

QUETTA VOICE

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Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi briefing Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif about Islamabad situation

PTI demands 'missing' KP CM Gandapur be produced within 24 hours: Qaiser

NEWS DESK: PTI leader Asad Qaiser on Sunday accused the government of "abducting" Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur from KP House in Islamabad, warning that if he is not produced within 24 hours, his party will stage a nationwide protest.

His statement came ahead of the emergency Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly session, initially rescheduled for 2pm today, but delayed due to Gandapur's uncertainty whereabouts.

The session finally started after a delay of five hours, with KP Assembly Speaker Babar Saleem Swati in the chair.

"If the KP chief minister is not produced within 24 hours, the PTI will stage a nationwide protest," Qaiser warned while speaking to reporters outside the KP Assembly.

"We categorically say that this is not an attack on Gandapur, but on the whole country. If it has happened to the PTI, it will happen to you, too as not even the chief executive of a province is safe."

Qaiser said that according to the information received by his party, Gandapur had been "abducted from KP House", as evidenced by the destruction inside the building.

He claimed that over 1,000 PTI workers had so far been arrested.

"We do not want anarchy, we want to peacefully protest and exercise our rights," Qaiser maintained. "The PTI would continue to protest until its last breath and with no limits as protesting was a constitutional and legal right".

A large number of protesters reached Islamabad yesterday as PTI held a demonstration in response to their incarcerated founder, Imran Khan's, call for a "peaceful protest".

Different groups of protesters, including the caravan of CM Gandapur entered the capital from Taxila near Nicholson Monument after breaching the police cordon.

The CM then left the party workers in Islamabad and moved to the KP House from where he "disappeared", sparking rumours about his arrest.

PTI leaders issued conflicting statements regarding the news of the alleged arrest, while some maintained he was "detained". KP government spokesperson Barrister Muhammad Saif stated on X that the CM had not been "formally arrested". He, however, added that a "heavy contingent of Rangers and police are present at the KP House."

PM Shehbaz lauds police, security forces for preventing 'attack' on capital

NEWS DESK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met with Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday for a briefing on the latest security situation in Islamabad. The meeting focused on the recent efforts to maintain law and order in the capital, particularly in light of the attempted 'attack' by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activists.

Prime Minister Shehbaz commended the Islamabad police for their "outstanding role" in thwarting the attempted assault on the city. "Islamabad police, along with the Pakistan Army, Punjab police, and Rangers, played a crucial role in maintaining peace," the prime minister said.

During the meeting, the prime minister paid tribute to Constable Hameed Shah, who was martyred while protecting citizens. "May Allah elevate the ranks of the martyr. The nation will always remember this sacrifice," he stated. Shehbaz Sharif also expressed solidarity with the constable's family and directed authorities to ensure their complete care.

"The safety of Islamabad's residents and the protection of their

lives and property have been ensured," the prime minister affirmed. He added that the situation in the capital is "rapidly returning to normal" and that economic development and prosperity remain the government's top priorities.

Addressing political tensions, Prime Minister Shehbaz criticised opposition elements, stating, "Our political opponents cannot tolerate Pakistan's improving economy. The world recognises our economic policies, but our adversaries want to hinder the country's progress."

The prime minister made it clear that any attempts to destabilise Pakistan's economy through illegal means would be thwarted. "Upcoming international events in Pakistan will proceed as planned," he assured, highlighting that security arrangements are being handled with the highest standards of excellence.

In his briefing, the interior minister reported that major highways had been reopened to traffic and that the situation was "rapidly returning to normal." Naqvi also updated the prime minister on the repatriation of Pakistani pris-

oners from Sri Lanka, noting that 56 prisoners would return home today.

Federal Minister for Privatisation Abdul Aleem Khan has generously offered to cover all expenses related to the prisoners' return, a gesture praised by both the interior minister and the prime minister.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed his appreciation for the efforts of both the interior minister and the privatisation minister in ensuring the safe return of these Pakistani nationals.

The law and order situation remained tense on the second consecutive day in the federal capital on Saturday as despite stringent security measures, the symbol of PTI's political struggle - D-Chowk - continued to be the battleground between the PTI and law enforcement agencies while Chief Minister Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur remained.

Anti-Encroachment Drive Turns Deadly in Quetta

Syed Ali Shah:

Quetta, Balochistan: A violent clash erupted during an anti-encroachment operation in the Chashma Achozai area of Quetta on Sunday, resulting in the tragic deaths of at least four people and injuries to nine others.

According to local authorities, the operation was launched to address illegal land occupation in the area. However, the situation escalated when unidentified individuals opened fire on police personnel, leading to a gunfight. Four people were killed in the crossfire.

Deputy Commissioner Quetta, in a statement, confirmed the incident and expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives. He also stated that 25 Afghan refugees were arrested during the operation and would be deported to Afghanistan.

