

QUETTA VOICE

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Prime Minister states that the public has rejected divisive politics and prioritised improvements in economic policies

2 Dead Bodies Recovered in Kharan District, Balochistan

From Our Correspondent:

KHARAN: Two dead bodies were recovered from the Maskan Kalat (tehsil of Kharan district in Balochistan, Leves sources reported on Sunday. The identities of the deceased have not yet been confirmed, but they are said to belong to the Sindh province.

The bodies were shifted to the district hospital, where a large number of people gathered. Authorities have yet to determine the motive behind the deaths. No official statement has been released regarding the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Further investigations are underway to uncover the details, and local authorities are expected to provide updates as more information becomes available.

Death Toll Rises to Three in ATF Vehicle Attack on ZhoB-D.I. Khan Route

From Our Correspondent:

ZhoB: In a tragic incident earlier today on the ZhoB-Dera Ismail Khan route, terrorists opened fire on an Anti-Terrorism Force (ATF) vehicle, resulting in the martyrdom of three personnel. Initially, one ATF member was reported martyred, but two more succumbed to their injuries later. One personnel remains injured.



The assailants fled the scene immediately after the attack. Police and Leves forces swiftly reached the spot to secure the area and initiate an investigation. Security measures have been tightened in the region to prevent further incidents and ensure the safety of the public.

Authorities are actively pursuing the perpetrators and have urged the community to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities.

The attack underscores the ongoing security challenges in the region and the need for continued vigilance and cooperation between security forces and the public.

Rallies aren't the priority; improving economic conditions is: PM Shehbaz Sharif

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has issued a statement addressing the country's political and economic situation. The Prime Minister stated that the public has rejected divisive politics and prioritised improvements in economic policies.

The people want relief from inflation, solutions to their problems, and economic recovery," he said. Shehbaz emphasised that instead of filling arenas for rallies, the focus should be on improving the economic conditions of the people. Express News reported.

He added that rallies can be held in 2028, but now is the time to work hard to fulfill the promises made to the public. The Prime Minister pointed out that economic recovery is tied to political stability. Political chaos would hinder the process of providing relief to the

people. He stressed that national unity is essential for strengthening political stability, which will guarantee Pakistan's bright economic future and relief from inflation.

He further stated that the nation, political parties, institutions, and provinces must work together to address economic challenges and terrorism. More time cannot be wasted on political chaos, as it is not in the country's interest.

Shehbaz expressed gratitude for the drop in inflation back to single digits and improving economic conditions, citing increases in exports, remittances, a stable rupee, and lower interest rates as clear signs of economic progress.

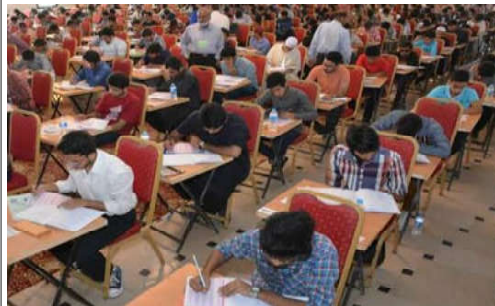
He emphasised that the real success would be if this is the last IMF program Pakistan needs. He concluded by saying that insults, violence, and chaos will not improve the economy or

society, and every province and institution must play its part in solving the public's problems.

The Prime Minister's statement on the country's domestic issues comes ahead of his address to the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly taking place from September 23 to 27 in New York.

The premier, earlier during the day, had landed in London for a stopover after departing from Pakistan.

Upon landing at Heathrow Airport on Saturday evening, he was seen heading to his apartment near Edgware Road in central London. According to the Foreign Office spokesperson, the Prime Minister will meet with global leaders, including the UN Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly, and participate in meetings on the rising sea levels and leadership for peace.



PMDC Rejects MDCAT Paper Leak, Result soon

Islamabad, Pakistan: The Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) has dismissed rumors of a leaked paper for the Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) held on September 22, 2024. Despite allegations circulating on social media, the PMDC and the Dow University of Health Sciences have categorically denied any such incident. A total of 167,744 students registered for the MDCAT this year,

with Punjab having the highest number of applicants. To ensure the integrity of the exam, the PMDC implemented strict security measures, including Section 144 enforcement and surveillance technology. While the exact date for the MDCAT 2024 results has not been officially announced, the PMDC has indicated that results are expected by September 30. This timeline aligns with the council's policy of allowing ad-

mitting universities a maximum of 10 days to upload official results. Posts circulating on Social media by mdcad aspirants claim that Dow mdcad was leaked from larkana last night. However, The Dow University of Health Sciences has officially declared a leaked paper circulating on social media regarding the Medical and Dental College Admission Test MDCAT as fake.

300 Fishermen From Gwadar To Get Training In Korea

From Our Correspondent:

GWADAR: In a significant step toward improving the fishing industry in Balochistan, 300 fishermen from Gwadar and other coastal areas are set to receive modern training in Korea. The initiative comes under the Foreign Seasonal Training Program, which aims to equip local fishermen with advanced techniques to boost their productivity and economic prospects.

This decision follows the dedicated efforts of Parliamentary Secretary of Fisheries, Barkat Ali Rind, and Secretary of Fisheries, Javed Anwar Shahwani.

