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PM vows relief for salaried class if inflation continues to fall

We are working day and night to end tax evasion by the elite: Shehbaz Sharif

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has announced that if the current trend of declining inflation continues, the government will ease the burden on the salaried class.

He emphasised that all sectors must contribute to the tax net, adding that overburdening a single sector is unjust. "Traders must play a greater role in expanding the tax base," he said.

Speaking during a meeting with young parliamentarians from the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) on Friday, the prime minister revealed that Pakistan's loan issue will be discussed at the upcoming IMF meeting in Washington on September 25. "This is a positive development," Sharif

said, noting that Pakistan's economic trajectory is slowly improving, with inflation rates dropping, remittances from overseas Pakistanis increasing, and a boost in exports. "These indicators demonstrate economic progress," he added.

Sharif acknowledged the challenges ahead but called for unwavering commitment. "It's a tough path, full of thorns. We must work day and night to reach our destination. Only nations that resolve to change their circumstances achieve progress," he remarked, highlighting the critical role of the youth in this journey.

He also mentioned the difficulties faced in meeting the IMF's targets, particularly the increased tax burden on the salaried class. "If inflation continues to decrease, we will reduce this burden," he promised.



Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir addressed Pakistani troops during a visit to Orakzai District

COAS vows to comprehensively defeat hostile terrorist nexus

APP

RAWALPINDI: Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir has reiterated the resolve to comprehensively defeat hostile terrorist nexus and eliminate activities in illegal spectrum.

He was interacting with the troops, who had participated in the recently conducted counter-terrorism actions in Tirah Valley and surroundings, in Orakzai District today.

Paying rich tribute to Shuhada and Ghazis of Army, and Law Enforcement Agencies, the Army Chief said the hard earned peace achieved with nation's great sacrifice would be maintained at all costs. He said sacrifice of our martyrs strengthen our resolve to fight with utmost dedication and spirit of sacrifice.

Syed Asim Munir lauded the contributions being made by the police and other law enforcement agencies in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said the Pakistan Army will continue to provide all out support to the Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa Police and other law enforcement agencies in enabling them to perform their duties in newly merged districts. He emphasized the need of continued capacity building of the law enforcement agencies.

The Army Chief also appreciated the support of local population in assisting security forces, noting that

their positive role is essential in sustaining peace in the area.

In his interaction with officers and troops, he commended their high morale and readiness to give effective response against all types of threat.

On the occasion, the Army Chief was given a comprehensive briefing on overall security situation, ongoing intelligence based counter-terrorism actions and multi-prong measures being undertaken to ensure stability in the merged districts.

Earlier upon arrival, the Army Chief laid the wreath at Yadgar e Shuhada and was received by Corps Commander Peshawar.

No justification for Governor's Rule in KPK: Fazlur Rehman

Dismisses Ali Amin Gandapur's claims of direct talks with Afghanistan

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has rejected claims made by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur regarding direct talks with Afghanistan, calling the statement far from reality.

The veteran political leader also clarified that the current situation in KPK does not warrant the imposition of governor's rule.

Speaking to Samaa TV, he acknowledged that law and order issues exist in several districts of KPK. However, he said that despite

these challenges, the province is not facing conditions severe enough to justify the imposition of governor's rule.

The JUI chief further described Gandapur's comments about holding direct talks with Afghanistan as an "emotional" outburst, disconnected from reality.

He underscored that international diplomatic matters are not handled in such a way and dismissed the notion as impractical.

Fazlur Rehman also mentioned that his party has put forward its own set of reforms related to constitutional amendments, although he did not elaborate on the specifics during this interaction.

Khawaja Asif reveals Ali Amin Gandapur's meeting with ISI officials after rally

INP

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif unearthed the facts related to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's mysterious disappearance after the August 8 rally in Islamabad on the floor of the National Assembly on Friday.

Khawaja Asif, while addressing the Lower House, disclosed that CM Gandapur was seen sitting with ISI officials in Kohsar after a rally, almost the whole night.

Khawaja Asif said, "CM Gandapur is a number two man, don't trust him." Khawaja Asif strongly criticised the double standards in politics and pointed out that the same leaders who once collaborated with state institutions are now speaking against them.

During his speech, Asif acknowledged a proposal presented by Bilawal Bhutto and noted that Speaker Ayaz Sadiq had formed a special committee to address the Parliament's concerns. However, the

defence minister expressed disappointment, stating that the committee's purpose was lost when it seemed tailored to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) interests. He said he had protested within the committee and declined to participate further, emphasising that the committee should represent the narrative of the House, not individual parties.

Addressing broader issues, Kh Asif condemned the lack of response to derogatory remarks made by Ali Amin Gandapur against the woman Chief Minister of Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

He highlighted that the current coalition government of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) has not used the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) against opponents, unlike during the PTI regime.

Khawaja Asif criticised the PTI for its past actions, including storming the Parliament, occupying the Prime Minister's House, and filing cases against the daughters of the sitting Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.



Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a meeting with a delegation of Young Parliamentarians held in Islamabad

NA speaker declares parliament lodges sub-jail to facilitate incarcerated PTI MNAs

APP

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Friday declared the parliament lodges sub-jail on the request of PTI MNAs.

All the incarcerated MNAs of PTI would be moved to parliament lodges today (Friday) while the arrangements in this regard have been finalised.

Earlier, Speaker Ayaz Sadiq held detailed consultation with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi over the request of PTI MNAs to move them to the lodges.

A notification to declare the parliament lodges sub-jail has been issued.

Earlier, the MNAs of PTI had requested the speaker to move them to the parliament lodges.

All the 10 arrested MNAs of PTI were earlier produced for the National Assembly session.

A heavy contingent of Islamabad police had escorted the members to Parliament House, where they were handed over to the acting Sergeant-at-Arms.

Every citizen disappointed with political situation: Bilawal

INP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto has stated that every citizen is disappointed with current political situation in the country. Speaking to media, Bilawal Bhutto mentioned that the biggest challenge for the government is constitutional amendments. He said that Zulfiqar Bhutto gave us the constitution, and through the 18th Amendment,

we restored it. Bilawal Bhutto added that no institution in the country is functioning properly. He cited the judiciary, saying that Shaheed Bhutto has only now received justice. If Bhutto's third generation had to wait for justice, what hope can the common man have? The PPP chairman also stressed the need for free and responsible journalism, stating that if an elected representative speaks against the media, the media must tolerate it.

