

Independent

dailyindish@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Gwadar

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XX No. 03, Zil Hajj 25, 1445 AH Tuesday July 02, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs.15

Work to be started for cleanliness under PPP mode: CM vows to take concrete decisions for resolving civic issues of Quetta taking all stakeholders in confidence

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that Quetta city is the face of our province and as such concrete decisions would be taken for resolving the civic issues of Quetta taking all stakeholders in confidence in next meeting.

The Chief Minister was chairing meeting on the issues being faced by Quetta, solution to them and beautification of the city, here on Monday.

The members of provincial assembly belonging to Quetta participated in the meeting.

The suggestions about provision of education, health, water and electricity in Quetta city were sought from the participants. They were also asked to give suggestions about improvement in communication, traffic and cleanliness situation.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, Chief Minister said that practical measures have been started for effective cleanliness and beautification of the Quetta city.

He said that work would be started for cleanliness of Quetta under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

He said that an organized strategy would be prepared for resolving the issues of traffic in Quetta city.

He also announced that a festival would be organized in Quetta city every month.

Besides, we have also started steps for rehabilitation of drug addicts in Quetta.

Meanwhile, the MPAs belonging to Quetta presented recommendations for resolving different issues of Quetta city.

He directed to provide facility of lift for more effectiveness of the parking plaza located on Circular road in Quetta.



Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan H.E. Yerzhan Kistafin calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad

PM to undertake a two-day official visit to Tajikistan from today

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to undertake a two-day official visit to Dushanbe, Tajikistan from July 2-3, on the invitation of President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon. During his visit, the prime minister will meet President Emomali Rahmon, Chairman of Majlisi Namoyandagon of Majlisi Oli Mahmudtoir Zoir Zokirzoda and Prime Minister Qohir Rasulzoda, according to a Foreign Office press release. The visit is a part of regular high-level exchanges between Pakistan and Tajikistan.

The two sides will engage in wide-ranging discussions on areas of mutual interest to further deepen bilateral cooperation especially in the areas of regional connectivity, trade, people-to-people contacts and energy as well as cooperation on multilateral issues.

Role of able & valiant officers Crucial for good governance, states Governor Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated it is a fact that there is a key role of able and brave officers for good governance.

He said that as a public representative, he has experience of 30/35 years of working with the bureaucracy. During this long period, he learnt a lot from them, and surely, they would also have to learn from us. Similarly, the officers also learn from each other's experience and knowledge. He observed that if a Deputy Commissioner is strong then the whole district can be stronger.

The Governor expressed these views while addressing the closing ceremony of under trainee officers of 40th Mid-career Course here on Monday.

The Director General

National Institute of Management Quetta, Anis Arif and Principal Secretary to Governor, Muhammad Hashim Khan Ghilzai were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the ceremony, Governor said that we have closely observed the honesty, ability, hard work and affection of the honest and able officers with people of the province.

He said that Balochistan has unique status than other provinces in many ways. Our traditions and values offer one another to move ahead together, he added.

Jaffar Mandokhail pointed out that our population is also least than other provinces and if officers deputed here play role of public servants instead of their lord, and keep their doors open for common men, then not only the public issues would be resolved easily, but governance would also be improved.

Business friendly policies infuse foreign investors' confidence: PM Shahbaz

Underlines need to enhance trade, investment between Pakistan, Kazakhstan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the business friendly policies of the incumbent government had stabilized the country's economy and restored confidence of the foreign investors.

He said that Pakistan was moving on the right path towards economic stability, while steps were taken to provide relief to the public in the current fiscal budget.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of leading businessmen that called on him, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The delegation included Shahzad Saleem, Zaid Bashir, Mussadiq Zulqarnain and Sheharyar Chishti.

The members of the delegation praised the prime minister for the economic turnaround and provision of a conducive environment for the businesses and investment activities.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday while noting the positive trajectory of bilateral ties between Pakistan and Kazakhstan.

He said he was looking forward to his meeting with President Tokayev during his upcoming visit to Astana for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of State meeting on July 3-4.

He received the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin for a courtesy call at the Prime Minister House, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister conveyed his greetings to the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and expressed his desire to strengthen the excellent bilateral relations between Pakistan and Kazakhstan.

He said he was looking forward to his meeting with President Tokayev during his upcoming visit to Astana for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of State meeting on July 3-4.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti presiding over a meeting regarding Land Record Digitalization of Revenue Department

Pakistan, India exchange lists of prisoners

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and India on Monday exchanged lists of prisoners in each other's custody through diplomatic channel, in Islamabad and New Delhi.

These lists are exchanged simultaneously, in pursuance of the Consular Access Agreement of 2008 on the 1st of January and 1st of July every year, a Foreign Office press release said.

Pakistan handed over a list of 254 Indian or believed-to-be-Indian civilian prisoners and fishermen in Pakistani jails. India shared a list of 452 Pakistani or believed-to-be-Pakistani civilian prisoners and fishermen in Indian jails. A list of 38 missing Pakistani defence personnel, believed to be in India's custody since the wars of 1965 and 1971, was also handed over by Pakistan.

