestinian people...

The support for the occupied Arab land ranges from Islamist parties to those on the left of the political spectrum...

Among other suggestions, the MPC called for an immediate ceasefire and holding of an emergency OIC summit...

Of course, there are limits to what Pakistan can do, apart from expressing moral and diplomatic support for the Palestinian people...

Simply put, if summity and noble declarations were enough, Palestine would have been liberated a long time ago...

It is also a matter of concern that the PTI did not attend the Palestine MPC. When meetings are held to discuss vital national issues...

Indeed, there is acute mistrust between the ruling party and the PTI, but the latter should have joined the other political forces in speaking up for Palestine with one voice...

American complicity in Gaza

Zahid Hussain

"No administration has helped Israel more than I have. None, none, none," remarked US President Joe Biden recently as Israel's genocidal war in Gaza entered its second year...

It may be true that previous US administrations, too, were fully committed to supporting the Zionist state, but the outgoing president went much further in backing Tel Aviv's war crimes in Gaza...

One year of devastating air strikes and ground invasions by the Zionist forces has turned the enclave into a death trap, displacing the entire population of Gaza...

A similar horror has not been witnessed in recent history. Support from the US and some other Western countries has given Israel complete impunity. Given the Biden administration's unconditional support for Israel, many observers accuse it of being complicit in what amounts to war crimes...

It is by far the largest military aid sent to Israel in one year. In fact, the report indicates that details of some shipments to Israel are hard to come by. The exact amount of military aid then is apparently much higher. The report cited the Ameri-

can administration's "efforts to hide the full amounts of aid and types of systems through bureaucratic manoeuvring".

Additionally, America has spent \$4.86bn on enhanced military operations in the region, which includes the costs of its campaign against the Houthis in Yemen, who, siding with the Palestinian population, are carrying out strikes against Israel.

For the past one year, American aid to Israel has been a combination of military financing and arms sales and transfers from the US stockpile, according to the report. A large part of the arsenal contains artillery shells and the 2,000-pound bombs that Israel has used with devastating effect on the Palestinians of Gaza, turning their homes into rubble...

While occasionally raising concerns over Israel's indiscriminate killings of civilians and briefly pausing the flow of some heavy bombs, Washington has refused to stipulate conditions for US military aid, despite growing international protests. It has remained silent over the wanton butchery currently going on in Lebanon, where more than 1,000 people have died in devastating Israeli air strikes that have used US-supplied bombs.

Being the most critical US ally in the Middle East, Israel is the biggest recipient of US military aid in history since 1959. Apart from the current administration's massive military aid, there is overwhelming bipartisan support for the Zionist regime in the US Congress. No US administration can afford to defy the powerful Israeli lobby that virtually controls Congress. At the height of this genocidal war, the Israeli prime minister, whose arrest warrant as a war criminal was requested by the International Crimi-

nal Court prosecutor some months ago, was invited to address the joint session of Congress in July, where he received repeated standing ovations by legislators from both sides of the aisle as he justified his genocidal war calling it a "clash between barbarism and civilisation".

He rejected the two-state solution making it clear that Israel was not seeking to resettle Gaza. Only a handful of progressive legislators abstained in protest. The growing sentiment among the younger generation of Americans against the war is not likely to have any effect on Washington's unqualified support for Israel's genocidal war.

Many analysts agree that it is Israel that effectively runs American foreign policy. Israel's powerful influence on US policy is well described in 'The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy', a seminal book authored by two eminent US university professors and originally published in 2007.

"It is difficult to talk about the lobby's influence on American foreign policy, at least in the mainstream media in the United States without being accused of anti-Semitism..." the book says. "... Not only does it [the lobby] exert significant influence over the policy process in Democratic and Republican administrations alike, but it is even more powerful on Capitol Hill."

Writing in the New Yorker in 2005, journalist Jeffrey Goldberg recounted a meeting with an official of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, who putting a napkin in front of him, said, "You see this napkin? In 24 hours, we could have the signatures of 70 senators on this napkin." The unanimous support for aid to Israel in the Congress is a testimony of the influence and power of AIPAC on Congress, irrespective of whichever party wins the presidential election.

With just a few weeks left for the next election, there is no possibility of any change in Washington's unqualified backing for Israel.

Weather worries

Rafia Zakaria

According to scientists, for 800,000 years of Earth's existence the amount of carbon in the atmosphere did not exceed 300 ppm (parts per million).

Then in 1911, the amount of carbon in the atmosphere exceeded that level for the first time. Since then, carbon in the atmosphere has only been increasing. This year, carbon levels in the atmosphere exceeded 425 ppm.

Increased carbon dioxide and the effects of greenhouse gases have led to a host of problems that impact human health. The higher temperatures are especially dangerous for vulnerable populations such as children and pregnant women. Premature births, a leading cause of early childhood deaths, go up during heatwaves.

