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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 stu-

dents 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

The reports reaching here suggested that the remote control explosive de-

vice was planted in a mo- and rescue teams reached torcycle near the Girls High the spot of explosion and school which went off with a big bang.

five children, a police constable and a passerby were killed while 35 others mostly children -injured. Two of the injured

wounds in the hospitals. Soon after the blast, the police, local administration Medical Superintendent of

started rescue operation. The bodies of deceased chil-As a result of the blast, dren and others and injured persons were shifted to the local hospitals of Mastung including District Head-quarter Hospital and Nawab Ghous Bakhsh Mesuccumbed to serious morial Hospital for treat-

According to the

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



DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with a delegation of Qatar Busi-

OUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti distributing

laptop amongst students during a ceremony at Govt Girls Postgraduate College.

quested a written directive

from the court, suggesting

that they be advised to ap-

proach the relevant forum.

Court could result in cases

such observation would be

made in his rulings that could

lead to further litigation at

He emphasised that no

extending unnecessarily.

In response, Chief

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 Justice Afridi explained that cases being prolonged for while hearing an appeal up to 18 years. He assured against objections raised by that in his rulings, he would the Registrar's Office, he avoid any observations that observed that a single statemight lead to the reopening ment from the Supreme 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,



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): vacancies were strategic and 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 in-

that the Supreme Court should be consulted on the necessity of more judges.

Senator Hamid Khan raised concerns over financial constraints and sug gested focusing on the efficiency of existing resources, particularly as Pakistan ces 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 popula-

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

SLAMABAD (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 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 Re-

public of Pakistan. The Deputy Chairman Senate referred the bill to the concerned standing committee.

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

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

he 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

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 Min-

ister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has reiterated his government's resolve to defeat the terrorists through education and conscious-

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

The Chief Minister was addressing the ceremony of laptops distribu-Girls Postgraduate College tunities of education and

Minister for Planning, De-

velopment, and Special Ini-

tiatives, Ahsan Iqbal Friday

said that the Federal Gov-

ernment was committed to

utilising all resources for

the development of the

Balochistan province. Re-

sponding to a question dur-

ing the ongoing 343rd ses-

sion of the Upper House,

he informed that a total of

200 PSDP projects were

underway in Balochistan,

with an estimated cost of

He said an amount of

1429 billion rupees.

here on Friday. progress by creating sel Addressing the ceremony, Chief Minister re-

ferred 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 tion at the Government want to give higher oppor-

earmarked for the PSDP in

2024-25 while more alloca-

tion of funds would be en-

sured for the uplift of the

Balochistan projects. How-

ever, he stressed the impor-

tance of improving the ad-

ministrative capacity of

provinces for better service

delivery of funds and re-

sources after allocations.

Meanwhile, Minister for

Industries and Production,

Rana Tanveer Hussain re-

plying to a question told the

House that restructuring of

the USC was underway.

Govt committed to

provide more resources

for Balochistan's

development: Ahsan

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 Nazima 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

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

DOHA (APP): Prime Min- ing new avenues for colister Muhammad Shehbaz laboration. 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 Saod 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



QUETTA: A delegation led by Former Senator Nawabzada Haji Lashkari Raisani meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

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 Oatar 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 Oatar. "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 festi-

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 efforts in advancing devel-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 pro-

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, ap-Noor-ul-Haq Baloch and growth.

his team for their relentless opmental 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 plauding BRA Chairman investment and economic

Opposition slams govt for increasing petrol, diesel prices

position 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 inflation-hit already masses. Hours after surge in the petroleum prices, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman on

ISLAMABAD (INP): Op- 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.

crease, with Senator tion and rising crime rates Murtaza arguing that recent necessitate a larger judiciary. Mastung terrorism incident. 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

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

and Qatar. He congratulated the whole nation on the foreign achievements made by Pakistan under the leadership investment pledge, said the Shehbaz Sharif who charted meetings

the country on path of eco-

nomic progress. The minister recalled signing of 27 Memoranda

of Understanding (MoUs), amounting to \$2.2 billion cessful visit of a high-level Saudi delegation, led by Minister for Investment Sheikh Khalid Bin Abdul policy and economic Aziz Al Faleh, a few weeks ago which included fruitful government-to-government of Prime Minister of and business-to-business

anti-Terrorism Act ISLAMABAD (INP): The which have resulted in the federal government has approved amendments to the critical infrastructure.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning,

Development, Ahsan Iqbal chaired a meeting to re-

view the progress on the transfer of Pak Public

Works Department (Pak PWD) projects to provin-

cial governments under the Public Sector Devel-

Security concerns in Balochistan:

Govt approves

amendments to

opment Programme (PSDP) in Islamabad.