The Government of Pakistan has called for immediate release and repatriation of all Pakistani prisoners who have completed their sentence in India. A request for special consular access to various believed-to-be-Pakistani prisoners, including the physically - and mentally-challenged prisoners, has been made and for expeditious confirmation of their national status, the press release added.

240 tenders released for different projects on July 1: Process of tendering starts on first day of new financial year for 1st time in history, maintains CM

Independent Report
QUETTA: The process of tendering for the development projects has been started on first day of the new financial year i.e., on July 1, 2024. This was stated by the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti in a message shared on his social media account "X" on Monday.

Expressing his pleasure over start of the tendering process in the province on first day of the new financial year, the Chief Minister maintained that our government has fulfilled another commitment.

He mentioned that as many as 240 tenders were issued today (Monday). He congratulated the provincial cabinet and officers on start of the tendering process in the province.

He said that this is first step towards the good governance and effective service delivery system.

He reiterated his government's resolve to complete all the development projects through constant monitoring.

Three family members killed in explosive device attack

GWADAR (INP): Three members of a family including mother and two children were killed while another critically injured in explosive device attack on a house here, police said on Monday.

According to details, unidentified accused attacked a residential house in Kech area of district Gwadar with explosive device.

As a result of blast, a woman and her two children present outside the house were killed on the spot while



QUETTA: Provincial Advisor for Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi being briefed about Benazir Women Crisis Center

Benazir Bhutto Women Crisis Center to be activated in Quetta: Dr. Rubaba

Independent Report
QUETTA: Advisor to the Chief Minister of Balochistan on Women Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has announced plans to activate the Benazir Bhutto Women Crisis Center in Quetta, making it a model center for women's protection. She emphasized the need for establishing and activating women crisis centers at the divisional and district levels in Balochistan to provide immediate protection to women in emergency situations.

The manager of the center, Rubina Zehri, welcomed Dr. Buledi and briefed her on the center's activities. Dr. Buledi appreciated the center's efforts and assured her support for its activation. She also received a souvenir from the center's manager at the end of her visit.

During her visit to the Benazir Bhutto Women Crisis Center, Dr. Buledi expressed her commitment to resolving the issues facing the center, including ad-

ministrative and financial matters, and sought the support of stakeholders and non-governmental organizations working for women's rights. She also announced plans to establish active women crisis centers at the divisional and district levels in Balochistan to provide immediate protection to women in emergency situations.

The manager of the center, Rubina Zehri, welcomed Dr. Buledi and briefed her on the center's activities. Dr. Buledi appreciated the center's efforts and assured her support for its activation. She also received a souvenir from the center's manager at the end of her visit.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar addressing a press conference.

Credit goes to PM for low taxes with exemptions to multiple sectors: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar on Monday said that credit for minimum taxes and tax exemptions to multiple sectors in the budget went to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who ached tough negotiations with the IMF.

"The prime minister played a proactive role in negotiations with the International Monetary Fund to ensure minimum duties and tax exemption for different sectors," he said while addressing a press conference. "Let me be very clear

that there is no tax on solar panels, text books, pensioners' income, fertilizers, charitable hospitals and health equipment, and it is all due to the prime minister who wants the nation to be prosper and self-empowered," he said.

The minister said there were multiple sectors on which the tax rates were reduced to 35% from 45%.

PM Shehbaz also ensured that the petroleum development levy to be maintained at Rs 60 in the current fiscal year. However, only Rs 10 margin had to be given as a contingency measure, he noted.



QUETTA: Members of Central Anjuman Tajran Balochistan are holding protest demonstration against taxes and prolong electricity load shedding during summer season, at Quetta press club.

BISE announces Matriculation exam result: BRC Loralai students clinch top two positions, shares 3rd position with Cadet College Kohlu's student

Independent Report
QUETTA: The students of Balochistan Residential College (BRC) Loralai clinched top two positions and shared third position with a student of Cadet College Kohlu in the annual examinations of Secondary School Certificate (Matriculation) 2024 as its result was announced here on Monday.

According to the Controller Examinations, Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Quetta, Ms. Abida Kakar, the BRC students namely Rasad Khan secured first position obtaining 1054 marks while the BRC's Zainullah Khan clinched second position by getting 1048 marks.

Two other students of the same institution (BRC) Abdul Rehman and Syed

Abdul Aleem stood third in the Matric examination securing 1047 marks. Similarly, Cadet College Kohlu's Shahzad Khan also obtained 1047 marks to share third position with the BRC students.

The Controller Examinations, BISE informed that a total of 143,849 students had appeared in the examinations of them 121,362 were declared successful showing success percentage of 84.36 percent.

A total of 50,558 candidates were declared successful out of total 67,800 candidates appeared in the examinations of 9th class while a total of 70,804 could pass the 10th class examination out of total 76,049 candidates. The pass percentage remained 74.57 percent and 93.10 percent in 9th and 10th classes respectively.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail addressing participants of ceremony of 40th course at National Institute of Management Quetta

Jl announces sit-in against inflated electricity bills, increase in taxes

LAHORE (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) has announced a sit-in against inflated electricity bills and increase in taxes in Islamabad on July 12.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore, JI Emir, Hafiz Naeemur Rehman Butt criticised the incumbent government for increasing taxes and electricity tariff in the budget 2024-25.