The temperature in many parts of Pakistan this summer was above 40 degrees Celsius. And going by the pattern over the past few years, the trend is likely to persist. This suggests that climate change produces a distinct and special risk to children, especially those who live in the hot regions of the world.

Similarly, can medical outlets cope with the rising cases of allergies and respiratory illnesses? Developing the requisite facilities and training staff to operate them efficiently requires advance planning and funding. It is simply not enough to have a climate change ministry. It is necessary to address what the weather means for our children's everyday health.

Then there is the matter of mental health. A recent qualitative study carried out by Shazia Soomro, Dianen Zhou and Ifikhar Charan focuses on the psychological effects of rising temperatures on Pakistani children, especially in poorer countries, leading to non-attendance at school. And it is not just on account of illness that children face disruptions in their education schedule; every year, millions of children face weeks of school closure due to adverse weather conditions, including intense heat and heavy rain, as we have witnessed. Excessive heat also means

that children cannot play outdoors, and are subjected to a crowded environment inside their homes, which are often poorly ventilated.

Temperatures are more acute in large cities, such as Karachi and Lahore, where the proliferation of concrete and asphalt surfaces has created the urban heat island effect — that is, the temperature in these cities is often several degrees hotter than in the adjoining areas. Summer has thus become a time of dread, with temperatures continuing to soar year after year, with no respite in sight.

There seem to be few choices before parents in the hotter months, especially as children are particularly vulnerable to heatstroke. Of late, there has been some awareness of the matter, but are hospitals and clinics doing enough to treat young victims of heatstroke? Special wards are needed in the summer months that are equipped to treat children and babies who have suffered the effects of intense heat.

Similarly, can medical outlets cope with the rising cases of allergies and respiratory illnesses? Developing the requisite facilities and training staff to operate them efficiently requires advance planning and funding. It is simply not enough to have a climate change ministry. It is necessary to address what the weather means for our children's everyday health.

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resourced areas are the most susceptible, although each child is affected differently, depending on a host of circumstances.

The study, published in the African Journal of Reproductive Health, looks at how extreme weather events affect the educational achievement of Pakistani children. These weather events include heatwaves, droughts, and heavy rainfall. While the jury may be out on the exact parameters of an 'extreme' weather event, Pakistan has suffered heavy monsoon rains that have far exceeded expectations for some years now.

The authors of the study found that even accounting for changes in the river flow and patterns of snowmelt, the severity of the new monsoon could only be attributed to climate change. This was true also of the devastating flood of 2022, which affected 33 million people in the country.

The study found that extreme weather events were causing attachment disorders, depression, panic attacks, phobias and anxiety among children. In addition to these mood disorders, a regressive impact on children's ability to control their emotions was also observed; many of the youngsters experienced cognitive deficits, behaviour issues, learning difficulties, language development problems, adjustment challenges and generally poor academic performance. There is a high proportion of children whose mental health has been affected by climate change. Children affected by the 2022 floods still report anxiety displacement stress, depression and sleep disorders. While the study focuses on a small cohort, it is likely that the results seen among them can be extrapolated to the at least 670,000 children that the authors say were affected by the floods. Interestingly, many spoke about the trauma of the flash floods that occur in Sindh every year. Many also noted how isolated they feel from the natural environment because they live in such heavily urbanised areas.

Commerce News

Jam pledges to revive cotton Industry, ensured to address high taxation, electricity costs challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Wednesday vowed to revitalize Pakistan's cotton industry, acknowledging the sector's billion-dollar export potential and ensured to address challenges such as high taxation and electricity costs.

In this regard, the minister held a meeting with the Pakistan Ginners Association led by its Chairman DR Jassu Mal, said a news release.

The minister stressed that the government is

treating this issue with urgency, particularly given the \$3.4 billion spent annually on cotton imports, which could be saved by reviving domestic production.

Proposing a series of seminars and workshops, Jam Kamal expressed the government's commitment to collaborate with industry stakeholders, including APTMA and exporters, to formulate a comprehensive action plan.

He also encouraged the Association to submit proposals for funding through the Export

Development Fund (EDF) to help reinvigorate the sector and boost exports. The minister also highlighted the alarming decline in the number of ginning companies from 1,200 to just 400, leading to under-utilization of electricity resources and disruptions in the cotton supply chain.

He emphasized that cotton is not merely a commodity but a livelihood, with millions of people in Pakistan depending on its growth, harvesting, and processing. He acknowledged the

heavy taxation across the cotton production cycle—from pesticides to ginning and oil extraction—that has made it difficult for cotton to compete with other crops.

Dr. Jassu Mal thanked the Minister for his unprecedented support and pointed out the sector's once prestigious title of "white gold."

He warned that without intervention, the high taxation and electricity costs would continue to drive farmers away from cotton, despite its billion-dollar export potential.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahsan Iqbal in meeting with the delegation of Asian Development Bank.

ADB reaffirms continued support for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) here on Wednesday reaffirmed its continued support to government's agenda to implement structural reforms, generate fiscal space and stabilize economy.

