

France announces support to Afghan refugees in Iran, Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government of France has announced a financial aid worth EUR 3 million to support UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency for its critical programmes for Afghans in the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan.

The funding will enable the agency to intensify the provision of lifesaving assistance and protection for some of the most vulnerable refugees and their local host communities, said a press release issued here on Monday.

In Pakistan, EUR 2 million will enable UNHCR

to boost primary and secondary level education, strengthen skills and vocational training, and reinforce access to public health care in host communities in 2023. A particular focus of the Government of France's support will be on supporting women and girls. This funding comes in addition to another contribution of EUR 2 million for 2022 activities, which has already delivered results in the area of increasing girls' access to education and expanding skills training for women.

In Iran, France has allocated EUR 1 million to

support UNHCR's programmes in 2023. This contribution will help strengthen ongoing efforts to provide lifesaving assistance to Afghans and host communities, including access to essential healthcare, education, and protection services. This new funding is in addition to a similar contribution of EUR 1 million for UNHCR Iran in 2022.

UNHCR deeply appreciated France for their unwavering support in addressing one of the world's most enduring refugee crises.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Health Abdul Qadir Patel inaugurating ground breaking ceremony of Cancer Hospital in PIMS.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the rising smoke from the decomposition plant of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), which is causing environmental pollution at Sector G-8, which needs to be shifted to somewhere in outskirts of the Federal Capital.

SAPM for urgent collective action to combat climate change

ISLAMABAD (INP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) and Convener of the National Parliamentary Taskforce on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Romina Khurshid Alam on Monday called for urgent collective action to combat climate change to save the planet earth and future generations.

She said, "Pakistan is one of the worst hit countries by the climate induced catastrophes but despite resources constraint, the country remains firm in its commitment to accomplish all SDGs to save planet earth and to provide a secure and safe environment for future generations."

She made these re-

marks while representing Pakistan in the 'Fourth Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', in New York, a news release said.

In her remarks, the Convener emphasized the importance of collective action in combating climate change. She drew attention to the Resolution passed unanimously by the National Assembly on June 23, 2023, which while appreciating the contributions of the United Nations and its agencies in supporting Pakistan's fight against climate change called for climate justice and provision of adequate resources to

BISP conducts E-Katchehri to address beneficiaries' concerns

ISLAMABAD (APP): Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), held an E-Katchehri on Monday to engage with the programme's beneficiaries and resolve their complaints in real-time.

During the E-Katchehri, Secretary BISP, Amer Ali Ahmad listened to the issues being faced by the beneficiaries.

The E-Katchehri witnessed an overwhelming response from beneficiaries across the country.

During the E-Katchehri, the majority of the complaints were promptly checked and rectified on the spot, showcasing the programme's commitment to efficient service delivery.

For the remaining grievances, Secretary BISP directed the relevant authorities to ensure their resolution within a maximum timeframe of three hours.

The Secretary BISP also held a follow up meeting after three hours to verify the resolution of the remaining complaints.

The meeting was attended by all provincial Director Generals.

Cancer hospital project inaugurated at PIMS

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination Abdul Qadir Patel on Monday inaugurated the 200-bed cancer hospital project at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS).

Addressing the ceremony, the minister said that a large number of people living in surrounding areas and other cities will get direct benefits from this hospital with having all the necessary medical services for cancer patients.

He said that an amount of Rs one billion has been proposed initially to utilize for the construction of this modern hospital, where all concerned necessary services will be provided.

He said that besides initiating new projects in major hospitals, the government has upgraded the basic health units and rural health centres where daily several hundred patients can visit for the treatment of various diseases and added that more such modern centres will be established in the federal capital.

He said that the aim of the government was to provide all basic health services in every place and village so that citizens have all such services at their doorsteps.

He said that the major hospitals of the federal capital have been facing a burden of patients and with the setting of new basic health centers, this burden will gradually decrease.

He said that several innovative steps have been taken to make improvements in the health sector and to ensure the provision of all basic health facilities to the country's people.

He said that the government was making efforts to improve access to quality health services, increase budget allocations for health, and invest in infrastructure to meet the health needs of the people of Pakistan.

River Sutlej runs in low flood: FFC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) on Monday said the Sutlej River was running in low flood at Head Suleimanki while rest of the major rivers of the Indus River System were normal.

According to daily FFC report, the combined live storage of country's major reservoirs was very encouraging compared to the last year's (8,734 MAF this year Vs 4,404 MAF last year).

It said, "Yesterday's Monsoon Low over Northern Bay of Bengal, currently prevails over West Jharkhand (India) and adjoining areas. Also yesterday's trough of Westerly Wave over Northern parts of the country has moved away Eastwards with another fresh trough of Westerly Wave lies over Northern parts of Iran whereas Seasonal Low continues to prevail over Northern Balochistan. "As a result, light to moderate moist currents are penetrating into upper parts of Pakistan up to 5000 feet both from the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal (India)," the report added.

Australian HC calls on Chairman NA SC on FA

ISLAMABAD (Online): Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins called on the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Mohsin Dawar, at his office today in the Parliament House. During the meeting, the areas of mutual interest between the two countries were discussed. The two officials exchanged views on the political, security, and economic situation in Pakistan Neil apprised.

Islamabad Police launches crackdown against rash PSV drivers

ISLAMABAD (Independent Report): Islamabad Capital Police (Traffic Division) has decided to expedite efforts against heavy/PSV (Public Service Vehicle) drivers who have been operating their vehicles in a hazardous and overloaded manner while repeatedly violating traffic laws.

The police have cancelled route permits for drivers with multiple violations and are urging citizens to report complaints to Islamabad Capital Police Helpline 15. This special crackdown aims to safeguard lives and property, and Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad, Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer, is leading the effort to ensure public safety.

Citizens have been urged to report their complaints to Islamabad Capital Police Helpline 15. "We will collectively ensure the protection of people's lives and property. Strict legal action will be taken against drivers who endanger the lives and property of citizens, and they will be arrested and their route permits cancelled after multiple violations besides impounding vehicles at police stations," said Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad, Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer.

According to the directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer, Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, further stringent legal action has been decided against PSV vehicles that violate traffic laws, especially heavy public service vehicles that are operated in an overloaded and dangerous manner. Under this operation, those drivers who repeatedly violate traffic laws will have their route permits cancelled after multiple violations and they will be arrested at police stations.

In addition to this, Islamabad Capital Police has formed a special squad to further strengthen the enforcement of this legal action. The squad is tasked with carrying out operations on various roads and intersections of Islamabad and taking legal action against PSV vehicles that are violating traffic laws.

Severe legal action is also being taken against vehicles operating without fitness certificates.

Corruption case: IHC approves protective bail plea of Asad Qaisar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has accepted protective bail plea of former speaker National Assembly (NA) Asad Qaisar for 10 days in corruption case registered in Swabi against him.

The court has wrapped up petition.

The protective bail plea came up before single bench of IHC led by Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri Monday.

Asad Qaisar appeared in the court along with his counsel.

After hearing the arguments the court ordered anti corruption not to arrest Asad Qaisar for 10 days besides directing former speaker NA to file surety bonds of Rs 50000.

Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri while

PIMS's emergency block project to be extended

ISLAMABAD (APP): The administration of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) has decided to expand the new emergency block project of the hospital with the addition of one more floor to ensure the provision of best emergency services to citizens.

According to ED PIMS spokesperson Dr. Mubashir Mushtaq Doha, the decision was made on the direction of the Planning Commission of Pakistan as with this new plan further 75 beds would be added to the project.

He said that after approval from the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, the documents of the projects had been sent to the Planning Commission for allocation of funds.



RAWALPINDI: A woman walk past in front of a Skeleton of Blue Whale placed outside Pakistan museum of natural history, in the Federal Capital. As skeleton of Blue Whale was collected from Panni (Baluchistan) in 1967.

U.S. backs Recharge Pakistan Project to enhance country's climate resilience

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United States, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, is pleased to support Recharge Pakistan, a project to enhance Pakistan's resilience to climate change by improving water systems and investing in green infrastructure. The USAID contributed \$5 million in funding to support this project, and this week the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board approved an additional \$66 million in grant funding to support the project, a news release said.

The Coca-Cola Foundation contributed \$5 million, and the World Wildlife Fund contributed \$1.8 million. Overall, this \$77.8 million partnership is the largest-ever investment in an ecosystem-based approach to building Pakistan's climate resilience.

