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Gwadar

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DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with a delegation of Qatar Businessmen Association.

Terrorists target innocent children in Mastung: 5 students & one police cop among 9 martyred, 33 injured in Mastung blast

CM pledges to take revenge of blood of innocent children & persons, fight terrorism together

Independent Report
QUETTA: As many as nine persons including five students and one police cop were killed while 33 others - mostly children - got injured in a remote control bomb explosion near a Girls High school in Mastung city on Friday morning.

The reports reaching here suggested that the remote control explosive device was planted in a motorcycle near the Girls High school which went off with a big bang.

As a result of the blast, five children, a police constable and a passerby were killed while 35 others - mostly children - injured. Two of the injured succumbed to serious wounds in the hospitals.

Soon after the blast, the police, local administration and rescue teams reached the spot of explosion and started rescue operation. The bodies of deceased children and others and injured persons were shifted to the local hospitals of Mastung including District Headquarter Hospital and Nawab Ghous Bakhsh Memorial Hospital for treatment.

PM invites Qatari businessmen to invest in Pakistan's energy, infrastructure

DOHA (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday met a delegation of the Qatar Businessmen Association (QBA) where he highlighted numerous opportunities in Pakistan's energy, infrastructure, and finance sectors, presenting the country as an attractive investment destination.

The QBA delegation, led by Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al-Thani, comprised leading Qatari business figures, each representing influential sectors within Qatar's economy.

The meeting was held during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's two-day official visit to Qatar aimed at discussing deepening economic ties and exploring new avenues for collaboration. The meeting brought together key representatives from Pakistan and influential members of Qatar's business community, emphasizing shared goals for strengthening trade, investment, and economic partnerships.

Notable QBA members present included Vice Chairman & CEO of Al Mana Group Saad Bin Omar Bin Hamad Al-Mana; Executive Director of Mannai Corporation Khalid Ahmed Al Mannai; Chairman MENA & Chief Country Officer of Deutsche Bank Salah Mohammed Jaidah; Chairman of Mansoor Jassim Al Thani Group Sheikh Mansoor bin Jassim Al Thani; CEO of Blue Salon Nabil Abu Issa.

We would defeat terrorists through education & consciousness, pledges CM Balochistan

Sarfraz Bugti says we grieved over Mastung incident, but our resolve for elimination of terrorism not weakened; says wouldn't let our educational institutions deserted after getting afraid of such cowardly acts

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has reiterated his government's resolve to defeat the terrorists through education and consciousness.

He said that although we are grieved over the incident of terrorism occurred in Mastung, but our resolve for elimination of terrorism has not been weakened and ultimately, we would fight terrorists.

The Chief Minister was addressing the ceremony of laptops distribution at the Government Girls Postgraduate College here on Friday.

Addressing the ceremony, Chief Minister referred to the terrorism act in Mastung and said that terrorists attacked the innocent children considering them soft target. He said that we would defeat the terrorists and wouldn't let our institutions deserted getting afraid of such cowardly acts of terrorism.

Govt committed to provide more resources for Balochistan's development: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal Friday said that the Federal Government was committed to utilising all resources for the development of the Balochistan province.

Responding to a question during the ongoing 343rd session of the Upper House, he informed that a total of 200 PSDP projects were underway in Balochistan, with an estimated cost of 1429 billion rupees.

He said an amount of 130 billion rupees had been earmarked for the PSDP in 2024-25 while more allocation of funds would be ensured for the uplift of the Balochistan projects.

However, he stressed the importance of improving the administrative capacity of provinces for better service delivery of funds and resources after allocations. Meanwhile, Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain replying to a question told the House that restructuring of the USC was underway.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, Ahsan Iqbal chaired a meeting to review the progress on the transfer of Pak Public Works Department (Pak PWD) projects to provincial governments under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) in Islamabad.

Security concerns in Balochistan: Govt approves amendments to anti-Terrorism Act

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has approved amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997, to address escalating security threats in Balochistan.

Sources confirm that the Ministry of Interior presented the proposal during a recent cabinet meeting, emphasizing the need for enhanced legal measures in light of the province's security challenges.

Govt approves amendments to anti-Terrorism Act

which have resulted in the loss of lives and damage to critical infrastructure.

Govt approves amendments to anti-Terrorism Act

Ministry sources stressed that current laws do not adequately address these integrated threats, necessitating stronger legal tools to enable a more effective response.

PM expresses gratitude to Amir of Qatar for warm hospitality

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani for his warm hospitality during his two-day visit to Qatar.

PM expresses gratitude to Amir of Qatar for warm hospitality

"My sincere gratitude to Your Highness for your exceptionally warm hospitality!" he wrote on X in response to post written by Amir of Qatar. "Pakistan deeply cherishes and values its special friendship with Qatar," he added.

PM expresses gratitude to Amir of Qatar for warm hospitality

In his post, Amir Tamim Bin Hamad emphasized the growing relationship, stating, "Today, I discussed with PM Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

PM expresses gratitude to Amir of Qatar for warm hospitality

In a felicitation message on eve of Diwali, the Governor said that we greet the Hindu community on their religious festival.

Govt approves amendments to anti-Terrorism Act

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Opposition slams govt for increasing petrol, diesel prices

ISLAMABAD (INP): Opposition parties including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Jamaat-e-Islami have strongly criticised the government for increasing the price of petroleum commodities, stating that it would further increase the burden on the already inflation-hit masses.