The program aims to send over 1,000 fishermen abroad for training over the coming months. Barkat Ali Rind highlighted the importance of the initiative, stating, "This training will revolutionize our fishing industry by empowering local fishermen

with modern skills and technologies, allowing them to compete globally. Our coastal communities stand to benefit tremendously."

Javed Anwar Shahwani emphasized the broader impact on the region's economy, saying, "The foreign training will not only enhance individual capabilities but also improve the overall quality of the fishing sector in Balochistan."

This will lead to sustainable growth and greater exports, benefiting our local communities and the provincial economy."

This initiative is expected to bring long-term benefits to the coastal population of Balochistan, providing them with the expertise needed to optimize resources and contribute to the region's economic development.



File photo: Fisheries department seized four illegal trawlers in Gwadar: Photo provided by fisheries department Balochistan

Blast Targets Security Forces Vehicle in Kharan, Balochistan; Seven Injured

From Our Correspondent:

Kharan: A blast targeted a vehicle of the security forces in the Kharan district of Balochistan, leaving at least seven people injured.

The incident occurred near Didag Hotel Chowk, where miscreants lobbed a hand grenade at the forces' vehicle before fleeing the scene.

The injured were rushed to a nearby hospital for immediate medical attention.

Police quickly reached the spot to secure the area and begin

an investigation into the attack. Security has been heightened in the region to prevent further incidents and ensure public safety.

Authorities are actively pursuing the perpetrators and have called on the community to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities.

This attack highlights the ongoing security challenges in Balochistan and the need for continued vigilance and cooperation between security forces and the public.



FBR to seek intelligence agencies' help to monitor corruption

NESS DESK: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has decided to enlist the help of intelligence agencies to track down officers involved in corruption. FBR Chairman Rashid Mahmood Langrial announced that a strict reward and punishment system would be enforced within the organisation to improve accountability. Express news reported. Addressing senior tax officers (grade 17 and above) at FBR headquarters, Rashid Mahmood outlined key points of the board's new reform plan.

He revealed that financial incentives for officers demonstrating exceptional performance had already been approved, with further improvements to the reward system planned. Currently, FBR provides quar-

terly rewards to officers with outstanding performance, but this structure will be enhanced.

Rashid Mahmood stressed that corruption will not be tolerated in the tax department and made it clear that law enforcement agencies would closely monitor any officers found engaging in corrupt activities. Those found guilty will face severe consequences. In addition to tackling internal corruption, the FBR chairman disclosed that additional measures would be taken against tax evaders. The FBR will be given expanded powers to amend laws concerning the exchange of information with financial institutions. Rashid Mahmood also revealed plans to establish model tax offices and digital enforcement stations.

Evolution of Pashtun Wedding Traditions: A Balochistan Love Story

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Unlocking Balochistan's Potential: A Roadmap for Sustainable Development

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Engagement necessary despite issues with Afghanistan: Munir Akram

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THE VOICE

Editor: Asim Khan

A Vital Move to Protect Marine Ecosystems Amid Global Challenges

Editorial: The Government of Balochistan's decision to designate Chara Island as Pakistan's second Marine Protected Area (MPA) marks a critical milestone in the country's efforts to safeguard marine biodiversity. This proactive step, approved by the provincial cabinet, has been met with praise from environmentalists, conservationists, and the global community. It's a reminder of the vital need to protect our oceans as we grapple with the increasingly dire impacts of global warming and climate change.

Chara Island, a coral reef habitat rich in biodiversity, will now receive the protection it urgently needs. This area is home to various species of fish, marine plants, and coral that play an essential role in maintaining the ecological balance of the province. By declaring this zone an MPA, Balochistan is sending a strong message that marine conservation is not just a regional priority but a national one, considering the growing threats to marine life from rising ocean temperatures and pollution.

This move follows the earlier designation of Astola Island as Pakistan's first MPA in 2017, creating a legacy of marine protection. Together, Astola and Chara form key conservation sites off the Balochistan coast. These islands also serve as a lifeline for local communities, especially those involved in fishing. Overfishing and degradation have placed a strain on local livelihoods, and MPAs can help sustain fish stocks and ensure long-term economic viability for the people who rely on these waters.

Aha Salam, a prominent environmentalist, commended the government's decision, highlighting the urgency of protecting fragile marine ecosystems, particularly in the face of global environmental challenges. "Chara Island's protection is a step in the right direction," Salam said. "The significance of this decision cannot be overstated, as it sets the tone for future conservation efforts."

As Pakistan continues to confront the impacts of climate change—rising sea levels, extreme weather patterns, and increasing ocean acidification—protecting marine ecosystems like Chara Island becomes even more crucial. MPAs offer refuge for diversity, allowing ecosystems to recover and adapt to changing conditions brought on by global warming.

However, the designation of MPAs alone is not enough. It is vital that the Balochistan government, local communities, and conservation groups collaborate to ensure the sustainability of these protected zones. Enforcement, regulations, community involvement, and continued funding for research and conservation initiatives are essential to the success of these efforts.

Chara Island's protection stands as a beacon of hope in Pakistan's broader conservation landscape, a necessary move in the global fight to preserve our planet's ecosystems amidst an ever-worsening climate crisis.