ADB approves \$320m to improve climate-resilience, safety of roads in Pakistan

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$320 million loan to support the rehabilitation of roads in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan, enhancing safe and all-weather connectivity in rural areas.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Roads Development Project will upgrade around 900 kilometres of rural roads in the province that are susceptible to floods and are in poor condition, said a press release issued by the ADB in Islamabad on Friday. These cover key routes that link remote communities to education, health care, and markets, it said adding the project includes measures to incorporate climate-resilient design, road safety enhancement, and sustainable maintenance practices.

"Road transport is both a lifeline to the people and a key component of socioeconomic development in Pakistan. This vital infrastructure

project will reduce travel time, lower transportation costs, and increase access to economic opportunities for millions of residents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov.

"By providing better access to markets and services, we are empowering local communities and driving inclusive economic growth in one of Pakistan's most under-served regions," Zhukov added.

Annual rainfall and temperature patterns have significantly increased in parts of the province, and the lack of resilient infrastructure escalated the impact of disasters on people and livelihoods. Flooding events since 2010 have substantially damaged the road network, hampering connectivity and escalating transportation costs. The project will offer technical and financial support to assist the government in preparing long-term targeted interventions that will enhance the climate resilience and sustainability of the province's.

Judicial reforms: Govt set to introduce constitutional amendment as magic 'number achieved'

"Govt to table constitutional amendment in lower house today: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif"

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Amid rumours of a judiciary-centric legislation aiming to extend the retirement age of superior courts' judges, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has asserted that the government is poised to introduce a 'constitutional amendment' in the National Assembly (NA) tomorrow (Saturday) as it has achieved the 'magic number'.

"We have completed the number game in the lower house of parliament," he said in an informal conversation with journalists at the parliament's corridor on Friday. A session of the National Assembly has been summoned tomorrow, he confirmed.

The defence czar's remarks came amid reports suggesting that the government is mulling introducing a number of judicial reforms through a 'constitutional package', which also includes an extension in the retirement age of top courts' judges.

Article 179 of the Constitution envisages that a judge of the Supreme Court shall hold office until he attains the age of 65 years unless he sooner resigns or is removed from office under the Constitution. Article 195 of the Constitution says that a judge of a high court shall hold office until he attains the age of 62 years unless he sooner resigns or is removed

from office following the Constitution.

The government intends to increase the retirement age of Supreme Court judges to 68. In the case of high court judges, the retirement age will be increased to 65.

Despite being tight-lipped on the proposed amendments to the Constitution, the incumbent leadership left no stone unturned to secure the numbers required to ensure its passage from parliament.

The News, citing sources, reported that the government has managed a two-third majority in the lower-house. "We are short of only three votes in the Senate," the source said.

"We are expecting to get the magic number any time and as soon as it is achieved, the constitutional amendment will be introduced and passed by parliament," it added.

However, a day earlier, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) stopped its Senate members from any kind of voting on the proposed constitutional amendment.

In a letter to the members, JUIF parliamentary leader Kamran Murtaza said that nothing is clear regarding the constitutional amendment. Therefore, no voting should be done until the written decision of the party leadership is there.

Before the 2024 general elections, Fazl was one of the closest allies of the PML-N and the PPP and headed the multi-party opposition alliance — Pakistan Democratic Movement

(PDM) — which successfully ousted the former premier Imran Khan from office via a no-confidence motion in 2022.

Earlier, speculations about Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa's extension gained attraction after the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) sought an early issuance of notification regarding the next top judge last month.

"Won't accept individual specific legislation"

On September 10, CJP Isa termed his recent "off the record" conversation with journalists misinterpreted and clarified that he would not accept any "individual specific" proposal on fixing the tenure of the country's top judge.

In a statement, CJP's Secretary Muhammad Mushtaq Ahmad stated that the top judge was surrounded by journalists who spoke to him and asked him questions following the commencement of the proceedings of the event to mark the judicial year on Monday.

The secretary confirmed that Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar had met Justice Isa in his chamber several months ago and had stated that the federal government was considering making the "position of the Chief Justice of Pakistan a fixed tenure post for three years".

The chief justice informed the journalists that he told the law minister, that "if the proposal was individual specific, and if enacted, it would not be something he would accept".

Imran Khan should have been out of jail by now: Omar Ayub

INP

LAHORE: Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan said on Friday that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan should have been released by now as all cases against him were bogus.

Speaking to reporters outside an anti-terrorism court (ATC), Lahore, the opposition leader said that if the PTI founder's stay was prolonged in jail, his life would become more endangered, pointing out that the PTI leaders were whisked away from inside the parliament which also merited an inquiry.

He said he used to study in Lahore where people rejected the government on Feb 8 and voted for the PTI. "The PTI founder was not involved in any case. The agreements with the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) were finalised during the PPP and the PML-N's tenure. According to these agreements, you are given capacity payments whether you produce electricity or not. When I was the energy minister, we brought the rate down to 2.5 cents," he reiterated. Meanwhile an ATC court in Lahore conducted hearing of May 9 cases against the PTI leaders. ATC duty judge Arshad Javed heard the case where Ayub appeared along with Azam Swati, Jamshed Cheema and Musarrat Cheema while Asad Umar filed application for exemption from hearing citing medical reasons. The court extended interim bails till Oct 8.

Pakistan committed to strengthen ties with European Union: Ayaz

INP

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Friday said that Pakistan highly valued its relationship with the European Union and was committed to strengthening that bond into a robust strategic partnership.

"Pakistan is a multi-cultural, multi-religious and multi-national country, where citizens enjoy fundamental rights as guaranteed by the Constitution," he said during a meeting with the EU delegation, led by Frans van Daele, Special Envoy of the European Union, at the Parliament House, Dr Reena Kavinka, EU's Ambassador to Pakistan was also present in the meeting.

The speaker further highlighted that the Parliament had consistently undertaken initiatives to safeguard the rights and welfare of all Pakistanis.

Ayaz Sadiq acknowledged the significant role that minorities play in Pakistan's national development and prosperity.

He reiterated that the Parliament was committed to promoting religious harmony and had ensured full representation of minority communities in the legislative body. "The international community should recognize the severe human rights violations occurring in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, and Gaza," he said, urging the global community to take action to halt the ongoing atrocities in the regions.