Opposition slams govt for increasing petrol, diesel prices

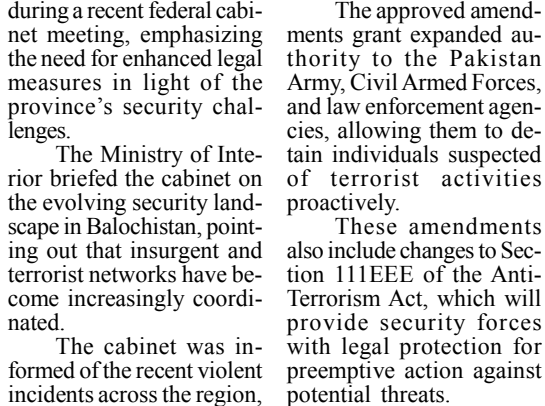
Hours after surge in the petroleum prices, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naemur Rehman on Friday demanded cut in the petroleum products prices.

Opposition slams govt for increasing petrol, diesel prices

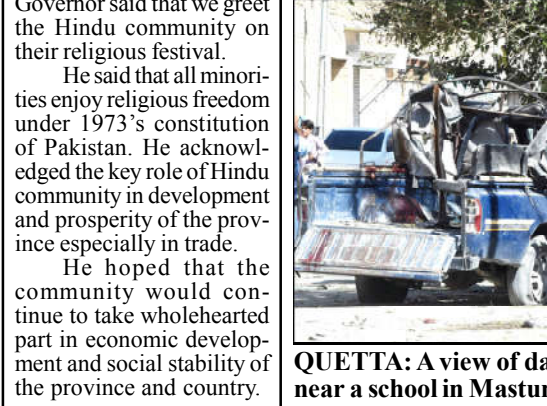
In a statement, the JI said the petrol price had been reduced below \$67 barrel internationally while stressing that the government should also lower the petrol by Rs30. He criticised the government for imposing petroleum levy of Rs60 by saying that it was unfair that the people had to pay extra money for the purchase of oil.

Opposition slams govt for increasing petrol, diesel prices

He lauded the Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA) for achieving a historic milestone by collecting PKR 27 billion in taxes for the first time in the province's history, applauding BRA Chairman Noor-ul-Haq Baloch and his team for their relentless efforts in advancing developmental goals.



QUETTA: A view of damage vehicle at blast site near a school in Mastung district.



QUETTA: Provincial Health Minister, Bakht Muhammad Kakar along with Noorullah Musakhel, MS Civil Hospital are inquiring about health of Mastung bomb blast victims, at Civil Hospital in Quetta.

Prosperous, stable Balochistan not being digested by terrorists: Kakar

QUETTA: While condemning the incident of terrorism in Mastung, the Provincial Minister for Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar has stated that killing of police constable and innocent children is an unforgivable offence.

Prosperous, stable Balochistan not being digested by terrorists: Kakar

The Minister said that terrorists are not digesting the prosperous and stable Balochistan.

Prosperous, stable Balochistan not being digested by terrorists: Kakar

He directed to the concerned authorities to provide best medical treatment to the injured children immediately. He also expressed grief with the families of those martyred in the blast. He said that we equally share the grief with the aggrieved families.

Prosperous, stable Balochistan not being digested by terrorists: Kakar

The Minister also said that terrorist elements are bent upon spoiling peace in the province. However, the provincial government would continue action against the peace enemies.

Single line in SC order can prolong cases for up to 18 years: CJP

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Yahya Afridi, has stated that even a single line in a Supreme Court order can sometimes result in cases being prolonged for up to 18 years. He assured that in his rulings, he would avoid any observations that might lead to the reopening of cases.

Single line in SC order can prolong cases for up to 18 years: CJP

Chief Justice Afridi explained that while hearing an appeal against objections raised by the Registrar's Office, he observed that a single statement from the Supreme Court could result in cases extending unnecessarily.

Single line in SC order can prolong cases for up to 18 years: CJP

He emphasised that no such observation would be made in his rulings that could lead to further litigation at lower levels.

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Qatar pledges to invest \$3bn in Pakistan: Atta Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Friday said Qatar would make an investment of \$3 billion in diverse sectors which would have a significant impact on the national economy and ultimately benefit the masses.

A delegation from Qatar would soon visit Pakistan to materialize the investment pledge, said the

minister while addressing a news conference which mainly highlighted the substantive economic gains, achieved by Pakistan with the recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

He congratulated the whole nation on the foreign policy and economic achievements made by Pakistan under the leadership of Prime Minister of Shehbaz Sharif who charted the country on path of economic progress.

The minister recalled signing of 27 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), amounting to \$2.2 billion investment, during the successful visit of a high-level Saudi delegation, led by Minister for Investment Sheikh Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Al Faleh, a few weeks ago which included fruitful government-to-government and business-to-business meetings.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Seeking investment

Saudi Arabia has agreed to increase its promised investment in Pakistan by another \$600m to \$2.8bn, with Riyadh signing seven more MoUs during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's just-concluded visit to that country.

A Saudi delegation, led by the Saudi investment minister, had concluded 27 MoUs worth \$2.2bn in Islamabad last month. The decision to boost the volume of Saudi investment in Pakistan was made after Mr Sharif's "very productive" meetings in Riyadh. According to the Saudis, some of the MoUs have resulted in exports from Pakistan in agriculture and other sectors. After his Saudi visit, the premier reached Doha to woo Qatari investors to Pakistan. For over a year, Pakistan has been chasing official and private investments in state-owned enterprises, agriculture, oil and gas exploration, the aviation industry, mining and other sectors of the economy. Initially, we were told that three friendly Gulf nations — Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar — had pledged to invest \$25bn each in Pakistan over the next five years. The previous Shehbaz Sharif government also set up the military-backed Special Investment Facilitation Council to provide 'prospective' Gulf investors some comfort on policy consistency.

