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Security forces kill 13 terrorists in two separate operations in Balochistan

President, PM pay tributes to security forces on operations in Quetta, Kech

RAWALPINDI (APP): Security Forces killed 13 terrorists belonging to Indian proxy, Fitna al Khwarij and Fitna al Hindustan in two separate operations in Balochistan.

According to press release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), an intelligence based operation (IBO) was conducted in Quetta District on reported presence of Khwarij.

During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the Khwarij location, and after an intense fire exchange, 10 Indian sponsored Khwarij were sent to hell.

In another IBO conducted in Kech District, terrorist hideout was busted and three Indian sponsored terrorists, Fitna al Hindustan were successfully neutralized, it further

said. Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the killed

Khwarij and terrorists, who remained actively involved

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Security forces apprehend 4 terrorists disguised in women's attire in Khuzdar

RAWALPINDI (APP): Security forces on Wednesday apprehended four terrorists disguised in women's attire, belonging to Indian proxy Fitna al Hindustan during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khuzdar district of Balochistan. "During the conduct of operation, own forces apprehended four terrorists trying to flee cowardly by disguising in women attire. Weapons and ammunition was also recovered from the terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). "Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area, as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipeout the menace of Indian sponsored terrorism from the country, and reaffirm the nation's unwavering resolve to bring the perpetrators of terrorism to justice.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq along with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar in a meeting with Parliamentary Leaders of PML-N and PPP at Parliament House.

Proxies of hostile agencies tried to sabotage peace in Balochistan: CM Bugti

Reaffirms that operations against Indian-backed terrorists would continue until their complete elimination

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said on Tuesday that security forces conducted two successful operations against India-backed terrorists, eliminating 13 militants and foiling attempts to destabilize peace in the province. He said the operations reflected the professional excellence and unwavering determination of Pakistan's

brave soldiers, who continue to defend the nation against hostile elements.

"The proxies of hostile agencies tried to sabotage peace in Balochistan, but our security forces crushed their nefarious designs," CM Bugti stated, adding that the sacrifices of security personnel for national peace and protection of lives and property were unforgettable.



NAWABSHAH: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and others offering Fateha on the sad demise of mother of Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar.

Pak, Iran reaffirm resolve to curb narcotics trade

RAWALPINDI (APP): Pakistan and Iran on Wednesday resolved to further strengthen their cooperation in the war against drug smuggling during a high-level meeting held at the Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Headquarters here.

A high-powered delegation of Iran's Anti-Narcotics Police (ANP), led by ANP Chief Brigadier General Iraj Kakavand, visited the ANF Headquarters where it was warmly received by ANF Director General Major General Abdul Mueed.

During detailed deliberations, the two sides discussed matters of mutual interest and reaffirmed their commitment to closer col-

laboration in counter-narcotics efforts. They agreed to enhance intelligence-sharing to effectively dismantle drug smuggling networks, adopt joint operational measures to combat cross-border trafficking, and address common challenges along the Pakistan-Iran frontier. As part of its three-day programme, the Iranian delegation will also visit the Ministry of Interior & Narcotics Control and ANF Academy in Islamabad, and Model Addiction Treatment, Rehabilitation & Reintegration Centre and Port Control Unit in Karachi to study Pakistan's professional training, preventive strategies and rehabilitation facilities.

CM Bugti offers condolences to Sindh Home minister on mother's demise

Independent Report

N A W A B S H A H : Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Wednesday visited Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar in Nawabshah to offer condolences on the demise of his mother.

The Chief Minister offered prayers for the departed soul and expressed heartfelt sympathy with the bereaved family. He said that the loss of a mother is an irreparable tragedy.

"May Allah Almighty grant the departed soul a high place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and give patience to the family," CM Bugti prayed.

He was accompanied by Provincial Ministers Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Mir Asim Kurd Gello, and Adviser on Local Government Nawabzada Baba Ameer Hamza Zehri.

DPM chairs meeting to discuss coop. with regional countries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review avenues for enhancing cooperation with regional countries. In the meeting, the participants discussed strengthening co-operation in trade, commerce, connectivity, energy, and people-to-people exchanges. The deputy prime minister underscored that Pakistan would continue to pursue mutually beneficial cooperation to advance regional development and collective well-being. The meeting was attended by the Minister for Petroleum, SAPM Tariq Bajwa.



ISLAMABAD: Honorable Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, Chief Justice of Pakistan, along with Honorable Judges of the Supreme Court and Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication attended the MoU signing ceremony between the Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) and the NITB for the development of the NJAC Dashboard.

Pak committed to ensure successful implementation of CPEC: PM Shehbaz

Says Pakistan, China to take enduring friendship, partnership to new heights

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that the enduring and unbreakable bond between Pakistan and China had grown stronger over time, expressing the hope that the two countries would elevate their friendship and partnership to new heights.

The prime minister, in his message on the 76th National Day of the People's Republic of China annually observed on October 1, felicitated the leadership and brotherly people of China on behalf of the people and Government of

Pakistan.

Wishing progress, prosperity, and success for the Chinese people, he said that the National Day served as a reminder of China's remarkable national journey, besides acknowledging the progress, stability, and China's role in establishing global peace.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that Pakistan took pride in its brotherly relations with China and that under the visionary leadership of President Xi Jinping, China had achieved progress and prosperity that served as a role model for the world.

He said that the relations between the two countries were based on mutual trust, sacrifice and sincerity, which also guaranteed peace, progress, and prosperity for future generations.

Calling his recent visit to China "highly fruitful and productive," the prime minister said that historic milestones were achieved in the context of Pakistan-China bilateral relations, including the meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization and B2B conference, where investment accords worth billions of dollars were signed.



QUETTA: MPA Ghulam Dastagir Badini, former Provincial Minister Mir Tariq Khetran and Abdul Mateen Akhunzada meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Governor Mandokhail says: Balochistan key to Pakistan's economic growth, prosperity

Independent Report

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jafar Khan Mandokhail has said that Balochistan holds a pivotal role in Pakistan's economic development and prosperity, with immense potential in border trade, investment, and regional connectivity.

Speaking during a meeting with JUI-F MPA Mir Dastagir Badini at

Governor House Quetta, the Governor emphasized that Balochistan serves as a gateway to Iran, Afghanistan, and particularly Central Asia. "Border trade, investment, and connectivity are the keys to sustainable prosperity for Pakistan, and Balochistan is at the center of this transformation," he stated.

He noted that Nushki

and other border districts could become vital hubs of commerce if trade activities are expanded and regulated. Small traders in these regions already provide livelihoods to thousands of families, and their role in strengthening provincial and national markets is significant. "The establish

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BHC suspends cabinet's decision to grant First-Class Magistrate powers to DCs, ADCs and ACs

QUETTA (INP): The Balochistan High Court (BHC) on Wednesday suspended the provincial cabinet's recent decision to grant First-Class Magistrate powers to Deputy Commissioners (DCs), Additional Deputy Commissioners (ADCs), and Assistant Commissioners (ACs).

The ruling was issued by a two-member bench, comprising Chief Justice Rozi Khan Barrekh and Justice Sardar Ahmad Haleemi, during the hearing of a constitutional petition filed by Iftikhar Ahmed Lango.

The petitioner argued that conferring judicial powers on executive officers violates the Constitution and law.

The court observed that the provincial cabinet does not have the authority to confer magistrate powers and that the move was unconstitutional from the outset.

The BHC issued notices to the provincial government and other respondents, including the Advocate General of Balochistan,

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Pakistan successfully makes timely repayment of \$500m Eurobond

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has successfully made the timely repayment of a \$500 million Eurobond, reinforcing its commitment to financial discipline and improving its international credit standing. According to Adviser to the Finance Ministry Khurram Shehzad, the 10-year Eurobond issued in 2015 matured on September 30, 2025, and Pakistan fulfilled the repayment obligation without delay. He stated that this timely payment is a clear reflection of Pakistan's financial discipline. Shehzad highlighted that in recent months, the country has witnessed notable improvements in foreign exchange reserves and liquidity, and global financial institutions have upgraded Pakistan's credit ratings.

NITB, LJCP joined hands to digitally transforms judiciary

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) and the National Information Technology Board (NITB) on Wednesday, followed by the formal launch of the E-Office system in the Supreme Court.

The initiative is a significant step towards the digital transformation of Pakistan's judiciary, said a press release.

The event was attended by Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi, Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja; Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Chairman National Judicial Automation Committee (NJAC), Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Mianul Hassan Aurangzeb; and Federal Secretary IT Zarrar

Hasham Khan. Justice Ali Baqar Najafti joined virtually from Lahore.

The MoU was signed by the Secretary LJCP and CEO NITB, paving the way for the development of an Analytical Dashboard for the Judiciary.

This platform will consolidate judicial data, integrate information across the justice sector, and enable real-time tracking of case disposal, backlog trends, and institutional performance, thereby strengthening transparency and evidence-based reforms. Following the signing, the E-Office system was officially launched at the Supreme Court, digitizing file movement and office work.

A dedicated case management system for Judges will also be introduced soon, advancing efficiency and paperless operations.



ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani presents a formal invitation to the Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic, Dr. Rameez Alraee, inviting the Speaker of the Syrian Parliament to participate in the forthcoming Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) scheduled for November, 2025.

90% demands of ACC accepted: Dr. Tariq

Nine killed in AJK protests as AJK PM urges action committee to resume dialogue, citing police casualties

ISLAMABAD (APP / Agencies): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Wednesday said that 90 percent of the demands put forward by the Awami Action Committee (AAC) had been accepted, urging the its leaders to return to the negotiating table.

Addressing a joint press conference at Kashmir House along with Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq, he said there was no justification for protests in AJK as the majority of the demands had already been met.

The federal government has once again offered

negotiations to the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAC) amid ongoing protests, which claimed the lives of nine people, including three police personnel, and injured over 100.

"90% of the committee's demands have already been accepted [...] federal ministers stand as guarantors to ensure implementation of these demands," Federal Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said while addressing a press conference along with AJK Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq.

He criticized the AAC

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TURBAT: Renowned Scientist Dr. Pervaz Hoodbhoy, MPA Dr. Malik Baloch cutting ribbon to inaugurate Kech Cultural Festival. Provincial Minister Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Meena Majeed, Asghar Rind and Barkat Rind are also present.

Gishkaur Dam project poised to transform Makran's socio economic landscape: Buledi

KECH (APP): Balochistan Minister for Planning and Development, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, on Wednesday visited the site of the Gishkaur Dam in the Sami area of Kech district, describing it as a historic project with the potential to reshape the future of the Makran Division.

During the visit, officials from the Irrigation Department briefed the Minister on the dam's technical specifications. The Gishkaur is classified as a mega development initiative for Balochistan, with the water storage capacity of 95,000 acre-feet.

Once completed, the dam will be the second-largest in Balochistan's southern districts. It is expected to supply 17 million gal-

lons of potable water daily to Turbat city and irrigate approximately 13,000 acres of agricultural land, significantly boosting regional food production and water security.

Minister Buledi emphasized that the Gishkaur Dam will serve as a cornerstone for sustainable water resource management, food security, and socio-economic uplift across Makran. "This project will not only enhance agricultural output but also redefine urban development, delivering lasting benefits for future generations," he added.

The Minister was accompanied by a high-profile delegation, including

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QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presides over the meeting of Secretaries Committee.

Over 1,000 dead, 275 children lost lives in flood-hit regions: NDMA

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least 1,006 people have lost their lives including 275 children, 568 men and 163 women in flood-affected regions of the country following relentless torrential rains and flash flooding rescue and relief efforts are ongoing as authorities work to reach impacted communities and assess the scale of devastation.

According to latest figures shared by NDMA, at least 304 people have died in Punjab, including 110 children, 143 men, and 51 women. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the death toll has reached 504, with 90 children, 338 men, and 76 women among the victims.

Sindh has reported 80 fatalities, comprising 35 children, 35 men, and 10 women.

Flash floods have caused widespread devastation in most areas of the

country, with Balochistan reporting 30 fatalities—including 20 children, 6 men, and 4 women.

In Gilgit-Baltistan, 41 people lost their lives, among them 6 children, 26 men, and 9 women. Azad Jammu & Kashmir recorded 38 deaths due to the deluge, comprising 9 children, 17 men, and 12 women.

Meanwhile, in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), 9 individuals perished, including 5 children, 3 men, and 1 woman. Flood-related incidents have left 1,063 people injured, including 321 children, 450 men, and 292 women.

Punjab reported the highest number of injuries with 661 individuals affected, including 200 children, 258 men, and 203 women, highlighting the severe impact on vulnerable populations across the

province.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 218 people sustained injuries, comprising 70 children, 99 men, and 49 women. Meanwhile, Sindh reported 87 injuries, including 39 children, 29 men, and 19 women, reflecting the widespread impact of the floods across age and gender groups. Balochistan reported five injuries, affecting two children, two men, and one woman.

In Gilgit-Baltistan, 52 individuals were injured, including four children, 42 men, and six women, reflecting the widespread human toll of the floods across both regions. Azad Jammu and Kashmir recorded 37 injuries, including 4 children, 20 men, and 13 women, while the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) reported 3 injuries, affecting 2 children and 1 woman, with no male injuries documented.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Meharullah Badini talking to students during his visit to Govt Special High School Quetta.

Ex Servicemen welcome Pak Saudi defence agreement

RAWALPINDI (APP): President of the Pakistan Ex-Servicemen Society (PESS), Lt Gen @ Abdul Qayyum has welcomed the recently inked Pakistan Saudi Arabia Strategic Defense Agreement.

Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, Gen Qayyum presented the Society's stance on Pakistan's counter-terrorism strategy, the national economy, the recent Pakistan-Saudi Strategic Defense Agreement (SMDA), and U.S. President Donald Trump's 20-point Middle East peace plan.

Terming the recent defense agreement with Saudi Arabia as historic, Gen Abdul Qayyum said that Pakistan's USD 9.0 billion defence budget and experienced military, when combined with Saudi Arabia's USD 78.0 billion budget and vast resources, would create a highly beneficial partnership for both countries. He paid tribute to Army Chief Field Marshall General Syed Asim Munir and the military leadership for enhancing Pakistan's global standing through successful operations.

Gen Abdul Qayyum paid tribute to Pakistan's

valiant armed forces, police, and other security institutions for defeating the designs of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and other foreign sponsored groups.

He emphasized that the government's four-pronged strategy; military operations, legislation, diplomatic measures, and socio-economic justice must continue with full force to eradicate terrorism from its roots.

Welcoming recent improvements in the economy, including a rise in foreign exchange reserves, better export performance, and tax reforms, he cautioned that the growing gap between the rich and poor must be reduced and reliance on loans curtailed, as nearly one-fourth of the federal budget currently depends on borrowing. He demanded that the minimum pension of retired soldiers be brought in line with the national minimum wage.

On international affairs, Gen Abdul Qayyum welcomed U.S. President Donald Trump's Middle East peace plan, highlighting its positive aspects such as prisoner releases, Israeli troop withdrawals, ceasefire.

Balochistan key to..

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ment of border markets will not only ease the economic hardships of local communities but also boost national revenue," Governor Mandokhail remarked. He added that strengthening border trade would help curb smuggling and encourage structured, legal commerce.