Clashing realities

BY Tariq Khosa: HOW to restrain a powerful, overweening and tyrannical state is the key challenge we face today. The institutions of restraint on executive excesses are the rule of law and democratic accountability. The mood of discontent is writ large as we witness the politics of hubris and humiliation. The power has rigged the system to perpetuate its privileges. The toxic brew of hubris reflects a dystopian saga.

However, to govern a democratic society requires contending with disagreement, said Michael Sandel in *The Tyranny of Merit: Politics, for some of us, in the words of Ben Ansell, "signals the distant, the apocalyptic, the venal conniving of politicians," but fundamentally, politics "is about how we make collective decisions." It is important to manage "inevitable disagreements." This is why "we cannot avoid politics or wish it away," Ansell writes in *Why Politics Fails*.*

Elections have winners and losers, but their legitimacy through a fair process is crucial. We have the police and Gen armed forces to protect us, but who will protect us from them? We need to answer this question.

We have often looked for arbitrary alternatives through "strong" military rulers who could get things done, but those were "false gods." We need solutions within a constitutional framework. "While politics is imperfect, it may be our last best hope to reach common ground," says Ansell, identifying five areas to focus on: democracy, equality, social justice, security and prosperity.

The deep state's behind-the-scenes political engineering may be a tactical win for the string pullers, but it reflects their much larger strategic failure in coming at odds with community, civility, comity and compromise. Bruni calls it "a problem of humility" in his forthcoming book *The Age of Grievance*. He talks about character and how a society holds itself together. "It does that with concern for the common good, with respect for the institutions" and says that "governance, as opposed to demagoguery, is about earning others' trust and cooperation." Tolerance shares its DNA with respect as it "recognises that other people have rights and inherent values even when we disagree vehemently with them," Bruni concludes.

cadres, due to political infighting. We cannot afford another gridlock leading to misadventure. Humility can be a bulwark against absolutism, and an antidote to the present era of grievance. According to Frank Bruni, "We live in an era defined and overwhelmed by grievances, by too many peoples' obsession with how they've been wronged and their insistence on wallowing in it." He correctly avers that "the ascent of identity politics and the influence of social media... were better at inflaming us rather than uniting us," and promotes "a self-obsession that is sharply divided."

Amidst the current devastating scenario in the province, Balochistan's political and intellectual spheres are sharply divided. Supporters of the latter viewpoint draw upon global examples of successful development strategies, particularly the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in various nations. Learning from global case studies, the potential of Balochistan as a resource-rich province with vast ecological and topographic diversity, coupled with its strategic location, warrants a paradigm shift towards infrastructure development and economic growth. It is evident that uplifting the economic status of the population will pave the way for the

Hybrid pitfalls for PML-N

BY Abbas Nasir: HYBRID setups have internal power struggle built into them. Like me, if you find some of the statements confusing—signalling differences of opinion within the top tiers of the major political parties—you must determine whether this is a precursor to something dramatic or merely a struggle to create some elbow room in the straitjacket these parties find themselves in.

Apologies for the mouthful above. Before you give up on this column and move on to the next, let me explain what I am trying to say. Just as the PML-N is contributing to the establishment's ever-expanding footprint (as did the PTI before it), it is also clear the party isn't exactly content with the status quo.

Don't you consider it bizarre that

while Shehbaz Sharif is the prime minister and party supremo Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam Nawaz holds the reins to Pakistan's biggest province, with over 50 per cent of the country's population and votes, senior leaders such as Rana Sanaullah and Javed Latif continue to moan and moan about how the "real" power is vested elsewhere?

If Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif functions as a junior partner in a hybrid regime, where he takes the back seat in key areas such as the economy, law and order, and control of all federal law-enforcement investigation/intelligence agencies, surely he can't be happy governing with these and other constraints.

The PML-N isn't alone in this struggle for space as similar

Incomplete Polio Vaccinations in Balochistan Linked to Frontline Worker-Parent Nexus

Syed Ali Shah:

A disturbing trend has emerged in Balochistan, where a nexus between some frontline health workers and parents is leading to the incomplete vaccination of children, leaving them vulnerable to the poliovirus. This issue is contributing to the rising number of polio cases in the province, with Balochistan reporting 12 out of the 15 cases recorded across Pakistan this year.

According to sources within the provincial health department, some frontline workers are reportedly colluding with parents, agreeing to vaccinate only a portion of the children in a household. In some instances, out of four children, only two receive the polio vaccine, significantly weakening the overall effectiveness of vaccination campaigns, the sources mentioned. This negligent practice is seen as a major factor in the recent surge in polio cases, raising alarm among health officials and the broader community, they noted.

The resurgence of polio in Balochistan is particularly troubling given the extensive resources and efforts invested in eradicating the disease.

Despite these efforts, the province has become a hotspot for new polio cases, with the virus continuing to circulate in communities where vaccination rates are compromised.

Background: Pakistan is one of the few countries in the world where polio remains endemic, and Balochistan has been a focal point in the battle against the virus. In recent years, the government, in collaboration with international organizations such as UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO), has launched numerous polio vaccination drives across the province.