As time passed, Islamabad continued to adjust its Gulf investment expectations downward to more realistic levels. Even then, only a fraction of what was promised has actually flowed into Pakistan: a small Emirati investment in Karachi's port infrastructure and the Saudi acquisition of shareholding in a Pakistani oil marketing company. Contrary to officials' claims, no Qatari or other investors from these countries have shown an interest in PIA or Islamabad airport, which the government is struggling to disinvest. In fact, the Saudi announcement to increase its promised investment in Pakistan coincided with all but one bidder pulling back from the process of the airline's sale. Potential Chinese investment under CPEC's second phase also appears a distant possibility because of security concerns. China is upset not only over the terrorist attacks against its nationals working in Pakistan but also the narrative built around the power plants set up under the CPEC plan. The one-sided revisions in their contracts being imposed on private power producers and their vilification is not helping investor confidence either. With our investment climate deteriorating amid a worsening balance-of-payments crisis and political instability, we have seen several foreign companies exit the Pakistani market in recent years. We can appreciate the PM touring one country after another to sell Pakistan's 'unrealised economic potential' to bring in the foreign investment needed to shore up our shaky international reserves and accelerate economic growth. But these efforts will be fruitless unless he first focuses on crucial structural and policy reforms in areas that directly affect investors. Indeed, policy consistency and sanctity of contracts top the list of these reforms.

Language tyranny

Zubeida Mustafa

Since an education emergency was declared in Pakistan — for the second time — education has entered the public discourse with a bang. Seminars are being held frequently while the media has been addressing the issue much more than before. But nothing is changing on the ground. In this bleak scenario, comes a heart-warming announcement.

Baela Raza Jamil, the dynamic CEO of Idara-i-Taaleem-o-Agahi (ITA) has been awarded the Global Education Medal for the Asian region. It is to Baela's credit that she is one of the rare ones in the education sector in Pakistan who has walked the talk and her undertakings have had an impact on millions.

She launched the Pakistan Learning Festival that has been an informal learning experience for thousands of children since 2011. She set up ASER (Pakistan) in 2008 to test children's learning outcome all over the country. Of late, she has made her debut as a publisher of children's books. What is important is her inclusive approach vis-à-vis the indigenous languages in her scheme of things.

It is unfortunate that Baela's recommendations on various educational problems have failed to move our policymakers with whom she has constantly engaged. An issue that has bothered her for decades now — Baela understands my concern — is that of the language of education. It appears that government, society, educationists, school managers and even parents have joined hands to 'tyrannise' the child and sacrifice the joys of childhood at the 'altar of the English language'.

Some government functionaries and academics now discreetly concede that an overwhelming majority of teachers are not proficient in English and that affects their pedagogic performance. Yet no initiative has been taken to change the ambivalent language policy that is in place.

Neither is there any advocacy campaign to create awareness of the stupidity of imposing the English language on young children in the initial phase of their schooling. Not being familiar with it they are overawed by it. If the mother tongue or the language of the environment is used in early childhood and a few years of primary education, children will find school to be a friendly and welcoming place. The transition to another language will be painless when the change-over is gradual and takes place at an appropriate stage when the student is psychologically and mentally ready for it.

There is something seriously wrong with the hybrid pedagogy which allows the teacher to speak in Urdu, while the books are in English, and the students are expected to speak, read and write in English. This pattern will continue until the language factor is taken into account. It may be added that the child will be dumbed and will rote learn and never be able to think critically.

The fact is that we are regressing. Until last year, Sindh had, relatively speaking, a sane language in education policy.

the medium of instruction in all public sector schools was Sindhi and Urdu in areas inhabited by Sindhi and Urdu speakers respectively. Each community learned the other's language as a compulsory second language. The private schools, how-

ever, were inadvicably left to their own devices.

Today, under the unwritten orders of a district education officer, English is the medium of instruction in specified public sector schools in District South of Karachi. We shall never know about the disastrous impact of this policy because the ever-obliging examination board is infamously producing desired results that are not a valid assessment of candidates.

As a consequence, education has lost all credibility. The focus is now on quantity. The 26 million out-of-school children in Pakistan have become a scourge for the country.

Pa-radoxically in this dismal scenario, language — the divider between the rich and the poor — finds no mention. And it will not. Our neoliberals and their backers know very well that the fast-growing inequity in our society has been spawned by our market-driven education system in which the rich attend upscale elite schools while the poor go to the tottering public sector and low-fee private institutions which cannot teach English.

Who benefits from this class-ridden system? Of course the neo-liberals, who thrive in the globalised world of today. We cannot say we have not been warned.

One has to read Robert Phillipson (Linguistic Imperialism), Paulo Freire (Pedagogy of the Oppressed), Antonio Gramsci's views on language and education, and of course, Dr Maria Montessori (The Absorbent Mind).

Those in a position of power have also managed to create a paradoxical condition of coercion and consent that ensures that there is no public resistance to the language policy in vogue. — Courtesy Dawn

Anti-polio efforts in Gaza

Muhammad Moazzam Tauheed

Polio remains endemic in only two countries: Pakistan and Afghanistan. Despite global efforts, both nations still struggle with transmission, driven by misinformation, rumours, and conspiracy theories. Claims that the polio vaccine causes infertility or is part of foreign plots have fuelled vaccine hesitancy, preventing parents from vaccinating their children and delaying eradication. Anti-vaccine narratives, often spread by groups with local influence, lead many to refuse vaccinations, putting entire communities at risk.

In contrast, regions that have successfully eradicated polio, such as Africa, Europe, and the Americas, do not experience the health crises predicted by conspiracy theorists. Instead, these countries benefit from healthier populations, free from the dangers of polio-induced paralysis.