The reaffirmation was made by a delegation of Executive Directors and Alternate Executive Directors of ADB that met with Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahsan Iqbal, to discuss the country's development priorities and macroeconomic reforms.

The delegation is on Pakistan's visit from

October 6 to 12, 2024 for consultations with the government and key stakeholders to better align ADB's support with government's priorities.

The visit of ADB's Executive Directors reinforces the robust collaboration between ADB and Pakistan, aimed at achieving sustainable development goals and enhancing economic stability in the country.

On the occasion Minister Cheema highlighted the strong partnership between Pakistan and ADB, reaffirmed during the recent visit of ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa.

Ahsan for promoting blue economy to ensure future stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister For Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday emphasized that development of blue economy was a transformative opportunity that can ensure future stability by creating jobs and food security.

Addressing the 4th International Maritime Symposium (IMS-24), the minister said, solving challenges confronting blue

economy were crucial to take the country forward on the path of development.

He pointed out that nations like China, Malaysia, and Türkiye achieved progress due to these key factors.

The 4th International Maritime Symposium (IMS-24) was organized by the National Institute of Maritime Affairs in collaboration with Bahria University. The symposium aimed to

address the challenges and opportunities in Pakistan's blue economy, focusing on aligning maritime strategies with SDGs.

Ahsan Iqbal stressed the need for sustainable practices and sought international cooperation to tackle environmental challenges effectively.

Minister Ahsan Iqbal said that by addressing issues like climate change and marine pollution we can create jobs and ensure food security.



ABU DHABI: Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi met with H.E. Ahmed Jasim Al Zaabi, Chairman of Federation of UAE Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UAE Chambers) and Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce & Industry. He is also Chairman of Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development, Abu Dhabi Global Market.

Saudi investment to boost economy: LCCI

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Wednesday appreciated the government for paving the way for investment from Saudi Arabia that is bound to boost economic activities in the country.

LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad, Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman and Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry, in a media statement here, welcomed the government's landmark efforts for deals with Saudis which he is poised to finalize during the visit of Saudi Minister of Investment's upcoming visit to Pakistan.

These forthcoming deals are expected to not only enhance bilateral relations but also inject much-needed capital into Pakistan's economy, providing a lifeline to various critical sectors.

LCCI office-bearers lauded the prime minister's leadership, while describing the agreements as a historic step towards economic revival.

They said that Saudi Arabia has always been a pivotal partner for Pakistan and the signing of these trade and investment deals will open new doors of cooperation in key sectors such as energy, infrastructure, technology and manufacturing.

Shaukat advises taxpayers to approach Federal Tax Ombudsman for relief

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Advisor to the Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) for Hazara Region Shaukat Mehmood Wednesday has encouraged taxpayers to seek assistance from the Federal Tax Ombudsman in case of illegal tax procedures, unjust notices, or delays in receiving rightful refunds from the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). He expressed these views while addressing a press briefing at Abbottabad Press Club.

Shaukat Mehmood highlighted that the FTO's actions have enabled many taxpayers to receive their due payments, ensuring fairness in tax collection without harassment.

He explained that taxpayers can file complaints through various channels, including the FTO website, email, mobile app, FTO portal, or by post, without needing to visit the office physically. Upon receiving a complaint, the FTO contacts the FBR, sets a response deadline, and ensures prompt resolution. Shaukat Mehmood stated. Those unable to attend hearings in person are offered the option of participating via video link.



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

CM launches internship climate resilient leadership program for youth of Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has launched the CM Internship Climate Resilient Leadership Program, aiming to enhance environmental stewardship among the youth.

At the event, she inaugurated Pakistan's first smog hotline, "1373," and directed that 1 percent of development project funds be allocated for tree planting initiatives.

During her address, the CM announced an increase in the honorarium for interns from Rs 25,000 to Rs 60,000, emphasizing the need for job security for the interns post-program. She stated that environmental internships should not just be seen as opportunities but as a vital responsibility for fostering a greener Punjab.

She highlighted the significance of collective action against smog,

advocating for collaboration between Pakistan and India Punjab, noting that smog will end not by merely pressing a button. The CM urged educational institutions to integrate smog awareness into their curricula from October 15 to November 15.

The CM criticized past negligence in environmental management and stressed the importance of treating the environment as a shared responsibility across Pakistan. She reported that measures against animal cruelty have been intensified, reflecting a commitment to humane practices.

Addressing air quality issues, she outlined ongoing efforts to combat smog, including surveillance of industrial emissions and proactive measures against pollution

from brick kilns and fat-melting factories. She also emphasized that sustainable infrastructure development is crucial for national progress.

Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb shared insights into new environmental initiatives, including a vehicle inspection system and comprehensive climate change plans. She reaffirmed Punjab's leadership role in addressing climate challenges.

Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Azma Zahid Bokhari, Provincial Ministers Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, Sher Ali Gorchani, Sohaib Ahmed Malik, Kazim Pirzada, Ramesh Singh Arora, Ashiq Hussain, Chief Secretary, Secretaries and other officials were also present in the ceremony.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan administering oath to Ayesha Hamid as Punjab's first Ombudsman.

Swat gets child-friendly protection unit

By Haroon Siraj

SWAT: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Child Protection and Welfare Commission (KPCPW) has taken a huge step forward in safeguarding children's rights by launching a Child Protection Unit in Swat. This new unit aims to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children, protecting them from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

On this occasion key stakeholders, officials, and children attended the inauguration ceremony, where Deputy Commissioner Shehzad Mehboob pledged full support from the district administration. Mr. Ijaz Muhammad Khan, Deputy Chief Protection Officer of KPCPW, shared that the commission has already aided 32,564 at-risk children and established 21 fully operational Child Protection Units across the province.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi in a group photo with Young Leaders Parliament delegation at Governor House.

Governor Kundi urges youth to play role in addressing challenges

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday said that the province is facing multiple challenges, urging the youth to adopt a positive mindset and actively participate in addressing these issues.

He said this during a meeting with a delegation from the Young Leaders Parliament (YLP), led by President Naveed Ahmad Khan, visited the Governor House Peshawar.

During the meeting, the YLP delegation briefed the Governor on initiatives aimed at engaging the province's youth in positive activities through the platform of the Young Leaders Parliament.

They also requested the Governor's support and participation as a guest of honor for the upcoming three days entrepreneurship event in Peshawar.

The young members of the YLP engaged in a Q&A session with the Governor, discussing various issues affecting the province, particularly regarding the welfare of the youth.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi welcomed the delegation, expressing his focus on advancing the interests of youth and women across all sectors.

He acknowledged the talent among the province's youth but said that they often lack

adequate opportunities for progress.

He announced that 100 percent scholarships have been allocated for tribal youth at Edward College and that free IT courses will be initiated to help young people pursue online businesses and job opportunities from home.

Kundi also highlighted that the provincial government has not effectively utilized its powers following the 18th Amendment.

He encouraged young people to share their proposals via email at any time, emphasizing the importance of their input for improving the education sector.

Committee formed to assess damages to KP House: CM KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister, Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur announced on Wednesday that a committee has been formed to estimate the damages to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House in Islamabad.

The chief minister indicated that consultations regarding legal action besides formulation of a strategy would be undertaken.

Addressing the KP cabinet meeting here, the chief minister emphasized that there would be no compromise on constitutional rights and the provincial autonomy granted under the 18th Amendment.

He described the incidents during the PTI protests and at the KP House in Islamabad as intolerable.

Deplored the police raids and damages of property at the KP House, the CM alleged that police officers and Rescue 1122 officials, along with rescue equipment, were unlawfully detained.

He vowed to take strict action against the Islamabad police and administration if any torture against them was proven. As the chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he stated that the necessary security personnel and equipment would accompany him wherever he goes.



HYDERABAD: Activists of Sunni Tehreek (PST) are holding rally in favor of Pakistan Armed Forces, in Hyderabad.

NAB presents Rs 36.8m recovery amount cheque to Punjab government

LAHORE (APP): National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Lahore reported a significant recovery in a corruption scandal involving former Punjab chief minister Ch Pervaiz Elahi and others linked to kickbacks in construction contracts. NAB Deputy Chairman Sohail Nasir presented a cheque worth Rs 36.8 million to the Punjab government, which was received by Additional Secretary

Finance Abdus Samad in the presence of NAB Lahore Director General Amjad Majeed Aulakh, said a spokesperson here Wednesday.

The recovery was a part of an ongoing investigation into corruption in public contracts. Additionally, the NAB Lahore successfully retrieved Rs 17.2 million from former chief financial officer Ikram Naveed through a plea bargain.

CM GB stresses importance of local government elections

GILGIT (APP): Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan has emphasized the significance of local government elections in resolving public issues and ensuring the transfer of powers to lower levels.

Addressing the closing ceremony of a three-day training workshop for officers regarding local government elections, the CM said that these elections are crucial for bringing new leadership to the forefront and empowering people at the grassroots level. The CM expressed his commitment to holding local government elections, which have been delayed in Gilgit-Baltistan since 2004.

He praised the Chief Election Commissioner and Local Government Secretary for their efforts in completing the first phase of delimitation and assured the public that the current provincial government is dedicated to ensuring the holding of local government elections.

International News

Israel's strikes are shifting the power balance in the Middle East, with US support

WASHINGTON: Israeli military strikes are targeting Iran's armed allies across a nearly 2,000-mile stretch of the Middle East and threatening Iran itself. The efforts raise the possibility of an end to two decades of Iranian ascendancy in the region, to which the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq inadvertently gave rise.

In Washington, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and Arab capitals, opponents and supporters of Israel's offensive are offering conflicting ideas about what the U.S. should do next, as its ally racks up tactical successes against Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen and presses its yearlong campaign to crush Hamas in Gaza.