Highlighting investment opportunities, the Governor said Balochistan is rich in natural resources with vast potential in mining, fisheries, agriculture, and energy. Projects such as Gwadar Port and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have already positioned the province as a hub of regional trade. He underlined that initiatives like shrimp farming, mineral exploration, and industrial expansion could create thousands of jobs and significantly enhance exports.

Governor Mandokhail also stressed the need for socio-economic uplift of marginalized populations, particularly in border areas,

through development in education, healthcare, and infrastructure. "Our vision must include the people of these regions so they can contribute to national growth," he said.

On security, the Governor said economic activity and stability must go hand in hand, noting that people-friendly security measures are essential to balance livelihood needs with border safety.

He assured that both provincial and federal governments are being regularly briefed on the concerns of traders and communities in border areas. He reaffirmed his commitment to advocating policies that support small-scale traders, attract investment, and expand Pakistan's trade footprint.

"Entrepreneurs and traders have a central role in boosting productivity, creating employment, and opening access to international markets. A stronger Balochistan means a stronger Pakistan," Governor Mandokhail concluded.

AC took a step for confiscating polythene bags from markets

Independent Report
GWADAR/PASNI: Assistant Commissioner Pasi, Maheem Khan Gachhi, visited Pasi town and took a significant step towards environmental protection by confiscating polythene plastic bags from local markets and shops. These bags were identified as a threat to environmental cleanliness and the natural beauty of the coastal area. Environmental Officer Majid Baloch accompanied him during the visit. He stated that, according to clear instructions from the Government of Balochistan.

BHC..

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seeking their responses.

The court also issued a stay order, halting the implementation of the cabinet's decision dated September 24, 2025, until further proceedings.

Earlier, the provincial cabinet had approved the delegation of magistrate powers under Section 14-A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, to DCs, ADCs, and ACs across the province.

These officers were empowered to adjudicate on matters involving provincial and federal laws, including offenses related to forests, mines, and minerals, among others.

Gishkaur..

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MPA Dr Abdul Malik Baloch, Advisor to the Chief Minister Meena Majeed Baloch, Parliamentary Secretaries Mir Asghar Rind and Haji Barkat Rind, Additional Chief Secretary Development Zahid Saleem, Secretary C&W Lal Jan Jaffar, Secretary Health Mujeeb Painzai, Chief Engineer Federal Project Dr. Sajjad Baloch, and other senior government officials visited the Gishkaur Dam.

Minister Buledi also acknowledged the presence of distinguished physicist and intellectual Professor Dr Pervez Hoodbhoy, calling it an honor for both his constituency and the province of Balochistan.



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor University of Balochistan Professor Dr. Zahoor Ahmed Bazai and Director General NCHD Ali Asghar signing MoU for promotion of Education.



Quetta Metropolitan Corporation Administrator Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Qambrani Meets with Anjuman-e-Tajran Balochistan President Abdul Raheem Kakar in Quetta.

Muqam distributes relief cheques among flood victims, laud Pak diplomatic achievements

Independent Report
SWAT: Federal Minister for Kashmir, Gilgit, Baltistan, and States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Engr Amir Muqam, here on Wednesday, distributed relief cheques among flood victims of SWAT.

Addressing the cheques distribution ceremony among flood victims of SWAT, Engr Amir Muqam said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif along with Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir,

and he himself visited flood-affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa soon after the flood struck Buner, Swat, Bajaur, Shangla, and Swabi on August 17 last. He said Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has distributed relief cheques among flood victims of Buner during his visit and announced Rs two million each for the heirs of deceased flood victims of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Irrespective of political affiliation, he said that compensation and assis-

tance on behalf of the federal government to flood victims continued. He said the government efforts will continue till the rehabilitation of the last flood victim of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Besides human and material losses, he said, floods have also caused colossal damage to electricity, gas, and road infrastructure in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, thanking the Prime Minister for instructing the National Highway Authority to reconstruct/repair damaged roads.

Pakistan U.S partnership moving forward with renewed goodwill & cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, received the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, Natalie Baker, at the Ministry of Human Rights.

The Minister warmly welcomed Ms Natalie Baker and reaffirmed the importance of the longstanding partnership between Pakistan and the United States. He noted that the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Washington reflected the shared desire of both countries to strengthen political understanding and open new avenues of cooperation.

Both sides appreciated

the positive momentum in bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction that the relationship is moving forward in a spirit of mutual respect and constructive engagement. They underlined the significance of continued dialogue, stability, and goodwill in building stronger ties between the two nations. The Minister highlighted that Pakistan values its friendship with the United States and looks forward to deepening cooperation across political, economic, and social spheres. Ms Natalie Baker reiterated the U.S. commitment to working together with Pakistan in areas of mutual interest.



QUETTA: A delegation of Ziarat, Harnai and Sanjavi meeting with Provincial Food Minister Haji Noor Muhammad Dummarr.

90% demands of ACC..

Continued from page 1

leadership for pushing the situation towards a dead end, warning that protests would neither deliver results nor offer solutions. "We do not want violence in Azad Kashmir, nor do we want our enemies to exploit it," he said. The minister said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had tasked him and Federal Minister for Kashmir, Gilgit, Baltistan, and

States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Engr Amir Muqam with holding talks in Muzaffarabad.

He revealed that 12 hours of negotiations had already taken place, resulting in a written agreement, with corrections requested by the AAC also accepted.

Despite this progress, he said, the committee resumed protests on September 29, which he termed unnecessary. He cautioned

that violent demonstrations would only allow India to use the footage for propaganda purposes.

"We served as guarantors that the agreed points would be implemented. Government employees suspended during earlier protests were reinstated, and cases against them were withdrawn. Demands regarding wheat, electricity, and local government were also accepted," he said.

However, he clarified that two demands — abolition of refugee seats and reduction in the number of ministers — required constitutional amendments and could not be addressed immediately. "Despite these constraints, both sides had agreed to move forward under a written agreement," he added. He regretted that violence erupted despite the progress, stressing that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had even expressed readiness to personally meet AAC leaders upon his return from London.

Aleem urges for boost in flights, trade routes and connectivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan, on Wednesday emphasized the need for enhanced regional connectivity through direct flights, expanded trade corridors, and improved land connectivity to boost economic cooperation among regional states. Addressing a high-level Roundtable Conference of Transport Ministers from 12 countries at the "New Silk Way Forum" in Almaty, he said regional integration is vital for economic growth and mutual prosperity, said a press release. The minister stressed that to achieve the objectives of the Silk Way Forum, participating nations need to facilitate travel for their business communities and citizens, enabling them to move freely, explore investment opportunities and benefit mutually. Abdul Aleem Khan informed the Forum that Pakistan will host the Regional Transport Ministers' Conference in

Islamabad on October 23-24, extending an invitation to all Member States to participate. He added that expanding land connectivity is inevitable for boosting trade volumes and Pakistan is always ready to play a positive role in this regard.

He also referenced recent high-level visits of Kazakhstan's Vice President and Ministers to Pakistan, terming them highly productive. He noted that such forums offer valuable opportunities to exchange experiences and strengthen mutual understanding.

"Central Asian States serve as a gateway for Pakistan to access Europe. Realizing this potential requires robust transport and communication linkages," he added. On the sidelines of the forum, Abdul Aleem Khan held a bilateral meeting with Turkish Minister of Transport, Mr. Abdulkadir Uraloglu, to discuss cooperation in transport and road infrastructure.



QUETTA: President Pakistan Hockey Federation Mir Tariq Hussain Bugti addressing a press conference at Press Club.

Mujeeb Qambrani vows to improve public services and healthcare facilities

Independent Report
QUETTA: Administrator Metropolitan Corporation Quetta, Mujib-ur-Rehman Qambrani, conducted an inspection visit to the District Council Office, fire stations, and basic health units. The visit aimed to evaluate institutional performance and identify measures to enhance services for citizens.

He directed officials to ensure effective utilization of the District Council office after its merger in 2023. The Administrator

also inspected basic health units on Alamdar Road and Balochi Street, reviewed healthcare services, and met with staff. He emphasized that basic healthcare is a fundamental right of citizens and pledged to further improve its quality.

Accompanied by Deputy Director Health Dr. Nosheen, he said that under the vision of the Balochistan Chief Minister, Metropolitan Corporation Quetta is committed to delivering modern and people-centered welfare projects.

Security forces kill..

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in numerous terrorist activities.

"Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of Indian sponsored terrorism from the country, and reaffirm the nation's unwavering resolve to bring the perpetrators of terrorism and their facilitators to justice," the press release said.

Meanwhile, President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday paid tributes to the security forces on successful operations against terrorists in Quetta and Kech Districts.

In separate statements, the president commended the bravery and effective operations of the security forces against the terrorists of Fitnat-ul-Hindustan.

"The elimination of terrorists is an important achievement for peace and stability in the country.


The nation is proud of the sacrifices and bravery of its security personnel," the president said.

He reiterated the unwavering national resolve to completely eliminate the evil intentions of Fitna-ul-Hindustan and terrorism from Pakistan.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif also appreciated the security forces for two successful operations against Fitnat-ul-Hindustan terrorists in Quetta and Kech districts. He paid tribute to security forces for killing 13 Fitnat-ul-Hindustan terrorists in the two operations.

"Security forces personnel are taking action against terrorists without caring for their lives and ensuring the security of the country. The entire nation stands with security forces in the war against terrorism," PM Shehbaz said.

He resolved to completely eradicate all forms of terrorism from the country.

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**



TSE-252609883313 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. **Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, it is Mandatory for All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER – BUILDINGS CWP&H DEPARTMENT DISTRICT SHERANI I invite bid from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2025 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates. Tender Fee 1500 PKR and Bid Security 2% and Time Period 24 Months**

S.No	Name of Works	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICE BUILDINGS/ RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PROSECUTORS IN 15 DISTRICTS OF BALOCHISTAN (PHASE-II) AT DISTRICT SHERANI. PSDP 4071 (Z2025.0535) 2025-26 (E-Bid)	58.327 M

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work with completion certificate issued by Related Executive Engineer. Turnover of at least 40,828,900 PKR Amount in 2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-5 and above (Up to 65 million) In Relevant Category and Specialized Code is CE10(vii) (General Buildings and Maintenance). The Bidder must attach CDR The Bidder must attach Green Challan Provide Bank credit Line 70% of the Estimated Cost Provide on Judicial Stamp Paper Dully Attested by 1st Class magistrate. The Bidder Must Provide CE10(vii) (General Buildings and Maintenance) & BC01 (i), (ii) (Prefabricated Buildings and Steel Framed Buildings). **Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by **20 October, 2025 till 12:00 PM** through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at **01:00 PM** on **EPSS System Address: Executive Engineer Building, Communication, Works, PP&H Department District Sherani at Zhob.**

Executive Engineer-Buildings
CW PP&H Department District
Sherani

PRQ No.1657/01-10-2025
www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr.gob @dprgob @dprgobalochistan

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

The procurement of works listed below for which Notice Inviting Tender on sealed percentage rates based on CSR 2023 Govt. of Balochistan are invited from interested Contractors / Firms with detailed terms & conditions are given below. The tender fee Rs 1000/- will be deposited through green challan in the National Bank of Pakistan Pishin Branch under the head of account C-02716 (Building CWP&H Receipt) at the rate shown against each work as mentioned below:
Earnest Money 3% of the Bid cost in the shape of a call deposit, RELEVANT CATEGORY C-5 & Above and DATE OF COMPLETION 30th June 2026

S.#	NAME OF WORK.	E/COST
1.	Construction Of The Residence Of District Attorney At Pashin PSDP 3126 Z2025.1010 TSE-252609880203	25165000/-

Eligibility of Bidders Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. Presence in Active Taxpayer List (ATL) is mandatory. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency in Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA) Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 70% Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-5 and above In Relevant Category. CDR 3 Assignment of similar nature of work and complexity completed in previous 3 years 100% of the Estimated Cost Green Chalan **Method of Procurement Single Stage, Two Envelope Procedure. Bid Security** The bid must include a Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) in the amount specified, issued in the name of the undersigned, from a scheduled bank under the contractor's title account. Fake Call Deposits will result in blacklisting of the firm. **Tender Documents** Can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk. **Last Date for Bid Submission:** 13th October, 2025, by 11:00 AM. **Tender Opening:** 13th October, 2025, at 12:00 PM Financial bids opening date will be announced later. **Additional Conditions** Bid security (CDR) for technically non-responsive bidders will be returned within 30 days. Bid Validity Period: 90 days. An affidavit on non-judicial stamp paper (PKR 100/-) must declare: The firm has never been blacklisted. All documents and information submitted are true and correct. Documents will be verified from relevant authorities. Contractors who failed to complete previous projects without valid reasons are ineligible to participate. **For any queries, please contact the Executive Engineer, Building Communication Works, PP&H, District Pishin Office through one of the following: Contact Number: 03013239187**

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-BUILDING
Communication Works PP&H
District Pishin.

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Acting President Gilani lauds Ethiopian ambassador's role in strengthening bilateral relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Dr Jemal Beker Abdula, paid a farewell call on Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Wednesday.

The acting president appreciated the ambassador's efforts in promoting and strengthening Pakistan-Ethiopia relations during his tenure.

He said the ambassador had played a key role in advancing political, economic, and people-to-people linkages between the two brotherly nations. Mr Gilani also lauded Dr Jemal Beker Abdula's contribution to the Green Pakistan Initiative and his active role in addressing climate change.

Yousuf Gilani conveyed best wishes for the Ambassador's future endeavours and expressed confidence that Pakistan-Ethiopia relations would continue to grow stronger

in the years ahead. He also handed over invitations for the Speakers of both Houses of the Ethiopian Parliament to attend the upcoming Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference being held in Islamabad next month.

Ambassador Dr Jemal Beker Abdula praised the leadership role of Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and said that the entire African region, including Ethiopia, acknowledges his contributions in promoting Pakistan's relations with African countries. He said Pakistan is an important country for the African continent and that Ethiopia holds its relationship with Pakistan in the highest esteem. The ambassador said that the African region considers Pakistan a well-wisher and a brotherly nation, adding that Ethiopia will always remember and acknowledge Mr Gilani's efforts in prioritising relations with Ethiopia. He also

lauded the Acting President's active role in promoting people-to-people contacts through parliamentary diplomacy.

Dr Jemal Beker Abdula recalled the celebration of Africa Day in the Senate of Pakistan and the resolution passed on the occasion, terming it a milestone that will always be remembered by all African nations.

He praised Pakistan's resilience and progress, expressing confidence that Pakistan would play an increasingly important role at the global level. He assured that Ethiopia would remain a partner in this journey.

Dr Jemal said Pakistan would always remain close to his heart and that he would fondly remember the friendship and hospitality he experienced during his stay in Islamabad. He also affirmed that he would personally deliver the conference invitations to the Ethiopian parliamentary leadership.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Syed Imran Ahmed Shah was called on by the Ambassador of Republic of Türkiye İrfan Neziroğlu today to discuss possible Collaboration in Social Sector.