Hafiz Naeemur Rehman said youth of Pakistan are dejected with the current situation and leaving the country for a better future.

The JI emir alleged current rulers are looting the resources of the country by 'occupying' the power.

Bilawal expresses concern over press freedom in KP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhattu Zardari has voiced his grave concern over the diminishing space for independent journalism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

In a press release issued by the Media Cell Bilawal House, he highlighted the alarming rise in violent incidents targeting journalists in the province, deeming it intolerable.

He emphasized that many affected journalists are holding the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister and the ruling provincial party accountable for these brutalities.

He condemned the suppression of journalism

through violence, attributing these acts to fascist elements.

"The PTI is evidently fearful of independent journalism and has lost the trust of the people," he said. "Their consistent reliance on undemocratic tactics and conspiracies to cling to power is disgraceful."

Reaffirming PPP's unwavering support for the journalist community, he declared, "We believe in press freedom and will not allow anyone to stifle the press."

He called upon relevant institutions and parliament to take decisive action to safeguard journalists and uphold press freedom in KP.

Issues of federal information dept's in Quetta to be resolved on priority basis: Pullain

Independent Report
QUETTA: Chairman National Assembly's Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting, Pullain Baloch on Monday said the issues faced by the federal information departments working in Quetta would be resolved on priority basis whereas efforts would be taken to strengthen the state-owned media organizations with modern tools to promote the pro-public narrative.

The Chairman made these remarks during his visit to the offices of Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) Quetta Bureau, PTV Quetta Station and Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) station.

Pullain Baloch said that he will try to resolve the problems of the federal information institutions functioning in the provincial capital of Balochistan in order to bring innovation and improvement in the work of the institutions.

He said that the purpose of his first visit to the institutions of the Ministry of Information at Quetta after being elected as the chairman was his ownership.

"Balochistan is the most important unit of the country and this most important unit will not be allowed to be neglected under any circumstances," he added.

The chairman of the committee said that he believed in practical work and would raise voice on the floor of the National Assembly to further improve the standard of PTV Bolan's programs.

Pullain Baloch said that PTV Quetta has played a vital role in exhibiting and highlighting the culture and artistic heritage of Balochistan.

He said that the Quetta stations of the federal information departments have been done positive and constructive work for the promotion of the local languages and culture of Balochistan.



QUETTA: Chairman NA Standing Committee for Information and Broadcasting Pullain Baloch meeting with GM Syed Faheem Shah during his visit to PTV Quetta center

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Resolution 901

On Friday, two days after a stinging endorsement from the US House of Representatives of widespread concerns regarding the legitimacy of our recent general election, the National Assembly formally dismissed 'Resolution 901' as "interference" in Pakistan's internal affairs and an "attempt to undermine the state".

The Pakistani counter-resolution against HR901 did not pass with the same overwhelming support accorded to the latter, however. Our parliament was only able to get a simple majority of lawmakers to endorse the repudiative resolution, while the US Congress had seen 85pc of its membership voting 98pc in favour of a "full and independent investigation of claims of interference or irregularities" in the Feb 8 election.

The PTI refused to vote in favour, saying it was not consulted. Instead, it seemed to be reveling in the world's self-appointed 'democracy police' rebuking the Pakistani government, which, it must be said, should drop the pretence that all is well when it clearly is not. Our lawmakers' failure to stand united in the face of foreign criticism may not have been unexpected, given the vitiated political climate, but it was still disturbing to witness. Matters are now at a point where our representatives do not care if the world perceives Pakistan as a house divided. The treasury benches' condemnation of those who refused to vote in favour would only have solidified this perception.

The nay-sayers were immediately branded 'terrorists', 'traitors', and 'enemies of the state' who had, in the words of one particularly self-righteous MNA, "no right to call themselves Pakistanis". With such a propensity to spew venom against political opponents, it is no wonder that our parliamentarians are having trouble finding common grounds, even where questions of national sovereignty are concerned.

It may be recalled that the US Congress's resolution had also condemned "attempts to suppress the people of Pakistan's participation in their democracy, including through harassment, intimidation, violence, arbitrary detention, restrictions on access to the internet and telecommunications or any violation of their human, civil, or political rights".

But while it is a fact that these are all realities for the Pakistani people, it is not up to a foreign parliament to dictate how we should be running our country. Likewise, this publication has demanded a transparent inquiry into the last general election, but it does not believe anyone except the people of this country can make that demand.

The US has its own messy legacy to consider of sabotaging democratic governments and propping up dictators around the world. Our problems are our own to resolve. The country has suffered much from foreign interference and must learn to act as a sovereign state. At the same time, it cannot expect to act poorly and not get noticed.

Policing the police

Mohammad Ali Babakhel

The establishment of dedicated Police Complaints Authorities has been a long-standing demand in the discussion on police reforms in Pakistan and India. PCAs were introduced in neighbouring India in 2006 under the Indian supreme court's orders. Although the Pakistan Police Order, 2002, envisioned police complaints authorities, they have yet to be made functional in Pakistan.

