

Independent

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Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 06. No. 134 Zilhajj 15, 1445 AH Saturday June 22, 2024 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

Bilawal vows free solar energy for Karachi

PPP chairman addressed a crowd in Lyari during a birthday celebration for late Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari announced plans to provide free solar energy to Karachi residents to alleviate load-shedding.

He also expressed hope that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would fulfill promises made to the PPP as budget discussions with the government continue.

Speaking at an event in Lyari celebrating Benazir Bhutto's birthday on Friday, Bilawal emphasised the PPP's long-standing commitment to Karachi, highlighting their efforts against two military dictators and their continuous support for the city's residents.

Bilawal reiterated his personal commitment to

the city's development, noting his own political journey with the people of Karachi, the city where both he and Benazir Bhutto were born.

He expressed gratitude to the people for electing the PPP to form the Sindh government again and urged Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah to focus on addressing Karachi's issues.

He praised Shah and his team for resolving problems that arose during the caretaker government's tenure. He acknowledged the efforts to improve law and order and expressed optimism for further improvements.

Addressing the national load-shedding crisis, Bilawal pointed out that

regions like Sindh, Balochistan, southern Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa face 16 to 18 hours of power outages daily, with residents struggling to pay their bills.

He announced plans to introduce a project in the upcoming budget to provide free solar power to the poor and subsidised rates for those who can afford it, aiming to mitigate load-shedding effects.

Bilawal also discussed the current economic challenges and ongoing budget negotiations with the government.

He emphasised the importance of including PPP in budget discussions to ensure the concerns of their constituencies, mainly representing the country's

poor, are addressed.

Bilawal voiced disappointment that the government did not consult the PPP earlier but stressed the need for unity in navigating the economic crisis.

He revealed that PPP representatives are in Islamabad negotiating with the government to resolve issues and work towards passing the budget, expressing trust in Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's intentions to honor promises made to PPP.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a group photo with participant's of 3rd Pakistan-China joint consultative meeting of political parties on CPEC, in the Federal Capital.

Pak-China friendship vital for peace, development of both countries & region: PM Shahbaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that the Pakistan-China friendship was indispensable for peace and development of both the countries as well as the region and beyond.

Emphasizing on historic and unique significance of bilateral relations between the two countries, the prime minister reaffirmed that the Pakistan-China friendship was time-tested and enduring.

He was talking to Minister of International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) Liu

Jianchao who along with a delegation called on him at the PM House.

While welcoming the Chinese dignitary and members of his delegation to Pakistan, the prime minister congratulated him as well as political leaders of Pakistan on the successful organization of Pakistan-China Political Parties Forum and the 3rd round of Joint Consultative Mechanism (JCM) of Political Parties on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He said it was a matter of great satisfaction that there was

complete political consensus in both countries on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Reflecting on his recent visit to China where he held fruitful and productive meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang, the prime minister commended the vision of the Chinese leadership for the continued growth of Pakistan-China strategic relations and the shared desire of both countries to work together to ensure success of the CPEC and its upgradation to the next phase.

He underlined that early completion and implementation of all ongoing and new CPEC projects would contribute significantly towards Pakistan's economic growth and inclusive development.

Appreciating the role of IDCPC in the deepening of bilateral ties, he stressed the importance of enhanced exchanges between the political parties of two countries for experience-sharing, capacity building and people-centered governance.

He lauded the CPC for its full support to strengthening of China's iron-clad

brotherhood with Pakistan.

Liu Jianchao, in his remarks, stressed that Pakistan and China were iron brothers, strategic partners and most-trusted friends.

He further emphasized that China accorded a special place to Pakistan in its foreign policy and would continue to support Pakistan's economic development and jointly work for the upgraded version of CPEC.

The prime minister hosted a banquet in honour of Liu Jianchao and the accompanying Chinese delegation which was also at



KARACHI: Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing during 71st birth anniversary ceremony of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto at Lyari

PPP celebrates 71st birth anniversary of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto

LARKANA (APP): The 71st birth anniversary of the world revolutionary leader and 'Daughter of the East' former elected Prime Minister, Sain Chairperson of PPP Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, was celebrated on Tuesday with great zeal and enthusiasm by PPP amidst the arrival of a large number of PPP leaders and workers at the Garhi Khuda Bakhsh Bhutto and at Bhutto House Naudero Larkana to pay homage to her leadership.

Quran Khawani was arranged at the mausoleum of the martyrs of Bhutto's family in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh Bhutto, which was attended by the elected representatives as well as the leaders and workers of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and its sister's organizations. On the occasion, collective prayers were also held for the departed souls of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali

Bhutto, and others.