The violent confrontation sparked widespread protests from local tribesmen, who accused the authorities of excessive

force. Lala Yousof Khilji, a leader of the Khilji tribe, demanded a thorough investigation into the incident and immediate action against those responsible.

The protests and subsequent road blockades at Almo Chowk and Bellji Customs caused severe traffic congestion, disrupting the daily lives of thousands of commuters. Khilji emphasized the need for a peaceful resolution to the issue and urged the authorities to engage in dialogue with the affected communities.

In a statement to the media, Khilji said, "We demand justice for the innocent lives lost in this tragic incident. The use of excessive force was completely unjustified and those responsible must be held accountable." He further added, "The road blockades are a result of the public's frustration and anger. We urge the authorities to address our concerns and find a peaceful solution to this crisis."



Fazal Qadir Mandokhail, JUI-F MP, Booked for Threatening Zhub DPO

Ali Khan Mandokhail:

Zhub, Balochistan: In a shocking turn of events, Fazal Qadir Mandokhail, a member of the Provincial Assembly representing the Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (J) party, has been booked for allegedly threatening a senior police officer. The charges were vehemently denied by the MPA.

According to local reports, Syed Saboor Agha, the District Police Officer (DPO), filed a First Information Report (FIR) against Mandokhail, accusing him of making threats.

The incident is believed to have stemmed from a recent operation conducted by the Zhub police, which resulted in the confiscation of smuggled Iranian petrol and diesel.

Sources within the police department claim that Mandokhail threatened DPO Agha after the seizure of the contraband.

The lawmaker's alleged actions have sparked widespread con-

demnation and raised concerns about the safety and security of law enforcement officials in the province.

As investigations into the matter continue, the public remains keenly interested in the outcome of this high-profile case. The incident has also highlighted the ongoing challenges faced by authorities in combating illegal activities in Balochistan.

PML-N calls for PTI to be treated as terrorist group

LAHORE: The PML-N leadership expressed frustration on Saturday over the state's failure to classify PTI as a "terrorist organisation" in the face of its "unending protests", urging swift action before it becomes too late.

"Whatever I have been saying over the years about the PTI has come true today before the whole world. The PTI is not a political party, neither was it nor can it be in the future. It is a terrorist group that repeatedly is attacking its own country," Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz warned.

"The state should treat the PTI like terrorists; otherwise, it will be too late."

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), she accused the PTI of seeking to "set the country on fire."

The PTI, she said, "does not deserve any concession or leniency. On its frontline, there are trained terrorists who attack police and the state."

"Which country can afford it?"

Ms Nawaz uploaded the picture of an injured constable and said: "Such an act cannot be done

and sabotage Pakistan's diplomatic efforts at the SCO's summit, he said in a statement.

Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari alleged that foreign interests from Israel, Afghanistan, and India were backing Imran Khan.

"These people are least bothered about national dignity, integrity and sovereignty," she said in a statement. **NEWS DESK.**

University of Balochistan Hosts Successful International Conference on Linguistics and Literature

News Desk:

QUETTA, Balochistan: The University of Balochistan successfully hosted the 10th International Conference on Linguistics and Applied Linguistics (ICLAP).

The conference, organized in collaboration with the Linguistics Association of Pakistan (LAP), brought together renowned linguists and literary experts from across the globe.

With over 100 research presentations, the conference delved into various aspects of linguistics, applied linguistics, and literature.

Key highlights included keynote speeches on English language teaching, fostering multilingual awareness, documenting indigenous languages, and the power of words in shaping creative meaning.

One of the notable events was the launch of "Behai Texts: Glossed and Translated Short Stories and Folktales" by Dr. Liaquat Ali Sami.



A panel discussion on safeguarding cultural heritage and promoting indigenous languages in Pakistan further enriched the conference.

The closing ceremony was graced by the Honorable Provincial Minister of Education, Ms. Rahila Durani, who emphasized the need for a comprehensive language policy for Balochistan.

The participants of ICLAP 2024 resolved to develop a draft of such a policy, tailored to the linguistic realities and diversity of the province.

Dr. Muhammad Zeeshan, Chairperson of the Department of Linguistics and Philology at the University of Balochistan, served as the focal person for the conference.

Pakistan's Tax Reforms: A Daunting Task Under IMF Conditions

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Pakistan's economy heading in right direction with signs of recovery:

Rana Ihsan

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EDITORIAL

Misplaced Priorities In Balochistan

Editor: Asim Khan

Editorial:

QUETTA: The ongoing hunger strike by professors and lecturers from the University of Balochistan and BUTEMS outside the Quetta Press Club is a sobering reflection of the government's misplaced priorities. As these dedicated educators protest unpaid salaries and rampant corruption within their institutions, the Balochistan government has inexplicably allocated Rs. 5 billion for the construction of a new provincial assembly. This stark contrast raises fundamental questions about the government's commitment to education and the welfare of its citizens.