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 chal-

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

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

loss of lives and damage to 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 amend-

ments 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

Daily Aoice of Masse 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

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 consis-

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

Saturday November 02, 2024

Since an education emergency was declared in discourse with a bang. Seminars are being held frequently while the media has been addressing language policy that is in the issue much more place. than before. But nothing is changing on the

ground. In this bleak scenario, comes a heartwarming announcement.

Baela Raza Jamil, the dynamic CEO of Idara-i-Taaleem-o-Agahi (ITA) has been awarded the Global Education Medal 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

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 me for decades now — Baela understands my concern — is that of the language of education. It appears that government, socieducationists, school managers and even parents have joined hands to 'tyrannise' the child and sacrifice the tively. Each community joys of childhood at the

'altar of the English lan-

demics now discreetly concede that an overwhelming majority of Pakistan — for the sec- teachers are not profiond time - education cient in English and that has entered the public affects their pedagogic performance. Yet no initiative has been taken to change the ambivalent

> 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 school-

ing. Not being familiar

with it they are overawed by it. If the mother for the Asian region. It is tongue or the language to Baela's credit that she 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

> 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

the medium of instruction in all public sector schools was Sindhi and Urdu in areas inhabited by Sindhi and Urdu speakers respeclearned the other's language as a compulsory ge'. second language. The language policy in Some government private schools, how-vogue. -- Courtesy Dawn

functionaries and aca- ever, were inadvisably 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 infamous for producing desired results that are not a valid assessment candidates

As a consequence,

education has lost all

credibility. The focus is now on qua-ntity. The 26 million out-of-school child-ren 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 Op-Antonio pressed), Gramsci's views on language and education, and of course, Dr Maria Montessori (The Absor-

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

bent Mind).

Anti-polio efforts in Gaza

Muhammad Moazzam Tauheed

Polio remains endemic in only two countries: Pakistan and Afghanistan. Despite global efforts, 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. Antivaccine narratives, often spread by groups with local influence, lead many to refuse vaccinations, putting entire complications.

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 to this preventable disdestructive effects of ease. war, the Israeli army began vaccinating soldiers in Gaza to prevent the spread of polio. Meanwhile, Palestinian officials, organisations, and resistance factions envaccinate and reject conspiracy theories. Palestinians, despite longstanding oppression and political challenges, have prioritised public health initiatives. health by supporting vaccinations.

Reports from independent sources, such as the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights

importance of polio pre- spectively.

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 su--pported and particivaccine (OPV) are proven safe and effective, with extremely rare

face the health crises feared by anti-vaccine groups. Instead, they reap the benefits of a pounvaccinated communities continue to suffer from polio's devastating impact. Given these 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, leav-

The presence of polio in these countries unmation and prioritise the people's well-being. Addeep-seated mistrust outcomes. and educational gaps.

Education is critical in forming a foundation for accepting public

Despite facing occupation, an environment of apartheid, and conflict, the Palestinian territories maintain a high literacy rate of Monitor, indicate that nearly 97 per cent, com-Israeli actions have hin- parable to developed dered vaccination efforts countries. In contrast,

in Gaza. Nevertheless, literacy rates in Afboth Palestinians and ghanistan and Pakistan Israelis acknowledge the are 37pc and 62pc, re-

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 fa--milies actively pated in the polio vaccin-ation campaign, with the World Health Organisation noting Nations that have that Gaza's polio vaccieradicated polio do not nations exceeded targets. In contrast, efforts in both Pakistan and Afghanistan encounter numerous challenges, lio-free population, while which include misinformation and logistical issues. Beyond delivering vaccines, it is crucial to improve sanitation, acfacts, it is essential to cess 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 governing children vulnerable ment enforces strict tax policies, penalising non-filers and even blocking phone SIM cards. However, similar derscores the urgent measures are not apneed to combat misinfor- plied to polio campaigns. Incentivising families who vaccinate dressing vaccine hesi- and penalising refusals couraged the public to tancy requires tackling may improve campaign

Public health campaigns can succeed even in conflict zones when focused on protecting the population. By following Gaza's example, Pakistan and Afghanistan 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

Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik Memorandum 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

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)

which have now become different. concrete contracts.

