The Asian Telegraph

www.theasiantelegraph.net | Monday, September 09, 2024 | Vol: XV, Issue: 163 | ABC CERTIFIED

Balochistan government's move for protection of Churna Island, stating it a "positive step towards protecting marine resources and promoting environmentally sustainable development"

Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change
Romina Khurshid

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Tarar visits Naval Headquarters, lays floral wreath on Martyrs' Memorial

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday visited the Naval Headquarters on the occasion of Pakistan Navy Day.

The minister laid a floral wreath at the Martyrs' Memorial, paying tribute to the sacrifices of Navy personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Addressing on the occasion, Tarar expressed pride in being present at the memorial and praised the eternal services rendered by the Pakistan Navy for the country's defense.

He highlighted the significance of Operation Dwarka, launched on September 7, 1965, and commended the bravery of Navy personnel who targeted enemy positions during the operation.

Attaullah Tarar also remembered Lieutenant Aftab Ahmed Shaheed and other soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation.

He emphasized the importance of unity in the face of terrorism and expressed confidence that the nation's morale would remain high.

In addition to honouring the martyrs, Tarar discussed the significance of the Blue Economy in the current era. He highlighted Pakistan's focus on exploring this sector through joint ventures with multiple countries, including China, and Middle East to secure the country's economic revival. The minister reaffirmed the Navy's role in ensuring the security of Pakistan's seas and contributing to the country's economic revolution through the Blue Economy. Later, he offered Fateha and prayed for the departed soul of martyred.

PTI has track record to undermine state writ: Musadik

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik on Sunday said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) had a track record of challenging the state writ and attacks on the defense installations.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that top leadership of PTI threatening to attack on the federal capital.

Security measures were taken in Islamabad considering their track record of anarchy in the country, he added.

Musadik said that the federal government had the prerogative to stop these mobs to protect the country from the security risk. Replying to a query about any anticipated legislation, he said that in the current circumstances, amendments were mandatory to bring clarity in the constitution. APP

Islamabad: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing the inaugural ceremony of countrywide Special Anti Polio Campaign.

Through joint efforts will make Pakistan polio-free country, vows PM

PM Shehbaz calls for promoting literacy, ensuring education for all

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has reiterated the commitment that Pakistan will be made polio-free country through joint efforts completely eradicating the disease, preventing its re-emerging in future and ensuring a healthier future for the coming generation.

Addressing a ceremony after launching the 7-day polio eradication campaign here on Sunday, the prime minister stressed that a unified approach and collaborative efforts are crucial to successfully tackling the polio challenge and achieving a polio-free Pakistan.

Premier Shehbaz Sharif extended a warm welcome to the attendees and expressed his appreciation for the outstanding collaboration and tireless efforts of federal and provincial government staff, foot soldiers, and security officers, who have worked together seamlessly to drive the polio eradication campaign forward.

He expressed his confidence that by working together with provincial chief ministers, chief secretaries, health ministers, and health secretaries, the government will successfully eliminate polio, paving the way for a polio-free future and eradicating this preventable disease in the years to come.

PM Shehbaz Sharif assured that the polio eradication campaign is in capable hands, being led by expert teams, and expressed optimism that the federal government's joint efforts with the provinces will ultimately lead to the disease's eradication.

He further pledged that once polio is eliminated, the government will ensure it never returns, providing a safer future for generations to come.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday called upon the nation to support the government's efforts in promoting literacy and ensuring education for all, emphasizing the importance of building a bright future for the children and the country.

"Literacy is a fundamental human and constitutional right that guarantees the future of our country," the prime minister said in a message on the occasion of International Literacy Day.

He said literacy was not merely the ability to read and write, it was a gateway to empowerment, economic opportunities, and active participation in society.

"Today, we reaffirm our commitment to advancing the education agenda, striving for a more informed and sustainable nation", he said adding "Education is the backbone of our society. For this purpose, we have declared an educational emergency across the country, launched an enrollment campaign for students, and initiated mid-day meals for children in schools."

To reduce the dropout rate and encourage every child to complete their education, the prime minister pointed out that the government had introduced scholarships and other incentives.

In this rapidly emerging world, developing literacy and skills in line with technology is inevitable; the prime minister said adding that the government was implementing a comprehensive plan to integrate technology into the educational system, ensuring that the youth were equipped with the necessary skills to thrive in the digital economy.

He said private sector and civil society organizations were equal partners in the government's efforts.

"By establishing effective partnerships, we can link education with employment and self-employment opportunities, creating a stronger and more inclusive workforce," he added.

Expansion of marine protected areas' cover urged

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Sunday urged the Sindh and Balochistan governments to boost efforts to conserve marine ecosystems. Following the recent declaration of Churna Island as a Marine Protected Area (MPA) by the Balochistan government, Romina Alam called for additional MPAs to be established to achieve the global target of protecting 30% of the ocean area by 2030.

Alam also praised the Balochistan government's move for protection of Churna Island, stating it a "positive step towards protecting marine resources and promoting environmentally sustainable development." Churna Island, known for its extensive coral habitats and biodiversity, is now Pakistan's second MPA.

The island is home to over 50 species of corals, 250 species of fish, and numerous invertebrates and vertebrates. She offered full support to the Balochistan government in conserving marine biodiversity and safeguarding the island's fragile ecosystem and diverse wildlife.

With over 5,000 MPAs globally, covering more than 8% of the ocean, the Coordinator stressed the importance of adopting ecosystem-based management approaches to minimise human impacts and ensure sustainable use of marine resources. She highlighted the urgency of protecting marine ecosystems and wildlife from climate change and human activities, emphasizing the need for collective action and shared responsibility to address these environmental challenges. Alam noted that this initiative will help regulate anthropogenic activities that harm the marine ecosystems of the country and protect the islands from threats like overfishing, pollution, and climate change impacts.

She also highlighted Pakistan's commitment to advancing marine conservation efforts in collaboration with all relevant governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, particularly through mangrove restoration, which has seen a 300% increase since 1992 in the country. DNA

Defence Minister denounces PTI founder's silence on Israel

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said PTI founder is a project of Zionists.

In a video statement this evening, he said Israeli media is writing in favor of the PTI founder and they have politically adopted him.

Khawaja Asif said on the one hand, Israel is committing brutalities in Gaza, while on the other, PTI founder has never condemned Israel openly.

Khawaja Asif criticized the PTI founder for failing to openly condemn Israel, despite Israel's ongoing brutalities in Gaza.

The Defense Minister also pointed out that Israel views Pakistan as a threat, given that Pakistan is the only nuclear power in the Islamic world and has not recognized Israel since 1947. APP

Tributes paid to war heroes

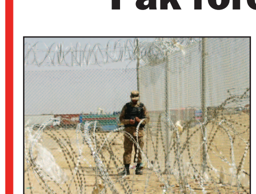
ISLAMABAD: In his special message on National Navy Day, Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has paid glowing tribute to the great sacrifices and unparalleled services of the officers and personnels of Pakistan Navy. He added that September 8 is another glorious and memorable day in the defense history of Pakistan.

He said that the valiant personnels of the Pakistan Navy destroyed the enemy's naval power in the 1965 war. Interior Minister said that September 8 has a history of sacrifices, immortal passions, and extraordinary achievements, as on this naval forces of Pakistan also repulsed the enemy like the army and air force. He stated that the heroes of Pakistan Navy defeated the enemy and defended the maritime borders, adding that the officers and personnel of Pakistan Navy, who protect the maritime borders, are our pride. Mohsin Naqvi highlighted that the indelible role of Pakistan Navy in the 1965 war will always be remembered in history with golden letters.

> The heroes of Pakistan Navy defeated the enemy and defended the maritime borders, adding that the officers and personnel of Pakistan Navy, who protect the maritime borders, are our pride

He emphasized that Pakistan Navy is always ready to face all kind of challenges. He reiterated that "Navy Day" is a day to pay tribute to the valiant soldiers of Pakistan Navy. He underscored that Pakistan Navy is determined to keep the spirit of September 8, 1965, alive. DNA

Afghan Taliban resort to unprovoked aggression on Pak-Afghanistan border, eight Taliban killed in Pak forces action



PESHAWAR: Afghan Taliban once again resorted to unprovoked aggression on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border and Pakistani forces, in a befitting response, killed eight Afghan Taliban.

According to sources, Afghan Taliban opened unprovoked firing with heavy weapons on Saturday from inside Afghanistan, targeting Pakistani check posts. The Pakistan security forces responded effectively and killed eight Afghan Taliban, including key commanders Khalil and Jan Muhammad. Sixteen Afghan Taliban were also injured in the firing. The facilitation of terrorist attacks against Pakistan by the Afghan Taliban is no secret.

In addition to terrorist attacks, the Afghan Taliban's aggression on the international border is now openly visible. SABAH

President Zardari, PM Shehbaz applaud Pakistan Navy for its dedication, bravery & sacrifices

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif have applauded Pakistan Navy for its dedication, bravery and sacrifices. In their separate messages on the occasion of Navy Day observed on Sunday, they said entire nation is proud of Pakistan Navy, which always stands ready to defend the country's maritime borders. In his message, President Asif Ali Zardari said Pakistan Navy is well equipped to deal with conventional and non-conventional naval challenges facing the country. Reiter1ting the commitment to further modernize Pakistan Navy, Asif Ali Zardari said a strong Navy is a guarantor of our security and prosperity. He said Pakistan Navy has a key role in the promotion of national defense and regional peace and sacrifices of the heroes of Pakistan Navy are a beacon of light for the nation.

In his message, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan Navy's resolute spirit and determination despite all challenges, exemplifies their unwavering dedication to duty and passion for the country. In a post on social media platform X, Shehbaz Sharif extended his heartfelt felicitations to Pakistan Navy personnel. In a message on the occasion, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said officers and jawans of Pakistan Navy are the nation's pride. She saluted personnel of Pak Navy, serving to protect Pakistan's sea boundaries.