However, these efforts have often been met with challenges, including resistance from certain communities, logistical difficulties, and now, the reported collusion between health workers and parents.

The increasing number of polio cases in Balochistan is a stark reminder of the challenges that remain in the fight against the disease.

Health officials are calling for stricter oversight of vaccination campaigns and stronger accountability measures for frontline workers. T

Unlocking Balochistan's Potential: A Roadmap for Sustainable Development

Dr. Faiz Kakar:

Balochistan, even as a resource-rich province, grapples with alarming rates of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, and infant and maternal mortality, indicative of severe underdevelopment. The unmatched policies and irrelevant development strategies, along with poor governance, have resulted in extreme underdevelopment of the province.

Through the bleak picture of the province is noticeable to all decision-makers, as highlighted by maps depicting critical poverty levels in Balochistan's political and intellectual spheres remain sharply divided.

Balochistan's Political And Intellectual Spheres Divided

Amidst the current devastating scenario in the province, Balochistan's political and intellectual spheres are sharply divided. Supporters of the latter viewpoint draw upon global examples of successful development strategies, particularly the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in various nations. Learning from global case studies, the potential of Balochistan as a resource-rich province with vast ecological and topographic diversity, coupled with its strategic location, warrants a paradigm shift towards infrastructure development and economic growth. It is evident that uplifting the economic status of the population will pave the way for the

provision of social services through self-help approaches. Failure to adapt to this evolving development approach over the past decade serves as a stark reminder of the need for change.

Potentials of the Province Ensure Success of SEZ

Balochistan, often referred to as the "fruit basket" of Pakistan, stands out as a resource-rich province boasting the largest landscape and the longest coastline spanning 770 kilometers. Despite its untapped wealth in various minerals, Balochistan remains underdeveloped. Its diverse topography and topographic zones allow for the experience of different seasons simultaneously, with the coldest and hottest regions in the province within the same belt.

Deng Xiaoping was impressed by the unbelievable emergence of the establishment in Singapore quoted that when visited Lee Kuan and asked how I can make China as Singapore and his response was to establish the SEZs and affirmed the development of successful SEZs in China.

The province's strategic location grants it access to two international borders with Iran and Afghanistan. Its rich resources, including minerals, natural gas, agriculture, livestock, forests, and fisheries, offer a solid foundation for intensifying the emphasis on Special Eco-

omic Zones (SEZs). These potentials not only justify the focus on SEZs but also serve as a guarantee of their success.

SEZs The Only Option

Ensuring the full operationalization of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) already identified commenced in Balochistan stands out as a resource-rich province boasting the largest landscape and the longest coastline spanning 770 kilometers. Despite its untapped wealth in various minerals, Balochistan remains underdeveloped. Its diverse topography and topographic zones allow for the experience of different seasons simultaneously, with the coldest and hottest regions in the province within the same belt.

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ture development. The dispersed nature of the population significantly reduces the unit costs of development and maintenance of services. Moreover, it contributes to the prevailing law and order issues and hampers efforts to combat political insurgencies and religious terrorism.

To address this challenge, the establishment of new cities and towns across the province is essential. However, given the budgetary constraints and the heavy investment required for establishing new cities, leveraging the existing SEZs areas as new cities presents a viable solution. The development of these SEZs into fully functional urban centers will facilitate the much-needed tri-down effect, addressing the pressing needs of the population.

The momentum for expediting the establishment of industries is being further strengthened by the concurrent development of private housing schemes announced and currently under construction by the real estate dealers. These initiatives will compel the working class to seek improved living standards, thereby enhancing the overall quality of life in Balochistan.

Urbanization and establishment of new cities

Addressing the challenge of scattered population in Balochistan requires a paradigm shift in urban planning and infrastructure. The establishment of new cities and towns across the province is essential. However, given the budgetary constraints and the heavy investment required for establishing new cities, leveraging the existing SEZs areas as new cities presents a viable solution. The development of these SEZs into fully functional urban centers will facilitate the much-needed tri-down effect, addressing the pressing needs of the population.

moment, you hear a party stalwart saying there is no point in talking to other political parties, and that dialogue can only take place with the real rulers such as the army chief and the DG ISI, and the next moment he is contradicted by Imran Khan himself.

As far as the establishment is concerned, it appears to have one unambiguous message: it isn't interested in a dialogue or in offering any other concession to the PTI that gives Imran Khan more space than he already commands on account of his sizable public support. It is a zero-sum game with the PTI. Therefore, the establishment is happy to lead a hybrid regime because it hopes that it is the safest bet to revive the economy, which is identified as an existen-

Appointment of heads of authorities from private sectors

The Government of Balochistan has indeed taken steps to establish economic zones such as Economic Zones and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP). However, the effectiveness of these authorities is quietly dwindling by the appointment of heads from higher officials. Additionally, the prevailing bureaucratic culture poses further challenges by not providing an enabling environment for these officials.

To address these issues, it is imperative to appoint heads of these authorities from the private sector. These individuals should possess local knowledge, familiarity with public sector practices, and established connections with politicians and higher authorities within the government. This approach will ensure that the heads of these authorities have the necessary clout and influence to drive meaningful progress and overcome bureaucratic obstacles effectively.

