

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vt XXV No. 26, Safar 29, 1445 AH Saturday September 16, 2023 Pages 12, Price Rs.15

Terminates NAB amendments SC orders restoration of corruption cases against public office holders

Former president, former PMs, over 450 MPs, bureaucrats now to face NAB once again

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has annulled amendment to NAB laws declaring several of its clauses in conflict with law and constitution. A three-member bench of the apex court, headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial, announced the reserved verdict on PTI chief's petition challenging the amendments to the law. It was the last day of CJP Bandial in office as he is retiring today. The bench announced the verdict by 2-1 majority with third member of the bench, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, writing a note of dis-

sent. SC has declared nine of 10 clauses of the NAB amendments null and void. Following annulment of NAB amendment by SC corruption cases abolished against several politicians under amended law stand restored. Toshakhana reference has been restored against Asif Ali Zardari, Nawaz Sharif and Yousef Raza Gillani. LNG reference against former Prime Minister (PM) Shahid Khaqan Abbasi was shifted from Accountability Court (AC). Rental power refer-

ence against speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaz Ashraf was returned which has now been restored. The cases against former PM Shehbaz Sharif, former PM Shaukat Aziz and former finance minister Ishaq Dar have been reopened now. The beneficiaries of NAB amendment are Farzana Raja, Yousef Raza Gillani, speaker Punjab Assembly Sibtain Khan, Anwar Majid, close aide to Asif Ali Zardari, son of Anwar Majid, former PM Shaukat Aziz, Zafar



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi administering the oath of office to Mr. Fawad Hasan Fawad as Caretaker Federal Minister, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Gwadar Port fully operational: Chinese Charge d'Affairs

Jan Achakzai welcomes news of port's full operationalization and expresses his gratitude to the Chinese govt for its support

ISLAMABAD: The Charge d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, Ms. Pang Chunxue, has stated that the progress of the Gwadar Port is satisfactory and that it is now fully operational. She made the remarks during a meeting with caretaker Information and Public Relations Minister of Balochistan, Jan Achakzai on Friday. Ms. Pang said that the port is nearing full capacity, with work on the free zone in its initial stages. She added that the vocational training center has been handed over to the local community, and that the

airport is scheduled to be ready by May 2024. The Gwadar hospital is set to be completed by the end of 2023, while the desalination plant is expected to be finished this year, she added. Mr. Achakzai welcomed the news of the port's full operationalization and expressed his gratitude to the Chinese government for its support. He said that the Gwadar Port will play a major role in the economic development of Balochistan and Pakistan, and that it will help to boost

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Information Minister of Balochistan Jan Achakzai meeting with Charge d'Affaires of Chinese Embassy in Pakistan Ms. Pang Chunxue

PPP doubles down on demand for immediate announcement of poll date

Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari reiterates concerns over lack of level-playing field, says "one party" tried to throw PPP out of Punjab but "paid the price" later.

LAHORE (INP): PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Friday doubled down on the demand for the immediate announcement of a date and schedule for the general elections, stressing that only polls could take the country out of economic and political crises. Concerns on the poll timing have arisen from the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) ruling out elections this year. The electoral watchdog reasons its decision to push elections beyond November 9 on the basis of the notification of results of the new digital 2023 census and Section 17(2) of the Elections Act, which states: "The commission shall delimit con-

stituencies after every census is officially published." With elections potentially just a few months away, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has been engaging in public gatherings and organising party meetings as part of the party's electoral preparations of late. One such highly-anticipated meeting of the PPP's Central Executive Committee was held today. Speaking to the media after the meeting, Bilawal said the announcement of an election date and schedule was the only way to dispel the "confusion and atmosphere of instability and insecurity" prevalent in

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar addressing a Press conference after a meeting. Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan MirAli Mardan Khan Domki is also present

I don't believe in small or big fish, I believe in fish of law: PM

Announcing election date beyond caretaker govt's mandate; Says he will not support any unconstitutional step; Zero tolerance for those involved in the smuggling

ISLAMABAD (Online): Care taker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar ul Haq Kakar has said he does not believe in small or big fish but he believes in the fish of law. "Operation against hoarders and smugglers will continue indiscriminately. No pressure in this regard will be accepted. I am not a Mughal emperor that I will issue a decree of monarch that catch him and leave the other. Whatever it done will be done as per law. Why should we do an illegal work by announcing the date of election. This is mandate of Election Commission (EC). Relief will be extended to the consumers

using electricity upto 200 units soon. The install-ments of the electricity bills will be allowed. Price control committees are being reactivated to rein in inflation. We are reviewing Supreme Court (SC) decision on annulment of NAB amendment. Caretaker government will take its decision following the arrival of opinion of ministry of law, he said this while addressing a press conference in PM House Friday. PM held he has re-viewed the operation against the hoarders, smug-glars, power pilferers during the last one week. Pro-

Continued on page 2

Circle being tightened around hoarders, smugglers:

We are ever ready to tackle all challenges including artificial price-hike, vows CM

Around 10,956 metric tons of sugar and 10,647 metric tons of Urea recovered during last one month; stern action taken against govt. officials involved in smuggling and hoarding making accountability process effective

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has stated that the provincial government is not unaware of its constitutional responsibility and as such we are ever ready to steer the general public out of the storm of the artificial inflation.

The caretaker Chief Minister said that the circle around the hoarders and smugglers is being tightened. He appreciated the role of all institutions including forces, divisional and district administration in prevention of the hoarding and smuggling in the province.

Mir Ali Mardan Domki stated so in a statement issued here on Friday. Referring the meeting chaired by the caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar held the other day, the Chief Minister said that certain important decisions were made for prevention of the inflation, hoarding and smuggling in the meeting. He said that it is a good to take concrete measures with determination to resolve the issues being faced by people. He also said that the coordinated action is continued against those involved in the hoarding and

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan MirAli Mardan Khan Domki meeting with Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar

Domki calls on PM Kakar: Caretaker PM assures GoB of every possible cooperation for equal dev. of Balochistan

Caretaker Chief Minister appreciates serious efforts being made by caretaker Premier for resolving public issues

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Prime Minister, Anwarul Haq Kakar has reiterated his resolve to extend every possible cooperation to the provincial government to resolve the issues being faced by people of Balochistan and provide equal opportunities of development to the province. He believed that the people of Balochistan would surely get benefits of development. The caretaker Prime Minister was speaking to

the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki whom he called on at the Prime Minister House on Friday. During the meeting, the matters about anti-smuggling, crackdown against hoarding, law and order as well as the ongoing development projects and other related matters were discussed. The caretaker Chief Minister appreciated the serious efforts of the care

Continued on page 1



QUETTA: Caretaker Home Minister Capt (Retd) Muhammad Zubair Jamali enquiring about health of JUI leader Hafiz Hamdullah who was injured in Mastung bomb blast

Information Ministry of Balochistan to sign MoUs with five Radio Stations and PTV Bolan

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: The Information Ministry of Balochistan will sign memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with five radio stations and PTV Bolan to highlight the government's positive activities through the federal ministry's media platforms. This was agreed upon by caretaker Minister for Information and Public Relations Balochistan, Jan Achakzai and caretaker Federal Information and Communication Minister, Murtaza Solangi, in Islamabad on Friday. Mr. Solangi also agreed to train information officers of the Information Ministry of Balochistan by the

Pakistan Information Service Academy. He also promised new transportation for the PTV Quetta Centre. He agreed to repurpose part of buildings in Balochistan for computer and digital training centers in Balochistan, which will benefit digital media training centers by saving on rent. He also informed that a federal digital hub is being established very soon and through this hub, Balochistan PTV producers and officers will be trained and given more exposure to digital skills. He also promised to have a bulletin for the Hazaragi language to reflect the rich diversity of Balochistan.

Govt hikes petrol price by Rs26, HSD by Rs17

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: The caretaker government on Friday night pushed through another hike in the prices of petrol by Rs26.02 per litre and high-speed diesel (HSD) by Rs17.34 per litre. The increase brings the price of petrol to Rs331.38 per litre while HSD is Rs329.18 per litre, the Ministry of Finance said in a post on X (formerly Twitter) after midnight. It added that the decision was taken owing to the increasing trend of petroleum prices in the international market. No revision was specified in the rates of kerosene or light diesel oil. The price increase comes on the heels of an already massive hike on Sept 1, when the interim government raised fuel prices by up to Rs18 per litre. That jump in petroleum prices had come after similar hikes by the interim government on Aug 15. The price hike is based on existing tax rates and import parity prices, mainly because of currency fluctuation and a slight increase in international oil prices.

ATC grants bail to Pervaiz Elahi

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad granted bail to former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi in Judicial Complex vandalism case. The bail petition of Pervaiz Elahi came before Judge Abul Hasnat Muhammad Zulqarnain of ATC Islamabad Friday. Babar Awan, Sardar AbdulRazaq, counsels for Pervaiz Elahi and prosecutor Raja Navid appeared in the court. The prosecutor told the court the record will reach a bit late. The judge remarked this is not the way. Court has started proceedings and record has not reached. Start the arguments.