EU's Special Envoy Frans van Daele acknowledged Pakistan's importance on the global stage and expressed the European Union's desire to further strengthen ties with the country.

Imran Khan claims 'establishment' responsible for Ali Amin Gandapur's alleged disappearance

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding leader Imran Khan has alleged that the establishment is responsible for the disappearance of Ali Amin Gandapur adding that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister has remained silent out of loyalty and respect for the establishment.

Speaking informally to journalists at Adiala Jail on Friday, Imran further claimed that the current situation in the country is reminiscent of "Yahya Khan Part II," accusing the establishment of undermining the country's institutions.

He stated that public trust in the police and lower judiciary has diminished, citing an alleged incident of a judge taking three hours of instructions before ruling against Bushra Bibi. The PTI chairman welcomed Maulana Fazlur Rehman's statement against extending tenures for military and judicial officials, expressing relief that the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief does not support such extensions. He also criticised Nawaz Sharif for what he said was an attack on the judiciary carried out by allegedly offering extensions. Imran specifically targeted Supreme Court Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa over the extension issue.

PM chairs high-level review meeting on Monkeypox situation

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the current situation and precautionary measures being taken to prevent the spread of Monkeypox (Mpx) in the country.

The prime minister emphasized the importance of vigilance and preparedness, directing authorities to adopt all necessary measures to prevent the virus from spreading within the country.

"All necessary precautionary measures to prevent Monkeypox should be adopted," the prime minister said directing the officials concerned to raise public awareness about preventive steps.

He also instructed that scanning at all airports, seaports, and land entry points must be strictly enforced to detect any potential cases. The prime minister said Pakistan was not currently facing an emergency situation related to Monkeypox. However, he stressed the need for continued preparedness, particularly by the

Ministry of Health and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). He called for the establishment of quarantine centers across the country to accommodate any affected individuals.

During the briefing, officials informed the prime minister that while the African continent remained the most affected by Monkeypox, Pakistan had so far recorded only five cases, all diagnosed after individuals arrived in the country from abroad. The detected cases were of the Clade-II strain, which was considered relatively less dangerous.

It was informed that daily review meetings on the situation were being held at the National Command and Operation Center (NCO) to ensure real-time monitoring and response. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also maintaining communication with Pakistani embassies abroad regarding the global Monkeypox situation.

The provinces have been directed to procure and stock testing kits and other equipment, while quarantine centers have been set up in major cities across the country.



Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) Central Leader, Mir Ijaz Sanjrani exchanging views with Sardar Noor Baksh and Yaqoob Narwai, Assistant Commissioner Musakhel during meeting held in Quetta

Hafiz Hamdullah criticizes governor position, advocates for talks with Afghanistan

INP

PESHAWAR: Hafiz Hamdullah, a senior leader of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) party, has expressed strong criticism regarding the role of the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, suggesting that it might be more fruitful to engage in selling 'pakoras' than to assume such a position.

Hamdullah's remarks were made in response to recent comments by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur concerning dialogue with Afghanistan.

While talking with private TV channel, JUI-F leader Hamdullah questioned why there can be discus-

sions with India but not with Afghanistan.

He criticized the federal government's stance on engaging with neighboring countries, highlighting the Chief Minister's frustration with the federal administration's lack of progress in addressing regional issues. According to Hamdullah, the Chief Minister's call for talks with Afghanistan reflects the urgent need for dialogue, especially in light of ongoing regional challenges.

Hamdullah emphasized that if the federal government is unwilling to engage with Afghanistan, the position of the Governor holds little value. He suggested that the Governor's role would be more ben-

eficial if it were reimagined or replaced with more practical endeavors like selling pakoras.

In contrast, Afghan Consul General Hafiz Mohibullah Shaki, who is stationed in Peshawar, met with Chief Minister Gandapur on Thursday to discuss various bilateral issues. The discussions focused on enhancing trade, promoting regional peace and stability, and addressing challenges faced by Afghan citizens residing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Chief Minister KP Gandapur highlighted the deep-rooted connections between the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Afghanistan, noting their shared linguistic, religious, cultural, and human ties.

US-Pakistan economic ties strengthen through 'Pakistan Investment Roadshow'

APP

ISLAMABAD: The long-standing partnership between the United States (US) and Pakistan continues to grow stronger, as innovative economic initiatives take center stage in the evolving relationship between the two nations.

The recently concluded Pakistan Investment Roadshow, organized by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under its Investment Promotion Activity, showcased the potential of Pakistani businesses to prominent US investors.

The events, held in New York, San Francisco, and Washington DC, highlighted Pakistan's burgeoning technology and innovation sectors, said a press release on Friday. As part of USAID's broader mission to promote economic growth in Pakistan, the roadshow aimed to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and increase bilateral trade. The initiative focused on raising \$15 million in FDI commitments by connecting 27 select Pakistani firms with US investors eager to explore emerging markets. The featured companies represented sectors such as artificial intelligence, health tech, fintech, ed-tech, agri-tech, climate-tech, and software.

BISP takes steps to transfer funds directly to bank accounts of deserving women: Rubina Khalid

APP

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid Friday said that steps are being taken to transfer funds directly to the bank accounts of deserving women.

She said this step has been taken in pursuance of the directives of President Asif Ali Zardari, and in consultation with the State Bank of Pakistan.

This initiative aims to ensure that beneficiaries can access their entitlements more easily, transparently, and with dignity. Senator Rubina Khalid shared these remarks while speaking to the media at the BISP office in Chilas.

She said, "The purpose of my visit here is to directly meet deserving women and know their challenges. I am visiting various locations across the country to better comprehend the issues they face."

Two terrorists shot dead in CTD operation

INP

DERA GHAZI KHAN: An exchange of fire occurred between the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and terrorists from Fitna-ul-Khawarij in Dera Ghazi Khan on Friday.

According to the channel report, during the heavy gunfight with the CTD team, two terrorists were killed, while two managed to escape.

A CTD police spokesperson stated that the operation was intelligence-based and aimed at arresting the terrorists.

However, the terrorists opened fire on the CTD team, which led to a fire-fight. Notably, the two Khawarij terrorists were killed by the crossfire from their own comrades. The CTD recovered hand grenades, two rifles, bullets, and explosive materials from the terrorists' hideout. It was revealed that the terrorists had completed planning attacks on sensitive installations.