Based on the aforementioned discussion, it is strongly believed that the effective operation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) could play a crucial role in the mainstreaming of Balochistan at the national level.

alone to get into government. My guess is that, given that any such fundamental change isn't likely in the foreseeable future, hybrids of one sort or another — i.e, with one permanent player and a revolving door policy to choose the junior partner — will continue, regardless of the consequences. So expect a lot more of meaningless, often combative rhetoric that leads to nowhere.

For the love of my beloved land, where some 40pc of the population lives below the poverty line, where a staggering 26 million children are out of school and where basic health facilities and potable water are like gold dust, I earnestly hope that even this deeply flawed system is able to deliver some basics to the people.

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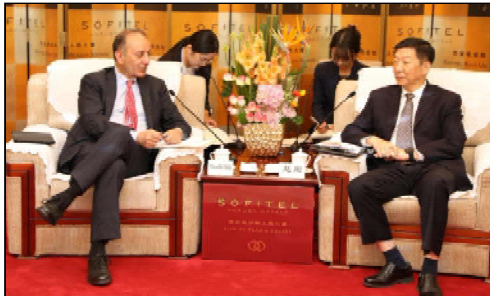
OGDCL signs MoU with Chinese CCDC for shale, tight gas development in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Sunday between Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), Pakistan's leading Exploration & Production company, and CCDC, the major player in Drilling and upstream Oil field Services for the development of shale and tight gas potential of Pakistan.

Musadik Malik witnessed the MoU signing ceremony in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, China, during the ongoing 8th Silk Road International Expo for Investment and Trade, according to a news release received here.

The agreement highlights the commitments of both countries to developing Pakistan's shale and tight gas potential, aiming to address the country's energy needs through indigenous resources. Executive Director (Production) of OGDCL, Mumtaz Ali Soomro and Vice President of CNPC Chuangqing Drilling Engineering Company Ltd., Mr. Zhang Zhidong signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Khalil Hashmi also attended the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Musadik Malik expressed hope that cooperation in the energy sector between both nations will continue to strengthen in the future, benefiting both countries mutually. He highlighted the collaboration between Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) and CCDC on shale and tight gas, stating that this partnership will open a new chapter in the exploration of Pakistan's untapped energy resources.



XIAN (China): Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik met the Governor Zhao Gang of Shaanxi province in Xian.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting of the Chairpersons of newly constituted Board of Directors of the power Distribution Companies.

U.S technological restrictions do not hinder China's economic progress: Wu Hailong

BEIJING (INP): The United States and its allies are increasingly adopting a geopolitical competition mindset to address international relations, resulting in heightened conflicts and confrontations worldwide. This was stated by Chinese former Envoy Wu Hailong here at the Sub-Session on International Relations of the 8th Taihe Civilization Forum, according to a report carried by China Economic Net.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt M. Campbell has repeatedly asserted that China represents the greatest challenge in U.S. history. This perspective embodies a rigid Cold War mentality and a zero-sum approach prevalent within U.S. policy-making circles.

Wu Hailong argued that "despite the economic and technological restrictions imposed by the United States and its Western allies, which are driven by geopolitical motivations, these actions have not hindered China's progress." Instead, they have become catalysts for China's technological innovation.

The digital economy in China is one of the fastest-growing sectors, further highlighting this resilience. China has also showcased formidable competitiveness in new energy vehicles, achieving a 68% global market share. Its photovoltaic industry has consistently ranked first in production worldwide, becoming a vital contributor to global green energy initiatives. Wu remarked, "The U.S. containment policy towards China has a double-edged effect, particularly on American companies." A recent Reuters report indicated that California Democrats urged the Biden administration to pause plans for new restrictions on technology exports to China, warning that further controls "could send longstanding U.S. companies into a death spiral."

Israel forces raid Al Jazeera office in West Bank, order 45-day closure

DOHA, Qatar (INP): Qatari broadcaster Al Jazeera said that Israeli forces raided its office in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank on Sunday and issued a 45-day closure order. Israel's government last week announced it was revoking the press credentials of Al Jazeera journalists in the country, four months after banning the channel from operating inside Israel.

Jazeera's West Bank bureau chief Walid Al-Omari, the network reported, cited the conversation which was broadcast live. "I ask you to take all the cameras and leave the office at this moment," the soldier said, according to the footage, which showed heavily armed and masked troops entering the office in Ramallah. The broadcaster said the soldiers did not provide a reason for the closure order. Omari said the closure order accused the network of "incitement and support of terrorism," according to Al Jazeera.

"Targeting journalists is this way always aims to erase the truth and prevent people from hearing the truth," the bureau chief said. Israel's army did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Benjamin Netanyahu's government has had a long-running feud with Al Jazeera that has worsened since the Gaza war began following the October 7 attack by Palestinian militant group Hamas. The Israeli military has repeatedly accused journalists from the Qatari network of being "terrorist agents" in Gaza affiliated with Hamas or its ally, Islamic Jihad. Al Jazeera denies Israel's accusations and says that Israel systematically targets its employees in the Gaza Strip. The media office of the Hamas-run government in Gaza condemned Sunday's raid, saying in a statement it was a "reounding scandal and a blatant violation of press freedom."