Economy showing signs of recovery: Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance Dr Shamsad Akhtar said on Friday the country's economy was showing signs of recovery owing to the efforts made by the interim government. "If you view the macroeconomic indicators, you may find some betterment. There are some signs of economic recovery. Even if it is just starting," the minister said while addressing a press conference here. While deliberating upon the indicators showing positive development, the finance minister said the Consumer Price Index (CPI) had shortly declined from over 38 per cent in May to 27.2 per cent now (in September), adding that this was an important indicator to show betterment. Dr Akhtar, who also holds the portfolio for Revenue, Economic Affairs and Privatisation, stated, "The caretaker setup inherited

several challenges and tried to deal with them one by one. Our strategy was to prudently manage these challenges, and make efforts to control the expenditures and enhance the revenues." She said the country had come out of some difficulties, and the situation would improve further as "we move forward". According to the minister, the production sectors witnessed betterment, including the agriculture, which is expected to yield good output in both minor and major crops that will have a positive impact on the economic growth prospects of the country. She said the industrial sector was also showing improvement, notably in the cement industry, and added that as soon as the activity would pick up gradually, the industrial sector would also grow. About the services sector

Continued on page 2

Solangi says Govt awaits SC's detailed verdict on NAB amendments

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Friday said the caretaker government was waiting for the Supreme Court to issue a detailed judgment on a case related to the amendments in National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws. "Law Ministry and legal experts will review the detailed judgment and future course of action will be announced in the light of their opinion," the minister said while addressing a news conference along with Caretaker Ministers for Finance and Energy Dr. Shamsad Akhtar and Muhammad Ali. To a query, Solangi reiterated the caretaker government's commitment to assist the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in holding the general election in the country.

Security forces kill three terrorists near Wali Tangi

QUETTA (Online): On 14 September 2023, at 1830 hours, terrorists attacked a post of security forces near Wali Tangi Quetta. During fire exchange, 3x terrorists were sent to hell. Subedar Qaiser Raheem while fighting valiantly embraced shahadat in the line of duty whereas 1x soldier is seriously injured. Security Forces of Pakistan will continue to thwart efforts of the enemies of peace and prosperity in the country.



LAHORE: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking to media persons after Central Executive Committee meeting.

Govt handed the petition to protect disability rights

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Government of Pakistan has received a petition with thousands of signatures calling for action to protect disability rights ahead of a major UN summit on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) this month. The petition was handed to Rafiullah Kakar, Member Social Sector, Planning Commission by Munazza Gillani, Country Director Sightsavers. It was signed by thousands of people.

Signatories include people from different walks of life and prominent personalities like Nadia Jamil, TV actress, Shabnam Baloch, Eminent Humanitarian worker, Saqib Rafique, President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and many others.

Community-Based Inclusive Development, National Forum of Women With Disabilities and Sightsavers' Equal World campaign jointly organised

the 'Promise in Peril' petition. The campaign is calling on world leaders to keep the SDG promise of leaving no one behind and ensure disability is specifically addressed in discussions on the SDGs.

Rafiullah Kakar, Member Social Sector, Planning Commission endorsed and appreciated Sightsavers' efforts towards ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the development process. The government of Pakistan will join other member states at the SDG Summit in New York on 18-19 September, to make new commitments and assess progress on the global goals.

The outcome of the summit will be a political declaration and global and national commitments made by UN member states.

According to Munazza Gillani, Country Director of Sightsavers Pakistan Office, "As the world arrives at the half-

way point of the 2030 deadline, progress on the SDGs has derailed - they are completely off-track. People with disabilities are being hit hardest by the lack of progress on poverty and inequality. The promise to leave no one behind is in peril."

The call follows a new UN report which shows that the SDGs cannot be achieved unless urgent action is taken to include marginalised groups, including people with disabilities, but that they are being left furthest behind in global progress. For example, globally people with disabilities are up to twice as likely to be in poverty as those without disabilities.

Asim Zafar, Secretary Coordinator of Community Based Development (CBID-Network) added, "We're calling on all world leaders to speed up action on the SDGs and make sure they are inclusive of people with disabilities."



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to the Russian Federation, Mr. Muhammad Khalid Jamali calls on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

PAF carrying out large scale flying exercises from different locations across globe

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Air Force (PAF) is carrying out two large scale flying exercises from two different locations across the globe, marking a significant milestone in its commitment to enhancing its aerial prowess and strengthening international cooperation.

According to Spokesperson of Pakistan Air Force Friday, the participation includes PAF's J-10 C and JF-17 lead fighter aircraft, Combat Pilots, Air Defence Controllers, and technical ground crew in the Shaheen-X bilateral Air Exercise hosted by the People's Liberation Army Air Force in China, as well as the Bright Star Air Exercise held in

Egypt.

The successful induction and operationalisation of the J-10C fighter jets in PAF's fighter fleet and their participation in an international exercise in an unprecedented short span of time was a remarkable achievement.

The feat has been achieved in lines with modernisation plan of Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu premised on smart inductions and focused indegenisation.

The participation of these fighter jets in Exercise Shaheen-X marks a significant milestone in PAF's journey towards a technologically advanced and formidable air force.

The rapid acquisition and operationalisation of these advanced aircraft showcases PAF's dedication to maintaining a cutting-edge force, capable of meeting evolving challenges and defending Pakistan's airspace with utmost proficiency.

As the Sino-Pak Joint Annual Air Exercise Shaheen-X is in full swing in the Jiuquan and Yinchuan cities of Northwest China, the exceptional event highlights the dedication and capabilities of the Pakistan Air Force, demonstrating its commitment to fostering mutual learning and collaboration with allied countries.

NUST, S&P Global Pakistan strengthen linkages by signing MoU

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National University of Science and Technology (NUST) Placement Office and S&P Global Pakistan have entered into a strategic partnership to reshape research, industrial connectivity, training, and employment prospects for both institutions.

This groundbreaking partnership between NUST and S&P Global was solidified through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed at the NUST Campus. Pro-Recto NUST Research, Innovation and Commercialization (RIC), Dr Rizwan Riaz and Managing Director S&P Global Pakistan Mujeeb Zahur signed the MoU in a ceremony held here.

The ceremony was attended by the HR, Marketing and Operations team of S&P Global and the NUST Placement Office team.

Mujeeb Zahur emphasized the pivotal role of robust industry-academia alliances in providing students and graduates with invaluable hands-on experience.

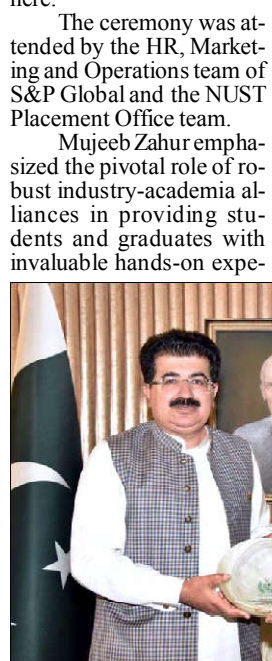
He not only reiterated S&P Global's resolute dedication to recruiting highly skilled candidates but also highlighted the additional benefits this collaboration will bring.

This includes offering cutting-edge Final Year Project (FYP) opportunities for students thus providing a unique platform for practical application of knowledge.

Furthermore, the partnership will serve as a nurturing ground for identifying and cultivating extraordinary talent, equipping them with essential real-world skills that go beyond conventional academic teachings.

Dr Rizwan Riaz not only commended S&P Global's visionary approach but also showcased the exceptional strengths of NUST.

He emphasized NUST's unwavering dedication to not only nurturing but also arming students with the skills to become the favored choice of employers.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani presenting souvenir to Inspector General Sindh, Riffat Mukhtar Raja at Parliament House.

MQM-Purges caretaker govt to ensure fair, transparent polls

ISLAMABAD (INP): Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Friday urged the caretaker government to ensure transparent polls.

Expressing his thoughts, Mr Siddiqui said, "The elections should be held on time. The PPP will win the next elections with the majority of the votes." Mr Kundi expressed his thoughts in line with the return of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif to the country. "We welcome the announcement by Nawaz Sharif regarding his return to the country," he added.

"Nawaz went abroad for his treatment from jail." He should consult the legal experts ahead of his return to the country."

Mr Kundi was of the view that it was the right of every political leader to run the election campaign for the party.

senior leader Faisal Karim Muttahida reiterated the demand for holding the elections within 90 days.

Expressing his thoughts, Mr Kundi said, "The elections should be held on time. The PPP will win the next elections with the majority of the votes." Mr Kundi expressed his thoughts in line with the return of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif to the country. "We welcome the announcement by Nawaz Sharif regarding his return to the country," he added.

"Nawaz went abroad for his treatment from jail." He should consult the legal experts ahead of his return to the country."

Mr Kundi was of the view that it was the right of every political leader to run the election campaign for the party.



ISLAMABAD: The High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan, Mohammad Azhar Mazlan enjoying the Malaysian foods along with others during Malaysian Food Festival entitled "Flavors of Malaysia" at local hotel.

PPP has strong faith in democracy: Zardari

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former President of Pakistan and President Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians, Asif Ali Zardari in his message on the occasion of the International Day of Democracy has said that the Pakistan Peoples Party has strong faith in democracy.

"The sacrifices made by the leadership and workers of the party in the struggle for democracy are unprecedented in the political history of the world," said President Asif Ali Zardari. Every time the sun of democracy has risen in Pakistan, it is because of the martyrs in the graveyard of Garhi Khuda Bakhs.

President Zardari said that today is the era of youth and Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is a young politician. He knows best how to provide opportunities to the youth to advance

and take a dignified place in the society.

The focus of the politics of Chairman PPP is on the downtrodden population of Pakistan. Bilawal has the philosophy of his maternal grandfather, Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, and the passion of his mother, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto.

Asif Ali Zardari said that a dignified and civilized society is a light that shows the way to the goals of development.

The leadership and workers of the party sacrificed their lives while accepting the gallows and crossing the landmines in the way to a democratic dispensation in the country. They endured the hardships of the prison and suffered whipping on their bodies but did not back down from the struggle for democracy.

25 illegal immigrants arrested in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital police on the directions of caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti arrested 25 illegal immigrants from different locations in Islamabad.