PML-N government will resolve economic woes, asserts Maryam Nawaz

By Maqsood Khalid

LAHORE: CM Maryam Nawaz has hailed PM Shehbaz Sharif's sincere efforts for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) executive board session.

Punjab CM asserted that PM Shehbaz Sharif and his team played a pivotal role to mitigate the economic crisis, declaring the IMF response a positive indicator for economic development.

She insisted that Pakistan's economy had been at the track of take-off position for high flight, comparing it to the path of progress and development.

Maryam Nawaz asserted that the current IMF program would be the last program and soon Pakistan would emerge as an economic power. She stressed that the PML-N government under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif was committed to resolving the economic crisis and public woes. Punjab CM highlighted that decrease in government economic policy rate would create a positive impact on business and economy. Maryam Nawaz claimed that investors' confidence was increasing day by day. Punjab CM had also boasted that rates of essential items were lower than other provinces that provided relief to inflation-stricken public.



Al-Nasr Welfare Foundation Balochistan Chairman, Ismatullah addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club



Peoples Party (PPP) Balochistan Secretary Information, Sardar Sarbuland Jozgezi addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club



Afghanistan-New Zealand Test faces complete washout after day four called off

SPORTS DESK

GREATER NOIDA: Rain forced the fourth successive day of the only Test between Afghanistan and New Zealand to be called off on Thursday, leaving the match in danger of being washed out without a ball being bowled.

With overnight downpours falling on an already saturated Greater Noida ground, umpires inspected before the scheduled start time of 9:30am (0400 GMT) and declared that no play would be possible.

The officials will inspect again at 8:00am (0230 GMT) on Friday's final day with the Test set to become only the eighth in history to be abandoned without a ball being bowled — and the first for more than a quarter of a century.

The last time an entire Test was washed out was in December 1998 when New Zealand hosted India in Dunedin.

An abandoned 1970 Test match between Australia and England in Melbourne gave birth to one-day international cricket.

The two teams instead decided to play a 40-over contest on the originally scheduled fifth day once the weather had relented and it was later officially recognised as the first-ever ODI.

Afghanistan are unable to play international matches at home because of the security situation Afghanistan's adopted Greater Noida home ground, near New Delhi, has seen incessant rain for two weeks.

Afghanistan have successfully played six Twenty20 and five One-day Internationals at the Greater Noida venue since 2017.



Pakistan Women Cricket Team Players are warming up and improve their cricketing techniques during the net practice match for the upcoming three International T20 Series with South Africa, in Multan.

Pakistan cruise into Asian hockey semi-final with dominant win over China

SPORTS DESK

HULUNBUIR: Pakistan stormed into the semi-finals of the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy with a resounding 5-1 victory over hosts China at the Moqi Hockey Training Base on Thursday, setting up a potential showdown with arch-rivals India in the final.

In a dominant display, Nadeem Ahmed and Hannan Shahid scored two goals each, while Abdul Rehman added another to seal a comfortable win for Pakistan.

The victory marked Pakistan's second win in the tournament, following a 2-1 triumph over Japan in their previous match on Wednesday.

Pakistan's captain, Ammad Shakeel Butt, led by example as his team showcased their defensive and attacking prowess.

The goals came in a flurry, with Abdul Rehman opening the scoring in the 23rd minute, followed by Nadeem's double in the 36th and 56th minutes, respectively. Hannan then took center stage, scoring in the 46th and 60th minutes to complete the rout.

"We have worked hard as a team and these results are part of a collective team effort," said Hannan, who was named the hero-of-the-match, in the post match interview. Pakistan's improved discipline was also a key factor in their victory, with the team committing only one foul throughout the match.

"Previously we were conceding too many cards, but now we've learned from our mistakes and controlled them," Hannan added.

China's solitary goal came courtesy of Gao Jiasheng in the 48th minute, but it was a mere consolation in a match that Pakistan controlled from start to finish.

With this win, Pakistan joins India in the semi-finals, setting up a potential dress rehearsal for the final when the two teams meet in their final group match on Saturday. Hannan also expressed his admiration for his Indian counterparts, saying, "I share a positive relationship with Indian players and I consider them as my brothers." However, he was quick to emphasize that on the match day Pakistan will play on their strengths and give their best to secure the victory.

Head, Zampa star as Australia beat England in first T20

SPORTS DESK

SOUTHAMPTON: Travis Head made a valuable 59 and leg-spinner Adam Zampa took two cheap wickets as Australia beat England by 28 runs in the first T20 international at Southampton.

Opening batsman Head's quickfire innings was the cornerstone of Australia's seemingly below-par 179 all out.

But with Zampa taking an economical 2-20 in a match where England's slow bowlers also impressed, it was more than enough as the hosts were dismissed for 151 to leave Australia 1-0 up in a three-match series.

"It was a nice start," said player-of-the-match Head at the presentation ceremony, adding: "For me it was about using the pace well which I think I did." Stand-in England captain Phil Salt, leading the team in place of the injured Jos Buttler, said: "Everything was good (about captaincy) apart from the result." Turning to Head's 23-ball innings, that featured eight fours and four sixes, Salt said: "When the ball starts flying like that it is all about how to shut him down. 'Maybe we could have done a bit better but it has given something to get clarity on in the next game.'"

Australia captain Mitchell Marsh praised Head and opening partner Matthew Short for their "exciting" start before also lauding Zampa and experienced Josh Hazlewood.

"We're lucky to have guys like Adam Zampa and Josh Hazlewood in our team, especially for some of our younger guys to learn from," he said. "I went back to them and they both applied the pressure when needed."

BARTLETT INJURED

One downside for Australia was that paceman Xavier Bartlett left the field before completing his four overs, with Marsh saying: "I think he's hurt his thigh."

"It's always disappointing to see a young fellow go down but hopefully it's not too bad."

England collapsed to 52-4 inside eight overs in their first limited-overs international since sacking white-ball coach Matthew Mott after the Austr-alian presided over lacklustre defences of their 50-over and T20 World Cup titles. Jordan Cox, one of three England debutants, fell for 17 when he was brilliantly caught in the deep, with the sprinting Tim David diving full length to hold a two-handed chance over his shoulder.



HULUNBUIR: Players in action during the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy match between Pakistan and China at the Moqi Training Base.