MoIP conducts e-balloting to allocate 40,000 electric two wheelers among applicants

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Industries & Production, in collaboration with Engineering Development Board (EDB), on Wednesday conducted the first-ever Pakistan Accelerated Vehicle Electrification (PAVE) Scheme e-balloting for allocating subsidized electric two- and three-wheelers to citizens across the country, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

The secure digital balloting was carried out via the PAVE Online Portal under the supervision of the designated Balloting Oversight Committee to ensure transparency, fairness and equal opportunity for all applicants.

A total of 269,161 applications were received, out of which 40,000 qualified in the e-balloting. In today's draw, 40,000 elec-

tric two-wheelers and 1,000 electric three-wheelers were allocated among successful applicants.

Applicants will be notified via the online portal using their CNIC or application ID. Subsidy disbursement, payment facilitation, and vehicle handover will follow approved procedures, with OEMs responsible for delivery, after-sales service, and warranty compliance. Addressing the ceremony, Federal Secretary Ministry of Industries and Production, Saif Anjum, said that it was a landmark achievement in Pakistan's transition towards clean and sustainable mobility. He stated that by 2030, 30% of all new vehicles sold in Pakistan are expected to be electric, in line with the government's National Electric Vehicle Policy (NEVP).

SMC officers briefed on urban planning, civic challenges at CDA HQs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) on Wednesday briefed faculty members and trainee officers of the 38th Senior Management Course (SMC) on Islamabad's urban planning, civic infrastructure, and future development challenges during their visit to the CDA Headquarters.

The delegation, under the National Institute of Public Administration, was welcomed by CDA Member Planning and Design, Dr. Khalid Hafiz, Member Finance, Tahir Naem, and senior CDA officials. Dr. Hafiz outlined the administrative structure, functions, and operations of the CDA, emphasizing that Islamabad was developed according to a Master Plan divided into five distinct zones.

During the briefing, officers were informed

about zoning regulations, transport facilities, water resource management, and waste disposal systems.

Dr. Hafiz highlighted that a new entity, Islamabad Water, has been set up to address the city's persistent water issues. "We are taking multiple measures for sustainable water management, including new projects to improve the supply system," he said.

On transportation, the CDA informed the participants that Islamabad now operates four metro bus routes and 160 electric bus feeder routes, integrated with Google Maps to provide live station updates for commuters.

The officers were also briefed on solid waste management, the city's budget and revenue sources, and environment-friendly initiatives.

Fahd Haroon calls on acting President Gillani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Digital Media, Fahd Haroon, called on Acting President and Chairman Senate, Yousuf Raza Gillani, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Wednesday.

During the meeting, Fahd Haroon briefed the Acting President on recent developments in the digital media domain, including initiatives aimed at enhancing the government's public communication and digital outreach.

The Acting President appreciated the update and noted the importance of adopting effective digital strategies to strengthen engagement with the public and promote a positive national narrative.

The meeting underscored the growing role of digital platforms in public discourse and the government's ongoing efforts to use them constructively.

Community policing thru sports key to social harmony

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Muhammad Jawad Tariq said that community policing through sports is a vital means of promoting social harmony and bridging the gap between citizens and law enforcement.

An official told APP on Wednesday that DIG Muhammad Jawad Tariq participated as the chief guest at the Rawalpindi-Islamabad Sports Journalists Association's cricket tournament, where he met with players and participants.

DIG Tariq emphasized that promoting sports not only helps develop the skills of the youth but also fosters stronger connections between the police and the public.



ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani in a meeting with the Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Dr. Jemal Beker Abdulla at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Pakistan, France vow to boost interfaith harmony, minority welfare, heritage cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Kheal Das Kohistani on Wednesday met with French Ambassador to Pakistan Nicolas Galey and discussed ways to promote interfaith harmony and peace.

During the meeting, Ambassador GALEY expressed deep sorrow over the human and material losses caused by recent floods in Pakistan and reaffirmed France's commitment to supporting the country in its efforts for community resilience.

Minister Kohistani highlighted Pakistan's initiatives to empower minorities politically, socially, and economically.

He said minority members have been given representation in both the federal and Punjab cabinets, while the establishment of the National Commission for Minorities would help address their concerns more effectively.

He said the government celebrates minority religious festivals at the official level and ensures complete freedom for minorities to practice their faiths and

traditions.

The French envoy appreciated these measures, saying France was ready to extend cooperation for the welfare of minorities in Pakistan. He observed that the country holds vast potential for religious tourism and underscored France's willingness to collaborate with Pakistan in the preservation and restoration of religious heritage.

Both sides agreed to continue working together to advance interfaith dialogue, safeguard cultural heritage, and promote peaceful coexistence.

Aseefa Bhutto for urgent action on breast cancer awareness in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday highlighted the alarming rise of breast cancer cases in Pakistan, urging the nation to prioritize early detection and awareness.

In her video message at the start of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the first lady revealed that over 90,000 women in Pakistan were diagnosed with breast cancer every year, with more than 40,000 losing their lives to the disease due to late diagnosis and lack of timely treatment.

"Most breast cancer cases in Pakistan are detected at a later stage, which significantly reduces the

chances of survival," she said adding that with timely diagnosis and proper treatment, the survival rate can exceed 90 percent.

She emphasized the importance of regular screenings and encouraged women to perform simple self-examinations as a powerful tool for early detection. "A simple method of self-examination and screening can save thousands of lives," she added.

Calling for a collective effort, the first lady urged women to break the silence around the disease and take proactive steps for their health. "Value your health, break the silence, spread awareness," she said.

Cultural Advisor assures full support to Rung School of Music & Arts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Honorary Advisor To Federal Minister of the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture Division, Usman Shah, paid a visit to the Rung School of Music and Arts on Wednesday.

During the visit, he met with Wajih Nizami, Founder of Rung School of Music and Arts, who gave him a detailed tour of the institution.

Nizami highlighted the significant efforts of the school in promoting Pakistan's rich cultural heritage, particularly in the fields of classical music and performing arts.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Ministry of Industries and Production Saif Anjum addresses during live balloting of the Ev bikes/Rickshaw & Scotty.

IHC rules wife's rights to receive maintenance expense is unconditional

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday rejected the appeal of a citizen against the interim order of the Guardian Judge fixing monthly maintenance of Rs 75,000 for his wife and two children.

The court said that the words used by the husband in the petition regarding his wife show his malice.

The court ruled that the wife's right to receive maintenance during marriage is unconditional and cannot be made conditional on the husband's claims of conjugal rights.

Justice Muhammad

Azam Khan rejected the petition of Umar Akbar Ali Ghuman, in which he challenged the interim order of maintenance and took the position that the wife is disobedient, rejected the repeated requests for restoration of conjugal rights. If the wife does not support her husband in fulfilling his marital responsibilities, she is not entitled to any maintenance. The Guardian Judge Islamabad had passed an interim order to pay Rs 15,000 per month to the petitioner's wife and Rs 30,000 per month to the two children, which was challenged in the High Court.

Strict action will be taken against anyone driving without license: ITP

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has warned that after the extended deadline of October 7, strict action will be taken against anyone driving without a valid license, including arrest and impounding of vehicles.

The Chief Officer of the Islamabad Traffic Police while speaking to a local news channel explained that the authorities have made it clear that strict measures will be enforced against those driving without a valid license after the extended deadline of October 7, warning that offenders will be subject to legal action including detention

and confiscation of their vehicles as part of efforts to curb unlawful driving practices in the city.

In addition to legal penalties, officials have also announced that individuals found driving without a license will be ineligible to receive character certificates until they obtain a valid driving license. This move aims to discourage unlicensed driving by linking it to broader legal and administrative consequences.

The Islamabad Traffic Police urges all drivers to comply with the licensing requirements before the deadline to avoid facing these strict penalties.

IHC instructs AGP to nominate officer for briefing on missing person issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday instructed Attorney General of Pakistan and Ministry of Defense to nominate an officer to brief the court in-camera on issue of missing person.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani of the Islamabad High Court has issued a written order for the hearing of the case of a missing citizen, in which it has been stated that the federal government was directed to prepare a compensation policy for the families of victims of enforced disappearances.

In compliance with the court order, the Ministry of Interior formed a special committee which declared the family of missing citizen Omar Abdullah

eligible for financial assistance in its meeting on September 8, 2025. The court was informed that an amount of Rs 5 million would be directly transferred to the bank account of Zainab Zaem Khan.

The court asked the petitioners to confirm at the next hearing whether the money was received in their account or not. The court wrote in the order that according to the data available in the court records, 572 people were declared as forcibly disappeared during the last five years.

The real issue of enforced disappearances is still pending. A designated senior officer should give an in-camera briefing to the court. The next hearing of the case will be on October 6.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony Kheal Das Kohistani in a meeting with Ambassador of France to Pakistan Nicolas Galey.

Court rejects bail pleas of 6 accused in APP mega corruption case

ISLAMABAD (APP): A special court on Wednesday has dismissed post-arrest bail applications of six accused in the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) mega corruption case,

where millions of rupees were allegedly transferred into private accounts without approval. Special Judge Central Humayun Dilawar announced the decision after hearing the bail pleas of six former officials: Muhammad Ghawas, Idrees Chaudhry, Sajid Ali Warraich, Imran Munir, Khurram Shehzad and Tahir Ghumman.

During the proceedings, the APP was represented by senior lawyers Khurram Baig, Ruhail Asghar, and Hasnain Haider

Thaheem, while separate defence counsels appeared for the accused.

The judge questioned FIA officials about which accused had received the funds. FIA submitted that in three years, Rs 80 millions were transferred into the account of former account manager Arshad Majeed Chaudhry, including Rs 60 millions under the head of salary. In the same period, nearly Rs 90 millions were deposited into the account of former cashier Azhar Farooq.

APP's lawyer Ruhail Asghar informed the court that certified bank records had been provided to FIA, proving that funds were transferred from current accounts, provident funds.

UNODC, NAB end series of business integrity workshop

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in collaboration with the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), concluded its series of business integrity workshops under the Global Action for Business Integrity (GABI) project with a final guest lecture at the University of Lahore.

The workshops created a platform for SMEs, the private sector, academia, and youth to learn, share, and act together on integrity, said a UNODC press release.

The closing session

brought students and faculty into dialogue with NAB and private sector leaders, stressing that young people are vital to building a culture of accountability and transparency.

The series showed clear results. NAB was seen not only as an enforcer but also as a partner in prevention. Businesses and SMEs gained practical tools to manage risks and improve compliance. Most importantly, youth pledged to act as integrity ambassadors, making integrity part of their personal and professional values.



ISLAMABAD: Labourers are busy construction work of T-Chowk Flyover during development work in Federal Capital.

IHC directs NCCI to present witnesses in blasphemy case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday directed the Director General National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCI) to present all the witnesses in the blasphemy case in the trial court on October 8 and the trial court should complete the cross-examination of the lawyers on the witnesses on the same day.

The court directed the member inspection team (MIT) to visit the trial court and said that the MIT committee should visit the trial courts and submit a report on why the courts are not functioning.

Justice Mohsin

Akhtar Kayani heard the bail application of accused Hassan Abid, who has been arrested for one and a half years in the blasphemy case.

The petitioner's lawyer Hadi Ali Chatha Advocate said that he wanted to submit some documents on new grounds. The court said that his bail has been rejected on merit and you want to submit new documents? How many witnesses are there in this case and how many witnesses have been cross-examined?

The lawyer said that there were a total of 7 witnesses in this case and no witness was cross-examined.



ISLAMABAD: At the 'Rethinking Climate Adaptation and Disaster Management' seminar, Parliamentary Secretary Barrister Danyal Chaudhry outlined urgent governance reforms, declaring flood response "a matter of national survival, not politics".

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The Gaza project

Even though American President Donald Trump believes that his grand 20-point Gaza plan will bring 'eternal' peace to the Middle East, it is doubtful that the scheme will help achieve a just solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute.

It is a biased document, protecting Israel and putting all the onus for creating the conditions of peace on the Palestinian factions. The only two positives the plan contains are the prospects of the cessation of war and the resumption of aid to the battered Gaza Strip. These faint hopes, too, are premised on the assumption that Hamas will surrender before Washington and Tel Aviv. Mr Trump on Tuesday gave the Palestinian group between three and four days to consider the proposal.

As per the plan, Hamas has been ordered to surrender its weapons, while it has been decided that the group will have no future role in Gaza. Opinions may be divided on Hamas. However, it should be left to the Palestinian people to decide which groups should or should not participate in their national politics; no outside power has a right to dictate the terms.

Moreover, the 'Board of Peace' the plan wants to put in place to manage Gaza after the ceasefire has a distinctly colonial whiff to it, not unlike the Mandate System of the League of Nations.

Luminaries including Mr Trump and former British prime minister Tony Blair will oversee Gaza and guide the Palestinian natives until they are fit to rule themselves.

The Trumpian plan makes no mention of accountability for Israel, particularly for the genocide it has unleashed upon Gaza. There is no guarantee that in case of future conflict, Tel Aviv will not target Palestinian civilians yet again. In fact, Mr Trump has assured Tel Aviv that should Hamas reject this grand bargain, Israel can "do what you have to do", which means taking the Gaza genocide to its 'logical' conclusion. Additionally, there is no guarantee that Israel will stop building illegal settlements in the West Bank.

Regarding Pakistan's role, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was part of the group of Muslim nations that discussed the plan with Mr Trump and has offered fulsome praise for it. But there is a need to reflect.

The initial reaction in the country, from parties on the left and right, as well as ordinary citizens, has been overwhelmingly negative.

People view the document as an instrument of surrender designed to protect Israel and give the Palestinians a raw deal, once again. There was also talk of this country, along with other states, deploying a 'peacekeeping force' in Gaza. Before any such endeavour, parliament must be taken on board, and no step should be taken that goes against Pakistan's principled stand in support of the Palestinian people.

Zahid Hussain

President Donald Trump has finally unveiled his much-touted 20-point plan for a ceasefire in Gaza, which he describes as a landmark deal to end two years of a devastating war. But in reality, it's a document of surrender for the Palestinian resistance against a brutal occupation. It has sanctified the genocide, carried out by the Zionist forces, which has killed tens of thousands of people, mostly women and children, and has uprooted the entire population of the occupied land.

In fact, it's a declaration of victory for a state accused of war crimes. Former British prime minister Tony Blair and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner have played a key role in preparing the so-called peace plan. Kushner was also the driving force behind the Abraham Accords during Trump's first term as president.

For his part, Blair, as prime minister, had actively supported the American-led invasion and occupation of Iraq based on false claims of the regime possessing

weapons of mass destruction. Many in the Arab world and also in Britain regard him as a war criminal, too.

Unsurprisingly, Israel immediately accepted the latest American plan. Standing, alongside Trump at a press conference, Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, who has been accused of committing crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court, had nothing but praise for the US leader who said, "Israel would have my full backing to finish the job of destroying the threat of Hamas". The plan has justifiably been termed as the 'Trump-Netanyahu plan' to ensure Israel's military dominance in the region.

Hamas has been given a 72-hour ultimatum to accept the plan, which the group was never consulted on, and release the remaining hostages and return the bodies of the ones who died in its custody. Ironically, the Palestinians, who are the aggrieved party, were not consulted on the so-called peace plan, which is meant to decide their fate. The leaders of major Arab and Muslim-majority coun-

tries, including Pakistan, have already given their approval to the plan which, many analysts contend, would place Gaza under colonial rule.