The Indian supreme court issued seven directives for structural police reforms when it issued its judgement on the matter, including establishing PCAs at state and district levels. This was an outcome of the realisation that without accountability, the police cannot win public trust. So far, 23 states in India have constituted State Police Complaints Authorities (SPCAs), while 18 have constituted District Police Complaints Authorities (DPCAs).

The PCAs are mandated to check police excesses, recommend punishments, and suggest policy improvements to change police behaviour. The DPCAs are empowered to inquire into complaints against officers up to the rank of the DSP. At the same time, SPCAs deal with complaints against officers above the rank of the DSP and investigate cases of serious misconduct.

Under court directives, the SPCAs are to be headed by retired superior court judges, while DPCAs are to be headed by retired district judges. Other members should include retired civil or government servants, police officers, and members of civil society. However, the judgement is silent on eligible members' required qualifications or skills. Ensuring diversity

is another challenge. In some instances, PCAs are dominated by serving and retired officers, but the presence of serving officers impacts credibility negatively and defeats the fundamental principle of natural justice: that no one can be a judge in their own case. If serving officers are part of the oversight, it loses credibility.

The credibility of PCAs is also dependent on the selection process of their chairpersons and members. The chair of the SPCA is selected from a panel of retired high court judges proposed by a senior judge. Members are chosen from a panel prepared by the State Human Rights Commission or Public Service Commission.

To ensure fairness in the selection of independent members, the Sikkim Police Act has adopted an independent selection panel, but in other states, members of PCAs are appointed at the sole discretion of the governments. The idea of having an independent selection committee is to ensure safeguards against political appointments. This is not possible without political neutrality and autonomy. Best practices dictate that such positions be advertised so selections can be carried out transparently, and citizens should be given opportunities to submit objections about the members to be considered.

In the absence of independent investigators, PCAs would remain dependent on the police. The Kerala, Assam, and Haryana Police Acts make a provision for hiring retired and independent investigators. However, no police law in India gives a time limit for inquiries, which results in an increase in pendency and erosion of public faith in PCAs to deliver justice. Therefore, setting a time limit

for such inquiries is also necessary.

Since PCAs are public institutions, they are expected to be accountable. The submission of annual reports is one of the measures to ensure accountability. This report should be laid before the legislature and accessible to the public. The Tripura and Uttarakhand Police Acts specifically mention the provision of separate budgets, but in India, the budgets of most PCAs are administered through the home department, with PCAs having no role in budget-making, which limits their independence. Without adequate financial independence, the oversight bodies cannot function independently. Lastly, PCAs in developing societies often limit their outreach efforts, so public outreach, including the introduction of websites, should consciously be made part of police laws.

In Pakistan, the Police Act of 1861 did not envision any complaint management apparatus. The Police Order of 2002 did, however, envision the establishment of public complaint authorities, using the term 'complaint' 71 times in its text. Chapter X of the Police Order deals with the composition and functions of federal and provincial PCAs. However, since all provinces have opted for different police laws, PCAs are yet to become functional in Pakistan.

Policing the police is not possible without functional PCAs, public safety commissions as envisioned in the Police Order, and regional police complaint authorities as mentioned in the KP Police Act of 2017. Public safety will remain elusive till these checks are introduced. -- Courtesy Dawn

Economic fallout

Ajaz Ahmed

What happens to an economy when it is hot outside? Globally, record-breaking temperatures have been witnessed in the past few years. There is evidence that heatwaves dampen economic output, causing GDP losses and exacerbating global inequality. For instance, projections for the US economy show that rising temperatures could reduce economic growth by up to one-third over the next century.

Moreover, the assumption that economic damage from global warming is confined to the agriculture sector is no longer true, as climate change and environmental degradation pose significant risks to the macro economy and financial systems. For example, climate change will affect individual and household income, sectors of the economy, energy markets, inflation variability, financial markets, innovation, and rising public debt, among other things.

While rising global temperatures have a profound impact on economies all over the world, the phenomenon is still poorly understood due to the complexity of climate-related risks and their interactions with the real economy. Scientific studies are being conducted to estimate the impact of global warming on different sectors of the economy. However, there is consensus that macro-prudential measures are critical to mitigating climate-related risks, as without mitigation measures, physical risks from climate change-driven natural hazards — heatwaves, windstorms, floods, and droughts — are likely to increase significantly.

While the marginal effects of temperature rise are different in dif-

ferent regions, persistent increases in global temperature have serious implications for economic growth, productivity, and efficiency. However, the sensitivity of different economies to the impact of global warming depends on their reliance on different sectors of the economy, which can be susceptible to changing temperatures. Thus, climate change will be a critical factor in shaping responses to macroeconomic conditions in the near future.