Ishaq Dar appreciates British MPs of Pak origin for their support for human rights in IIOJK & Gaza

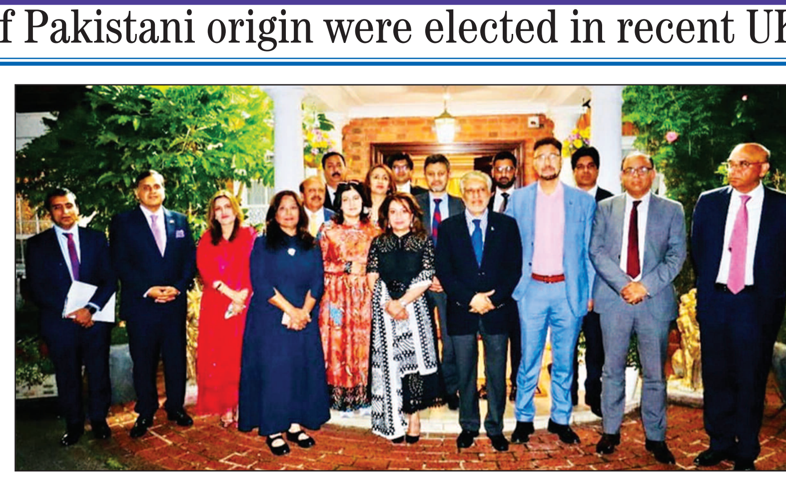
15 MPs of Pakistani origin were elected in recent UK elections

LONDON: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar had a detailed and comprehensive interaction with British Parliamentarians of Pakistani origin, at a dinner hosted by the High Commissioner Dr. Mohammad Faisal at the Pakistan House in London.

The dinner was attended by the Deputy Speaker House of Commons Nusrat Ghani, Yasmin Qureshi (MP), Lord Qurban Hussain, Baroness Nosheen Mubarak, Lord Zameer Chaudhry, Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, Baroness Shaista Gohir, Mohammad Afzal Khan (MP), Naseem Shah (MP), Imran Hussain (MP), Tahir Ali (MP), Zubair Ahmed (MP), Adnan Hussain (MP), Mohammad Yasin (MP) and Ayoub Khan (MP).

In his opening remarks, the Deputy Prime Minister congratulated the newly elected British-Pakistani Members of Parliament and reiterated that Pakistan-UK relations were founded on strong links of history, culture and common aspirations for peace, security and development. In the recent elections, fifteen (15) members of Pakistani heritage were elected to the British Parliament, which demonstrates the strength of British democracy and also the success of British citizens of Pakistani origin.

The Deputy Prime Minister briefed the Members of Parliament on his government's roadmap for the economic revival of Pakistan. He recalled that during the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif from 2013 to 2017, Pakistan had grown to the world's 24th largest economy and was projected to become a member of the G20. The menace of terrorism had also been contained at an immense cost of blood and treasure. However, political instability,



beginning in 2018, had derailed Pakistan's economic trajectory. Moreover, the previous government's policy of appeasing and rehabilitating extremist groups, like the Tehreek-e-Taliban and release of over 100 hardened terrorist criminals, had led to a resurgence of terrorism.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that the government will not allow any internal or external elements, intent on fomenting political instability, to derail Pakistan's journey to development and prosperity. There could be no question of engaging with those who have attacked state institutions and used international forums to undermine the national interest. He insisted that the government would not be deterred by any pressure or challenge in this regard.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar stressed that the government was committed to putting Pakistan back on the road to economic growth and development that the country had been charting in 2017. The difficult and politically unpopular measures taken by the recent government are now beginning to bear fruit. Inflation had been curtailed to single digit and the current account deficit brought under control with stable currency. There was across-the-board institutional support for economic reform and the Special Investment Facilitation Council, set up by the government last year, was drawing significant foreign investors interest in Pakistan's energy, mining, IT and agriculture sectors.

The Deputy Prime Minister asked the Members of Parliament for suggestions on how the government could draw more British foreign direct investment in Pakistan and increase the bilateral trade volume. Deputy Prime Minister also stressed that it was important for young British-Pakistanis to stay connected with their roots and noted that the Government of Pakistan had introduced a new visa-free policy to encourage Pakistani expatriates to visit Pakistan.

The Deputy Prime Minister thanked the British Parliamentarians for raising the issue of atrocities inflicted upon the innocent people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir and the people of Gaza. SABAH

Editor-in-Chief: Amna Munawwar Awan
Editor: Muhammad Hasam
Office # 408, 4th Floor, Evacuee Trust,
Agha Khan Road, F-5/1 Islamabad
Phone: + 92 51 8354964

Rethink education

KAMILA HYAT

We constantly hear about the alarming rise in unemployment in Pakistan, an issue exacerbated by several factors, including the ongoing economic crisis, persistent power shortages, and, most recently, the disruptions in wifi and internet connectivity. The lack of reliable internet access is especially concerning in today's digital age, as it stifles opportunities for remote work, freelance jobs, and access to online learning platforms that could otherwise help bridge the gap for many seeking employment. Given these challenges, it is crucial that Pakistan not only address its immediate economic woes but also develop long-term strategies to create sustainable employment opportunities for its growing population. This focus on the future is essential, particularly because Pakistan is home to one of the largest youth populations in the world. An astounding 64 per cent of Pakistan's people are under the age of 30, and 20 per cent fall within the critical age group of 15 to 29 years. With a total population exceeding 240 million, it is evident that millions of young people will soon be entering the job market, if they have not already done so. Unfortunately, for these individuals, the current employment landscape is bleak. The withdrawal of major foreign companies and the closure of many small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across the country have left many without prospects. The lack of job creation, paired with a fragile economy, has created a perfect storm for Pakistan's young workforce, many of whom are left without opportunities.

So, what is the solution to this growing crisis? Various strategies have been proposed by economists, policymakers, and business experts. One of the most critical areas to focus on is addressing the fundamental flaws in Pakistan's education and training systems. We must first take stock of what we are offering to the population and assess how we can improve these offerings to better meet the needs of the current job market. The sad reality is that only about 50 per cent of Pakistan's population is considered literate, and the literacy rate is significantly lower for women and those living in rural or remote areas. Education remains a privilege for a relatively small percentage of the population, and access to higher education is even more limited. However, the problem extends beyond formal education. One of the key issues plaguing the workforce is the lack of technical and vocational training available to young people. Without the right skills, they are unable to compete for jobs in industries where specialized knowledge and expertise are in high demand. Global employers are increasingly looking for workers who are proficient in technical fields such as information technology, engineering, and advanced manufacturing. Pakistan's unreliable internet infrastructure only compounds the problem by limiting access to remote learning, online certification programmes, and digital employment platforms. As a result, Pakistan's youth are being pushed further into an already challenging job market where they struggle to compete with better-trained, more technologically adept workers from other countries. One of the solutions proposed by experts is to establish a network of technical education centres across the country. These centres would target individuals who have completed their matriculation or FA exams and provide them with the hands-on training necessary to enter various industries. Technical skills are essential for jobs in sectors such as automotive manufacturing, electronics, textiles, leather goods, and other industries that contribute significantly to Pakistan's export economy. However, the challenge lies in changing the mindset of students and their families, many of whom still view traditional higher education as the only path to success. For decades, the cultural norm in Pakistan has been to pursue university degrees, with students often enrolling in programmes such as BCom or BA without a clear understanding of how these qualifications will translate into job opportunities. It may be difficult to convince students, especially those who have achieved good grades in their school-leaving exams, to opt for technical education instead of pursuing a university degree. However, it is crucial to help them understand that technical training can lead to high-demand jobs in industries that offer better employment prospects than traditional academic fields.

Transitioning to a system where technical education is seen as a valuable alternative to higher education will take time. It will require significant investments in infrastructure, particularly in the form of large-scale academies and training centres where young people can develop the skills needed to excel in key industries. These academies must be open to both men and women, ensuring that everyone has access to the same opportunities. They should focus on providing practical training in areas such as advanced textile production, leather manufacturing, and even cutting-edge fields like renewable energy and technology innovation. India's example highlights how a strong focus on education and technical training can transform a country's economy. India's decision to establish the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) in the 1950s was a visionary move that has paid dividends over the years. Today, India is a global tech hub, with many of its citizens holding top positions in multinational companies such as Google and Microsoft. However, it is not only the top-tier professionals that matter; a strong workforce at every level, equipped with the right skills, is essential for a country's economic growth. Pakistan must rethink its education system to ensure that it is producing a workforce that can meet the needs of both domestic and international employers. There is no benefit in pushing every student towards higher education, especially when so many cannot afford the high fees charged by private institutions or must settle for the subpar standards of government schools. Instead, we must invest in creating a robust technical education system that provides young people with the skills they need to succeed in today's economy.

The writer is a freelance columnist and former newspaper editor.
She can be reached at: kamilahyat@hotmail.com

Who owns Pakistan?

Hafiza Saba Ashraf

Given the deafening buzz that the so-called Karsaz accident had created, its finale on Friday is bound to generate excited conversations about the message that it purportedly has delivered. The crux of it would be: oh, the rich and the powerful can always get away with these things.

It was on August 19 that a speeding Toyota Land Cruiser, driven by a woman, had crushed to death a 60-year-old man and his 22-year-old daughter, who were on a motorcycle, in Karachi's Karsaz area. I will not go into details that are sensational in a way but only point out that on Friday, a sessions court granted bail to the driver, and it was announced that the suspect was pardoned by the victims' family "in the name of Allah". End of story – almost.

Actually, this news is just an excuse for me to raise the larger and socially crucial issue of how the elite of Pakistan conducts itself and what ordinary citizens feel about it.

At a time when people are struggling to survive and protect their human dignity in an environment of oppression and disorder, the elite is seen to be living it up. And the manner in which the SUVs and luxury vehicles lord it over on the roads is one example of the gap that exists between, say, 'us and them'.

When Shehbaz Sharif became prime minister, the economy was manifestly his first priority. With his reputation as a good administrator, some drastic measures were expected to show to the people that the government was also tightening its belt. In fact, it made eminent political sense to even take cosmetic measures to curtail the pomp and show of the higher echelons of the government.

We do have some evidence that austerity in government's expenses is very much on the cards, though no decisive action has yet been taken. What may be described as my second excuse for this column is that economist Kaiser Bengali, who is more of a social activist, has resigned from the federal government's high-powered committee for rightsizing. He said that he was disappointed and saddened by the government's lack of commitment to reduce expenditures.

Kaiser Bengali has claimed that the government wanted to put the entire burden of 'rightsizing' on its employees of lower grades – something an official spokesman denied. But the main assertion of the economist is that the economy is in a state of collapse and Islamabad is not aware of it. In his view, the foremost priority should be "to stem the fiscal hemorrhage that threatens to be fatal for the economy and the country".

We know how committees are assigned these tasks. But why should the prime minister have waited for this process? It is something that should earnestly be initiated on his first day in office. Taking the larger issue into consideration, reducing the government's expenditures is a relatively minor and easier matter.

Among other things, Pakistan's survival will depend on the creation of an egalitarian society in which all citizens are provided equal opportunity on the basis of merit and performance. A small elite that makes sure that its fortress of privilege is not breached by the lowly populace can only be a death wish for a country.

Let me try to illustrate this thought with some facts that Miftah Ismail, also an economist, has placed before us in a video circulated on social media.