There is only a vague mention of the possibility of an independent Palestinian entity in the unforeseeable future. Israel has already rejected the idea of a separate Palestinian state. Though Israel has been stopped from annexing the West Bank, some hard-line Israeli ministers have threatened to do so.

According to the Gaza plan, the war would immediately end after the exchange of prisoners. Israeli forces are only supposed to withdraw to the agreed-upon line to prepare for hostage release. During this time, "all military operations, including aerial and artillery bombardment, will be suspended, and battle lines will remain frozen until conditions are met for the complete staged withdrawal".

Also, "Once all hostages are returned, Hamas members who commit to peaceful coexistence and to decommission their weapons will be given amnesty. Members of Hamas who

wish to leave Gaza will be provided safe passage to receiving countries". This is more or less a call for a complete surrender of the group, which heads the Pales-tinian resistance against the Zionist occupation.

There would be no role for Hamas in the post-war administrative set-up in the occupied territory. Even the Palestinian Authority, which controls the occupied West Bank, has not been assigned any role in the post war set-up. That practically brings to an end the concept of a Palestinian state. Palestinian groups have been kept out of the post war set-up altogether.

However, the complete implementation even of the "staged withdrawal" of the occupying forces remains uncertain given Israel's bellicosity. In fact, the plan has further emboldened Israel, which is being ruled by extreme right groups that openly advocate for the establishment of a 'Greater Israel', with no place for a separate Palestinian state.

According to the American plan, "Gaza will be governed under the temporary transitional gover-

nance of a technocratic, apolitical Pales-tinian committee" under the supervision of a new international transitional body, the 'Board of Peace', to be headed by Trump and others including Blair. That would practically give America control of the occupied territory for an indefinite period. Some analysts believe the proposal is not very different from Trump's suggestion in February to put Gaza under US control so that the enclave could be turned into a Riviera.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration will work with Arab and international partners to develop a temporary 'International Stabilisation Force' to be deployed in Gaza. Besides, its main job of maintaining law and order, the ISF will also train and provide support to newly formed Palestinian police forces in Gaza.

The ISF would comprise troops from various Muslim countries. According to some reports, the main bulk of the troops would come from Indonesia and Pakistan, the two largest Muslim-majority nations. It may be the reason for Trump's adulation

of Pakistan's prime minister and army chief. It is evident that Pakistan was taken into confidence on the plan by Trump.

The Israeli security forces will stay in the enclave till the ISF has taken control, but would still have "a security perimeter presence ... until Gaza is properly secure from any resurgent terror threat".

Surely the ceasefire will end the relentless killing and destruction perpetrated by the Israeli forces and allow in much-needed humanitarian aid. But the main question is whether the American plan can establish long-term peace in the region without formally recognising the right of the Palestinian people to an independent state.

Hamas might be disarmed but what about those in Gaza who lost family members to the genocide that has been raging for two years now? The anger of a whole generation of Palestinians, who have only seen death and hunger, will not be contained. The controversial plan will lead to greater discontent and uncertainty. Palestinians have rightly rejected the American plan as a farce.

The philanthropy gap

Ayesha Irshad Mian

With one in four Pakistanis suffering and over Rs250 billion lost annually, the refusal to fund mental health is philanthropy's costliest neglect.

Despite mental health disorders being among the leading causes of disability worldwide, philanthropy continues to look the other way. While billions are poured into visible projects, the silent epidemic of depression, anxiety and suicide remains neglected. This neglect is not only unjust; it is economically reckless.

Less than one per cent of global charitable donations are directed towards mental health, even though the burden rivals — and often surpasses — that of heart disease, cancer, or diabetes. In Pakistan, where over 50 million people suffer from mental health conditions, this is not a marginal issue. With one in four Pakistanis affected, almost every household has someone struggling with mental health concerns. Yet it remains largely invisible in our daily discourse.

The economic burden is staggering. The annual cost of mental illness in

Pakistan in 2005-2006 was estimated at Rs250bn, mostly through lost productivity. It is estimated that by 2020, that figure had doubled to nearly Rs617bn. It has only grown since. Each student kept from realising his/her full potential, each employee unable to work effectively, each life lost to suicide is not just a personal tragedy — it is a direct hit to the economy. For a country already struggling with growth and employment, investment in mental health is not a soft choice but a smart one.

It is also important, even urgent, to understand that untreated mental illness magnifies the burden of other diseases. Stress is a strong risk factor for heart disease; depression worsens outcomes in cancer and accelerates diabetes complications; anxiety exacerbates every acute and chronic illness. Families whose resources are already stretched by medical bills see their health costs multiply when mental illness is ignored. Communities lose their stability and societies lose their resilience.

The crisis is also concentrated in the very group we most depend on: the young. With 64 per cent of

the population under 30, Pakistan should be reaping the dividends of its youth bulge. Instead, many students and early-career professionals are confronting what has globally been described as a mental health time bomb. Depression, anxiety and substance abuse are disproportionately common among the young, fuelled by unemployment, inflation, climate change and political instability.

Young employees are voicing these concerns. Across industries, Gen Z and millennials are consistently calling for employers to prioritise wellness. They want mental health literacy in workplaces, access to quality helplines, stress management programmes, and healthier environments. For multinationals and local organisations alike, ignoring these demands would be a mistake. Companies that fail to invest in mental health lose their best talent to those that do.

Yet despite these costs, mental health remains at the margins of philanthropy. One of the main reasons remains stigma — many donors are hesitant to associate publicly with a

cause still shrouded in discomfort and misunderstanding. In Pakistan, where large-scale giving is dominated by men, many philanthropists shy away from supporting mental health initiatives perhaps because they fear it undermines an image of strength. Donating to a school or a hospital wing reflects power and legacy; funding a mental health literacy programme or a suicide helpline may be viewed as undermining the donor's image.

Mental health philanthropy also lags behind because its needs are complex, its outcomes harder to measure and the issues themselves often invisible. Unlike a hospital wing or vaccination drive, mental healthcare rarely offers quick, tangible wins or legacy projects. Progress is incremental, long-term and difficult to quantify, making it less appealing to donors seeking visible impact. At the same time, other health and social causes benefit from clearer metrics, stronger advocacy and established global campaigns, while cultural attitudes still frame mental illness as a private or moral issue rather than a

public health priority.

The evidence for investment, however, could not be more robust: investing in mental health offers one of the highest returns in global health. The WHO and World Bank estimate that every dollar spent on mental health yields four dollars in improved health and productivity. Beyond this measurable return, the ripple effects are even greater: healthier workforces, better educational outcomes, reduced healthcare costs from untreated physical conditions and fewer burdens on social services and systems. Crucially, supporting mental health also has intergenerational benefits, improving child development and breaking cycles of disadvantage.

If we are to disrupt this pattern, mental health giving must be reframed as compelling, urgent and aspirational. That means creating national visibility campaigns with powerful symbols, high-profile events and respected ambassadors so that giving towards mental health feels impactful and worthy.

It also means channelling funds into evidence-based interventions —

such as task-shifting programmes that enable front-line health workers to deliver basic care, mental health literacy initiatives that raise awareness and quality suicide helplines that provide immediate support. Businesses, too, must become partners in this effort by investing in wellness programmes not only as a matter of corporate responsibility but as a sound economic strategy that directly boosts productivity and talent retention. And finally, philanthropy must be made collective: pooled funds and endowments can offer visibility, scale and sustainability, reassuring donors that they are contributing to a larger national movement.

Philanthropy has always had the power to change narratives. It did so for education, for healthcare, for poverty alleviation. It can do the same for mental health, but only if donors are willing to overcome stigma and embrace the truth, that investing in minds is urgent and imperative. Each individual who speaks up matters, and each rupee raised helps: it brings hope, momentum and courage to the space.

A poet's odyssey

Mahir Ali

Shortly after the British poet laureate Ted Hughes died in 1998, it was rumoured that the shortlist for a successor included Tony Harrison. Unlikely as that might have been, given the latter had few years earlier chosen to "hymn the Crown's demise" in A Celebratory Ode on the Abdication of King Charles III, Harrison was taking no chances.

He pre-empted the possibility of such a dishonour by publishing Laureate's Block, playing the monarchy and its toadying enablers, declaring he wished to remain "free to blast and bollock Blairite Britain". Such sentiments, unsubtly expressed, earned him the wrath of a cultural establishment that had hitherto tended to acknowledge, if not always hail, this poet's exceptional erudition and eloquence.

I first encountered Tony Harrison, who died last Friday at 88, in the pages of The Guardian in 1991 when the newspaper published A Cold Coming, a scathing critique of that year's Iraq war (and, in fact, all such conflicts) delivered in rhyming verse. The poet imagines himself interviewing a grotesquely charred Iraqi soldier (whose image was indeed published worldwide) reflecting on the life he might have enjoyed.

The extended poem's familiar form and unflinching content were both revelatory. (If memory serves, we managed to reproduce it in the Khaleej Times.) Sentiments such as "Stars and Stripes in sticky paws/ may sow the seeds for future wars./ Each Union Jack the kids now wave/ may lead them later to the grave" pushed me to seek out more of Harrison's poetry.

More generally, however, serious critics did not doubt its merit as a groundbreaking literary achievement that accurately reflected the protagonists' dialect and dilemmas. Although written during the miners' strike 40 years ago, it resonates in a context of a conflicted post-Brexit Britain where the Starmer Labour government's dismal performance has opened up the prospect of US-style fascism under Nigel Farage.

And the same Blair taken to task in Holy Tony's Prayer in 2003 for his leading role in the second Bush war against Iraq now preens himself as the presumptive viceroys of a post-Palestinian Gaza.

Tony Harrison was an early edition of his selected works that I came across v., an even longer poem from 1985, inspired by the obscene graffiti on Harrison's parents' graves in a Leeds cemetery. The offended poet is also the potential offender in what can be read as a searing indictment of Thatcherite Britain, with its heightened class war and accelerated decay. He does not flinch from spelling out the four-letter words, and the right-wing media as well as Tory MPs fumed at the idea of Channel 4 airing a filmed version of the poem in 1987, with the Daily Mail excoriating it as "a torrent of filth".

More generally, however, serious critics did not doubt its merit as a groundbreaking literary achievement that accurately reflected the protagonists' dialect and dilemmas. Although written during the miners' strike 40 years ago, it resonates in a context of a conflicted post-Brexit Britain where the Starmer Labour government's dismal performance has opened up the prospect of US-style fascism under Nigel Farage.

And the same Blair taken to task in Holy Tony's Prayer in 2003 for his leading role in the second Bush war against Iraq now preens himself as the presumptive viceroys of a post-Palestinian Gaza.

Tony Harrison was an unusual poet not only in the forms of expression he chose but also because of his working-class origins and a northern vernacular he refused to abandon. Born in Leeds in 1937 to unlettered parents, he won a grammar school scholarship that enabled him to study Latin and Greek. His subsequent translations and adaptations of the ancients as well as post-Enlightenment luminaries

testify to his command over European languages, yet the first play he was instrumental in staging was in freshly post-independence Nigeria, where Aikin Mala, a pidgin version of Aristophanes' Lysistrata, was evidently a huge success. After four years in Nigeria, Harrison also spent time in Cuba and Czechoslovakia (the Soviet and Cuban stamps on his passport made him persona non grata in military-ruled Brazil).

He recited his poem-try at Moscow University in the 1960s, and in the following decade frequently visited Lenin-grad during his stint as a lyricist for George Cukor's US-Soviet co-production of The Blue Bird, a monumental flop. But it afforded Harrison valuable lessons in filming, enhanced by a viewing of Andrei Tarkovsky's Mirror. His translations and adaptations had already caused a stir at Britain's National Theatre, and he later added film-poems to his achievements. They included Prometheus, updated to a modern context, and The Shadow of Hiroshima, marking the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing, among others.

Throughout his life, Harrison was driven by the urge to give voice to those deprived of one. For this he was adored by many, but also intensely hated by a few. Despite his theatrical and screen accomplishments, he wanted to be known only as a poet — and in that capacity, he stood head and shoulders above contemporaries in the English-speaking world. Given his love of Greece, it's no surprise he wanted his ashes to be scattered around Delphi. The profundity of his words, meanwhile, will hopefully continue to be heeded far beyond Greek and British shores.

Laila Akber Cassum

This year's theme for International Day of Older Persons, observed on Oct 1 each year, is 'Older Persons Driving Local and Global Action: Our Aspirations, Our Well-Being, Our Rights'. This theme resonates with Pakistan's changing demographic landscape, urging us to see our elderly population not simply as recipients of care, but as vibrant contributors who shape our communities, society and nation.

The WHO predicts that by 2050, the number of individuals aged 60 and above will double, reaching 2.1 billion. In Pakistan, the population of older adults is expected to surge from 11.3 million in 2017 to over 43.3m by 2050. The focus on the elderly in Pakistan has tended to be on the burden and dependency associated with old age, overlooking the aspirations of older adults and the invaluable role they play in eastern societies.

Older Pakistanis are eager for recognition of their sociocultural rights, appreciation for their contribution and support to stay as active participants in national progress. They have a wealth of knowledge, skills and life experiences. Sadly, our systems fail to engage them meaningfully, leading to premature retirement and significant loss of human resource.

Strengthening healthcare for older adults is a priority. Our healthcare system has few geriatric specialists, including geriatric specialised nurses, and relevant healthcare. While health insurance schemes offer a starting point, initiatives tailored to geriatric care to promote social inclusion must be implemented. Healthcare ser-

vices for older individuals through existing healthcare facilities should be enhanced, with selected areas developing specialised centres as models. Primary healthcare units, too, need improvement to meet the needs of our ageing segments.

Lack of financial security is a major hurdle. About 3m people are receiving pension through the EOBI, with a similar number benefiting from government sector pension schemes. Yet, the coverage for those over retirement age is just between 7-10 per cent, revealing a large gap in financial safety and highlighting the urgent need for enhanced social security measures such as targeted cash transfer programmes for older adults living in poverty.

Public spaces need to prioritise age-friendly infrastructure design, with major projects focusing on resting areas, basic medical support along highways, public transport that offers reserved seating for older people, pregnant women and the disabled with clearly marked symbols, and urban planning that includes safe sidewalks, public seating and barrier-free building designs.

Promoting social inclusion also means ending age discrimination in Pakistan. Job policies should combat age biases and encourage workplaces that appreciate the contributions of people from all age groups. Educational institutions can be tapped for learning programmes where older adults can share their wisdom, skills and cultural experiences with younger generations. This will help preserve our cultural heritage and engage senior citizens in meaningful roles which also allow them to earn a livelihood.

To implement a clear

framework, federal-provincial collaboration is necessary. Establishing a national commission on ageing that includes older adults from all provinces, nurses and doctors, economists and civil society representatives is key to age-friendly policies. This commission would not only help monitor progress but also ensure that the perspectives of older individuals are prioritised in decision-making.

Technology and AI have shaped the lives of all generations. Older adults have the potential to use technology to connect with their families and be socially inclusive. However, literacy levels remain a considerable barrier in Pakistan. Basic digital training programmes tailored for senior citizens, and focused on essential services like mobile banking, telemedicine and simple ways to keep in touch with family, are needed. By partnering with the private sector, we can create user-friendly mobile applications in local languages that enable older adults to access their needs.