The authorities, under the 14 Foreign Act have so far shifted 57 illegal immigrants to Adyala jail and making all arrangements to repatriate them to their home countries, said the press note on Thursday.

The ministry also decided to take action against those Pakistanis who supported illegal immigrants to stay illegally in Pakistan because the stay in Pakistan is only possible in accordance with the law of the land.

IHC removes objection over Imran petition seeking dismissal of cipher case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has removed objection from PTI chairman petition seeking dismissal of cipher case.

The PTI chairman petition seeking dismissal of cipher case came up for hearing before Chief Justice (CJ) of IHC Justice Aamir Farooq Friday.

Latif Khosa advocate counsel for PTI chairman appeared before the court.

The CJ IHC directed the staff to mark diary number on the petition filed for amendment.

Solangi terms Namira's upcoming space journey sign of Pak growing presence in space exploration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Friday that Namira Saleem's upcoming journey to space was a sign of Pakistan's growing presence in space exploration and a major achievement for the nation.

This he said during a meeting with Pakistan's first female astronaut Namira Saleem who met him here.

Namira Salim briefed the caretaker minister about the preparations for her space journey on October 5 this year.

Namira Saleem expressed her determination to raise the Pakistani flag in space. Solangi congratulated Namira Saleem on behalf of the Government of Pakistan, the Prime Minister and the people for starting the space journey and expressed good wishes for her success.

Terming Namira Saleem a role model for all women, Murtaza Solangi said the young generation can raise the name of Pakistan in the world in various fields of life.

"This effort of Namira Saleem will highlight the positive image of Pakistan as a peace-loving and progressive country," Murtaza Solangi maintained.



ISLAMABAD: A view of newly constructed Yadgar Shohda in Bagh-i-Shuhada at Fatima Jinnah Park.

Real face of so-called Indian democracy is daily witnessed in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the world is observing International Day of Democracy, today, Narendra Modi-led Indian government continues to deny the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir their democratic right to choose their political future.

A report released by Kashmir Media Service, today, said India is violating all democratic norms in IIOJK which continues to simmer under a brutal siege by the Indian military. It maintained that India had proved itself a fake democracy by crushing Kashmiris' right to self-determination with its military might.

It said that death of India's so-called democracy was daily witnessed in the killing fields of Kashmir, adding the situation worsened further since 5th August 2019 when the Modi regime illegally revoked the special status of the occupied territory.

The report pointed out that despite facing Indian brutalities for the last over seven decades, the Kashmiri people were determined to continue their freedom struggle till it reached its logical conclusion.

Action against Sheesha cafes continues

ISLAMABAD (INP): Islamabad Capital Police Shalimar and Bhara Kahu police teams arrested eight accused during the crackdown against illegal Sheesha cafes and recovered Sheesha, hookah and flavors from their possession, a public relations officer said. He said that. Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police had categorically started a crackdown against criminal elements in order to save the precious lives and property of citizens. Following these directions the Islamabad Capital Police intensified crackdown against the Sheesha centers in order to eliminate this menace from the city and special efforts were also taken against the accused.

Islamabad Police strikes on criminals, arrests wanted snatcher gang member

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a major breakthrough, Islamabad Police have arrested a wanted member of a notorious snatcher gang, recovering a cache of valuables and weapons from his possession.

The arrest comes as part of a sustained crackdown against criminal elements in the city, under the direct supervision of Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, a public relations officer said.

The accused, identified as Muhammad Abbas, was apprehended by a team of Koral Police Station on Friday.

He is alleged to be involved in numerous snatching incidents in various parts of the city. Police recovered snatched mobile phones, cash, a motorbike, and a weapon from his possession. The accused Abbas has confessed to his involvement in the snatching gang, and further investigations are underway.

ICCP Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan has directed all senior officials to continue the crackdown against criminal elements and ensure the safety of the lives and property of citizens.

The arrest of hardcore criminal Abbas is a significant development in the fight against crime in Islamabad.

FBISE partners with HK Exam Assessment Authority to expand education scope

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) has signed an important Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Hong Kong Examination Assessment Authority to expand the scope of education.

This unprecedented initiative by the Federal Education Board aims to promote education standards globally and strengthen intercultural relations, according to a press release on Friday.

According to the details, the core of this historic agreement is FBISE's commitment to conduct examinations in Urdu as an international language for students in Hong Kong.

This monumental collaboration not only elevates the international im-

portance of Urdu but also gives Hong Kong students an opportunity to further themselves in a language rich in history and culture.

The collaboration between FBISE and the Hong Kong Examination Assessment Authority echoes the shared vision of transcending traditional borders through the dynamic power of education.

This initiative also marks an important step towards promoting a diverse educational environment.

"Today's agreement is more than an academic partnership; it is a statement of unity and shared goals," says Federal Board Chairman Qaiser Alam.

"We are committed to providing knowledge that bridges cultural gaps, and through this collaboration, we are taking an important

step toward creating a brighter, more connected future for our students. As the world becomes more interconnected, so such collaborations play an important role in preparing students to become global citizens, equipped with knowledge, understanding and appreciation for different cultures" he added.

Both parties are excited about the potential impact of this collaboration and are eager to begin the initial stages of the program.

However, more details about the exam schedule, syllabus, and registration process will be released in the coming weeks. This initiative also marks an important step towards promoting a diverse educational environment.

Mahnoor Qureshi says: Academia must update syllabus to keep pace with changing journalism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Renowned broadcast journalist Mahnoor Qureshi has emphasized that the academic world needs to regularly update itself to keep pace with the rapidly changing landscape of journalism.

Talking to APP on Friday, she explained that due to the gradual speed of change, a generation gap used to appear every five years. However, with the recent rapid progress of technology, the landscape is moving considerably faster. She explained that in order

to stay up with the rapid changes in the media realms, it is now essential to update the curriculum every year. She emphasized that annual reviews of the syllabus are required to thrive in the transforming information era. "Journalists and academics alike need to continuously acquire new skills and adapt to remain relevant in the rapidly evolving media landscape" she added.

Mahnoor acknowledged that the media industry is currently in a transitional phase due to uncurbed social media content.



ISLAMABAD: Extension work of Park Road is in process during development work in the Federal Capital.

Governor invites foreign businessmen to invest in KP, tap natural resources potential

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali on Friday invited foreign businessmen to invest in Pakistan and utilize its abundant natural resources that are still untapped due to lack of modern machinery.

He was talking to the famous businessman of the United Arab Emirates, Suhail Muhammad Alzaruni here at Governor House. He said that utilizing KP's potential for natural resources would not only benefit foreign investors but also generate new opportunities for locals.

He said that the lack of modern equipment and needed facilities are reasons behind the slow pace of

proper exploration and use of these hidden natural resources.

Governor and Alzaruni also discussed matters of mutual interests and bringing foreign investment into the country. Alzaruni also lauded the Governor for his keen interest in developing the province and inviting foreign investors.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Upper Dir elders led by Paimdand Khan called on Governor Haji Ghulam Ali and highlighted issues confronted by people in his area.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor assured cooperation to the delegation and said that he is not oblivious to the problems of people living

in KP and steps have been taken to resolve them. He also urged the masses to collectively work for the development of their area and said that available resources would be utilized to address the problems of Upper Dir.

He stressed avoiding negative thinking and changing of mindset to counter the narrative being propagated by certain elements against the country.

A delegation of Bajaur led by former Senator Abdul Rasheed also met with KP Governor and apprised him problems of the people. A five-member delegation led by Sheikh ul Hadees, Moulana Ata-ur-Rehman also called on the Governor and discussed matters of mutual interest.



PESHAWAR: Businessman of UAE Sohail Muhammad Al-Zorani meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali.

Tackling the issue of climate change is the need of hour: Governor

LAHORE: A delegation led by Dr. Samuel Rizk, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here today at the Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, other important issues including climate change were discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that tackling the issue of climate change

is the need of the hour. He said that Pakistan had faced the worst flood last year due to climate change. Governor Punjab said that climate change is also having adverse impact on agriculture.

He said that as the chancellor, he has formed a consortium on environment. Governor Punjab while appreciating the United Nations Development Program's commitment to eradicating poverty and its role in climate change, said that the United Nations'

immediate assistance and services to the flood victims during the 2022 flood are commendable. Governor Punjab further said that there are many challenges in the field of education and health for which the government is working.

On this occasion, the Resident Representative of UNDP expressed interest in the possibility of collaboration with the Punjab Government in various projects to tackle the challenge of climate change.



FAISALABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Khalil George, distributing non food items to the Christian community in Jaranwala.

GB governor demands region's constitutional status, representation in parliament

LAHORE (APP): Gilgit-Baltistan Governor Mehdi Shah called for the region's constitutional status and representation in the National Assembly and Senate.

During a press conference outside Bilawal House here on Friday, the governor emphasized the historical significance of Gilgit-Baltistan's accession to Pakistan, underlining the need for equal representation in the country's legislative bodies akin to the four provinces. He expressed concerns that the region's citizens remain uncertain about their parliamentary seats, stressing the importance of representation.

Shah disclosed that the PPP's Central Executive Committee (CEC) meeting had focused on conducting elections under the Constitution, with unanimous support for elections to be held within 90 days. He acknowledged the support

of PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari and the progress made in Gilgit-Baltistan but highlighted the disparity in development compared to other provinces.

Recalling Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed's efforts to conduct small-scale elections in the region, Mehdi Shah took pride in being the first Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan. He expressed optimism that the Pakistan People's Party could lead the way in achieving constitutional province status. He also announced the PPP's intentions to participate in Punjab elections, recognizing Punjab's pivotal role in national politics and the formation of a caretaker government for the upcoming elections.