He said that there have been times when almost half of the federal cabinet had attended the same school. In Imran Khan's last year, almost 60 per cent of his cabinet had come from Aitchison College, Lahore. At one time, half of the judges of the Supreme Court were also from Aitchison College. Similarly, more than half of the very rich businessmen and leaders of the corporate sector were educated at Karachi Grammar School.

These figures may be disputed but the point that Miftah Ismail is making is valid. There are, he argues, around 400,000 schools in the country but children who have the privilege of going to just a few, perhaps eight or ten, schools will rule this country. So, if there are 8,000 students in these schools this year, they are assured room at the top, just as their parents are at the top now.

Pakistan's elite is one percent of its population – and Miftah Ismail admits to being a member of this small and privileged minority. So far, Pakistan has really done well for this elite. But how long can it go on? For that matter, it has been going on for very long. Let me mention another Pakistani economist: Dr Mahbubul Haq, who was one of Gen Ziaul Haq's finance ministers. He later earned his reputation as an international development theorist and had the distinction of introducing UNDP's Human Development Index.

In the 80s, he identified 22 families which, he said, owned much of Pakistan's wealth. Many of the names that he named are still in business though one cannot be sure about the number of families – or individuals – that own Pakistan now. Perhaps more important would be to identify families or groups that rule Pakistan. In any case, Mahbubul Haq's 22 families were considered synonymous with "enormous wealth and unbounded pelf".

As an aside, I would say that in the present situation, even the elite may be in a state of distress about the national sense of direction. But there are no indications that it is anxious to introduce major reforms in a system that has put them in the driving seat. They are not willing to 're-imagine' Pakistan, as Miftah Ismail would put it.

Coming back to the austerity measures that are on Shehbaz Sharif's table. This would just be a small step in the right direction. But when a government is not able to take a small step in so many months, big strides that are necessary for meaningful social change cannot even be imagined. Will the elite ostentatiously celebrate its own demise?

The writer is a senior journalist.
He can be reached at:
ghazi_salahuddin@hotmail.com

Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect The Asian Telegraph's point-of-view

Today in History

History of Pakistan

Bhutto indicated that Kashmir would be released from Indian occupation by negotiation or, if that failed, by armed force, but there was little indication that Ayub Khan had sanctioned Bhutto's pronouncement. Nevertheless, the foreign minister's speech appeared to be both solace to the pro-Kashmiri interests in West Pakistan and a green light to the Pakistan army to begin making plans for a campaign in the disputed region.

A new war over Kashmir was not long in coming. Skirmishes between Indian and Pakistani forces on the line of control between the two administrated portions of the region increased in the summer of 1965, and by September major hostilities had erupted between the two neighbours. Indian strategy confounded Pakistani plans, as New Delhi ordered its forces to strike all along the border between India and West Pakistan and to launch air raids against East Pakistan and even threaten to invade the East. Pakistan's military stores soon were exhausted, a situation made worse by an American-imposed arms embargo on both states that affected Pakistan much more than India. Ayub Khan had to consider halting the hostilities.

Ultimately, Ayub Khan was forced to accept a United Nations-sponsored cease-fire and to give up Pakistan's quest for resolving the Kashmir problem by force of arms. Embarrassed and humiliated, Ayub Khan saw all his efforts at building a new Pakistan dashed in one failed venture, and he was compelled to attend a peace conference with the Indian prime minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri, in Tashkent, in Soviet Uzbekistan. There the two leaders were unable to reach a satisfactory agreement of their own making, and their hosts compelled them to sign a draft prepared for them. At that juncture, Bhutto, who had accompanied Ayub Khan to the conference, indicated a desire to separate himself from his mentor. Ayub Khan's popularity had reached its lowest level, and, in the Pakistani game of zero-sum politics, Bhutto anticipated gaining what the president had lost. Pressed by Ayub Khan, Bhutto held up his resignation, but soon thereafter he broke with the president, joined his voice to the opposition, and in due course organized his own political party, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

Ayub Khan was never the same after signing the Tashkent Agreement. Confronted by rising opposition that was now led by Bhutto in West Pakistan and Mujibur Rahman in East Pakistan, Ayub Khan struck back by arresting both men. Acknowledging that he could not manage the country without a modicum of cooperation from the politicians, Ayub Khan summoned a conference of opposition leaders and withdrew the state of emergency under which Pakistan had been governed since 1965. These concessions, however, failed to conciliate the opposition, and in February 1969 Ayub announced that he would not contest the presidential election scheduled for 1970. In the meantime, protests mounted in the streets, and strikes paralyzed the economy. Sparked by grievances that could not be contained, especially in East Pakistan, the disorder spread to the western province, and all attempts to restore tranquility proved futile. One theme sustained the demonstrators: Ayub Khan had remained in power too long, and it was time for him to go.

In March 1969, Ayub Khan announced his retirement and named Gen. Agha Mohammad Yahya Khan to succeed him as president. Once again the country was placed under martial law. Yahya Khan, like Ayub Khan before him, assumed the role of chief martial-law administrator. In accepting the responsibility for leading the country, Yahya Khan said he would govern Pakistan only until the national election in 1970. Yahya Khan abolished Ayub Khan's basic democracies system and abrogated the 1962 constitution.

To be continued.....

Showbiz

Eve Hewson in talks to star in Steven Spielberg's untitled event film

Untitled Spielberg film sets release date for May 15, 2026, with Eve Hewson

Eve Hewson is in early discussions to star in Steven Spielberg's upcoming untitled event film, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Hewson recently appeared alongside Nicole Kidman and Dakota Fanning in Netflix's limited series, The Perfect Couple, and has also been seen in Bad Sisters, Flora and Son, The Knick, Enough Said, and This Must Be The Place. This project would mark a reunion for Hewson and Spielberg, who previously collaborated on 2015's Bridge of Spies.

The film, starring Tom Hanks, tells the story of an American lawyer recruited to defend a Soviet spy during the Cold War, and later helps facilitate a prisoner exchange.

Details about the upcoming film's plot are scarce, but it's based on a story by Spielberg, with a screenplay by David Koepp, who has worked on several notable films, including Jurassic Park and Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull.

Kristi Macosko Krieger, producer of The Fabelmans and West Side Story, will produce the film, set for wide release on May 15, 2026.

Spielberg's latest project follows his 2022 semi-autobiographical film, The Fabelmans, which received seven Oscar nominations, including best picture, best original screenplay, and best achievement in directing.

Tech

SpaceX to launch first uncrewed missions to Mars in two years

SpaceX Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Elon Musk has said that his company would launch first uncrewed Starships to Mars in two years when the next Earth-Mars transfer window opens.

Taking to social media platform X, Musk said: "These will be uncrewed to test the reliability of landing intact on Mars."

The tech mogul further said if those landings go well the company will launch its first crewed flights to the Red Planet in four years.

His remarks come after he said in April that the first uncrewed starship to land on Mars would be within five years, with the first people landing on Mars within seven years.

Continuing on, the X owner said that after the crewed missions, the flight ratio will grow exponentially with "the goal of building a self-sustaining city in about 20 years".

"Being multiplanetary will vastly increase the probable lifespan of consciousness, as we will no longer have all our eggs, literally and metabolically, on one planet," the entrepreneur remarked.

Recalling that SpaceX created the first fully reusable rocket stage and made the reuse economically viable, Musk noted that making life multiplanetary was "fundamentally a cost per tonne to Mars problem".

"It currently costs about a billion dollars per ten of useful payload to the surface of Mars. That needs to be improved to $100k/tonne to build a self-sustaining city there, so the technology needs to be 10,000 times better. Extremely difficult, but not impossible," he said.

Health

Vaping damages young people's lungs as much as smoking, study suggests

Vaping damages young people's lungs as much as smoking, according to research that has prompted fresh debate over the health risks of e-cigarettes.

The study compared vapers and smokers in a strenuous exercise test and found both groups emerged as being less fit and much more out of breath than people who have neither habit.

Dr Azmy Faisal and colleagues at Manchester Metropolitan University asked 60 people in their 20s to have their lung capacity recorded by spending time on a static exercise bike. Twenty were non-smokers, 20 others had vaped for at least two years and the other 20 had smoked for at least two years. The vapers had an average "peak exercise capacity", which, at 186 watts, was similar to that of the smokers (182 watts) but much lower than that among the non-smokers or vapers (226 watts). The test measures the maximum amount of physical exercise that someone can achieve.

In addition, the vapers and smokers were less able to take in oxygen – at 2.7 litres and 2.6 litres a minute, respectively – than those who neither smoked nor vaped (3 litres).

"The study adds to growing evidence that long-term use of vaping is harmful and challenges the idea that vaping could be a healthier alternative to smoking", said Faisal and his co-authors of the study, which they presented on Sunday at the European Respiratory Society's (ESC) conference in Vienna. "Both vapers and smokers showed signs that their blood vessels were not working as well as the non-smoking and non-vaping group, according to the blood tests and ultrasound scans. "The smokers and the vapers were more out of breath, experienced intense leg fatigue and had higher levels of lactate in their blood, a sign of muscle fatigue, even before they reached their maximum level of exercise."

The proportion of adults in Britain using vapes has climbed steadily over recent years, from 4.2% in 2014 to 11%, with many smokers using them as a way of kicking that habit. But the proportion of 11 to 17-year-olds vaping has risen much more sharply over the same period, from 1.3% to 7.6%.

Medical researchers have found evidence that vaping increases the risk of cancer, because it changes their DNA, and also that it may damage the brain and vital organs because e-cigarette aerosols and liquids can contain traces of toxic metals such as lead and uranium.

