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COAS presides over 259th Corps Commanders' Conference Top military brass resolves to defend country's sovereignty, territorial integrity

Participants resolve to assist in curbing illegal activities hampering economic growth; Forum pays tribute to sacrifices of the martyrs of armed forces; Emphasis need for speedy development of economic potential of Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) and Border Districts of Balochistan for sustainable peace and growth

RAWALPINDI (Online): General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) presided over the 259th Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held at GHQ, today (Thursday).

Forum paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhadas including officers and men of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies and Citizens who laid their lives for the safety, security and territorial integrity of the country.

Fateha was offered for the martyrs and it was reiterated that the State of Pakistan and Armed Forces will continue to hold the Shuhadas and their families in highest esteem, ever honoring them with utmost respect and dignity.

Commemoration of Defence and Martyrs Day on 6 September across the country by all segments of the society was appreciated for which the Armed Forces of Pakistan remain ever thankful to our proud nation.

Participants reiterated Pakistan Army's resolve to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan against all kinds of direct and indirect threats.

Forum re-affirmed that inimical propagandists' desperate attempts to cause wedge between the state institutions and public are indicative of their mounting desperation and will only result into more humiliation of such elements, InshaAllah.

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RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff General Asim Munir presiding over 259th Corps Commanders' Conference.



QUETTA: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki presiding over a meeting to review affairs of Food Department

Jan lauds efforts of Army Chief for curbing currency smuggling

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Interim Minister for Information Jan Achakzai on Thursday lauded efforts of the Pakistan's Army Chief for preventing currency smuggling in the country which termed positive sign for interest of motherland.

He said that the Pakistan's Army Chief and his team stopped the mafia involved in currency smuggling by taking timely measures saying that the mafia wanted to spread chaos in the currency market through black marketing.

He said that the situation has improved, now the State Bank and other economic institutions should use this opportunity to boost the system.

The Information Minister also said that smuggling has reduced and the price of sugar has stabilized in the country. Balochistan Chief Minister has also taken steps to stop electricity theft and sugar smuggling as per the wishes of Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar, he said.

Notification regarding ban on Rs 5000 currency note fake: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Thursday that notification regarding the ban on Rs 5,000 currency notes was fake.

In a post on X, formerly Twitter, the minister said that the government would take strict action against those spreading such fake notifications.

PM emphasizes joint efforts to purge society of intolerance, promote brotherhood

Directs measures to address issues confronting overseas Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday emphasized the need to make joint efforts to purge the society of intolerance and promote brotherhood.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of Bohra Community headed by Shahzada Hussain Burhanuddin, said interfaith harmony was part of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's golden principles which was also the foundation of Pakistan as well as guiding light for the people.

Hussain Burhanuddin conveyed the good wishes of his father and spiritual leader of Bohra Community Dr Mufazzal Saiduddin for the prime minister.

The prime minister appreciated the Bohra Community's role in social welfare, education and economic sectors.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday directed the authorities concerned to take all-out measures to resolve the problems being faced by the overseas Pakistanis.

The prime minister, talking to his Special Assistant for Overseas Pakistanis Jawad Sohrab Malik who called on him, said the expatriates were a precious asset for Pakistan.

CM directs to bring stability in prices of flour; demand and supply of other edibles

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has directed the provincial Food department to bring stability in prices of the flour besides ensuring availability of the wheat and flour in the market.

The caretaker Chief Minister was chairing a meeting on the affairs of Food Department here on Thursday. The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan and other concerned high ups were present in the meeting.

The Secretary Food, Mubeen Rehman briefed the meeting about departmental matters of the Food

department and situation of wheat and flour in the province.

The caretaker Chief Minister on the occasion also directed to control the prices of other food items along with flour at the district and divisional level.

He asked the concerned high ups to extend the mandate of food department by bringing necessary changes according to the needs in the rule of business.

In addition to this, the balance should be created in the demand and supply of the flour and other edibles according to the market requirements, adding he stressed.

Mr. Domki also directed the CM Inspection

Team to check quality of the wheat purchased by the food department.

Moreover, the Food department should also take action against those involved in the smuggling and hoarding of wheat and sugar in collaboration with the district administration, the Chief Minister directed further.

He said that the interim government wants to give every possible relief to the masses by preventing inflation in the province.

He stressed that Food department, concerned departments and district administration would have to take wholehearted action for bringing stability in the prices.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Funds of Rs. 1.2 billion released for 11 public sector universities of Balochistan: Anjad Rasheed

QUETTA: The provincial Finance Department, Government of Balochistan has released the funds for 11 public sectors universities of the province.

The funds have been released on special directives of the caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Domki on Thursday.

According to the caretaker Provincial Minister for Finance, Anjad Rasheed, Rs. 1.2 billion have been released on the request of the universities.

Anjad Rasheed said that more funds would be provided to the universities after receiving the same from the federation.

It may be mentioned here that the public sector universities have been facing financial problems due to lack of funds and resources.

On this, the caretaker Chief Minister took notice and directed to release funds to the universities.

CS directs to continue operation for prevention of smuggling of sugar & urea across province

QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has directed the concerned high ups to continue operation for prevention of smuggling of sugar and Urea fertilizer and take stern action against those involved in smuggling and hoarding of the fertilizer and

sugar in the province. The standing directives were issued by the Chief Secretary while chairing high level meeting of the Provincial Task Force for anti-smuggling here on Thursday.

Those who were in attendance at the meeting

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IMF 'approves' Rs. 15bn relief in electricity bills

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a significant development, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has given the green light to a relief plan of Rs 15 billion which aimed to give financial relief to electricity consumers in Pakistan, sources said on Thursday.

According to media reports, matter revealed that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) played a pivotal role in securing this relief from the IMF, adding that the FBR has exceeded expectations by collecting an impressive amount of Rs 20 billion in excess taxes.

The IMF's decision to grant the relief of Rs 15 billion – aimed at relieving the financial burden on electricity consumers – is a testament to the commendable performance of the FBR.

Levies man among two killed in firing incidents

MASTUNG/NASIRABAD (INP): Two including a Levies man were killed and another injured separate firing incidents here on Thursday.

According to details, armed men shot death Levies personnel identified Abdul Zahir and injured a pedestrian at main bus terminal of Mastung city and fled the scene.

In Goth Ghulam Rasool Supra, jurisdiction of Baba Kot police station district Nasirabad, armed men barged into a house, gunned down Nazir Ahmed and escaped the scene.

Caretaker CM calls for restoring traditional beauty of Quetta, increasing civic facilities

Mir Ali Mardan Domki points out seriousness not demonstrated in resolving issues of city despite being provincial capital; vows to do best to make quite better city in brief tenure

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has regretfully pointed out that seriousness was not shown in resolving the issues of Quetta city despite the fact it is a provincial capital.

However, adding he firmly stated that it would be our wholehearted endeavor to make Quetta quite better city in our brief tenure.

He said that it is very essential to restore traditional beauty of Quetta city and increase civic facilities.

The caretaker Chief Minister was presiding over a meeting on the issues of Quetta city and their solution here on Thursday.

The caretaker Provincial Ministers Sardar Ejaz Khan Jaffar, Sheikh

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ISLAMABAD: Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf Saeed Al Malkiy called on the Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan.

Minister Homes visits routes of procession: Chehlum of Karbala martyrs observed peacefully

QUETTA: The processions taken out marking Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions culminated peacefully in the provincial metropolis on Thursday.

The strict security measures were adopted to ensure security and that no untoward incident is occurred during the course of processions taken out from Alamdar road and in Hazara Town.

The main procession started from Shuhada Chowk on Alamdar road in the morning and ended at the Bahisht-e-Zainab (RA) graveyard the same evening. The procession passed through different routes before its culmination at the ending point. Similarly, the second procession marking the Chehlum was taken out from Aliabad in Hazara Town, which ended at Hazara graveyard the same evening.

All the routes of both processions were sealed while the roads and streets leading to the routes were also blocked with hurdles and barricades.

Political and economic circumstances require us to take wise decisions: Governor

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has categorically stated that the current political and economic circumstances require us to take wise decisions as a nation, as we can steer the country and nation out of prevailing political and economic crisis with the public friendly policies and projects.

In this regard, we have to make serious and bold decisions in the present complex situation, the Governor maintained while

speaking to a delegation who called on him under leadership of Senator Sana Jamli here at Governor House on Thursday.

The Governor said that it is a challenge to strength the basic infrastructure all over the province according to the increasing human needs and ever changing circumstances in the province.

The Governor said that there's a very much backwardness in remote areas of the province, and in view of this, we have to make all policies and projects in the best interest of masses. For

the purpose, our targets of future can be succeeded with help and support of the international agencies.

He also stressed that it is high time to make serious and daring decisions in the present complex situation, and adopt a national thinking and approach instead of mere personal interests.

In addition to this, we would also have to adopt the policy of taking all along so that we are able to take wholehearted part in the country's development, he maintained.

Govt announces closure of markets at sunset

LAHORE (INP): The caretaker government has ordered measures to conserve energy, including closing all malls and markets at sunset to mitigate the effects of energy crisis.

A similar announcement was also made by the previous Shehbaz government regarding the closure of markets by 8pm across the country under the 'energy conservation plan'. On June 6, the former federal minister made the announcement while talking to journalists after a meeting of National Economic Council (NEC) chaired by then prime minister Shehbaz Sharif.

"The NEC has approved an energy conservation plan under which shops and commercial centres would be closed by 8pm," he had announced, noting that energy has become a huge challenge for Pakistan due to global prices. However, no implementation was made on the measures announced by the previous govt.



QUETTA: Members of Awami Action Committee are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, at Quetta press club.

Five terrorists of banned outfit killed in gun battle with CTD

QUETTA (INP): Five alleged terrorists of the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were killed during the course of an investigation, he revealed the presence of his associates in Quetta and divulged that they were "in advance planning of carrying out a terrorist activity in Quetta soon".

The CTD added that during the course of an investigation, he revealed the presence of his associates in Quetta and divulged that they were "in advance planning of carrying out a terrorist activity in Quetta soon".