Education is the backbone of any society, and the deteriorating conditions in Balochistan's universities signal a growing crisis. Faculty members, led by esteemed professors such as Kalemullah Azeesh, Fareed Achakzai, and Haseeb Hussain Shah, are fighting not just for their livelihoods but for the future of education in the province. Months without salaries have left these educators struggling to support their families, while institutional corruption further cripples the academic environment. Yet, the government's response has been indifferent at best, neglecting the very people responsible for shaping the next generation of leaders.

Professor Barch's poignant statement, "We have not received our salaries for months. How are we supposed to sustain our families and continue our work under such conditions?" echoes the frustrations of many across the province. Meanwhile, Professor Achakzai's allegations of corruption within the universities, where funds intended for academic development are being siphoned off, only add to the sense of injustice. These are not minor grievances, they are symptomatic of a failing system that urgently needs reform.

Yet, instead of addressing these pressing concerns, the government has chosen to funnel an astonishing Rs. 5 billion into constructing a new assembly building. While the need for infrastructure in governance is understandable, it pales in comparison to the immediate and critical needs of the education sector. What message does it send to the people of Balochistan when their educators must resort to hunger strikes to receive what is rightfully theirs, while such vast sums are spent on a building that, in all likelihood, will benefit only a few?

Professor Hasrat's concerns about the impact on students should be a wake-up call for the authorities. The students of Balochistan are the ones who will ultimately pay the price for the government's neglect. With teachers protesting on the streets and administrative failures plaguing the universities, how can we expect students to receive a quality education? The long-term damage to Balochistan's higher education system will be profound if these issues are not addressed swiftly.

The government must rethink its priorities. Rather than pouring billions into grand construction projects, it should focus on resolving the immediate crises facing the education sector. This means paying the salaries owed to the professors and lecturers, launching investigations into the corruption allegations, and ensuring that funds meant for academic development are used for their intended purposes.

If the government continues down this path, it risks not only alienating the academic community but also undermining the future of the province itself. The education of Balochistan's youth is compromised for the sake of short-term political monuments. It is time for the government to act decisively, meet the demands of the protesting faculty members, and invest in the future of education in Balochistan. Anything less is a betrayal of the province's students and educators.

Modern facsimiles

By F.S. Aijazuddin:

MUSTAFA Kemal Atatürk was born in Turkey, in 1881. Since then, facsimiles have been spawned many times: Soekarno in Indonesia, Lt-Col Rawlings in Ghana, Col Nasser in Egypt, Field Marshal Ayub Khan et al in Pakistan. Each wore the uniform of a patriot, tailored for him, as he believed, by destiny.

Patrick Kinross' definitive biography *Atatürk: The Rebirth of a Nation* (1964) is a must-read for anyone (in jail or out of it), with time on his hands and thwarted patriotism smouldering in his heart.

Atatürk's political ideas assumed a "coherent shape" early in his life, while he was still a lieutenant at the military training school at Montastrir. "He began to devour history as he had previously devoured mathematics and poetry. He read all he could about the career of Napoleon who became famous (with qualifications) one of his heroes."

Like Napoleon, Atatürk suffered from the highest form of narcissism.

"In so far as Atatürk

was capable of love," Kinross writes, "he loved his country." In time, Atatürk would have a loyal mistress Fikriye whom he later discarded for a wife, Latife. Fikriye later committed suicide.

Kinross analyses traits found in many of our own Atatürk facsimiles.

When Latife became too demanding and possessive, he divorced her. Childless, Atatürk adopted eight children. Turkey though remained the enduring love of his life. That, and the people of Turkey.

Two incidents in Kinross's biography present little-known facets of Atatürk's innate egalitarianism. One day in Sofia, Atatürk notices a peasant being denied service in a tea house. He chides the waiter:

"As long as the peasant is not master of the country, there can be no progress in the world."

Purly by this was born his slogan: "The peasant is master of this country."

In another, at a dinner given by the Soviets, he

tweaked his communist hosts: "I do not see among us any of the men who prepared this feast." Within minutes, the cook turned to him and called to the "classless table".

Daringly for his time, Atatürk advocated gender equality. In a national meeting of teachers, he taunted the organisers: "Why did you make them sit apart from the men? Don't you trust yourselves, or have you no faith in the virtues of these ladies?"

Regarding religion, Kinross tells us that Atatürk was not for the eradication of Islam.

What he sought was "to disengage it from the condition of being a political instrument, which it had been for centuries of habit".

Kinross describes Atatürk's tortuous efforts to reform the Turkish alphabet. Atatürk spent hours poring over old and new dictionaries in search of "pure Turkish words".

Atatürk's aim was to purify the language of Arabic and Persian infusions. Eventually, he compromised by "naturalising" words that had no Turkish equivalent.