Israel should get all the support it needs from the United States until Iran's government "follows

other dictatorships of the past into the dustbin of history," said Richard Goldberg, a senior adviser at Washington's conservative-leaning Foundation for the Defense of Democracies — calls echoed by some Israeli political figures.

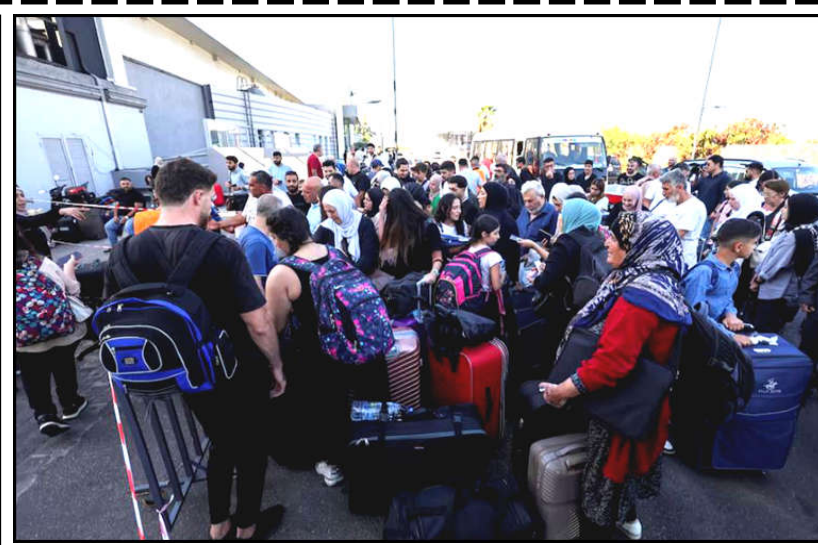
Going further, Yoel Guzansky, a former senior staffer at Israel's National Security Council, called for the Biden administration to join Israel in direct attacks in Iran. That would send "the right message to the Iranians — 'Don't mess with us,'" Guzansky said.

Critics, however, highlight lessons from the U.S. military campaign in Iraq and toppling of Saddam Hussein, when President George W. Bush ignored Arab warnings that the Iraqi dictator was the region's indispensable counterbalance to Iranian influence. They caution against racking up military

victories without adequately considering the risks, end goals or plans for what comes next, and warn of unintended consequences.

Ultimately, Israel "will be in a situation where it can only protect itself by perpetual war," said Vali Nasr, who was an adviser to the Obama administration. Now a professor at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, or SAIS, he has been one of the leading documenters of the rise of Iranian regional influence since the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

With Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu giving limited weight to Biden administration calls for restraint, the United States and its partners in the Middle East are "at the mercy of how far Bibi Netanyahu will push it," Nasr said, referring to the Israeli leader by his nickname.



Turkish nationals wait to register for boarding Turkish navy ships to leave Lebanon, amid the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, in Beirut, Lebanon.

China says raised 'serious concerns' with US over trade curbs

BEIJING: The United States and China on Tuesday raised concerns about trade between the world's two biggest economies, with China's commerce minister urging Washington to lift sanctions on his country's firms "as soon as possible."

Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao's call with US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo was described

by Beijing as "candid, independent and pragmatic".

It comes shortly after sharp US tariff hikes on Chinese electric vehicles, EV batteries and solar cells took effect — with levies down the line on other products also recently finalized.

In addition, the US is planning to ban the sale of connected vehicles incorporating Chinese and Russian technology, citing national security risks.

Turkish Airlines pilot dies mid-flight, forcing emergency landing

ISTANBUL: A Turkish Airlines pilot died after collapsing mid-flight, forcing the Turkish national carrier to make an emergency landing in New York, the airline said on Wednesday.

The plane had taken off from the western US coastal city of Seattle on Tuesday evening, airline spokesman Yahya Ustun wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

Canada pledges another C\$15 million in assistance for Lebanese civilians

OTTAWA: Canada will provide C\$15 million (\$11 million) in new humanitarian assistance to support civilians affected by conflict in Lebanon, the Canadian foreign ministry said on Wednesday.

"Canada is deeply alarmed by the rapid escalation of the crisis in Lebanon. We are mobilizing to ensure that Canada is there to bring much-needed assistance to the Lebanese people," Foreign Minister Melanie Joly said in a statement.

The funding announcement brings Canada's assistance pledge for Lebanese civilians to C\$25 million.

Spain's Sanchez touts benefits of migration

MADRID: Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Wednesday announced measures to make it easier for immigrants to settle in Spain, championing migration and its economic benefits even as other European governments have tightened their borders against newcomers.

To stop undocumented migrants, Germany, Slovakia and Hungary have reintroduced temporary border controls in what was long the heart of the European Union's Schengen open travel zone.