An operation was planned and terrorists were

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting of Provincial Task Force for Anti-Smuggling regarding stopping of smuggling of Urea and Sugar in the province

'Prioritize capacity, finance for climate governance': Sherry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Sherry Rehman at Jinnah Institute's roundtable titled 'Financing Climate Action for Pakistan' on Thursday said, "In leveraging options for climate action, especially in the lead-up to COP28, Pakistan needs to prioritize finance, capacity at scale and climate governance."

"The intensifying terrain of environmental, climate and pollution challenges in Pakistan needs a reinforcement of priorities for government, civil society and development partners," she added, speaking with a group of leading climate experts and heads of multilateral agencies, a news release said.

Senator Rehman also launched the Centigrade Platform at this policy convening, to spur policy discourse, knowledge-based collaborations and resilience advocacy in Pakistan's climate and environment space. She explained that the idea behind Centigrade is to generate science-based climate leadership and communications for amplifying the scale and urgency of the emergencies facing communities, as well as fostering capacity towards emerging and existing crises, both

sectoral and national.

Speaking at the event, UN Resident Coordinator, Julien Harneis suggested that there was a need to tally Pakistan's receipt of climate funds against other vulnerable countries and any variance should be examined in terms of absorptive capacity. He also observed that engineers working on Pakistan's large infrastructure projects did not consider the obvious damage that was being caused to the environment. Resident Representative UNDP Pakistan, Samuel Rizk stated that climate finance opportunities for a lower middle-income country (LMIC) like Pakistan were limited, and a finance and investment combination was more likely to be the solution. For development partners like UNDP to assist Pakistan, there were key challenges to consider such as the regulatory environment, deficits in human capital and technical capacity that caused slower progress, he added.

Country Representative Unicef, Abdullah Fadil observed that the current distribution of climate finance is slanted towards integration, not inclusion. "75% climate-related in-

vestments are made in hard infrastructure, as opposed to investments in the resilience of vulnerable communities which help them combat climate stress themselves," he highlighted. There is a great deal of data now available through Unicef's Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), which shows that 40% of Pakistani children are suffering from nutritional stunting, which leads to stunted economic contribution and stunted GDP growth. Development needs to be prioritised with inclusion before anything else. Dr Abid Suleri, Executive Director of SDPI, pointed out a dichotomy in the international climate finance regime, whereby vulnerable countries like Pakistan could not leverage the Geneva Pledge unless there was requisite compliance with IMF. While he urged that fiscal prudence was necessary, making crisis adaptation funds dependent on IMF clearance was unnecessary and unfair. He suggested that Debt for Nature Swaps could be explored as an option for climate finance. Agreeing with this observation, senior climate expert Ali Tauqueer Sheikh argued that governmental assessments,



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Service Regulations and Coordination Dr. Nadeem Jan called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Envoy Junaid says: Belligerence can't defeat peace loving, self respecting nations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey Dr. Yousaf Junaid said that 16-day 1965 war had left a lesson that peace-loving, brave and self-respecting nations, determined to sacrifice lives for their country could not be defeated by force and belligerence. "Over the last 76 years, three major wars, several skirmishes and numerous rounds of unprovoked clashes have been imposed on Pakistan. India continues its illegal and immoral military occupation of Jammu and Kashmir and deny the right of self-determination to Kashmiris against every norm of international law and the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council," the

ambassador said during Pakistan's Defence and Martyrs Day reception at Pakistan House in Ankara.

Turkish Minister of Trade Prof. Dr Omer Bolat graced the occasion as chief guest and Commander Turkish General Staff (TGS) General Metin Gurak as guest of honour.

The event was marked with enthusiasm and patriotism, in which tribute and homage were paid to the indomitable courage of the armed forces and martyrs who sacrificed their lives in successfully defending the motherland, when Indian forces crossed the international borders with full might in 1965, a press release said on Thursday.

High ranking Turkish civil and military officials, ambassadors, members of the diplomatic corps, defence and military attaches, media persons and members of Pakistani community attended the reception.

Ambassador Junaid reiterated that Pakistan was committed to regional peace and security and has contributed significantly to global campaigns against terrorism and peacekeeping missions all over the world.

Pakistan believed in a constructive engagement, resolving issues through dialogue and peaceful co-existence, he stressed and thanked the Turkish nation for standing with Pakistan and Pakistani people through thick and thin.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Babar Hayat Tarrar chairing a high level meeting to review the preparations to observe Kashmir Black Day on 27th October.

ICCPO reviews diplomatic enclave security

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan evaluated the security measures in place at the diplomatic enclave and discussed strategies for their enhancement.

In a meeting held at the Central Police Office, he gave directions to ensure the effective security of residential foreign diplomats, ambassadors, and offices of international organizations.

The meeting was attended by the officers of NLC, Police and CDA. The meeting assessed the complete security of the diplomatic enclave and decided to take measures for its improvement. During the meeting, ongoing construction work in the diplomatic enclave was also reviewed, emphasizing environmentally-friendly construction practices and minimizing damage to natural beauty such as trees and greenery.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the long queue of passengers at Green Line/Blue Line Bus Station outside PIMS Hospital as according to them the quantity of buses are very rare, which needs to be increased by local administration for the ease of the passengers in Federal Capital.

PIDE roundtable meeting on fixing the fiscal policy

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Macro Policy Lab recently hosted the "Fixing Fiscal Policy" Round Table Conference in Islamabad. The event addressed the persistent challenge of fiscal discipline in Pakistan and sought to chart a visionary path for the nation's fiscal policy. Distinguished participants included senior economists, researchers, and fiscal experts from various institutions across the country, such as the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, P&D Baluchistan, QAU, SZABIST, the US Embassy, ADTMA, P&D Punjab, IIUI, NUST, and

COMSATS.

In his introductory remarks, Dr. Nasir Iqbal, Associate Prof. and Chief of Macro-Policy Lab, PIDE said that the Round Table Conference, "Fixing Fiscal Policy," aims to unite policymakers and thought leaders to foster collaboration and develop local solutions in the fiscal framework of Pakistan. By bringing together academia and policymakers, we seek to chart a visionary path of fiscal policy in Pakistan for the future, transcending from short-term approaches and firefighting.

In his opening remarks speaking at the occasion Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, VC PIDE said that three things need to be focused on for the fixation of

Netherlands Envoy calls on Caretaker FM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the Netherlands to Pakistan Henny Fokel de Vries on Thursday called on Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani. They discussed important regional and international developments and agreed to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in the areas of agriculture, water management, trade and investment, the Foreign Office Spokesperson posted on social handle X.

Ashrafi urges G20 leaders to condemn Indian atrocities in IIOJK, protect minority rights

274,994 doctors registered with PMDC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) has said that so far 274,994 doctors are registered with the council.

According to an official of PMDC, the Pakistan Medical Council right after assuming the charge and in a very short span of time started working dedicatedly for doctors, students and relevant stakeholders and took all necessary steps to resolve their genuine and relevant issues.

He said that the licensing Department of the council during the last nine months issued more than 41,004 renewals, 13,208 provisional registrations to new graduates and 13,888 full registrations to doctors who completed their house jobs successfully.

fiscal policy. Firstly, the role of the government is crucial in ensuring effective fiscal management. Secondly, taxation and expenditure must be carried out in a transparent manner with accountability. This includes how to collect taxes, how to spend them, and where to allocate funds. Lastly, debt management is also an important aspect that requires attention.

Dr. Ashfaq Hasan Khan, Principal of the School of Social Sciences & Humanities, NUST while speaking at the roundtable meeting said that to address economic challenges, it is important to immediately reset the role of the government from being an active player to a facilitator.

Environmental samples from Peshawar, Karachi test positive for wild poliovirus

ISLAMABAD (Online): Health Minister says viruses do not respect boundaries, urges parents to ensure repeated polio vaccination and complete routine immunization for their children

Four environmental samples collected in August have tested positive for wild poliovirus.

The virus was isolated from a sewage sample collected from Shaheen Muslim Town in Peshawar on August 17, from two samples collected from two tributaries of Naray Khwuar in Peshawar on August 22 and from a sample collected from a site in Karachi Keamari on August 17, the Pakistan Polio Laboratory at the National Institute of Health said on Wednesday.

The lab, which also serves as the WHO Regional Reference Lab for poliovirus confirmed that genetic testing has linked the virus in all samples to the cluster circulating in Afghanistan.



ISLAMABAD: Indonesian Ambassador to Pakistan Adam M Tugio posing for a group photo along with students after recognition ceremony of a local University in Federal Capital.

Malik conducts series of virtual meetings with CWAs

ISLAMABAD (APP): In line with the Prime Minister's commitment to addressing the concerns of overseas Pakistanis, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Jawad Sohrab Malik recently conducted a series of virtual meetings with Community Welfare Attaches (CWAs) stationed in Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, UAE and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

"In these virtual interactions, Malik conducted individual meetings with each CWA, aiming to evaluate their ongoing efforts and the strategies they employ to tackle the challenges faced by Pakistani expatriates in these countries," said a press release here Thursday.

The CWAs provided valuable insights into their roles, shedding light on the obstacles they encountered while providing support to the Pakistani community, it



ISLAMABAD: A view of the newly inaugurated "Jungle Track" at Shakarparian area as the track is unsuitable for walking or cycling at all, which is surprising in order to inaugurate by Chairman CDA in Federal Capital.

Tribute paid to Sept 6 martyrs at PHC London

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan High Commission, London held a ceremony in connection with the Defence and Martyrs Day to commemorate the 58th anniversary of Pakistan Defence Day.

The event was attended by distinguished guests, including Dr. Victoria Tuke from the UK's Ministry of Defence, Lords, MPs, Defence Attaches from friendly countries, and members of the community the other day.

IHC indicts DC, SSP ICT in contempt case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday indicted Deputy Commissioner (DC) Irfan Nawaz Memon, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP Operations) Jameel Zafar and two others in a contempt case pertaining to prolonged detention of PTI leaders Shehryar Khan Afridi and Shandana Gulzar under Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) Ordinance.

Justice Babar Sattar, hearing the case, also indicted SP Farooq Buttar and Station House Officer (SHO) of Margalla Police Station Nasir Manzoor in the same case.