Despite ongoing conflict, public health efforts in Gaza have managed to overcome vaccine opposition. In July, after reports emerged of polio strains found in Gaza due to damage to infrastructure and the destructive effects of war, the Israeli army began vaccinating soldiers in Gaza to prevent the spread of polio.

Meanwhile, Palestinian officials, organisations, and resistance factions encouraged the public to vaccinate and reject conspiracy theories. Palestinians, despite longstanding oppression and political challenges, have prioritised public health by supporting vaccinations.

Reports from independent sources, such as the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor, indicate that Israeli actions have hindered vaccination efforts

in Gaza. Nevertheless, both Palestinians and Israelis acknowledge the importance of polio prevention.

This raises a critical question: if Palestinians facing severe challenges can overcome scepticism and embrace polio vaccination, why does hesitancy persist in Pakistan and Afghanistan? Global eradication efforts have demonstrated the power of vaccination, reducing polio cases by over 99 per cent worldwide. Both the inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) and the oral polio vaccine (OPV) are proven safe and effective, with extremely rare complications.

Nations that have eradicated polio do not face the health crises feared by anti-vaccine groups. Instead, they reap the benefits of a polio-free population, which include misinformation and logistical issues. Beyond delivering vaccines, it is crucial to improve sanitation, access to clean water, and nutrition to bolster immunity and reduce vulnerability to polio.

Combating vaccine hesitancy demands dismantling myths and conspiracy theories. In Pakistan, the government enforces strict tax policies, penalising non-filers and even blocking phone SIM cards. However, similar measures are not applied to polio campaigns. Incentivising families who vaccinate and penalising refusals may improve campaign outcomes.

Public health campaigns can succeed even in conflict zones when focused on protecting the population.

By following Gaza's example, Pakistan and Afghanistan can strengthen their efforts, dispel misinformation, and ultimately join the ranks of nations that have eradicated polio. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

5 key MoUs with Saudi Arabia now concrete contracts, create jobs: Dr Musadik Malik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik is optimistic about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) signed with Saudi Arabia, predicting significant outcomes where around five of these MOUs have evolved into concrete contracts and transactions, which will likely boost employment and investment opportunities.

In an exclusive interview with a private news channel, he said Pakistan's economy has received a significant boost of \$2.2 billion thanks to five Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) signed with Saudi Arabia,

which have now become concrete contracts.

This development is expected to bring in substantial investments and create new job opportunities in various sectors, including industry, agriculture, IT, education, health, petroleum, mining, energy and food, he mentioned.

Dr. Musadik Malik further stated that some opponent had previously mocked the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with Saudi Arabia,

suggesting it was merely a routine practice with little tangible outcome. However, he emphasized that this time would be

different.

"Now, people will see that these are not just MOUs on paper but actual transactions and investments materializing," Dr. Malik asserted.

He highlighted that around five of the MOUs have already translated into concrete contracts and transactions, paving the way for increased employment and investment opportunities in Pakistan, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have a long-standing "brotherly" relationship, sharing common interests, values and a shared foreign policy outlook, particularly in regional and international events, he added.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Six ships, GFS Ruby, Tucapel, PH Giang Minh, KS Camellia, Ginga Hawk and Sevilla Knutsen scheduled to load/offload Containers, Rice, Steel Coil, Chemicals, and LNG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Grain Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Engro Vopak Terminal and Engro Elengy Terminal respectively on Friday.

Meanwhile, three more ships, Singapore Bulker, Hafnia Topaz, and MT Bolan scheduled to load/offload Rice and Gas oil are also arrived at outer anchorage during last 24 hours.

Eleven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them five ships, GFS Ruby, Tucapel, KS Camellia, Zarrar Hanif, and Arkas are expected to sail on Friday. Cargo volume of 189,543 tonnes, comprising 151,032 tonnes import cargo and 38,511 tonnes of export cargo carried in 2,327 Containers (1,600 TEUs Imports & 1,637 TEUs Export).

In response to a question from MQM's Aminul Haq, Parliamentary Secretary for Industries and Production Shahid Usman informed the lower house of Parliament that 93 percent of mobile handsets are assembled locally, highlighting the country's substantial domestic production capacity.



RIYADH: PAK Saudi Minister for investment Sh. Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz and Abdul Aleem Khan held meeting Musadaq Malik & senior officials joined.

Rana Tanveer says: EV's policy to be announced on Nov 30

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of Food Security, Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Friday told the Senate that the Electric Vehicle (EV) policy would be announced on November 30 to promote local manufacturing of EVs and ensure a sustainable transport system.

Replying to the question of Senator Zeeshan Khanzada in the 343rd session of the Upper House, the minister informed that the Engineering Development Board mandated for issuance of vehicles assembling and

manufacturing certificates had issued 51 certificates to produce two and three-wheeler EVs (motorcycles and rickshaws) in Pakistan.

He added that for the manufacturing of EV 4-wheeler, licences had been issued to two companies including Eco Green Motors Pvt Ltd and Regal Automobile Pvt Ltd.

The minister informed that 40 sites had been selected for setting up the Charging stations on the Motorway and a viable and acceptable electricity tariff had been fixed on which work would be started soon.

New policy being devised to boost local mobile phone exports, NA told

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly was informed on Friday that a new policy for Mobile Device Manufacturing and Export is being devised to boost the exports of locally manufactured mobile phones.

In response to a question from MQM's Aminul Haq, Parliamentary Secretary for Industries and Production Shahid Usman informed the lower house of Parliament that 93 percent of mobile handsets are assembled locally, highlighting the country's substantial domestic production capacity.

He noted that almost all major brands have set up local assembly operations, which has contributed to the industry's growth.