France says it is considering similar moves while Italy aims to set up detention camps in non-EU Albania for migrants picked up at sea. "Immigration is not just a question of humanitarianism... it's also necessary for the prosperity of our economy and the sustainability of the welfare state," Sanchez said in a speech to parliament.

"The key is in managing it well." Spain will work on making it easier for migrants to come with a series of initiatives, including recognising academic qualifications.

Israeli strike kills 17 in Gaza refugee camp

GAZA/CAIRO: Gaza's civil defence agency on Tuesday said an Israeli strike killed at least 17 people at a refugee camp in the centre of the territory.

"The civil defence teams recovered 17 martyrs, including children, and several others who were wounded from the three-story home of the Abdul Hadi family, which was bombed by a missile from an (Israeli) warplane in Al Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza," agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal said in a statement.

Bassal said the bodies of those killed and the wounded were taken to Al Awda hospital in Nuseirat camp and to Al Aqsa Martyrs hospital in the city of Deir el Bahah. Medics at Al

Awda confirmed the toll.

Kamal Adwan and Al Awda hospitals in northern Gaza have been asked to evacuate in the past 48 hours, World Health Organisation officials told a briefing in Cairo. Fewer than half of Gaza's hospitals remain even partially functioning after a year of Israeli bombardments.

Bassal earlier said that several air strikes rocked central and northern Gaza since the early hours of Tuesday. Israel sent tanks deeper into Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip and told people to leave as it pounded the historic Palestinian refugee camp from the air, residents said. Palestinian medics said casualties had been reported in Jabalia but they were unable to reach areas under fire.

Ukraine strikes a Russian oil hub as Zelenskyy says the war is in 'a very important phase'

KYIV: Ukraine's military said it struck a major oil terminal Monday in Crimea that provides fuel for Russia's war effort as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the war has entered a key phase.

Both sides are facing the issue of how to sustain their costly war of attrition — a conflict that started with Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and that shows no signs of a resolution.

Ukraine's General Staff said on social media that the oil terminal in Feodosia, on the south coast of the Russia-occupied Crimea Peninsula, has been supplying the Russian army with fuel and that the strike was part of an ongoing effort to "undermine the military and economic potential of the Russian Federation."

Russian-installed authorities in the city of Feodosia on the coast of the Black Sea reported a fire at the terminal on Monday morning but did not say what might have caused it.

Ukraine has increasingly targeted rear areas that are essential for Russia's onslaught, now deep into its third year. It has developed long-range drones that have hit oil depots and refineries as well as armories.

Ukraine's aim is to impair Russia's ability to support its front-line units, especially in the eastern Donetsk region where the main Russian battlefield effort is stretching weary Ukrainian forces.

Kyiv is still awaiting word from its Western partners on its repeated requests to use the long-range weapons they provide to hit targets on Russian soil.



DENVER: Pro-Palestinian demonstrators march on the first anniversary of the Israeli invasion of Gaza.

Iran Quds Force chief Qaani is well, to get medal from Supreme Leader

DUBAI: The commander of the overseas arm of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards is well and will receive a medal from Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei soon, the semi-official Tasnim news agency quoted a senior Guards adviser on Wednesday as saying.

Two senior Iranian security officials told Reuters earlier that Quds Force commander Esmail Qaani, who travelled to Lebanon after the Sept 27 killing of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in an Israeli airstrike, had not been heard from since further Israeli bombings of south Beirut late last week.

Govt allocates Rs 7.5 bln to bring out of school children back: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday said that federal government is allocating Rs 7.5 billion to enrol back 26.2 million out of school children across the country. Addressing an International Conference: "Education System Strengthening Challenges and Opportunities - A 20-Year Retrospective" held here at COMSTECH, the minister announced that for this project the federal government would allocate Rs 25 million, while 25 millions would be given by the prov-

inces and 25 millions by the partners. The one-day conference was organized by Manhattan Strategy Group (MSG), a prominent US-Pakistani social and human development organization, with an aim to bring together local and global perspectives to address the critical challenges facing Pakistan's education system. Speaking at inaugural session of the conference, Ahsan Iqbal said that education is not a sector but a foundation of development and prosperity. It was revealed in the census that literacy rate in Pakistan is 60 percent but for progress and

development, we need 90 percent literacy rate in the country. He lamented that with such a huge numbers of out of school children, Pakistan can not progress. He termed education as mandatory tool to run the infrastructure of a country. The minister said that federal government is also establishing South Asia's top teachers training center in Pakistan to fulfill the need of best teaching practices. "We have to revise our curriculum as per international standards and in order to teach modern curriculum, we are working on teachers training on war-



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with a high level delegation from the Asian Development Bank at the Finance Division.



QUETTA: Prime Minister's Climate Change Coordinator Romina Khurshid Alam and Senate Human Rights Committee Chairperson Samina Mumtaz Zehri pose for a group photo with Secretary Forest Dostain Jamaldini and others during their visit to Balochistan.