"The U.S. government considers the Recharge Pakistan Project a game changer for flood mitigation and the creation of economic opportunities in areas faced with recurring water insecurity.

Partnering with GCF, the Coca-Cola Foundation, and World Wildlife Fund will help Pakistan tackle the negative impacts of climate change and align seamlessly with the U.S.-Pakistan Green Alliance framework," said U.S. Ambassador Donald Blome.

The Government of Pakistan's Ministry of Climate Change will collaborate with the Ministry of Water Resources' Federal Flood Commission and implementing partners to reduce flood and drought risk in the Indus Basin; reduce emissions; and promote green policies, strengthen the policy, legal, regulatory, and institutional environment promoting green climate efforts.

The project also aims to improve employment opportunities and support bankable projects for climate-resilient businesses.

Kashmiris to observe 'Accession to Pak Day' on Wednesday

ISLAMABAD (APP): Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LOC) and across the world will observe Accession to Pakistan Day, on Wednesday (19th July), with a renewed pledge to continue the struggle for freedom from Indian occupation and complete merger of Jammu and Kashmir with Pakistan.

According to Kashmir Media Service, it was on 19th July 1947 that genuine representatives of the Kashmiris unanimously passed the resolution of Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan during a meeting of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference at the residence of Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan in Aabi Guzar area of Srinagar. The historic resolution called for the accession of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan in view of its existing religious, geographical, cultural and economic proximity to Pakistan and the aspirations of millions of Kashmiri Muslims.

Traffic police directed for enhanced public services and convenience to citizens

ISLAMABAD (Independent Report): Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad, Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer on Monday conducted inspection of various departments at the traffic headquarters in Faizabad and directed for enhanced public services and convenience to citizens.

During this inspection at the traffic headquarters in Faizabad, various citizen-oriented initiatives were evaluated across different departments. The performance of the traffic staff was commended, and measures to further improve their efficiency were directed.

Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer emphasized the

SC disposes of NAB's petition against bail in 7 references of Ghani

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Monday disposed of National Accountability Bureau's (NAB's) petitions against bail in seven references of Khawaja Abdul Ghani Majeed as ineffective. A two-member SC bench comprising Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and Justice Ayesha A Malik heard the case filed by NAB seeking cancellation of bail of Abdul Ghani Majid. According to the NAB the accused was the owner of different companies of OMNI Group and he used the influence of Zardari as the President of Pakistan at that time.



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being used at construction work of Expressway during development work in Federal Capital.

PSF seeks applications from Young Pak Science Students for participating in IJSO

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) has invited applications from young Pakistani science students to participate in the 20th International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO) to be held in December.

The IJSO, scheduled to be held from December 1-10 in Bangkok, Thailand is a science competition for students under 16 years of age on December 31.

Talking to APP, a senior official informed, "IJSO is aimed at promoting interest in science among school students, fostering problem-solving, critical thinking, and experimentation."

About the application process, the official informed, "Interested students (boys and girls) under 16 years of age on December 31, and who have passed SSC-I level/IX class or equivalent school education, may send their applications on the prescribed Proforma available on the website of PSF: www.psf.gov.pk."

"The applicant must be a regular science student in a public or private sector (Government recognized) institution with proficiency in written and spoken English," he added.

The official informed, "Only shortlisted candidates based on educational credentials will be called for a test and interview for final selection. Six students will be selected for the event while the decision of the panel of Scientists/Experts will be final in that regard."

"PSF will cover the expenses, including registration, visa fee, and air travel of selected students while the accommodation and local hospitality will be provided by the organizers," he said.

"The students appearing in tests or interviews will not be provided any TA/DA. The last date for the receipt of applications is June 22."



ISLAMABAD: Senator Mohsin Aziz, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on interior presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

Punjab Governor says: Govt determined to completely eradicate polio from the country

Independent Report
LAHORE: Dr. Christopher Elias, Head of Polio Oversight Board delegation called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman today at Governor House Lahore. Secretary Health Punjab Ali Jan, representatives of UNICEF and World Health Organization were also present. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the government of Pakistan under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is determined to completely eradicate polio from the country. He said that the efforts of caretaker chief minister Punjab,

Mohsin Naqvi and the team of health department to eradicate polio in Punjab province are commendable. Governor Punjab said that the polio workers who are working on the front line to eradicate the polio virus, including a large number of women, have rendered commendable services for the prevention of polio. He said that he is grateful to all global partners including Gates Foundation, UNICEF, World Health Organization and Rotary International for helping to eradicate polio. Governor Punjab said that eradication of polio is indispensable to give a healthy and safe future to our new generation. He said that the government is taking all possible

measures for the complete elimination of polio. Governor Punjab further said that after 2018 unsatisfactory Lot Quality Assurance Sampling result was a cause of concern. He said that now the determined government is continuing the journey of improvement for the complete elimination of polio from the country with a competent team. Speaking on the occasion, Polio Oversight Board Dr. Christopher Elias said that Punjab government's determination and efforts to eradicate polio are commendable. He said that concerted efforts to prevent polio virus need to be continued till complete elimination of polio virus from the country.



LAHORE: Dr. Christopher Elias, Head of Polio Oversight Board delegation in a group photo with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

Naqvi expresses satisfaction over healthcare facilities being provided at RIC

Independent Report
RAWALPINDI: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Monday expressed satisfaction with the medical facilities being provided at Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology (RIC). During my recent visit, the CM in detail inspected the hospital's emergency, CT scan, X-ray room, Fluoroscopic, and other departments of the institute. He directed the RIC administration to open the VIP ward for the general public and ensure the availability of medicines at the institute. The CM interacted with the admitted patients and inquired about Angiography and Angioplasty treatment and other facilities being provided to them.

The patients uttered pleasure over the treatment facilities at the RIC. On a Twitter handle, he said that state-of-the-art heart treatment facilities were provided to the patients at the RIC. During my recent visit to the Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology, I was impressed by how effectively the management and doctors handled the large influx of patients. Despite the heavy workload, there were no complaints from any patients regarding the care they received. However, it was evident that certain areas required improvement. Recognizing this, the Secretary of Health had been assigned to address these gaps and enhance the overall quality of services, he tweeted.

Punjab gov't following zero tolerance policy to ensure peace during Muharram

MULTAN (APP): The Punjab government has a zero-tolerance policy to ensure exemplary peace on the occasion of Muharram-ul-Haram. Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi has formed a special cabinet committee for monitoring the law and order situation. Provincial Minister of Higher Education Mansoor Qadir said this while presiding over the review meeting of Muharram arrangements in South Punjab. The minister while appreciating the mutual cooperation of the district administration and police, said that the issues could

be resolved easily with the best coordination. Provincial Minister for Health, Dr Javed Akram said that Muharram teaches us tolerance, patience and brotherhood. The government has united ulema of all schools of thought on one platform by promoting inter-faith harmony and all of them assured their cooperation. Provincial Minister for Information, Amir Mir, said that we all have to play a key role.

He expressed satisfaction over all arrangements made to maintain peace during Muharram in South Punjab. The minister while appreciating the mutual cooperation of the district administration and police, said that the issues could be resolved easily with the best coordination. Provincial Minister for Health, Dr Javed Akram said that Muharram teaches us tolerance, patience and brotherhood. The government has united ulema of all schools of thought on one platform by promoting inter-faith harmony and all of them assured their cooperation. Provincial Minister for Information, Amir Mir, said that we all have to play a key role.



KARACHI: Mayor, Barrister Murtaza Wahab presiding first district council meeting session while Jamat-e-Islami (JI) and Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) opposition councilor protesting, held at City Council Hall Old KMC building in Karachi

PPP provincial minister divulges his constituency development report

HYDERABAD (APP): Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon on Monday divulged the report of the development of his provincial assembly's constituency PS-63 Hyderabad. While disclosing the development report of his constituency, the minister informed that record development has been made in PS-63 because of the interest of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari as well as the cooperation and support of Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah. During the last five years, he informed that repair, maintenance and construction of 217 kilometers of old and new roads have so far been completed while the remaining work will be completed within a short span of time. He informed that development schemes of 15

dispensaries, construction of three basic health units, the establishment of one library in Tando Jam, repair and maintenance of 70 buildings of primary school, construction of one high school and three middle schools, establishment of government degree girls college and a river osmosis plant, construction of 48 houses under Benazir Housing Scheme and 25 water supply and 16 drainage schemes have been completed in various parts of the constituency. During unprecedented heavy rains and floods, he informed that rations has been distributed among 35,000 affected people while During COVID-19 15,000 families were facilitated with ration bags. Under Union Council Funds, he informed that solar system was provided to 2,225 families in the area while 1,600 sewing machines were also given to deserving women.