Despite challenges and external pressures, Shah reaffirmed his 45-year-long association with the PPP and unwavering commitment to maintaining strong ties with Pakistan.



LAHORE: Acting Consul General of China Mr. Cao Ke meeting with caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi

Dr Javed for ensuring health, well-being of children

LAHORE (APP): Punjab's Caretaker Health Minister Dr. Javed Akram emphasized the critical role parents play in ensuring the health and well-being of children in his significant address at the 8th PPA (Pakistan Pediatric Association) Punjab Annual Symposium as well as the 13th National Child Rights Conference where experts and professionals were gathered at a local hotel on Friday.

Highlighting the pressing issue of child development in Pakistan, Dr. Akram commended the organizers for tackling this vital topic. He extended a warm welcome to educators, colleagues, and guests, reflecting on his experiences serving humanity across five different countries. Notably, he projected Pakistan's trajectory as it inches towards becoming

the third most populous nation globally by 2048.

Dr. Akram expressed a visionary goal of conducting health screenings for every ninth-grade student in Punjab. He stressed the significance of nurturing the mental health of children and cited his extensive work and research during his tenure as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Health Sciences, aimed at eliminating prevalent diseases from society. The minister also called for a tangible reduction in cases of violence against children, citing recent steps taken to rehabilitate individuals like Rizwana and Ayman. The event concluded with the distribution of commemorative shields to esteemed guests.

Earlier, President PPA Punjab, Dr. Naeem Zafar, elucidated the symposium's aims.

Baby with heart out of chest dies

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): The infant who was born last week with his heart out of his thorax died on Friday despite the provision of intensive care at the direction of Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

Vice-Chancellor Children Hospital Lahore, Dr. Masood Sadiq confirmed the death of the infant, Abdullah.

According to the VC, the child fell prey to the rare disease Ectopia cordis in which the baby's heart doesn't have the typical coverage of the breastbone.

He said it was not possible to operate the baby at such a beginning of age. The child was brought to the hospital and admitted to the ICU ward where he suffered from Sepsis disease which caused his death following the intensity of the infection.

Approved schemes are: Privatization of Agriculture Extension Services to enhance the service delivery at the cost of Rs 804.470 million; Program for strategic transformation/revamping of emergency department in tertiary hospitals in Bahawalpur and Sahiwal at the cost of Rs 1197.407 million; Rehabilitation/renovation of hospitals under Specialized Healthcare & Medical Education (SH&ME) Department through health council traditional mode in Lahore and Faisalabad at the cost of Rs 5033.372 million; Program for strategic transformation/revamping of old blocks of ex-DHQs (Rahim Yar Khan, Gujranwala, Sargodha, Rawalpindi) at the cost of Rs 1264.132 million; Program for provision of missing facilities in newly upgraded colleges of nursing in Punjab at the cost of Rs 2716.824 million; Provision of missing specialties for upgradation of DHQ Hospital to Teaching Hospital, Sahiwal. (Revised) at the cost of Rs 9311.161 million.

D, Commissioner Sukkur reviews arrangements for Eid Milad SAW

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sukkur, Fayyaz Hussain Mahesar on Friday chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the celebrations of Jashn-e-Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW).

The meeting was attended by scholars and religious leaders from various schools of thought who discussed the matters relevant to the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the scholars that every matter would be addressed and resolved. He emphasized that no effort would be spared to find solutions to their concerns. He directed the relevant authorities to ensure uninterrupted water supply, minimize gas load shedding, clean routes of Milad-un-Nabi processions and install streetlights on time.

Man shoots dead wife over domestic dispute

HYDERABAD (APP): A man allegedly shot dead his wife at her father's residence in the Babbur Chowk area near Kotri SITE, Jamshoro district, on Friday. According to police, Sajid Solangi barged into the residence of his father-in-law and killed his 25-year-old wife Shabnum Solangi. Quoting her mother Noor Bano, the police said that Sajid used to beat his wife owing to which she often stayed with her parents.

PDWP approves seven developmental schemes

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP), in its 16th meeting of the current financial year 2023-24, approved seven developmental schemes of Agriculture and Special Healthcare and Medical Education sector with an estimated cost of Rs 22026.816 million.

Planning and Development Board Chairman Iftikhar Ali Sahoo chaired the meeting here on Friday. Secretary P&D Board Nadir Chattha were present.

Approved schemes are: Privatization of Agriculture Extension Services to enhance the service delivery at the cost of Rs 804.470 million; Program for strategic transformation/revamping of emergency department in tertiary hospitals in Bahawalpur and Sahiwal at

Baqar takes notice of inoperative forensic software

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar on Friday took notice of inoperative forensic software of the forensic division.

The Caretaker Chief Minister had sought a report from IGP.

He asked how bullet shells could be tested if forensic software remained operational.

He further asked whose responsibility was to update the software of the forensic machine and whether the update of the forensic machine was reported to the government or not. Baqar directed the IGP Sindh to conduct a detailed inquiry to report the matter to him and take action against the officer's incompetence.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan chairing a cabinet meeting at CM Secretariat.

LHC dismisses plea for release of Mansha Bomb

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday dismissed a petition challenging the arrest of a land grabber.

The court dismissed the petition after declaring it meritless. The court held that the arrest of Mansha Ali Khokhar alias Mansha Bomb by the police was legal whereas investigations could not be stifled at this stage.

Justice Ali Baqar Najafi announced the reserved verdict on a petition filed by Amir Mansha, son of Mansha Ali Khokhar. The court

had reserved the verdict after hearing detailed arguments of the parties earlier in the day.

In final arguments, the petitioner's counsel had pleaded with the court to order the release of Mansha Khokhar who was illegally arrested and confined by the police. He submitted that the accused was not required in any criminal case. However, the respondent, Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore, through a report, submitted that the accused was arrested on September 14.

Building collapse: One killed, two injured in D-ground

FAISALABAD (APP): A double-storey building collapsed due to rain in D-ground area which left a person dead and two others injured, here on Friday.

According to Rescue 1122, rescue team reached the spot and carried out a search operation, pulled out the people trapped under the debris and shifted them to the Civil Hospital. District Emergency Officer Engineer Ehtesham Wahla and Emergency Officer Faisal Munir also reached the spot. Rescue team said that the building collapsed due to inundation of rain water filled in under-construction basement adjacent to the building.

The dead was identified as Naveed son of Bashir Ahmad, 55, while Ayesha daughter of Naveed Ahmed, 25, and Ahsan son of Bashir Ahmad, 27, sustained injuries. They were resident of D-ground People's Colony No. 1.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Nayyer Sheikh reached the spot immediately after the incident. Additional Deputy Commissioner Kashif Raza Awan, AC City Uzair Khan, Chief Officer Municipal Corporation.

Caretaker CM reviews anti-narcotics measures

LAHORE: In compliance with the direction of the caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, an organized crackdown was initiated against the drug peddlers to save the people from this menace.

The CM chaired a meeting about drug peddling and its eradication at his office in which it was agreed to collaborate with the NGOs for rehabilitating the addicts.

IG Police Usman Anwar briefed that 18 kilograms of ice, 180 kilograms of heroin and 7,100 kilograms of charas have been seized during the last three weeks, leading to the arrest of 310 key drug dealers and the clearing of 600 hotspots. The police

have arrested 7,500 individuals along with handlers of professional beggars.

The CM ordered to intensify the crackdown further and called for comprehensive planning to establish rehabilitation centers across Punjab. He expressed the desire to rehabilitate addicts as useful citizens of society, adding that the number of beds in these centers will also be increased.

Provincial Information Minister Amir Mir, chief secretary, Addl IG (Special Branch), CCPO, commissioner, secretaries of health, information, HED & SED departments attended the meeting while RPO participated through video link.



LAHORE: Resident representative of United Nation Development Program (UNDP) Dr. Samuel Rizk meeting with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman

Federal Ombudsman Regional office ensures justice for government employees

ABBOTTABAD (APP): The Federal Ombudsman Regional Office Abbottabad Friday resolved the pension issues of federal government employees of Pak Army and (National Engineering Services Pakistan) NESPAK who were facing administrative issues.

Regional Head of the Federal Ombudsman Abdul Ghafoor Beg Abbottabad, Qureshi, he facilitated the timely payment of salaries for employees of NESPAK. Faraz Mustafa, filed a complaint regarding unwarranted delays and suspensions in their salary payments by the department. Immediate action was taken by serving a notice to NESPAK, ensuring the immediate disbursement of salaries. Subsequently, NESPAK promptly released the due salaries to the complainants. In a gesture of appreciation, the affected employee expressed gratitude towards the Federal Ombudsman's office.

bringing relief to the retired army officer. Expressing his gratitude, Sohail Khan commended the Federal Ombudsman's institution for its unwavering commitment to ensuring justice for ordinary citizens, an appreciation rarely witnessed.

In another case through the intervention and decisions of Federal Ombudsman Ijaz Ahmed Qureshi, he facilitated the timely payment of salaries for employees of NESPAK. Faraz Mustafa, filed a complaint regarding unwarranted delays and suspensions in their salary payments by the department. Immediate action was taken by serving a notice to NESPAK, ensuring the immediate disbursement of salaries. Subsequently, NESPAK promptly released the due salaries to the complainants. In a gesture of appreciation, the affected employee expressed gratitude towards the Federal Ombudsman's office.

Taking immediate action, a notice was issued to the Military Pension Controller Lahore, compelling the prompt release of Sohail Khan's pension. Subsequently, an amount of 329,470/- rupees was disbursed in favor of Sohail Khan.