During the question hour, Parliamentary Secretary for Railways Muhammad Usman Awaizi informed the House that 820 new high-capacity wagons are being introduced to enhance the freight-carrying capacity of Pakistan Railways.

He also mentioned that the Thar-Coal connectivity project is in progress and will greatly benefit the railway freight sector.

Ali Pervaiz Malik says: Govt initiatives restore confidence of industrialists

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Power Ali Pervaiz Malik has said that the government's measures have restored the confidence of industrialists.

Responding to the calling attention notice of Senator Zeeshan Khanzada in the upper house meeting on Friday, he said, due to the policies of the government, the kibar rate has fallen to 13.5 percent

and as the inflation is decreasing, the interest rate is also decreasing.

Earlier, Senator Zeeshan Khanzada termed the recent reduction in the interest rate by the State Bank as insufficient and submitted a notice to draw the government's attention to this matter.

He said that when the dollar rate increases, everything becomes expensive. "We should give concessions to our industries on electricity

and raw materials and reduce interest rates. We have to adopt long-term policies. A tariff policy will also have to be made", he added.

The government, Khanzada said, should prepare an electric vehicle policy, adding, measures should be taken to support the industries. Along with foreign investment, local industrialists should also be encouraged and interest rate should be reduced, he suggested.

PSX turns bullish, gains 1,893 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Friday, gaining 1,893.08 points, a positive change of 2.13 percent, closing at 90,859.85 points as compared to 88,966.77 points on last trading day.

A total of 465,865,841 shares were traded during the day as compared to 546,274,609 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 23.089 billion against Rs 24.117 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 430 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 220 of them recorded gains and 156 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 54 companies remained unchanged.

Atif Ikram says: Industries struggling to maintain their competitive edge in global markets

ISLAMABAD: Atif Ikram Sheikh, President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Friday urged the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to reduce interest rates by at least 500 basis points in its upcoming meeting on November 4, 2024.

"With inflation easing to 6.9% in September and expected to remain between 6.0% and 7.0% for October, Pakistan's inflation is now at favourable levels.

This has created an unreasonably high real interest rate of 10.5% against the current 17.5% policy rate," he said.

"Industries are struggling to maintain their competitive edge in global markets, threatening export revenue and millions of livelihoods," he added.

According to him, global oil prices have plummeted to record lows, with Brent at around \$72 per barrel, significantly reducing Pakistan's import bill burden.

He believes this unique opportunity must be leveraged to benefit the industrial sector.

He further urged the government to restore the Freight Subsidy at a higher rate to meet GOP target prorata, i.e., 1.5 to 2% instead of 1%.



QUETTA: Chairperson Balochistan Revenue Authority Noor-ul-Haq Baloch meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

SECP alerts public to surge in number of fraudulent trading platforms

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) warns the public regarding a surge in fraudulent investment schemes being promoted on social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp.

These schemes are falsely presented as legitimate investment advisory services or training courses with the intent to deceive people into investing their money in these fraudulent schemes, said a press release issued on Friday.

These scams often lure individuals by making

false promises of extraordinary profits with minimal risk, offering so-called "insider tips" in exchange for membership fees or investment via the advertised platforms. To appear credible, the fraudsters frequently misuse the names, images, and logos of well-known business professionals, reputable companies, SECP, and the Pakistan Stock Exchange. Since August 2024, the SECP has been issuing public warnings to caution the public against these fraudulent schemes. Additionally, a pop-up warning message has been deployed on the SECP's.

KP Governor says: KP govt's focuses on Politics not governance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said on Friday that the KP government has prioritized political activities over addressing the province's pressing issues.

LHC indicates for 2 days home work from home, closure of schools for 2-day

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has given indication for two days work from home in offices, closure of schools for two days and suspension of all commercial activities on Sunday in a week in view of smog.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of social activists of Christian Community meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi.

KP govt signs agreement for independent power transmission line

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has signed an agreement with a private company to lay down its own power transmission line. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has become the first province in the country to undertake this initiative.

ANF seizes 45 kg drugs in nine operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting nine operations recovered over 45 kg drugs worth Rs 4.5 million and arrested nine accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Friday.

SACM reviews Zakat dept's performance

LAHORE (APP): Special Assistant to Chief Minister (SACM) Punjab for Zakat and Ushr Rashid Iqbal Nasrullah visited Administrator Zakat Punjab office and reviewed the performance of the department, here on Friday.

CM greets Hindu community on Diwali

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has extended heartfelt greetings to the Hindu community on the occasion of Diwali. In her message, she remarked "The lamp of Diwali awakens love", expressing her joy in interacting with Hindu families during the special Diwali celebrations.

Nawaz Sharif's Green Tractor Scheme re-launched after 12 years: CM Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif launched Green Tractor Program by conducting digital balloting, here on Friday. Rs 10 lakh subsidy will be given on each tractor to 9,500 farmers under the scheme.



LARKANA: Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA), Sohail Anwar Khan Siyal is listening the problems of citizens during open court program held at Siyal House in Larkana.