Advertisement for 'Dahat Gudi Mastung' (دهشت گردی مستونگ) featuring contact information and a QR code.

Advertisement for 'Executive Engineer Buildings' (Executive Engineer Buildings CW, PP & H Department District Khuzdar) with contact details.

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Monetary easing

CONTINUING ongoing monetary easing, the State Bank has slashed its key policy rate by 200bps from 19.5pc to 17.5pc for the third time since June. Cumulatively, the bank has sliced the interest rates by 450bps from the decade-high of 22pc in three months.

The fresh reduction in the borrowing costs shows the central bank's confidence over recent economic stability amid hopes that the IMF Board would approve the new loan programme by the end of this month. The rate cut was widely anticipated amid a sharp drop in headline inflation to a single digit in August, and growth in the delta between the current CPI reading and the SBP's policy rate to 10 percentage points.

The surprise in the policy decision was the quantum of the rate reduction. The bank said its decision was informed by the sharp fall in both headline and core inflation. The faster disinflation, resulting from a delay in the implementation of the planned increase in the administered domestic energy prices, as well as the decline in global oil and food prices has somewhat exceeded SBP expectations.

Additionally, the rate cut is driven by a sharp fall in global oil prices despite market volatility, stable SBP forex reserves at around \$9.5bn in spite of weak official inflows and continued debt repayments, and improvement in inflation expectations and business confidence. Still, the quantum of the latest rate cut is believed to have been dictated by a large decline in the secondary market yields of government securities.

While there is no uncertainty about continued monetary easing over the next few reviews, experts are divided on the extent of future rate cuts and the pace at which these should be done. The delta between inflation and policy rate suggests another couple of sharp rate cuts in November and December.

But if future monetary policy is to continue focusing on maintaining positive real interest rates to lower inflation to the 5pc-7pc target by the end of next September and ensure macroeconomic stability, the pace of future rate cuts would have to be slowed down.

The SBP itself has underlined that the near-term inflation outlook is susceptible to risks. Core inflation is still high and consumers' inflation expectations increasing further. Also, there is uncertainty stemming from the timing and magnitude of adjustments in administered energy prices, the future course of global commodity prices, and any additional taxation measures to meet the shortfall in revenue collection.

On balance, the bank's view is that average inflation will fall below the forecast range of 11.5pc-13.5pc for FY25.

But this will depend on targeted fiscal consolidation and the timely realisation of planned external inflows. Thus, it would be prudent to first evaluate how enduring the plunge in inflation is before slashing the rate further.

By Khawaja Farooq

Donald Trump Stands Firm Against 'Baseless Accusations' in Fiery Debate with Kamala Harris, Exposes 'Useless Talk' and Defends Record in Debate Clash

In a fiery and contentious presidential debate, Donald Trump made it clear that he would not be deterred by what he described as "fake allegations" and "useless talk" from Vice President Kamala Harris. Throughout the debate, Trump demonstrated his trademark resilience, pushing back against Harris's attacks and focusing on his vision for America's future.

From the outset, Trump set the tone by addressing what he called the "baseless accusations" being thrown at him. "These are just more lies from the left," Trump stated firmly, as Harris attempted to criticize his past policies and personal conduct. "The American people are smart enough to see through this nonsense. They want real answers, not the empty rhetoric we're hearing tonight."

Trump used the debate platform to highlight his accomplishments, from revitalizing the economy to enhancing national security, and he didn't hesitate to call out Harris for what he saw as her lack of substance. "All we hear from her are attacks and false claims," Trump said. "Where are the real solutions? Where is the vision for the future?"

Harris, while attempting to maintain her composure, repeatedly clashed with Trump as he interrupted to correct what he saw as inaccuracies. On topics ranging from immigration to healthcare, Trump rebutted Harris's points with forceful clarity, emphasizing his commitment to the American people. He accused Harris of focusing on "political theater" rather than addressing the issues that matter most to voters.

A key moment in the debate came when Trump challenged Harris on her handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic policy.

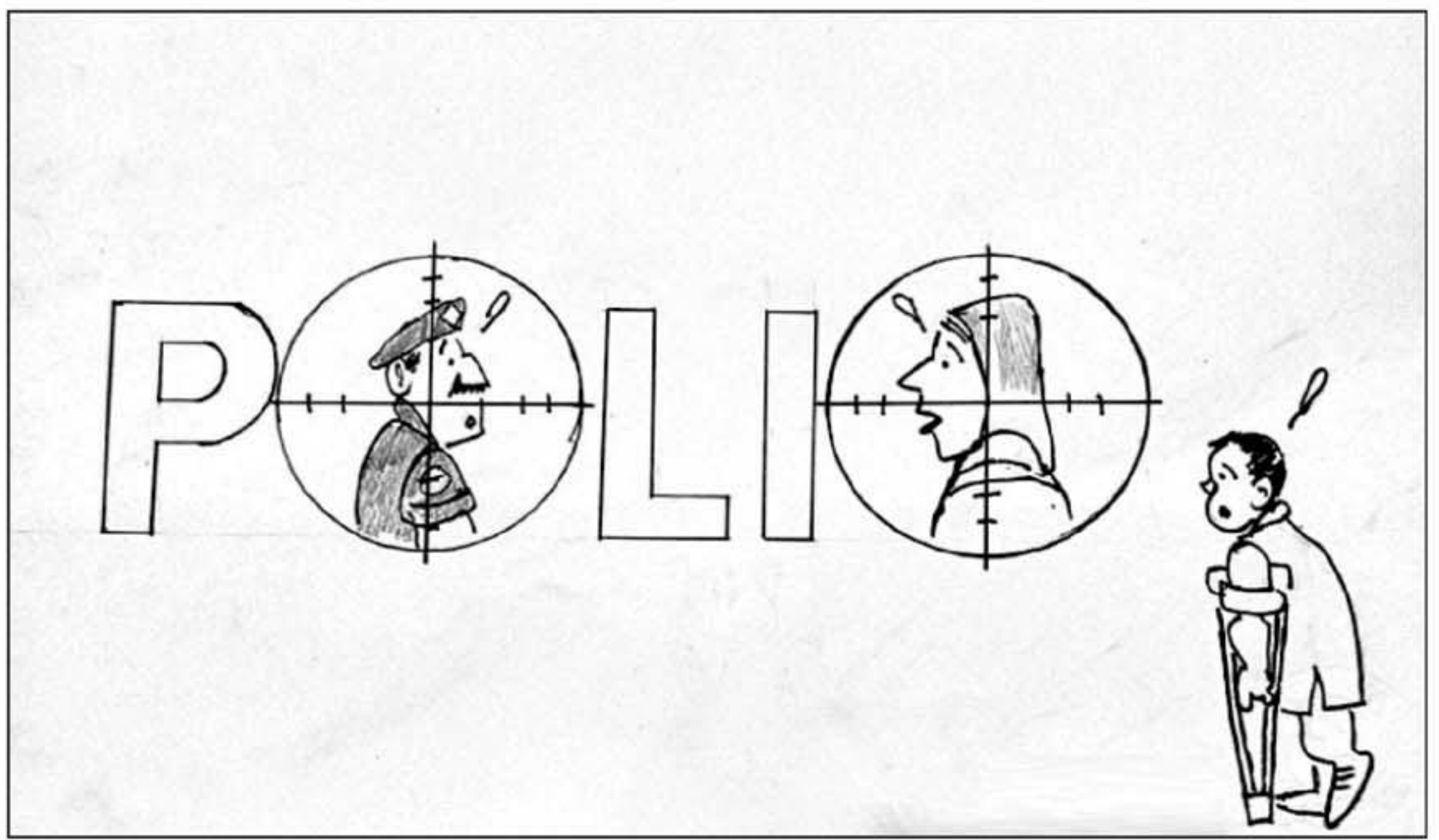
"Under my leadership, we created the strongest economy this country has ever seen," Trump said. "We rebuilt after a global pandemic, and we did it while cutting taxes and reducing regulations. That's real leadership."