Instead of seeing our ageing communities as a challenge, we should embrace them as a strength. The dreams of older adults to stay active, their rights to healthcare and financial security, and their need for social inclusion should be at the heart of our national policies. As the theme of the International Day of Older Persons reminds us, older individuals aren't just passive recipients of care, they are vital agents of change.

Countries that actively involve older adults in economic and social spheres tend to enjoy greater productivity, stronger unity and more resilient societies. Pakistan has the potential to lead the way in inclusive ageing policies.

Governor Kundi highlights AI's role in education, women empowerment

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday emphasized the crucial role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and women empowerment during a special training session held at the Governor House Peshawar.

The session, organized by senior trainer Uzma Ajmal, focused on AI's role in strengthening the education system and preparing youth for modern challenges.

The event brought together experts, educationists, women representatives, and students.

Participants were briefed on how AI can contribute to Pakistan's economic stability, modernization of the education sector, improved agricultural productivity, and better quality of public services.

Basic literacy requirements in AI were also discussed to help align the younger generation with global technological trends.

Welcoming participants, Governor Kundi said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has the largest youth population, which he described as the province's greatest asset.

He underscored the importance of continuing such training sessions to

equip young people with advanced knowledge and skills.

The Governor highlighted that encouraging women and guiding them in the right direction was essential, adding that women empowerment is one of his top priorities.

He praised the contributions of several prominent women from the province who serve as role models and assured continued support and patronage from the Governor House.

Speaking about youth engagement, the Governor said it is central to his vision for projecting a positive image of the province.

He also announced that a Sports Awards ceremony will soon be held in Governor House to honor athletes, with the support of the business community to ensure long-term sponsorship and recognition.

The session also featured training by Dr. Asma Umar Khayyam and Asifa Muhammad, supported by Asma Khan and Adeela Rashid.

Meanwhile, a delegation of the Bettani tribe from Subdivision Lakki Marwat, led by Itchad Ulema President Maulana Malik Muhammad Umar Ashraf, called on Governor Faisal Karim Kundi.

The delegation included Malik Hidayatullah, Malik Shereen, Malik Kamal Shah, Malik Sher Afzal, Malik Fida Muhammad, and other tribal elders.

The delegation apprised the Governor of the problems faced by the local population, particularly regarding gas royalty and their constitutional and legal rights linked to the OGDCL plant in Subdivision Bettani.

They pointed out that despite the area being rich in mineral resources and the establishment of an OGDCL plant, the local community had not received any significant benefits.

The elders highlighted that commitments regarding free gas connections to residents of Bettani, as well as road construction, had not been fulfilled.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi listened attentively to the delegation's concerns and assured them of full cooperation in resolving all legitimate demands.

He said that he firmly believes local communities have the first right over national resources, and these resources should be used for the development and prosperity of the area.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan addressing a public gathering organized by PPP Tehsil Hazro.

Ethiopian envoy awarded honorary PhD degree

KARACHI (APP): Governor of Sindh, Kamran Khan Tessori on Wednesday conferred an honorary PhD degree and a gold medal on Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of Ethiopia to Pakistan, for his exceptional work in strengthening the diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The Ambassador was honored with the distinction at a special convocation ceremony of the Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology, held at the Governor House Sindh, said a press release.

The event was attended by government of-

ficials, Parliamentarians, the diplomatic corps, the business community, civil society representatives, and media.

Addressing the convocation, the Governor of Sindh lauded the efforts of Ambassador Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula for his remarkable contributions to strengthening the bilateral relationship between Ethiopia and Pakistan.

He specifically appreciated the Ambassador's critical role in commencing the operations of Ethiopian Airlines in Pakistan, which has served as a key instrument of Pakistan's Look Africa and Engage Africa policies.

Online education systems will not be accepted in seminaries: Wafaqul Madaris

KARACHI (INP): Wafaqul Madaris Al-Arabia in a meeting headed by its chairman Mufti Taqi Usmani, made several important decisions on Wednesday.

As per details, the Wafaqul Madaris Council declared that online education systems will not be accepted in seminaries affiliated with the body.

It also took a firm stance against taking up arms in the name of Sharia against the state, stressing that a peaceful movement is the only legitimate way to implement Islamic law in the country.

The meeting further resolved that any student who shaves his beard will not be eligible to sit for examinations under Wafaqul Madaris.

Furthermore, office bearers will not release videos or photos of their gatherings and events, as per decision of the body.

Reports were also sought on the introduction of online education in affiliated seminaries.

Wafaqul Madaris will prepare textbooks for primary, sixth, and seventh grades, taking guidance from textbooks of the Board and other institutions.

Rules and regulations for women's seminaries will be revised, the body decided in a meeting chaired by Mufti Taqi Usmani.

Selected religious institutions will cooperate with the State Bank in efforts to eliminate the interest-based system.

To improve the standard of annual examinations, students' exams will now be conducted in two phases. The council also urged that seminaries should not be harassed with unnecessary demands, and reiterated that scholars are clear opponents of armed movements.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah finalizes wheat growers support programme at CM House in Karachi

Azma urges 'Dialogue' for stability, calls on PPP to respect provincial mandate

ISLAMABAD (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari on Wednesday underscored the need for dialogue to ensure political stability and called on the PPP to respect provincial boundaries in governance, stressing that cooperation between provinces is essential for effective administration.

Speaking exclusively to a local news channel, Azma Bokhari said the Punjab provincial government, under the active leadership of Chief Minister Punjab is actively helping flood victims without any outside support.

She confirmed Punjab's dedication to the rehabilitation of those affected by floods and promised that the province will take full responsibility for managing all flood-related challenges. Bokhari made it clear that Punjab respects other provinces and never

interferes in Sindh's matters, adding, however, she accused PPP of involving itself in Punjab's governance.

"There is no confusion from our side. We do not want to create problems. If PPP wants to help, they should do it properly and keep away from our affairs," she said.

On the issue of flood victim registration under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Bokhari explained that the process is complicated and difficult.

She assured that Punjab will handle all flood relief independently and make sure no victim is left without assistance.

She said, "Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and Maryam's performance is putting them in a difficult position. Instead of focusing on their own province, they are interfering in our affairs."



HYDERABAD: Members of Sindh Employees Alliance protest against new pension policy and demand disparity reduction allowance in Hyderabad.

Punjab Governor says: He will spare no effort to make PPP fortress of Punjab

Independent Report

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the PPP is an ally of the government, but it will not compromise on honor and dignity. The PPP believes in the politics of service, not show. Electric buses and passport offices will be established for Attock and Hazro tehsils soon. He expressed these views while addressing a public gathering organized by Pakistan Peoples Party Tehsil Hazro Naseer Khan Jadoon in Tehsil Hazro. On the arrival of the Governor of Punjab, the PPP activists and the people gave him a warm welcome. On this occasion, the district leadership of

the Pakistan People's Party, President of Pakistan People's Party Attock Sardar Ash-e-Hayat Khan, Sardar Zulfiqar Hayat Khan, Malik Riyat Sadral, Sardar Muhammad Ali Khan, former Vice Chairman Malik Tahir Awan, Sajid Khan, former ticket holder NA-49 PP Khurram Shahzad Khan and other leaders were also present.

Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the Pakistan Peoples Party is a party of the poor people which always respects its workers. He said that the doors of the Governor House are always open to the people of the area and they are useful to everyone without

any discrimination. The Punjab Governor said that the journalists of Attock are my brothers and respectable people who have guided me at every place. He said that a passport office will be established in Hazro Tehsil very soon and along with this, electric buses will also be started for easy and cheap travel. The Punjab Governor said that he will contact the Punjab government to run electric buses, but if the Punjab government does not start these buses, he himself will play his role in this regard. He said that the post of Governor is a trust of the people and he will take every possible care of this trust.



Governor Sindh Mr. Kamran Khan Tessori congratulates Chancellor Muhammad Akbar Ali Khan and Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Afzal Al-Hilal on conferring honorary doctorate to Ethiopian Ambassador Jamal Baqir Abdullah at special convocation ceremony.

Minister for restructuring of civil defense department to enhance timely response

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Law Aftab Alam Advocate has said that the reorganization and restructuring of the Civil Defense Department would enhance the institution's capacity and ensure a timely and effective response to natural disasters.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting of the cabinet committee on Legislation here on Wednesday. The meeting was attended by Provincial Minister for Agriculture Major @ Sajjad Barkwal, Minister for Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Naik Muhammad Dawar, Minister for Social Welfare, Women Empowerment and Special Education Syed Qasim Ali Shah, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister for Communication and Works Muhammad Sohail Afridi, Special Secretary Home Department

Zubair Ahmad, Additional Secretary Home (Security) Muhammad Qaiser, Deputy Secretary Home (Defense Planning Cell) Qalat Khan and officials from other relevant departments.

The meeting was convened to review the proposed plan of bringing the Directorate of Civil Defense under the administrative control of the Home Department.

It was decided that the cabinet committee on legislation would consider the views of all departments before submitting its recommendations to the provincial cabinet.

The minister said that strengthening the structure of Civil Defense in line with modern requirements would not only improve inter-provincial and national coordination but also enable better utilization of the skills of its volunteers.



KARACHI: Sindh Police Inspector General Ghulam Nabi Memon presides over the on combatting drug and Gutka mafias at CPO Headquarters.

Kaira criticises aggressive statements from PML-N leaders

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Qamar Zaman Kaira, criticised recent aggressive statements from the Pakistan Muslim League (N) leaders, calling such language inappropriate and undemocratic.

Addressing a press conference at the PPP Secretariat in Lahore, he said that Pakistan has long been plagued by crises, and efforts have always been made in every era to overcome them.

He expressed concern over certain questions and narratives emerging in recent days, which the PPP considers inappropriate. "This is our opinion, not advice. We joined the PML-N out of goodwill," he said, adding that they repeatedly tried to ensure the implementation of written agreements, though only some were honored.

Despite the partial

implementation of agreements, the PPP continued to support the government. "We are still trying to move beyond the wounds of the past," he said, but noted that some questions now being raised must be answered.

Kaira urged the PML-N to engage in constructive criticism but avoid reviving the harsh tone of the past. "The recent floods were devastating. We will praise good work and criticise poor performance—it's our democratic right."

He referred to a controversial remark that suggested, "we'll break the hands that rise against us," saying such language is not acceptable. "Bilawal Bhutto has been trying to move things forward with patience and maturity," Kaira added. He emphasised that PPP, too, represents Punjab and has the right to express its views.

Governor KP extends greets to China on 76th National Day, highlights strong bilateral ties

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday extended heartfelt felicitations to the Chinese leadership and the people on the occasion of China's 76th National Day.

In his message, the Governor said that Pakistan-China friendship has withstood the test of time and is built on mutual trust and brotherhood between the peoples of both nations.

He emphasized that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has always played a central role in strengthening these ties.

He recalled that Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto laid the foundation of the enduring relationship with China, which was further strengthened by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir

Bhutto. President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, he added, are carrying this legacy forward.

Governor Kundi said that China has stood by Pakistan during testing times, including the recent Pakistan-India conflict, and the PPP leadership has consistently valued its relations with the Chinese leadership.

He underlined that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a guarantee of a bright future for both nations, bringing not only economic stability to the region but also deeper people-to-people connectivity.

He further expressed his resolve that development projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with China's cooperation would bring prosperity to the people of the province.



PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary KPS Shahab Ali Shah and China Window Administrator Amjad Aziz Malik along with other officials cutting cake to mark the 76th Anniversary of the Republic of China organized by China Window.

PDWP approves development projects worth Rs 8 billion

LAHORE (APP): The Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP), in its 35th meeting chaired by Chairman P&D Board Dr. Naeem Rauf, approved three development schemes and two position papers amounting to Rs. 7.9 billion in the Roads, Labour & HR, and Health & Population sectors.

According to details, the approved schemes include: Rehabilitation and widening of Satghara-Gogera Road via Jaboka (19.5 km), Tehsil and District Okara, at a cost of Rs. 1.315 billion, Construction of Sahiwal Bypass from Royal Hotel (N-5) to Sarwar Chowk via Adda Mai Wali Masjid (13.7 km, revised), estimated at Rs.

1.988 billion, Construction of Dual Carriageway from Sheikh Fazal to Chichawatni (24.15 km, revised), District Sahiwal, costing Rs. 4.596 billion.

In addition, two position papers were cleared: Establishment of an Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Laboratory in Faisalabad (pilot project) and Establishment of a Rescue Station at Chowk Marlay, with key points at Purana Thana and Qaboola, District Pakpattan (position paper for vehicles).

The meeting was attended by Secretary P&D Board Rafaqat Ali, Chief Economist Masood Anwar, members of the P&D Board, and other senior officers.

CM approves ministers' resignations

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur Wednesday accepted the resignations of provincial ministers Aqibullah and Faisal Tarakai.

According to the spokesperson for the Chief Minister, Gandapur had asked both ministers to step down. The two had tendered their resignations a day earlier.

Sources confirm that the Chief Minister was dissatisfied with their performance and had been considering reshuffling their portfolios.

CM felicitates China on 76th National Day

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday extended warm felicitations to the leadership and people of the People's Republic of China on their 76th National Day.

In her message, the CM conveyed best wishes to Chinese President Xi Jinping and his colleagues, saying the government and people of Punjab shared the joy of the anniversary celebrations of the brotherly nation. She said Pakistan and China were exemplary neighbours, trusted friends and valued partners, adding that their friendship was an undeniable reality, deeply rooted at both governmental and people-to-people levels.

ANF recovers over 271 kg of drugs worth Rs 62m in 5 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), conducting 5 operations across the country, recovered as many as 271.7 kilograms of drugs worth Rs 62 million and arrested 5 suspects, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Wednesday.

He informed that 24 kg of hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused in Hyderabad.

In another operation, 8 kg of ice was recovered from a carton containing 1,452 apples in a truck near Sher Shah Toll Plaza, Multan, and two suspects were arrested.

IMF given Pakistan deadline until 2031 to eliminate circular debt in power sector

ISLAMABAD (INP): Crucial decisions have emerged from the ongoing economic negotiations between the Government of Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The IMF has given Pakistan a deadline until 2031 to completely eliminate the circular debt in the power sector. As part of this agreement, Pakistan is required to maintain zero growth in circular debt flow each year moving forward.

According to sources, the government has decided to increase the transition levy on captive power plants. A 10% levy will be imposed on captive power plants in the current fiscal year, which will increase to 15% from January 2026.

The government expects to generate PKR 105 billion in revenue during the current fiscal year from off-grid captive power plants alone.

During a briefing to the IMF delegation, the government revealed that the recent floods have caused PKR 370 billion in damages to the national economy. The floods resulted in the deaths of 1,006 people and injured 1,063 across the country. Additionally, 12,569 houses, 2,130 kilometers of roads, and 248 bridges were destroyed.

The briefing further disclosed that 866 water facilities, 1,098 educational institutions, and 128 health centers were affected. The agriculture sector alone suffered a loss of PKR 155 billion, of which PKR 87 bil-

lion was due to damage to key crops.

Approximately 3.26 million acres of agricultural land were impacted, and 11,000 livestock animals perished.