MoU signed to protect cultural heritage, promotion of arts

SUKKUR (APP): A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) and Arore University of Arts, Architecture, Design and Heritage Sukkur, here on Friday to protect cultural heritage, promote arts and crafts, provide business support, offer capacity building initiatives, and empower rural women artisans in the region.

SRSO Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mohammad Dital Kalhoro and AUAADH Vice-Chancellor (VC), Prof. Dr. Zahid Hussain Khand formalized the partnership during a ceremony held at SRSO Complex.

The aim of this partnership was to have a positive impact on the cultural and economic development of the communities whose poverty they are working to alleviate. Speaking at the event, SRSO CEO, Muhammad Dital Kalhoro

said that his organization has been working for two decades to promote the products made by rural artisan women of Sindh to highlight and sell through which all the proceeds go directly to the skilled women, today not only in Pakistan but all over the world the sale of their handmade items is increasing and the demand continues to grow, he added. He said that the expert team of Arore University and SRSO will together take this work forward in a more modern way as per the requirements of modern times. On this occasion, the Vice Chancellor of Arore University Prof. Dr. Zahid Hussain Khand said in his address that the students associated with Arore University will be given internships in this field and in a regular and organized manner, arts and design will be further expanded in collaboration with SRSO. SRSO's Chief Financial Officer.

SRSO Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mohammad Dital Kalhoro and AUAADH Vice-Chancellor (VC), Prof. Dr. Zahid Hussain Khand formalized the partnership during a ceremony held at SRSO Complex.

The aim of this partnership was to have a positive impact on the cultural and economic development of the communities whose poverty they are working to alleviate. Speaking at the event, SRSO CEO, Muhammad Dital Kalhoro

SRSO Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mohammad Dital Kalhoro and AUAADH Vice-Chancellor (VC), Prof. Dr. Zahid Hussain Khand formalized the partnership during a ceremony held at SRSO Complex.

The aim of this partnership was to have a positive impact on the cultural and economic development of the communities whose poverty they are working to alleviate. Speaking at the event, SRSO CEO, Muhammad Dital Kalhoro



SUKKUR: SRSO Chief Executive Officer Mohammad Dital Kalhoro and AUAADH Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zahid Hussain Khand formalized a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) and Arore University of Arts Architecture, Design and Heritage Sukkur.

Economy showing signs of recovery: Shamshad Akhtar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs and Privatization Dr Shamshad Akhtar said on Friday that the country's economy was showing signs of recovery, owing to efforts made by the caretaker government.

"The macroeconomic indicators, if you view them, you can find some betterment. There are some signs of economic recovery.

Even if it is just starting," the minister said while addressing a press conference. The minister was flanked by Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi and Caretaker Minister for Energy, Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali.

Deliberating upon the indicators showing positive development, the finance minister said the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has

shortly declined from over 38 percent in May to 27.2 percent now, adding this was an important indicator to show betterment.

The minister said the caretaker setup had inherited several challenges, however it was not frightened by them and trying to deal with them one by one, adding the government's strategy was to prudently manage the challenges, make efforts to control expenditure and

enhance revenues, which would help improve the situation.

She said the country had come out of some difficulties and the situation would improve further when 'we go forward.' Shamshad Akhtar said the productive sectors witnessed betterment, including agriculture, which was expected to yield good output in both minor and major crops.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Asian Development Bank ASB led by its Country Director Yong Ye called on Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jehanzeb Khan at Planning Commission.



QUETTA: A delegation of Zamindar Action Committee led by former MPA Malik Naseer Ahmed Shahwani meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Minister issues directives to improve Railways performance, cut expenses

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Railways Minister Shahid Ashraf Tarar has issued a series of directives aimed at enhancing the performance of various departments of the Pakistan Railways in a meeting held at the Pakistan Railways Headquarters here on Friday.

Among the key directives, Minister Tarar emphasized the gradual transition of the entire railway network to an online fuel management system. The move aims to curtail fuel expenses and prevent fuel theft, a long-standing concern for the railway network.

Additionally, he stressed the need for digital monitoring of fuel usage and ensuring efficient fuel supply at storage depots.

Operational efficiency was also a focal

point, with the minister directing efforts to enhance the overall efficiency of Pakistan Railways. Furthermore, he urged measures to improve services in the railway's health sector and expedite the shift to solar energy within the railway network.

The minister applauded administrative measures taken against electricity theft and called for the installation of meters for electricity supply companies in all residential units in railway colonies to reduce expenses in the electrical department.

Regarding infrastructure, Tarar was briefed on repair work related to tracks affected by floods and heavy rains. He instructed the Divisional Superintendent of Quetta to ensure the completion of

track repair on the Sibi-Harnai section by September 30.

In a significant development, it was decided during the meeting to modernize Cairns Hospital and open outpatient services to the general public. All hospitals under railway supervision will be upgraded, without involving public-private partnerships, with the Railways taking the initiative to innovate in the healthcare facilities.

Lastly, the Railway Minister tasked the administration with presenting a business model for revenue collection from railway hospitals by the upcoming Friday, highlighting a proactive approach to financial sustainability within the healthcare sector of the department.

Mian Zahid says: Pakistan confronting economic, political, environmental crises

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said that the country is confronting serious economic, political, and environmental crises.

In a statement issued here on Friday, he said that the authorities were trying to manage problems temporarily with some success, but serious matters should not be taken lightly.

Mian Zahid Hussain

said that lessons should be learned from the countries that have gone bankrupt recently, and negotiations should be started without delay for new loans from the IMF.

In addition to the IMF loan, efforts should also be made to restructure the domestic and foreign debt; otherwise, the IMF loan will not be able to help much, he added.

The business leader said that sloganeering against the IMF should be stopped and decisions should be taken according to ground realities because the current crisis was more serious than all the past crises.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori is inaugurating City Property Expo 2023.

CDNS achieves Rs 250b targets in fresh bonds

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has achieved target of Rs 250 billion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, from July 1 to September 5.

The CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Friday.

This was Rs 200 billion additional annual targets than the target of Rs 1,300 billion for previous financial year 2021-22, he said.

"The CDNS has set a reviewed saving target of Rs 1.4 trillion for current financial year (2021-22)

which will promote savings culture in the country," he said.

In view of the current market trend in the country, the ambitious target had been set to further improve the savings culture, he said.

He said that at present, work was being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations were being introduced. "At this time Automated Teller Machine (ATM) has also been introduced in CDNS which will provide enough facilities to the users," he added.

Replying to a question, he said the CDNS had collected an investment of Rs 16 billion.

Fast-track approval of seed to benefit farmers: CM

LAHORE (APP): The approval process of seed and new varieties has been made easier and fast.

According to official sources here on Friday, Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that the process had been expedited and improved during a special meeting of Punjab Seed Council.

The CM said that after getting approval from a special committee of the federal government now it would not be required to get approval of seed and new varieties from the Punjab Seed Council.

He said that the initiative would help the agriculture sector grow rapidly. "This step will ensure the availability of new seed and varieties in the market ultimately benefiting farmers. The income of growers will increase when agricultural yield boosts," he added.

The CM said that prior to the initiative the approval procedure of seed was a lengthy procedure of almost two years. "Under the Chief Minister's Agriculture Reforms Programme, growers will not have to wait for years for approval of seed," he added.

Agri. based project underway to ease economic problems: Tanveer

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Minister for Agriculture S.M Tanveer has said that a project aimed at reducing economic problems with the help of agriculture is being implemented.

He said this while presiding over a meeting which reviewed proposals for setting up a Women Resource Centre in Layyah and providing economic opportunities to women here on Friday.

He said that women would be provided with consultation regarding setting up industry based on agriculture.

Crackdown against power theft: Over 5,000 held, 1.74 bn dues recovered

ISLAMABAD (APP): In an ongoing nationwide crackdown against power theft, the distribution companies have arrested over 5,000 persons, recovering Rs 1.74.80 billion in outstanding dues from defaulters in a single week.

According to a Power Division spokesperson, the campaign was launched on September 7 this year, following the prime minister's directions to ensure strict enforcement of laws against electricity theft and defaulters.

LESCO charges Rs 30,205,018 detection bill from 304 power pilferers

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) charged 304 power pilferers with detection bill of 711,109 units worth Rs 30,205,018 during ninth day of grand anti-power theft operation in all its circles on Friday.

LESCO Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Shahid Haider termed the electricity thieves as enemies of national exchequer and deserved no mercy.

Following instructions of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Energy, a grand anti-power theft operation was ongoing in LESCO region under the supervision of CEO Shahid Haider for the last nine days.

Sharing details of the ninth day operation, the LESCO spokesperson confirmed that 304 connections in all circles were found involved in

electricity theft and applications for FIRs against all electricity thieves had been filed in the respective police stations, out of which 149 FIRs had been registered, while 20 suspects had also been arrested.

He said that among the connections seized were one industrial, five agricultural, 12 commercial and 286 domestic and all the connections had been disconnected and charged with detection bill of 711,109 units worth Rs 30,205,018.

He explained that in Ganda Singh area, a lawyer Ghulam Mustafa was stealing electricity from direct supply and using it for agricultural purposes, the accused had been charged 19,490 units, the value of which was Rs 487,250 in terms of detection bill. In the same area of Ganda Singh,

Ufone 4G launches end-to-end digital lifestyle experience shops to boost customer satisfaction

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani mobile operator, Ufone 4G has started transforming its flagship joint shops nationwide to Digital Lifestyle Experience Shops, aimed at delivering an end-to-end digital lifestyle experience to its customers.

The joint shops are being equipped to provide a comprehensive suite of world-class services, including a wide range of handsets, internet devices, repair & maintenance, exclusive discount & value-added offers, and more to help customers fulfill their diverse digital needs conveniently under one roof.