Decarbonisation is no longer a matter of choice, as reducing carbon intensity in production processes and energy use is unavoidable to lower carbon emissions per unit of output produced and make production cleaner. Yet, the decarbonisation of economies for net-zero targets will affect both output and inflation, exerting changes in monetary policy and macroeconomic conditions in most countries. So, the key question for economy pundits, especially those from the developing world, is how to reduce carbon-intensive economic activity, without it having consequences for productivity, efficiency, and economic growth.

Climate change can potentially increase inflation and the debt-to-GDP ratio, resulting in economic uncertainty and tighter fiscal and monetary policies, which may lead to lower demand via lower spending and reduced economic activity. The transition to net zero would require the deployment of tools such as tax, subsidy, and regulation, resulting in increasing abatement costs. This can potentially generate relative price shocks, pushing up aggregate inflation, which is likely to necessitate changes in monetary policy, not to men-

tion net-zero transition having an effect on inflation. Furthermore, the structural transformations required for the transition to net zero are expected to alter monetary policy channels.

Since climate change increases the frequency and severity of shocks, it may become very difficult for central banks to regularly read such shocks. In other words, identifying regular shocks — of an unknown nature — to the economy, will complicate the assessment of the monetary policy stance, which will often find itself confronting a trade-off between output and inflation stabilisation. Therefore, macroeconomic policy responses must take into account the impact of extreme weather events, the decarbonisation of economies, and net-zero transition.

As the impact of climate change is regional and global, it may invoke structural adjustment processes that transcend national borders, thus necessitating assessment of macroeconomic implications and formulation of models that provide insight with regional and sectoral differentiation.

Existing analytical frameworks and macroeconomic modelling tools are inadequate and unsuitable for grappling with the dynamic nature of climate uncertainty and design-informed policy responses. Therefore, policymakers need to review and, where required, improve and align their toolkit to adapt to the new challenges. Nevertheless, reducing uncertainty and creating an enabling environment to pacify reactions will be highly critical in the future as climate change will remain a major global risk for some time. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

CPI inflation recorded at 12.3% in June

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation increased to 12.6 percent on year-on-year basis during June 2024 as compared to the corresponding month of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported Monday.

According to PBS data, the CPI based inflation during the same month of last year was recorded at 29.4%.

On month-on-month basis, it increased to 0.5% in June 2024 as compared to a decrease of 3.2% in the previous month and decrease of 0.3% in June 2023. According to data, CPI inflation Urban, increased to 14.9% on year-on-year (YoY) basis in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 14.3% in the previous month and 27.3% in June 2023. On month-on-month (MoM) basis, it increased to 0.6% in June 2024 as compared to a decrease of 2.8% in the previous month and an increase of 0.1% in

June 2023. CPI inflation Rural, increased to 9.3% on year-on-year basis in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 8.2% in the previous month and 32.4% in June 2023. On month-on-month basis, it increased to 0.3% in June 2024 as compared to a decrease of 3.9% in the previous month and decrease of 0.8% in June 2023.

The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) inflation on YoY increased to 16.6% in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 15.3% a month earlier and 34.9% in June 2023. On MoM basis, it increased by 1.33% in June 2024 as compared to a decrease of 4.0% a month earlier and an increase of 0.2% in June 2023.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation on YoY basis increased to 10.6% in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 9.9% a month earlier and an increase of 22.4% in June 2023. On MoM basis, it increased by 0.4% in June 2024 as compared to a decrease of 2.5% in the previous month and decrease of 0.3% in corresponding month of last year i.e. June 2023.

The core inflation measured by non-food non-energy Urban increased to 12.2% on (YoY) basis in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 12.3% in the previous month and 18.5% in June 2023. On (MoM) basis, it increased by 0.6% in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 0.4% in previous month and an increase of 0.7% in corresponding month of last year i.e. June 2023.

The core inflation measured by non-food non-energy Rural increased to 17.0% on (YoY) basis in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 17.0% in the previous month and 25.2% in June 2023. On (MoM) basis, it increased by 0.9% in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 0.5% in previous month and an increase of 0.9% in corresponding month of last year i.e. June 2023.

The core inflation measured by non-food non-energy Rural increased to 17.0% on (YoY) basis in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 17.0% in the previous month and 25.2% in June 2023. On (MoM) basis, it increased by 0.9% in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 0.5% in previous month and an increase of 0.9% in corresponding month of last year i.e. June 2023.

The core inflation measured by non-food non-energy Rural increased to 17.0% on (YoY) basis in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 17.0% in the previous month and 25.2% in June 2023. On (MoM) basis, it increased by 0.9% in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 0.5% in previous month and an increase of 0.9% in corresponding month of last year i.e. June 2023.

The core inflation measured by non-food non-energy Rural increased to 17.0% on (YoY) basis in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 17.0% in the previous month and 25.2% in June 2023. On (MoM) basis, it increased by 0.9% in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 0.5% in previous month and an increase of 0.9% in corresponding month of last year i.e. June 2023.

The core inflation measured by non-food non-energy Rural increased to 17.0% on (YoY) basis in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 17.0% in the previous month and 25.2% in June 2023. On (MoM) basis, it increased by 0.9% in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 0.5% in previous month and an increase of 0.9% in corresponding month of last year i.e. June 2023.