This development is substantial investments and create new job opportunities in various sectors, including industry, agriculture, IT, education, health, petroleum, mining,

Dr. Musadik Malik way further stated that some employment opponent had previously mocked the signing of Memorandum suggesting it was merely a tangible However, he emphasized

that these are not just optimistic about the expected to bring in MOUs on paper but actual transactions investments materializing,' Dr. Malik asserted.

> He highlighted that around five of the MOUs have already translated energy and food, he into concrete contracts and transactions, paving the

investment opportunities in Pakistan. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have a long-Understanding (MOUs) standing "brotherly with Saudi Arabia, relationship, sharing common interests, values routine practice with little and a shared foreign policy outcome, outlook, particularly in regional and international signed with Saudi Arabia, that this time would be events, he added.

Shipping activity at

Tucapel, PH Giang Minh, KS Camellia, Ginga Hawk and Sevilla Knutsen scheduled to load/offload Containers, Rice, Steel Coil, Chemicals, and NG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Grain Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Engro Vopak Terminal and Engro Elengy Terminal respectively on

Friday.

Meanwhile, three

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

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 3,237 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

manufacturing of EVs and ensure a sustainable transport system.

Replying to the question of Senator Żeeshan Khanzada in the 343rd session of the Upper House, the minister informed that the Engineering Development Board mandated for issuance of vehicles manufacturing certificates had issued 51 certificates to produce two and threewheeler EVs (motorcycles

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

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

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

The National Assembly boost the exports of locally

In response to a question from MQM's Haq, Aminul 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 local assembly

shares were traded during the day as compared to Parliamentary 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

of Pakistan Railways. He also mentioned 220 of them recorded gains the Thar-Coal and 156 sustained losses. connectivity project is in whereas the share price of progress and will greatly 54 companies remained benefit the railway freight unchanged.

Govt initiatives restore

Ali Pervaiz Malik says:

confidence of industrialists ISLAMABAD (APP): and as the inflation is and raw materials and

Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Power Ali Pervaiz Malik has said that the government's measures restored confidence 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 kibor rate has fallen to 13.5 percent

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.

shares in the stock market,

A total of 465,865,841

decreasing, the interest rate is also decreasing. Earlier, Senator Zeeshan Khanzada termed Senator 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.

industries on electricity suggested.

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

The government, Khanzada aid, should prepare an electric vehicle policy, adding, measures should be taken to support He said that when the the industries. Along with dollar rate increases, foreign investment, local everything becomes industrialists should also expensive. "We should give be encouraged and interest concessions to our rate should be reduced, he

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

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Atif Ikram Sheikh,

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 maintain President competitive edge in global Federation of Pakistan markets, threatening export revenue and millions of livelihoods," he

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): false promises The Securities and Exchange Commission of minimal risk, offering so-Pakistan (SECP) warns the called "insider tips" in

on social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp. These schemes are falsely presented as business professionals, legitimate investment advisory services or training courses with the intent to deceive people into investing their money

schemes, said a press release issued on Friday. lure individuals by making deployed on the SECP's.

extraordinary profits with public regarding a surge in exchange for membership fraudulent investment fees or investment via the schemes being promoted advertised platforms. To appear credible, the fraudsters frequently misuse the names, images, and logos of well-known reputable companies, SECP, and the Pakistan Stock Exchange. Since August 2024, the SECP has been issuing public warnings in these fraudulent to caution the public against these fraudulent schemes. Additionally, a pop-up These scams often warning message has been

Port Qasim KARACHI (APP): Six

last 24 hours.

ISLAMABAD (APP): was informed on Friday that a new policy for Mobile Device Manufacturing and Export is being devised to manufactured mobile

all major brands have set operations, which has contributed to the industry's growth. During the question

hour, Secretary for Railways Muhammad Usman Awaisi informed the House that 820 new high-capacity wagons are being introduced to enhance the freight-carrying capacity

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): addressing the province's 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.