Harris's attempts to shift the focus back to Trump's past actions were met with firm resistance. Trump insisted that Harris was out of touch with the everyday concerns of Americans, accusing her of prioritizing "political points over people."

The debate was a clear display of Trump's unwavering stance against what he perceives as a campaign of misinformation. By calling out Harris's "fake allegations" and refusing to be sidetracked by "useless talk," Trump positioned himself as the candidate willing to fight for truth and take on the Washington establishment.

As the debate concluded, Trump's supporters praised his performance, viewing it as a strong stand against the political status quo. His clear message resonated: Trump is not backing down, and he is ready to continue the fight for America's future.

With the election drawing closer, Trump's direct and unapologetic approach may prove to be a decisive factor in winning over voters who are tired of politics as usual and are seeking a leader who stands firm in the face of adversity.



By Shaikh Moazam Khan

A Hub For The Training Of Suicide Bombers

Afghanistan, long regarded as a battlefield of geopolitical interests and regional conflicts, has taken on a more sinister identity in recent years: a hub for the training and indoctrination of suicide bombers. The rise of extremist ideologies and the influence of militant groups within the country have made Afghanistan a breeding ground for individuals willing to sacrifice their lives for violent causes. This article aims to explore how Afghanistan became a training center for suicide bombers, the key players involved, the socio-political factors that contribute to the problem, and the regional and global implications of this grim reality.

Several militant groups have contributed to the spread of suicide bombing tactics in Afghanistan, with the Taliban and the Haqqani Network being the most prominent. The Haqqani Network, a close ally of the Taliban, has been particularly adept at using suicide bombers to target both military and civilian infrastructure. Known for its ruthlessness, the group has ties with al-Qaeda and has benefited from foreign funding, particularly from elements within Pakistan's security apparatus during the Cold War and post-9/11 periods.

Suicide bombers in Afghanistan are often recruited through a combination of ideological indoctrination, coercion, and socio-economic desperation. Extremist madrasas (religious schools) in parts of Afghanistan and Pakistan serve as breeding grounds for young minds, where impressionable youths are taught to embrace martyrdom as a path to paradise. The use of religious texts is manipulated to legitimize violent jihad and the act of suicide bombing, which is portrayed as a sacred duty in the fight against "infidels" and enemies of Islam.

These madrasas, often operating in remote and impoverished regions, target vulnerable children, particularly orphans and those from impoverished backgrounds.

The lack of formal education, coupled with the allure of financial incentives, makes these youths prime targets for recruitment. Once indoctrinated, they undergo rigorous training in the handling of explosives, surveillance, and the execution of suicide attacks.

The training camps for suicide bombers are often hidden in remote, mountainous regions of Afghanistan. These camps are difficult to locate and destroy due to the challenging terrain and the ability of militant groups to blend in with local populations. Training in these camps is brutal, with recruits subjected to psychological manipulation and physical conditioning to prepare them for their final mission. In some cases, coercion is used, with individuals being threatened or their families being put in danger if they refuse to carry out an attack.

The socio-political environment in Afghanistan has been a key factor in the proliferation of suicide bombers. Decades of war,

poverty, and weak governance have left the Afghan state unable to provide basic services, education, or security to its population. This vacuum has been exploited by militant groups that offer an alternative narrative to marginalized communities. The appeal of extremist ideologies is often rooted in the disillusionment of people who feel abandoned by their government and the international community.

The economic devastation in Afghanistan, particularly in rural areas, has made it easy for militant groups to offer financial incentives to potential recruits. In a country where opportunities are scarce, the promise of money for a family in exchange for martyrdom can be a powerful motivator. Additionally, the Afghan government's inability to control its borders has allowed militants to move freely between Afghanistan and Pakistan, further fueling the flow of recruits and resources for suicide bombing campaigns.

The tribal dynamics in Afghanistan also play a role in the recruitment of suicide bombers. In some cases, tribal leaders are co-opted by militant groups, either through financial incentives or coercion, to provide young men for suicide missions. In other cases, the longstanding grievances between tribes are exploited by militants to create divisions and fuel violence.

Afghanistan's role as a hub for the training of suicide bombers has far-reaching implications for the region and the world. The rise of ISKP has heightened concerns about Afghanistan becoming a launching pad for attacks beyond its borders. Countries in Central Asia, Iran, Pakistan, and even India have been on high alert as militants trained in Afghanistan have been implicated in plots and attacks.

Moreover, the return of the Taliban to power in 2021, following the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO forces, has raised concerns about whether the group will once again allow Afghanistan to become a safe haven for international terrorist groups. Although the Taliban has promised to prevent groups like al-Qaeda from operating in Afghanistan, its historical ties to these organizations and the presence of ISKP present significant challenges to these assurances.