The core inflation measured by non-food non-energy Rural increased to 17.0% on (YoY) basis in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 17.0% in the previous month and 25.2% in June 2023. On (MoM) basis, it increased by 0.9% in June 2024 as compared to an increase of 0.5% in previous month and an increase of 0.9% in corresponding month of last year i.e. June 2023.



ISLAMABAD: Businessman and member of Economic Advisory Council Jahangir Khan Tareen along with MNA Aoun Chaudhary called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Finance Minister hails FBR exceptional performance in surpassing revenue target

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday commended the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for its outstanding performance in surpassing revenue collection target for financial year 2023-24, with a total collection of Rs 9,311 billion.

The minister visited FBR headquarters and held a meeting with Chairman FBR Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana and Members of the Board, said a news release.

The minister visited FBR headquarters and held a meeting with Chairman FBR Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana and Members of the Board, said a news release.

The minister visited FBR headquarters and held a meeting with Chairman FBR Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana and Members of the Board, said a news release.

The minister visited FBR headquarters and held a meeting with Chairman FBR Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana and Members of the Board, said a news release.

Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Perviz Malik also joined the meeting through video link.

The minister expressed confidence in FBR's capabilities and hoped that the Board would continue to play a pivotal role in achieving the Government's fiscal objectives.

The Minister of State also appreciated FBR team for exceeding the annual revenue target despite multiple odds and issues.

The Minister of State also appreciated FBR team for exceeding the annual revenue target despite multiple odds and issues.

The Minister of State also appreciated FBR team for exceeding the annual revenue target despite multiple odds and issues.

Aurangzeb along with Chairman FBR and Members of the Board also cut a cake to celebrate the FBR's performance for not only achieving the revenue collection target for the financial year 2023-2024 but also surpassing it.

The meeting underscored the government's commitment to strengthening the FBR and supporting its initiatives aimed at enhancing revenue collection, digitisation and economic documentation.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships, Maersk Bering, Mulberry Express and Al-Deebal carrying Palm oil and LNG also arrived at outer-anchorage of Port Qasim on Monday.

Seven ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Ullswater and Chemroad Haya left the port on today morning while two more ships, Peace One and Doris are expected to sail on Monday.

Bilal urges businessmen to cooperate with govt

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yaseen has said that business segments should cooperate with the government for providing relief to people.

According to official sources here on Monday, he said that facilitators of profiteers and hoarders deserved no leniency.

He said that during the last 24 hours, 629 flour mills, flour dealers and retail shops had been checked. Bilal Yaseen said that 128 places had been checked in Lahore division, 64 in Faisalabad,

30 in Sahiwal, 80 in Rawalpindi division, 74 in Sargodha, 40 in Multan division, 38 in Bahawalpur,

88 in DG Khan, 42 in Gujrat and 45 in

Gujranwala. He said that supply of flour was strictly monitored during Sunday holiday. A sufficient stock was available at retail shops and in wholesale markets in Lahore and other big cities of Punjab, he added.

He said that due to increase of transportation of wheat in markets it helped to reduce prices.

People should lodge their complaint on toll free number 080002345 against those who were illegally selling flour and 'Roti' at higher rates. The Punjab food department had imposed a fine

of Rs 470,000 besides issuing warning notices to profiteers and law violators, he said.

BEIJING: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja arrives in China to participate in Global Digital Economy Conference 2024 being held from July 2-5 in Beijing.

BEIJING: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja arrives in China to participate in Global Digital Economy Conference 2024 being held from July 2-5 in Beijing.

BEIJING: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja arrives in China to participate in Global Digital Economy Conference 2024 being held from July 2-5 in Beijing.

100 environment-friendly buses to run in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD (APP): The government is contemplating to run 100 environment-friendly buses in Faisalabad while in later phase this facility would be extended at tehsil level also. This was stated by MNA Chaudhry Shehbaz Babar while addressing the meeting of District Coordination Committee (DCC) Faisalabad. Being convener of the committee, he also presided over the meeting and said that the Punjab government under dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz was spending huge funds to

improve life stranded of the masses by providing them basic amenities at their door steps. He took briefing about Inter-City Bus Service and said that in first phase 100 environment-friendly buses would start providing service in Faisalabad within the limits of Ring Road, however, in later phase, this facility would be enhanced at tehsil level so that the students and industrial workers could avail from this service at maximum extent. He also stressed the need of tight security arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram and said that DCC meeting.

improve life stranded of the masses by providing them basic amenities at their door steps. He took briefing about Inter-City Bus Service and said that in first phase 100 environment-friendly buses would start providing service in Faisalabad within the limits of Ring Road, however, in later phase, this facility would be enhanced at tehsil level so that the students and industrial workers could avail from this service at maximum extent. He also stressed the need of tight security arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram and said that DCC meeting.

improve life stranded of the masses by providing them basic amenities at their door steps. He took briefing about Inter-City Bus Service and said that in first phase 100 environment-friendly buses would start providing service in Faisalabad within the limits of Ring Road, however, in later phase, this facility would be enhanced at tehsil level so that the students and industrial workers could avail from this service at maximum extent. He also stressed the need of tight security arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram and said that DCC meeting.