Sadia Danish elected GB LA Deputy Speaker unopposed

GILGIT (APP): Sadia Danish of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) was elected unopposed as Deputy Speaker of the Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly on Monday. No other assembly member has submitted nomination papers for the slot. Presiding over the assembly session, Speaker Nazir Ahmed Advocate announced that Sadia Danish was elected as Deputy Speaker uncontested. Sadia Danish is the first woman Deputy Speaker in the GB's history. She also remained LA member from 2009 to 2014 and was also part of the GB cabinet.

Mother dies, 3 people injure in a car, m/c collision

MANAWALA (Online): A mother died and 3 people including daughter and son were severely injured as a result of collision between motorcycle and car on Manawala Nankana Road. A high speed bus went out of control and collided with a truck in Nankana Motorway M3 near Colony Canal. A person died while 11 people were severely injured. As incident was reported, rescue teams 1122 reached the scene and shifted the injured to hospital. The deceased was identified as 22 years old woman Rafiya Bibi. 2 years old girl Asifa and 4 years old son Zaigham and brother Wikran are included among the injured. The deceased in Bus accident was identified as 51 years old Mohammad Safer. 35 years old Abuzar Ghuffari, 25 years old Ramzan, 25 years old Shehbaz, 18 years old Shahzaib, 23 years old Mohammad Asif and other are included among the injured. The injured have been shifted to District Hospital Nankana after giving medical aid. The dead bodies of lady Rafiya Bibi in car accident and Mohammad Safer in Bus accident handed over to the heirs. Many people who got injured are said to be in critical condition.

WWF President urges action on climate change

LAHORE (Online): Climate change is no longer a future issue; we are experiencing it right now, said Adil Najam, President of WWF International, who is also a globally recognized academic and policy expert. He was addressing an invited talk on "Now or Never: The Urgent Need to Take Climate Action for a Sustainable Future" at GC University Lahore. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Asghar Zaidi was also present. Adil Najam stated that it is high time we face the

realities of climate change and take bold, immediate actions to protect our only home, planet Earth. He also emphasized that humans, as a species, are very good at adaptation, and we should look at the climate change not only as a problem but also as an opportunity. He mentioned that while we may think globally about climate change, we need to act locally and see this as our individual responsibilities. He also raised his voice against the increasing use of plastic in human lives.

Two policemen injured during exchange of fire in Katcha area

DG KHAN (APP): Two constables and an outlaw here on Monday got injured during exchange of fire between the accused and police in the Katcha area. Other unidentified accused succeeded to escape the scene by crossing the river, the police said. The police on tip-off condoned off the area to arrest the criminals. The exchange of fire continued for at least an hour, the police said. The injured policemen Constables Mushtaq and Qazi Shahbaz were immediately shifted to the hospital. The District Police Officer (DPO) Muzaffargarh termed the incident as a 'routine matter'.



GILGIT: Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Nazir Ahmad Advocate administering oath to the newly elected Deputy Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Sadia Danish at Assembly Secretariat.

Iran's abundant energy resources can greatly benefit Pakistan: CG

KARACHI (APP): The Consul General (CG) of Iran to Karachi Hassan Noorian has laid emphasis on the potential for strengthening the relationship between Pakistan and Iran through cooperation in various fields. He expressed these views in a recent meeting with a delegation of the Karachi Press Club (KPC) led by its President Saeed Sarbazi at the Iranian Consulate in Karachi, according to a communiqué here on Monday. The delegation included KPC Vice-President Mushtaq Sohail, Secretary Shoab Ahmed, and Joint Secretary Aslam Khan, which had an opportunity to engage in discussion with the Iranian Consul General. The CG Noorian expressed his belief in the

deep-rooted and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Iran. He said that Iran imports basmati rice, meat, and other commodities from various countries. He said that she (Iran) provided ample trade opportunities for Pakistani businessmen. Noorian also stressed the potential for promoting cooperation between the two nations in multiple sectors, in particular, Iran's abundant energy resources can greatly benefit Pakistan. He also exemplified the ongoing Pakistan-Iran Gas Pipeline project. President of the Karachi Press Club Saeed Sarbazi, on the occasion, suggested organizing visits of journalistic delegations between the two countries, which received positive feedback from the Iranian Consul General.



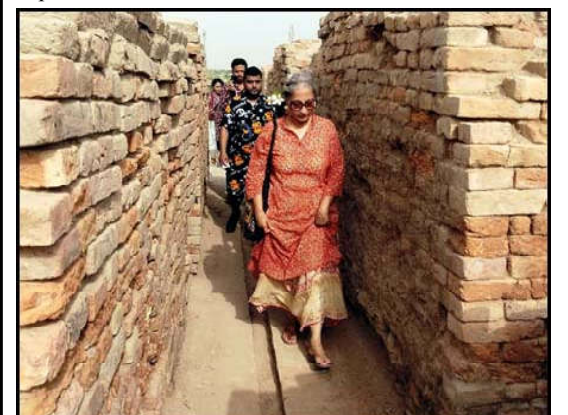
KARACHI: View of site after a fire broken out incident as the fire brigade officials are busy in extinguishing fire and rescue operation, at Garments Factory building located on Maymar Industrial Area in Karachi.

Mayor Karachi chairs first meeting of the city council

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Monday chaired the first meeting of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation- KMC's Council in the City Council Hall at the KMC building here. Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad was also present on this occasion. Two condolence and one condemnation resolution were adopted in the meeting. Condolences were offered on the death of Member City Council Farida Majeed and former Federal Minister Sher Muhammad Baloch and prayers for forgiveness were offered for the deceased. A resolution condemning the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden was passed. Addressing the meeting, the Mayor welcomed all members of the City Council and expressed hope that all members will work for the betterment of the city. He said that we will work in every UC and there will be equal treatment with all members, we will work with everyone including the workers of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Musvi says: AIOU autumn semester 2023 admissions starts

SUKKUR (APP): Regional Director Allama Iqbal Open University Sukkur Region Atta Muhammad Musvi Monday said the admissions to AIOU Autumn Semester 2023 first phase have been started. Talking to APP here, he said that the admissions first phase includes Matriculation, Matriculation Islamic, Matriculation Open Courses, FA, I-Com, FA Islamic, FA Open Courses, middle Tech, Certificate Courses/Diploma programmes and the last date of admission will be Sept 5, 2023. While for the PhD programs/BS programs (FA, FS based four years)/MPhil/MS/MSc/(Hons) Programs, MBA Programmes and Post-graduate Diploma Online Admission (Main Campus) last date will be August 15, 2023. He said that the admission forms and prospectus of all admissions are available online on the university website.



MOHENJO DARO: Classical Dancer, Sheema Kirmani along with her team are visiting and expressed keen interest in the historical ruins of the World Heritage Monuments of Mohenjo Daro

KP minister directs to introduce online financial system in TEVTA

PESHAWAR (Online): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Muhammad Adnan Jalil has directed bringing the financial system of all subsidiary institutes of the Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) under an online system and besides control on unnecessary expenditures, the solarization of the offices to save energy. He issued these

directives while presiding over a high-level meeting here in the headquarters of Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) on Monday. All directors and other concerned officers of the authority attended the meeting. During the meeting, the caretaker minister was given a detailed briefing regarding the overall performance, financial and administrative affairs, professional activities of the institute and challenges in this regard.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inquiring about the health of patient during his visit to Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology.

UoP's Department of Journalism plays key role in KP's uplift: Feroze

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister of Information, Auqaf, Hajj, Religious and Minority Affairs, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel on Monday said that the Department of Journalism, University of Peshawar has played key role in the development of the province. He expressed these views on the occasion of his visit to the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at University of Peshawar here. Vice Chancellor University of Peshawar, Dr Muhammad Idris, Chairman Journalism Department Dr. Faizullah Jan, Assistant Professor Journalism Bakht Zaman, Assistant Professor

Journalism Syed Irfan Ashraf and others were also present on this occasion. The caretaker minister said that the profession of journalism plays a huge responsibility in the uplifting of society and the country. The caretaker setup is trying its best to promote peace, prosperity and development in the province without borrowing a single penny. We consider politics as worship, he added. On the occasion, the caretaker minister was given a detailed briefing on the various sections, affairs and performance of the journalism department. He met the students of the journalism department and also visited the digital studio.