Pakistan's Tax Reforms: A Daunting Task Under IMF Conditions

Subhan Dotani:

Pakistan has been grappling with a myriad of economic challenges, exacerbated by fiscal mismanagement, debt burdens, and external factors. To address these underlying financial imbalances, the country has repeatedly sought assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). While IMF agreements provide short-term relief, they often come with stringent conditions, particularly emphasizing structural reforms in taxation. These reforms, driven by the need to increase revenue and reduce fiscal deficits, present both opportunities and significant challenges.

The IMF has played a pivotal role in shaping Pakistan's fiscal policies for decades. However, recent IMF agreements, such as the Extended Fund Facility (EFF), have placed a renewed emphasis on tax reforms. The country's low tax-to-GDP ratio compared to global standards hinders its ability to mobilize sufficient resources for essential services, development, and public expenditures. The IMF has advocated for expanding the tax base, combating tax avoidance, and reducing tax incentives that contribute to revenue shortfalls. However, implementing these measures can be politically

challenging. One of the most significant challenges facing Pakistan's tax reforms is the narrow tax base. A large portion of the economy, especially agriculture, remains exempt from taxation. Moreover, a small percentage of the population, primarily in the upper echelons of society, pays a disproportionate amount of taxes. The IMF has advised Pakistan to shift towards direct taxes, including income tax and corporate tax, but this requires fundamental changes in tax administration, enhanced compliance, and greater efforts from the private sector. IMF-backed tax reforms can have negative economic shocks in the short term. Measures like reducing subsidies, devaluing currencies, and increasing taxation can lead to higher prices, inflation, and reduced investment. While these measures may be necessary for long-term economic growth, they can impose social costs and create challenges for businesses and consumers. The business community in Pakistan has been critical of certain tax measures implemented under IMF programs. The "super tax" on large companies has been particularly controversial, affecting profitability and discouraging investment. Businesses argue that such taxes introduce uncertainty and increased costs, which can hinder investment and economic development.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) face unique challenges in complying with complex tax measures. The costs of compliance can outweigh the potential benefits, especially for smaller businesses. While the government has introduced simplified regimes and tax pardons, these measures do not address the underlying structural obstacles. Many SMEs, especially those operating in the informal sector, view tax reforms as an imposition rather than a positive development. The middle class and salaried workers are also significantly impacted by tax reforms. While the IMF emphasizes the importance of direct taxes, those within the tax base often bear the brunt of new measures. Civil servants and individuals with pay-as-you-earn arrangements have fewer opportunities for tax evasion and may experience significant cuts to their discretionary income, particularly in the face of rising inflation. Despite the challenges, successful tax reforms can yield long-term benefits. Increased reliance on personal income taxes and improved tax administration can strengthen the fiscal foundation, reduce dependence on borrowing, and enable the government to invest in critical sectors. This

can ultimately lead to enhanced public services, more stable economic growth, and greater inclusivity. However, realizing these benefits requires careful management of short-term costs and ensuring that reforms are implemented fairly. Key factors for successful tax reforms include: Improved tax administration: Strengthening enforcement mechanisms, combating corruption, and utilizing digital technologies to increase transparency and efficiency. Stakeholder involvement: Building consensus and support from various stakeholders, including businesses, trade unions, and civil society. Tax system simplification: Reducing the complexity of tax laws and procedures to make compliance easier for taxpayers. Implementing tax reforms in Pakistan is a complex and challenging task, but it is essential for achieving fiscal balance and reducing dependence on foreign funding. By addressing the economic, political, and social ramifications, the government can create a more sustainable and equitable tax system that benefits the country in the long run. The writer is a Legal Intern at FBR and a Lecturer at I & Q Law Firm. He can be contacted at Email: subhantdotani@gmail.com

Mixed developments

By Khurram Husain:

THE news is not all bad, though the outlook remains gloomy and take at least a year to rectify. The stabilisation plan of economic management is drawing to a close.

The government is making the right moves to bring the budget back to a level of maturing Treasury bills, although one hopes this won't simply be swapped with one debt instrument or another. The sheer size of the domestic debt, standing at slightly below 50 per cent of the total GDP (at current market prices), certainly makes it the elephant in the room, and it seems the government's urgent aim was to turn its attention to bringing this under control.

Inflation is dropping to below 7pc, based on the year-on-year increase in the Consumer

Price Index, is also a welcome development. This was supposed to happen in the first half of next year as per projections, but tightly controlling money supply has managed to nip the problem in the bud. As an aside, this should put to rest the questions raised earlier in the State Bank ran record-high interest rates to combat the record-high inflation.

Numerous people have asked whether higher interest rates have ever helped bring inflation down in Pakistan.

The answer is that high interest rates are pretty much the only tool that has ever succeeded in putting out inflationary "burning embers" in the late 2000s or the early 2020s.