The divisional and district leaders and workers went to Garhi Khuda Bux Bhutto Ali Bhutto and offered fatiha on the graves of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the Founder Chairman of PPP, and assassinated Chairperson of PPP Benazir Bhutto and others.

Besides, hundreds of people belonging to various walks of life also visited the Mazar of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, placed wreaths, and offered fatiha. PPP Larkana district arranged a big public gathering of the cake cutting ceremony at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Stadium Larkana on Tuesday evening on the eve of the 71st birth anniversary of former Prime Minister and slain Chairperson of PPP Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. The function was presided over by Chairman of PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. While a 71st-pound cake was also cut in the birthday gathering

by the Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, President PPP Sindh Senator Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, and others. Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, President PPP Sindh Nisar Ahmed Khuhro Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, PPP President Larkana Division Mir Aijaz Khan Jakhri, Aajiz Dhamrah, and others also addressed on the occasion. Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Moulana Bux Chandio, Waqar Mehdi, Souhail Anwar Siyal, Nazir Ahmed Bughio, Kharshid Ahmed Junejo, Muhammad Ali Bhutto, Sardar Khan Chandio, MNAs, MPAs, and a large number of the PPP leaders and prominent workers attended the function, at which the speakers paid glowing tributes to the Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto for her invaluable services to the country and for the welfare of the poor masses.

COAS Asim Munir pledges full support for CPEC

Liu Jianchao lauds Pakistan Army's role in providing security to Chinese nationals

RAWALPINDI (APP): Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC), Liu Jianchao on Friday met Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir here at General Headquarters.

During the meeting, they discussed matters of mutual interest, including regional peace and stability, and reviewed progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The COAS reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the strategic partnership with China and pledged full support for the successful implementation of CPEC, a flag-

ship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Liu Jianchao highlighted that he is visiting Pakistan as a follow up of the successful meetings between the leadership of the two countries in China.

He emphasized the significance of the longstanding brotherly relations between the two nations and expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved on CPEC, reiterating China's commitment to its timely completion. The visiting dignitary also commended Pakistan's efforts in maintaining regional peace and stability, acknowledging the support of the Pakistan Armed Forces in providing security to Chinese nationals and projects in Pakistan.



RAWALPINDI: Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) Liu Jianchao, met with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, at General Headquarters.

Five soldiers martyred in Kurram district landmine blast

RAWALPINDI (APP): Five soldiers of Pakistan Army on Friday embraced martyrdom after an improvised explosive device exploded on a vehicle of the Security Forces in general area Sadda, Kurram District.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, five brave sons of soil identified as Havildar Aqeel Ahmed (age: 33 years, resident of District Okara), Lance Naik Muhammad Tafeer (age: 30 years, resident of District Poonch), Sepoy Anosh Ruffun (age: 24 years, resident of District Attock) and Sepoy Muhammad Azam Khan (age: 26 years, resident of

District Haripur) and Sepoy Haroon William (age: 29 years, resident of Islamabad Capital Territory), made the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat (martyrdom).

"Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists present in the area and perpetrators of this heinous act will be brought to justice."

Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the ISPR said.

President Asif Ali Zardari strongly condemned the attack and lauded the martyrs.



LARKANA: President Asif Ali Zardari showering petals over the grave of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto on her 71st birth anniversary, in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh Bhutto.

Cross-party consensus backs CPEC, stronger China ties as Pakistan hosts first JCM

ISLAMABAD (APP): All the mainstream political parties of Pakistan on Friday displayed exemplary consensus to back the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with the leaders reiterating their unwavering commitment to further strengthen the bilateral relationship between Pakistan and China by thwarting all nefarious designs.

The political consensus was shown at the CPEC Pakistan-China Political Parties Forum and 3rd Meeting of CPEC Political Parties Joint Consultative Mechanism co-chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Minister of the International Department of the

Communist Party of China (IDCPC) and member of the Communist Party's Central Committee Liu Jianchao who is on a three-day visit here, besides Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, the senior leadership of all major political parties attended the event including Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, MQM's Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Maulana Fazlur Rahman of JUI-F, Hina Rabbani Khar of PPP, Senator Syed Ali Zafar of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Munazza Hassan of Istehkam Pakistan Party, National Party's Senator Jan Muhammad, senior politicians Afrasiab Khattak and others.

In his opening remarks, Deputy Prime Minister Senator Ishaq Dar said the CPEC played a catalytic role in Pakistan's socioeconomic development. He said besides ridding the country of a chronic issue of load-shedding, the development projects under the CPEC helped create hundreds of new employment opportunities for the Pakistani people which the people of Pakistan would never forget. Recalling the recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China, the deputy prime minister said both sides showed unanimity to execute the second phase of CPEC besides signing the modalities for third-party participation in the project.