SCO Summit marks major diplomatic success for Pakistan: Syedaal Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman Senate, Syedaal Khan Nasar on Wednesday hailed the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Islamabad and termed it as a significant diplomatic victory for Pakistan, crediting the relentless efforts of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz

Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister Senator Ishaq Dar. Speaking at Parliament House during a meeting with key business figures from Rawalpindi and Karachi, Khan emphasized that the successful hosting of the summit highlights global confidence in Pakistan's leadership and diplomacy. "The SCO summit is

Changing economy's DNA must for inclusive, sustainable growth: Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Wednesday reaffirmed the government's commitment to implementing its reform agenda and meeting structural benchmarks to lead to permanent macroeconomic stability, promote inclusive, sustainable growth and end Pakistan's reliance on external borrowing. He made it clear that the only way this goal could be successfully achieved, was by changing the DNA of the economy by moving it away from its usual boom-and-bust cycles and leading it to a sustained ex-

port-led growth, encouraging investment and FDI flows into export-oriented sectors and getting access back to the international capital market. He made this observation during a meeting with a high-level delegation from the Asian Development Bank that called on the Minister at Finance Division, according to press release issued by Finance Ministry. The visiting delegation was led by Donald Bobiash, Executive Director of Asian Development Bank and Shigeo Shimizu, Executive Director Asian Development Bank while Yong Ye, Country Director Asian

British High Commission allocates over £10 million for flood response in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): The British High Commission has announced a significant relief package of over £10 million to aid Pakistan in its recovery from devastating floods. The funds, aimed at addressing the immediate needs of flood-affected communities, will focus on providing essential relief items, supporting rehabilitation efforts, and strengthening infrastructure to withstand future climate-related disasters, says the official

Dr. Rubaba calls for raising awareness about women and children's welfare

Independent Report
QUETTA: Advisor to the Chief Minister for the Women Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, underscored the importance of raising awareness about women and children's welfare, particularly their health. She stressed the need to inform every individual in society about essential health practices to effectively address the challenges faced by women and children. She shared these views during a meeting with Kathleen Kamal Raisani Foundation (KKRF) CEO, Zulekha Raisani, where they discussed the foundation's ongoing awareness sessions in Quetta's schools and women's training centers, focusing on breast cancer, general health, and hygiene. Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi emphasized that such awareness programs are crucial for spreading knowledge within society. She noted that educating women and children on health issues, particularly breast cancer and hygiene, is vital, along with taking practical steps to address these concerns. She further advocated for the establishment of additional training and awareness centers to empower women, making them more self-reliant and capable of solving their problems independently.

GDA, UoG ink pact for regional development

Independent Report
GWADAR: The Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) and the University of Gwadar signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to foster educational activities and promote regional development. The agreement was signed by GDA Director General Shafiqat Anwar Shahwani and University of Gwadar Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Abdul Razzaq Baloch. The partnership aims to unleash the potential of young individuals in Gwadar's development by providing opportunities for research, training, and exhibitions. Both organiza-

Two Khwarij terrorists killed in NW IBO

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Security Forces on Wednesday killed two Khwarij terrorists during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Mir Ali area of North Waziristan District. During the operation, intense fire exchange took place between the Army troops and Khwarij, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from killed Khwarij, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as target killing of innocent civilians in the area, it said.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari administering the oath of office to the Chairman of the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC), Lt. General (Retd) Akhtar Nawaz Satti at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Noshervani exhorts officers to use modern resources for better public service

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Finance, Mir Shoaib Noshervani has exhorted the civil officers to make effective planning using modern resources for better service of general public wholeheartedly. He stressed to give top priority to transparency and honesty in resolving public issues so that confidence of people is restored and expedite the journey of development of the province. He directed to the bureaucrats to remain in the field for resolving the public issues immediately. The Minister Finance was speaking to the newly appointed officers on different positions here on Wednesday. Those who met the Finance Minister were included Secretary Health, Mujeebur Rehman Panezai, Commissioner Rakhshn Division, Mujeebur Rehman Qambrani and Managing Director of BPPRA, Muhammad Afzal Khosti. Mir Shoaib Noshervani congratulated the officers on their new postings. He said that there is a key role of officers in welfare of the people as well as development and prosperity of the province.

Police seize explosives laden vehicle in Turbat

Independent Report
TURBAT: Police foiled a potential terror plot, recovering 200 kilograms of explosives and other incendiary materials from a suspicious vehicle parked outside a house in Satellite Town, Turbat. The vehicle, now in police custody, was found to contain 200 kg of explosives, gas cylinders, petrol and diesel containers. Authorities believe the materials were intended for destructive activities. The timely intervention by law enforcement agencies has prevented a potential disaster.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan addressing a ceremony at Arya Institute of Medical Sciences.