Dr Filippos Filippidis, the chair of the ESC's tobacco control committee, and a reader in public health at Imperial College London, said: "Vapes

روزنامہ
دی ایشین ٹیلی گراف
اسلام آباد
پیر 09 ستمبر 2024ء

قوموں کا مقدر بدلنے میں تعلیم اور خواندگی کا اہم کردار ہے، صدر مملکت

اسلام آباد (وقائع نگار خصوصی) صدر مملکت آصف علی زرداری نے کہا ہے کہ قوموں کا مقدر بدلنے میں تعلیم اور خواندگی کا اہم کردار ہے، تعلیم اور خواندگی ہماری قوم کے مستقبل کی بنیاد ہیں، آئین کے آرٹیکل 25 اے کے مطابق تعلیم ہر انسان کا بنیادی حق ہے۔ [illegible] ان کا کہنا تھا کہ ہر خواندہ شہری سے اپیل ہے کہ وہ کم از کم ایک ناخواندہ شخص کو تعلیم دے۔ [illegible] لڑکوں کیلئے 4000 اور لڑکیوں کیلئے 4500 روپے کے سہ ماہی وظیفے دیئے جا رہے ہیں، اس وقت 97 لاکھ بچے بینظیر تعلیمی وظائف پروگرام سے مستفید ہو رہے ہیں۔ [illegible] 102,000 انڈر گریجویٹ سکالرشپس دی گئی ہیں۔ [illegible]

اسلام آباد، وزیراعظم شہباز شریف کا ملک گیر خصوصی انسداد پولیو مہم کی افتتاحی تقریب سے خطاب کر رہے ہیں

عالمی یوم خواندگی پر ملک بھر میں تعلیمی ایمرجنسی نافذ

ہم نے سکول چھوڑنے کی شرح کم کرنے اور ہر بچے کو اپنی تعلیم مکمل کرنے کی ترغیب دینے کیلئے وظائف اور دیگر مراعات متعارف کرائیں، پاک بحریہ کی خدمات اور قربانیوں کی دل سے قدر کرتے ہیں، شہباز شریف

اسلام آباد (وقائع نگار خصوصی) وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے عالمی یوم خواندگی کے موقع پر ملک بھر میں تعلیمی ایمرجنسی لگادی۔ اتوار کو خواندگی کے عالمی دن کے موقع پر اپنے پیغام میں وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ اس مقصد کے لیے، ہم نے ملک بھر میں تعلیمی ایمرجنسی کا اعلان کیا ہے، خواندگی ایک بنیادی انسانی اور آئینی حق ہے، تعلیم اور خواندگی ہمارے ملک کے مستقبل کی ضمانت ہیں، خواندگی محض پڑھنے لکھنے کی صلاحیت نہیں ہے بلکہ یہ بااختیار بنانے، اقتصادی مواقع اور معاشرے میں فعال شرکت کا ایک گیٹ وے ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ آج، ہم تعلیم کے ایجنڈے کو آگے بڑھانے کے لیے اپنے عزم کا اعادہ کرتے ہیں، ہم ایک زیادہ باخبر اور پائیدار قوم کے لیے کوشاں ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ تعلیم ہمارے معاشرے کی ریڑھ کی ہڈی ہے، اس مقصد کے لیے ہم نے ملک بھر میں تعلیمی ایمرجنسی کا اعلان کرتے ہوئے طلبہ کے اندراج کی مہم شروع کی ہے اور اسکولوں میں بچوں کو دوپہر کا کھانا دینا شروع کیا ہے، اسکول چھوڑنے کی شرح کو کم کرنے اور ہر بچے کو اپنی تعلیم مکمل کرنے کی ترغیب دینے کے لیے وظائف اور دیگر مراعات بھی متعارف کرائی ہیں۔ ادھر وزیراعظم شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ پاک بحریہ کی خدمات و قربانیوں کی دل سے قدر کرتے ہیں۔ یوم پاک بحریہ پر اپنے بیان میں وزیراعظم شہباز شریف نے پاکستان بحریہ کے تمام اراکین کو دلی مبارکباد پیش کی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک بحریہ کی مستقل مزاجی ان کی فرض شناسی اور وطن سے محبت کا ثبوت ہے، پاک بحریہ کی خدمات اور قربانیوں کی دل سے قدر کرتے ہیں۔ وزیراعظم کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ سمندری سرحدوں کے تحفظ میں پاک بحریہ کے کردار کو بہت اہمیت دیتے ہیں۔

کشمیریوں اور پاکستان کے درمیان محبت کا رشتہ کوئی ختم نہیں کرسکتا، چوہدری انوار الحق

خونی لکیر پر افواج پاکستان اور ریاستی شہریوں کی قربانیوں کی لازوال داستانیں ہیں، پوری جرات واستقامت سے نظریہ الحاق پاکستان پر پہرہ دینا ہے، تقریب سے خطاب

نیلم (بیورو رپورٹ) وزیر اعظم آزاد حکومت ریاست جموں و کشمیر چوہدری انوار الحق نے کہا ہے کہ [illegible]

سرکاری ملازمین کیلئے ریٹائرمنٹ پیکج متعارف کروانے کا فیصلہ

اسلام آباد (سٹاف رپورٹر) وفاقی حکومت نے سرکاری ملازمین کیلئے لازمی ریٹائرمنٹ پیکج متعارف کروانے کا فیصلہ کرلیا۔ ذرائع کے مطابق سیورنس پیکج نامی لازمی ریٹائرمنٹ پلان کو حتمی شکل دے دی گئی، لازمی ریٹائرمنٹ پیکج کو سول سرونٹ ایکٹ 1977 میں [illegible] 1973 میں ترامیم کی وفاقی کابینہ سے توثیق کرائی جائے گی۔ دستاویزات کے مطابق پیکج کا اطلاق وزارتوں کے خاتمے، محکموں کی تحلیل اور انضمام پر ملازمین پر ہوگا، وفاقی حکومت متاثرہ وزارتوں کے ملازمین کو پیکج آفر کرے گی۔ لازمی ریٹائرمنٹ پیکج قبول نہ [illegible]

نیلم، وزیراعظم آزاد کشمیر چوہدری انوار الحق یوم دفاع سے متعلق تقریب سے خطاب کر رہے ہیں

پی ٹی آئی جلسہ، راولپنڈی اور اسلام آباد میں کنٹینرز لگا دیئے گئے، راستے بند

ریڈ زون کو جانے والے تمام راستے بھی کنٹینر رکھ کر سیل کر دیئے گئے، ایکسپریس وے اور مری روڈ پر نکلنے والی تمام گلیاں بند

اسلام آباد، راولپنڈی (سٹاف رپورٹر، بیورو رپورٹ) پی ٹی آئی کے سنگ جانی مقام پر [illegible] موٹر وے اولڈ ٹول پلازہ اور ترنول پھاٹک بھی کنٹینرز لگا کر بند کر دیا گیا ہے۔ راولپنڈی شہر سے [illegible] ہیں۔ چھٹہ بختاور اور ترامڑی چوک سے آنے والی شاہراہیں بھی کنٹینر رکھ کر سیل کر دی گئیں۔ [illegible]

پیٹرولیم مصنوعات قیمتوں میں مسلسل چوتھی مرتبہ کمی متوقع

اسلام آباد (سٹاف رپورٹر) حکومت کی جانب سے [illegible] 5 ڈالر فی بیرل کی کمی آئی ہے، ایکسچینج ریٹ کے حتمی حساب کتاب اور موجودہ ٹیکس کی شرح کے مطابق پیٹرول اور ہائی اسپیڈ ڈیزل کی قیمتوں میں 10 سے 11 روپے فی لیٹر کمی ہو سکتی ہے۔ بین الاقوامی مارکیٹ میں پیٹرول کی اوسط قیمت 81 ڈالر فی بیرل سے کم ہو کر 76 ڈالر فی بیرل سے بھی نیچے آگئی جب کہ گزشتہ 15 دنوں [illegible] پیٹرولیم لیوی کی شرح کو 5 روپے فی لیٹر بڑھا سکتی ہے تاکہ کم قیمتوں کا سے فائدہ اٹھا کر موجودہ مالی سال کے ابتدائی دو ماہ کے دوران ایف بی آر کے 100 ارب روپے کے محصولات کے خسارے کا کچھ حصہ پورا کیا جا سکے، اس صورت میں قیمت میں کمی تقریبا 5 سے 6 روپے فی لیٹر ہوگی۔

پاک بحریہ کے کردار کو ہمیشہ یاد رکھا جائے گا، مریم نواز

لاہور (بیورو رپورٹ) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز [illegible] ایک پیغام میں وزیراعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان کی سمندری حدود کی حفاظت پر مامور پاک بحریہ کو سلام پیش کرتی ہوں، قوم پاکستان نیوی کے جانبازوں کے کارناموں کو خراج تحسین پیش کرتی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ 8 ستمبر کا دن پاک بحریہ کے سرفروشوں کی قربانیوں اور غیر معمولی کارناموں کی یاد دلاتا ہے

پی ٹی آئی جلسہ کے پیش نظر اسلام آباد ہائی وے پر کنٹینرز رکھ کر روڈ بند کی گئی ہے جبکہ دوسری طرف عوام پیدل سفر کرنے پر مجبور ہیں

محسن نقوی کا لیاقت بلوچ سے ٹیلیفونک رابطہ، معاہدے پر گفتگو

لاہور (آئی این پی) وفاقی وزیر داخلہ محسن نقوی کا [illegible] درمیان ہونے والے معاہدے بارے گفتگو ہوئی۔ مذاکرات معاہدے پر عملدرآمد بارے آگاہی دینے کیلئے وزیر داخلہ محسن نقوی اور وزیر اطلاعات عطا تارڑ پر مشتمل دو رکنی حکومتی وفد منصورہ آئے گا۔ ٹیلیفونک گفتگو کے دوران نائب امیر جماعت اسلامی لیاقت بلوچ نے کہا کہ وفاقی حکومت انٹرنیشنل اسلامک یونیورسٹی کے طلبہ کے مسائل حل کرے

لاہور، وزیر اطلاعات پنجاب عظمیٰ بخاری پریس کانفرنس کر رہی ہیں

نواز شریف کو عوام کے بلوں کی فکر، ریلیف دینے کی کوشش کر رہے ہے، وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب

وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب کا سڑک کنارے ڈھابے پر گاڑی روک کر شہریوں کو سرپرائز، چارپائی پر بیٹھ کر چائے پی، پاک بحریہ کو خراج تحسین

لاہور (بیورو رپورٹ) وزیر اعلیٰ مریم نواز شریف نے ڈی جی خان سے لاہور جاتے ہوئے چائے کے ڈھابے پر گاڑی روک کر شہریوں کو خوشگوار سرپرائز دے دیا۔ ڈیرہ غازی خان میں بچوں کے نیوٹریشن پروگرام کے آغاز کی تقریب سے واپسی پر وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب سڑک کنارے ڈھابے پر روک لی۔ وزیر اعلیٰ مریم نواز شریف چارپائی پر بیٹھ گئیں، وزیر اعلیٰ کو چائے پیش کی گئی۔ شہریوں نے بجلی کے بل دکھائے اور 14 روپے فی یونٹ کمی پر شکریہ ادا کیا۔ شہریوں نے وزیر اعلیٰ سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ اللہ تعالیٰ آپ کو خوش رکھے، آپ نے بجلی بل کم کر کے غریبوں کی دعائیں لی ہیں۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب نے شہریوں سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ نواز شریف کو آپ کے بلوں کی بہت فکر ہے، وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف اور میں آپ کو ریلیف دینے کی کوشش کر رہے ہیں، مہنگائی میں کمی ہوئی، آٹا چینی گھی دالیں، سبزیاں سستی ہوئی ہیں، مزید ریلیف دینے کی پوری کوشش کر رہے ہیں۔ ادھر وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز نے کہا ہے کہ دفاع وطن میں پاک بحریہ کے کردار کو ہمیشہ یاد رکھا جائے گا۔ پاکستان نیوی ڈے پر اپنے ایک پیغام میں وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب مریم نواز کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان کی سمندری حدود کی حفاظت پر مامور پاک بحریہ کو سلام پیش کرتی ہوں، قوم پاکستان نیوی کے جانبازوں کے کارناموں کو خراج تحسین پیش کرتی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ 8 ستمبر کا دن پاک بحریہ کے سرفروشوں کی قربانیوں اور غیر معمولی کارناموں کی یاد دلاتا ہے، 1965 اور 1971 میں پاک بحریہ نے دشمن کو ناکوں چنے چبوائے، پاک بحریہ کے جانبازوں نے جنگ کے دوران سمندری حدود کا دفاع کرتے ہوئے دشمن کو ناقابل تلافی نقصان پہنچایا۔ مریم نواز کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان کی سمندری حدود کی حفاظت کرنے والے پاک بحریہ کے افسر اور جوان ہمارا فخر ہیں، دفاع وطن میں پاک بحریہ کے ناقابل فراموش کردار کو تاریخ میں ہمیشہ یاد رکھا جائے گا، پاکستان نیوی خطے میں باصلاحیت اور متحرک پروفیشنل بحری فورس بن کر ابھری ہے۔