Tessori arranges get together for diplomats

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Muhammad Kamran Tessori once again arranged a get together for Consul General of China, United States, Russia, Turkiye, Japan, France and Kuwait at Governor House on Eid ul Azha. The topic of discussion remained International politics and efforts of Governor Tessori who made history in Governor House with sacrificing of 100 camels and distribution of meat along with grocery (Rashan Boxes) during the three days of the Eid ul Azha at the Governor House.

Foreign Diplomats also appreciated Sindh Governor's effort for the promotion of I.T in Pakistan specifically in the province of Sindh through the I.T courses program for thousands of the underprivileged students, who can earn thousands of dollar for their family after completing their courses.

During the informal chatting foreign diplomats also recognized Governor's effort of gifting two camels to a poor man of interior Sindh who's camel leg was cut by a culprit.



ISLAMABAD: Sahibzada Hamid Raza along with delegation of Sunni Ittehad Council called on speaker NA Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, SIC presented the name of Zartaj Gul for the newly Parliamentary Leader of National Assembly.

US supports direct talks between Pakistan, India

WASHINGTON (APP): The United States support "direct discussions" between India and Pakistan, saying the two neighbouring countries should work out the mode for the talks themselves, State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller has said.

"We value our important relationships with both India and Pakistan," he said in response to a question from a Pakistani TV channel reporter at his daily news briefing on Thursday.

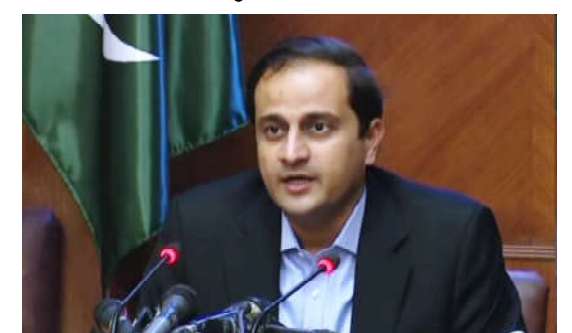
"As we have said, we support direct discussions between India and Pakistan, but the pace, scope and character should be determined by those two countries, not by us," Miller added. Relations between India and Pakistan have deteriorated since August 5, 2019, when New Delhi unilaterally annexed the disputed Himalayan region of Jammu and Kashmir, leading to heightened tensions between them. Official talks between the two countries have remained suspended since then.

Sindh Govt to provide Rs 1.5b for dues of retired officers, employees of local bodies: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab Friday said that the Sindh government will soon provide a package of Rs 1.5 billion for the dues of retired officers and other employees of local bodies.

He said this while talking to Leader of the Opposition in the City Council, Saifuddin Advocate, in his office.

He said that KMC owes 10.5 billion rupees in dues to its retired officers and employees. A package of 1.5 billion rupees from the Sindh government is expected soon to pay the dues of retired employees. Previously, KMC had paid the dues of retired employees from its resources, and this process will continue in the future, he said.



Mayor also called for a need to adopt a joint strategy for municipal issues and the development of Karachi. Development schemes for the upcoming fiscal year will be initiated with the advice of all political parties present in the City Council.

He said that high-rise buildings in the city are creating municipal problems, and many buildings are being constructed without master leases. City Council members are requested to help bring these buildings under regulations, he noted. Municipal Commissioner Afzal Zaidi and Financial Advisor Nayab Saeed were also present on this occasion.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of leading exporters of Pakistan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Economic growth directly linked with fast sustainable upsurge in exports: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said the country's economic growth was directly linked with the fast sustainable growth of exports. He was talking to a delegation of exporters, which called on him here at the PM House.

The prime minister said the exporters being the backbone of national economy, were extremely important for the government as they were playing a key role in the country's development. The country's economy would

attain sustainable growth when the export sector showed fast growth, he added. PM Shehbaz said the government was providing all possible facilities to promote the non-traditional exports. He expressed the government's resolve to take all the decisions in the larger interest of the people and the country. The government, he said, was taking measures to boost the export to GDP ratio. The payment of sales tax refund to the traders and industrialists was also being ensured timely, he added. The prime minister warned the relevant authorities that no laxity would be tolerated in that regard.

He directed the federal ministers to make consultation with the delegation to ensure resolution of all their issues.

The exporters expressed gratitude to the prime minister and the government for announcing a historic cut in the electricity prices for the industrial sector, terming it a breath of fresh air.

They also expressed their full confidence in the government's economic policies and assured their

Lawmakers urge govt to provide more relief to agriculture, IT sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Lawmakers in the National Assembly on Friday urged the government to focus on people-oriented policies and provide more relief to the agriculture and Information Technology sectors.