But compare some macroeconomic indicators shared in the latest IMF statement following the Executive Board's

approval. The final report has still not been released, so we'll have to wait a few more days for the finer details. Broadly speaking, though, almost all projections show some improvement in the current fiscal year, but something is driving back up again next year.

To find out why it is projected to rise in the next fiscal year, we will have to wait for the staff report.

The economy has not seen a period of stability like this since at least 2019.

Calm is returning to the markets, to the outlook, to the macro indicators, the fiscal equation, and the monetary aggregates after a period of intense volatility that ran at least from 2021 to 2023. This much is undeniable, and it needs to be said.

However, another thing also needs to be said. This is a fragile calm reached after a hard-fought struggle.

By Parvez Hassan:

IT is not a cliché but constitutions are, in fact, the glue that normally hold a country and its people bound to oneness. As such, the life-giving source to statehood, constitutions are and should be venerated as a solemn social contract overarching the existence of the state, its institutions and the people.

However, not being divine or holy scriptures, constitutions ordinarily provide a mechanism for amendments to incorporate new and unanticipated events or to correct course based on experience and usage.

Pakistan recently witnessed an attempt by the coalition government to pass a constitutional package which it wanted to introduce for approval in the National Assembly and the Senate on one fateful Sunday without any prior notice of the proximity of the amendments to the members of the NA or the Senate.

Had it succeeded in the numbers game that Sunday, the Constitution, adopted in 1973, with the informed consent of all the provinces through a protracted process of deliberations and debate, would have been transformed, some would say mutilated or disfigured, by the far-reaching changes of its basic structure, by the constitutional package. All without notice, without disclosure of the constitutional package and all without the informed participation of the people of Pakistan and their representatives.

All without notice, without disclosure of the constitutional package and all without the informed participation of the people of Pakistan and their representatives.

Senate have flowed from the elections in Pakistan in 2024. That they were manipulated and rigged — particularly against the PTI — is not credibly contested. The post-election decisions and role of the establishment have substantiated the flawed process through which a minority has been imposed to rule a majority.

Respective of the claims of the coalition government, it is undeniable that there are serious questions about the legitimacy of the government and, absent the moral force of acceptability in the public, the coalition government totally lacks the competence to engage in the process of amending the Constitution.

The second guideline is well known that the trigger for the whole effort for the constitutional package was the decision of the Supreme Court on the reserved seats in the national and provincial

assemblies and the earlier bold stance of the six judges of the Islamabad High Court alleging interference/dictation by the security establishment. The third guideline alleged that the real objective of the constitutional package was to neutralise or sideline against an upcoming "hostile" leadership of the Supreme Court.

And the perception of a person-specific guideline for seeking constitutional amendments gained so much traction that it handicapped the ability in the numbers game before the government.

This may be a good opportunity to reflect on some guidelines for constitutional amendments. The first guideline is that the proposed amendments do not erode the basic structure of the Constitution. The 1973 Constitution and the earlier constitutional dispensations in the 77-year history of Pakistan have established the Islamic character of our state, the separation of powers, the trichotomy of powers, the independence of the judiciary, rule of law and confirmation of fundamental human rights as included in the durable framework for our constitution. These cannot be amended, directly or indirectly.

The need-assessment is the next, fourth, guideline for seeking constitutional amendments. It is also recommended that the approach in the field is minimalism and proportionality, that is, each objective must be achieved through alternative effective mechanisms, if possible, and with the least violence to the existing text of the Constitution if such an intervention is unavoidable. It is also recommended to have measured responses avoiding overkill.

An example could be first try strengthening

the use of constitutional benches in the Supreme Court already enabled by the Constitution instead of the surgical solution of the establishment of a constitutional court which will violate the basic structure of the Constitution.

Fifth, each proposed amendment should be supported by fact-based data. Thus, it is useful to suggest that the number of pending cases in the civil courts, the high courts and the Supreme Court and to determine the different delay factors in each category.

This analysis might reveal that remedial measures at each level may improve the efficiency of the Supreme Court without the need of amendments in the Constitution for this purpose.

The sixth guideline: whatever the resultant reform agenda based on a holistic approach including the above factors

of the amendments and providing adequate time for their consideration and discussion. International practices have moved from "consent to amend" to "consensus to amend" as a condition to each approval.

It is shameful to highlight the sixth condition of the constitutional amendments: the voting and its counting must be done in an open national conversation. The seventh stage, built on the edifice of the preceding six factors, would be open and free debates in the NA and Senate in full view of our national news, print and electronic media, to the requirement of a two-thirds majority in both Houses. The Constitution requires the approval of two-thirds membership of each of the NA and Senate for passing the package and it would be a travesty of justice if such a holistic approach without a full disclosure

Constitutional amendments

Man sets arm on fire as marches across US mark Gaza war anniversary

WASHINGTON (INP): Thousands marched in US cities from Washington to Los Angeles, demanding an immediate ceasefire as the war in Gaza nears the one-year mark, with a man attempting to self-immolate in protest.