لاہور، ایف آئی اے نے انسانی سمگلنگ کا بین الاقوامی نیٹ ورک پکڑ لیا

لاہور (بیورو رپورٹ) ایف آئی اے نے لاہور میں کارروائی کرتے ہوئے انسانی سمگلنگ کا بین الاقوامی نیٹ ورک پکڑ لیا۔ وفاقی تحقیقاتی ایجنسی (ایف آئی اے) لاہور سرکل نے انٹیلی جنس ایجنسیوں کی نشاندہی اور وفاقی وزیر داخلہ محسن نقوی کی ہدایت پر کارروائی کرتے ہوئے انسانی سمگلنگ کا بین الاقوامی نیٹ ورک رنگے ہاتھوں پکڑا، نیٹ ورک سادہ لوح عوام کو بیرون ملک روزگار کا جھانسہ دے کر لوٹنے میں ملوث تھا۔ ایف آئی اے کا کہنا ہے کہ گروہ نے سادہ لوح عوام سے کروڑوں روپے ہتھیا لیے، گروہ جعلی دستاویزات کی تیاری میں مہارت رکھتا تھا، انسانی سمگلنگ کے گروہ کا اپنا پرنٹنگ پریس تھا، پرنٹنگ پریس میں کئی ملکوں کی جعلی دستاویزات تیار کی جاتی تھیں۔ حکام کے مطابق مختلف ممالک میں سیاسی پناہ لینے والے افراد بھی اس گروہ سے معاونت لیتے رہے، نیٹ ورک کا بین الاقوامی ڈنکی گروہوں سے بھی رابطے کا انکشاف ہوا ہے، مجرمانہ سرگرمیوں میں بھارتی اور افغانی باشندے ملوث ہیں۔ دوران تفتیش پاکستان کو بدنام کرنے کی بھارتی سازش بھی بے نقاب ہوگئی، مزید گرفتاریاں بھی متوقع ہیں، تفتیش کے بعد ملزمان کے خلاف سخت قانونی کارروائی ہوگی۔ وفاقی وزیر داخلہ محسن نقوی نے نیٹ ورک کو قانون کی گرفت میں لانے پر انٹیلی جنس ایجنسی اور ایف آئی اے لاہور کو شاباش دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ یہ کامیاب آپریشن انسانی سمگلنگ کے خلاف پاکستان کی کارروائیوں میں ایک اہم سنگ میل ہے۔

انتخابات میں شکست کھانے والے اقتدار کی کرسی پر براجمان ہیں، بیرسٹر سیف

ہم جمہوری طریقے سے اپنا آئینی حق استعمال کر رہے ہیں، ہمارا ایک ہی مطالبہ ہے ہمارا مینڈیٹ واپس کرو، پریس کانفرنس

اسلام آباد (سٹاف رپورٹر) مشیر اطلاعات خیبر پختونخوا بیرسٹر ڈاکٹر سیف نے کہا ہے کہ ایک ہی مطالبہ ہے ہمارا مینڈیٹ واپس کرو، یہ 8 فروری کو شکست کھائے ہوئے ہیں، ان کو اقتدار کی کرسی پر بٹھایا گیا، ان کے ذہنوں میں وحشت پیدا ہوچکی ہے، یہ ہماری کامیابی کی نوید ہے، ہم ڈرامے نہیں کر رہے، جمہوری طریقے سے اپنا آئینی حق استعمال کر رہے ہیں، اپنے چند دنوں کے اقتدار کیلئے قوم کی بنیادوں کو مت ہلا، یہ عمارت گر گئی تو تم بھی نیچے آجاؤ گے۔ اتوار کو جلسے سے قبل اسلام آباد میں پریس کانفرنس کرتے ہوئے بیرسٹر سیف کا کہنا تھا کہ تحریک انصاف کے قافلوں کو جگہ جگہ روکا جا رہا ہے، سندھ سے آنیوالے قافلوں کو ٹول پلازوں پر روکا گیا، مری سے اسلام آباد آنے والے راستوں کو بھی سیل کر دیا گیا ہے، صبح سے خبر چل رہی ہے جلسہ گاہ سے بارودی مواد برآمد ہوا، کیا بارودی مواد پی ٹی آئی والے لے کر آئے؟ انہوں نے کہا کہ ایک ہی مطالبہ ہے ہمارا مینڈیٹ واپس کرو، یہ 8 فروری کو شکست کھائے ہوئے ہیں، ان کو اقتدار کی کرسی پر بٹھایا گیا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ پی ٹی آئی کارکنان کو کامیابی کی پیشگی مبارکباد دیتا ہوں، ان کے ذہنوں میں وحشت پیدا ہوچکی ہے، یہ ہماری کامیابی کی نوید ہے، ہم ڈرامے نہیں کر رہے، جمہوری طریقے سے اپنا آئینی حق استعمال کر رہے ہیں، جمہوری اختلافات نفرت میں تبدیل آپ کی حرکتوں کی وجہ سے ہوئے۔ بیرسٹر سیف نے کہا کہ اپنے چند دنوں کے اقتدار کیلئے قوم کی بنیادوں کو مت ہلا، یہ عمارت گر گئی تو تم بھی نیچے آ جاؤ گے، آپ کا لیڈر تو لندن بھاگ جائے گا لیکن تمہارے کارکن ہمارے ساتھ ہی لپیٹ میں آئیں گے، 8 فروری کے نتائج کو چیف الیکشن کمشنر نے تبدیل کیا، ہمارا مطالبہ ہے چیف الیکشن کمشنر کا احتساب کیا جائے۔ صوبائی مشیر اطلاعات کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ پارلیمان کو غیر پارلیمانی اور آئین کو غیر آئینی طریقے سے استعمال کیا جا رہا ہے، ہم چیف جسٹس کی توسیع کسی صورت برداشت نہیں کریں گے، اگر توسیع ایک گھنٹے کیلئے بھی کی گئی تو ہم سڑکوں پر ہوں گے، تم سے سپریم کورٹ کنٹرول نہیں ہوگی وہ آزاد ادارہ ہے، آئین اور جمہوریت کو بدنام نہ کریں۔

شرح سود میں ایک سے 1.5 فیصد تک کمی کا امکان

کراچی (بیورو رپورٹ) مہنگائی میں مسلسل کمی کے رجحان کے پیش نظر شرح سود میں 1 سے 1.5 فیصد کمی کا امکان ہے۔ اس بات کا فیصلہ جمعرات 12 ستمبر کو ہونے والی سٹیٹ بینک کی مانیٹری پالیسی میٹنگ میں کیا جائے گا۔ میڈیا رپورٹ کے مطابق اسماعیل اقبال سیکیورٹیز میں ریسرچ ہیڈ سعد حنیف نے اس حوالے سے بتایا کہ اسٹیٹ بینک محتاط رویہ برقرار رکھے گا، آئی ایم ایف پروگرام کے تناظر میں سخت مانیٹری پالیسی برقرار رکھتے ہوئے شرح سود میں یکمشت بڑی کمی کے بجائے تدریجا کمی کو ترجیح دے گا۔ دوسری وجہ یہ ہے کہ پالیسی ریٹ میں کسی بھی بڑی کمی کے نتیجے میں ملکی زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر گھٹ جائیں گے، جس سے روپے کہ قدر میں کمی واقع ہوگی، انھوں نے اندازہ لگایا کہ اسٹیٹ بینک شرح سود میں صرف ایک فیصد ہی کمی کرے گا۔ عارف حبیب لمیٹڈ کے ریسرچ ہیڈ طاہر عباس نے اس حوالے سے کہا کہ پالیسی ریٹ میں 150 بیسس پوائنٹس کی کمی کی امید ظاہر کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ اس طرح شرح سود 18 فیصد پر پہنچ جائے گی، جو اس سے قبل آخری بار فروری 2023 میں دیکھی گئی تھی۔ ٹاپ لائن سیکیورٹیز کی جانب سے کرائے گئے سروے کے نتائج کے بارے میں بتاتے ہوئے ڈپٹی ہیڈ ریسرچ شنکر تلر یجانے بتایا کہ میں 59 فیصد افراد نے پالیسی ریٹ میں 150 بیسس پوائنٹس، 19 فیصد نے 200، اور 5 فیصد نے 200 سے زیادہ جبکہ اور 13 فیصد افراد نے 100 اور 2 فیصد افراد نے 50 بیسس پوائنٹس کی کمی کا امکان ظاہر کیا، تاہم انھوں نے خود 150 بیسس پوائنٹس کی کمی کا امکان ظاہر کیا۔

پارلیمان نے شرح خواندگی بڑھانے کیلئے موثر اقدامات کیے، ایاز صادق

اسلام آباد (آن لائن) اسپیکر قومی اسمبلی سردار ایاز صادق نے کہا ہے کہ پارلیمان نے ملک میں خواندگی کی شرح میں فروغ کے لیے موثر اقدامات کیے ہیں۔ آئین پاکستان تحت 16 سال سے کم عمر بچوں کو مفت تعلیم تک رسائی حکومت پاکستان کی ذمہ داری ہے۔ خواندگی کے عالمی دن پر پیغام میں سپیکر سردار ایاز صادق نے کہا کہ تعلیم بنیادی انسانی حقوق میں شامل ہے، تعلیم کسی بھی قوم کی ترقی اور خوشحالی کی بنیاد ہے، پاکستان کی پارلیمان نے ملک میں خواندگی کی شرح میں فروغ کے لیے موثر اقدامات کیے ہیں۔ آئین پاکستان تحت 16 سال سے کم عمر بچوں کو مفت تعلیم تک رسائی حکومت پاکستان کی ذمہ داری ہے۔ موجودہ حکومت ملک میں شرح خواندگی میں اضافے کے لیے خصوصی اقدامات اٹھا رہی ہے