RAWALPINDI: View of badly damaged vehicles struck by an out of control Dumper Truck near Lahore High Court Bench at Swan area in the outskirts of the city.

Govt launches crackdown against illegal loan application: Amin

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Amin-ul-Haque Monday said in a decisive move to combat fraudulent loan applications, the government initiated a crackdown against illegal loan providers.

In a statement, he said, that Chairman Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Major General @ Hafeezur Rehman directed immediately to take swift action on the illegal loan applications.

Under the orders issued, 43 loan applications had already been blocked, said Amin-ul-Haque. The targeted companies, operating within the lending industry, were registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, he added.

Highlighting the severity of the issue, Amin-ul-Haque shed light on the involvement of

mafia groups operating through social media platforms, particularly Facebook.

These unscrupulous entities have resorted to blackmailing innocent individuals, exploiting their financial vulnerabilities.

To raise awareness and safeguard the public, a comprehensive public awareness campaign has been launched.

The citizens are urged to report any suspicious loan applications or incidents involving the loan mafia groups to the PTA, the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Cybercrime wing, or their local police stations.

The collaborative efforts of various law enforcement agencies aimed to address the increasing cybercrime wave in the country.

To ensure effective coordination, the minister has a direct contact with the Director-General of

FIA, providing regular briefings on the progress of the operation.

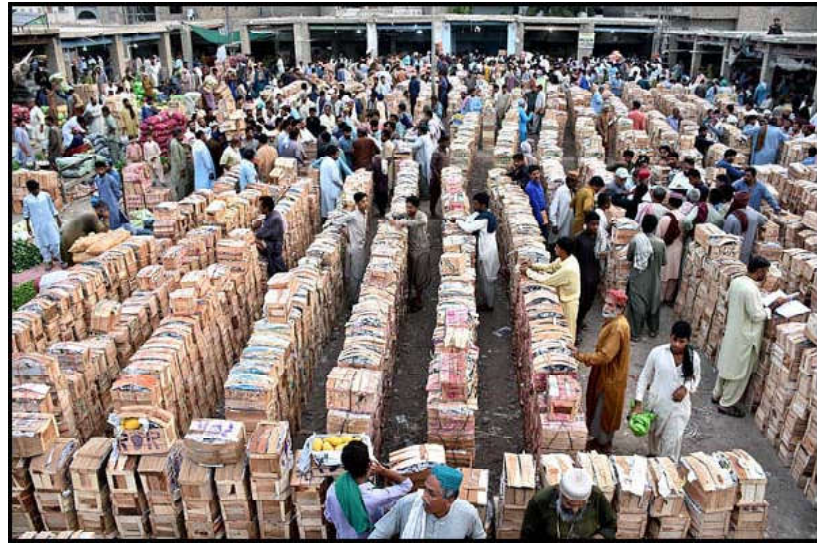
Amin emphasized the need for proactive measures, rather than waiting for complaints to accumulate, against those involved in fraudulent loan schemes.

He stressed the importance of protecting the public from financial exploitation and curbing such illegal practices within the lending industry.

The minister condemned the tactics employed by loan mafia groups, including threats of violence, blackmail, and misuse of personal data.

He reaffirmed that these actions were in clear violation of the law and must be halted immediately.

The citizens are advised to exercise caution when engaging in online financial transactions and refrain from sharing personal information with unknown parties.



LARKANA: People purchasing mangoes displayed by vendors during at Fruit Market.

Domestic edible oil, ghee output grew by 12.75% and 10.44% in 11 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Domestic production of cooking oil, and vegetable ghee during the 11 months of the financial year that ended on June 30, 2023, increased by 12.57 per cent and 10.44 per cent respectively as compared to the output of the corresponding period of last year.

During the period from July-May, 2022-23 about 513,206 metric tons of edible oil were produced locally in order to fulfil the domestic requirements as compared to the manufacturing of 455,884 metric tons of same period last year.

Meanwhile, during the period under review, about 1.421 million tons of vegetable ghee were locally manufactured as against the production of 1.286 million tons in the same

period last year, which was up by 10.44 per cent, according to the data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

The Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) in the country grew by 5.88 per cent during the month of May 2023 as compared to the previous month of (April). The Quantum Index Numbers of Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (QIM) for May 2023 estimated at 110.60 as compared to 104.46 during April 2023.

The provisional quantum indices of LSMI for May 2023 with the base year 2015-16 have been developed on the basis of the latest data supplied by the source agencies including Oil Companies Advisory Committee (OCAC).

Banking Mohtasib designate calls on finance minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Banking Mohtasib/Ombudsman (Designate), Sirajuddin Aziz called on Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar here Monday.

The minister greeted the guest and extended his best wishes to him, according to a statement issued by the finance ministry.

Senator Ishaq Dar further expressed confidence in his experience that would bring more transparency in the banking sector as well as efficient and just settlement of the complaints and grievances of the customers.

PSX loses 25 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Monday lost 25.37 points, a negative change of 0.06 per cent, closing at 45,042.61 points against 45,067.98 points the previous trading day.

A total of 314,785,498 shares were traded during the day as compared to 267,514,280 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 6.770 billion against Rs 6.783 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 342 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 138 of them recorded gains and 171 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 33 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were Bank of Punjab with 49,139,000 shares at Rs 4.27 per share; WorldCall Telecom.

Proposed Energy National Action Plan can help save \$ 6.4 bln annually: MD

ISLAMABAD (APP): Underlining the need for energy conservation in the country, Managing Director of National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA) Dr Sardar Mohazzam on Monday said that the proposed Energy National Action Plan (ENAP) could help save \$ 6.4 billion annually.

Out of total annual imports of \$ 80-82 billion, the share of energy stood at around \$ 27 billion and the Energy National Action Plan could reduce it by \$ 6.4 billion, he added.

The NEECA managing director was

briefing media persons about key initiatives including National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Policy, 2023, National Energy Conservation Action Plan 2023-2030, Pakistan Energy Conservation Building Code 2023, Pakistan Energy Labels Regulations 2021, Minimum Energy Performance Standards for Electrical Appliances and Electric Vehicles Regulation. He said the NEECA Policy 2023 was approved in May this year, while the NEECA Board had also given its consent to the revision of Energy.



LARKANA: A vendor arranging and displaying the seasonal fruit (Dates) to attract the customers during at Fruit Market.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Sirajuddin Aziz, Banking Mohtasib/Ombudsman (Designate) called on Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division.

Mishal, Organic Pak sign MOU to work on agro economy, climate change

ISLAMABAD (APP): Organic Pakistan and Mishal Pakistan on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), decided to work together to address critical issues related to agro-economy, climate change, and food security.

The collaboration of organizations will involve the exchange of updated and timely data, media training, capacity-building workshops, and the creation of knowledge resources to foster public discourse and develop key opinion-makers, said a press release issued here.

Organic Pakistan, a pioneering organization dedicated to promoting organic agriculture and sustainable practices, and Mishal Pakistan, a leading institution in the development sector

specializing in research and communication strategies, are thrilled to announce a collaborative partnership aimed at revolutionizing the agriculture landscape in Pakistan and enhancing the country's international rankings.

The MOU sets the framework for joint initiatives, including the development of key opinion-makers, advocacy campaigns, and the sharing of resources and expertise.

Both organizations are committed to creating knowledge resources through seminars, interactive workshops, and thematic reports to promote public awareness and understanding of sustainable agriculture practices and related subjects.

As the Country Partner Institute of the New Economy and

Societies Platform, World Economic Forum, Mishal Pakistan plays a pivotal role in measuring and improving Pakistan's global rankings on various indicators.

The collaboration between Mishal Pakistan and Organic Pakistan will support the World Economic Forum's initiatives by providing essential data and narratives related to sustainable agriculture, urban farming, and other crucial areas.

Muhammad Nadeem Iqbal, Founding Chairman of Organic Pakistan, expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership, stating, "We are excited to join forces with Mishal Pakistan to drive sustainable agriculture practices and revolutionize the agriculture landscape in Pakistan."