The government informed the IMF that the GDP growth target for the current fiscal year is 3.9%, and Pakistan will require USD 26 billion in external financing during the same period.

It was also shared that Pakistan has already made a USD 500 million payment in September 2025, and a USD 1 billion Eurobond repayment is due in April 2026. The government is also considering issuing new Eurobonds in the last quarter of the 2025-26 fiscal year to help meet financing needs.



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Naz Khan, Acting Country Manager - IFC Pakistan, visited Finance Division to pay a courtesy call on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb.

CCP approves PTCL acquisition of Telenor Pakistan with conditions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the acquisition of 100% shareholding of Telenor Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd and Orion Towers (Pvt.) Ltd by Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), subject to extensive conditions designed to preserve competition and ensure non-discriminatory access and secure the pass-through of efficiencies to consumers.

The order was announced today at a press conference held at CCP's head office. CCP Chairman Dr Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, Member Salman Amin, Mr Shahzad Hussain, Registrar CCP and Head of Legal Ms. Ambreen Abbasi shared the key highlights.

They explained that CCP conducted a comprehensive review of the merger transaction.

The review examined market structure, concentration levels, efficiencies, and potential competition risks.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, CCP Chairman Dr Kabir Ahmed Sidhu emphasized that the Commission's decision ensures a level playing field for all telecom operators and safeguards consumer interests.

He noted that the merger aims to enhance service quality, expand product offerings, and accelerate technological innovation, including the rollout of 5G.

He further stated that CCP studied various of international precedents, including orders from the United States, United Kingdom, and European Union, involving similar transactions before approving.

Senior Legal Advisor Ms Ambreen Abbasi explained that the assessment considered possible lessening of competition in the relevant sub-markets, market shares, and efficiency claims.

She underlined that the merger was approved conditionally, with safeguards designed to prevent anti-competitive conduct.



FAISALABAD: Labourers spreading rice for drying purposes in the field.

Experts discuss National AI Policy; project 7-12% GDP growth, 1mln jobs by 2030

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a seminar on Wednesday thoroughly deliberated on Pakistan's newly launched National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy from various perspectives, projecting a significant 7-12 percent increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the creation of up to one million jobs by 2030 with its full implementation.

They were participating in a seminar themed "Bridging Gaps in Pakistan's AI Roadmap: Opportunities, Challenges and the Way Forward," organized by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE).

The session brought together policymakers, academics, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders to deliberate on the transformative potential of AI for Pakistan's economy, governance and society.

The panel featured distinguished speakers including Dr Anil Salman, Chair of the Government of Pakistan's AI Policy Committee; Dr Najibullah,

Member Science and Technology at the Planning Commission of Pakistan; Suniya Shahid,

CEO & Co-founder of Techvention Ltd.; and Dr Naveed Iftikhar, CEO of Atomcamp, who joined virtually via Zoom. The discussion was moderated by Wajid Islam, Research Economist at PIDE.

Dr Salman explained the policy's vision as bold, ethical, and transformative, stressing inclusivity across economic, social, and technological dimensions.

He highlighted that the policy was developed through extensive consultation with domestic and international stakeholders including UNESCO, ADB, and the Commonwealth. He projected that "full implementation can boost GDP by 7-12% and create up to one million jobs by 2030."

Dr Najibullah discussed the financial ecosystem and emphasized the importance of venture capital and accelerators to bridge Pakistan's "valley of death" in scaling start-ups.

Rupee gains 01 paisa against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Rupee on Wednesday appreciated by 01 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 281.30 against the previous day's closing of Rs 281.31.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 282.25 and Rs 282.35, respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs 0.36 to close at Rs 330.75 against the last day's closing of Rs 330.39, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen increased by 01 paisa to close at Rs 1.91, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound rose by Rs 0.61 to Rs 378.91, compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 378.30.

New FCCI office-bearers assume charge

FAISALABAD (APP): Newly-elected office-bearers of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) formally assumed their responsibilities here on Monday.

Farooq Yousaf Sheikh took charge as FCCI President, Naveed Akram Sheikh as Senior Vice President and Engineer Asim Munir as Vice President and commenced their tenure with optimism for stronger representation of the business community.

Throughout the day, a large number of industrial, commercial and trade leaders visited FCCI Complex to extend congratulations to the new leadership.

SCCI hosts seminar on effective use of pesticides for paddy crop

SIALKOT (APP): A seminar was held at the auditorium of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry under the supervision of Director Pest Warning and Quality Control of Pesticides, Department of Agriculture (Plant Protection), Dr. Maqsood Ahmed on the use of agricultural pesticides to control pests attacking the paddy crop and to achieve better paddy production. A large number of farmers and dealers from across the district participated in the seminar. While delivering the welcome address, Director Pest Warning and Quality Control of Pesticides, Department of Agriculture (Plant Protection), Sialkot Dr. Maqsood Ahmed explained the aims and objectives of the program. He gave a detailed briefing to the farmers on the effective use of modern pesticides to control pests and diseases in the paddy crop.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik held a meeting with Pierce Onthank, CEO of Hycarbex-American Energy and Faheem Haider, CEO of Mari Energies.

Ali Pervaiz meets senior leadership from international and local energy sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik and senior leadership from the international and local energy sector met on Wednesday to discuss the revival of Peshawar Block.

The Minister met with Mr Pierce Onthank, Chief Executive Officer of Hycarbex-American Energy, and Faheem Haider, CEO of Mari Energies, at the Ministry of Petroleum.

The executives briefed the Minister on a landmark transaction wherein MariEnergies has partnered with Hycarbex American

Energy Inc, and Fatima Petroleum for Peshawar Block, said a news release.

The Peshawar Block had remained inactive for several years. The new collaboration between Hycarbex-American Energy, Mari Energies and Fatima Petroleum will form a Joint Venture (JV) to recommence exploration and development activities, injecting new life into the project.

Federal Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik commended the companies on their initiative and investment. He termed the revival of the

block a positive step towards enhancing domestic oil and gas production.

"The commitment shown by these companies to unlock the potential of this block is commendable. It is crucial for our goal of indiginization and sustainability of fuel supplies, and we assure full support in facilitating its advancement," stated the Minister. Malik also highlighted the government's broader reform agenda for the energy sector, focused on ensuring its long-term sustainability and attracting foreign direct investment.

Pakistan set to become South Asia's leading tech industry hub, Stan Singh

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of ASOCIO Mr. Stan Singh-JT Wednesday expressed admiration for Pakistan's IT sector, noting that its vast potential and digital advancements could elevate the country's global standing in technology and applauded Pakistan's growth towards becoming South Asia's tech hub.

While in exclusive conversation with a local news channel, Stan Singh acknowledged Pakistan's emergence as a rising player in the global IT industry, citing its untapped talent and expanding digital framework as vital assets.

He further said ITCN Asia, organized by E-com-

merce Gateway Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd is a unique three-day event that unites Pakistan's entire tech and startup ecosystem.

He expressed his admiration, saying that he is truly impressed with Pakistan's hidden gems talented individuals and innovative start ups that have immense potential to make a significant impact in the global technology arena. The event provides a comprehensive platform to showcase solutions across key sectors, including Government, Cloud, Data Center, Cyber-security, ERP, Education, Banking and Finance, Health and Pharma, E-commerce, Artificial Intelligence and more, he added.



SIALKOT: Dr. Aamir Rasool, Director General Pest Warning Punjab Lahore is addressing to awareness seminar for farmers on MRL & Aflatoxin in Rice Industry organized by TDAP and Department of Agriculture.

ICCI President, Austrian Ambassador explore avenues for stronger business ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Sardar Tahir Mehmood, on Wednesday, called on Wolfgang Oliver Kutschera, the newly appointed Ambassador of Austria to Pakistan to discuss prospects for enhancing bilateral trade and economic relations.

He was accompanied by Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General of United Business Group (UBG), and Tahir Ayub, Senior Vice President ICCI.

Welcoming the Ambassador to Pakistan, the ICCI President highlighted the vast potential of Pakistan in energy, infrastructure, real estate, clean technology, and tourism, emphasizing that Austrian companies, with their advanced expertise, could play a pivotal role in these sectors for the mutual benefit of both countries.

He particularly stressed the importance of technology transfer, renew-

able energy solutions, and waste-to-energy projects, which are strongly aligned with Austria's strengths and Pakistan's urgent developmental needs.

Sardar Tahir Mehmood invited Austrian business delegations to visit Pakistan and assured them of ICCI's full support in connecting with local partners, industries, and government authorities.

He underlined that closer business-to-business interactions would open up new opportunities for sustainable collaboration.

The meeting also touched upon opportunities for educational and cultural cooperation, including scholarships, student exchange programs, and partnerships between universities of both countries to promote people-to-people ties. The ICCI President also emphasized the need for visa facilitation and streamlined consular processes to further strengthen bilateral linkages.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, chairing a meeting on cooperative farming and marketing with Rana Iftikhar Muhammad, President Chamber of Agriculture Punjab.

Huge potential for upsurge in Pakistan-Uzbekistan trade: Uzbek envoy

LAHORE (APP): Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Alisher Tukhtaev has said that there is immense potential for enhancing bilateral trade and investment, particularly in the textile sector, through joint ventures and greater cooperation between the two countries.

Speaking during a visit to the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) House on Wednesday, the envoy urged Pakistani textile groups to focus on high-value products in demand in Uzbekistan. He said cheap energy and abundant cotton resources in

Uzbekistan offered attractive opportunities for Pakistani investors to explore both trade and investment in the Uzbek market.

The ambassador informed that both countries had already signed multiple MoUs and agreements to facilitate market access, while direct flights between Pakistan and Uzbekistan had reduced travel time to just 90 minutes. He added that negotiations on trilateral transit trade between Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Uzbekistan were in advanced stages, expressing hope that trade flows would accelerate after their finalization.



ABU DHABI: Bilal Azhar Kayani, Minister of State for Railways & Finance called on His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE.

FBR records shortfall of Rs156b in Sept alone

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's tax revenue witnessed a major setback due to the recent floods, with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) recording a shortfall of Rs156 billion in September alone. According to data, the FBR fell short of its first-quarter (July-September) target by Rs199 billion. Against the set target of Rs3,083 billion, collections stood at Rs2,885 billion during the quarter.

During this period, the FBR also issued refunds worth Rs157 billion.

In terms of collections, Rs1,395 billion came from

income tax, Rs1,130 billion from sales tax, Rs190 billion from federal excise duty, and Rs324 billion from customs duty.

Sources said that the floods caused an estimated loss of at least Rs60 billion in tax revenue.

In a separate development, the Federal Board of Revenue might extend the date for submission of Income Tax Returns till October 15, the FBR stated.

The government taking a major step for the people has extended the deadline for the submission of the Income Tax Returns for a more 15 days.

PSX gains 146 points to close at 165,640

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Wednesday, as the benchmark KSE-100 index gained 146.75 points, showing a positive change of 0.09 percent, and closed at 165,640.34 points against 165,493.59 points on the previous trading day.

A total of 1,639,021,153 shares were traded during the day compared to 1,349,798,022 shares the previous day, whereas the share value stood at Rs 69.66 billion

against Rs 76.77 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 486 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, out of which 173 recorded gains, 287 sustained losses, whereas 26 remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Ltd. with 299,631,391 shares at Rs 7.34 per share, Bank of Punjab with 191,997,025 shares at Rs 29.80 per share, and Pak Elektron with 132,355,135 shares at Rs 59.31 per share.



HYDERABAD: Workers are drying the thread at Paretabad.

Rana Tanveer stresses cooperative farming as key to agricultural transformation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Wednesday emphasized that cooperative farming is the backbone of sustainable agriculture in the country, besides contributing significantly in economic growth and social prosperity.

The minister chaired a high-level meeting on cooperative farming and marketing, which was also attended by Rana Iftikhar Muhammad, President, Chamber of Agriculture Punjab, along with other stakeholders, said a press release.

He noted that small

and medium farmers, who constitute the majority of cultivators, face serious challenges in accessing modern technology, affordable inputs, and profitable markets. Cooperative farming, he said, provides a collective solution to these issues.

"Cooperative farming ensures that every farmer, regardless of land size, has access to advanced machinery, climate-smart techniques, interest-free agri-finance, and direct market linkages. This model reduces production costs, eliminates middlemen, and guarantees farmers a fair share of profit," he added.

The minister highlighted that cooperative farming will not only uplift the rural economy but also play a vital role in achieving national food security.

He pointed out that with improved yields through inter-cropping and value addition, Pakistan can substantially cut down its reliance on imported wheat, pulses and edible oil, thereby saving valuable foreign exchange. Rana Tanveer Hussain appreciated the role of Rana Iftikhar Muhammad, President Chamber of Agriculture Punjab.

Hamas wants to amend disarmament clause in Trump plan

Monitoring Desk
DOHA: Hamas officials want amendments to clauses on disarmament in US President Donald Trump's Gaza peace plan, a Palestinian source close to the group's leadership told AFP on Wednesday.

Hamas negotiators held discussions Tuesday with Turkish, Egyptian and Qatari officials in Doha, the source said, requesting anonymity to discuss sensitive matters and adding the group needed "two or three days at most" to respond.

Trump's plan, backed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, calls for a ceasefire, the release of hostages by Hamas within 72 hours, the group's disarmament and a gradual Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

But the Palestinian source said: "Hamas wants to amend some of the clauses such as the one on disarmament and the expulsion of Hamas and faction cadres."

Hamas leaders also want "international guarantees for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip" and guarantees of no assassinations inside or outside the territory. Six people were killed in an Israeli attack on Hamas officials meeting in Doha to discuss an earlier ceasefire proposal last month.

Israel issues 'last' warning for Gaza City residents to flee

Monitoring Desk

NUSEIRAT, Palestinian Territories: Israel's defense minister issued a final warning for Gaza City residents to flee south on Wednesday, as Hamas weighed US President Donald Trump's plan to end nearly two years of war in the Palestinian territory.

Witnesses reported heavy bombardment in Gaza's largest urban center, as Israel Katz warned the military was tightening its encirclement of the city.

"This is the last opportunity for Gaza residents who wish to do so to move south and leave Hamas operatives isolated in Gaza City," Katz posted on X, adding that those who remained would "be considered terrorists and terrorist supporters." Katz said the military had captured the Netzarim corridor in the central Gaza Strip through to the western coast, a move he said cut the north of Gaza off from the south. He added anyone leaving Gaza City for the south would have to pass through Israeli military checkpoints.



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio held talks with Qatar's emir after the Israeli strike on Doha last month.

Nigeria boat accident kills 26

LAGOS (AFP/APP): A boat accident on the Niger River in southern Nigeria has killed at least 26 people, authorities in Kogi State said on Wednesday.

The boat was taking traders to a market in Illushi in Edo State on the other side of the river bank, Kingsley Femi Fanwo, Kogi State commissioner for information, said in a statement on X.

"Reports indicate that the unfortunate incident has allegedly claimed the lives of not less than 26 passengers," he said. The national rescue agency, NEMA, told AFP that it had sent teams to the scene. Accidents are common on Nigeria's busy rivers, often caused by overloaded boats, poor maintenance or failure to comply with safety regulations.

Last month, a crowded ferry boat capsized in Niger State after reportedly hitting a tree stump, drowning at least 32 people.