ڈیرہ اسماعیل خان، جنرل منیجر واپڈا نارتھ شفیق خان بیٹنی گورنر خیبر پختونخواہ فیصل کریم کنڈی سے ملاقات کر رہے ہیں

عدالتی تعطیلات ختم، اسلام آباد ہائیکورٹ میں آج سے معمول کے مطابق کیسز سنے جائینگے

اسلام آباد (سٹاف رپورٹر) اسلام آباد ہائی کورٹ گرمیوں کی عدالتی تعطیلات مکمل ہونے کے بعد (آج) پیر سے معمول کے مطابق کیسز سنے گی۔ اسلام آباد ہائی کورٹ کا آئندہ ہفتے کا ججز ڈیوٹی روسٹر جاری کر دیا گیا۔ 10 جولائی سے شروع ہونے والی عدالتی تعطیلات (آج) ختم ہوگئی ہیں، جسٹس محسن اختر کیانی کے علاوہ دیگر تمام ججز کی واپسی ہوگئی۔ ججز روسٹر کے مطابق 7 سنگل اور دو ڈویژن بنچ تشکیل دے دیئے گئے، جسٹس میاں گل حسن اورنگزیب 11 سے 13 ستمبر کو دستیاب ہوں گے، جسٹس ارباب محمد طاہر 12 اور 13 ستمبر کو دستیاب ہوں گے۔ چیف جسٹس اسلام آباد ہائیکورٹ کی ہدایت پر خصوصی ڈویژن بنچ اور لارجر بنچ بھی دستیاب ہوگا۔

اسلام آباد میں جدید ڈیجیٹل بس ٹرمینل تعمیر کرنے کا فیصلہ

اسلام آباد (سٹاف رپورٹر) وفاقی دارالحکومت اسلام آباد میں عالمی معیار کے مطابق جدید ڈیجیٹل بس ٹرمینل کی تعمیر کا فیصلہ، بس ٹرمینل سیکٹر آئی الیون میں 132 ایکڑ رقبے پر تعمیر کیا جائے گا، کمرشل ایریا، بسوں کی پارکنگ، ایئر کنڈیشنڈ ویٹنگ رومز اور مسجد بھی بنائی جائیگی، ہائی الرٹ سیکورٹی سسٹم نصب ہو گا، واک تھرو گیٹ کے بغیر انٹری نہیں ہوگی، سامان کی چیکنگ کے لیے سکینر مشینیں نصب ہوں گی، گاڑیوں کی چیکنگ کے لیے سمارٹ ڈیجیٹل انٹیلی جینس سسٹم، فٹنس ٹیسٹ کے بغیر کوئی بس ٹرمینل سے روانہ نہیں ہو سکے گی، پبلک ٹرانسپورٹ کے لیے وقت کی پابندی لازمی ہو گی۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق ایشیائی ترقیاتی بینک نے پبلک ٹرانسپورٹ سسٹم کو بہتر بنانے کے لیے اسلام آباد میں جدید بس ٹرمینل کی تعمیر کے لیے پیشگی فزیبلٹی اسٹڈی مکمل کر لی ہے۔ مجوزہ بس ٹرمینل سیکٹر I-11 میں 132 ایکڑ پر تعمیر کیا جائے گا جس میں کمرشل ایریا، بڑی بسوں اور منی بسوں کے لیے پارکنگ اور اسلام آباد کے اہم روٹس سے رابطے ہوں گے۔ اس منصوبے کا مقصد تجاوزات کا خاتمہ، ٹریفک کی روانی کو بہتر بنانا اور مسافروں کو جدید سفری سہولیات فراہم کرنا ہے۔ سی ڈی اے کے چیئرمین نے منصوبے کی فزیبلٹی کو یقینی بنانے کے لیے بہترین مالیاتی ماڈل اپنانے کی ہدایت کی ہے۔ ایک بار مکمل ہونے کے بعد، بس ٹرمینل وفاقی دارالحکومت میں پبلک ٹرانسپورٹ کے بنیادی ڈھانچے میں نمایاں اضافہ کرے گا جس سے شہریوں کے لیے سفر زیادہ موثر اور آسان ہوگا۔ اس ٹرمینل کی چیدہ چیدہ خصوصیات میں ائیر کنڈیشنڈ ویٹنگ رومز کی تعمیر شامل ہے، ٹرمینل پر وسیع مسجد بھی بنائی جائیگی، ہائی الرٹ سیکورٹی سسٹم نصب ہوگا

ورلڈ کشمیر فورم کے تعاون سے تعمیر کی گئی یادگار شہداء کشمیر کی افتتاحی تقریب کا انعقاد

نیلم (بیورو رپورٹ) یوم دفاع پاکستان کی مناسبت سے لائن آف کنٹرول کیرن زیرو پوائنٹ پر وطن عزیز کی سرحدوں کے لئے جانوں کے نذرانے پیش کرنے والے شہداء کو خراج عقیدت پیش کرنے کے لئے ورلڈ کشمیر فورم کے تعاون سے تعمیر کی گئی شاندار یادگار شہداء کشمیر کی افتتاحی تقریب کا انعقاد کیا گیا۔ تقریب کے مہمان خصوصی وزیراعظم آزاد کشمیر چوہدری انوار الحق، جنرل آفیسر کمانڈنگ میجر جنرل محمد عرفان تھے۔ تقریب میں حریت رہنما یاسین ملک کی اہلیہ محترمہ مشعال ملک اور شہداء کے ورثاء کو خصوصی طور پر مدعو کیا گیا تھا۔ تقریب سے وزیراعظم آزاد کشمیر چوہدری انوار الحق، چیئرمین ورلڈ کشمیر فورم حاجی ڈاکٹر محمد رفیق پردیسی، وائس چیئرمین ورلڈ کشمیر فورم جسٹس (ر) انور منصور خان ودیگر نے پاک فوج کی ملک کی سرحدوں کے دفاع کیلئے دی جانے والی قربانیوں کو خراج عقیدت پیش کیا اور جدوجہد آزادی کو جاری رکھنے کے عزم کا اظہار کیا۔ تقریب میں صدر مسلم لیگ ن آزاد کشمیر شاہ غلام قادر، سینئر وزیر کرنل (ر) وقار احمد نور، وزراء حکومت میاں عبدالوحید، پیر محمد مظہر سعید شاہ، اظہر صادق، دیوان علی خان چغتائی، اکبر ابراہیم، اکمل حسین سرگالہ، عبدالماجد خان، راجہ محمد صدیق خان، سردار ضیاء القمر، چوہدری عامر یسین، چیف سیکرٹری داؤد محمد بڑیچ، سول وفوجی حکام اور سول سوسائٹی سمیت مختلف شعبہ ہائے زندگی سے تعلق رکھنے والے افراد نے شرکت کی۔ تقریب میں پاک فوج کے جوانوں نے فوجی پریڈ کا شاندار مظاہرہ کیا اور مقامی گلوکاروں نے ملی نغموں اور لوک گیت کے ذریعے شائقین کے دل جیت لئے۔ پاک فوج کے شہداء کے ورثاء کے تاثرات پر مبنی دستاویزی فلم دکھائی گئی

ہمیں پی ٹی آئی کے کرتوتوں سے ڈر لگتا ہے کسی کو بھی فتنہ فساد اور انتشار کی اجازت نہیں دی جائیگی، عظمیٰ بخاری

نیب کے نئے قانون سے ریلیف مانگنے کیلئے بانی پی ٹی آئی کی پہلی درخواست آئی ہے، بانی پی ٹی آئی کو این آر او نہیں ملے گا

لاہور (بیورو رپورٹ) وزیر اطلاعات پنجاب عظمیٰ بخاری نے کہا ہے کہ ہمیں جلسے سے نہیں پی ٹی آئی والوں کی کرتوتوں سے ڈر لگتا ہے، کسی کو بھی فتنہ، فساد اور انتشار کی اجازت نہیں دی جائے گی، نیب کے نئے قانون سے ریلیف مانگنے کیلئے بانی پی ٹی آئی کی پہلی درخواست آئی ہے، بانی پی ٹی آئی کو این آر او نہیں ملے گا، اسرائیلی بھی بانی پی ٹی آئی کی محبت میں مرے چلے جا رہے ہیں، کسی کو بھی فتنہ، فساد اور انتشار کی اجازت نہیں دی جائے گی۔ اتوار کو لاہور میں پریس کانفرنس کرتے ہوئے پنجاب کی وزیر اطلاعات عظمیٰ بخاری نے کہا کہ آج اسلام آباد میں ایک تماشہ ہونے جا رہا ہے، خیبر پختونخوا کے لوگوں کو نئے پاکستان کے نام پر ٹیکہ لگا، آج خیبر پختونخوا کے لوگوں کو وہاں سے اٹھا کر یہاں لایا جائے گا، اللہ جانے آج جلسے میں شرکت کرنے کا کیا ریٹ ہوگا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ خیبر پختونخوا کے عوام کی بدقسمتی ہے ان کو علی امین گنڈاپور ملے ہیں، اگر یہ تماشے اور ڈرامے کرنے ہیں تو کے پی میں ہی کرلو، تماشہ اسلام آباد میں لگانے کی کیا ضرورت ہے، جلسے میں میوزیکل کنسرٹ ہوگا، اکٹھے ہوں گے اور گھر چلے جائیں گے۔ عظمیٰ بخاری کا کہنا تھا کہ یہ کہتے ہیں حقیقی آزادی چاہیے، کس سے چاہیے آپ کو حقیقی آزادی؟ امریکا کے آپ پاوں پڑ رہے ہیں، اسٹیبلشمنٹ سے آپ کو بات کرنی ہے، موصوف تاریخ کے انوکھے سیاستدان ہیں، نیب کے نئے قانون سے ریلیف مانگنے کیلئے بانی پی ٹی آئی کی پہلی درخواست آئی ہے، بانی پی ٹی آئی کو این آر او نہیں ملے گا۔ لیگی رہنما کا کہنا تھا کہ کل ایک اخبار دیکھا، اسرائیلی بھی بانی پی ٹی آئی کی محبت میں مرے چلے جارہے ہیں، کسی کو بھی فتنہ، فساد اور انتشار کی اجازت نہیں دی جائے گی، پی ٹی آئی کے جلاؤ گھیراو کرنے پر کل بھی اعتراض تھا آج بھی ہے، ان کا اسلام آباد کا جلسہ صرف عمران خان کی رہائی کیلئے ہے، بانی پی ٹی آئی نے جلسے جلسوں سے نہیں عدالتی فیصلوں سے باہر آنا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ریاست سوئی نہیں ہوئی جو بھی جلسہ کرنے آرہے ہیں ان کو قانون کے مطابق آنا ہوگا، حالات خراب کرنے کے علاوہ آپ کو سب کچھ کرنے کی اجازت ہے، آپ کو جو ایس او پیز دیئے گئے ہیں ان کو فالو کرنا ہوگا، ہماری دعا ہے سب خیر خیریت سے واپس جائیں