AEDB formally merged with PPIB

ISLAMABAD (APP): Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) has formally merged with Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB).

Upon promulgation of the Private Power and Infrastructure Board (Amendment) Act, 2023 notified through the Gazette of Pakistan, Extraordinary, Part-I, as an Act No. XXVI of 2023 dated 10th June 2023, AEDB has merged with PPIB, consequently, the Alternative Energy Development Board Act, 2010 (Act XIV of 2010) stands repealed/dissolved henceforth, said a statement issued here on Monday.

"We are confident that this merger will pave

the way to enhance operational efficiency and facilitation of investors by extending a true one-window facility for smooth and seamless development and processing of power projects of all technologies including Alternative and Renewable Energy (ARE) projects by PPIB as a one entity on behalf of the Government of Pakistan," it further said.

Managing Director PPIB Shah Jahan Mirza said that the whole team is excited to take fresh responsibility as a challenge for achieving new horizons of excellence and fully poised to harness the indigenous, alternative and renewable potential of the country for powering Pakistan with clean, green and sustainable electricity.

Gold rates increase Rs.1,600

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs1,600 and was sold at Rs 214,800 on Monday against its sale at Rs 213,200 the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs1,371 to Rs 184,156 from Rs 182,785 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs 168,810 from Rs 167,553, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and 10 gram silver remained unchanged, i.e., Rs 2,650 and Rs 2,271.94 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$2 to \$1,957 from \$1,955, the Association reported.



HYDERABAD: Members of Unemployed Stock Assistants are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Hyderabad press club.

MSME lending Mobilink Bank sets new benchmarks in women empowerment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Mobilink Bank achieved notable growth in Loan Disbursement and Gross Loan Portfolio (GLP) across two key segments, Women as well as Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), as evident in its H1 2023 results.

These achievements underline the Bank's commitment to fostering financial inclusion and supporting the growth of small businesses, further demonstrating the effectiveness of its strategies and initiatives implemented over the past year, said a news release issued here on Monday.

Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and online services across seven countries. As part of its

digital operator strategy, VEON is transforming people's lives, creating opportunities for greater digital inclusion, and driving economic growth across countries that are home to more than 8% of the world's population.

During the first half of 2023, the Bank disbursed loans of over Rs. 4.32 billion to women entrepreneurs, reflecting a growth rate of 178% compared to the same period in 2022 in which Rs. 2.42 billion were disbursed. Highlighting the bank's success in attracting and nurturing talented women, the number of women borrowers grew from 61,242 in 2022 to 68,994 in 2023, reflecting a remarkable growth of 113%. Mobilink Bank's efforts to uplift the MSME sector yielded remarkable success as well.

SMEDA to organize webinar on July 19

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) is going to organize a webinar on "How to sell on Daraz" for profitable business growth on July 19 (Wednesday).

The session is being offered by SMEDA under National Business Development Programme (NBDDP) for SMEs, to extend non-financial advisory services to small and medium businesses, according to a source in the authority.

The programme will provide opportunities to the SMEs on high trending and most demanding e-commerce tools and platforms.

The training provides information about introduction to e-commerce, introduction to daraz, signing up for daraz seller account, daraz creation guide and introduction to daraz live.

The SMEDA specifically encouraged

Pakistan' trade with Korea flourishes as exports doubled: Sung Jae Kim

KARACHI (APP): The bilateral trade between Pakistan and Korea witnessed a significant boost with Pakistan's exports to Korea doubling to reach \$306 million in the previous year.

It was stated by Director General of Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency (KOTIPA) in Karachi, Sung Jae Kim, during his visit to the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), said a statement issued here on Monday.

Kim highlighted growing trade relations between the two countries and emphasized the need for further bolstering cooperation as well as technology transfer from Korea to Pakistan.

He noted that promising growth in trade and investment between Pakistan and Korea bodes well for strengthening bilateral relations and fostering economic growth in both nations.

Kim mentioned that Korean companies were

working in Pakistan in fish food processing and chemical sectors while YouTubers from Korea were showcasing the beauty of Pakistan to the world.

He said that over 10 thousand Pakistanis were residing in Korea while there were opportunities of investment in Fisheries and Textile sectors in Korea available to Pakistanis.

Kim acknowledged the brotherly trade ties between the two nations and praised the talent and proficiency of Pakistani youth in speaking English.

President of KATI, Faraz-ur-Rehman, in his telephonic address, stressed the importance of exchanging delegations to promote trade between Pakistan and Korea.

He said that a committee has been formed by KATI for enhancing bilateral trade and investment while a delegation of KATI was scheduled to visit Korea shortly to explore investment opportunities.



KARACHI: Women and children selecting and purchasing old toys at a roadside stall in Empress Market.

Zong 4G celebrates 15 years of pioneering excellence in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecom giant, marks a momentous milestone as it celebrates 15 years of unwavering excellence in the country's digital landscape.

Guided by the motto "Let's Get Digital," Zong 4G has revolutionized the nation's connectivity through its widest 4G network and cutting-edge technology, leaving an indelible mark on Pakistan's technological future.

For over a decade and a half, Zong 4G has been at the forefront of technological advancement, pioneering the introduction

of 3G and 4G networks and successfully testing 5G. The company's commitment to technological progress has transformed the way Pakistan connects and communicates, propelling the nation's digital revolution. Investing significantly in expanding its network infrastructure, Zong 4G has erected over 14,000 towers nationwide, extending its services to even the remotest corners of the country. With a massive investment of over USD 3 billion, millions of Pakistanis now have access to affordable and best-in-class telecommunications services.

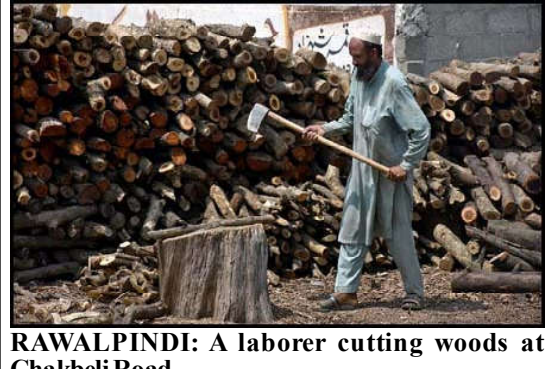
NEPRA celebrates Women Leadership

ISLAMABAD (Online): National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), the country's sole regulator, under the theme "Power with Equality" today gathered at NEPRA Headquarters at a graceful ceremony and celebrated the remarkable rise of Women Leadership in Pakistan and acknowledging their contributions in shattering stereotypes, overcoming barriers, and emerging as powerful agents of change.

The ceremony was attended by Chairman NEPRA, Tauseef H. Farooqi, female employees from various organizations

including NEPRA. The event was graced by Syedah Huma Batool, the first ever Female Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of an airline in Pakistan by the name of Alvir Airways.

Farooqi in his opening remarks reiterated NEPRA's commitment towards women empowerment and shed light on progress made by his organization in providing gender inclusive environment in Pakistan's power sector under its power with equality and power with prosperity drives. He remarked that while challenges remain,



RAWALPINDI: A laborer cutting woods at Chakbeli Road.

China's economy shows further weakness in second quarter

BEIJING (AFP/APP): China's economy showed further signs of weakness in the second quarter as data Monday showed growth missed expectations and consumers remained cautious, adding pressure on leaders to unveil further stimulus.

The disappointing figures follow a string of below-par readings in recent months indicating the post-Covid recovery was

already going off the rails and highlighting the tough work authorities face reviving momentum. The National Statistics Bureau said the world's number two economy grew 6.3 percent on-year in April-June, faster than the previous three months but much weaker than the 7.1 percent predicted in an AFP survey of analysts. That came despite having a very low base of comparison with last year.

Xi tells ex-Philippine president Duterte to promote ties with China

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China's President Xi Jinping told former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte to continue to promote cooperation between the two countries, after bilateral relations cooled with Duterte's successor seeking closer ties with Washington.

Ferdinand Marco Jr was elected as president for a six-year term in 2022, taking over from Duterte who had adopted a more pro-China stance. "I hope you will continue to play an important role in the friendly cooperation (between China and the Philippines)," state media cited Xi as saying during a meeting at the Diaoyutai state guest-house in Beijing on Monday.

Under Marcos, relations between China and the Philippines have grown tense, with Manila pivot-



South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol (C) visits a village, where more than a third of houses were damaged in landslides and two people remain missing, in Yecheon.