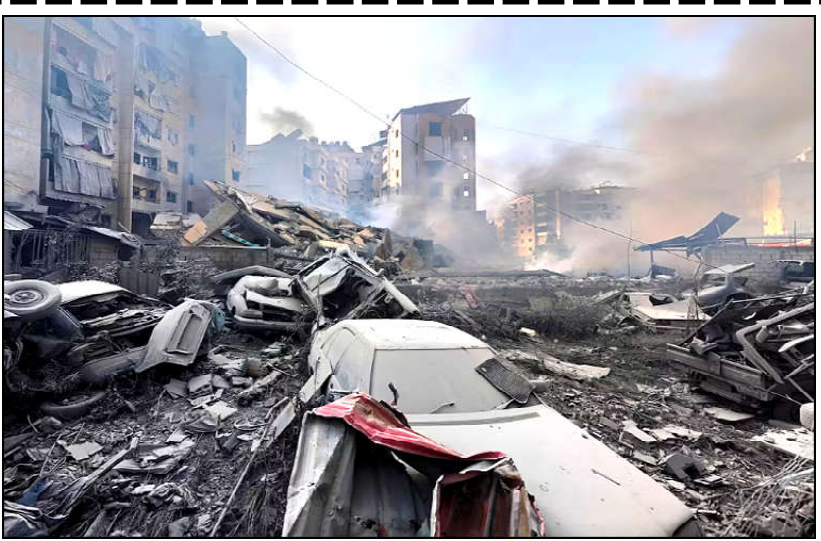
Health minister says: Shift public hospitals to solar energy on the cards

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique announced on Friday that the government was planning to shift all public hospitals in the province to solar energy. Presiding over the 16th syndicate meeting of Rawalpindi Medical University, he highlighted government's commitment to promoting high-quality research in medical universities and ensuring transparency in financial operations.

International News

At least 46 Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes, hospital hit, says Gaza ministry

CAIRO: At least 46 Palestinians were killed in Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip mostly in the north where one attack hit a hospital, torching medical supplies and disrupting operations, the enclave's health officials said.



The wreckage of vehicles are seen at a site damaged in the aftermath of Israeli strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs, amid the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, Lebanon.

New Hezbollah leader says will accept ceasefire with Israel if terms 'suitable'

BEIRUT: Hezbollah's new leader Naim Qassem on Wednesday said the group would agree to a ceasefire with Israel under acceptable terms, but added that a viable deal has yet to be presented.

North Korea's Choe accuses US and South Korea of plotting a nuclear strike against her country

MOSCOW: North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui, in a Moscow meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, accused the United States and South Korea of plotting a nuclear strike against her country.

Americans helping Ukraine's war efforts say the US hasn't done enough

KHARKIV: Each time U.S. philanthropist Amed Khan returns to Ukraine, he begins by offering condolences for those killed in the war since his last trip. Over the past two and a half years, his group has provided over \$50 million in aid to civilians and soldiers fighting to survive Russia's invasion.

Lebanon PM says hopes for ceasefire with Israel in 'coming hours or days'

BEIRUT: Lebanon's prime minister said US envoy Amos Hochstein had signalled during a phone call Wednesday that a ceasefire in the Israel-Hezbollah war was possible before US elections are held on November 5.

Brazil federal police concludes probe into Braskem salt mining disaster

SAO PAULO: Brazil's federal police said on Friday that 20 people have been formally accused following an investigation into a sinking ground disaster related to salt mining activities in Maceio, where petrochemicals firm Braskem has been active for decades.

North Korea will back Russia until victory in Ukraine, foreign minister says

MOSCOW: North Korea will back Russia until it achieves victory in the Ukraine war, Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui said on Friday at talks in Moscow with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

Russia fines Google more than all money in the world

MOSCOW: Russia has fined Google an eye-popping 20 undecillion rubles (\$2.5 decillion) for removing Russian state-run and government YouTube channels in the wake of the country's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

14 sick kids dead Parachinar crisis deepens as main highway closure enters third week

PARACHINAR (INP): Three weeks after the main road closure in Parachinar, severe shortages of food, fuel, and medicine have led to a worsening crisis. According to the hospital sources, another child has died due to the lack of timely medical treatment, increasing the death toll to 14 in the past three weeks. Residents remain confined to their areas as the unrest continues. For five consecutive days, educational institutions have also remained closed, and internet shutdowns are causing difficulties for students attempting online classes. Social leader Mir Afzal Khan told the media that citizens have started a sit-in, pledging to continue un-

til the main road is reopened, while MNA Hameed Hussain from the area has called for the road to be reopened and made safe for public transport. Private Education Network Chairman Muhammad Hayat Khan reported that schools have been closed for five days due to fuel shortages. Students expressed frustration to the media, noting that the month-long suspension of 3G and 4G services is disrupting online classes. Kurram District Deputy Commissioner Javed Ullah explained that the roads were closed due to security concerns following an October 12 attack on passenger vehicles in the convoy.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Revenue Mir Asim Kurd Gailu meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Governor flays Mastung blast, grieved over loss of lives in act of terrorism

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has strongly condemned the tragic bomb blast occurred near a school in Mastung, which claimed lives of innocent children and a police cop. In a condemnation statement issued here on Friday, the Governor expressed deep grief and sorrow over the incident of terrorism and stressed that the anti social elements involved in the attack don't

deserve any clemency. He urged the law enforcement agencies to bring those involved in the incident to court of justice by apprehending them at the earliest. He issued special directives to provide best medical treatment facilities to the injured of blast. The Governor also expressed sympathy and solidarity with the families of those martyred and injured in the act of terrorism saying that we equally share the grief with them.

Jatak slams Mastung tragedy; terms incident as proof of education enmity of terrorists

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Member of Executive Committee and Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Mir Ali Madad Jatak has condemned the Mastung tragedy in strongest words. In a condemnation statement issued here on Friday, the Provincial Minister said that targeting students of school in Mastung is a clear proof of the education enmity. Ali Madad Jatak said that women and children are not targeted in our tribal tra-

ditions, and as such this incident is against our norms. He said that the enemy elements are playing heinous game to appease their foreign lords. However, they would suffer failure at every front, he asserted. The Minister said that those involved in the act of terrorism would not be spared at all. He expressed sympathy with the bereaved families of the students and the police cop who were martyred in the terrorists attack.