Muttahida Qaumi Movement (Pakistan) leader Muhammad Farooq Sattar, while participating in the budget debate, termed the budget for 2024-25 as traditional, reflecting a continuity of policies from the past 77 years.

"The country's current debt servicing issues, noting that most budget allocations are used for this purpose," he highlighted.

He said, "It is the government's responsibility to prepare the budget with the public's issues in

mind."

He said, "Unfortunately, every budget seems to favor the wealthy."

Sattar urged the government to focus on the agriculture sector and criticized the imposition of more taxes on salaried individuals.

He called for relief measures for the poor in the budget and asked the government to revise the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award.

He stressed the need to resolve Karachi's water issues and to allocate more funds to improve the city's drain system.

He also advocated for more incentives to attract Foreign Direct Investment and for policies that encourage a growth-oriented economy.

Sunni Ittehad Council's Rana Atif thanked his party for giving him the opportunity to contest the elections and promote the party's vision.

He highlighted the issues of his constituency and asked the government to solve these issues of every district without discrimination.

He called for the government to address the issue of IPP capacity payments and to take steps to further enhance the country's import.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's Asia Naz Tanoli said that in 2018, the government solved the issue of load-shedding and that during the PML-N tenure, more funds were allocated for development projects.

Weekly inflation up by 0.94 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.94 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on June 20, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 316.88 points as compared to 313.93 points during the past week.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review

witnessed an increase of 23.78 per cent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16=100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732, increased by 1.58 per cent and went up to 309.10 points from the last week's 304.28 points.

The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517, Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, increased by 1.44 percent, 1.20 percent, 1.11 and 0.69 percent respectively.



ISLAMABAD: The delegation of All Pakistan Fertilizer Dealers Association (APFDA) calls on the Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain

Shaza appreciates Google for creating local assembly of Chromebooks in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Friday appreciated Google for Education for creating local assembly of Chromebooks in Pakistan, saying that provision of digital tools to both teachers and students will help in reducing education divide in the country.

During a meeting with high-level delegation of Google matters related to effective use of technology in the field of education, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital economy were discussed, said a news re-

lease.

The Google delegation comprised Andrew Ure, Head of Trade and Economic Affairs, Asia-Pacific for Google, Kyle Gardener, Government Affairs and Public Policy Lead, South Asia, and Farhan Qureshi, Google's Country Head for Pakistan.

The delegation briefed the Minister of State for IT about Google literacy programs.

Shaza Fatima said that equipping the youth with digital skills for their capacity building is the need of the hour. Both teachers and

students must be trained in using digital tools, she said, adding that better employment opportunities can be acquired through digital literacy.

She said smart schools are vital for remote learning. Ministry of IT and Telecommunication will fully cooperate and support Google in the implementation of its initiatives, she added.

Additional Secretary, MOITT Aisha Humera Moriani, Member IT Syed Junaid Imam and Member Telecom Muhammad Jahanzeb Rahim were also present in the meeting.

Investment of approx. \$50m Engro fertilizers completes largest-ever EnVen plant turnaround

ISLAMABAD (APP): Engro Fertilizers has invested approximately USD 50 million in a plant turnaround to enhance its reliability and operational efficiency and the company successfully completed the largest-ever scheduled maintenance activity for the EnVen Plant, spanning 55 days, as planned on June 18, 2024. Established in 2011 with an investment of USD 1.1 billion, the EnVen Plant has an annual production capacity of 1.3 million tons and is the most energy efficient fertilizer plant in Pakistan, with the lowest consumption of gas per ton of urea, said a news release.

The project scope of the turnaround included over 5,000 technical activities, including the first-ever replacement of the waste heat boiler, overhaul of the furnace convection section, ammonia storage tank inspection and a comprehensive overhaul of six major turbo trains and gas turbines.

At peak, more than 6,000 people were engaged round-the-clock at the Plant site for these turnaround activities.

According to Ali Rathore - CEO of Engro Fertilizers, "The safe and successful completion of this major turnaround, despite extreme weather conditions, showcases the engineering excellence of the Engro Fertilizers team in executing large-scale projects within planned schedules and budgets, while prioritizing the safety of everyone involved in the activity. These critical projects were executed in-house by our talented engineers using innovative techniques and global best practices of safety and quality."

He added that, "The meticulous planning and execution ensured that the availability of urea to our hardworking farmers was not impacted, demonstrating the entire Engro Fertilizers team's firm commitment to our purpose of enabling the food security of Pakistan. We would like to thank our employees, contractors, global technical partners, local administration, and all other key stakeholders for their seamless support and guidance that contributed to the success of this major turnaround."