EU may update climate pledge to show faster progress on CO2 goals

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: European Union countries are debating whether to update their climate pledge ahead of this year's COP28 summit, to show they expect to exceed their current goal for CO2 emission cuts, a draft document showed.

The 27-country EU has one of the most ambitious climate targets among major economies - having agreed in law to cut its net greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 compared with 1990 levels. A draft document, seen by Reuters, said EU countries may notify the United Nations that they can reach a 57% emissions cut. The text was in brackets, indicating it is not yet agreed by all countries.

The overshoot would only happen if countries comply with recently-passed EU policies to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change. They include obli-

Russian tourists flee Crimea after attack on landmark bridge

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: In the run-up to Monday's attack on Russia's road and rail bridge to Crimea, state TV broadcast footage of long traffic jams in southern Russia as tourists waited in their cars for hours to cross over to start their summer holidays.

Erdogan added that he hoped for progress on the issue after Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov talk on Monday. The grain deal, brokered by the United Nations and Turkey last

North Korea's Kim Yo Jong warns US against 'foolish act' that risks security

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea's Kim Yo Jong, sister of leader Kim Jong Un, said on Monday that the United States should avoid any "foolish act" that could put its security at risk and rejected offers of talks as a ploy, state news agency KCNA reported.

Kim made her comments after White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said the United States remained concerned that North Korea would carry out another intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) test, after it last week fired an ICBM off its east coast.

"The U.S. should stop its foolish act of provoking the DPRK even by imperiling its security," Kim said in a statement carried by KCNA. DPRK refers to the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

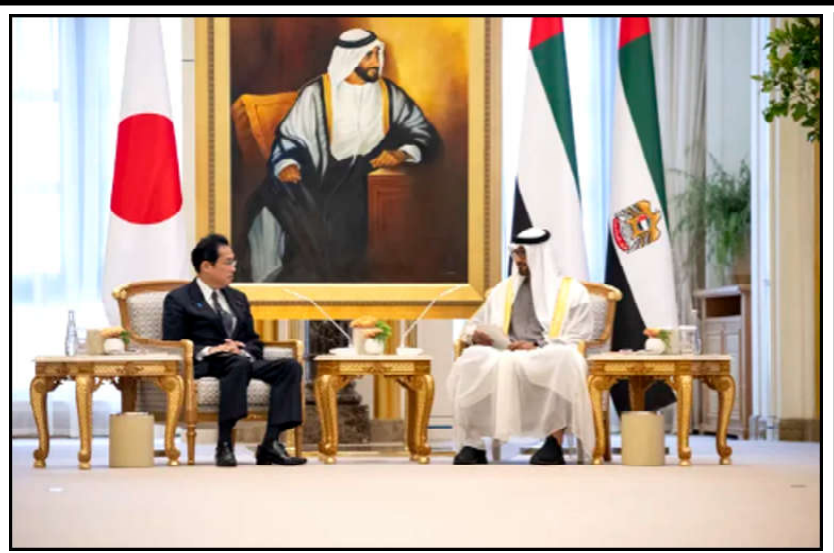
China's economy misses growth forecasts

Monitoring Desk
HONG KONG: China's economic growth missed forecasts in the second quarter of the year, adding to worries over surging youth unemployment and a weak property sector and raising the likelihood the government will double down on support for the faltering post-COVID-19 recovery. The world's second largest economy grew at a 6.3% annual pace in the April-June quarter, much slower than the 7% plus growth analysts had forecast given the anemic pace of activity the year before.

Unemployment of youths aged 16 to 24 rose to a record 21.3% in June, up from 20.8% the month before. Investment in property development, a vital driver of both industrial and consumer demand, sank 7.9% in the first half of the year compared to a year earlier in a troubling sign of persisting weakness in an industry that slowed even before the pandemic as the government moved to rein in excessive borrowing.



Employees work at the government media office in Gaza City.



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Emirati President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan meet at Qasr Al Watan in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Exclusive-USAID chief to announce over \$500 million in aid in visit to Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: U.S. aid chief Samantha Power is set to announce more than \$500 million in humanitarian assistance for Ukraine on Monday during a visit to the war-torn country, where the United Nations says some 17 million people need help following Russia's invasion.

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Power in Kyiv will announce the assistance to respond to the needs of Ukrainians affected by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, according to an announcement shared in advance with Reuters.

Tens of thousands of Ukrainian civilians and soldiers on both sides have been killed and millions have fled their homes since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, triggering Europe's biggest land war since World War Two.

The aid, which will be provided through the United Nations and other non-governmental organi-

Erdogan says he believes Putin wants continuation of grain deal

Monitoring Desk
ISTANBUL: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday that he believed Russian President Vladimir Putin wants the participation of a deal allowing the export of Ukrainian grain through the Black Sea, after Moscow suspended its participation.

Erdogan added that he hoped for progress on the issue after Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov talk on Monday. The grain deal, brokered by the United Nations and Turkey last

US special envoy Kerry holds talks in China aimed at reviving climate diplomacy

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: US climate envoy John Kerry held four hours of talks with his Chinese counterpart in Beijing on Monday, reviving stalled diplomacy on reducing planet-warming emissions.

Climate talks between the two biggest greenhouse gas emitters came to a halt last year after Nancy Pelosi, then speaker of the US House of Representatives, enraged Beijing by visiting self-ruled Taiwan, which China considers to be part of its territory.

US special envoy Kerry holds talks in China aimed at reviving climate diplomacy

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: US climate envoy John Kerry held four hours of talks with his Chinese counterpart in Beijing on Monday, reviving stalled diplomacy on reducing planet-warming emissions.

Climate talks between the two biggest greenhouse gas emitters came to a halt last year after Nancy Pelosi, then speaker of the US House of Representatives, enraged Beijing by visiting self-ruled Taiwan, which China considers to be part of its territory.



Rescuers search through the rubble of a collapsed five-story apartment building in Cairo, Egypt.

A 5-story apartment building collapses in Cairo and kills at least 9 people

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: A five-story apartment building collapsed Monday in the Egyptian capital of Cairo, leaving at least nine people dead, authorities said, as rescuers searched through the rubble.

Building collapses are common in Egypt, where shoddy construction and a lack of maintenance are widespread in shantytowns, poor city neighborhoods and rural areas. The state-run MENA news agency reported that rescue teams recovered at least nine bodies from under the rubble of the building in Cairo's neighborhood of Hadaeq el-Qubbah, roughly 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) from the city's center.

Four survivors were also taken to a hospital and authorities evacuated a neighboring apartment building, MENA said.

Following an initial inspection, Cairo's deputy governor, Hossam Fawzi, said the collapse was caused by one of the ground floor residents who removed a number of walls during earlier maintenance work. The man has been detained and will be investigated, he said.

Vatican and Vietnam to take major step forward in relations

Monitoring Desk
VAATICAN: The Vatican and Vietnam are due to take a major step towards improving their long strained relations by finalising a deal in which Hanoi will allow the Holy See to have a resident representative in the communist-run country, sources say. The deal will likely be announced during a visit to the Vatican later this month by Vietnamese President President Vo Van Thuong, according to a senior Vatican official and a Hanoi-based diplomat familiar with the matter.

Hamas unable to pay salaries in Gaza after Qatari aid delay

Monitoring Desk
GAZA: The Gaza Strip's Hamas rulers have been unable to pay salaries for 50,000 public sector workers, with officials in part blaming a delay in a monthly payroll grant from Qatar, a crucial aid donor to the impoverished Palestinian enclave.

The salary crisis has sparked an unusual amount of criticism on social media in Gaza, including by some of Hamas' own employees. A drop in tax revenue and a jump in spending has made the situation even more difficult.

Most of Gaza's 2.3 million residents live in poverty, and the economy is dependent on foreign aid. Qatar has paid hundreds of millions of dollars since 2014 for construction projects. It currently pays \$30m per month in stipends for families, fuel for electricity, and to help pay public sector wages.

Hamas officials say no salary aid has been received since just over half of a \$5m grant to support the May payroll. The reason for the delay was not clear.

New book claims to reveal identity of 'Jack the Ripper'

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: The great-great-granddaughter of a police officer who investigated the "Jack the Ripper" murders in 19th century London believes she has uncovered the killer's true identity, the Sunday Telegraph reported.