improve life stranded of the masses by providing them basic amenities at their door steps. He took briefing about Inter-City Bus Service and said that in first phase 100 environment-friendly buses would start providing service in Faisalabad within the limits of Ring Road, however, in later phase, this facility would be enhanced at tehsil level so that the students and industrial workers could avail from this service at maximum extent. He also stressed the need of tight security arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram and said that DCC meeting.

improve life stranded of the masses by providing them basic amenities at their door steps. He took briefing about Inter-City Bus Service and said that in first phase 100 environment-friendly buses would start providing service in Faisalabad within the limits of Ring Road, however, in later phase, this facility would be enhanced at tehsil level so that the students and industrial workers could avail from this service at maximum extent. He also stressed the need of tight security arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram and said that DCC meeting.

Pakistani exhibitors tap opportunities at China-Eurasia Expo

BEIJING (APP): Pakistani exhibitors showcased copper, jewelry, jade, handmade carpets and other products at the 8th China-Eurasia Expo held in Xinjiang, China.

There were some new faces at the expo. Faisal Rasheed, a Pakistani handmade carpet merchant, came to live in Xinjiang for 20 years, told the local media that his participation in the China-Eurasia Expo would bring benefits to his business.

Abbas has two companies, one in Pakistan and the other in China, primarily dealing in jewelry, jade, and other items. Among these, emeralds and other gems from Pakistan are highly sought after by Chinese consumers. At the expo, he was

busy attending to the customers and sold over RMB 100,000 worth of products in the past few days.

There were some new faces at the expo. Faisal Rasheed, a Pakistani handmade carpet merchant, came to live in Xinjiang for 20 years, told the local media that his participation in the China-Eurasia Expo would bring benefits to his business.

Abbas has two companies, one in Pakistan and the other in China, primarily dealing in jewelry, jade, and other items. Among these, emeralds and other gems from Pakistan are highly sought after by Chinese consumers. At the expo, he was

Abbas has two companies, one in Pakistan and the other in China, primarily dealing in jewelry, jade, and other items. Among these, emeralds and other gems from Pakistan are highly sought after by Chinese consumers. At the expo, he was

China completes its largest LNG storage base

NANJING (Xinhua/APP): A subsidiary of China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) has completed the construction of China's largest LNG storage base, a move that aims to ensure energy security and support green growth in the Yangtze River economic belt.

The base in the city of Yancheng, east China's Jiangsu Province, has a group of gas tanks with a combined LNG storage capacity of 2.5 million cubic meters, the company said.

It has four tanks each with a storage capacity of 220,000 cubic meters and six larger tanks each with a storage capacity of 270,000 cubic meters.

SMEDA launches 10-year cluster-based development plan

LAHORE (APP): Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) Monday evoked a 10-year Cluster-Based Development Plan for growth of the SMEs sector.

Federal Secretary Industries and Production Dr. Fakhar e Alam Irfan unveiled the plan here at a ceremony arranged by SMEDA to reveal international Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Day. SMEDA

Chief Executive Officer Soerat Aman Rana, GM (Policy & Planning) Ms. Nadia Jehangir Seih and LG (Outreach Division) Raja Hassanien Javed also addressed the ceremony.

On this occasion, Federal Secretary said, "Our nation's economic landscape thrives on the dynamism of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), which play a pivotal role in driving growth, innovation, and job creation."

Punjab Governor says Legislative assemblies of Punjab, NY can benefit each other's experiences

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation led by the Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly, Mr. Phil Ramos, called on Acting Governor Punjab Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan at Governor's House, Lahore. During the meeting, discussion was held on promoting Pakistan-US relations, parliamentary affairs, education, health and other sectors. In the meeting, Acting Governor, Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan also endorsed the resolution regarding making New York and Punjab a

sister state. Speaking on the occasion, Acting Governor Punjab Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan said that the resolution regarding making New York and Punjab a sister state will enhance cooperation between the province of Punjab in the fields of trade, health and education. He further stated that the legislative assemblies of Punjab and New York can benefit from each other's experiences. He said that the government was focusing on boosting the economy and uplifting the education

sector. The Acting Governor said that the Punjab Assembly is playing its role in the establishment of a strong democratic system. The Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly, Mr. Phil Ramos, said that he will play active role to increase the cordial relations between the United States and Pakistan. He said that the United States values its relations with Pakistan. Mr. Phil Ramos said that US Government was keen to make an agreement with the Punjab government in the field of nursing.



LAHORE: Acting Governor Punjab Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan in a group photo with a delegation led by the Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly, Mr. Phil Ramos, at Governor's House.

Minister appreciates Punjab CM's initiatives for minorities

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora on Monday urged the representatives of various religious minorities to encourage their children towards education, especially focusing on filling job vacancies, as there are still approximately 32,000 vacant posts in Punjab.

Minister Maryam Nawaz had outlined a five-year roadmap on her first day in the Punjab Assembly, addressing all segments of society with special attention to weaker sections. The minister said that CM Maryam Nawaz distributed grants on Easter and personally visited Maryam Abad to share celebrations of the Christian community. She also initiated the wheat harvest at Kartarpur on the festival of Baisakhi.