Gold rates up by Rs.1,600 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of per tola of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.1,600 and was sold at Rs.242,900 on Friday against its sale at Rs. 241,300 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs. 1,372 to Rs.208,248 from Rs. 206,876 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.190,894 from Rs. 189,636.

PSX gains 8.96 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Friday gained 8.96 points, a positive change of 0.01 percent, closing at 78,810.49 points against 78,801.53 points the previous trading day.

A total of 471,344,897 shares valuing Rs.20.475 billion were traded during the day as compared to 452,637,253 shares valuing Rs. 20.675 billion the last day.

Some 436 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 137 of them recorded gains and 237 sustained losses,

whereas the share prices of 62 remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 43,051,185 shares at Rs.1.27 per share, Hum Network with 41,927,277 shares with 11.13 per share and Pervez Ahmed Co with 37,352,634 shares at Rs.1.84 per share.

Pakistan Tobacco Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.75.60 per share price, closing at Rs.1,026.91, whereas the runner-up was Mehmood Textile Mills Limited with a Rs.40.83 rise in its per share price to Rs.582.49.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a meeting with Google delegation.

Fertilizer dealers meet with Minister for Industries

ISLAMABAD (APP): All Pakistan Fertilizer Dealers Association (APFDA) delegation, led by Chairman Ghulam Ahmed on Friday met with Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain to discuss specific issues of the fertilizer industry.

The minister said that government was committed to support the fertilizer industry for the betterment of farmers.

He pointed out that expanding the tax base to generate revenue was also a priority of the government.

SBP injects over Rs2.6trln into market

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Friday, injected Rs2,601.55 billion in the market through reverse repo purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operation (OMO).

According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on June 21, 2024 for 7-day and 28-day tenors and accepted all the 31 received bids amounting to Rs2,471,550 million.

The central bank received 20 quotes for 7-day tenor amounting to Rs1,984.7 billion offered at the rate of return ranging between 20.56 to 20.63 percent. For the 28-day tenor an amount of Rs486.85 billion was offered through 11 quotes at the rate of return ranging between 20.55% to 20.59%.

The SBP accepted all the 20 bids for 7-day tenor at 20.56% and 11 bids for 28-tenor at 20.55% annual rate of return.

Meanwhile, the central bank also injected Rs130 billion in the market through Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operation for 7-day and 28-day tenors.

The SBP received one quote amounting to Rs130 billion (face value of collateral) at 20.58% rate of return while no bid was received for 28-day tenor.

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KARACHI: A vendor is preparing Falsa juice for customers at his roadside setup, in the Provincial Capital.

CCP approves acquisition of Luxembourg firm with presence in Pak solar market

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the 100% acquisition of M/s. Actis Holdings S.a.r.l (Actis Holdings), a Luxembourg-based company having a presence in Pakistan's solar power market, by M/s. General Atlantic Partners, L.P. (GA), a US-based firm.

Actis Holdings is a sustainable infrastructure investor with a diverse portfolio in energy infrastructure, long-life infrastructure, digital infrastructure, real estate, and private equity sectors. Funds managed by Actis hold a majority interest in Solis, which is a majority shareholder in Yellow Door. Yellow Door is actively engaged in the solar electricity business in

Pakistan.

The acquirer General Atlantic Partners, L.P. (GA), founded in 1980 and headquartered in New York, is a growth equity firm that provides capital and strategic support for global growth companies. GA boasts an impressive portfolio of 225 companies across six global sectors: climate, consumer, financial services, healthcare, life sciences, and technology.

The CCP's Phase-I competition assessment identified "Power Generation - Solar" as the relevant product market. The assessment revealed Actis Holdings indirect presence in Pakistan via Yellow Door which has a market share of less than 1%, remaining unchanged post-transaction.

SNGPL disconnects four more connections

MULTAN (APP): The Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL) disconnected four more connections over different charges here on Friday.

The Sui Gas Task Force continued its daily operations, disconnecting four more meters and removing five extensions.

Four consumers had illegally transferred their meters from the service to their homes, causing leakage losses to the department. After thorough inspection, the task force disconnected all four connections. Additionally, a meter of a non-billing consumer was also disconnected and sent to the laboratory for further departmental action. Five consumers who were illegally supplying gas to more than one house had their extensions removed.

FPCCI holds FBR's top anomalies committee meeting: Atif Ikram

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KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI and Dr. Gohar Ejaz, former federal commerce minister - who are jointly chairing FBR's Anomaly Committee 2024 from the business side - called a high-profile meeting of all chambers, trade bodies and associations at FPCCI; and, discussed the glaring anomalies in the Finance Bill and federal budget 2024 - 25 in detail on a sector-to-sector basis.