Justice Babar Sattar heard the contempt case against deputy commissioner and SSP Operations ICT with regard to abuse of authority in issuance of detention orders against PTI leaders Shehryar Khan Afridi and Shandana Gulzar.

At the outset of hearing, DC Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon and SSP Operations Jameel Zafar submitted their written clarification into the case and extended unconditional

apology. Advocate General Ayaz Shaukat also opposed the indicting of the officials and prayed the bench to not indict them as the officers have extended an unconditional apology.

Justice Sattar asked that how can we not indict them, the matter of contempt of court was under way here yet the DC issued another MPO order. Addressing the officials, Justice Sattar said you would be sent to jail if you were convicted. It was a six-month sentence wherein you may also live in jail and see how those who you sent to jail live there, he remarked.

Justice Sattar remarked that the court had fixed this date to frame the charges against the officers. At this, the DC said that the purpose of his order was not to violate the court order at all. He then extended an unconditional apology to the court, which was rejected.

Then the court read out the indictment order against the officers. However, the accused denied the charges against them.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Power and Petroleum, Muhammad Ali exchanging views with Kamran Tessori, Governor Sindh during meeting.

First Lady for global efforts to overcome mental health issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): First Lady Begum Samina Alvi on Thursday called for sustained measures, global contributions and support to overcome the issue of mental health and well-being of people in the conflict zones.

The first lady, in her video message for the 3rd Summit of the First Ladies and Gentlemen in Kyiv, Ukraine, urged the need to make efforts to resolve ongoing conflicts in the world.

She said that promoting peace in the world and working together was essential for the mental health, emotional well-being, and peaceful future of the succeeding generations.

The theme of this year's Summit, which was initiated by Ukraine's First Lady Olena Zelenska, was "Mental Health: Fragility and Resilience of The Future". President Volodymyr Zelensky also delivered a speech at the Summit. The Summit also featured messages from the First Ladies and Gentlemen of Japan, Türkiye, Albania, Germany, Armenia, Macedonia, Poland, Spain, and Sweden among others. In her message for the Summit, Begum Samina Alvi expressed concern about the mental health

and well-being of people in conflict zones, besides conveying her sympathies to the families in Ukraine who had to face physical, emotional and mental stresses due to war. "We in Pakistan can feel their pain and empathize with the people of Ukraine. We feel that it is humanity that suffers during crises and conflicts", Begum Samina Alvi said.

She highlighted that Pakistan's own experience of hosting millions of Afghan refugees for over four decades and its long battle against terrorism had taught Pakistan that conflict and war severely affected the mental health of people.

First Lady Samina Alvi highlighted that the brutalities against the Muslims of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) by India for over seven decades, had badly impacted the mental health of Kashmiris.

She referred to a study by Doctors Without Borders and the University of Kashmir which disclosed that nearly 1.8 million Kashmiri adults, almost 45 per cent of the region's adult population, found themselves grappling with varying degrees of mental distress.

Toshakhana case Interim bail of Bushra Bibi extended

ISLAMABAD (Online): Interim bail of Bushra Bibi wife of chairman PTI has been extended in Toshakhana case.

Toshakhana case against Bushra Bibi came up for hearing before additional sessions judge Tahir Abbas Sipra in district and sessions court Islamabad Thursday.

Bushra Bibi appeared in the court along with her lawyers Suleman Safdar, Intizar Panjtoha and Naeem Panjtoha.

The investigation officer gave a statement in the court saying arrest of former first lady is wanted by him.



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Jawad Sohrab Malik, Strengthens Support for Overseas Pakistanis through Engagements with Community Welfare Attaches.

Michael Spindelegger, DG, ICMPD) calls on SAPM, Jawad Malik

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrab Malik, held a productive meeting here on Thursday with Mr. Michael Spindelegger, the Director General of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

The meeting covered several key areas of collaboration between the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (MOPHRD) and ICMPD, according to a press release.

SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik commended ICMPD's efforts in developing the 'Soft Skills Training Guide' in collaboration with the Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC), which greatly benefits intending emigrants.

fruitful partnership between MOPHRD and ICMPD since 2016, acknowledging ICMPD's invaluable support in various initiatives.

One notable achievement of this collaboration is the establishment of two Migrant Resource Centers in Islamabad and Lahore, which have proven to be essential hubs for assisting overseas Pakistanis. Furthermore, both sides discussed their work plan for 2023-2026 and expressed eagerness for its effective implementation.

SAPM Jawad Sohrab Malik commended ICMPD's efforts in developing the 'Soft Skills Training Guide' in collaboration with the Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC), which greatly benefits intending emigrants.

He highlighted the

Punjab Governor inaugurates 3-day food technology exhibition

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman inaugurated the three-day International Food Technology (IFTEC), Plastics and Pack exhibition at the Expo Centre, here on Thursday.

Addressing the audience, he said promotion of industry and trade was very important for prosperity and development of the country, adding promotion of industry leads to socio economic development and also generates employment opportunities. He said organisation of such international exhibitions bade well for bolstering the industry.

Appreciating contribution of businessmen to society, the Punjab governor said businesspeople were not only contributing to development of the country by paying taxes, but also through their welfare works.

He said that such exhibitions would give an opportunity to people associated with the plastic and packaging industry to expand their businesses. The governor said that such exhibitions would have a positive impact on business development and the country's economy. He said that such event also play an important role in promoting the latest technologies by bringing together diversified exhibitors from all over the world and provide a forum to exchange ideas and cost-effective solutions.

He said he was happy to see that more than 200 plastic and packaging industry stalls had been set up at the three-day international exhibition and companies from more than 20 countries including Canada, Belgium, Russia, Denmark, France, Germany, America, United Arab Emirates were participating in the event.

President Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Kashif Anwar, Managing Director Pegasus Consultancy, Aamer Khanzada, GM Projects Pegasus Consultancy, Kashif Waheed and representatives of various companies related to food processing, plastic and packaging industry were present in large numbers.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman cutting ribbon to inaugurate the 18th IFTECH and Plastic & Pack exhibitions at Expo Centre.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman cutting ribbon to inaugurate the 18th IFTECH and Plastic & Pack exhibitions at Expo Centre.

Caretaker CM Sindh says: Street crimes in city, kidnapping for ransom in Riverine area being curbed

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Rtd) Maqbool Baqar has said that his government was taking strict measures to curb the menace of street crime in Karachi and kidnapping for ransom in the Riverine area.

"We are establishing the rule of law and nobody would be allowed to take the law in his hands."

This he said while talking to media at M.A Jinnah Road at Sea-breeze where he attended the Chehlum procession. Minister Home Brig (ret'd) Haris Nawaz, IG Police Raja Riffat Mukhtar,

Additional IG Police Khadim Rind, and others.

The caretaker CM said that all the abducted persons, except a few have been recovered. He added that the remaining kidnapes would be recovered shortly. "We have given a clear message to the police that no negligence into the security and safety of the citizens would be tolerated," he said.

Justice Baqar said that the issue of street crime was being solved. He added that the home minister and IG police were taking strict measures to control the situation and its positive

results would come out shortly.

To a question, the caretaker CM said that the civilian government was taking measures to improve the economic situation of the country. He hoped that people would witness the improvement.

Earlier, the chief minister attended Majlis at Nishtar Park and then went to CPO where he reviewed security arrangements for the procession at the Command & Control center. The chief minister also attended the peaceful culmination of Chehlum procession at M.A Jinnah Road, Sea-breeze.

Oct 14 Conference to have profound impact on KP politics: JUI-F

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Ameer, JUI-F Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Maulana Atta-ur-Rehman said that the historic conference in Peshawar on October 14 will have a profound impact on the politics of the province.

He was addressing a meeting of Central Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at the residence of the Senator Dilawar Khan in Mardan on Thursday. Provincial General Secretary Maulana

Atta Haque Darwish, Maulana Fazal Ali Provincial Information Secretary Haji Abdul Jalil Jan, former Provincial Information Secretary Asif Iqbal Daudzai also attended the meeting.

Maulana Amanullah Haqqani JUI District Amir Maulana Muhammad Qasim, District General Secretary Maulana Amanat Shah Haqqani, Senator Haji Dilawar Khan, Maulana Qaiseruddin, Hafiz Akhtar Ali and others also spoke.

Dumper-tractor trolley collision claims 3 lives

LAHORE (Online): As many as 3 persons died and 4 were injured when a dumper collided with a standing tractor trolley at Arayan stop Raiwind road Lahore.

Those riding tractor trolley were having breakfast when the dumper collided with tractor trolley.

3 persons died on the spot while 4 got injured.

On information Rescue teams rushed to the scene and shifted the injured to Indus hospital.

15k buses needed for public transport, 1029 buses plying on roads in the city

KARACHI (APP): The World Bank report has revealed that a total of 15,000 buses are needed for the comprehensive transport system of Karachi while currently only 1029 buses are operational on city roads including 240 buses of People's Bus Service, 100 buses of BRT, and 689 old buses operated by private sector.

Besides, work is in progress on route feasibility for the procurement of 500 more buses for the province.

The caretaker provincial minister of finance, revenue, and planning and development in Sindh Muhammad Younus Dagha was told these details by the officers of the Sindh transport department during a briefing on projects at his office in the Sindh secretariat here, said a spokesperson on Thursday.

It was informed that in the light of the report of the World Bank, around 13000 more public transport buses were needed in Karachi to meet the gap.

During the briefing, the caretaker provincial minister Muhammad Younus Dagha directed that the private sector should be encouraged under public-private partnership projects to meet the huge gap in public transport for Karachi.

The caretaker minister was informed that a plan to provide easy loans to local private transporters through the establishment of an endowment fund was under consideration by the transport department to bring forward the private sector and in this context, it was also suggested that these loans be provided at the zero markup rate.

Governor hospitalized due to blood pressure

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Governor KP Haji Ghulam Ali suffered a mild rise in blood pressure during his stay in Nithia Gali on Thursday.