Afghanistan's transformation into a hub for the training of suicide bombers is a tragic outcome of decades of war, instability, and extremist influence.

The presence of militant groups like the Taliban, Haqqani Network, and ISKP has ensured that suicide bombing remains a key tactic in the region's ongoing conflicts. Addressing this issue will require a multi-faceted approach, including stronger governance, economic development, and regional cooperation to cut off the flow of recruits and resources to these groups. Without such efforts, Afghanistan will continue to pose a significant threat to both regional and global security as a breeding ground for suicide bombers.

DAILY MIRROR

PTI's Barrister Gohar urges CJP Isa to confirm stance on extension

PTI chief said that if CJP Isa rejects an extension, it would set a 'clear precedent'

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has maintained that if Supreme Court Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa should confirm whether or not he is accepting an extension, it will "clarify" many ongoing concerns.

Speaking to the media, Barrister Gohar emphasised the heavy responsibility on Chief Justice Isa's shoulders.

He noted, "If Justice Faez Isa refuses to accept an extension, it will set a clear precedent and trend. We respect all judges."

During his remarks, Gohar also expressed frustration over being silenced in the assembly, particularly when responding to comments made by Defence Minister Khawaja Asif.

He criticised Asif's language towards the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister, condemning his words.

"We may be in the opposition, but we are not your servants," Gohar said. "If we speak, you should have the courage to listen."

Today, Federal Defence Minister Khawaja Asif while speaking on the floor of the NA claimed that PTI leader Ali Amin Gandapur spent the entire night at the Kohsar Complex asking for forgiveness.

Speaking on a point of order, Khawaja Asif criticised Gandapur, calling him "a two-faced man" and urging others not to trust him.

The minister expressed frustration with the recent meetings of a parliamentary special committee, which he alleged was focused on solving PTI's issues rather than addressing the broader concerns of parliament.

Gohar also condemned Asif's mention of the special committee in the

assembly, calling it an improper practice.

"You only told half the story. We are not walking out; we are here to strengthen this forum. Our women and children have been mistreated," he added.

Meanwhile earlier today, PTI leader Omar Ayub condemned the legal actions against the party's founder, labeling the cases as "bogus" and asserting that he should have been released by now.

In a statement, Ayub criticized the government for detaining the PTI founder in connection with the Tashakhana 2 case, arguing that his imprisonment is unjustified.

"He should have been released yesterday or the day before," Ayub said.

He also referred to September 9 as a "black day" for Parliament, expressing his dissatisfaction with recent political developments.



QUETTA: Speaker Balochistan Provincial Assembly Captain (R) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai in a meeting with Provincial Minister Irrigation Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani.

Standing Committee Irked Over Non Formation of Zakat Council

APP

QUETTA: Chairman Standing Committee on Zakat, Ushr, Hajj & Auqaf, Minority and Youth Affairs Fazal Qadir MandoKhel on Friday took serious notice of the non formation of zakat Council.

A meeting of the Standing Committee on Zakat, Ushr, Hajj & Auqaf, Minority Affairs, and Youth Affairs was held in the Committee Room of the Balochistan Assembly here.

The session was chaired by Fazal Qadir MandoKhel, with members Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, Safia Fazal, and Parliamentary Secretary Sanjay Kumar in attendance. During the meeting, secretaries from the departments of Minority Affairs, Hajj, Zakat, and Ushr provided briefings on their departments' responsibilities, performance, and the challenges they face.

The Zakat department revealed that due to the non-formation of the Zakat Council and pending regulations, financial aid has not been provided to 32,500 registered families for the past 1.5 years.

Chairman Fazal Qadir MandoKhel took serious notice of this issue, urging the immediate disbursement of Zakat funds to registered families, ensuring that the deserving families receive their due assistance.

PE gas pipelines installed to replace corroded supply line: Musadik

INP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Energy, Senator, Musadik Masood Malik on Friday said the PE pipelines have been installed instead of steel to replace the corroded lines in Pindi's union council.

Responding to a query of Senator Kamran Murtaza about the replacement of steel pipelines with PE in the Sui Gas pipeline in Chak Jalal-ud-Din, Girja Road UC No. 89, District Rawalpindi, the minister said as per the old infrastructure the sewage, water and gas pipelines were laid together that resulted in corrosion due to leakage in the sewage and water pipes. "PE pipes do not corrode and have less cost and longer life than the steel pipes. There have been 1.25 inches of pipelines

PM directs for capacity building measures for SMEs

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed for taking measures for the capacity building of Small and Medium Enterprises to make them more profitable.

He was chairing the first meeting of the Steering Committee of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority in Islamabad today.

Declaring the SME sector as an engine of national development, the Prime Minister said expanding exports of Small and Medium Enterprises is imperative for the country's economy. He also instructed that the SMEDA Board be made functional immediately.

The Prime Minister said that large private business entities have a responsibility to support small and medium enterprises. He noted that half of the country's population consists of women, and their role in the national economy is extremely

important. He directed that women entrepreneurs be specially included in all decisions related to Small and Medium Enterprises in the country.

The Prime Minister emphasized that all products prepared for export should meet international standards.

The meeting was briefed about the strategy for the development of Small and Medium Enterprises in the country. It was stated that experts with international reputation will be hired for the development of SMEs.

The briefing mentioned that the introduction of technology to produce textile products from recycled materials will help combat climate change. The government will assist in providing loans on easy installments for starting new businesses.

It was also stated that under SMEDA, all policies for the development of Small and Medium Enterprises will be formulated, based on the latest data.

Govt financing construction of 32 dams during current FY: NA told

By Zahid Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly was informed today that the federal government is financing construction of thirty-two dams during the current fiscal year.

Minister for Water Resources Musadik Malik told the House during Question Hour today that once completed, these projects would have a capacity to store about 8,429,288 acre feet of water. The new areas which would come under irrigation after completion of the dams would be 436,934 acres.

Musadik Malik informed the House that each province is getting its water share. He said a contract has also been awarded for installation of an automatic telemetry system to end water related dis-

putes among the provinces.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar told the House that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed National Vocational and Technical Training Commission to train nurses as per the international standards. He said this will enable Pakistan to meet demand of nurses both at home and abroad.