It is pertinent to note that Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, will be presenting the dossier of anomalies from the entire business, industry and trade community of Pakistan to the federal minister

for finance and revenue to be reviewed by federal government's economic team and the prime minister to remove or resolve anomalies from the federal budget 2024 - 25.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh explained that, being the apex body, FPCCI will provide the government with the collective, aggregated, comprehensive and descriptive list of anomalies that are creating confusion, discontent and apprehensions. We deserve a friendly budget for the businesses, industry, exporters and the economy as a whole, he added. Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh maintained that one of the primary measures in the budget that need to be reviewed immediately.

IESCO examines 1,310,874 meters across all six operational circles

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) in the light of government and the Ministry of Energy Power Division directives has checked 1,310,874 meters since September 7, 2023 during anti-power theft campaign in all its six operational circles.

Sharing details, Chief Executive Officer of IESCO, Dr Muhammad Amjad said that fines amounting to Rs 627.75 million have also been imposed on the power pilferers. Some 1,872 FIRs have also been registered against

the electricity thieves while 1450 individuals have been arrested so far.

Dr Amjad said that a sum of Rs 3,338.66 billion has also been recovered from 130,019 running and dead defaulters during the campaign.

He said crackdown against electricity theft and the recovery of dues would continue across all operational circles, including Islamabad, Rawalpindi City, Rawalpindi Cantonment, Attock, Chakwal, and Jhelum, with the cooperation of the FIA, police, and other law enforcement agencies.

Rupee gains 09 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Rupee on Friday gained 09 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.51 against the previous day's closing at Rs 278.60.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market, however, were Rs 277.8 and Rs 280.7 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by Rs1.21 to close at Rs 297.56 against the last day's closing of Rs 298.77, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Minister for providing egg-laying hens to farmers at subsidised rates

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Dairy Development Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani on Friday directed the Rawalpindi Poultry Research Institute (RPRI) to resume its programme of providing egg-laying hens to farmers at subsidised rates.

During his visit to the institute, the minister said, "We are committed to supporting our farmers and promoting the poultry industry in the province. Resuming this programme will help reduce the cost of production for farmers and increase egg production, making eggs more affordable for

consumers."

The minister emphasised the need to increase the growth of egg-laying hens to meet the demand of eggs in the province.

He directed the RPRI to take steps to increase the growth of egg-laying hens, including improving breeding and nutrition programmes.

Agriculture and Livestock Minister Ashiq Hussain Karmani said that last year 91 thousand sets of chickens were distributed among the farmers by the institute and the number should be increased this year.



HYDERABAD: Labourers busy in packing mangoes in wooden boxes at fruits market.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attends a session of National Assembly.

PA passes resolution to pay tribute to Shaheed Benazir on 71st birthday

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Assembly on Friday unanimously passed a resolution to pay rich tribute to Mohtrama Benazir Bhutto Shaheed on the occasion of her 71st birthday. The resolution was presented by People's Party Sindh President MPA Nisar Ahmad Khuhro. Sindh Assembly session started with Speaker Syed Owais Qadir Shah in the chair. People's Party Sindh President MPA Nisar Khuhro sought permission from the Speaker to present the resolution; after permission, he presented the resolution, which was unanimously passed by the House. The resolution said that Shaheed Benazir

Bhutto was a champion of democracy who inspired generations with her courage, vision, and unwavering commitment to the people of Pakistan, and as the first woman Prime Minister of Pakistan, she brought the country peace, progress, and development. Her leadership includes improving education, health, and empowering women. According to the resolution, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto promoted tolerance, dialogue, and peace and made efforts to rid the nation of the scourge of terrorism, and her mission was to establish a democratic system and an egalitarian society. Democracy is established in the country due to her martyrdom and her sacrifices.

This House, on the occasion of the 71st birth anniversary of Benazir Bhutto, reiterates its commitment to carry forward her vision for a progressive and prosperous Pakistan as her legacy lives under the leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who is continuing her mission. Speaking on the resolution, Nisar Khuhro said Shaheed Benazir Bhutto was a great leader who gave her life for the country; she went into jails and faced hardships like his father when she was in Sukkur Jail. At that time, Fazil Rahu sent snow to Shaheed Bibi because of the heat, but she refused to get the snow. She said we have the courage to bear the heat.



RAJODERO: Peoples Party (PPP) Women Wing President and MPA, Faryal Talpur being briefed by officials during her visit to the free medical camp organized by Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology University (SZABIST) Foundation, held at village Chhawan of Ratodero.