The marches were part of a worldwide day of action against the devastating war, which has recently seen Israel intensify its military operations into Lebanon. The war was sparked on October 7 when Palestinian armed group Hamas attacked Israel, resulting in the deaths of 1,205 people, according to a tally based on Israeli official figures that include hostages killed in captivity.

More than 41,825 Palestinians, a majority of them civilians, have been killed in Israel's military campaign in the Gaza Strip since the war began, according to data provided by the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza. The UN has acknowledged the figures as reliable.

In Washington, more than a thousand angry protesters demonstrated outside the White House, with many demanding an end to US military and other aid to its strategic ally, Israel. "The US government has really shown what side of history it is on," Zaid Khatab, an organizer with the Palestinian Youth Movement, told AFP. "The US government has performed and co-signed the most evil atrocities that we've seen of this century."



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Mr. Khalid Mqbool Siddiqi chairing a meeting with the NAVTTC counterpart colleagues from United Kingdom.

Union Councilor Shot Dead in Panjgur

PANJGUR: A Union Councilor was killed in a firing incident in the Panjgur district of Balochistan on Friday. According to police, unidentified assailants on a motorcycle opened fire on the councilor, fatally wounding him.



The victim's body was quickly shifted to a nearby hospital for post-mortem.

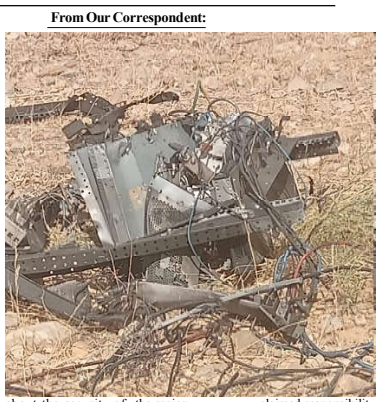
PDMA issues rain alert for Punjab; citizens advised to take precautions

LAHORE (INP): Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has issued an alert as rain is expected in various districts of Punjab including Lahore over the next 24 hours. According to a PDMA spokesperson, the current spell of rain is likely to continue until October 8, affecting most districts across the province.

PDMA Director General has instructed all relevant departments to remain on high alert during the rains, emphasizing that rescue teams, including

Ufone Tower Attacked in Dukki District, Balochistan

DUKKI: A Ufone tower was blown up in the Luni tehsil of Dukki district, Balochistan, late last night, according to Levis sources.



Unknown miscreants targeted the communication tower, setting its machinery on fire and destroying the solar power system installed at the site.

The attackers managed to escape unscathed before law enforcement could arrive.

Levis personnel have registered a case and launched an investigation into the incident.

The motive behind the attack remains unclear, but it has raised concerns about the security of the region. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack so far.

Kevin De Bruyne out as Belgium name squad for Nations League

PARIS (INP): Belgium coach Domenico Tedesco named his squad that will take on Italy and France in the Nations League, with Manchester City star Kevin De Bruyne missing out due to injury.

settlements into life in the southern Italian club, which he joined in late August. Belgium will play Italy in Rome on October 10, before travelling to Brussels to face France four days later. Squad: Goalkeepers: Koen Casteels (AI

MILITARY ENGINEERING SERVICES NOTICE OF TENDER. This office of Commander MES (Army) at Quetta, Command & Staff College Quetta invites sealed tender for the under mentioned works in the light of PPA 33 (I) of 2004. 1. Construction/Repair/Maintenance of Electrical, Mechanical, Plumbing, Sanitary, and other works at Command & Staff College and School of Infantry & Tactics Quetta. 2. TIC DC, SBA for Minor / Major Renovation / Deposed Works for Command & Staff College and School of Infantry & Tactics Quetta. 3. TIC LMA for Internal / External Electric Supply Lines, Internal / External Water Supply for Command & Staff College and School of Infantry & Tactics Quetta. 4. Provision of Bagor Supply Materials (SBA / LMA) for Command & Staff College and School of Infantry & Tactics Quetta.

غازی زئی (آسان میاں) خاص مہینہ. Table with columns: CM/CM/CM, MD/MD/MD, JUT/MD/MD, JDM/MD/MD, JET/MD/MD, EST/MD/MD, and various other categories. Below the table is a list of items for sale or tender, including various types of equipment and materials, with their respective quantities and prices.

Argentina envoy Sebastian calls on Punjab CM Maryam

LAHORE (INP): Ambassador of Argentina to Pakistan Sebastian Sayus met with Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Sunday.

In the meeting, discussions were held on the promotion of cooperation in livestock, agriculture, information technology and other industrial sectors.