PPP Kalat observes 31st anniversary of Shaheed Baba Sikandar Jan Zehri

Independent Report
KALAT: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) District Kalat observed the 31st anniversary of Shaheed Baba Sikandar Jan Zehri with great reverence at Municipal Committee Kalat. Party leaders and workers paid tribute to Zehri's services, cutting a cake to commemorate the occasion. Speakers recalled Zehri's sacrifices for the nation, stating that his legacy will be remembered in golden words. They emphasized that martyrs never die, but live on in the hearts of the people. Zehri's family has consistently made sacrifices for the country and the Baloch people. PPP leaders praised Chief of Jhalawan, Nawab Sanaullah Khan Zehri, for his unwavering commitment to principles and traditions. They expressed pride in Zehri's courage and resilience, vowing to follow in his footsteps. The event reaffirmed the party's resolve to continue Zehri's mission, upholding his ideals and values. The gathering paid homage to Zehri's enduring spirit, ensuring his memory remains an inspiration for future generations.

UAE condemns terrorist attack in Karachi, offers condolences to Pakistan, China

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has strongly condemned the recent terrorist attack near Karachi Airport, which claimed the lives of two Chinese nationals and one Pakistani citizen, leaving several others injured. In a statement issued by the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), the country expressed its unequivocal condemnation of the heinous act, reiterating its firm stance against all forms of violence and terrorism that threaten peace, security, and stability, and violate international law.



QUETTA: Newly posted Commissioner Rakhshn Mujeebur Rehman Qambrani, MD BPPRA Muhammad Afzal Khosti and Secretary Health Mujeebur Rehman Panezai meeting with Provincial Minister for Finance Mir Shoaib Noshervani

Chief Secretary urges private sector to play role for improving healthcare facilities along with government

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan has stressed that responsibility of improving healthcare facilities also rests with the private sector along with the government. The Chief Secretary also stressed on paying attention on establishing nursing colleges instead of the medical colleges besides improving it further. He was speaking on occasion of the ceremony arranged at the Arya Institute of Medical Sciences here on Wednesday. Also present on the occasion was Chief Executive Officer of Arya Institute besides other concerned. The Chief Secretary visited different sections of the Institute and reviewed the facilities being extended to the patients there. He said that medical profession is a sacred pro-

DPM chairs meeting on humanitarian assistance to Gaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday chaired a meeting to discuss humanitarian assistance for the people of Gaza. "He appreciated the efforts of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and directed to continue humanitarian assistance in pursuance of the Declaration adopted by All Parties Conference.

Health Secretary says: Govt taking steps to provide medical aids to people at official level

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Health Secretary Mujib-ur Rahman on Wednesday said that incumbent provincial government is taking practical steps to provide better medical facilities to the people at the official level in the province. He expressed these views while chairing a meeting of the officers of the Balochistan Health Department after assuming as a charge of Secretary Health. The meeting was attended by Special Secretary Health Shahak Baloch, Additional Secretary Health Arif Khan, Additional Secretary Health Khalid Zehri, Chief Planning Officer Dr. Ghulam Mustafa, Deputy Secretary Health, Deputy Secretary Health Riasat Ali, Director Technical Dr. Shah, Personal Secretary Muhammad Asif, Deputy Secretaries, Section Officers and other assistants. Additional Secretary Health Arif Achakzai and Director Technical Balochistan Dr. Shah briefed Health Secretary regarding the provision of services and ongoing projects in the Health Department. Addressing the meeting, Health Secretary said that according to the vision of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti to provide quality health facilities in Balochistan. He said that reforms would be brought to improve health facilities for patients in government hospitals saying that the Treasury Care Hospitals of the provincial capital are the center of treatment for the people not only of Quetta but of the entire Balochistan. He also directed all MSs and District Health Officers to immediately improve the sanitation situation in hospitals. The Secretary said that the problems being faced by respective hospitals should be identified in writing so that the steps taken to solve them could be continuously reviewed with the aim to prevent wastage of resources.

Implementation on PM Health Insurance Scheme for media persons starts in Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The implementation has been started on the Prime Minister Health Insurance Scheme for the working journalists and other media persons in Balochistan. Three media persons belonging to Hub district and associated with TV channel were given their PM Health Insurance Cards from the State Life Insurance after their verification by the office of Information Department, on directives of Secretary In-

formation Balochistan, Imran Afridi and Director General of Public Relations, Muhammad Noor Khetran. The Assistant Director, Abdul Wahid Baloch visited the Hub Press Club. He also discussed the issue of grant of the Press Club as was announced by the Spokesman of President Asif Ali Zardari for Balochistan and Advisor to Chief Minister, Mir Ali Hasan Zehri. Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Director Public Relations assured the office bearers that the measures would remain continued for welfare of the media persons as per the policy of government. The President of Hub Press Club, Muhammad Ilyas Kamboh and other office bearers thanked Secretary Information and DGPR for initiating PM Health Insurance Scheme from Hub. It may be mentioned here that the media workers would be able to avail the facility of medical treatment upto Rs. 1 million.



QUETTA: Chairman Public Accounts Committee Asghar Ali Tareen presiding over meeting regarding Quetta Package of P&D Department.