Ongoing cleaning of 46 major, 500 minor drains to be completed before rains: Murtaza Wahab

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) is cleaning 46 major drains and 500 minor drains and the cleaning process will be completed before the rains start. He said this while visiting various storm-water drains on Friday. Municipal Commissioner Syed Afzal Zaidi and other relevant officers were also with him on this occasion. He said that the process of cleaning storm-water drains is ongoing and the choking points of the storm-water drains are being cleared using heavy machinery as well as manually. The Mayor Karachi

visited Soldier Bazaar Drain, Garden Drain and Culvert, Guru Mandir Drain, and Zehri House PECHS Drain, where municipal services officers briefed him on the current situation of the drains. Barrister Murtaza Wahab, while reviewing the drains, issued on-the-spot instructions and directed to expedite the cleaning process. He said that the chocking points must be cleared before the rains at all costs. It is necessary to complete the preliminary arrangements to prevent the drains from overflowing. He said that the available machines, pumps, and vehicles of KMC have been

repaired so that the drainage process can start immediately after the rains. In the event of immediate rain, water drainage through storm-water drains will be possible. We are making every effort to minimize the inconvenience to the public during the rainy days. The Mayor Karachi said that cleaning the drains is a continuous process, being carried out systematically, yielding positive results. The current city administration has been present on the streets during the previous rains and will continue to fulfill its responsibilities effectively in the future as well, he said.



LARKANA: View of stagnant rainwater after heavy downpour due to poor sewerage system, creating problems and difficulties in transportation for commuters and residents, showing negligence of concerned authorities.

Two motorcyclists crushed to death

KARACHI (INP): In a horrific accident, two motorcyclists were killed when a trailer run over them in Port Qasim Area on Friday. According to police, the driver of the trailer lost control due to over-speeding and hit two people who were riding motorcycle near Port Qasim, resulting in their death on the spot. The deceased were identified as Zahoor and Fahad. The bodies were moved to the hospital for legal formalities.

Following the incident, the driver fled the scene, while the police impounded the trailer. More than 1,400 people lost their lives and over 18,000 were wounded in road accidents in Karachi in 2023. According to reports from rescue sources, overspeeding and riding motorbikes without helmets remained the major causes behind the deaths and injuries in road mishaps in the ongoing year of 2023.

Pakistan has special place in China's foreign policy, says senior Chinese minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): China's Minister of Central Committee of the International Department of Communist Party of China (IDCCPC), Liu Jianchao on Friday said as its "iron brother and time-tested friend", China accorded a special place to Pakistan in its foreign policy and desired to strengthen the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. The senior Chinese leader expressed these views in a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, held here in Islamabad. Liu expressed satisfaction at the steady pace of China Pakistan Economic

Corridor (CPEC) and said China would extend full cooperation to Pakistan for the timely implementation of all ongoing and new CPEC projects. He also lauded the political parties of Pakistan for their steadfast support to CPEC and China-Pakistan friendship. He reiterated China's keen desire to further enhance linkages between the Communist Party of China and the political parties of Pakistan. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar appreciated the positive contribution of CPEC to Pakistan's socio-economic development, and progress and prosperity.

Imran claims negotiations may result in toppling of PML-N govt

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding chairman Imran Khan stated on Friday that any negotiations with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) could result in the downfall of their government. During an informal media chat at the hearing of the £190 million reference case, the incarcerated former PM expressed his desire to negotiate for Pakistan's benefit, not for personal or governmental interests. "I want to negotiate for Pakistan, not for myself or the government," he said. Imran reiterated his willingness to step back if it benefits the country, saying, "Convince me it benefits the country, and I will step back."

He criticized the current government for not reducing expenses and failing to create an investment-friendly environment. "The country is in crisis," the ex-PM said. "The government has not reduced its expenses, which is troubling. The current government has failed to create an environment for investment." Several flights cancelled, delayed at Karachi Airport. KARACHI (INP): A number of international and domestic flights were cancelled or delayed at Karachi's Jinnah International Airport on Friday.

Total expenditures estimated in budget are Rs. 930.206 billion: Balochistan's surplus budget for FY 2024-25 presented with total outlay of over Rs. 955.602 bn

QUETTA: The Balochistan's annual surplus budget having total volume of Rs. 930.206 billion for the next financial year 2024-25 was presented in the provincial assembly here on Friday. The Provincial Minister for Finance, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani unveiled the maiden budget of the Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti-led coalition government while the Speaker, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai was in chair and the Chief Minister in attendance. Unveiling the provincial budget, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani said that while the total volume of provincial budget for the next financial year is over



Rs. 955 billion, the total expenditures are estimated as over Rs. 930.206 billion in the budget showing surplus Rs. 25.395 billion. The Minister Finance mentioned that the budget allocated over Rs. 321 billion for development expenditures. As per the budget documents mentioned in his budget speech, Balochistan is set to receive Rs. 862 billion from transfers and the divisible pool. The budget has allocated over Rs. 93 billion for law and order, over Rs. 146 billion for education, and over Rs. 67 billion for health sectors.