In an interview with a private news channel, he highlighted the province's growing instability and the government's inadequate would be at continued risk.

provincial government has failed to ensure peace in the region," Governor Kundi stated.

Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur was solely engaged in political gatherings and protests,

core issues, he added. Governor Kundi said

that the federal government prioritize should establishing peace, as the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have made immense sacrifices for stability. He said that without immediate intervention, peace and stability in the province

He further said that sustainable peace would enable significant growth development opportunities within the

When asked about the potential for the governor's rule in KP, he dismissed showing little interest in any such possibilities.

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

(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.

Justice Shahid Karim remarked we had acted upon this policy in previous year. Environmental commission previous should decide to hold meeting. He gave these remarks during hearing of petition with reference to eradication of smog here

filed reports during the hearing of the case. Justice Shahid Karim remarked crack down be launched on the smoke emitting heavy vehicles in adjoining areas of Lahore. The buses stationing in terminals be checked. Motorway police should check the fitness of vehicles too. Justice Shahid Karim said in remarks need is there to formulate policy about ching chi rickshaws. Motorcycles too are care of underpasses to playing a major role in prevent theft so that it spreading pollution. does not recur.

Government has given subsidy on super seeds. There is need to give subsidy on transport.

The court expressed reservation on green lockdown policy remarking pollution of one area will be shifted to other area due to green lockdown policy. Perhaps this may not prove more effective.

The court remarked we had ordered two days work from home.

closure of schools on Friday and Saturday besides changing time schedule of markets. We had shut commercial Different departments activities on Sunday. We will have to go to such steps again. Environmental commission should hold meeting and decide about it.

Counsel for LDA said

in report inquiry report has been completed in respect of 19 underpasses and filed. LEDs lights have stolen from been underpasses. Responsibility has been assigned to PHA for taking



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

KP govt signs agreement for independent power transmission line

dept's performance

Chief

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, Pakhtunkhwa has become the first province in the country to undertake this initiative.

The signing ceremony took place at the Chief Minister's House in Peshawar, where officials from Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) and the private

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. He said 100

grams hashish, 40 grams ice

and 30 grams intoxicated

tablets were recovered

from an accused arrested

near Jadon Hotel in

Mansehra. The arrested

accused confessed to

selling drugs to the

students of educational

institutions. 670 grams

heroin-filled capsules were

recovered from a passenger

going to Sharjah at Lahore

company NetRecon inked to the national grid, or at the agreement in the presence of Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur. In the first phase, a

be laid from Matiltan to Madian. This project, estimated to cost 8 billion rupees, is expected to be completed within a year

40-kilometer-long 132/220

kV transmission line will

and a half. The transmission line will deliver electricity generated from the 84 MW Matiltan Hydropower Project and other provincial projects in Swat

LAHORE (APP): Special

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. Rashid Nasrullah

met the officers and

discussed departmental

matters. Administrator

Aslam Ramey gave a

detailed briefing to the

Special Assistant about

the working of the

Assistant reviewed the

performance of various

projects of the Zakat and

Ushr department in detail.

Special

department.

The

Assistant to

discounted rates to local industries. Upon completion of

the first phase, the provincial government is projected to earn an annual revenue of 7 billion rupees.

In the second phase of Swat Corridor Transmission Line project, an additional 80-kilometer line will be extended from Madian to Chakdara. Currently, numerous highcapacity hydropower projects are underway under the provincial government in Swat.

Ali Amin Gandapur **SACM reviews Zakat**

that the Zakat amount

should be provided to the

beneficiaries timely and

without any delay. A

briefing on digitization of

data and professional

training was also given by

impartiality are the top

priorities of the Punjab

philanthropists should

also be encouraged to give

actively participates in

welfare works. All

resources will be provided

for the improvement of the

Rashid Nasrullah

Through the media,

Pakistani nation

that

said

the department.

transparency

government.

further

line project is crucial for the sustainable development of the province.

He labeled it as one of provincial government's flagship projects and a significant achievement. The project is expected to transformative changes in the energy and industrial sectors in KP. Through this transmission line, the provincial government will able to supply electricity at lower rates to local industries, thereby attracting more investors to the province.

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. The CM announced the launch of a Special Minority Card for minority communities on December 20 and the establishment of a "Minority Virtual Police Station" under the Mahfooz Punjab Vision initiative, aimed at enhancing support

and security for minorities.