In late August, a boat carrying around 50 people overturned in the north-western state of Sokoto, killing three and leaving 25 others missing.

"We call on our people, especially riverine communities, to always prioritise safety by avoiding overloading and by using life jackets and other precautionary measures whenever they travel by water," Fanwo added.

Kogi State is particularly vulnerable to flooding during the rainy season, which generally lasts from March to November in the region. A few hundred kilometres (miles) upstream from the site of the accident, in Lokoja, the Niger River—the third longest in Africa—is joined by its main tributary Benue River.

Former president of DR Congo sentenced to death

Monitoring Desk

KINSHASA: A military court in the Democratic Republic of Congo on Tuesday sentenced ex-president Joseph Kabila to death in absentia for "treason". Kabila, 54, who was neither present nor represented at the trial in the capital, Kinshasa, was found guilty of complicity with the M23 anti-government armed group, which has seized swathes of the resource-rich Congolese east with Rwandan help.

He left the vast central African country in 2023 and briefly reappeared in M23-occupied Goma in the volatile east in May, causing disquiet in Kinshasa.

Observers say the death sentence aims to remove the possibility he could unite the opposition within the country.

Mobile & internet restored across Afghanistan: AFP journalists

Monitoring Desk

KABUL: Mobile networks and the internet were restored across Afghanistan on Wednesday, 48 hours after the Taliban authorities shut down telecommunications.

Confusion gripped the South Asian country on Monday night when mobile phone service and the internet went down without warning, freezing businesses and cutting Afghans off from the rest of the world.

The massive blackout came weeks after the government began cutting high-speed internet connections to some provinces to prevent "immorality", on the orders of shadowy supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada.

AFP journalists reported on Wednesday that mobile phone signals and wifi had returned to provinces across the country.



Displaced Palestinians flee northern Gaza after Israeli forces ordered residents to evacuate to the south.

Philippines quake death toll rises to 69, official says

Monitoring Desk

DAANBANTAYAN: The death toll from a 6.9-magnitude earthquake that hit the central Philippines has risen to 69, a disaster official said on Wednesday as the government mobilised agencies to search for survivors and restore power and water supplies.

In Bogo city in the north of Cebu province, which was near the epicentre of the shallow quake that struck off the coast just before 10pm on Tuesday, the hospital has been "overwhelmed," Civil

Defence official Raffy Alejandro told reporters.

The death toll of 69 was based on data from the Cebu provincial disaster office and was subject to validation, said Jane Abapo, an information officer at the regional Civil Defence office. Another official said more than 150 people were injured.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr assured survivors of swift assistance, saying cabinet secretaries were on the ground directing relief operations, as he expressed his condolences

to those who lost loved ones. Cebu, one of the Philippines' most popular tourist destinations, is home to 3.4 million people. Despite the damage, Mactan-Cebu International Airport, the country's second busiest gateway, remained operational. Another hard-hit town, San Remigio, was placed under a state of calamity to help the response and relief efforts. Vice Mayor Alfie Reynes appealed for food and water for evacuees, as well as heavy equipment to aid search and rescue workers.

Ethiopia church scaffold collapse kills 36: state media

ADDIS ABABA (AFP/APP): Makeshift scaffolding set up at a church in Ethiopia collapsed Wednesday, killing at least 36 people and injuring more than 200, state media said.

The incident occurred at around 7:45 am in the town of Areriti, roughly 70 kilometres (40 miles) east of capital Addis Ababa, when a group was visiting for an annual festival.

District police chief Ahmed Gebeyehu told state media Fana: "The number of dead has reached 36 and could increase more", adding "more than 200 people have suffered injuries" and were receiving treatment at a local hospital.

Some people remained under the rubble, local official Atanfu Abate told the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation (EBC), without giving further details about those trapped or possible rescue efforts.

He said some of the more seriously hurt were taken to hospitals in the capital.

Images shared on the ECB's official Facebook page showed a mess of collapsed wooden poles, with crowds gathering amid the dense debris. Other pictures appeared to show the outside of the church where scaffolding had been precariously constructed.

Gaza aid flotilla defies Israeli 'intimidation tactics'

TUNIS (AFP/APP): A flotilla carrying aid to war-battered Gaza said Wednesday it would stay its course despite what it called "intimidation tactics" by the Israeli military.

The Global Sumud Flotilla—around 45 vessels carrying activists and politicians including Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg—left Spain last month aiming to break Israel's blockade of the Palestinian territory, where the UN says famine has set in. "In the early hours of this morning, Israeli occupation naval forces launched an intimidatory operation against the Global Sumud Flotilla," the organisers said in a statement as the vessels approached waters off Egypt.



People hold Mexican and Palestinian flags as faithful participate in a pilgrimage organised by a Catholic Church to pray for peace amid the ongoing conflict in Gaza, in San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico.

Poland to extend German border checks until April

Monitoring Desk

WARSAW: Poland on Wednesday said it would extend temporary checks along its borders with Germany and Lithuania by a further six months, until April 4 next year.

Border checks had been reinstated in July, with the Polish government justifying the measure as a way to combat irregular migration. Warsaw had accused Berlin, which reintroduced checks along their shared border in 2023, of sending migrants back toward Poland—an accusation Germany denies.

"We are extending border controls with Germany and Lithuania to monitor the migration route originating from the Baltic states, passing through Poland, and leading to Western Europe," Polish Interior Minister Marcin Kierwinski stated in a statement. "We are intercepting individuals attempting to illegally transport migrants to the West," he said. The minister also referenced "persistent migratory pressure" on the border with Belarus.

Polish court says Ukrainian wanted in Nord Stream case must remain in custody

Monitoring Desk

WARSAW: A Polish court decided on Wednesday that the Ukrainian diver wanted by Berlin over his alleged involvement in explosions which damaged the Nord Stream gas pipeline, must be kept in custody while a decision is made on whether to transfer him to Germany. Described by both Moscow and the West as an act of sabotage, the explosions marked an escalation in the Ukraine conflict and squeezed energy supplies on the continent. No one has taken responsibility for the blasts and Ukraine has denied any role.

Volodymyr Z. was detained near Warsaw on

Tuesday. He will now be kept in custody for seven days. Germany's top prosecutors' office said Polish police had acted upon a European arrest warrant that it had issued. Its statement said the diver was one of a group of people who were suspected of renting a sailing yacht in the German Baltic Sea port of Rostock and planting explosives on the pipelines, which run from Russia to Germany, near the Danish island of Bornholm in September 2022. He faces accusations of conspiring to commit an explosives attack and of "anti-constitutional sabotage," the German prosecutors added.

Austria sentences woman for Daesh membership after repatriation from Syria

Monitoring Desk

VIENNA: An Austrian court on Wednesday convicted a woman who was repatriated from a Syrian detention camp for having been part of the Daesh group, handing her a two-year suspended jail sentence.

Since Daesh was ousted from its self-declared "caliphate" in 2019, the repatriation of family members of fighters who were either captured or killed has been a thorny issue for European countries.

Maria G., now 28, was brought back from Syria with her two sons in March and has remained free since her return, but was facing charges of being part of a terrorist group and a criminal organization. At her trial on Wednesday in a court in the city of Salzburg, Maria G. pleaded guilty to both charges and "fully confessed," court spokeswoman Christina Bayrhammer told AFP.

Prosecutors said they found no evidence of other crimes committed by Maria G. beyond her joining Daesh.

The court handed her a "suspended" jail sentence of 24 months," which she accepted, describing it as "another chance in life," Bayrhammer said.

The court ruled that she will have to continue undergoing psychological counselling and a de-radicalization program.

US offers security guarantees to Qatar after Israel strikes: White House

WASHINGTON (AFP/APP): The United States will regard "any armed attack" on Qatari territory as a threat to Washington and will provide the Gulf Arab state with security guarantees, the White House said, after an Israeli strike on the country last month.

"In light of the continuing threats to the State of Qatar posed by foreign aggression, it is the policy of the United States to guarantee the security and territorial integrity of the State of Qatar against external attack," said an Executive Order signed by US President Donald Trump on Monday. In the event of an attack on Qatar, the United States will "take all lawful and appropriate measures—including diplomatic, economic, and, if

necessary, military—to defend the interests of the United States and of the State of Qatar and to restore peace and stability," the order said.

The agreement comes after an Israeli strike on the key US regional ally on September 9. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called Qatar's prime minister from the White House on Monday, apologizing for strikes and promising not to do so again, the United States said. Netanyahu was in Washington to meet Trump, and had until then been defiant since ordering the September 9 strikes. Qatar is a key US ally in the Gulf and hosts the largest US military base in the region at al-Udeid, which also includes a regional headquarters for elements of US Central Command.

Zelensky and UN atomic agency head warn of heightened risk at huge Ukrainian nuclear plant

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: Ukraine's president and the UN nuclear agency head are sounding the alarm about increased safety risks at the Russia-occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in southern Ukraine, which lost its external power supply more than a week ago as the war raged around it. Emergency diesel generators are providing power for crucial cooling systems for the facility's six shutdown reactors and spent fuel, and there is no immediate danger to Europe's biggest nuclear plant, according to International Atomic Energy Agency Director-General Rafael Mariano Grossi.

But "it is clearly not a sustainable situation in terms of nuclear safety," he said. The backup generators have never needed to run for so long, according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. "The generators and the plant were not designed for this,"

Zelensky said late Tuesday, describing the situation as "critical." Zaporizhzhia is one of the 10 biggest nuclear plants in the world, and its fate amid the fighting has caused fears of a potential nuclear catastrophe. Russian forces seized it days after the full-scale invasion of neighboring Ukraine began on Feb. 24, 2022.

The Vienna-based IAEA has been walking a tightrope in the war, eager to maintain access to nuclear facilities and issuing warnings about the dangers without angering either side. Ukraine has four nuclear plants, though Zaporizhzhia is the only one in Russian hands. Grossi said that Zaporizhzhia's emergency generators were coping with the extra strain so far. "The current status of the reactor units and spent fuel is stable as long as the emergency diesel generators are able to provide sufficient power to maintain essential safety-related functions and cooling."

Kyrgyz leader seeks death penalty for worst crimes against children and women

Monitoring Desk

BISHKEK: Kyrgyzstan's populist President Sadyr Japarov has ordered the drafting of a bill to reinstate the death penalty for the most serious crimes against children and women.

His move followed the killing of a 17-year-old girl, which sparked public outrage in the mountainous former Soviet republic of around seven million people. Her body was found on September 27, and a suspect has been detained. Kyrgyzstan was ranked the most dangerous country for women in Central Asia in the previous two years, according to the global Women, Peace and Security Index.

According to the presidential administration, the proposed legislation would reinstate the death penalty for rape of children and for rape followed by murder of women. Kyrgyzstan has observed a moratorium on the death penalty since 2007, meaning its return would require major constitutional and legal changes.

In a post on Facebook, Japarov's press secretary

said that the president was backing the bill in response to the murder of the girl, who has been named only as Aisulul.

He said that Japarov believed that "crimes against women and children must not go unpunished." The country holds a parliamentary election on November 30, with parties loyal to Japarov aiming to stay dominant.

Since coming to power on a wave of protests in 2020, Japarov has tightened his grip on Kyrgyzstan, traditionally Central Asia's most democratic country, where three presidents have been ousted by mass demonstrations since independence in 1991. According to Kyrgyz independent media outlet Kloop, 20–30 gender-targeted femicides are recorded annually, with overall 1,109 women killed between 2010 and 2023. According to rights group Amnesty International, 113 nations had abolished the death penalty by the end of 2024 with 1,518 executions recorded worldwide that year, mostly in China, Iran, and other countries.

Madagascar protesters demand president's resignation in fifth day of rallies

Monitoring Desk

ANTANANARIVO: Hundreds of protesters across Madagascar demanded the resignation of President Andry Rajoelina on Wednesday, taking to the streets for a fifth day of demonstrations that have shaken the government, local television broadcasts showed.

Spurred by the so-called youth-led "Gen Z" protests in Kenya and Nepal, the demonstrations have been the largest the Indian Ocean island has seen in years, and the most serious challenge Rajoelina has faced since his re-election in 2023. The protests initially started in Antananarivo last week over nationwide water shortages and power blackouts but have since spread across the island, prompting Rajoelina to dissolve the government late on Monday. His move failed to assuage public anger. A message on the protest movement's Facebook page called for Rajoelina's resignation as well as the disso-

lution of the election commission, the senate and the country's top court.

The United Nations says at least 22 people have been killed and more than 100 injured since the protests started last week, figures the government rejects.

On Wednesday, protesters took to the streets in the capital and towns including Toliara, 925 km (575 miles) south of Antananarivo, chanting "get out" and waving flags and banners with the words "Rajoelina Out," footage broadcast by privately-owned Radio Télévision Siteny showed.

They were escorted by security forces in vehicles, and other protesters in rickshaws, the footage showed. A government spokesperson did not respond to Reuters requests for comment, however the president's spokesperson Lova Ranomaro said on social media that property had been destroyed and homes looted.



Demonstrators hold a St. George's Cross flag as they take part in a 'The Pink Ladies' anti-immigration protest in Westminster, central London.

Trump praises Pakistan for recognizing his efforts to stop conflict with India

WASHINGTON (APP): U.S. President Donald Trump Tuesday said he called both Pakistan and India to stop the war between the two nuclear-armed countries and again praised the Pakistani leadership for acknowledging that by doing so he saved millions of lives.

"India and Pakistan were going at it. I called them both... They had just shot down seven planes... I said, if you do this, there's not going to be any trade, and I stopped the war. It was raging for four days," he told American military commanders at Quantico, Virginia, near Washington DC.

Trump said he leveraged U.S. trade to end the war that the two countries fought between May 7 and 10, engaging in one of the largest aerial combats in modern warfare.

Pakistan declared that it shot down six Indian

fighter jets including super-sophisticated French Rafale jets. Later, India acknowledged the losses, though without revealing the exact number of jets lost.

"And in this case, I use trade. I'm not going to trade with you. You start two nuclear nations. Big nuclear. No, no, no. You cannot do that. You go into this freaking war and I stopped it."

On May 10, Trump announced in a social media post that India and Pakistan had agreed to a ceasefire after U.S. diplomatic engagement.

Trump also said that he was "honoured" when Pakistan Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, who he called "a very important guy in Pakistan", praised him for saving millions of lives.

"I have settled so many wars" in the nine months of his administration, he said. "I've settled

seven. And yesterday we might have settled the biggest of them all, although I don't know, Pakistan and India was very big, both nuclear powers. I settled that."

Referring to his peace plan to end the Gaza conflict, announced on Monday, Trump said, "We got it, I think, settled. We'll see. Hamas has to agree, and if they don't, it's going to be very tough on them. But it is what it is. But all of the Arab nations, Muslim nations, have agreed." In his remarks, Trump again went back to the conflict between India and Pakistan and praised the Pakistani officials for lauding him for saving millions of lives.

In a sign of rapidly warming U.S.-Pakistan relations, Trump spoke of his Oval Office meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir.



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor Khuzdar University Professor Dr. Maqsood Ahmed meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

BHC expresses resentment over discriminatory treatment in gas supply

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan High Court (BHC) on Wednesday expressed resentment over the discriminatory treatment in the supply of gas to the province and ordered the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGCL) and the Balochistan Government to submit a detailed report on the next hearing.