Ali Hassan Zehri says: All possible measures will be taken for better education of male and female students

Independent Report
HUB: The central senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party, Spokesman of President Asif Ali Zardari and Provincial Adviser for Industry and Crafts Mir Ali Hassan Zehri has taken action after a school clerk in Zhob lost the examination fees of 878 female students in gambling. Taking notice of the situation, it has been said that the future of the students should not be damaged due to non-payment of fees on time. He said that the clerk involved in the incident should be really punished so that no one can do such a heinous act in the future. Spokesperson President Asif Ali Zardari and Advisor to Industry and Crafts of Balochistan Mir Ali Hassan Zehri announced to pay a fee of 25 lakh rupees in a personal capacity. It should be remembered that

the school clerk in Zhob had lost lakhs of rupees of the examination fee of hundreds of students in gambling, after which a dire situation had arisen. Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that he does not want the educational activities of 878 students to be disturbed, he added that he will take all possible steps for the development and prosperity of Balochistan and for the better education of male and female students. He said that people who play with the future of students do not deserve any kind of concession and strict action will be taken against all the elements who are part of this heinous act so that such incidents can be discouraged and any individual. Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that we will not let our children's future be ruined by incompetence.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the participants of the 36th Senior Management Course (SMC) from the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA), Karachi called on the Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Acting President for adopting international best practices to improve governance Calls for digital governance, data-driven decision-making for better service-delivery

ISLAMABAD (Online): Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani has called for adopting international best practices, focusing on innovation, and using the latest technology to improve governance in Pakistan. He underscored the need for embracing digital governance, data-driven decision-making, and using artificial intelligence to improve service delivery. The Acting President

expressed these views while talking to the participants of the 36th Senior Management Course of the National Institute of Management, Karachi, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Friday. Addressing the participants, the Acting President highlighted that Pakistan faced multiple challenges, including economic issues, high inflation, rising population, unemployment, cli-

mate change, and social injustice. He said that bureaucracy needed to play a proactive and constructive role to help address various challenges faced by the country. He emphasised the need to position Pakistan internationally as a competitive and forward-thinking nation, while also ensuring that every citizen benefited from the fruits of our policies. Syed Yousuf Raza

Ayaz warns to summon meetings if PTI fails in resolving issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Friday warned that he would summon meetings of seven standing committees to elect their chairpersons if the opposition PTI failed to provide nominations by next week.

During question hours in National Assembly, PPP MNA Agha Rafiullah remarked that opposition members are merely trying to score points instead of reinforcing Parliament. He stressed that if they genuinely wish to empower Parliament, they need to nominate their pending committee members to complete the National Assembly Standing committees. PTI Chief Whip Aamer Dogar assured that the remaining standing committees will be completed by next week.

Nazeer asks individuals included in ECL to submit review before committee

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar Friday asked the individuals included in the ECL list to submit a review to the committee, which will make a decision based on merit. Responding to calling attention notice regarding placing the names of several Members of the National Assembly on the Exit Control List (ECL), Provisional National Identification List (PNIL) and Passport Control List (PCL), he said that the Cabinet's sub-committee conducts reviews of names to include or exclude on the ECL in accordance with the 1981 law.

The minister said that names have been removed from the ECL after individuals filed a review to the committee. He said that the rate of removal of names from the ECL list is not less than 65 to 70 per cent among all requests for revision. He said that the names of individuals declared absconders in criminal cases are added to the list under relevant legal provisions. Currently, approximately 4,000 names are on the ECL, most of whom are absconders. The Law Minister said that while there is a right to travel under Article 15 but the same article also clarified that this right is subject to the law. He said that many members of the opposition during the previous PTI government, who are now on treasury benches were placed in the list in the ECL at that time.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Education Raheela Durrani, Secretary Saleh Nasar enquiring about the health of Mastung blast victims at Trauma Centre.

ATC provides copies of GHQ attack case to PTI founder, indictment on Nov 8

RAWALPINDI (Online): Judge Amjad Ali Shah of Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Rawalpindi has provided copies of GHQ attack case to PTI founder Imran Khan but the copies could not be provided to former foreign minister Shah Mehmood being in Lahore jail.

These copies will be distributed among the remaining accused. The copies of case have been provided to 102 accused including former chairman PTI in Adiala jail. The copies have already been provided to Umar Ayub, Zartaj Gul, Raja Basharat, Sadaqat Abbasi, Raja Rashid Hafeez, Wasiq Qayyum Abbasi, Sheikh Rashid and Col (Retd) Ajmal Sabir. The copies of case have yet to be provided to 23 accused persons. All the accused will be indicted after distribution of copies of case among them.

PSO faces financial crisis as receivables reach Rs. 800bn

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan State Oil (PSO) is grappling with a severe financial crisis, with total receivables ballooning to Rs. 800 billion. The company's profitability has been severely impacted by the financial crisis, with the largest share of receivables has to be paid by the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL). The sources said that the SNGPL owes PSO Rs. 515.28 billion, while the Hub Power Company Limited (Hubco) has to pay Rs. 14.80 billion to it. According to sources the energy Sector owes PSO Rs. 189 billion, and Pakistan International Airlines owes Rs. 29.25 billion. The sources said that the PSO also owes pay-

ECC approves supplementary grant of Rs 1.8bn for overhaul of engines of 2 VVIP aircrafts

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Friday.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister for Power Sardar Awaiz Ahmed Khan Leghari, Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik, Governor SBP (virtual) and Chairman SECP (virtual), along with Federal Secretaries and senior officers from the concerned Ministries and Divisions.