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

LAHORE (APP): Punjab review its features. Chief Minister Maryam 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. "We want to enter a modern era of mechanisation of agriculture in Punjab,' Marvam Nawaz Sharif observed. The CM termed the Green Tractor Program as relaunch of Nawaz Sharif's green tractor scheme for farmers in Punjab, after a lapse of 12 years. She inspected four types of green tractors to also rode a tractor to under the scheme.

described tractor driving as a pleasant experience. She was apprised by the authorities concerned after the balloting,"Mohammad Yasin, son of Mohammad Ashraf of Okara, is the

first farmer to get a green tractor. Talib Hussain, son of Muhammad Hussain of Chakwal, is the second farmer, while Ghulam Akbar son of Haji Ghulam Hussain of Dera Ghazi Khan is the third farmer to get a green tractor." She was further

briefed that 339 farmers in Okara, 111 in Chakwal and 276 farmers in DG Khan be given to the farmers, and will get green tractors



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 University, he highlighted government's commitment to promoting high-quality research in medical universities and ensuring transparency in financial operations. He

government is dedicated to providing quality education in government iversities

At the meeting, officials presented the agenda, which included approval for building upgrades and medical equipment for Holy Family Hospital. Rawalpindi Teaching Hospital received authorization to make payments to the National Institute of Health, while Benazir Bhutto Hospita in Rawalpindi was permitted to acquire new anesthesia highlighted that the Punjab workstations.

International News

Rashid Nasrullah said department, he added.

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

Monitoring Desk

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

Israel's military has accused the Palestinian militant group Hamas of using Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya for military purposes and said "dozens of terrorists" have been hiding there. Health officials and Hamas deny the charge.

Later on Thursday, an Israeli airstrike on two houses in the Nuseirat camp in central Gaza killed at least 16 Palestinians, medics at Al-Awda Hospital in the camp told Reuters. The dead included a paramedic and two local journalists, they added.

dismantled Hamas' command structure, is currently the main focus of the military's assault in the enclave. Earlier this month it sent tanks into Jabalia, Beit Hanoun, and Beit Lahiya to flush out militants it said had regrouped in the area.

Eid Sabbah, director of nursing at Kamal Adwan - which is in Beit Lahiya told Reuters some staff had suffered minor burns after the Israeli strike hit the third floor of the hospital.

There were no reports of any casualties at the hospital, which Israeli forces stormed and briefly occupied last week. Israel said it had captured around 100 still stationed nearby.

the Hamas-run Gaza Strip Northern Gaza, where bodies "to protect hospi-

Israel said in January it had tals and medical staff from the brutality of the (Israeli) occupation"

The Israeli military has said its forces are operating in the hospital area based on intelligence about the presence of terrorists and terror infrastructure in ne vicinity.

"During the operation, it was found that dozens of terrorists were hiding in the hospital, with some even posing as hospital staff,' said the military in a statement following Thursday's

Medical charity Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said on Thursday that one of its doctors at the hospital, Mohammed suspected Hamas militants in that raid. Israeli tanks are last Saturday by Israeli forces. It called for the pro-The health ministry in tection of him and all medical staff who "are facing called for all international horrific violence as they try to provide care'

centre of a firestorm on Thursday over sexist comments he made at a campaign rally — the latest in a string of lewd and contemptuous comments about women from the former president and his

"I want to protect the women of our country. his White House rival Ka-

The Democratic vice president called the statement "very offensive to women", just days before an election that experts say could shake out more than ever before along gender lines.



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'

Monitoring Desk 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 pre-

sented. Qassem, who was named Hezbollah secretary-general on Tuesday, did not explicitly link a Lebanon ceasefire to an end to fighting in Gaza, a position previously held by the

Iran-backed group.
"If the Israelis decide that they want to stop the aggression, we say we ac-

Qassem said in a pre-recorded speech, his first since he was named the group's new leader.

But Hezbollah "will not beg for a ceasefire", he added, noting that political efforts to secure a deal have yet to yield results.