The spokesperson of the governor confirmed that his team immediately shifted him to the Ayub Medical Complex in Abbottabad earlier this morning. The Governor received immediate medical treatment at the Ayub Medical Complex while the spokesperson also confirmed that subsequently, his blood pressure has since returned to normal. For the last couple of days, Governor KP Haji Ghulam Ali was in the Hazara division to attend several ceremonies as chief guest.

CTD arrests militant in Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) has arrested a militant associated with a banned outfit wanted in high-profile terrorism cases in Sukkur.

According to the CTD spokesman on Thursday, the terrorist identified as Farooq Shah was head of the banned outfit's provincial student wing and he was wanted in seven high-profile terrorism cases.

The CTD officials said that the name of the arrested terrorist was also included in the Red Book as he was involved in several abduction cases. Spokesman CTD further said one pistol and several bullets have been recovered from the accused and further investigation was underway.

8 held during crackdown against outlaws in Taxila

WAH CANTT (APP): Police in different raids on Thursday arrested eight outlaws involved in illegal activities and also recovered narcotics, and liquor from their possession. According to police, during a crackdown, police arrested as many as eight outlaws including two proclaimed offenders wanted in two different cases. Sub-divisional Police Officer said that Wah Sadder Police raided two different drug dens of Danish and Shahbaz.



KARACHI: Shiite Muslims holds placards against the National Assembly Bill, during Arbaeen procession in Provincial Capital.

Maliha Husain says: Sexual harassment ruining society

FAISALABAD (APP): Maliha Husain, executive director, Mehergarh—a Center for Learning, has said sexual harassment is ruining society as cancer.

"Hence, we all from, parents to teachers, are duty-bound to play a proactive role for rooting out the evil in an effective way," she stressed.

Addressing a seminar on 'Sexual Harassment Act 2010' at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), she said sexual harassment was common phenomenon, but unfortunately, it was not discussed in our society.

"Although the Sexual Harassment Act 2010

safeguards lives of people from the societal evil, yet there is a dire need to provide awareness about it at the public level," she said.

"The discussion on sexual harassment in families is considered as a taboo. We should hold conversation in this regard to create awareness so that we can get rid of the menace," she added.

Maliha Husain said that in our society not only women but also men fell victim to sexual violence. In today's age, friendships start through internet and its videos, sometimes, lead to crimes.

Hindus celebrate Thadori across northern Sindh

SUKKUR (APP): Hindus in across the northern Sindh are celebrating Thadori festival on Thursday.

Thadori is a famous traditional festival, celebrated in Siraman/Saawan month of monsoon season. On this day women decorate the doorways of their houses and do mud plaster to their kitchens.

No cooking activities were done on this day. The sweet roties (mitho lolo) made of pure ghee are offered to Shita Mata to stay safe from various diseases. Sweet roties are exchanged with relatives and friends, if needed women cook fresh food or tea in the temporary fireplace.

Punjab gov't ordered crackdown on power thieves in province

CS urges citizens to support national drive against electricity theft

Independent Report
LAHORE: The caretaker Punjab government, on Wednesday, issued instructions to all the divisional commissioners and regional police officers (RPOs) to launch a full-scale crackdown on electricity thieves.

The instructions were issued by Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman during a video link meeting held at the Civil Secretariat. The Additional Chief Secretary (Home), secretaries of industries, energy department, Additional IG Special Branch attended the meeting while all divisional commissioners, RPOs and heads of Power Distribution Companies participated through video link.

The meeting decided to take stern action against those government employees and officers patronizing electricity theft and to improve the

prosecution procedure after registration of FIR against power thieves. The Chief Secretary said that prevention of electricity theft is a national cause. He said that the burden of electricity theft has to be borne by the common consumer, and urged the citizens to support the government in the national campaign against electricity theft. He said that electricity thieves are causing direct damage to the national treasury, adding that it is necessary to punish such elements.

The Chief Secretary said that according to the data, the line losses are highest in the areas managed by LESCO and MEPCO in Punjab. He said that the administration and police would provide full support in the operation against electricity theft while a committee would be constituted at the province level for monitoring.



HYDERABAD: Security high alert on the top of building at Koh-e-Noor Chowk during Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) the grandson of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), martyred along with his family members and companions at Karbala.

Chelum of Hazrat Imam Hussain observed in northern Sindh

SUKKUR (APP): Like others part of the country, the Chelum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) was observed at Sukkur, Khairpur, Ghotki, Shikarpur, Jaccabad, K a s h m o r e , Noushehroferoze and other parts including Rohri, Pano Aqil, Kot Diji with religious spirit, devotion and respect on Thursday.

In this connection the Majlis Aza programmes, seminars and conferences were held in the various areas/towns to highlight the sacrifices and the services of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) for Islam.

Speakers paid rich tributes to the Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), and his 72 companions who sacrificed their lives for the holy cause. Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) was the younger grandson of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), and the younger son of the Hazrat Ali (RA) and Hazrat Fatima (RA). In all parts of the northern Sindh mourning processions were

taken out to highlight the importance of the day and pay rich tribute to the Karbala martyrs.

On the occasion Chehlum, the prominent speakers said that Azadari is the strongest citadel and most effective spiritual weapon against international colonial powers.

Addressing in Majlis-e-Aza, the participants, and speakers said Azadari is echoes of Zainab (RA) and Zain-ul Abideen (RA). They said Azadari-e-Imam Hussain (RA) preaches courage and bravery and the lesson of sacrifice with the spirit of sacrifice.

In Khairpur and other districts, speakers said that Nawasa-e-Rasool Al-Saqain Shahzade-e-Konain Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) sacrificed his life along with 72 near and dear ones in Karbala for protecting Islamic values, supporting human dignity, and defending religion and Shariat rather he took religion.



ABBOTTABAD: A View of the fire eruption in vehicles at workshop of shumalai area of the District.

PAL organizes seminar on 76years of KP Literature

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) organized a seminar on 76 Years Literature of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with Aziz Ijaz and Kalsoom Zeb as chief guests and Dr Mehboob-ur-Rehman as guest of honour.

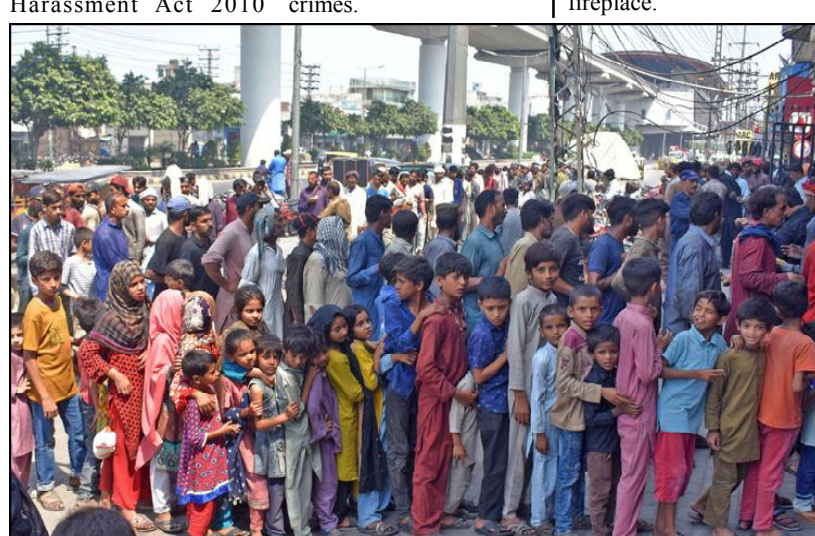
Addressing the participants of the seminar, the renowned scholar, researcher and poet, Professor Dr Yar Mohammad Maghmoon said that special thing in the beautiful literature of the writers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is that it reflects the culture, civilization and traditions of the people. He said that natural environment and colour of the society is visible in the literature of the province. In his address the guest of honour, Dr

Mehboob-ur-Rehman said that both prose and poetry of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is commendable from all aspects as it reflects nationalism, humanity and natural environment of the Pakhtun society.

Professor Aseer Mengal, Malik Arshad Hussain and Resident Director PAL Peshawar, Badshah Nusrat shed detailed light on the literary work in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, so the coming generations utilize it to their benefit.

They said that the literature of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa not only consists of sweet stories, lines, phrases and other segments of the literature, rather also contains reality.

The seminar was also followed by a Mushaira in which Yousaf Ali Dilsooz.



LAHORE: Deserving people stand in long queues to take free food at G.T Road, in Provincial Capital.



MULTAN: Rescue workers evacuate people from the villages as water from the Sutlej River continued to inundate settlements along its banks, near Multan on Thursday.

UAJK extends admission deadline for fall semester

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): In a significant development, the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK), under its esteemed patronage, has extended the regular admission dates for the upcoming Fall 2023 semester.

This extension applies to admission in various programs, including BS, MSc, MPhil, and PhD, at the UAJK. The new deadline for admission submissions is now set for September 15.

In line with this announcement, the UAJK's Public Relations Department has officially communicated that entrance tests for these programs are scheduled to take place on September 20 and 21. Prospective students seeking admission to the University of Kashmir are encouraged to

collect admission forms, along with comprehensive guidelines, from the Office of Director Student Affairs located at Chellah Campus, Muzaffarabad. This initiative aims to ensure that all students, regardless of their internet access, can easily access the necessary documentation.

Speaking on behalf of the UAJK, its spokesperson confirmed that Prof. Dr Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, the Vice-Chancellor, has granted approval for the extension of admission dates for all departments under the umbrella of the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, now aligned with the September 15, 2023 deadline. According to the revised notification, the final date for regular admissions across all departments within the Faculty of Sciences.

PM Kakar says: Crackdown on smuggling bringing positive outcomes

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday said that the crackdown by the government on smuggling during the last 48 hours brought positive outcomes and was also welcomed by the authorities of neighboring countries.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that an operation against the smuggling had been launched across the country, particularly in the border areas.

He said the consultation was underway to promote trade with neighboring countries which had also welcomed the government's crackdown against smuggling.

He said the resolution of business community's problems was among the government's priorities.

The prime minister welcomed the proposals by the delegation and assured implementation of the practicable ones.

He told the delegation that after assuming the office, he interacted with the business community and listened to their issues.

He appreciated the business community's role for economic development and provision of job opportunities.

Prime Minister Kakar said the government was reforming the taxation system through digitalisation.