A two-member bench comprising Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court Justice Rozi Khan Bareach and Justice Sardar Ahmed Halimi reviewed the report submitted by SSGCL General Manager Muhammad Raheel Malik during the hearing of the constitutional petition filed by Advocate Syed Nazir Ahmed Agha against the federal Ministry of Petroleum.

According to the re-

port, only 60 million cubic feet per day (MMCFD) of gas is being provided to the domestic consumers of Balochistan, while Punjab and Sindh are being provided with 407 and 198 MMCFD respectively.

The court ruled that this situation is a clear violation of Article 25 of the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan and the principles of equal treatment enshrined therein and discrimination against the province of Balochistan. While terming the SSGCL report as unsatisfactory, the bench further directed that a comprehensive report be submitted at the next hearing, which would include details of gas supplied to all districts and tehsils of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

Haji Noor Dummar says: Practical steps underway to resolve people's issues

QUETTA: Balochistan Minister for Food, Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar, met with delegations from Ziarat, Harnai, and Sanjawi at his office in the Civil Secretariat Quetta. The delegations apprised the minister of the public issues and requirements of their respective areas.

Speaking to the representatives, the minister said that public service is the government's mission and welfare of the people remains the top priority. He assured that the govern-

ment is listening to public concerns seriously and taking practical measures to resolve them.

He added that all available resources are being utilized for the welfare of the people, and no negligence will be tolerated in addressing their problems. Later, the minister also met with citizens from his own constituency and listened to their grievances.

Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar assured the people that their issues will be resolved on a priority basis and no one will be left disappointed.

New era of progress and prosperity begins in Balochistan: Bilal Kakar

QUETTA: Vice Chairman of the Balochistan Board of Investment, Bilal Khan Kakar, has said that a new era of development and prosperity has begun in the province. He noted that Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, through his tireless efforts and vision, is striving to pull the province out of backwardness and put it on the path of growth and prosperity.

He stated that these efforts are now yielding results as new opportunities for industrial and economic progress are emerging in Balochistan. With the co-

operation of the government and the Board of Investment, billions of rupees are being invested in the province, which will not only strengthen the economy but also provide thousands of employment opportunities to the people. Bilal Khan Kakar highlighted the shrimp farming project in Hub, costing Rs. 5 billion, as a milestone initiative that will strengthen the economy while opening new avenues in aquaculture. He said more mega projects will be launched soon to utilize natural resources and expand the industrial sector.



Security forces apprehended four terrorists disguised in women's attire, belonging to Indian proxy Fitna al Hindustan during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Khuzdar district

Dr. Rubaba visits trauma center, inquires about blast victims

QUETTA: Provincial Adviser on Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi visited the Trauma Center on Wednesday to inquire about victims injured in the recent bomb blast.

She expressed solidarity with the affected families and assured that the government would provide the best possible medical care. Dr. Rubaba praised the dedication of doctors and paramedical staff in handling the emergency situation with professionalism.

On the occasion, Trauma Center's Managing Head Dr. Arbab Kamran Kasi briefed the Adviser on the condition of patients and the treatment measures being undertaken. Dr. Rubaba directed officials to ensure there was no negligence in the care of the injured.

Khetran, Maulana Hidayat discuss public issues and development projects

QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering and WASA, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, met with MPA from Gwadar, Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman, at the Civil Secretariat Quetta.

During the meeting, the two leaders discussed public issues, ongoing development projects, and matters of mutual interest. Both agreed that ensuring the provision of basic facilities to the people and uplifting underdeveloped areas must remain the government's top priority.

Minister Khetran stated that the present government is working with a strong commitment to public service. "We are seriously listening to citizens' concerns and taking practical measures to resolve them," he said.

Later, the minister also met with citizens from remote areas, listened to their grievances, and assured them that their problems will be resolved on priority basis without disappointment.

13 acres of illegal cannabis crops destroyed anti-Narcotics operation

LORALAI: The Excise and Taxation Anti-Narcotics Force, along with other law enforcement agencies, conducted a major operation in Loralai against narcotics cultivation.

According to the Excise Department spokesperson, three acres of cannabis crops were destroyed in the Ganda Ghori area, while another ten acres were cleared in Surki Jungle and Fateh Khan Qilla.

In total, 13 acres of land were freed from illegal narcotics cultivation.

The department reaffirmed its strict "zero tolerance" policy against drug traffickers and announced that such operations will continue. Authorities also appealed to the public to support the government in identifying and eliminating narcotics cultivation to protect the younger generation from this menace.



ISLAMABAD: U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker Met Federal Minister for Law & Justice and Human Rights Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar to discuss bilateral relations.

Pakistan, Syria resolve to strengthen ties, continue efforts for regional peace

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Syria on Wednesday resolved to further deepen their longstanding relationship and to continue joint efforts for regional peace, stability and prosperity.

The bilateral ties were discussed as Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic Dr Ramez Alraee called on Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani here at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The acting president said that Pakistan attached great value to its historic and brotherly ties with Syria, which were rooted in shared faith, history and mutual respect.

He said that Pakistan and Syria had always stood shoulder to shoulder in testing times and recalled that Pakistan had maintained its diplomatic mission in Damascus even during the years of internal conflict, reflecting its principled and stead-

fast friendship with Syria.

Highlighting the deep historical connection between the two ancient cities of Damascus and Multan, Acting President Gilani said that both symbolised civilisational depth and resilience.

He observed that Pakistan had consistently supported Syria at international fora, including playing an active role in the restoration of Syria's membership in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

He noted that Pakistan had a large pool of skilled professionals who could contribute to Syria's rebuilding, particularly in the fields of medicine, education, information technology and banking.

The acting president said that Pakistan's training and capacity-building programmes were open to Syrian diplomats, educators and medical professionals.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Nawabzada Tariq Magsi meeting with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (ret'd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

BA Speaker chairs meeting regarding rehabilitation project of Pat Feeder Canal

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Assembly Speaker Captain (ret'd) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai on Wednesday presided over a meeting regarding the rehabilitation project of the Pat Feeder Canal. The meeting was attended by Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA) Tariq Khan Magsi, Parliamentary Secretary Abdul Majeed Badini, Secretary Assembly Tahir Shah Kakar, Secretary Irrigation, Project Director, Secretary to Speaker Hayat Bizenjo and other relevant officials.

Parliamentary Secretary Abdul Majeed Badini informed the meeting that the Pat Feeder Canal is a red line for the people of the area because the lives of the farmers and the people there depend on it.

Despite the allocation of a huge amount of Rs 65 billion and the release of Rs 11 billion as mobilization, the non-commencement of practical work is causing serious concern among the people. Tariq Khan Magsi said that the tender for the project has been done and the money was released but the contractors have not started the project, such contractors must be held accountable.

The Secretary Irriga-

tion said that all illegal connections would be removed and a committee could be formed to implement the project. The Project Director presented the details of the project and said that the approval and tendering stages have been completed, however, issues like encroachments, security issues and transfer of utility installations in the Sindh part are obstacles.



SIBI: Commandant Sibi Scouts Munir Ahmed Sultan and Deputy Commissioner Sibi Major (ret'd) Ilyas Kibzai inaugurates solarization project after completion at Govt Girls Elementary College under Balochistan National Development Initiative.

Secretary Health reviews major health projects in Turbat, emphasizes timely completion

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan's Provincial Secretary for Health, Mujeeb ur Rehman Panizai, conducted a comprehensive inspection of two key healthcare infrastructure projects in Turbat the under-construction Teaching Hospital and the Makran Medical College Hospital. Accompanied by senior officials and public representatives, Panizai assessed the pace and quality of ongoing construction work, said a news release.

The visit followed a high-level meeting at the divisional headquarters in Turbat, chaired by Provincial Minister for Planning and Development, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi. The session addressed pressing regional concerns, including law and order and the progress of development

initiatives.

The meeting and inspection visit drew participation from prominent figures, including MPA Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, Advisor to the Chief Minister Mina Majeed Baloch, MPAs Haji Barkat Rind and Mir Asghar Rind, several provincial secretaries, Commissioner Makran Qadir Bakhsh Parakani, Deputy Commissioner Kech Bashir Barich, District Police Officer Captain (Retd) Zubaib Mohsin, and other district health and administrative officials.

During the site visits, Secretary Mujeeb ur Rehman expressed satisfaction with the construction standards and issued firm directives to ensure the projects are completed on schedule and meet the highest quality benchmarks.

WB country director meets Health Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): World Bank Country Director held a meeting with Federal Minister for National Health Services, Mustafa Kamal, to discuss Pakistan's healthcare challenges and reforms.

In the discussions, both sides reviewed the pressing issues confronting Pakistan's health sector and explored sustainable solutions.

The World Bank Country Director praised the performance of the Ministry of Health over the past six months and assured full support for its ongoing initiatives.

The Minister underlined that Pakistan's health sector faces multiple challenges but reaffirmed the government's commitment to introducing wide-ranging reforms.

He said that the Ministry is working to expand healthcare access to remote and underserved communities through telemedicine services.

SHO Gandakha visits APP Quetta Bureau office

QUETTA (APP): SHO Gandakha Mir Zaheer Ahmed Jamali on Wednesday visited the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) office in Quetta Bureau and met Bureau Chief Nazam Muhammad. On this occasion, SHO Mir Zaheer Ahmed Jamali said that maintaining peace in Gandakha was the top priority of the police and strict measures were being taken against criminal elements for this purpose.

He further said that sustainable peace could not be established without co-operation of the people, therefore, citizens should play their role in making the area peaceful along with the police. Bureau Chief Nazam Muhammad appreciated the efforts of the police for maintaining law and order on this occasion and expressed the hope.

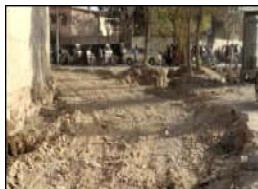
Gwadar's water supply secured through coordinated efforts: Noor

QUETTA: Coordinator for Water and Power and Chairman of Gwadar Port Authority, Noor-ul-Haq Baloch, visited the Choudh Pumping Station along with Director General of Gwadar Development Authority, Engineer Moeen-ur-Rahman. The visit included Chief Engineer GDA Syed Muhammad Baloch, Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. Abdul Shakoor, PD Water Project Mir Jan Baloch, Engineer Qambar Baloch, and other officials. During the visit, the Chief Engineer briefed that water from Shadi Kor Dam is being transmitted to the Choudh Pumping Station and will reach the Airport Water Station by late night.

OGDC announces gas, condensate discovery at Bitrism East-1 Well in Khairpur

ISLAMABAD (APP): Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDC) on Wednesday announced a significant discovery of gas and condensate at Bitrism East-1 exploratory well, located in District Khairpur, Sindh.

OGDC is the operator of the Bitrism Exploration License with 95% working interest, along with Government Holdings (Private) Limited (GHPL) holding 5% working interest, said a news release.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Meharullah Badini along with PD QDP Rafiq Baloch inspecting the under construction work at Science College Chowk.

FM Aurangzeb says: Negotiations with IMF progressing "positively"

ISLAMABAD (INP): Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Wednesday expressed satisfaction with the pace of the government's talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), saying the negotiations were progressing "positively".

Speaking to the media in Islamabad, the finance minister stated that the government was confident of boosting Pakistan's tax-to-GDP ratio to 11%.

Mentioning several pending tax-related cases in courts, he hoped that such cases would increase the Federal Board of Revenue's

(FBR) collections.

The FBR faced a shortfall of Rs1.2 trillion against its original target of Rs12.97 trillion for fiscal year 2024-25, despite the imposition of Rs1.3 trillion in additional taxes.

The board ultimately collected Rs11.74 trillion after two downward revisions, with officials attributing the gap to unrealised recoveries of Rs250 billion from pending court cases.

Aurangzeb, however, said that the government was not considering taking additional tax measures. "We are not immediately taking additional tax measures," he added.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Food Haji Noor Muhammad Dummar meeting with Provincial Minister for PHE Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran. MPA Zafar Agha is also present on the occasion.

BA Speaker summons police official over seizure of farmers' seeds in Quetta

QUETTA: Balochistan Assembly Speaker Captain @ Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai summoned the Superintendent of Police (SP) Sariab to his chamber today, directing him to brief the Speaker and members of the committee on a pressing public grievance.

During the committee session, MPA and Parliamentary Secretary Abdul Majeed Badini drew attention to the plight of the Bagri tribe, who migrate seasonally to Quetta for labor and reside in the Sariab area. He explained that their primary livelihood depends on cultivating and selling melons and watermelons in Usta Muhammad, Jaffarabad, and Jacobabad.

The MPA informed the committee that the tribe had recently purchased melon and watermelon seeds worth nearly Rs. 1.9 million. However, in an unexpected police raid, Sariab police confiscated the seeds, alleging they could be used to manufacture explosives. This action left the community in distress, jeopardizing their only source of livelihood.

Committee members expressed grave concern and demanded immediate restitution of the seized seeds while ensuring protection for the affected community. Speaker Achakzai directed that the Bagri tribe be provided with full security and that the confiscated amount be returned without delay. He further instructed the SSP to guarantee equal protection for every citizen, emphasizing that no community should be marginalized based on social background.



QUETTA: Advisor to CM for Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi enquiring after health of blast victims during her visit to Trauma Centre.

Rapid Development Initiatives: Clean water, parks, and solar power projects inaugurated

SIBI: Commandant Sibi Scouts, Munir Ahmad Sultan, along with Deputy Commissioner Sibi, Major @ Ilyas Kabezi, inaugurated multiple development projects under the Balochistan Special Development Initiative (BSDI). These projects, approved based on issues raised by the public during open courts, were completed at an unprecedented pace, providing immediate benefits to residents. Among the completed projects are the solarization of the school at-

tached to Government Girls Elementary College, filtration plants on Jail Road and Luni Road for clean drinking water, and upgrades at Public Park Sibi, including swings, solar lighting, a cafeteria, and water channels.

Commandant Munir Ahmad Sultan urged that the relevant departments ensure proper maintenance of these projects to provide lasting benefits. Deputy Commissioner Major @ Ilyas Kabezi assured that work on remaining projects will begin soon and be completed ahead of schedule.

DC Quetta urges expedite completion of science college Chowk project

QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Meharullah Badini, chaired a meeting along with Project Director Quetta Development Project (QDP), Rafiq Baloch, regarding ongoing development schemes in the city.

During the meeting, the PD briefed on the progress, challenges, and achievements of various projects including Sariab Road, Sirki Road, Custom, Prince Road, and the Science College Chowk project. He emphasized that the Science College Chowk project holds key importance for improving urban facilities and reducing traffic congestion. He directed all concerned departments to immediately remove obstacles to ensure timely completion of the project.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner paid a special visit to the ongoing work at Science College Chowk and instructed the contractor to complete the project on an emergency basis to ease public difficulties.

He emphasized that the Science College Chowk project holds key importance for improving urban facilities and reducing traffic congestion. He directed all concerned departments to immediately remove obstacles to ensure timely completion of the project.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Meharullah Badini along with PD QDP Rafiq Baloch inspecting the under construction work at Science College Chowk.