Taking the floor, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif expressed regret that during the meeting of special committee formed by the Speaker, PTI leaders reiterated their grievances, which had already been discussed in the House.

The Federal Minister said the members from both sides of the house condemned the incident that took place in the parliament house.

Tribute event in Dhaka marks Quaid-e-Azam's death anniversary

NEWS DESK

DHAKA: A ceremony was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, to pay tribute to Pakistan's founder, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, on his death anniversary.

The event, organised by the Nawab Salimullah Academy, took place at the Tofazzal Hossain Manik Mia Hall of the National Press Club, where banners displayed Quaid's famous motto, "Unity, Faith, and Discipline."

The ceremony was attended by the Pakistani Deputy High Commissioner, Kamran Dhangal, along with scholars, journalists, writers, historians, and citizens.

Speakers highlighted the significance of Quaid-e-Azam's leadership in the creation of Pakistan and the Pakistan Movement.

Six Parliamentarians from Balochistan to be Honoured for Outstanding Services

APP

QUETTA: Six parliamentarians from Balochistan would be honoured for their outstanding services and to discuss this, Chairman of Balochistan International Think Tank, Awais Jadoon, met with the Speaker of the Balochistan Assembly, Captain (R) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, in his chamber.

The meeting discussed awarding outstanding parliamentarians with the Quaid-e-Azam International Award, Nelson Mandela Award, and Imam Khomeini Award. It may be recalled that these awards will be given to members of the assembly for their parliamentary services, human rights efforts, dedication to upholding the rule of law and constitution, establishing democracy, and working towards solving public issues.

The final selection of Names for the awards will be made soon and the selection committee members are currently being considered. Once the committee is formed, nominations will be required to be submitted within a week. The chairman of the Balochistan International Think Tank, Awais Jadoon, will announce the committee. These awards are part of the Heroes of Earth series, specifically the Balochistan chapter, aimed at highlighting the outstanding services of parliamentarians to showcase their efforts towards the development and prosperity of the province on an international platform.

Diemer Basha Dam crucial for water, food security: Ahsan

Ahsan Iqbal stresses need to start journey in space technology

APP

ISLAMABAD: Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal says Diemer Basha Dam is a crucial project for Pakistan's water and food security and must be completed expeditiously in the national interest.

He was chairing a review meeting on the progress of the Diemer Basha Dam project in Islamabad today.

Ahsan Iqbal said that until 2018, the estimated construction cost of the Diemer Basha Dam was 479 billion rupees and 120 billion rupees had already been

spent on land acquisition. However, due to delays and unnecessary postponements during the tenure of the previous government, the cost of the project has increased significantly.

Ahsan Iqbal maintained that the responsibility for the increase in the project cost lies with the previous incompetent government, and due to lack of funding and delays, the cost has

now increased from 479 billion rupees to 1400 billion rupees.

He said the Diemer Basha Dam will provide storage of 6.4 million acre-feet of water, which is important for the country's agriculture and industry.

Ahsan Iqbal emphasized that engineering and hydrology students from Pakistani universities should be involved in the construction of the dam so that they can benefit from this national project.

Therefore, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal has emphasized the need to start a journey in the field of space technology with a renewed pledge.

Addressing a ceremony in Islamabad today, he said space technology will have key importance in every sector, including agriculture, transport, industry, education, health, and disaster management.

The Minister said efforts will be made to complete the country's space center at a cost of 50 billion rupees by 2027.



Quetta Bar Association President, Qari Rehmatullah along with others addressing a press conference, at Quetta press club

Final decision on changing judges' retirement age not taken: Sanaullah

INP

ISLAMABAD: Rana Sanaullah has stated that no final decision has been made on the proposed constitutional amendment regarding extending the tenure of judges. He also clarified that the government does not have the required numbers in the assembly to pass such an amendment.

Speaking to a private TV channel, Sanaullah said that if Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur takes any unconstitutional action as suggested in his recent speech in Sangi, action will be taken against him. In response to a question about PTI's plans for a rally in Lahore, Sanaullah said that the Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister should not be allowed to cross the Attock Bridge to enter Lahore. Responding to a question regarding the arrests of PTI MNAs from the Parliament House, Rana Sanaullah stated that those arrested had pending cases against them. He acknowledged that PTI members should not have been arrested from within the Parliament building. He further said that while the police claim the MNAs were arrested outside the Parliament House, some allege they were taken from inside and handed over to the police. He suggested that a case be registered regarding this incident at the Secretariat Police Station. Sanaullah asserted that the PTI's intentions in the Islamabad rally were clear from their speeches.

'Good news': Pakistan ranked among top tiers of Global Cybersecurity Index: Minister

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said on Friday that Pakistan's inclusion in the top tiers of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) 2024 Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) report is good news for the country's Information Technology (IT) industry.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the minister said that Pakistan position in ITU-2021 Global Cyber security was at 79 while in the current report, Pakistan ranked among the Top-tier 46 countries.

She said that the report indicated that Pakistan's legal, technical, capacity development, skill development and organisational advancement are role models. "The Global Cybersecurity Index 2024 shows significant improvements by countries that are implementing essential legal measures, plans, capacity building initiatives, and cooperation frameworks, especially in strengthening incident response capabilities," the report said.

The report placed 46 countries in Tier 1, the highest of the five tiers, reserved

for "role modelling" countries that demonstrate a strong commitment in all five cybersecurity pillars.

"Pakistan has performed exceptionally well in the latest ranking and has been placed in Tier 1, alongside countries like the United States, Japan, Singapore, Australia, Saudi Arabia, and Malaysia," she said.

She said: "It is an honour for the nation and the IT industry that Pakistan is now included in the top tiers of cybersecurity."

Shaza also acknowledged the collective efforts of various departments, including Pakistan Telecommunication, the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), the Ministry of Planning Commission, the Ministry of Defence, law enforcement agencies, and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), in achieving this milestone.

She expressed gratitude to the provinces and all stakeholders for their contributions and support in strengthening Pakistan's cybersecurity infrastructure and promoting digital advancement across the country.

Shaza expressed her gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for his pivotal role in achieving the historic goal.



Activists of Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TLP) are holding Jashan-e-Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) rally in connection of 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal the Birthday Ceremony of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) coming ahead, at Mannan Chowk in Quetta.