He said the economic development was not possible unless the tax collection was increased.

He said the government would bring in the economic stability by winning confidence of traders, industrialists and investors.

The reformation process in the power sector was also going on and action was being taken against those involved in the power theft.

The prime minister said that consultation with all the stakeholders was essential for issues resolution and the Commerce Ministry would regularly seek suggestions from the chambers.

He directed the authorities concerned to submit a report on expansion of FBR's Point of Sales system besides improving the performance of commercial attaches in Pakistan's diplomatic missions.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar

Senate committee for reinforcement of framework, implementation by KoFHA

KARACHI (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Maritime Affairs, on Thursday, directed Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority (KoFHA) for reinforcement of legal framework and strengthening the implementation of the given mandate for achieving the core objectives of the authority.

The chairperson of the standing committee Senator Rubina Khalid while presiding over the meeting, also directed the officials concerned to improve coordination with other relevant agencies working in the sector and ensure the implementation

of minimum wages of workers set by the federal government. The meeting of the upper house committee was attended by members of the committee Senator Abida Muhammad Azeem, Senator Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, Senator Danesh Kumar, Senator Muhammad Akram and Senator Dost Muhammad Khan as well as Managing Director KoFHA Syed Masood Ahmed Rizvi and other officers of the authority. The committee was briefed on functions, performance, financial status and revenue generation, and issues being faced by KoFHA.

The chairperson and committee members expressing dissatisfaction with the performance of the authority noted that KoFHA had failed to exert its authority with regard to controlling unlicensed fishing activities in its jurisdiction, starting auctions at the harbour and facilitation of export-oriented business activities. The chairperson proposed the officials to frame a clear plan of action with defined functions and powers and implementation mechanism for ensuring the licensing of fishing vessels besides utilizing modern technology.



KARACHI: Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Maritime Affairs Senator Rubina Khalid chairing a meeting to review performance of Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority (KoFHA).

Pakistani volunteer's ringside seat at Beijing trade fair

BEIJING (APP): Pakistani graduate student Hussain Azhar has volunteered at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) in Beijing these days, promoting his home country's exhibitors at the fair, which he considers an excellent event for identifying business opportunities.

"I am very proud to be selected as one of the volunteers by the Pakistani Embassy in China to help introduce what we have to offer here to visitors from all over the world," Azhar told Xinhua.

At the five-day fair, from Sept. 2 to 6, Azhar received about 150 visitors per day, on average, at the Pakistani national pavilion.

Azhar is working on his Ph.D. in business at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, and views his volunteering stint as a fascinating and eye-opening experience.

At the Pakistani

national pavilion, there are five exhibitors: the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) of the Pakistani government, the National Logistic Corporation (NLC), the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP), Habib Bank Limited (HBL) and the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

"STZA provides solutions to international entrepreneurs to start their business or invest in Pakistan, and NLC, NBP as well as HBL have taken CIFTIS as an opportunity to promote their cross-border services in logistics and financing," said Azhar.

Prior to studying in Beijing, Azhar taught business studies at Preston University in Pakistan for 17 years.

"I can't put into words how excited I am to see so many big-name companies and advanced technologies at the fair, which brought together important companies like Alibaba, Intel,

Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves reach 13.126 billion

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan stood at US\$ 13,126.7 million while reserves held by the central bank reached at \$ 7,779.3 million.

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that SBP's reserves decreased by \$ 70 million to \$ 7,779.3 million on account of debt repayments during the week ended on September 01, 2023.

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks stood at \$ 5,347.4 million, it added. In the previous week ending on August 25, 2023, total liquid foreign reserves held by the country was US\$ 13,171.1 million. Among them foreign reserves held by the central bank were \$ 7,849.3 million while net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were \$ 5,321.8 million.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Two ships namely, Star Crimson and Ullswater, carrying 59,279 tonnes of Coal and 3,543 tonnes of LPG, berthed at Bulk Terminal and Sui Southern Gas Terminal respectively on Wednesday.

Meanwhile two more ships, Zoe Schulte and PVT Elena with Chemicals are also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim on same day.

A total of 06 ships were engaged at PQ4 berths during the last 24 hours, out of them an edible oil carrier "TRF Kirkenes" sailed out to sea on Thursday, while three more ships, Fuwairit, Copenhagen Eagle and TTC Vidyt are expected to sail on same day.

PSX witnesses bearish trend, sheds 50.34 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a bearish trend on Thursday as it lost 50.34 points and closed at 45,757.23 points against 45,807.58 of the previous trading day, showing a decline of 0.11 percent.

A total of 177,062,657 shares were traded during the day as compared to the last day's 139,710,712, whereas the trading value of shares was recorded at Rs7,581 billion against Rs4,813 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 320 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, out of which 139 gained and 159 sustained losses.

Minister assures to address concerns of KCCI on priority

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali on Thursday assured to address the concerns of Karachi Chambers of Commerce and Industries (KCCI) on priority.

During a meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori the minister said he would visit Karachi at the end of this week and meet the business community

and representative of KCCI to resolve their issues.

The minister also shared the federal government's initiatives and plans for controlling power theft and improving recoveries.

Muhammad Ali underscored the need to further harness the potential of indigenous resources including renewable energy and Tar coal.

Consumers of 3G/4G service increased to 126 mln

ISLAMABAD (APP): The number of 3G and 4G service users in Pakistan has significantly increased and reached 126 million by the end of July 2023.

As per the details available on the official site of the PTA, the number of active mobile SIMs reached 191 million during the same period. The number of broadband subscribers reached 129 million while the broadband penetration was recorded at 54.18 per cent.



FAISALABAD: A view of the unfunctional factory along the Maqbool road as due to the un stable economic and political situation, a lot of such factories shut their production across the country.

Malik says: Prospect of attracting investments from Gulf states remarkable chance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Hitech Hybrid Seed Association (PHHSA) Shahzad Ali Malik Thursday said the prospect of attracting substantial investments totaling \$100 billion from Gulf states is a remarkable opportunity for Pakistan.

Talking to a delegation of industrialists, he said that the investment will be instrumental in bolstering various sectors of the economy, including infrastructure, energy, technology, and agriculture, said a press release.

The potential for a direct interaction between national leadership and the

business community, as well as the significant investment opportunities from Muslim countries, will yield a positive impact and strengthen the national economy, he added.

He said in this context, fostering a direct and open channel of communication between the Army Chief and the business community will be a game-changer. Such interactions can facilitate the exchange of ideas, concerns, and strategies to enhance economic growth and stability.

He said not only will this injection of funds create jobs and stimulate economic activity.

LESCO carries out operation against power thieves

LAHORE (APP): Operation against power thieves was carried out in all circles of the Lahore Electric Supply Company as per the direction of Federal Power Division.

According to LESCO sources here on Thursday, 330 connections were found involved in power theft.

Applications for registering FIRs against power thieves had been submitted in relevant police stations while 130 FIRs got registered.

As many as 11 accused had been arrested while all connections had been disconnected and 1,037,425 units were charged under detection bill head worth Rs 47,427,301.

Pak & Ethiopia have very important place in terms of trade and economy: Envoy

ISLAMABAD: Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan Jamal Beker Abdula visited the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) Capital Office in Islamabad and called on Vice President FPCCI Umar Masood ur Rehman, Convenor, Syed Asad Mashadi. They discussed wide-ranging trade, industry, and commercial avenues of cooperation, investments,

however, my target is to take it to \$300 million by the end of 2023. Pakistani textiles, medicines, and other products will have more space in the Ethiopian market. The Ethiopian ambassador, Mr. Jamal Beker Abdula, remarked that the world should not see Pakistan through a Western media lense. Pakistan is a peaceful, culturally rich, and diversified country with immensely strong social



and joint ventures. On behalf of the business and trading community, Mr. Jamal Beker Abdula, Ethiopian ambassador, said that a preferential trade agreement between a g r i c u l t u r a l, Pakistan and Ethiopia is indispensable for the promotion of mutual trade. "Bilateral trade between the two countries is minimal and amounts (only) to \$78 million; values and huge economic potential, he remarked. He stressed the bilateral trade relations, and stated that Ethiopia is an attractive market for Pakistani pharmaceutical, and technological products while Ethiopia is critical to Pakistan's food security in terms of import of pulses, chickpeas and red kidney beans.

US-Pakistan discusses to strengthen bilateral trade economic, trade ties

ISLAMABAD (INP): The United States (US) and Pakistan on Thursday discussed strengthening bilateral trade relations, fostering mutual cooperation to the bilateral ties.

US Ambassador Donald Blome called on the Federal Minister for Commerce, Industries and Production, Dr. Gohar Ejaz in the Ministry of Commerce, said a press release issued here.

One of the key highlights of the meeting was the exploration of potential opportunities for boosting trade in various sectors, including Textile, value added Food products, Fresh Mangoes and Dates, Soybean and

Beef. Minister Dr Gohar Ejaz informed that the Government of Pakistan has formed a Special Investment Facilitation Council aimed at attracting investments in various sectors such as Mines and Minerals, Agriculture, Information Technology, and Energy and he invited that more US companies could explore the options to invest in these sectors.

The Minister elaborated on the government's efforts for an economic revival plan with the Ambassador underscoring the importance of economic growth of Pakistan's future and appreciated the US government for their continued support.

RCCI organizes Business Opportunity Conference in Egypt

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) organized the Pakistan-Egypt Business Opportunities Conference in Cairo, Egypt on Thursday. According to an RCCI spokesman, the conference witnessed the convergence of visionary entrepreneurs from both Pakistan and Egypt.

More than 200 delegates from Pakistan and Egypt representing different sectors including Information Technology, Textile, Agriculture, Construction, Pharmaceuticals, minerals and Travel and Tours,

attended the conference. Mahmoud Mostafa Kamal Esmat, Minister of Public Enterprises Sector was the chief guest on the occasion whereas Ambassador Sajid Bilal, Dr. Alaa Ezz Amin, RCCI President Saqib Rafiq, and Executive Committee members of RCCI were also present on the occasion. On the sidelines of the Business Opportunity Conference, Business-to-business (B2B) meetings were held which provided an exclusive platform for delegates to establish meaningful connections and nurture potential partnerships.



ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Kamran Tessori, Governor of Sindh called on Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs & Privatization at Finance Division.

Easypaisa partners with Esquare to facilitate salary disbursements

ISLAMABAD (APP): easypaisa, Pakistan has partnered with Esquare Services Private Limited to seamlessly facilitate salary disbursements to employees through its digital platform.

This integration not only promises efficiency but also empowers employees with timely and convenient access to their earnings. Esquare will now utilize easypaisa's open Application Programming Interface (API) architecture to disburse salaries, advances, and

incentives to its workforce. Shahzad Khan, Head of Productive Lending, Channels & Corporate Business, Telenor Microfinance Bank, Omar Aijaz Khan, Head of Corporate Sales & Partnership, easypaisa, and Shayan Ahmed Sheikh, CEO of Esquare Services Private Limited attended the signing ceremony, said a press release.

Commenting on the collaboration, Shahzad Khan, Head of Productive Lending, Channels & Corporate Business,



QUETTA: People purchase used goods due to price hiking, at makeshift weekly market located on Benazir Flyover road in Quetta

Deadly Russian strike on market in Ukraine kills 17

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: A Russian strike killed at least 17 people at a market in east Ukraine Wednesday, officials said, in an attack that President Volodymyr Zelensky described as deliberate and "heinous".

Projectiles tore through the centre of Kostiantynivka — a town of nearly 70,000 people in the Donetsk region — hours after America's top diplomat arrived in Kyiv to announce new wartime aid.

Ukraine's newly appointed defence minister meanwhile vowed to liberate "every centimetre" of territory occupied by Russia in his first comments in the post.

Rescue workers picked through the debris and carried some of the wounded for treatment past charred vehicles and kiosks torn to pieces in the

blast, according to images distributed by officials.

"Seventeen people were killed and 32 injured as a result of the Russian shelling," Interior Minister Igor Klymenko said, announcing the rescue operation had ended.

Prime Minister Denys Shmygal said a child was among those killed in the attack, which took place about 20 kilometres from the front line.

"Anyone in the world who is still dealing with anything Russian simply ignores this reality," said Zelensky.

"Heinous evil. Brazen wickedness. Utter inhumanity." He later accused Russia of deliberately targeting civilians and said there were no military units "anywhere near" the scene.

The attack came as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Ukraine,

with Washington set to unveil more than \$1 billion in fresh aid to battle Russia.

During a meeting with Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, Blinken reiterated Washington's support for Kyiv in its fight to liberate territory in the south and east.

"We want to make sure that Ukraine has what it needs, not only to succeed in the counteroffensive, but has what it needs for the long term, to make sure that it has a strong deterrent," he told Kuleba.

Blinken is expected to announce "more than a billion dollars in new US funding for Ukraine", said a senior State Department official.

The Kremlin dismissed Blinken's Kyiv visit, arguing US aid would not "influence the course of the special military operation" — Moscow's term for its offensive.



London and the EU agreed the UK can rejoin the EU's Horizon science programme.

Biden aims to use G20 summit and Vietnam visit to highlight US as trustworthy alternative to China

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden is looking to demonstrate to the world at the Group of 20 summit in India and during a stop in Vietnam that the United States and its like-minded allies are better economic and security partners than China.

White House officials said Biden, who was set to depart for New Delhi on Thursday evening, will use this year's G20 gathering as an opportunity for the United States to highlight a

proposition for developing and middle income countries that would increase the lending power of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund by some \$200 billion.

That is an attempt to offer a significant, albeit smaller, alternative to China's massive Belt and Road infrastructure initiative, which the U.S. views as a Trojan horse for China-led regional development and military expansion. Chinese President Xi Jinping plans to skip the

summit, where Premier Li Qiang will represent the country.

Afterward the summit, Biden and Vietnamese General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong will meet in Hanoi and are expected to announce plans to tighten economic cooperation.

Vietnam and China have robust trade relations, but also deep differences. Vietnam, like Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Brunei, has been in a tense territorial standoff for decades with China.



U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris leaves after attending the East Asia Summit at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia.

EU tells Turkiye to 'address democracy' to join bloc

Monitoring Desk
ISTANBUL: The European Union's enlargement commissioner told Turkiye on Wednesday to address issues around democracy and the rule of law if it wants to boost its drive to join the bloc.

Ankara secured a pledge from Brussels to resurrect stalled membership negotiations in exchange for lifting its blockade of Sweden's drive to join the Nato military alliance.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has made mending ties with Western allies one of his priorities after winning a difficult election in May.

The EU's enlargement chief Oliver Varhelyi came to Ankara to try and gauge where the sides could find common ground.

Varhelyi told reporters that he hoped to come up with "something tangible and something positive" for the bloc's leaders to discuss at a European Council summit in December. "I think this partnership has huge potential," he said.

But Varhelyi noted that negotiations were currently at a "standstill" and needed action by Turkiye on human rights issues to move on.

"For this to be remobilised, there are very clear criteria set out also by the European Council that would need to be addressed," Varhelyi said.

"And these criteria are related to democracy and the rule of law and, for example, a credible roadmap for moving forward in these reforms."

Iran journalist says she was assaulted during arrest

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: An Iranian journalist who interviewed the father of Mahsa Amini said she was sexually assaulted during her latest arrest and was now on hunger strike in prison, according to an audio message published on Wednesday by several Persian media outlets and rights groups.

Nazila Maroufian, 23, has been repeatedly targeted by the Iranian authorities since she published an interview with Amjad Amini, whose daughter died in custody on Sept 16, 2022, sparking months of protests.

Rights groups have accused the Iranian authorities of stepping up an already intense crackdown to prevent the upcoming one-year anniversary of Amini's death being marked by new protests.

14 die in Greece, Turkiye as storms follow heat

Monitoring Desk
VLOS: Storms have killed at least 14 people in Greece, Turkiye and Bulgaria, with a Greek region hit by more rain in 24 hours than it normally sees in a year, officials said on Wednesday.

A period of extreme heat has given way to heavy storms, turning streets in north-western Turkiye into rivers and hitting Greece with unprecedented downpours as it recovers from weeks of wildfires.

"Everything saved from the fire we had in July has been destroyed by this bad weather," said Christos Kleftakis, 49, in Nea

Anchialos, near the central Greek city of Volos.

"This is unprecedented — these severe weather events, the strength of the rain, the wind. I've never seen anything like that before," he added.

As the world warms, the atmosphere contains more water vapour which increases the risk of heavy precipitation in some parts of the world, notably in Asia, Western Europe and Latin America.

Combined with other factors such as urbanisation and land-use planning, these more intense rainfall events contribute to flooding.

Moderna says its vaccine fares well against Covid variant

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Moderna said on Wednesday its updated fall Covid booster, which is pending approval from the Food and Drug Administration, performed well against the highly mutated BA.2.86 variant. Human trial data showed the shot produced an 8.7-fold increase in neutralising antibodies against the variant, also known as Pirola, which has been designated a variant under monitoring, the US biotech company said. It added it was submitting the results to a peer-reviewed journal and has shared it with regulatory authorities.

Xi visits flood-stricken area in northeast China

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Eschewing face-time with foreign leaders at global summits this week, Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday visited the homes of villagers in a rural part of northeast China battered by floods.

In the village of Longwangmiao in Heilongjiang province, Xi called on local residents to triumph over their difficulties and work towards returning life to a more normal footing, according to state media reports. He also enquired about their losses and supply of daily necessities.

In late July through early August, record rainfall laid waste to vast swathes of northern China, flooding cities and farmlands unused to powerful storms more common in the south, but Xi did not visit any of the disaster-hit areas until this week.

Inspecting rice crops and damaged homes in Longwangmiao battered by

remnants of the super typhoon Doksuri, Xi skipped an Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Indonesia this week. He will also miss the chance on Saturday and Sunday to meet with U.S. President Joe Biden at a G20 conclave in India. But Xi did attend a meeting in late August with leaders of the BRICS group of major emerging economies - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - in South Africa.

China has not explained why Xi, who had attended every G20 summit since coming to office over a decade ago, was not leading Beijing's delegation to New Delhi. It has said only that Premier Li Qiang will represent China.

By comparison, Xi left China for five overseas visits in 2022 - when the country's borders were effectively closed due to pandemic controls - and a dozen in pre-COVID 2019.

UK says it will declare Russia's Wagner mercenary group a banned terrorist organization

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: The U.K. announced Wednesday it will declare Russia's Wagner mercenary group a banned terrorist organization, saying it remains a threat to global security even after the death of leader Yevgeny Prigozhin.

The government said an order will be introduced in Parliament to proscribe the group under the Terrorism Act. The designation, once approved by lawmakers, will bar membership in or support for Wagner, which has played a major fighting role during Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It also has operated in Syria and several African nations.

The move, expected to take effect within days, puts Wagner in the same category as the Islamic State group.



Former Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum smiles after the announcement of the results of an internal national polling which declared Sheinbaum as the presidential candidate, in Mexico City, Mexico.

Australia PM confirms China visit, Li says ready to resume exchanges

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: Australia's prime minister confirmed on Thursday he will visit China later this year after talks with China's premier, who said Beijing was ready to resume bilateral exchanges after years of friction. The announcement by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese came after a Southeast Asia summit in Indonesia came after a years-long break in relations over political and economic issues including Chinese sanctions on Australian imports.

"I... confirmed the invitation from President Xi," Albanese told report-

ers after talks with Chinese Premier Li Qiang, adding he "will visit China later this year at a mutually agreeable time". The trip would be the first to China by an Australian prime minister since 2016. Li told Albanese China was ready to work with Australia to resume exchanges in different areas, Chinese state news agency Xinhua reported, without mentioning specific areas.

He said the Asia-Pacific region was the shared home of both countries and Beijing would work with Australia to safeguard peace and stability in the region, according to Xinhua.

U.S., South Korea, Japan agree to accelerate missile tracking cooperation

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: Defence chiefs from the U.S., South Korea and Japan on Thursday jointly condemned North Korea's recent test of missiles and agreed to accelerate missile tracking cooperation, South Korea's Ministry of National Defence said in a statement.