Ufone 4G joined hands with multiple partners with leading

digital products and service providers to bring about the single-window facility. Notable partners include Generation Next; the official distributor of Samsung products in Pakistan, electronics giant TCL, top-rated digital marketplace PriceOye, prominent distribution company Yellowstone and gaming powerhouse Game Store.

Chief Retail Sales Officer, Ufone 4G, Nauman Fakhar, inaugurated the first flagship Digital Lifestyle Experience Shop in Islamabad in the presence of officials from the partnering companies and PTL Group.

The joint shops will bring these products and

services within close access to a broader user base, including female consumers, who often face challenges in purchasing and maintaining mobile phones and other digital products due to access issues or concerns related to device and data security. Now, they can conveniently access reliable repair and maintenance services, a vast assortment of digital products and services, and exciting discounts and value-added offers, such as a 50% discount on screen replacement of flagship Samsung sets. The new facility will boost customer satisfaction in line with Ufone 4G's resolute commitment to customer-centricity.

Tractor production increase 6.52% in Jul-Aug

ISLAMABAD (APP): The production of farm tractors in the country witnessed an increase of 6.52 percent to 6,189 units during the first two months of the financial year 2023-24, against the production of 5,810 units during the same months last year 2022-23.

During July-August, the production of trucks witnessed a decreasing trend as it went down from 619 units as compared to 234, showing a decline of 62.91 percent, according to Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA) revealed.

Production of pickups, Light Commercial Vehicles (LCVs) and Jeeps also dipped by 39.09 percent.



QUETTA: Director General Excise Balochistan Aurangzeb Kasi meeting with Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industry, Trade, Excise & Taxation and Energy Prince Ahmed Ali.

Senate body on Industries and Production convenes

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Senate Standing Committee on Industries and Production convened today at Parliament House, with Senator Khalida Ateeb presiding as the Chair.

The meeting commenced with discussions on the availability and pricing of sugar within the country. Senator Zeeshan Khanzada raised concerns about the decision-making process for sugar exports, emphasizing the need for a robust system to assess projected sugar demand.

He noted that we often find ourselves exporting sugar and subsequently importing it when shortages arise. The Secretary of the Ministry explained that the Sugar Advisory Board has recently been placed under the ministry's purview, and a detailed presentation regarding this matter will be provided to the committee.

Next on the agenda

was the starred question asked by Senator Syed Waqar Mehdi concerning the current list of nonfunctional state-owned enterprises in the country.

The CEO of the Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) gave a comprehensive presentation, revealing that there are currently eight nonfunctional state-owned enterprises, most of which are in a state of stagnation and awaiting either liquidation or privatization. Some of these enterprises face delays due to pending litigation in the courts.

The committee's Chairperson directed ministry officials to assess all pending litigations and engage with the appropriate authorities to expedite dispute resolution. The CFO of Pakistan Steel Mills provided a detailed breakdown of operational expenditures.

SCCI chief calls for simplification of tax system

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) acting president, Ijaz Khan Afridi urged the government and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to take further steps to simplify the taxation system.

Addressing an awareness seminar on 'Tax Management System and E-filing of Returns' jointly organised by SCCI and Regional Tax Office (RTO) Peshawar, FBR here on Friday, he called for broadening of existing tax base and bringing more people under the net instead of further burdening the taxpayers.

He viewed traders are backbone of the country's economy so they should be facilitated, especially by simplifying the taxation system for them, which would help to achieve the set revenue collection for the fiscal year. During the training session, Deputy Commissioner, RTO Peshawar Riaz Ahmad and IT expert Asif Ali Shah informed the participants regarding reforms in the existing taxation system that had been made by FBR, particularly bringing more ease in submission of returns through the E-filing

PEW commends crackdowns against sugar, dollar mafia

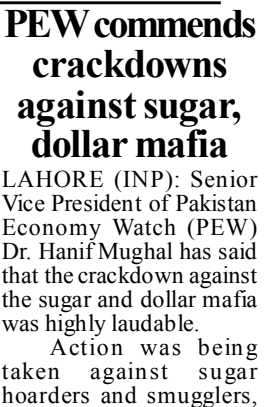
LAHORE (INP): Senior Vice President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) Dr. Hanif Mughal has said that the crackdown against the sugar and dollar mafia was highly laudable.

Action was being taken against sugar hoarders and smugglers, while wholesalers and distributors were being continuously monitored, but sugar mills were not being raided.

In a statement issued on Friday, Dr. Hanif Mughal said that the beginning of the sugar crisis was from the sugar mills, so they should not be spared; otherwise, questions will arise in the minds of the people.

He said in addition to the weak, the powerful should also be held accountable, and all food businesses should be strictly monitored to protect the public and dispel the impression that no government can control the shopkeepers.

The SVP PEW said that, like in developed countries, all businesses should be closed at sunset to reduce the oil import bill by billions of dollars. If doing business until late at night brought prosperity, then Pakistan would have been the richest country.



QUETTA: A woman is busy in buying clothes at a roadside stall in Quetta.

Microfinance company grant Rs35 million to support trade agriculture

HYDERABAD (APP): The Sindh Agriculture and Forestry Workers Organization (SAFWCO) here on Friday disbursed a grant of Rs35 million for setting up cold storage, a mango pulp unit and a dehydration plant to dry fruits and vegetables.

According to a press statement, a ceremony was held at SAFWCO's office during which Sindh Agriculture University's Prof Dr Muhammad Ismail Kumbhar handed over cheques to Rishad Mateen, KTC and Perfect Foods for setting up those units.

He said the funds were being provided to promote small and

medium-scale enterprises related to agriculture and livestock in rural areas with the support of the European Union, ICT and PPAF.

He added that the company's objective was to increase self-employment by promoting rural and industrial development.

According to him, conducting observation visits and initiating livelihood improvement projects were undertaken to help such enterprises.

Kumbhar said he looked forward to providing more financial assistance to the recipients of the funds in the second phase of the project.

Belarus leader proposes three-way cooperation with Russia's Putin and North Korea's Kim

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin hosted a meeting Friday with his Belarusian ally, who suggested that Minsk could join Moscow's efforts to revive an old alliance with Pyongyang after this week's summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko made the proposal as he met with Putin in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, where the Russian leader said he would brief him about the talks with Kim on Wednesday at the Vostochny spaceport in Russia's Far East.

"I would like to inform you about the discussion on the situation in the region, which was quite important, and also to touch on the most acute issue, the situation in Ukraine," Putin

said at the start of the meeting. Lukashenko responded by saying that "we could think about three-way cooperation," adding that "I think a bit of work could be found for Belarus to do there as well."

Kim on Friday continued his trip by visiting an aircraft factory in Komsomolsk-on-Amur to see the latest Russian fighter jets. On Saturday, he is scheduled to arrive in Russia's port of Vladivostok where he is expected to see Russian Pacific Fleet warships and visit a university.

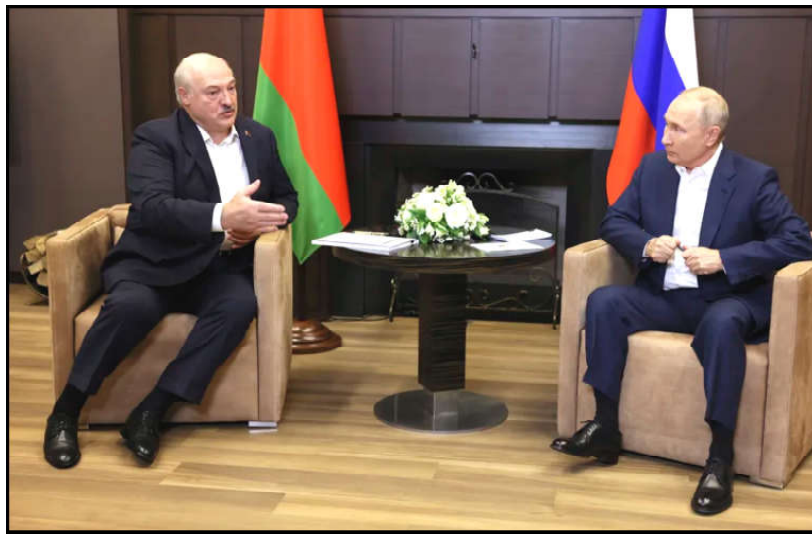
The U.S. and its allies believe that Kim will likely supply ammunition to Russia for use in Ukraine in exchange for receiving advanced weapons or technology from Moscow, a deal that would violate the U.N.

sanctions against Pyongyang that ban any arms trade with North Korea.

Putin said after meeting Kim that Russia will abide by the U.N. sanctions and he reaffirmed the pledge Friday.

"We never violate anything, and in this case we have no intention to violate anything," he told reporters. "But we certainly will look for opportunities for developing Russian-North Korean relations."

Putin's meeting with Lukashenko was his seventh this year. Lukashenko, who has relied on Russian subsidies and political support to rule the ex-Soviet nation with an iron hand for nearly three decades, allowed the Kremlin to use Belarusian territory to send troops into Ukraine in February 2022.



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko talk during their meeting in Sochi, Russia.

Lockheed's new F-16 training center Romania could train Ukrainians

Monitoring Desk
NATIONAL HARBOR: Lockheed Martin expects to close a contract with Romania to open up its first F-16 flight training center in Europe, which could eventually train pilots from Ukraine. The planned European Flight Training Center would be the U.S. company's first in the continent, and in the future could expand to teach pilots from nations other than Romania, OJ Sanchez, Lockheed's integrated fighter group vice president and general manager, told Defense News in a Sept. 13 interview.