'No project has been proposed that Israel agrees to and that we can discuss,' Qassem replaces

Hassan Nasrallah who was assassinated by Israel on September 27 after more than 30 years at

cept, but under the condi- the helm. Lebanon PM says hopes for ceasefire with Israel in 'coming hours or days'

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Lebanon's prime

that perhaps we could reach a ceasefire in the coming days, before the fifth" of November, Najib Mikati said in a telebe presented.

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

Monitoring Desk 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.

She did not provide evidence to back her assertion, but spoke of regular consultations between Washington and Seoul at which she alleged such plotting took place.

Brazil federal police concludes probe into **Braskem salt** mining disaster

Monitoring Desk 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.

The police did not name the company, or those who were formally accused after concluding its investigation.

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

Monitoring Desk

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

"Our traditional, historically friendly relations, which have travelled the tested path of history, today ... are rising to a new level of relations of invincible military comradeship," she told Lavrov, praising the role played in this by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

She said Pyongyang had no doubt that under Putin's "wise leadership" the Russian army and people would "achieve a great victory in their sacred struggle to protect the sovereign rights and security Russia in August.

interests of their state."

'And we also assure that until the day of victory we will firmly stand alongside our Russian comrades, she said. Greeting her, Lavrov spoke of the "very close ties" between the two countries' militaries and said this enabled them to solve important security tasks together.

Neither referred to statements by the United States, NATO, South Korea and Ukraine this week that North Korea has sent some 10,000 troops to Russia. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said separately on Friday that he had "nothing to add to what has already been said" about such statements. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Thursday that 8,000 of these were in the Kursk region, where Ukrainian troops broke across the border into

Russia fines Google more than all money in the world

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia has fined Google an eye-pop-

ping 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.

In other words, Google faces a \$2.5 trillion trillion trillion bill from the country. Typed out in full, that figure is \$250,000,000,000,000,000

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that the huge sum, which he said he couldn't pronounce, was symbolic. Russian news agency TASS reported that Google owes Russia a 36figure sum for violating the country's administrative offences code by banning YouTube channels.

The report added that if Google fails to pay the fine within nine months, it will double every day thereafter, with no upper limit to the final figure. Google

will be locked out of Russia until it pays the fine.

The Kremlin said on Thursday that Russia's huge fines imposed on Google were largely symbolic and designed to spur the internet giant into lifting restrictions on Russian YouTube chan-

The total sum of legal claims against Google in Russia has reached two undecillion rubles, according to the Russian news outlet RBK, a figure higher than all the money in the world combined.

"I can't even pronounce this number, but it is more likely imbued with symbolism," Kremlin Dmitry spokesman Peskov told Russian news agencies. "Google should not restrict the actions of our broadcasters, but it

This should be a reason for Google's management to pay attention to this and correct the situation." he added.

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

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.

For Khan, a U.S. government official turned philanthropist, those he supports are like family. He travels to meet them on the front lines and in war-torn cities. His closeness to those enduring the war

pain and loss they experience first-hand. 'When you're inafter meeting a father who survived a bombing that killed his son.

Khan and many other Americans across the U.S. political spectrum who support Ukraine's war effort, either through financial aid or voluntary combat, say the U.S. -Ukraine's main ally hasn't done enough to help Ukraine defeat Russia. They doubt Tuesday's U.S. elections will change that.

Since the war began, the United States did manage to rally the allies to support Ukraine, but not in the way it should," said Khan, who was a camalso exposes him to the paigner for then-Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton in 1992. "So my belief is that their volved with people di- strategy is not for Ukraine rectly, you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war, "he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war, "he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war, "he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war, "he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war, "he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war, "he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war, "he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war, "he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war, "he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war, "he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he was a second you feel the pain of war, "he was a second you feel the pain of war," he was a second you feel the pain of war, "he was a second you feel the pain of war," he was a second you feel the pain of war, "he was a second you feel the pain of war," he was a second you feel the pain of war, "he was a second you feel the pain of war," he was a second you feel the pain of war, "he was a second you feel the pain of war," he was a second you feel the pain of war, "he was a second you feel the pain of war," he was a second you feel the pain of war, "he was a second you feel the pain of war," he was a second you feel the war, which was a second you feel the war, "he was a second you feel the war, "he was a second you feel th

Trump's remarks about women kick up firestorm

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Donald Trump found himself at the surrogates.

whether the women like it or not," Trump said on Wednesday, recalling his stand on abortion. The remarks drew condemnation from women across the political spectrum led by mala Harris.