The ministers from three countries also agreed to hold training in the near future as part of defence measures against Pyongyang's nuclear threats.

US envoy visits Chad border with Sudan, vows to respond to atrocities

Monitoring Desk
ADRE: The U.S. envoy to the United Nations met Sudanese refugees fleeing ethnic and sexual violence on Wednesday and said the United States would "do everything in our power to prevent and respond to mass atrocities" in Sudan's war.

On a visit to the town of Adre in Chad on the border with Sudan, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, a member of President Joe Biden's cabinet, announced high-profile new sanctions targeting the deputy leader of Sudan's paramilitary Rapid

Support Forces (RSF) - and brother of the RSF commander - over human rights abuses.

She also said the United States would give an additional \$163 million in aid and urged others to step up.

The U.N. says half of Sudan's 49 million people need help and has appealed for \$2.6 billion - so far, it has secured only 26% of this amount.

"That's shameful. And I am calling on the international community to do more and give more," she told reporters in Adre.

UN offers to support Gabon for transition back to civilian rule

Monitoring Desk
LIBREVILLE: A U.N. representative told Gabon's military leader the U.N. institutions stood ready to support the country as it transitions back to constitutional order following a coup that ended the Bongo family's 56 years of dynastic autocracy.

Army officers seized power on Aug. 30, annulling an election minutes after an announcement that President Ali Bongo had won, which they said was not credible.

Bongo, in power since 2009, had succeeded his father Omar Bongo, who ruled for 42 years.

India's Modi calls for climate finance ahead of G20 meet

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that leaders of the G20 summit he is chairing this weekend must support developing nations to tackle climate change with more cash and by sharing technology.

Against a backdrop of record-breaking temperatures and deadly heatwaves across the globe, climate scientists and activists have warned of dire consequences — particularly for developing countries — if leaders fail to forge a consensus.

Modi has pitched India as a self-styled leader of the "Global South", a bridge between developed and developing countries.

"Many countries of the Global South are at

various stages of development and climate action must be a complementary pursuit," Modi wrote in an editorial carried by several Indian outlets as well as international dailies, including in Britain and Japan.

Globally, wealthy nations missed their pledge to provide, by 2020, \$100 billion a year in climate finance to poorer nations, eroding trust that polluters will help vulnerable countries least responsible for warming to tackle the challenges of climate change.

The Group of 20, which will meet in New Delhi this weekend, consists of 19 countries and the European Union, making up about 85 per cent of global GDP, and a similar amount of its carbon emissions.

US Vice President Harris calls NKorea-Russia military support "huge mistake"

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris said it would be a "huge mistake" for North Korea to exchange military support with Russia for use in its war against Ukraine.

Harris, who is in Jakarta, Indonesia for an ASEAN summit, told CBS News in an interview broadcast on Thursday that it would be a sign of desperation for Russia to seek aid from the reclusive North Korea and it would further isolate both countries.

"I think it would be a huge mistake. The idea that they would be supplying ammunition to that end, is—would be a huge mistake. I also believe very strongly that for both Russia and North Korea, this will further isolate them," Harris said.

U.S. officials have

warned in recent days that arms negotiations between Russia and North Korea are actively advancing, while a report said North Korea's Kim Jong Un plans to travel to Russia this month to meet President Vladimir Putin and discuss supplying Moscow with weapons for its war effort.

"It is very clear that Russia has—clearly they're very desperate. They have already experienced a strategic failure. Just think about it, at the beginning of it all, year and a half ago, the pundits were saying that this would be over in days. Well, the Ukrainians are still fighting," Harris told CBS.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan on Tuesday warned Kim that his country would pay a price for supplying Russia with weapons to use in Ukraine.

China says 90 countries have confirmed attendance for Belt and Road Initiative

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China said on Thursday that 90 countries have confirmed attendance for its Belt and Road Initiative conference being held in October.

The third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) will be held in Beijing in October, the foreign ministry has previously said, with 2023 marking the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Several foreign leaders are expected to attend, including Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic and Argentine President Alberto Fernandez, state media reported.

Russian President Vladimir Putin also has a scheduled visit to China in October when the country hosts the One Belt One Road forum, Putin's aide Yuri Ushakov said recently, according to Russia's state news agency TASS.

"We have received an invitation and plan to go to China," Ushakov said, according to a report from the Global Times.

China's foreign minis-

try said the country has signed Belt and Road cooperation documents with more than 150 countries and over 30 international organizations, according to Xinhua.

"Over the past decade, Belt and Road cooperation has achieved fruitful outcomes," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin recently said at a press conference, adding that it has established more than 3,000 cooperation projects and galvanized nearly \$1 trillion of investment, state media reported.

Critics see the ambitious Belt and Road initiative - billed as recreating the ancient Silk Road to boost global trade infrastructure - as a tool for President Xi Jinping's China to spread its geopolitical and economic influence.

Debate in the West over economic dependence on China has cast a shadow over longer-term trade and investment relations with Beijing. Italy, the sole Group of Seven nation in Belt and Road, said the decision by a previous government to join had been "atrocious".

Cancer surging among under-50s worldwide, says study

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: The number of people under 50 diagnosed with cancer has surged worldwide in the last three decades but it is not fully clear why, a study said on Wednesday. Cases of cancer among people aged 14 to 49 rose by nearly 80 per cent, from 1.82 million to 3.26 million, between 1990 to 2019, according to the study published in the journal BMJ Oncology.

While experts cautioned that some of that increase was explained by population growth, previous research has also indicated that cancer is becoming more commonly diagnosed among under-50s.

The international team of researchers behind the new study pointed to poor diet, smoking and alcohol as major risk factors underlying cancer in the age group.

But "the increasing trend of early-onset cancer burden is still unclear," they added. A little over one million people under 50 died

of cancer in 2019, up 28pc from 1990, the study said.

The deadliest cancers were breast, windpipe, lung, bowel and stomach cancers, according to the study. Breast cancer was the most commonly diagnosed over the three decades. But the cancers that rose the fastest were of the nasopharynx, where the back of the nose meets the top of the throat, and prostate.

Liver cancer meanwhile fell by 2.9pc a year.

The researchers used data from the 2019 Global Burden of Disease Study, analysing the rates of 29 different cancers in 204 countries. The more developed the country, the more likely it was to have a higher rate of under-50s diagnosed with cancer, the study said. This could suggest that wealthier countries with better healthcare systems catch cancer earlier, but only a few nations screen for certain cancers in people under 50, the study added.



H-IIA rocket carrying the national space agency's moon lander is launched at Tanegashima Space Center on the southwestern island of Tanegashima, Japan in this photo taken by Kyodo.

8th Sep marked as Navy Day to pay tributes to valiant sons of soil for bombarding Dwarka: CNS

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi on Thursday said Pakistan Navy celebrated 8th September as the Navy Day to pay tributes to the sacrifices of its Officers and Men who demonstrated self-belief, grit-n-guile and absolute faith in Allah SWT to venture into enemy waters and bombarded coastal town of Dwarka. In his message on the Navy Day, the Naval Chief said that on this day, we acknowledge the sacrifices of our Shuhadas and Ghazis and honour their bravado and valiant spirit which lifted the morale of the nation against a sinister enemy during the 1965 War, a Pakistan Navy (PN) news release said.

During Operation Dwarka, codenamed 'Operation SOMNATH', Pakistan Navy's seven major

warships proceeded on an audacious mission inside enemy territory and destroyed significant shore installations including Indian radar station and a radio beacon at Dwarka. PN Flotilla's attack took the enemy by surprise and dealt a severe blow to the morale of the Indian Navy that not only rattled its defences but paralyzed its response.

Furthermore, PN Submarine GHAZI posed an ominous threat to the Indian Navy severely restricting its operations and confining it close to the coast. Pakistan Navy besides ensuring own maritime defence also maintains round the clock presence in the international waters and engages with regional navies to foster interoperability and promotes maritime security at high seas. Therefore, Pakistan Navy is acquiring state of the art capabilities to meet emerging security challenges.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications & Railways Mr. Shahid Ashraf Tarar presiding over meeting of National Highway Council - Supreme body of National Highway Authority.

MoIB releases details of payments made to media for ads during last 2yrs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoIB) on Thursday released details of the payments made to electronic, print and digital media in terms of advertisements during the past two years.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has conducted media campaigns for different initiatives and events including Kissan Package, the PM's Youth Programme, Benazir

Income Support Programme, national days, and foreign visits, said a news release.

The MoIB issued advertisements in classified and unclassified (display) categories.

The Press Information Department played its role in paying the advertising bills of 437 federal departments and agencies.

From July 2021 to June 2022, payments of Rs 2,47,50,53,713 were made during the tenure of the Pa-

kistan Democratic Movement government in terms of advertisements issued by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf regime.

From July 2022 to June 2023, the Ministry of Information made payments worth Rs 2.93 billion in the form of advertisements issued by the MoIB.

From July 2022 to June 2023 which was tenure of the PDM government, the federal ministries and departments paid Rs

98,73,18,074 to print and electronic media.

The PDM government received bills worth Rs 2,74,11,04,091 from print, electronic, digital media and outdoor media. These bills were received in the form of advertisements issued from July 2021 to June 2022.

Under the bills received for the period from July 2021 to June 2022, the MoIB made payments worth Rs 2,47,50,53,713.

Tarar wants new schemes for NHA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications and Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar wants to focus on undertaking new schemes to increase the revenue level of the National Highway Authority (NHA). The minister presided over the 44th meeting of the National Highway Council (Supreme body of NHA), held here at the ministry on Thursday.

Federal Secretary Communications/Chairman National Highway Authority Capt @ Muhammad Khurram Agha, and high-ups from the Finance Division, Planning & Development Division, Highway Construction Expert, Financial Professionals and the senior officers of the Ministry of Communications and National Highway Authority were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the meeting, the minister stressed to

focus on undertaking new various schemes to increase the revenue level of the Authority at large. He directed to launch of a comprehensive media campaign for the implementation of hiked violation fines on Motorways and National Highways across the country. He further asked to gear up the pace of work on the construction of residential apartments for NHA employees. Tarar desired to improve the maintenance affairs of Motorways and National Highways and that maximum travelling and civic amenities on service and rest areas be ensured for ease of the travellers.