JAMSHORO: Students are solving their question papers during Pre entry test for admission in the Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (LUHMS).

Pakistan identified 13 priority sectors, seeking Chinese investment: Envoy

XIAN (INP): Pakistan has identified 13 priority sectors, including energy, mines and minerals, iron and steel, chemicals, fertilizers, textiles, leather, IT, and services, seeking Chinese investment. Through events like China (Shaanxi)-Pakistan Economic and Trade Cooperation Fair, we aim to attract Chinese investment to these sectors in Pakistan," stated Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi, in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN).

Shaanxi Province has seen a remarkable boost in its trade with Pakistan this year, with the trade volume nearly doubling between January and August. The province's prowess in photovoltaic (PV) technology is particularly notable, with a local solar energy company commanding up to 40% of Pakistan's market share at its peak. Pakistan, as the guest country of honor for the first time at the Silk Road International Exposition, hosted one of the largest national pavilions, showcasing a wide range of Pakistani culture, products, and investment opportunities, especially in the energy sector, providing a platform for business networking, joint ventures, and trade promotion.

A m b a s s a d o r Hashmi also praised China's technological advancements and expertise. "China has vast experience in manufacturing, industrialization, and special economic zones—areas where we are working closely together. We are incredibly proud to have developed our partnership and friendship with China for 73 out of its 75 years," the Ambassador emphasized. He pointed to the achievements made through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which have played a transformative role in Pakistan's economy. Over the past decade, CPEC projects have added more than 8,000 megawatts of electricity, built over 800 kilometers of highways and fiber optic cables, and attracted nearly \$26 billion in investments.

The estimated coal reserves are about 6 trillion cubic meters, making it the largest proven onshore gas field in China. Additionally, Yulin boasts substantial reserves of rock salt, lake salt, bauxite, quartz sand, and other valuable resources. When visiting the Shendong Coal Group in Shaanxi City, China's top coal-producing county in Yulin, Naveed was impressed by the company's efforts to minimize risks associated with coal mining. "Firstly, what I observed here is the scientific and technological advancements the company has implemented. They are fulfilling their professional responsibilities by introducing modern machinery and techniques to mitigate any risks."

China's efforts in green development impressive, says Pakistani delegate

BEIJING (INP): "In recent years, investments and technologies from China have played a significant role in the renewable energy sector in Pakistan," Naveed Hussain, a member of the international media who visited Yulin, Shaanxi Province, last week, according to China Economic Daily. In addition to constructing an extensive network of roads from the south, east, and north of the country, China has assisted Pakistan in generating 8,000 megawatts of electricity, including clean and renewable energy, by developing hydro, solar, and wind power plants," stated Naveed, editor-in-chief of Pakistan English Daily.

The delegation visited the 18th Yulin International Coal & High-end Energy Chemical Industry Expo in Yulin City on September 13, 2024. The expo attracted over 800 exhibitors from both domestic and international markets. At the exhibition, Naveed was captivated by the unmanned mining drone showcased by Huadian Coal Industry Group. According to the exhibitor, the drone is designed and developed to address the material transport requirements and applications in complex working conditions within mines. It can be utilized for auxiliary transport in coal mines, as well as for inspection, rescue, and other tasks, effectively supplementing the transportation needs for bulk materials weighing up to 5 tons. "Drones are being utilized across various industries in Pakistan, including the agricultural sector, disaster management, and smart city construction. As we know, agricultural development is a key area of cooperation under the China-Pakistan Eco-

nomie Corridor, where unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) can contribute in several ways, such as breeding, irrigation, fertigation, and disease prevention and control. China plays a significant role in the agricultural development of Pakistan," Naveed stated. Impressed by the strong commitment of all exhibitors to the dual carbon goals, Naveed remarked that China has demonstrated a significant sense of responsibility and innovation in accelerating the pace of green energy transformation. "China and Pakistan have agreed to promote economic, social, fiscal, and environmental sustainability. We are pleased to have China by our side as Pakistan embarks on a journey of green transition," he stated. Yulin is a significant national base for the energy and chemical industries, endowed with unique resources. The estimated coal reserves are about 6 trillion cubic meters, making it the largest proven onshore gas field in China. Additionally, Yulin boasts substantial reserves of rock salt, lake salt, bauxite, quartz sand, and other valuable resources. When visiting the Shendong Coal Group in Shaanxi City, China's top coal-producing county in Yulin, Naveed was impressed by the company's efforts to minimize risks associated with coal mining. "Firstly, what I observed here is the scientific and technological advancements the company has implemented. They are fulfilling their professional responsibilities by introducing modern machinery and techniques to mitigate any risks."

Russian strike on apartment block in Kharkiv injures 12

MOSCOW (INP): He said there had been two attacks on the city and a strike near the city of Izium, southeast of Kharkiv, which had set two private homes on fire. On Friday, Russian forces launched three strikes on Kharkiv, injuring 15 people. Further south, a Russian drone attack killed two people on Saturday in the town of Nikolov, the regional governor said. In Kurakhove, one of the focal points of Russia's slow advance through Donetsk region, one person was killed in a Russian artillery strike, regional prosecutors said. And local authorities said Russian aircraft struck energy infrastructure in the town of Shostka. Sumy has been another frequent target of Russian attacks and lies opposite Russia's southern Kursk region, where Ukrainian forces launched an incursion last month.