In the meeting, it was agreed to launch a pilot project of silos in Okara.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said that bilateral relations between Pakistan and Argentina are improving.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that measures will be taken to increase business-to-business interaction between the two countries.

She said that we want to use Argentina's meat processing technology and there is a need to further promote trade with Argentina in the fields of livestock, sports equipment and surgical equipment.

Maryam Nawaz said the government is ensuring the provision of all facilities, including security, to foreign investors in Pakistan.

In Punjab, the immense investment opportunities in various sectors can be taken advantage of, Maryam Nawaz said.

Speaking on the occasion, Argentina's Ambassador said that cooperation in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, information technology, and industrial sectors will be further promoted.

We want to work with Punjab in the field of livestock and biotechnology and will play a role in improving government-to-government and business-to-business coordination to promote trade and will also provide technical assistance to Punjab in the field of food security, Argentina's Ambassador said.

Argentina's Deputy Head of Mission Erica Lucero, Senator Pervez Rashid and Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman were also present at the meeting.



QUETTA: Chairmen National Commission Interfaith Harmony Balochistan Jahangir Khan Kharoti addressing a convention organized by PML-N.

United Kingdom (UK) Gulf to establish 280 skills centers in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Government of United Kingdom and Middle East institutions will provide jobs to millions of Pakistanis around the world by creating 280 skills centers in Pakistan.

A high-level British delegation is on a two-day visit to Pakistan to discuss possible cooperation with Pakistan in education, with a special focus on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

The delegation included Lord Boateng, House of Lords member Wendy Thomson, University of London Vice-Chancellor, University of Greenwich Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Edward, Queen Mary University Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Richard Grose, Tony Degazon, City and Guilds Regional Director Dr. Aamir, and Executive Director of GEMS Middle East.

The delegation aims to take initiatives for skill development as per the needs of the industry in Pakistan.

In order to discuss the areas of mutual interest with the delegation, Federal Secretary Education Mohyuddin Wani, Chairperson National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) Miss Gulmina Bilal, and Executive Director NAVTTTC on behalf of the government, represented Pakistan.

On this occasion, the delegation was told that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Federal Minister for Education Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Prime Minister's Advisor on Youth Affairs Rana Mashhood have their priorities that quality training should be provided to as many people of Pakistan as possible.

The requirements of the modern era so that these people can offer their services in the best way not only in Pakistan but also around the world.

The delegation representatives said that around 280 skills centers will be established in Pakistan. The candidates who successfully complete the training in these centres, they will be given a joint certificate by Pakistani, UK and Gulf universities.

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They said that in the first phase, 80,000 jobs will also be given to the successful candidates of the Skills Centers for

which arrangements have already been made.

These jobs would be offered in different Gulf countries including Dubai in the security, hospitality, construction and veterinary nursing and Dubai Police, they informed.

The delegation further said that wherever skilled people are needed around the world, including the Gulf, they will be provided with manpower by these 280 Skills Centres.

The delegation will visit Karachi where they will meet Federal Education Minister Maqbool Siddiqui to discuss strategic partnerships that will strengthen Pakistan's vocational training framework and equip the workers for the global job market.

A representative of the delegation said that "we are committed to promoting educational cooperation that will empower Pakistani youth and meet the needs of industries in Pakistan and abroad."

We can create sustainable pathways for The UK delegation looks forward to fruitful discussions and a lasting partnership that will improve the education sector in Pakistan."

Islamabad, Rawalpindi paralyzed for third day amid PTI protests

RAWALPINDI (INP): The blockade of key routes between Rawalpindi and Islamabad on Sunday enters its third day, with mobile phone and Metro Bus services still suspended.

As per details, the closure of major business hubs due to road blockades has paralyzed daily life in both cities. A severe shortage of essential items like fruits, vegetables, milk, and poultry meat has also been reported, leaving residents of the twin cities stranded.

Furthermore, Murree

Road remains closed to all traffic for the third consecutive day, with containers stationed across the route.

The ongoing blockade at Faizabad is causing significant disruptions for the public. Multiple barriers have been placed between Liaquat Bagh and Faizabad, with Punjab police deployed at key points.

On Saturday, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) ruled that no unauthorised protests or gatherings will be allowed in the capital city during the Shanghai Cooperation

Organisation (SCO) Summit.

The IHC bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq issued a written order on a plea filed by traders, ruling that no lockdown should also be made during the SCO summit scheduled in Islamabad on October 15 and 16.

The IHC directed the Islamabad administration and government to allocate a designated area for protests.

"The protesters must gather in the area specified by the administration to record their protest," the IHC ruled.



QUETTA: PTI workers stage a protest in favor of their demands outside Quetta Press Club (QPC).



FAISALABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari offering Fatcha over the Martyrdom of Lt Col Muhammad Ali Shaheed, at his Family residence in Faisalabad.