He also emphasized the beautification of Motorways loops that would ultimately improve environmental conditions and will be a practical step forward towards achieving an environmentally friendly roads network in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Former Senator Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan Nasir calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

In upcoming low-flow season Chairman WAPDA for ensuring completion of diversion scheme

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman WAPDA Engr Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd) has directed the contractor to ensure completion of the diversion system during the up-coming low-flow season for diversion of River Swat. The Chairman visited various construction sites of the project to review the progress achieved so far, said a press release.

He witnessed concrete works on upper stilling basin of the spillway; also observed construction activities at left and right abutments of the dam and various components of the diversion system including the diversion tunnels. GM and PD Mohmand Dam Project, the consultants and the contractors were also present during the visit.

Later in a briefing, schedule for diversion scheme, resource loaded programme for quarry development, stock piling and dam filling as well as activity-wise resource loaded programme for the whole project were discussed. The Chairman said that achieving the key milestones on time is inevitable for completion of Mohmand Dam Project in accordance with the schedule. He emphasized upon the project team, the contractors in particular, to make concerted efforts in this regard.

WAPDA is constructing Mohmand Dam Project across River Swat in Mohmand District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It is the 5th highest concrete-face-rock-fill dam in the world.



QUETTA: A delegation of Education Parliamentarians Cucus of Senate led by Senator Sana Jamali meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

World Literacy Day being observed today: Knowledge only stair to success and development of nations, emphasizes caretaker CM

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has emphasized upon the importance and utility of education and termed it only step to success and development of the nations.

In a message issued on the World Literacy Day being observed today (Friday), the caretaker Chief Minister said that the objective behind observance of the day at international level is to introduce the world to the beacon of knowledge and provide such an environment in which it is possible to im-

part education and ensure good upbringing of the children.

He noted with concern that millions of children are deprived of education due to poverty and other unavoidable reasons in our country, and most of them can't move ahead from primary and middle level.

He stressed that we would have to pay attention towards the non-formal education along with the formal education. In this regard, the role of non-formal education department is also important, he added.

The caretaker Chief Minister noted with con-

tentment that although the literacy ratio has increased due to increase in the consciousness, but we need to increase further.

He said that it should be our basic endeavor to reduce the drop out of the children from schools and provide proper environment to them for getting education.

He stressed the need to expedite the efforts to promote consciousness and awareness among the people at every level.

He also emphasized to educate the otherwise millions of children who are deprived of education in the country.

PTA committed to provide support, facilitation to cable industry: Chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman PTA, Major General @ Hafeez Ur Rehman Thursday said, that Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) was committed to providing support and facilitation to cable industry within the legal parameters.

During a meeting with a delegation of the Cable Operators Association of

Pakistan (CAP), the chairman emphasized that the authority was proactively reviewing the current CVAS License (Class Value Added Services) regime through a stakeholder consultation process to address issues related to the provision of internet services, considering the ever-evolving dynamics of the digital market and technological ad-

vancements. The delegation also discussed the matters of mutual interest. The primary focus of the meeting was to deliberate on regulatory matters and concerns regarding provision of internet services by cable operators in Pakistan.

The chairman PTA extended a warm welcome to the delegation and listened to their concerns.



QUETTA: A delegation led by acting Central Chairman All Pakistan Media Council Nisar Ahmed Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Saudi envoy calls on Caretaker Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD (Online): Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia called on Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, and Privatization Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, at the Finance Division, today.

Finance Minister Dr. Shamshad Akhtar warmly reciprocated the sentiments and reiterated that the long-term relationships

the long-standing historical, religious, and cultural ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The Minister also apprised the Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of continuation of policies and programmes of the Government to bring economic prosperity in the country.

Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia reciprocated the sentiments and reiterated that the long-term relationships

World Bank delegation calls on IT minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): World Bank delegation led by its Country Director for Pakistan, Najy Benhassine called on Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif here on Thursday.

The minister welcomed the delegation on arrival at Ministry of IT and matters of bilateral interest and 'Digital Economy Enhancement Project' were discussed.

Dr. Umar Saif said that the project will be helpful in the provision of online services to the masses at one platform.

He said during the last few years both federation and provinces saw great work done regarding digitalization, but all the systems were not linked; now due to this project, all government systems will be linked and digitally-enabled public services delivery to be through one platform.

It will be very easy for citizens to get domicile, NOC, birth certificate, vehicle registration and other online services in smooth and rapid manner, he added.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shaakeel Qadir Khan meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Govt rules out hike in prices of medicines

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal government rules out any hike in the prices of medicines.

Pharma Industry wants increase forthwith in the prices of over 250 medicines and it is not possible to increase the prices of medicines immediately.

According to federal health ministry pharma industry wants enhancement in the prices of over 250 medicines but it is next to impossible to raise the prices of medicines immediately.

The authorities said that the shortage of medicines is a pretext to pressurize government for hiking prices of medicines.

All the medicines are earning profit to pharma industry except 8 to 10 medicines.

According to authorities prices of medicines were increased from 14 to 20 percent this year. The decision to hike the prices of medicines can be made only by next elected government.

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PM praises forces for thwarting attack on military posts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday praised the armed forces for thwarting a terrorist attack on military posts near the Pak-Afghan border in Chitral. "Thanks to our alert forces, the terrorist attack on military posts near the Pak-Afghan border in Chitral, was repelled with heavy casualties on the terrorist side," he said in his social media post on X, formerly twitter.

BAEC announces schedule of class 8's annual exam

QUETTA: The Balochistan Assessment and Examination Commission (BAEC) has announced the schedule of annual examinations of class 8 in the cold areas of the province.

According to an announcement made by BAEC on Thursday, the examinations are scheduled to be held from November 6-11, 2023.

All government, private, Balochistan Residential Colleges, Cadet colleges and schools can take part in the examination for Rs. 800 has been fixed for the regular and private students. As per the announcement, registration fees can be deposited from September 7-30, 2023.



ISLAMABAD: Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia called on Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, and Privatization Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, at the Finance Division.

Achakzai expresses sorrow on four martyrs in terrorist attack on Chitral border

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Caretaker Minister for Information Jan Achakzai on Thursday strongly condemned the terrorism incident on the Chitral border near the Pak-Afghan border. He said that the terrorists attempted a cowardly attack on the posts of the Pakistan Army on the Chitral border which was foiled by personnel of the Pak Army. He expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of four Army men as a result of the attack. The Information Minister said that 12 terrorists were killed by the timely retaliatory action of

Pakistan forces. The soldiers fought the enemy with courage and bravery and made the nation proud.

He said that the blood of martyrs will never go in vain and we paid tribute to our heroes. The integrity and survival of the country is possible thanks to the sacrifices of the martyrs. The nation stands with Pak Army to eliminate of anti-peace element from the country. He said that in this hour of sorrow, we expressed our condolences and sympathy to the families of the martyrs and always prayed for the elevation of the ranks of the martyrs.

Caretaker CM flays terrorist attack at Chitral border

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has condemned the terrorists' attack at the Chitral border near Pak-Afghan border.

In a condemnation issued here on Thursday, the caretaker Chief Minister expressed grief and sorrow over martyrdom of four security personnel in the cowardly attack.

He paid tributes to the Pak army who promptly retaliated and killed 12 terrorists. He said that the killing of terrorists in the retaliation is proof of courage and bravery of Pak army.

He said that the Pak army made the nation proud by causing heavy loss to the terrorists in retaliation. He said that the sacrifices of martyrs would not go wasted. He also said that the nation is standing by its armed forces.

Religious affairs minister visits Kartarpur, emphasizes cross-border harmony

NAROWAL (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed Thursday visited Kartarpur, and expressed his appreciation for the love and respect shown by the pilgrims, emphasizing the strong bond of humanity that united both nations.

He was warmly received by Abu Bakr Aftab Qureshi, CEO of the Project Management Unit,

who briefed the minister on the project's objectives and approved developments.

During his visit, the minister toured various key facilities, including the zero-line, facilitation counters, Langar Khana, Gurdwara Sahib, and the Amrit Jal Filtration Plant.

He also engaged with Indian pilgrims, inquiring about their impressions and experiences regarding the Kartarpur Corridor initiative.



QUETTA: Caretaker Home Minister Captain (Retd) Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali inspecting route of Chehlum procession

New Chinese envoy to bolster Sino-Pak friendship

ISLAMABAD (INP): The newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong will work for bolstering the robust friendship and enduring strategic cooperation between China and Pakistan.

"The recently appointed Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, arrived in Islamabad on Wednesday to officially assume his role," the Embassy posted on social media.

In the statement, the Embassy emphasized Ambassador Jiang Zaidong's dedication to bolstering the robust friendship and en-

during strategic cooperation between China and Pakistan.

Jiang Zaidong was nominated as the new ambassador to Pakistan in July, filling the position that had remained vacant for six months since the previous ambassador, Nong Rong, returned to China.

During this interim period, the Charge d' Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan Pang Chunxue had been diligently performing the ambassadorial duties, according to the statement, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Thursday.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, and Turkmenistan Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov meet to enhance bilateral trade.

Govt imposed under agenda drifted country to economic quagmire: Maulana Fazl

LAHORE (Online): PDM chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said the government imposed under an agenda pushed Pakistan to economic quagmire.

"Imran Khan government drifted the country to economic quagmire. The government imposed under an agenda in 2018 was aimed at handing over Kashmir to India and recognizing Israel, he said this while addressing Khatme Nabuwat conference here.

He held "I am not seeing so that any future government will be able to steer us out of this quagmire.

He went on to say first

economic instability was brought in Pakistan. Then the country was driven to political and economic mire and attempt was made to pit us against each other. But we maintained unity. There is need to keep the people abreast of all these things.

He underlined the intellectuals see their interest in recognizing Israel but they don't see the brutalities being perpetrated on Palestinian Muslims. Neither any such pressure is exerted on economy of India, Bangladesh, Afghanistan or Iran which is put on Pakistan.