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. 'The call today with Hochstein suggested to me

vised interview with Lebanese broadcaster Al-Jadeed. Hochstein was heading to Israel on Wednesday to discuss conditions for a ceasefire with Hezbollah, State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters. 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

Acting President for adopting international best practices to improve governance

Calls for digital governance, data-driven decision-making for better service-delivery

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 im-

prove 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 interna- latest skills and tools, stay ted from the fruits of our

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.

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

tionally as a competitive informed about global and forward-thinking natrends and developments, tion, while also ensuring and continue refining their that every citizen benefit- skills. "You must adopt ethical governance and treat the public humanely", he Syed Yousuf Raza 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 The Acting President 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.



OUETTA: 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.

of individuals declared

absconders in criminal cases

are added to the list under

relevant legal provisions.

Currently, approximately

clarified that this right is

members of the opposition

during the previous PTI

government, who are now

on treasury benches were

placed in the list in the ECL

MNAs with inquiries

submit their identify card

information to the Na-

tional Assembly Secre-

tariat to verify their

He requested that the

He said that many

subject to the law.

at that time.

Nazeer asks individuals included in ECL to submit review before committee

ISLAMABAD (APP): than 65 to 70 per cent Minister for Law and Jus- among all requests for retice Azam Nazeer Tarar vision. als 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

The minister said that names have been removed from the ECL after indi-

viduals filed a review to the He said that the rate

of removal of names from



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

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 in-

cident and said that the martyrdom of innocent children, police personnel and others in the Mustang 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.

Samina Senator Mumtaz Zehri has said that targeting innocent citizens and children with terrorism is a cowardly and despicable act.

Ghazala prays for early recovery of **President** from fracture

Independent Report 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.

4,000 names are on the In a statement issued ECL, most of whom are here on Friday, the Deputy Speaker said that it grieved The Law Minister her to hear about the fracsaid that while there is a ture in foot of the President right to travel under Article 15 but the same article also

early recovery of Asif Ali Zardari from the fracture. She also expressed best wishes for his best health.

Nagvi strongly condemns explosion in Mastung

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Nagvi 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.3

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 heath 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



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): area has called for the road 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 con-

fined 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 sitin, pledging to continue until the main road is re-Hameed Hussain from the store stability in Parachinar.

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

The deputy commissioner also mentioned that a peace delegation from Kohat is holding talks with opened, while MNA community leaders to re-

No Urgency for 27th **Amendment: Advisor** on Legal Affairs

ISLAMABAD (APP): to rename KP province was on Legal Affairs, Barrister Ageel Malik, said on Friday that the government was not in a hurry regarding the 27th constitutional

Talking to a private news channel, he said that the amendment would move forward with the support of all political stake-

with broad political consensus as its guiding principle.

He said that the amendment will incorporate demands from politi-cal allies, including MQM's call for empowered local governments under Article 140-A. ANP's suggestion

Prime Minister's Advisor 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 a need for more judges, explaining that the current number was insufficient after the 26th Amendment.

"Increasing judges is necessary to address the He said that the 27th backlog of cases and form constitutional amendment constitutional benches, ulwas under consideration timately 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



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 Committer 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

not targeted in our tribal tra- attack.

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 sympa-

thy with the bereaved families of the students and the Ali Madad Jatak said police cop who were that women and children are martyred in the terrorists

Quetta dwellers praise beefed-up cleanliness operation in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Quetta operate the sanitation serdwellers lauded the beefed-up cleanliness operation underway in day and night shifts and the collection of door-todoor 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

vices 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 Shafqaat 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.

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

SLAMABAD (INP): the concerned Ministries Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Sena-

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

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 wheatdeficient 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-deficit agencies/regions would lift the wheat as per their committed demand during the Food Year 2024-25

directed that the wheat to be picked up by agencies/ regions be tested beforehand for purpose of quality and fitness for con-

sumption.

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



Nasar enquiring about the health of Mastung blast victims at Trauma Centre.

Ayaz warns to summon meetings if PTI fails in resolving issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Friwould 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 deserve any clemency. QUETTA: The Governor 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 He urged the law en-

Balochistan, Jaffar Khan forcement 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 sayanti social elements involved in the attack don't the grief with them. ing that we equally share

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