The ECC considered a proposal from the Ministry of Interior for grant of a Technical Supplementary Grant amounting to Rs. 252.711 million against the same amount surrendered by the Ministry of Housing and Works, for allocation to Capital Development Authority to ensure uninterrupted provision of civic services at the Prime Minister's Office (Public), Prime Minister's Office Internal and Prime Minister's Staff Colony. The ECC discussed the issue threadbare and

decided that domestic and imported wheat would be allocated and released by PASSCO based on allocation ratio decided by ECC on 1st February 2024, till full disposal of imported wheat stock, and all seven wheat-deficit agencies/regions would lift the wheat as per their committed demand during the Food Year 2024-25. The ECC however directed that the wheat to be picked up by agencies/regions be tested beforehand for purpose of quality and fitness for consumption. The ECC considered and approved a proposal from the Ministry of Interior for grant of a Technical Supplementary Grant amounting to Rs. 252.711 million against the same amount surrendered by the Ministry of Housing and Works, for allocation to Capital Development Authority to ensure uninterrupted provision of civic services at the Prime Minister's Office (Public), Prime Minister's Office Internal and Prime Minister's Staff Colony.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti alongwith Provincial Ministers, MPAs and Parliamentary Secretary of Minority Affairs Sanjay Kumar cutting cake on the eve of Dewali.

Ghazala prays for early recovery of President from fracture

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Ms Ghazala Gola has expressed sorrow over the reports of fracture caused in the foot of President Asif Ali Zardari. In a statement issued here on Friday, the Deputy Speaker said that it grieved her to hear about the fracture in foot of the President Zardari. She prayed for the early recovery of Asif Ali Zardari from the fracture. She also expressed best wishes for his best health.

No Urgency for 27th Amendment: Advisor on Legal Affairs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Advisor on Legal Affairs, Barrister Aqeel Malik, said on Friday that the government was not in a hurry regarding the 27th constitutional amendment. Talking to a private news channel, he said that the amendment would move forward with the support of all political stakeholders. He said that the 27th constitutional amendment was under consideration with broad political consensus as its guiding principle. He said that the amendment will incorporate demands from political allies, including MQM's call for empowered local governments under Article 140-A. ANP's suggestion to rename KP province was also will be incorporated, while civil society and Bar association input will also be welcomed in the amendments, he said. Answering a question, he said that the need for more judges, explaining that the current number was insufficient after the 26th Amendment. "Increasing judges is necessary to address the backlog of cases and form constitutional benches, ultimately to provide relief to the people," he said. Malik predicted that discussions on the 27th amendment could continue into next year, given the government's ongoing diplomatic commitments and upcoming visits from foreign delegations.

Naqvi strongly condemns explosion in Mastung

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday strongly condemned an explosion near Civil Hospital Chowk in Mastung, which claimed the lives of three children and a police officer. In a statement, he expressed his deep sorrow over the death of children and a police officer and shared his heartfelt condolences, standing in solidarity with the bereaved families. He denounced the incident, saying, "No words are enough to condemn the incident of targeting innocent children." He described the attack as an "act of brutality," adding that "targeting children is a heinous crime that no one should tolerate."



QUETTA: Inspector General Police Balochistan Mozzam Jah Ansari carrying coffin of police official martyred in Mastung blast after offering funeral prayer.

Quetta dwellers praise beefed-up cleanliness operation in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Quetta dwellers lauded the beefed-up cleanliness operation underway in day and night shifts and the collection of door-to-door garbage to make Valley City the cleanest urban center of the country. Residents of the provincial capital city have also hailed the efforts of Quetta Municipal Corporation (QMC) officials especially the Administrator Quetta who made the best arrangements for cleaning the city. The cooperation of the residents of the city was among the key factor which has made this operation a success, he requested. Residents of the city have also been requested not through garbage at open spaces so that desired results can be achieved. Administrator Quetta Muhammad Hamza Shafaqat while talking to APP said that the Balochistan government had been given nod to operate the solid waste management in provincial capital on public private partnership.

NA Speaker inquires health of President Asif Zardari

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Friday telephoned Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to inquire about the health of President Asif Ali Zardari. The Speaker expressed his best wishes for the President's swift recovery and conveyed his prayers for his health, said a news release. Bilawal Bhutto informed the Speaker about the current health condition of his father, President Asif Ali Zardari, and mentioned that doctors have advised him to rest. He expressed gratitude to the Speaker of the National Assembly for his kind wishes and prayers for the President's well-being.

Targeting innocent children is insult to humanity: Samina

Independent Report
QUETTA: Chairperson Standing Committee for Human Rights Senator Samina Mumtaz Zahri has expressed her anger and grief over the martyrdom of many people including children in the terrorist attack in Mastung. In her statement condemning the explosion in strong terms, she said that the terrorists involved in the incident have no religion or nation. Terrorists are devoid of humanity and targeting innocent children is not brave in any way. Terrorists are cowards and targeting innocent civilians is a cowardly act. In her condemnation statement, she expressed a strong reaction to the loss of innocent lives in the incident and said that the martyrdom of innocent children, police personnel and others in the Mastung blast is very sad. Senator Samina Mumtaz Zahri said that the blood of innocent children will go in vain and the terrorist elements involved in the incident will be sent to hell soon. She expressed her condolences to the families of the martyred children and others and said that the entire nation is an equal participant in the grief of the families of the martyrs and the injured. Senator Samina Mumtaz Zahri has said that targeting innocent citizens and children with terrorism is a cowardly and despicable act.



QUETTA: Members of Baloch Students Action Committee are holding protest demonstration for recovery of Baloch missing persons, at Quetta press club.