رانا ثنا نے پی ٹی آئی کو اسرائیلی سیاسی برانڈ قرار دیدیا

لاہور (بیورو رپورٹ) وزیراعظم کے مشیر اور پاکستان مسلم لیگ (ن) پنجاب کے صدر رانا ثنا اللہ خان نے عمران خان اور پی ٹی آئی کو اسرائیلی سیاسی برانڈ قرار دے دیا۔ ایک بیان میں رانا ثنا نے کہا کہ اسرائیل ٹائمز نے پاکستان میں انقلاب اور تبدیلی لانے کی حقیقت کھول دی ہے، اس انکشاف کے بعد 9 مئی کی منصوبہ سازی اور حملوں کی وجوہات مزید واضح ہوگئی ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ فارن فنڈنگ اور سماجی خدمت ایک پلاننگ کا حصہ تھی جس کا مقصد پاکستان کی اسلامی، نظریاتی سوچ اور خارجہ پالیسی کو بدلنا تھا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان کو جوہری ملک بنانے، سی پیک لانے اور معاشی ترقی کو تاریخ کی بلند ترین سطح پر لیجانے والے نواز شریف کو اقتدار سے نکالنے کی پوری کہانی اسرائیلی اخبار کے مضمون کو پڑھ کر پوری طرح سمجھ آ جاتی ہے۔ رانا ثنا نے کہا کہ اسرائیل نے عمران نیازی جیسے مہرے کے حق میں بیان کیوں دیا تھا، امریکی کانگریس سے قرارداد کیوں منظور ہوئی تھی، اس کے تانے بانے سب کھل کر سامنے آ گئے ہیں۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ عمران نیازی اور پی ٹی آئی اسرائیلی برانڈ ہے جسے اسلامی ٹچ دے کر مسلمانوں میں مقبول بنانے کی منظم کوشش ہوئی، پاکستان سمیت ہر مسلمان کو فلسطینیوں کے قاتل اسرائیل کے سیاسی برانڈ کا بائیکاٹ کرنا چاہیے، ان ٹھوس حقائق کے بے نقاب ہونے کے بعد پی ٹی آئی کو جلسیوں کی نہیں، ڈوب مرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔

عمران خان کیخلاف شواہد ملٹری ٹرائل کی طرف جا رہے، خواجہ آصف

فیض حمید عمران خان کے خلاف وعدہ معاف گواہ بن سکتے، شہباز شریف عمران خان سے مذاکرات کیلئے آخری حدوں تک گئے

اسلام آباد (سٹاف رپورٹر) وزیر دفاع خواجہ آصف نے کہا ہے کہ عمران خان کے خلاف شواہد ملٹری ٹرائل کی طرف جا رہے ہیں، فیض حمید عمران خان کے خلاف وعدہ معاف گواہ بن سکتے ہیں۔ نجی ٹی وی پروگرام میں گفتگو کرتے ہوئے خواجہ آصف کا کہنا تھا کہ فیض حمید گرفتاری کے بعد بانی پی ٹی آئی عمران خان کے ساتھ رفاقتوں کے بارے میں بتا رہے ہوں گے، فیض حمید کی خواہش ہوگی کہ سارا ملبہ بانی پی ٹی آئی پر ڈالا جائے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ نو مئی کو جس شہر میں بھی احتجاج ہوا وہاں خاص طور پر فوجی تنصیبات کو نشانہ بنایا گیا، کچھ افراد ان کو ڈائریکٹ کر رہے تھے، یہ لازمی طور پر عمران خان کی ہدایات تھیں۔ وزیر دفاع کا کہنا تھا کہ ایک غم عمران خان کو اپنا اقتدار چھن جانے کا تھا تو دوسرا غم جنرل فیض کو بھی تھا، وہ آرمی چیف بننا چاہتے تھے، اس سلسلے میں انہوں نے مسلم لیگ ن سے بھی رابطہ کیا، پی ٹی آئی والے کہتے تھے اکتوبر میں ہماری حکومت آ رہی ہے، اس کا پس منظر یہ تھا کہ انہوں نے عدلیہ سے امیدیں وابستہ کی ہوئی ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ نیب میں ترامیم کا سلسلہ جب شروع ہوا اس وقت پرویز خٹک وزیر دفاع تھے، انہوں نے ہم سے رابطہ کیا ہم نے ان سے اتفاق کیا، اس کی کلیئرنس فیض حمید کی طرف سے آئی کہ بات چیت شروع کریں۔ خواجہ آصف کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ میاں شہباز شریف عمران خان سے مذاکرات کیلئے آخری حدوں تک گئے، غیر مشروط آفر کی لیکن انہوں نے ایک دفعہ بھی سیاسی قوتوں سے بات کرنے کی کوشش نہیں کی۔ وزیر دفاع خواجہ آصف نے کہا ہے کہ عمران خان کے خلاف شواہد ملٹری ٹرائل کی طرف جا رہے ہیں، فیض حمید عمران خان کے خلاف وعدہ معاف گواہ بن سکتے ہیں۔ نجی ٹی وی پروگرام میں گفتگو کرتے ہوئے خواجہ آصف کا کہنا تھا کہ فیض حمید گرفتاری کے بعد بانی پی ٹی آئی عمران خان کے ساتھ رفاقتوں کے بارے میں بتا رہے ہوں گے، فیض حمید کی خواہش ہوگی کہ سارا ملبہ بانی پی ٹی آئی پر ڈالا جائے۔

میرپور، یوم ختم نبوت کے موقع پر تحریک منہاج القرآن کے کارکن ریلی میں شریک ہیں

گجرات، ڈپٹی کمشنر صفدر حسین ورک کھلی کچہری کے موقع پر شہریوں کے مسائل سن رہے ہیں

The Asian Telegraph
www.theasiantelegraph.net
Monday, September 09, 2024

Ayaz pays tribute to Pakistan Navy

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, on Sunday paid homage to the officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Navy for their outstanding defense of the nation's maritime borders during the 1965 India-Pakistan war. In his message on Navy Day, he expressed pride in the Navy's capabilities, acknowledging the crucial role of the Navy, Air Force, and Army in making Pakistan's defense impenetrable.

Sadiq praised the Pakistan Navy for successfully defending the country's waters, despite limited resources, and inflicting significant damage on the Indian naval forces. "The Pakistan Navy has always safeguarded our seas," he said, highlighting the Navy's heroic efforts in destroying key enemy installations during the 1965 conflict.

He affirmed that the Navy remains ever-ready to protect the nation's waters and that the sacrifices of Pakistan's brave armed forces will always be remembered.

The Speaker expressed pride in the Navy's dedication to defending the nation, stating that any threat to the country will be met with a decisive response. DNA

Senator Irfan Siddiqui calls for unity to address economic challenges

ISLAMABAD: Senator Irfan Siddiqui of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Sunday emphasized the need for collective efforts to address Pakistan's economic challenges and extended an invitation to all stakeholders to contribute suggestions for achieving economic stability.

Talking to a private news channel, he also made it clear that his party leadership will not compromise on the incident that occurred on May 9, indicating a firm stance on the matter.

Senator Irfan Siddiqui's statement also conveyed a strong message regarding the incident on May 9, asserting that the PML-N leadership will not waver in their stance.

Senator Siddiqui is signalling that any discussions or negotiations will not come at the cost of compromising on this issue.

The senator also clarified that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party's claims about PML-N holding or offering talks are misleading and untrue.

He emphasized that no specific agenda has been discussed or raised with any party, contradicting PTI's assertions.

Senator Irfan Siddiqui has voiced concerns regarding the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) alleged involvement in the May 9 incident, questioning the actions of those responsible and calling for a thorough investigation to ensure accountability.

He has also stressed that the country's economy requires political stability and has invited all stakeholders to contribute suggestions for achieving economic stability. APP

ISLAMABAD: Disrupted Traffic system in the twin cities creating severe problems for citizens, the traffic on the Islamabad Express Highway is moving on the wrong lane. ONLINE

Shooting attack at the West Bank-Jordan border crossing kills 3 Israelis

ALLENBY CROSSING, West Bank: Three Israelis were shot and killed Sunday at the border crossing between the West Bank and Jordan, Israeli officials said, in what appeared to be an attack linked to the 11-month-old war in Gaza. Israel's military said the gunman approached the Allenby Bridge Crossing from the Jordanian side in a truck and opened fire at Israeli security forces, who killed him in a shootout. Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said the three Israelis were all men in their 50s. Relatives identified the gunman as Maher al-Jazi, a retired Jordanian soldier from Athroh, a town in the impoverished area of Maan.

Jordan is investigating the shooting, its state-run Petra News Agency reported. The Western-allied Arab country made peace with Israel in 1994 but is deeply critical of its policies toward the Palestinians. Jordan has a large Palestinian population and has seen mass protests against Israel over the war in Gaza. The Allenby crossing over the Jordan River, also known as the King Hussein Bridge, is mainly used by Palestinians and international tourists, as well as for cargo shipments. The crossing has seen few security incidents over the years, but in 2014 Israeli security guards shot and killed a Jordanian judge who they said had attacked them.

Authorities in Israel and Jordan said the crossing was closed until further notice. Israel later announced the closure of both of its land crossings with Jordan, near Beit Shean in the north and Eilat in the south.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned the attack and linked it to Israel's larger conflict with Iran and allied militant groups, including Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The Israeli-occupied West Bank has seen a surge of violence since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack out of Gaza triggered the war there. Israel has launched near-daily military arrest raids into dense Palestinian residential areas, and there has been a rise in Israeli settler violence and Palestinian attacks on Israelis.

Also on Sunday, loved ones mourned Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, an American-Turkish woman who was shot dead on Friday in the West Bank. She had been demonstrating against Israeli settlements there. The White House has said it was "deeply disturbed" and called on Israel to investigate, while her family seeks an independent investigation. Her body remained at a hospital in the West Bank city of Nablus.

In Gaza, meanwhile, an Israeli airstrike early Sunday killed five people, including two women, two children and a senior official in the Civil Defense — first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government.