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KPCM Ali Gandapur won challenge of roaming Punjab despite hurdles: Barrister Saif

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Advisor Barrister Saif claimed that KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur won the challenge by roaming around all across Punjab and Lahore despite barricades. He boasted that fake ministers, Khawaja Asif and Atta Tarar who threatened to cross Attock had become silent now. Barrister Saif berated the government saying the mandate-stolen government had halted the public gathering before the arrival of Ali Amin Gandapur. Fake ministers challenged Ali Amin to cross Attock but incompetent blocked KP CM's way placing hurdles every-

where when Gandapur met the challenge. However, Ali Amin reached the public gathering venue despite hurdles, the information advisor highlighted. Barrister Saif emphasised that no one could halt the release of Imran Khan as it was proved when whole Pakistan took to the streets for Imran Khan yesterday. KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur belatedly marked his presence in the PTIs Lahore gathering on Saturday.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Chinese Minister for Political and Legal Affairs Chen Mingguo.

He raised slogans in support of the party founder Imran Khan as he stepped out of his vehicle. Addressing the crowd, he declared, "I am here to attend the meeting, to mark my presence." He said "I have overcome all obstacles to be with you." It is pertinent to note that the PTI organised a public rally on Saturday at Lahore claiming a successful demonstration in support of Imran Khan. However, the incumbent government, Federal Information Minister Atta Tarar asserted that the PTI public gathering was a flop like Islamabad one and the public rejected them.

Senior Punjab Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Saturday there was a terrible sight of "revolution" and "popularity" in Lahore.

Alkhidmat Foundation holds annual academic scholarship convention

LAHORE (INP): The Alkhidmat Foundation organized the Annual Convention of its Academic Scholarship Program at the organization's central office, drawing a diverse group of participants from various fields of life.

Participating students took an oath to pursue higher education and contribute to the nation's development. In his address, Syed Waqas Jafri highlighted the concerning statistic that over 26.2 million children in Pakistan are out of school. He noted that many students, particularly at the higher education level, are forced to abandon their studies due to a lack of financial resources.

Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Mangat highlighted the significant role Alkhidmat's volunteers play in completing large-scale projects. "We have registered 27,000 online volunteers and aim to increase this to one million," he said.

Prominent attendees included Secretary General of Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan and Chairman of Alkhidmat Education Program, Syed Waqas Jafri, National Director of Education Dr. Ahmad Jibrani, Head of the Physiotherapy Department at CMH Lahore Dr. Qudsia Shamim, university heads of departments, professors, students, and Alkhidmat academic scholars.

Dr. Qudsia Shamim of CMH Lahore, herself a recipient of Alkhidmat's support, credited the foundation for her academic success. "Alkhidmat has been like a parental figure for me. My 31 gold medals and achievements are all thanks to Alkhidmat," she said.

Vice President Ahsanullah Waqas mentioned that the organization also offers career guidance seminars, coaching, and counseling sessions to support Alkhidmat academic scholars in choosing the right career path. He shared that, to date, 5,411 students have completed their education with the help of Alkhidmat scholarships. This includes 651 doctors, 715 en-

Shahzaib Rind receives heroic welcome after winning world title

ISLAMABAD (INP): Shahzaib Rind, the newly crowned World Karate Combat Light Heavyweight Champion was accorded a hero's welcome upon his return to Pakistan from Singapore on late Saturday.

Secretary Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination Nadeem Iqbal Kayani, Additional Secretary Zahoor Ahmed, Deputy Director General Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) Shahid Islam, officials of Prime Minister's Youth Programme, former Deputy Mayor Islamabad Zeeshan Ali Naqvi and a large crowd of enthusiastic fans greeted him at Islamabad International Air-

port with warm applause and cheers. Shahzaib won Karate Combat KC-49 Championship, overpowering Brazilian fighter Luiz Victor Rocha in Singapore in an intense bout on Wednesday. He remained unbeaten throughout the tournament, making history as the first Pakistani to win a major world championship in the martial arts. Shahzaib has previously won the Combat League in the United States. He is also a six-time national champion.



QUETTA: CEO Bif Mohammad Zakaria Khan Noorzi gave a comprehensive briefing to Officers Under Training (BCSA) of 4th MCMC.

This victory has sparked national pride, with fans waving flags and chanting slogans in celebration of his remarkable achievement.

"This victory is not just mine but belongs to the whole nation," he said, visibly moved by the outpouring of support. He said right from the outset he was sure to emerge victorious. "This is just a beginning. I'm determined to continue winning the titles and bring laurels for my country," he added.



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Rabeela Hameed Khan Durran awarding certificate to a participant of 12 days training program organized by Balochistan Academy for College Teachers (BACT).

PCB to host high-level 'strategic connection camp' tomorrow (Monday)

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will host a high-level Connection Camp at a local hotel on Monday, aiming to establish a clear and unified vision for the future of Pakistan cricket. This strategic session follows a series of consultations PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has had with former cricketers since assuming office earlier this year.