Shan Masood announces Pakistan's playing-XI for Multan Test against England

MULTAN (INP): Pakistan Test cricket team captain Shan Masood addressed the media Sunday and announced Pakistan's playing XI for the upcoming Test match against England.

During the press conference, Masood highlighted the formidable challenge posed by the England team, particularly noting that Ben Stokes is considered one of the top all-rounders in the world.

Pakistan's playing XI for the Test match includes against England key players including Saim Ayub, Abdullah Shafiq, Shan Masood, Babar Azam, Saud Shakeel, Mohammad Rizwan, Salman Agha, Aamir Jamal, Shabaz Afridi, Naseem Shah, and Abrar Ahmed.

Masood expressed confidence in his team's abilities, stating that England's strength would not be diminished by the absence of any single player. He remarked, "The series is happening in Pakistan, and we have the advantage of playing at home."

Reflecting on the previous series against England, where Pakistan came very close to victory, Masood emphasized the need for his team to focus on strategies to control the England side. He acknowledged that the style of play of the England team is well-known, and they must prepare accordingly to secure a win in the upcoming match.

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Pakistan's economy heading in right direction with signs of recovery: Rana Ihsan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan has said that the initiatives taken by the incumbent government have put the country's economy on right path boosting investor confidence, exporter confidence, and attracted foreign investment, paving the way for sustainable economic growth.

Talking to the state run news channel on Sunday, he said that country's economic recovery was gaining momentum, driven by strategic reforms and investments.

Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan said that Pakistan's economy was showing promising signs of recovery, thanks to the government's strategic efforts.

Painting a positive picture of Pakistan's economic outlook, he expressed confidence in the government's reform agenda citing notable progress in tax stabilization, privatization and exporter support.

The PM's Coordinator said that Pakistan was poised for significant economic growth, with a focus on resolving long-standing issues faced by manufacturers and exporters. The government was actively addressing

refund issues and implementing strategies to boost exports, he added. In fact, Pakistan has planned to raise its exports to \$50 billion in five years, with an ambitious long-term target of \$100 billion, he added.

Rana Ihsan emphasized that eliminating the non-filer category will have a positive impact on exporters, boosting Pakistan's economic growth.

He also highlighted a significant shift in Pakistan's economy, adding, previously, investments were largely concentrated in the property sector, which did not contribute significantly to the country's economic growth. The PM's Coordinator mentioned that maintaining an exchange rate aligned with market rates is our priority to benefit exporters.

Responding a query, he said the government has committed to maintaining current tax rates in the budget, prioritizing sustainability over increases.

This move aims to promote economic stability and growth, while also ensuring that the tax system remains fair and efficient, he added.

To another query, he said Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) is undergoing a significant transformation through privatization, with the government seeking investors for a majority stake.

This move aims to revitalize the airline, addressing its financial struggles and operational inefficiencies, he added.

The privatization process is expected to attract both local and international investors, particularly from the Middle East, Asia, and Europe, he mentioned.

Rana Ihsan have also shed light on Pakistan's economic prospects that by implementing non-filer restrictions, the government aims to encourage more citizens to file taxes, ultimately boosting the economy.

He expressed confidence that Pakistan's economic reforms are yielding positive outcomes, demonstrating the government's commitment to sustainable growth.

The Coordinator to PM also expressed gratitude to the Pakistan Army for their coordination efforts in supporting the government's economic revival initiatives.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Governor KPK Faisal Karim Kundi paying tribute to martyred constable Abdul Hameed Shah during his funeral.

Mohsin Naqvi expresses deep grief over martyrdom of Constable

ISLAMABAD (INP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday expressed profound sorrow over the tragic martyrdom of Police Constable Abdul Hameed Shah, who lost his life due to violent acts committed by protesters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) the other day.

In an official statement issued here, Naqvi conveyed his heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the family of the fallen officer.

Minister Naqvi assured the bereaved family of full support and care, pledging that the Federal government stands with them during this difficult time.

"We are with the grieving family in this hour of sorrow and share their pain," Naqvi said.

He also directed the Inspector General of Islamabad Police to expedite efforts to arrest those responsible for the violence that led to Constable Shah's martyrdom.

"The perpetrators of this heinous act will be brought to justice without delay," Naqvi emphasized.

Praising the bravery and sacrifice of the martyred officer, Naqvi said,

"We pay tribute to Abdul Hameed Shah for attaining the high rank of martyrdom during duty.

His sacrifice will not be forgotten."

The Interior Minister vowed that the government will ensure complete care and support for Constable Shah's family, stating,

"We will take every step necessary to look after the family of the martyred officer."

Constable Abdul Hameed Shah was tragically killed while performing his duty, and his loss has sparked a wave of mourning and calls for justice across the capital, he said.

The authorities have intensified their search for the culprits as tributes pour in for the brave officer, he added.