The Civil Defense said the strike targeted the home of its deputy director for northern Gaza, Mohammed Morsi, in the urban Jabaliya refugee camp.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. The army says it tries to avoid harming civilians and only targets militants.

Another Israeli strike hit the Eid family home in the Nuseirat refugee camp and killed at least two girls, according to an Associated Press journalist who counted the bodies and witnesses. First responders were looking for others under the rubble. Gaza's Health Ministry says over 40,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since the war began. It does not differentiate between fighters and civilians in its count. The war has caused vast destruction and displaced around 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million, often multiple times.

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in their Oct. 7 attack. They abducted another 250 and are still holding around 100 after releasing most of the rest in exchange for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel during a weeklong cease-fire last November. Around a third of the remaining hostages inside Gaza are believed to be dead.

The United States, Qatar and Egypt have spent months trying to broker a cease-fire and the return of the hostages, but the negotiations have repeatedly bogged down.

Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem — territories the Palestinians want for a future state — in the 1967 Mideast war. Israel withdrew soldiers and settlers from Gaza in 2005 but maintained control over its airspace, coastline and most of its land crossings. Along with Egypt, it imposed a blockade on Gaza after Hamas seized power from rival Palestinian forces in 2007. AP

Ministry organizes 49th Seerat-un-Nabi Conference to promote religious harmony, unity

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony is organizing the 49th Seerat-un-Nabi Conference on the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awwal highlighting the significance of this blessed month in the Islamic calendar.

Through this annual feature, the ministry promotes religious harmony, tolerance, brotherhood, equality, respect for humanity, non-violence, unity, reconciliation, and dialogue in light of the current situation in the country.

Exchanging his views with this national news agency, Ministry's Spokesperson Muhammad Umar Butt informed that the conference comprises two main segments: the National Seerat and Naat Book Competition Awards Ceremony and the Seerat-un-Nabi Conference. He said the ministry invited entries in national, regional, and international languages (Arabic and English) for the National Seerat and Naat Book Competition Awards encouraging the participants to submit books and essays on Seerat and Naat within the stipulated timeframe.

Umar said the competition for the year 2024 was announced in January, and each selected book and essay was evaluated by a panel of at least three experts, who are PhD-level professors and specialists in their fields. The reports of these experts were then reviewed by an apex committee, which determines the winners, he said adding that a total of 164 books were submitted for this year's competition, with 30 individuals selected for awards. Additionally, he said 118 Seerat essays were received, and 33 individuals were awarded. A total of 63 individuals were recognized for their contributions this year, he maintained.

Umar said the Seerat-un-Nabi Conference is held annually to promote and disseminate the teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). He said renowned religious scholars from Pakistan and the Islamic world participate in this conference, which serves as a platform for dialogue, mutual understanding, and the reduction of differences among scholars.

Umar mentioned that the theme selected for this year's conference is "The State's Educational System in the Light of Seerat-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him)."

Recognizing the significance of the conference, he said the ministry publishes and distributes the proceedings and high-quality papers presented on this topic to institutions and libraries free of charge. These papers are also uploaded to the ministry's website, he added. Umar said as per schedule, the Seerat-un-Nabi Conference will be held on the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awwal, 1446 AH and the prime minister will be the chief guest at the opening session, while the president will preside over the second session. He said distinguished scholars and religious leaders from across the country will address the conference on the theme. Additionally, he said awards will be distributed to the winners of the National Seerat and Naat competitions. As part of the Seerat-un-Nabi celebrations, Umar said the ministry has also directed all federal and provincial ministries, departments, and educational institutions to organize events, gatherings, and programmes related to Seerat-un-Nabi throughout the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal. APP

ICT Police avert terror attack: Explosives and weapons seized in Sangjani

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police have successfully thwarted a potential terror attack by seizing a cache of dangerous weapons and explosives in the Sangjani area. According to an Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police spokesperson, heightened security alerts have been in place due to the ongoing threat of terrorism.

He said Search operations were being conducted in view of the threat of terrorism in the gatherings.

Considering these circumstances additional personnel were deployed in different areas of the city, he added. He said during a search operation in Sangjani, police discovered a suspicious bag.

Upon examination, the bag was found to contain destructive explosives, hand grenades, detonators, and other explosive materials, he said. He said the Bomb Disposal Squad of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police was immediately called to the scene and successfully neutralized the explosives.

Following the operation, the area was cordoned off, and a high alert has been issued throughout the city, he said adding that increased checks are now being conducted at all city entrances and exits as part of the enhanced security protocol.

Police officials have urged citizens to cooperate with the increased security measures and to report any suspicious activity by calling 15. He said search operations are ongoing, and law enforcement agencies continue their efforts to ensure the safety and security of the city. DNA

Tarar grieved over death of former director PTV News Athar Waqar Azeem

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of former PTV News Director Current Affairs Athar Waqar Azeem.

In a condolence message, the minister in his heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the family of the deceased

said, he was deeply saddened to hear the news of Athar Waqar Azeem's death. Athar Waqar Azeem's services to Pakistan Television will always be remembered, he maintained.

"Athar Waqar Azim's professional career spanning fifty years was a beacon of light future generations", he said adding that the vacuum created by Athar Waqar Azeem's death will never be filled.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude.

Unforgettable role of Pakistan Navy in the defense of country will always be remembered: Maryam Nawaz

Says Sep 8 commemorates sacrifices & extraordinary achievements of the leaders of Pakistan Navy

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that the unforgettable role of Pakistan Navy in the defense of the country will always be remembered.

In her message on Pakistan Navy Day, Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz said that she salutes the Pakistan Navy, which is responsible for protecting Pakistan's maritime borders, and the nation pays tribute to the achievements of the veterans of the Pakistan Navy.

She said that the officers and jawans of Pakistan Navy are the nation's pride. She saluted personnel of Pak Navy, serving to protect Pakistan's sea boundaries.

She said that September 8 commemorates the sacrifices and extraordinary achievements of the leaders of the Pakistan Navy. In 1965 and

1971, the Pakistan Navy defeated the enemy and caused irreparable damage.

Maryam Nawaz said the unforgettable role of Pakistan Navy in defense of the homeland will always be remembered in history, Pakistan Navy is a talented and dynamic professional naval force in the region.

27 dengue cases reported in Punjab over last 24 hours

LAHORE: According to a health department spokesperson, dengue fever cases are on the rise in Punjab, with 27 new cases reported in the last 24 hours.

Of the new cases, 19 were reported in Rawalpindi, Lahore, Chakwal, and Bahawalpur each reported two cases. Over the past seven days, Punjab has recorded 81 dengue cases.

"This year, 447 dengue cases have been reported in the province so far," the health department spokesperson said.

The Health Department has stated that all arrangements for anti-dengue measures have been completed. "All government hospitals have sufficient stocks of medicines, including those needed for dengue treatment," the spokesperson added.

Health officials are urging the public to take preventative measures, such as eliminating standing water and using mosquito repellents, to help curb the spread of the disease. INP

Governor Baluchistan appraises AIOU

QUETTA Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail on Sunday lauded the efforts of the management of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on creating opportunities for modern education and skills for overseas Pakistanis also which is ensuring that knowledge knows no borders.

Addressing the convocation of Allama Iqbal Open University Quetta Chapter, he said that Allama Iqbal Open University is a major source of imparting higher education in the country which simultaneously enlightens the minds of students from urban and rural areas of the country.

Jaffar Khan Mandokhail highlighted the uniqueness of AIOU providing education to students of any age, class and from all over the country. He expressed these views while addressing the participants of the convocation held at Noori Naseer Khan Cultural Complex on Sunday.

During the convocation, the graduates including 27 females were conferred with degrees and gold medals, which is an important milestone in their educational journey. Many distinguished guests, including Professor of Allama Iqbal Open University Dr Nasir Mahmood, Dean of Faculties, a large number of parents, teachers and graduating graduates attended the convocation.

Addressing the participants of the convocation, Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail said that AIOU is considered to be one of the most prominent universities in the world due to its distance education system. He added it is gratifying that Allama Iqbal Open University paves the way for a bright future by harnessing modern digital information technology to produce skilled manpower as per modern market demands.

Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan extended his heartfelt congratulations to all the new graduates of Allama Iqbal Open University and their parents. He said that a prestigious convocation is a testament to your success, dedication and perseverance.

He said that consistent with great wisdom and prudence which emphasizes on seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave. While congratulating AIOU on the successful convocation, he appreciated the conscious efforts of the Vice Chancellor and his entire team and said that he has high expectations from AIOU to continue the chain of imparting education and skills and stay up-to-date with the ever-changing world.

It may be mentioned that Allama Iqbal Open University has completed its fifty years of educational journey. Its regional campuses from Gilgit-Baltistan to Gwadar are striving to enlighten the minds of the new generation.Apart from this, till now the AIOU has reached thirty-six countries of the world, which is a source of pride for all of us. INP

ICCI President, Maldivian Ambassador discuss trade

ISLAMABAD: Maldivian High Commissioner Mohamed Thoha emphasized the need for direct air links between Maldives and Pakistan to foster brotherly relations and promote bilateral tourism. He made these remarks during a visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), where he met with President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari to explore new avenues of bilateral cooperation.

Thoha highlighted the rich trade and business potential between the two countries, particularly in the export of high-grade tuna from Maldives to Pakistan. He described Pakistan as a fascinating country with hospitable inhabitants and identified opportunities for strengthening business ties in sectors like fruit and vegetable exports.

The High Commissioner also showcased his country's investor-friendly environment, offering visa exemptions and real estate investment opportunities. He mentioned Maldives' plans to build 36,000 apartments in Male' and invited Pakistani investors to explore this sector.

Thoha emphasized the importance of reviving the South Asian Association of Regional States (SAARC) to strengthen regional cooperation.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari commended the High Commissioner's efforts to advance bilateral business ties and suggested collaborative efforts to promote tourism. He also highlighted

the potential for exchange programs, close collaboration between Chambers of Commerce, tuna imports, climate change initiatives, and ecotourism to enhance relations.

He also invited the visiting guest to join the ICCI's upcoming delegation to Swat Valley on September 22-23, which will include Ambassadors, diplomats, and business leaders. This trip aims to explore the valley's vast potential and uncover opportunities for collaboration and investment. Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General United Business Group (UBG) said that Maldives carries significance for Pakistan not only because of a Muslim country but also a member of the SAARC.

He praised the High Commissioner as a dynamic personality and expressed hope for strengthened relations during his tenure. He noted Pakistan's support for Maldivian diplomats and students, as well as Maldives' consistent support for Pakistan's candidatures in international bodies. DNA

Printed at Rouhani Art Press, Published by Amna Malik for Melange Media Group from Office # 408, 4th Floor, Evacuee Trust, Agha Khan Road, F-5/1 Islamabad