Several flights cancelled, delayed at Karachi Airport

KARACHI (INP): A number of international and domestic flights were cancelled or delayed at Karachi's Jinnah International Airport on Friday. International flight PA-171 of AirBlue from Karachi to Jeddah has been cancelled. According to flight schedule, the domestic Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight PK-369 from Karachi to Islamabad was called off. Moreover, PIA flight PK-341 from Karachi to Faisalabad was delayed while AirSial flight PF-144 from Karachi to Lahore has been shelved. AirBlue flight PA-401 from Karachi to Lahore was facing a delay.

Budget 2024-25: PPP excuses unconditional support to PML-N

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has excused unconditional support to Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) led federal government on Budget 2024-25. According to media reports, the meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), did not yield any positive results as PPP did not assure the Prime Minister of their cooperation on the budget. Sources said that the party has stuck to its previous stance on its demands. The government had requested PPP's support in passing the budget 2024-25, but PPP has demanded implementation of the written agreement on their demands before offering any support. Sources said that the government has not provided a deadline on accepting PPP's demands. Yesterday, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to discuss the former's reservations over the budget 2024-25. The prime minister urged all political parties to work together for the development and prosperity of the country and public welfare.

Parts of Sindh receive rain with thunderstorm

KARACHI (INP): Rain with thunderstorm in parts of Sindh on Friday brought the mercury down and provided much-needed relief to the masses from hot weather. As per details, Larkana, Shikarpur, Jacobabad and adjoining areas also received showers. Separately, the weather became pleasant in Lahore due to dusty winds, significantly lowering the temperature on Thursday. The temperature in Lahore was forecasted between a minimum of 28 degrees and a maximum of 38 degrees. Residents of Lahore anticipated cooler conditions and possible thunderstorms, offering a respite from the typically high summer temperatures. The strong winds and potential rain provided much-needed relief from the heat.



KARACHI: Former President Dr Arif Alvi addressing during PTI protest outside press club in the Provincial Capital.

Ambassador Munir exposes anti-Pakistan propaganda

NEW YORK (INP): Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, Munir Akram highlighted that several countries including Pakistan have been a victim of disinformation and cyber warfare. Akram made these comments while speaking to the Security Council's High-Level Open Debate on "Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Addressing Evolving Threats in Cyberspace". The ambassador reiterated Pakistan's stance, emphasizing on the necessity of a legally binding global document formed on the guidelines provided by the Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). While explaining, Akram referred to the 2019 and 2020 reports by EU DisinfoLab, which exposed

Robbers kill youth over resistance

KARACHI (INP): Armed robbers gunned down a youth over resistance in Mawach Goth area of Karachi on Friday. According to details, two armed men riding a motorcycle attempted to snatch cell phone from a youth present in street outside his residence and shot him in head over resistance which proved fatal. The culprits fled the scene with snatched mobile phone after killing the youth.

NEPRA proposes fixed charges up to Rs 1,000 for domestic electricity users

ISLAMABAD (INP): NEPRA has proposed introducing fixed charges for domestic electricity consumers, starting from July 1, potentially impacting millions of households nationwide. According to sources, the proposal has been submitted to the federal government for final approval. The proposed fixed charges are integrated into the average basic electricity tariff. The charges are tiered based on monthly consumption: Rs 200 for 301-400 units, Rs 400 for 401-500 units, Rs 600 for 501-600 units, Rs 800 for 601-700 units, and Rs 1,000 for usage above 700 units. Previously, fixed charges were not included in the tariff for domestic consumers. The final decision on the new tariff structure will be made following the federal government's review.

Suspected street criminal arrest by GOR police

HYDERABAD (APP): The GOR police rounded up a suspected outlaw in injured condition in an encounter near Wadhu Wah road. The police spokesman Awais Rajput informed here on Friday that the police signalled 2 suspects riding on a motorbike to stop during the snap checking adjacent to Shahbaz Building. However, he claimed, the suspects tried to escape by opening fire on the police. According to him, one of the suspects sustained a gunshot to his leg during the exchange of fire and was apprehended but his accomplice ran away on their motorbike.



HYDERABAD: PPP MPA, Nuzhat Pathan, PPP ladies wing member Ishrat Mughal, Norinnisa Abro and workers cutting the 71st birthday cake of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto at Mughal House, Qasimabad.