The Romanians "need to train their pilots, and there was no good place to do that, as well as their maintainers," he said. Lockheed announced late last month that it had signed a letter of intent with Romania and the Netherlands to establish the European F-16 Training Center. Sanchez said the company is confident its contract with Romania will be signed by the end of the year. As part of this arrangement, the Netherlands will loan F-16s to Romania for training. Sanchez said the number of aircraft is still being negotiated as part of the larger contract.

Romania also struck a deal with Norway in November to buy 32 used F-16s, which would allow Romania to expand its fledgling F-16 fleet and retire the last of its outdated Soviet-era MiG-21 fighters. At first, this training center will focus on teaching Romanian pilots to fly F-16s, Sanchez said. But over time, Lockheed hopes more nations could start sending their airmen there—including Ukraine. "The European Flight Training Center may be a good option for countries like Ukraine, or others who may need that support as they build out their air force needs."



TAIPEI: Terry Gou founder and former chairman of Foxconn and independent Taiwanese presidential candidate, joins his hand with running mate Lai Pei-hsia during a press conference.

Iraq-Turkey oil pipeline ready to resume operations soon, Turkish minister says

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Iraq's northern oil export route through Turkey will soon be ready to resume operation after checks on pipeline maintenance and repairs to flood damage, the Turkish energy minister said.

A survey of the oil pipeline is complete and it will soon be "technically" ready for operation, Alparslan Bayraktar said.

Turkey halted flows on Iraq's northern oil export route on March 25 after an arbitration ruling by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) ordered Ankara to pay Baghdad damages for unauthorized exports by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) between 2014 and 2018.

Turkey then started maintenance work on the pipeline, which goes

through a seismically active zone and which it says has been damaged by floods.

"As of today, the independent surveyor completed their survey and now they're preparing their report," Bayraktar said without mentioning a date for resumption of oil flows, in an embargoed press briefing held by the ministry on Thursday.

Iraq and Turkey previously agreed to wait until maintenance works were complete before resuming the pipeline that contributes about 0.5% of global oil supply. Sources said oil flows are not expected to start before October, with KRG losing roughly \$4 billion in lost exports.

Turkey also calculates Iraq owes \$950 million as a result of ICC arbitration, net of damages Turkey has to pay Iraq.

Taiwanese presidential candidate picks Netflix actress as running mate

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: Terry Gou, the founder of major Apple supplier Foxconn, on Thursday said his running mate in Taiwan's presidential election next year would be Tammy Lai, an actress who starred in a high-profile Netflix drama.

After months of speculation, the billionaire Gou announced his run as an independent candidate last month, though he has continued to run at the bottom of most opinion polls and well behind the favorite, the ruling Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) William Lai, currently Taiwan's vice president. At a news conference in Taipei, Gou introduced the veteran actress, author and singer Lai as his running mate.

Australia to toughen restrictions on ex-service personnel who would train foreign militaries

Monitoring Desk
CANBERRA: The Australian government has proposed tougher restrictions on former defense military personnel who want to train foreign militaries as the nation prepares to share nuclear secrets with the United States and Britain.

Defense Minister Richard Marles introduced legislation into Parliament on Thursday aimed at safeguarding military secrets. Last year, he ordered the Defense Department to review standards after reports that China had approached former Australian military personnel to become trainers.

Australia's allies the United States, Britain and Canada share concerns that China is attempting to poach Western military expertise.

The review recommended strengthening of already-robust legislation as Australia deepens technology-sharing with the

Mexican journalist in US wins asylum appeal

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Mexican journalist Emilio Gutierrez Soto has won his asylum appeal to remain in the United States, 15 years after seeking refuge amid fear of persecution in Mexico and deportation efforts by U.S. officials, a media organization said on Thursday.

The Board of Immigration Appeals this week ruled Gutierrez, who came to the United States legally 15 years ago and now resides in Michigan, was eligible for asylum, the National Press Club said in a statement.

"I hope that my case will shine a light on the need to protect those journalists in Mexico and around the world who are working and risking their lives, to tell the truth," Gutierrez said in the statement from the U.S.-based group, which represents journalists and advocates for press freedom.

Gutierrez is one of several journalists whose cases have drawn attention in recent years.

Chinese defence minister under investigation for corrupt procurement

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Defence Minister Li Shangfu, who has been missing from public view for more than two weeks, has been placed under investigation by Chinese authorities, according to 10 people familiar with the matter. The investigation into Li relates to procurement of military equipment, according to a regional security official and three people in direct contact with the Chinese military. Reuters was unable to obtain details on which equipment purchases were under scrutiny.

Eight senior officials from the Chinese military's

procurement unit, which Li led from 2017 to 2022, are also under investigation, according to two of the people in direct contact with the military. The probe into Li, who was appointed as defence minister in March, and the eight officials is being carried out by the military's powerful disciplinary inspection commission, those two people said.

Reuters' detailed examination of the allegations against Li and the timing of the probe is based on interviews with sources who interact regularly with senior Chinese political and defence leaders.

Kim Jong Un's chair at summit disinfected

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's security detail spent several minutes disinfecting the chair that Kim sat on during a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Kommersant newspaper reported on Thursday.

Video footage published by the newspaper showed a North Korean security official in white gloves scrupulously wiping down Kim's black chair and spraying around an unidentified substance. The North Korean sprayed and wiped down the seat, the hands, the legs and even the area around the chair as a Kremlin bodyguard looked.



Iranian women, some without wearing their mandatory Islamic headscarves, walk in downtown Tehran, Iran.

Russia seeks to erase border with occupied Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
AVILO-USPENKA: To enter Russia from occupied Ukraine, all Tatiana has to do is arrive at the edge of the war-battered Donetsk region, show guards her Russian passport, say "thank you" and cross.

Moscow has controlled several key border points since 2014 but the frontier has become more porous since the Kremlin annexed four Ukrainian territories last year, encouraging residents to take up new citizenship.

"It's become more comfortable because we've become Russians," the 37-

year-old from a Russian-occupied town near the frontline told AFP.

Tatiana used to have to go through a more arduous procedure to enter Russia — a check run by Moscow-sponsored separatists, then through Russian customs.

"We had two borders to cross, which meant long, long traffic queues," she said near a motel on the frontier.

She was heading for Taganrog — a town in southern Russia once home to writer Anton Chekhov — to do some errands, including taking out insurance.

Libya's flood-ravaged Derna in grisly hunt for thousands still missing

Monitoring Desk
SIDON: Emergency teams on Friday kept up their search for the thousands still posted as missing from the tsunamisized flash flood that swept the Libyan port city of Derna, killing at least 4,000 people.

The enormous surge of water burst two upstream dams late on Sunday and reduced Derna to an apocalyptic wasteland where entire city blocks and untold numbers of people were washed into the Mediterranean.

phers said central neighborhoods on either side of the river, which normally dries up at this time of year, looked as if a steam roller had passed through, uprooting trees and buildings and hurling vehicles onto the port's breakwaters.

"Within seconds the water level suddenly rose," recounted one injured survivor who said he was swept away with his mother in the late-night ordeal before they both managed to scramble into an empty building downstream.

Biden announces more Iran sanctions on the anniversary of Mahsa Amini's death

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden announced new U.S. sanctions Friday on "some of Iran's most egregious human rights abusers" as he marked the anniversary of the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who died while being held by the country's morality police. Amini had been detained for allegedly wearing her hijab too loosely in violation of laws that require women in public to wear the Islamic headscarf. She died three days later in police custody.

Her death set off protests in dozens of cities

across the country of 80 million people, with young women marching in the streets and publicly exposing and cutting off their hair. The government responded with a fierce crackdown, blaming the protests on foreign interference. Amini remains a potent symbol in protests that have posed one of the most serious challenges to the Islamic Republic since the 2009 Green Movement protests drew millions to the streets. Biden said Friday that the U.S. reaffirms its "commitment to the courageous people of Iran who are carrying on her mission."

Iraq steps up repatriations from Islamic State camp in Syria, hoping to reduce militant threats

Monitoring Desk
BAGHDAD: Iraq is stepping up repatriation of its citizens from a camp in northeastern Syria housing tens of thousands of people, mostly wives and children of Islamic State fighters but also supporters of the militant group.

It's a move that Baghdad hopes will reduce cross-border militant threats and eventually lead to shutting down the facility. After U.S.-backed and Kurdish fighters defeated the Islamic State group in Syria in March 2019 — ending its self-proclaimed Islamic "caliphate" that had ruled over a large swath of territory straddling Iraq and Syria — thousands of IS fighters and their families were taken to the camp known as al-Hol.

Many of them were Iraqi nationals. Today, Iraqi officials see the facility, close to the Iraq-Syria border, as a major threat to their country's security, a hotbed of the militants' radical ideology and a place where

thousands of children have been growing up into future militants.

It's "a time bomb that can explode at any moment," warned Ali Jahangir, a spokesman for Iraq's Ministry of Migration and Displaced. Since January, more than 5,000 Iraqis have been repatriated, from al-Hol, with more expected in the coming weeks, he said.

It is mainly women and children who are sent home. Iraqi men who have committed crimes as IS members rarely ask to go back for fear of being put on trial. Those who express readiness to return, have camp authorities send their names to Baghdad, where the government does a security check and grants final approval. Once in Iraq, the detainees are usually taken to the Jadaa camp near the northern city of Mosul, where they undergo rehabilitation programs with the help of U.N. agencies before they are allowed back to their hometowns or villages.

China promotes economic 'integration' with Taiwan while militarily threatening the island

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: China is promoting new economic opportunities for Taiwanese people while at the same time ramping up military activity around the island it claims as its own.