Sarah Bax Horton has written a book on her research into local cigar-maker Hyam Hyams, who she said closely matches witness descriptions from the time of a suspect seen with the victims. The "Jack the Ripper" murders, which saw at least six women killed in the East End of London in 1888, remain one of Britain's most notorious unsolved cases.

Japan's prime minister visits the UAE as part of a Gulf trip focused on energy and commerce

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida visited the United Arab Emirates on Monday as part of a swing through the Arab Gulf states focused on energy and commerce.

He met with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the president of the UAE, which will be hosting the COP28 U.N. climate summit later this year.

A joint statement said they were committed to "enhancing cooperation on climate ambition, decarbonization, and clean energy."

Kishida visited Saudi Arabia over the weekend, where he met with Crown

Ukraine wants use of Black Sea grain corridor to continue

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Monday everything must be done so that the Black Sea grain export corridor continues to be used after Russia halted its participation, his spokesperson said.

A deal brokered last July by the United Nations and Turkey allowed Ukrainian grain to be exported through the Black Sea after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

"Even without the Russian Federation, everything must be done so that we can use this Black Sea corridor. We are not afraid," spokesperson Serhiy Nykyforov quoted Zelenskyy as saying.

"We were approached by companies, ship-owners. They said that they are ready, if Ukraine lets them go, and Turkey continues to let them through, then everyone is ready to continue supplying grain."

He ordered Ukraine's foreign ministry to prepare an official note to the U.N. and Turkey on whether they would be ready to continue with their part of the deal.

Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, who is in New York this week to participate in a U.N. security council meeting, urged Russia to stop "playing hunger games."

"The immediate outcome of non-extension of the agreement will mean that prices for grain all across the globe will go up, and people in the most vulnerable regions of Asia, Africa, they will feel it, and this is the result of Russian actions," Kuleba said in an interview with CBS Mornings.

"So Russia is using hunger as an instrument to blackmail the world, pursuing its own commercial interest. Stop playing hunger games."

Presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said grain "cannot be a legitimate military target."

"The Black Sea is not Russia's internal waters and is not subject to its jurisdiction," he said on Twitter.

Russia refuses to renew Black Sea grain deal and says no guarantees for ships now

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia refused on Monday to extend the agreement that has enabled Ukraine to export grain from its Black Sea ports for the past year, complaining that promises to free up its own shipments of food and fertilisers had not been kept.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said it had notified Ukraine, Turkey and the United Nations that "without Russia's participation, the 'Black Sea Initiative' ceases to function from July 18".

This meant the withdrawal of safety guarantees for shipping, the ending of a maritime humanitarian corridor and the disbanding of the Joint Coordination Centre at the mouth of the Black Sea in Istanbul established to monitor the implementation of the deal, it said.

It meant the north-western Black Sea would again be designated an area of temporary danger for shipping, the ministry said.

The deal, brokered by the U.N. and Turkey last July, aimed to alleviate a global food crisis by allowing Ukrainian grain blocked by the Russia-Ukraine war to be exported safely.

To convince Russia to agree to it, a three-year memorandum of understanding was also struck with the United Nations under which U.N. officials agreed to help Russia with its food and fertilizer exports.

But the ministry statement said none of Russia's requirements - including the resumption of ammonia exports through a pipeline leading from Russia to the Ukrainian port of Odesa, and the reconnection of its state agricultural bank Rosselkhozbank to the SWIFT international payments system - had been met.

"Under these conditions of outright sabotage in the implementation of the Istanbul agreements, the continuation of the 'Black Sea initiative', which did not justify its humanitarian purpose, becomes meaningless," it said.

Dozens of cats in Poland had bird flu but the risk to people is low, the UN health agency says

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: The World Health Organization said more than two dozen cats have been infected with bird flu across Poland, but no people appeared to have been sickened.

In a statement on Monday, the U.N. health agency said it was the first time so many cats had been reported to have bird flu over such a wide geographical area in a single country, amid an unprecedented global outbreak of the latest version of the H5N1 version of the disease.

WHO said that late last month, Polish authorities informed agency officials of the unusual deaths of more than 45 cats in 13 geographical regions of the country. Testing last week found that 29 had H5N1.

As of June, the most recent variant of H5N1 has been reported in birds and other animal species in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas. Since 2020, WHO said a dozen human cases have been reported.

Scientists worry that rising cases of H5N1, particularly in animals that have frequent contact with humans, might lead to a mutated version of the disease that could spread easily between people, triggering another pandemic.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, many experts had suspected that the next global outbreak would be sparked by H5N1. But while bird flu has killed hundreds of millions of birds globally, it has sickened fewer than 900 people since 2003 and has not been able to spread easily among humans.

WHO said it was unclear how the domestic cats in Poland became infected with bird flu and said officials were still investigating possible sources of exposure, including contact with wild birds that are known to carry H5N1. The agency said the risk of people in Poland being infected with bird flu was "low" and "low to moderate" for people exposed to cats, including cat owners and veterinarians.

PM issues directives for construction and repair of Dalbandin airport

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif has issued standing directives to the concerned authorities for necessary construction and repair of the Dalbandin airport.

According to the official sources, the Prime Minister has directed the concerned quarters to submit report after completing the construction and repair work on the Dalbandin airport at the earliest.

He also directed the Civil Aviation Authority to restore the airport immediately after completing the necessary work.

It may be mentioned here that the Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani had diverted the attention of Prime Minister towards the deteriorated condition of the Dalbandin airport.

The Prime Minister also thanked the Chairman Senate on diverting his attention towards the condition of Dalbandin airport.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman WAPDA, Lt. Gen. (R) Sajjad Ghani calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif.

Kaira stresses electoral reforms with consultation of all political parties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Qamar Zaman Kaira Monday stressed for legislature on election reforms soon after completing a comprehensive consultations with all political parties as any democratic system, without the sanctity of a ballot box could not deliver.

"It is a symbol of a vibrant democracy to move forward only after consultations and discussions", he said while talking to a Private news channel.

Replying a question, he said a politician should be appointed as caretaker prime minister, adding, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has started consultations with allied parties on the selection of interim

setup. He said that the prime minister would consult with the opposition leader after deliberations with coalition partners.

To another question, he replied that the government will hand over the reins to the interim rulers next month, before the completion of the assembly's tenure.

To another question, he said the election reforms could be completed in a few days and that the election commission had started the process based on the old census as delay election will further disturb the matters.

He also expressed confidence that his party is fully prepared for the election campaign and win the general elections with majority seats.

QESCO says Around Rs. 543bln outstanding against all defaulters in province

Independent Report
QUETTA: The aggregate amount of the electricity utility bills and arrears against the agriculture defaulters have crossed the figure of Rs. 411 billion till June 2023 in the province.

According to the sources of QESCO, the total dues against the provincial government and its subsidiary departments are over Rs. 32 billion while it (government) has to pay the arrears of over Rs. 45 billion on account of the agriculture subsidy.

In addition to this, over Rs. 1.72 billion are outstanding against the federal government and its departments. While the federal government has also to pay over Rs. 21 billion on account of the agriculture subsidy.

Similarly, an amount of Rs. 30 billion 70 crores is outstanding against the domestic, trade, commercial and private consumers in the province.

At the outset, around Rs. 543 billion are outstanding against all defaulters in the province, the QESCO sources informed.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz Uqaili being briefed about under construction Gai Khan Chowk Flyover project

NAB holds seminar with trainee Police officials

QUETTA (APP): The National Accountability Bureau (Balochistan) on Monday organized a seminar at Police Training College, Sariab Road.

The main objective of the seminar titled "Eradication of Corruption is must for a prosperous Pakistan" was to spread awareness and anti-corruption principles among the participants of the Police Training College.

Deputy Commandant Aurangzeb represented the Police Training College whereas NAB Balochistan was represented by Director Dr Muhammad Rashid and Deputy Director Khurram Shahzad.

The participants of the seminar provided useful information about the negative impact of corruption on society and the steps taken so far in that regard to eradicate the menace. The speakers of the seminar also highlighted the practical ways the police could play in promoting a more transparent and responsible society.

