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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.

According to the Medical Superintendent of Mastung hospital, Dr Nisar Ahmed Baloch, at least 30 injured were brought in the hospitals where condition was critical. However the necessary treatment is being provided to the injured persons. Meanwhile, over 25 injured were moved to the Sandeman Provincial Hospital Quetta and Trauma Center where condition of three is stated to be critical.



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



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti distributing laptop amongst students during a ceremony at Govt Girls Postgraduate College.

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. Chief Justice Afridi's remarks came during a hearing of a land dispute case, presided over by a two-member bench he led. During the session, the petitioner's lawyer requested a written directive from the court, suggesting that they be advised to approach the relevant forum.

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

SC (Practice & Procedure) Amendment Ordinance, laid in Senate

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2024 (Ordinance No. VIII of 2024) was laid in the Senate on Friday.

Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar laid before the Senate the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2024 (Ordinance No. VIII of 2024), as required by clause (2) of Article 89 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

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. He said that we are providing educational opportunities to our intelligent students in the prestigious institutions of the world. He also said that we want to give higher opportunities of education and progress by creating self confidence among them.

The Chief Minister recalled that we had announced to provide laptops to the girl students 40 days ago, and now the commitment is being fulfilled today. He said that the work would be started on the faculty block named after Professor Nazim Talib soon. This project would be completed within a year, he added.

He said it is our desire to make the educational institution exemplary one of the province and for the purpose, we would extend full government patronage.

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.



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.

Senate committee okays increase in SC judges to 25 amidst debate

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senate Standing Committee on Law and Justice has approved a proposal to increase the number of Supreme Court judges from the current count to 25, including one Chief Justice and 24 judges. The committee members debated on the rational to increase judges' number in the apex court as there treasury benches members advocated need for additional judges to manage the high case backlog in the Supreme Court. Senator Hamid Khan and Senator Kamran Murtaza opposed the increase, with Senator Murtaza arguing that recent vacancies were strategic and that the Supreme Court should be consulted on the necessity of more judges.

Senator Hamid Khan raised concerns over financial constraints and suggested focusing on the efficiency of existing resources, particularly as Pakistan faces economic challenges. On the other hand, Senator Shahadat Awan voiced strong support, noting that with an estimated 60,000 pending cases, at least 21 judges are essential. Senator Abdul Qadir further argued that Pakistan's growing population and rising crime rates necessitate a larger judiciary.

Prosperous, stable Balochistan not being digested by terrorists: Kakar

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

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. 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.

Meanwhile, he declared an emergency in all the hospitals in view of the Mastung terrorism incident.

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.

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 replied 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 federal cabinet meeting, emphasizing the need for enhanced legal measures in light of the province's security challenges.

The Ministry of Interior briefed the cabinet on the evolving security landscape in Balochistan, pointing out that insurgent and terrorist networks have become increasingly coordinated.

The cabinet was informed of the recent violent incidents across the region,

Govt approves amendments to anti-Terrorism Act

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

Ministry sources stressed that current laws do not adequately address these integrated threats, necessitating stronger legal tools to enable a more effective response. The approved amendments grant expanded authority to the Pakistan Army, Civil Armed Forces, and law enforcement agencies, allowing them to detain individuals suspected of terrorist activities proactively.

These amendments also include changes to Section 111EEE of the Anti-Terrorism Act, which will provide security forces with legal protection for preemptive action against potential threats.

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

Governor Balochistan greets Hindu community on Diwali festival

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has congratulated the Hindu community on the Diwali festival.

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

He said that all minorities enjoy religious freedom under 1973's constitution of Pakistan. He acknowledged the key role of Hindu community in development and prosperity of the province especially in trade.

He hoped that the community would continue to take wholehearted part in economic development and social stability of the province and country.

Governor Balochistan commends BRA for record tax collection

Independent Report
QUETTA: Governor of Balochistan, Jafar Khan Mandokhail, emphasized the critical role of tax revenue in a nation's economic framework, stating that it funds essential infrastructure, development projects, and social welfare programs.

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.

Governor Mandokhail made these remarks during a meeting at Governor House Quetta with BRA Chairman Noor-ul-Haq Baloch, also attended by the Governor's Principal Secretary, Hashim Khan Ghilzai. He recommended reducing tax slabs to encourage voluntary tax compliance, thereby boosting provincial revenues, fostering a business-friendly environment, and promoting investment and economic growth.