The camp will bring together nine elite cricketers, including Babar Azam (Pakistan's white-ball captain), Fakhar Zaman, Mohammad Rizwan, Saam Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Saud Shaqueel, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, and Shan Masood (Pakistan's red-ball captain). Joining them will be national team head coaches Jason Gillespie and Gary Kirsten, assistant coach Azhar Mahmood and High Performance specialist David Read.

Chairman Mohsin Naqvi will lead the day-long session, accompanied by the PCB's leadership team. The primary objective of the camp is to define a shared vision and mission, along with setting a roadmap to reignite the pride and excellence that has characterised Pakistan cricket since achieving Test status in 1952.

The session will focus on fostering stronger collaboration between players and the PCB, while the board will reaffirm its commitment to supporting players in meeting strategic goals. The ultimate aim is for players to take a leading role in inspiring the next generation of cricketers through outstanding performances.

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi said that "the Connection Camp is a critical step toward unifying our approach to restore Pakistan cricket to its former glory. Our aim is to identify key issues, foster open dialogue and collectively agree on a strategic path forward." By addressing these challenges directly, we will establish clear, actionable goals that meet the expectations of our passionate cricket fans.

"The PCB remains optimistic that this session, which builds on prior discussions with former cricketers, will lead to a results-driven strategy that improves both player management and team performance."

"This is the first step in an ongoing journey to reshape Pakistan cricket. The PCB will continue these collaborative efforts to ensure long-term success, keeping fans at the heart of our mission."

Pakistan Test team captain Shan Masood said that "this is an important moment for us as players. We're fully committed to working with the PCB to reignite"

the pride and passion that Pakistan cricket is known for. These discussions will help us set a strong course for the future and we are excited to be part of this collaborative effort.

"The outcomes of the session will include performance benchmarks, player development programmes and strategies to enhance grassroots cricket. This initiative aligns with the PCB's vision to not only improve immediate team performance but also ensure long-term sustainability of excellence in the sport."

Pakistan men's team red-ball head coach Jason Gillespie mentioned that "this camp provides a valuable opportunity for open dialogue and alignment between the coaching staff and players. We're all striving toward the same goal – raising the standard of Pakistan cricket and creating a culture of winning."

Jl warns of protest if agreement on electricity prices not fulfilled

KANDHKOT (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Ameer Hafiz Naesumur Rehman said that the deadline for implementing the agreement to lower electricity prices

is expiring on September 23 and his party plans to announce its next course of action on the very next day.

People Their Rights slogan, pledging that the JI will compel the government to state its expense. He appealed to the public to join the JI and actively participate in the struggle against the corrupt ruling elite.

He stated while addressing a sit-in protest in Kandhkot, Naesumur Rehman said that the JI has already launched a movement for the people's rights under the "Haq Do Awam Ko" (Give the

Right) slogan, pledging that the JI will compel the government to state its expense. He appealed to the public to join the JI and actively participate in the struggle against the corrupt ruling elite.

Read More: Power utilities to collect hiked electricity charges from Sept to Nov



ISLAMABAD: Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan chairs the 85th EDF Board meeting, approving Rs. 8.5 billion for initiatives aimed at boosting Pakistan's textile, agriculture and global branding efforts.

Engagement necessary despite issues with Afghanistan: Munir Akram

NEW YORK (INP): Pakistan's permanent representative in the United Nations (UN) Munir Akram has said Pakistan wants to help the people of Afghanistan and correct the mistakes of their government.

Speaking in an interview with a US broadcaster, Munir Akram said: "Engagement with the Afghan Taliban is necessary despite differences on many issues. We have many issues with the government, but our relation is with the people of Afghanistan."

Geography is not going to change. We have to keep relations with our neighbours. There is no change in relations between the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan," he said.

Speaking in an interview with a US broadcaster, Munir Akram said: "Engagement with the Afghan Taliban is necessary despite differences on many issues. We have many issues with the government, but our relation is with the people of Afghanistan."

"We have a comprehensive policy with regard to Afghanistan and we will continue to pursue this policy. We want to help the people of Afghanistan and correct the mistakes of their government."

Munir Akram said no meeting was planned between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Joe Biden at the side-line of the UN Session, adding the PM would address UN General Assembly and Security Council and meet the heads of important countries.

"We are taking action what we deem necessary for our security. We will work to resolve issues with the Afghan govern-

ment. Geography is not going to change. We have to keep relations with our neighbours. There is no change in relations between the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan," he said.

He emphasised that terrorist group Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is rapidly expanding its influence with the support of the Afghan interim government.

Backed by the Taliban, these terrorists are equipped with advanced weaponry and increasingly collaborate with other insurgent factions, including seces-

sionist groups like the Majeed Brigade. Pakistan fears that the TTP's growing alliance with Al-Qaeda could soon elevate it to a central role in regional and global terrorist activities.

The ambassador also stressed Pakistan's readiness to collaborate with regional and international bodies to curb this growing menace, as Islamabad continues its nationwide crackdown on Fina al-Khawarij.

Furthermore, the ambassador criticised the Afghan interim government for its ongoing human rights abuses, particularly against women and girls. He condemned Kabul's failure to uphold promises regarding gender equality, highlighting that these repressive policies not only contravene Islamic values but also hinder Afghanistan's potential for international engagement.