A symbolic walk was organized in which trainees of the Police Training College participated.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Nasebullah Marri, Abdul Khaliq Hazara, Haji Akbar Askani, Lala Rasheed, Malik Naeem Khan Bazai, Deputy Speaker Sardar Babar Khan Musakhail and MPA Mir Arif Jan Muhammadhassani talking during Balochistan Assembly session



QUETTA: A delegation led by provincial leader of Awami National Party Engr. Abdul Rasad Kakar meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wai Khan Kakar

Pakistan put on road to progress again: Ahsan Iqbal

Says Shehbaz-led government saved country from default

NAROWAL (APP): Federal Minister for Planning and Development Prof. Ahsan Iqbal has said, "Today we have put Pakistan back in its place", as Pak Rupee is gaining strength, stock exchange is improving and country's economy is stabilising.

Addressing the opening ceremony of Nisar Fatima Auditorium, Jamia Masjid and Innovation Centre at the UET Narowal Campus on Monday, he said that on July 14, China made investment of \$3.5 billion in Chashma nuclear power plant, and billions of dollars more investment would come to the country in the coming weeks.

He hoped that people would make a right decision in the next general election, and then Pakistan would be put on the road to development again.

Ahsan Iqbal said the UET Narowal was making a place for itself among the best universities of the world. Students would play a proactive role in the country's development after getting education from this university. He said that in the year 2009, he dreamed of setting up an engineering university campus, which had been fulfilled today.

He said the government wanted the youth to excel in all spheres of education and that was why it was giving the brilliant students laptops. He said the UET Campus Narowal Innovation Centre had Rs1 billion, which would be spent on research and higher education of students.

Meanwhile Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has said that working day and night under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the incumbent government saved the country from default and revived the development projects, which were stopped by the previous government.

Addressing a public gathering after laying the foundation-stone of Siakot Cantt to Jassar Cantt Road at Phalora on late Sunday

night, he said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had always accomplished development projects and tried its best to place the country in the list of developed countries.

The minister said some generals, who have retired, and some former judges, imposed Imran Khan on the people of Pakistan under a conspiracy. He said Pakistan had become one of the five fastest growing economies in the world under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif, but the keys to development were snatched from Nawaz Sharif and handed it to a man who had not the experience of even running a union council in his life.

PM AJK says:

European Union resolution criticizes human rights violations in India

MIRPUR (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq on Monday said that the resolution of the European Parliament condemning human rights violations in India, the AJK premier demanded the European countries link trade with India to the improvement of the human rights situation in the country.

He said that "India was an extremist state where religious minorities have been deprived of their basic human rights".

The AJK premier, while referring to continued bloodshed and violence in the Indian-occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir, said that India had been involved in massive human rights violations in the region. He said that the Kashmiri people have been the worst victims of India's fascism for the past several decades. He, however, maintained that after August 5, 2019, India has turned the occupied territory into a military garrison, where people live in a state of perpetual fear and anxiety.

Terminating India's 5th August action as a violation of the UNSC resolutions, the PM said that after stripping the region of its special status.

"While welcoming the European Parliament for condemning human rights violations in India, the AJK premier demanded the European countries link trade with India to the improvement of the human rights situation in the country."

He said that "India was an extremist state where religious minorities have been deprived of their basic human rights".

The AJK premier, while referring to continued bloodshed and violence in the Indian-occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir, said that India had been involved in massive human rights violations in the region. He said that the Kashmiri people have been the worst victims of India's fascism for the past several decades. He, however, maintained that after August 5, 2019, India has turned the occupied territory into a military garrison, where people live in a state of perpetual fear and anxiety.

Terminating India's 5th August action as a violation of the UNSC resolutions, the PM said that after stripping the region of its special status.

Qureshi says Shehbaz, Zardari sit-in ratified Dubai decisions

MULTAN (INP): Vice Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said that the meeting of Shehbaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari in Model Town has ratified the decisions of Dubai.

Talking to media here, Qureshi said that everyone knew what was discussed in the meeting in Lahore. On the issue of dissolution of assemblies, caretaker setup, two major political parties held consultations and decisions were taken.

The PTI leader said, "Now they will take other PDM parties into confidence. Decisions have been taken, consultations have to be made with other parties."

The PTI vice chairman, taking a dig at the ruling alliance, said other parties of PDM would be invited at a lavish tea party. They would take other PDM parties into confidence over the decisions which had been taken already. He said it was quite clear now that new caretaker prime minister would be affiliated to which party.



QUETTA: Transporters and Traders Leaders, Abdullah Kurd, Abdul Rahim Kakar, Mir Dolat Lehri and others addressing a joint press conference at Quetta press club.

Medical teachers stage sit-in outside BA

Independent Report
QUETTA: The medical teachers of Bolan Medical College and three other different colleges of the province took out protest rally and staged dharna outside the provincial assembly building on Monday.

The rally of medical teachers commenced from the BMC on Brewery road and reached the provincial assembly passing through different city roads.

They held protest demonstration and then staged sit-in to press the provincial government for acceptance of their demands.

They were also carrying the banners and placards inscribed with the slogans in favour of their demands.

They also chanted slogans in favour of their demands including promotion of the medical teachers, award of health professional allowance, increase budget of the medical colleges, besides other issues.

The medical teachers regretfully pointed out that they have been lodging protest for two months, but the government is not paying any heed towards their issues and demands.

They asserted that their protest would remain continued till acceptance of the demands.



QUETTA: MoU signing ceremony between Balochistan Govt and Faisal movers, Chief Secretary Balochistan Abdul Aziz akeli, Provincial Minister for transport Malik Naeem Bazai are also present in ceremony

PM briefed about hydro electric projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday held a meeting with Chairman Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) Lt General Sajjad Ghani and received briefing about the ongoing hydroelectric projects and the projects for producing energy at a lower cost.

During the meeting, he also briefed the PM about the pace of progress on all mega dam projects including Dasu, Diamer Bhasha and Mohmand dams.

He also apprised him about the effect of recent rains on the water reservoirs in the country.

Land transfer to army: LHC single bench order suspended

LAHORE (APP): A Lahore High Court (LHC) division bench on Monday suspended a single bench order that struck down a decision of the interim government to hand over 45,000 acres of land in three districts of Punjab to the army on a 20-year lease.

The division bench, headed by Justice Ali Baqar Najafi, passed the orders while hearing an intra-court appeal, filed by the Punjab government against the single bench decision. The court also issued notices to the respondents on the appeal and sought a reply.

The interim government, through the appeal, had pleaded with the court to set aside the single bench decision. The government submitted that the project was initiated by the previous elected government and not by the interim government. As per law, the interim government was empowered to implement or finalise any pending decision and policy of the previous government, it added. The government further contended that the court was not empowered to regulate agricultural policies. It submitted that the order of the single bench was not only in violation of the law but also had contradictions in it.

On June 22, a single bench had struck down the decision of the interim government to hand over 45,267 acres in Bhakkar, Khushab and Sahiwal districts of Punjab to the Pakistan Army for corporate farming.



QUETTA: Members of Harnai Awami Ittehad are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, outside Balochistan Assembly.

Election on 2017 census unacceptable: MQM-P

KARACHI (INP): Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) on Monday came out strongly against the decision of the coalition government to hold elections on the basis of the old census.

Addressing a press conference, MQM-P Conventer Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui whose party is a stakeholder in the government said the population of Karachi is around 30 million, which was about 14.9 million in the 2017 census, and his party would not accept figures less than this.

The MQM-P leader vowed to resist the move after Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah announced that the government would not notify the recently concluded census as the results are not authentic and the Election Commission of Pakistan needs at least four months to complete the delimitation process. Under laws, the census is done after every 10 years, but the last one becomes controversial, and it was decided to conduct a fresh exercise to address reservations and carry out a fresh delimitation process.

However, objections were raised to the enumeration by the Sindh government and MQM-P. Demanding to rectify the flaws in it, they refused to accept the results. MQM-P is a key coalition partner in the ruling alliance and had joined the government on certain conditions, including a transparent census.

Raising their reservations on the federal minister's statement, Siddiqui said that they had chosen the right path against injustices and tried in every situation to ensure peace in Karachi. "MQM-P is the representative party of the urban areas of Sindh, especially Karachi; the impression being spread by the MQM London rally seems to be a conspiracy. Siddiqui said that the assemblies and the government would end in August.

Two died after truck overturns

SHERANI (Online): Two people died and 4 were injured in a truck overturn. According to details, a truck loaded with onions overturned due to brake failure at Dhana Sar due to which 2 people died and 4 were injured. Victims were transferred to 1122 centers.