Experts say the "carrots and sticks" approach, which Beijing has employed for years, signals a choice between peaceful "reunification" and military aggression ahead of a Taiwanese presidential election next year.

This week, China unveiled a plan for an "integrated development demonstration zone" in its southeastern Fujian province, the closest to self-governed, democratic Taiwan. Taipei strongly rejects China's sovereignty claims.

As part of the plan, Beijing is encouraging Taiwanese companies to list on Chinese stock exchanges and is promising better conditions for Taiwanese investors and a more "relaxed" environment for travel, according to a statement Tuesday by the Communist Party's Central Committee and the State Council, China's Cabinet.

"The goal is to build an integrated development demonstration zone in the entire area of Fujian province to fully show the effect of Fujian as the first-choice destination for Taiwanese people and enterprises to pursue development on the mainland," Pan Xianzhang, deputy director of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, said at a news conference Thursday.

The economic overture comes at a time of increased Chinese military activity around Taiwan. On Thursday, Taiwan's defense ministry said it spotted 68 Chinese warplanes and 10 warships near the island over the previous 24 hours. It said 40 of the aircraft entered Taiwan's air defense zone, in the latest of near-daily incursions meant to threaten Taiwan's government, which Beijing deems "separatist."

Earlier this week, China sailed an aircraft carrier 70 miles (110 kilometers) to Taiwan's southeast.

Pairing economic incentives with military coercion of Taiwan "is a very old playbook on China's part," said Drew Thompson, a research fellow at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore.

UK police pay damages & express regret to protesters arrested at London vigil for murdered woman

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: British police have paid damages to two protesters who were arrested while attending a vigil for a woman murdered by a serving police officer.

Thursday's announcement comes as the London force tries to rebuild trust after a series of incidents that exposed racism and sexism within its ranks.

Patsy Stevenson and Dania Al-Obeid were detained at the March 2021 protest vigil in London, which police said violated pandemic lockdown rules in place at the time.

The gathering was called after Sarah Everard, a 33-year-old London woman, was abducted and murdered by an off-duty Metropolitan Police officer as she walked home at night.

"We have just successfully become free now. ... We are absolutely elated," Gina Hill, an Australian passenger on board the ship.



Ukraine troops capture village south of Bakhmut, military says.

Top court's ruling on NAB amendments draws mixed reactions

ISLAMABAD (INP): The major Supreme Court verdict on Friday on the amendments made to the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) laws created a stir in political circles as it restored the corruption cases against political bigwigs. A three-member bench—headed by outgoing Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial, and comprising Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Ijazul Ahsan—in a majority 2-1 verdict approved Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's petition challenging the passage of NAB amendments by the previous Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)-led government.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti and Federal Minister for Communication and Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar during meeting of Cabinet Sub-Committee on ECL.

Domki condemns attack on security forces: Breach in peace intolerable at all; elements involved in terrorism to be taken to task: caretaker CM

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has categorically stated that the breach in peace is not tolerable at all and the elements involved in terrorism would be taken to task.

condemned the attack on security forces in the Wali Langi area of Balochistan. He said that the security forces foiled the attack of terrorists bravely. Ali Mardan Domki said that the sacrifices of security forces for restoration of peace in Balochistan are great and we pay rich tributes to them.

intolerable and as such adding he directed to take those involved in it must be taken to task. He said that the moral of institutions deputed for restoration of peace is high, and the people of Balochistan are standing by their forces.

Information mentioned that three terrorists were killed due to the timely retaliation by the security forces. Jan Achakzai said that there are great sacrifices of the security forces for establishing peace in the province. He reiterated the government's resolve to bring the elements involved in terrorism incident to justice.



QUETTA: Members of Pakistan Muttahida Mahaz are holding rally to expressing their solidarity with Pakistan Armed Forces, at Quetta press club.

AJK cabinet decides to reinforce accountability law in true spirit

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) cabinet has decided to amend the ineffective accountability law to resume across the board free, fair and strict accountability of the public office holders aimed to curb the rising menace of corruption by the government functionaries, said Minister.

Col Waqar Noor to propose amendments in the accountability law in order to enable the accountability Bureau to proceed against corruption in an effective manner. The accountability process was made ineffective by amendments in the accountability act during the last Pakistan Muslim League (N) government headed by former Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan leaving the accountability body to exist but with limited powers to proceed against corruption.

government in order to initiate across-the-board free, fair and strict accountability. Khan said that Prime Minister Anwar Ul Haq had earlier also activated the defunct anti-corruption department which shows his determination towards fairness and corruption-free governance in the region besides austerity measures taken to overcome the wastage of public money.



ISLAMABAD: Interim Minister for Energy Mr. Muhammad Ali held a meeting with a team representing Asian Development Bank at Power Division. The bilateral cooperation, energy efficiency and resource management for reforms in the power sector were discussed.

Good to see you all my friends: CJP Umar Ata

ISLAMABAD (Online): "Good to see you all my friends". This was said by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial while talking to the lawyers in his last case in Supreme Court (SC). The lawyer Mian Bilal said to the CJP when you heard your first case in high court then it was I who appeared before you. Today there is last case of yours in SC and I am appearing before you here too.

obligation to hear every one with patience. Bar has always extended cooperation to us and we have got much from Bar to learn. He further remarked by wearing black coat we consider ourselves part of bar. Justice Sahir Ali used to say bar is our mother. We will meet in bar room by grace of Allah.

Pak-Japanese delegations discuss multi lateral issues

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistanis and Japanese delegations discussed a wide range of bilateral issues at the outset of the 9th Round of Pakistan-Japan Security Dialogue held in Tokyo on Friday.

The delegation of Pakistan was led by Mr. Ameer Khurram Rathore, Additional Foreign Secretary (Asia-Pacific) while the Japanese side was led by Mr. Ryo Nakamura, Director General, Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Department.



QUETTA: Cantonment Executive Officer Muhammad Hayat Baloch meeting with Caretaker Provincial Minister Sheikh Mehmoodul Hassan Mandokhail

PPP is voice of four provinces: Ali Hassan

QUETTA (APP): President of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) district Hub, Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that the opponents of PPP are getting confused due to the increasing popularity of the party among the people.

the people. Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that the solution to the critical juncture the country is currently passing through and the economic situation of the country lies with the Pakistan People's Party alone.

Traders observe shutter down against attack on Hafiz Hamdullah

QUETTA (INP): A shutter-down strike was observed in Quetta on Friday against the Mastung blast which left Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) leader Hafiz Hamdullah and several others with critical injuries. Commercial centres were closed due to the shutter-down strike against the bomb blast. Anjuman-e-Tajir and Awami National Party (ANP) had supported the strike.

torecycle rider attempted to attach a bomb to it. They added that the bomb could not be attached to the vehicle of Hafiz Hamdullah and exploded. "Had it been attached to the vehicle, it would have caused greater damage," they stated.



ISLAMABAD: Director General of Islamic Organization for Food Security Yerlan Baidaut called on caretaker PM Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Custom House Quetta solarized; 50 KV solar system installed

Independent Report QUETTA: The Customs House Quetta was solarized with installation of 50 KV solar system on Friday. The Chief Collector Customs Balochistan, Abdul Qadir Memon formally inaugurated the solar system at the Customs House.

and other officers and solar engineers. The basic objective behind installation of the solar energy system is to save energy and long electricity break down. As the Quetta remain connected all the time with FBR and other concerned departments, and the routine work is affected due to the disconnection of electricity.

Smart classrooms initiated under CPEC growing in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Smart Classrooms project was initiated under CPEC in September 2021 and is now grooming in the country. Around 100 smart classrooms are being built in 50 universities across Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday.

Attock jail authorities refuse to arrange telephonic talks b/w Imran and his sons

ISLAMABAD (Online): Attock Jail Authorities have refused to arrange telephonic conversation between PTI chairman Imran Khan and his sons. Attock jail superintendent has filed reply to contempt of court plea in special court Islamabad established under official secret act.

Attock jail superintendent has said in his reply jail laws don't allow. Telephonic talk cannot be arranged. Jail superintendent said telephonic facility is not available to the those accused in secret act. The court's order regarding telephonic has not been violated.

ECP throws out petition against registration of Tareen's party

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan has dismissed the petition filed by the Istehkam-i-Pakistan Tehreek (IPT) against the registration of Jehangir Khan Tareen's Istehkam-i-Pakistan Party (IPP) on Friday.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Information Minister of Balochistan Jan Achakzai meeting with Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi

Election in 90 days: SC registrar office returns the petition with objections filed by JI, others

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) Registrar Office has returned with objections petitions filed by JI, Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and Ibadul Rehman seeking court order for holding general election in 90 days. The same objections have been raised on all petitions.

(3) of the constitution. And how can they file petition directly under this constitutional jurisdiction of the court. Secondly how they hold the authority to come in the court by exercising this extraordinary ambit of court. Thirdly How the petitioners have made president of Pakistan respondent in this case while he cannot be made necessary respondent under article 248 of the constitution. The forth is this the notices for the respondents have not been prepared as per law which are used for constitutional petition.

Role of BRSP in development of rural areas equally important along with govt.: Ejaz Jaffar

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Population Welfare, Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar has stated that there is a basic role of Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP) in development of rural areas and provision of basic amenities of life there is along with the government.

The caretaker Provincial Minister was speaking to the Chief Executive of BRSP, Tahir Rasheed, who called on him here at his office on Friday. The BRSP chief congratulated Sardar Ejaz Jaffar on assuming the office of Minister. The Minister PHE and Population Welfare on the occasion applauded the role of BRSP in development of the rural areas of province. During the course of meeting, different related matters were also discussed.



QUETTA: Affected students of MDCAT holding a protest