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

In a statement, the JI emir 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.



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

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, while unvaccinated communities continue to suffer from polio's devastating impact. Given these facts, it is essential to ask: if polio-free regions thrive without the feared complications, what continues to fuel vaccine hesitancy in Pakistan and Afghanistan? Vaccine resistance remains a significant barrier, leaving children vulnerable to this preventable disease.

The presence of polio in these countries underscores the urgent need to combat misinformation and prioritise the people's well-being. Addressing vaccine hesitancy requires tackling deep-seated mistrust and educational gaps.

Education is critical in forming a foundation for accepting public health initiatives.

Despite facing occupation, an environment of apartheid, and conflict, the Palestinian territories maintain a high literacy rate of nearly 97 per cent, comparable to developed countries. In contrast,

literacy rates in Afghanistan and Pakistan are 37pc and 62pc, respectively.

Gender disparity in education is minimal in the Palestinian territories, where education for girls is robust, and female literacy nearly equals male literacy. However, in Pakistan and Afghanistan, particularly in the rural areas, significant gender gaps persist. This educational disparity also affects public health.

Palestinian families actively supported and participated in the polio vaccination campaign, with the World Health Organisation noting that Gaza's polio vaccinations exceeded targets. In contrast, efforts in both Pakistan and Afghanistan encounter numerous challenges, 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).



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 per cent 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 government, the kibar rate has fallen to 13.5 per cent

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 aid, 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 per cent, 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 schemes 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

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, climate 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 Gillani said that bureaucracy should build strong networks, both within the government and with external stakeholders, to find sustainable solutions to Pakistan's socio-economic problems. He stated that civil servants were required to be problem solvers, innovators, and leaders who could help the governments steer the country out of its present socio-economic and governance challenges.

The Acting President advised the bureaucrats to adopt a service-oriented attitude, adding that government service required empathy, humility, and a genuine desire to improve the lives of others. He said that the world was constantly evolving, and civil servants needed to evolve with it. He said that civil servants should seek out knowledge, equip themselves with the

latest skills and tools, stay informed about global trends and developments, and continue refining their skills. "You must adopt ethical governance and treat the public humanely", he added.

Replying to a question, the Acting President said that provinces had been given more rights and funds after the 18th Amendment and the NFC Award. While answering a question about the 26th Constitutional Amendment, he said that it was the prerogative of the Parliament to amend the Constitution keeping in view the best interest of the country. He added that it was not appropriate for any other country to comment upon and interfere in our internal matters.

Talking about terrorist incidents in Balochistan, the Acting President said that anti-Pakistan elements were against the development and prosperity of the province and were making deliberate efforts to discourage investors from investing in Pakistan.



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.

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 until 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.

The deputy commissioner also mentioned that a peace delegation from Kohat is holding talks with community leaders to restore stability in Parachinar.

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 Awais 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 National Food Security & Research for allocation of domestic and imported wheat stocks of PASSCO among wheat-deficient agencies/regions for Food Year 2024-25.

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-deficient 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.

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.

He requested that the MNAs with inquiries submit their identity card information to the National Assembly Secretariat to verify their names in the list.

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.

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."

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.

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.



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

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.

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. Kaleem Ullah, a shopkeeper in Liaquat Bazar said that the initiative taken by the Quetta administration to

operate the sanitation services on a public-private partnership basis has brought improvement in the civic life of the capital city of the province.

With the efforts of Commissioner Quetta Division Muhammad Hamza Shafaqat the cleanliness campaigns launched aimed at offering a clean and green environment to the residents of the Capital city, he added. A housewife residing in Satellite Town Quetta said, since the last two months the sanitary workers were collecting garbage on time.

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.

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

RAWALPINDI (Online): Judge Amjid 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.

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.

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. Meanwhile, in the public and educational circles, the announcement of Mir Ali Hassan Zehri paying the fee in his personal capacity is being highly appreciated.



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

Targeting innocent children is insult to humanity: Samina

Independent Report QUETTA: Chairperson Standing Committee for Human Rights Senator Samina Muntaz 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 in-

cident and said that the martyrdom of innocent children, police personnel and others in the Mustang blast is very sad. Senator Samina Muntaz 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 Muntaz 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.