Two die, three injured in Upper Kohistan accident

PESHAWAR (APP): At least two people were killed and three others injured when a vehicle fell into a deep gorge in Upper Kohistan area, police informed on Monday.

According to police, five people were onboard the vehicle when it plunged into a deep gorge after its driver lost control over the vehicle in Lotar area of Upper Kohistan.

The rescue teams shifted the victims to District Headquarters Hospital Dasu, where doctors pronounced two as dead.

Minister orders making Kisan card awareness campaign more effective

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Agriculture Minister Syed Ahsiq Hussain Kirmani said that the Kisan card awareness campaign aimed at providing guidance to farmers should be made more effective.

He said this while presiding over a meeting at Agriculture House on Monday. He said that the timelines of projects related to 'Transforming Punjab Agriculture Plan' should be implemented in letter and spirit.

He said that the Kisan package launched by the government was inevitable for the prosperity of farmers. The minister was

informed that till now more than 220,000 applications had been received for the Kisan card and after scrutiny 105,000 of them had been approved.

The minister said that green tractors would be provided to farmers on a 70 percent subsidy. "It is mandatory for farmers to have a Kisan card to get a green tractor," he said and directed relevant authorities to form a dashboard for the monitoring of the Transforming Punjab Agriculture Plan and present a plan for boosting production of canola, soybean etc.



MANSEHRA: TIKA Vice President Umit Naci Yorulmaz inaugurating lab at department of architecture in Hazara University.

NCSU, join hands with FJWU to tackle Climate Change

RAWALPINDI (APP): In a groundbreaking effort to combat the escalating climate crisis, a team of scientists from North Carolina State University (NCSU), USA, joined hands with Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU), to conduct a joint research project on "Climate Change Impacts on Glaciers, Rivers, and Oceans." This initiative is a part of the project "Developing the Next Generation of Female Environmentalists; Pakistani Women University Climate Change Consortium".

The project is aimed to empower female students in Pakistan by equipping them with advanced climate science

knowledge and skills. A distinguished team of seven scientists from NCSU, including Prof. Dr. Lewis Owen, Prof. Dr. Jingu Paul Li, Prof. Dr. Walter Robinson, Dr. Carrie Thomas, Dr. Roberto Mera Velazquez, Dr. Jamila Simpson, and Ms. Lucia

Manasthal Riedener, led the two-day project briefing event, funded by the US State Department. Dr. Lewis Owen, Dean of the College of Sciences at NCSU, brought his extensive expertise on the glacial history of the Himalayan mountains, providing invaluable insights into the region's geomorphological changes due to climate change.



LAHORE: Citizens busy in their routine works and heading towards their destinations in the first rain of monsoon since morning in the provincial capital.

Punjab keeping religious scholars on board for Muharram peace

MULTAN (APP): The Punjab government is keeping religious scholars from all schools of thought on board for Muharram peace and Multan divisional administration and police have chalked out an elaborate security plan to deploy 10,000 personnel across Multan division.

Presiding over a divisional peace committee meeting, commissioner Maryam Khan, said that administrations of all districts have been given

full authority by Punjab government to ensure peace during upcoming sacred month of Muharram al-Haram. She said that tenders for repairing the procession routes have already been issued to ensure quality work and asked municipal corporation to ensure route are ready before time.

She said that C&W department has also been brought on board adding that the Punjab highway department will handle all the patchwork.

Anti-power theft drive intensified in Mardan circle

PESHAWAR (APP): The Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) Mardan circle has intensified drive against kunda mafia and defaulters in Shergarh and surrounding areas. During this operation, over 100 electricity thieves and defaulters were arrested on the spot and transferred to local police stations. Assistant Commissioners and Takhte Bhai Junaid Khalid led the operation and was accompanied by SE PESCO Mardan Circle Ikramullah Khan.

APPAC delegation meets Minister Sikandar Hayat

LAHORE (APP): A delegation from the American Pakistani Public Affairs Committee (APPAC), led by New York State Deputy Speaker Phil Ramos on Monday met with Punjab Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat to discuss joint educational initiatives.

Peace Committee stresses unity to maintain peace

MULTAN (APP): Punjab government is committed to collaborating with religious scholars from all sects to maintain and promote peace, said Commissioner Multan Maryam Khan.

In this connection, she stated, full authority has been granted to the district administration to maintain security.

Commissioner Multan Maryam Khan said this while presiding over a meeting of the Divisional Peace Committee. Commissioner Khan

observed that the Municipal Corporation was tasked to repair and maintenance of the routes for Muharram processions. Tenders for high-quality work have been issued, and the C&W department has been brought on board.

The Punjab Highway Department will conduct all patchwork. MEPCO officials have been instructed to fix sagging electrical wires along the routes and to prevent load shedding and voltage issues in the affected areas.

ANF recovers 833 kg drugs in seven operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven raids across the country managed to recover 833 kg drugs and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 748 grams ice was recovered from a passenger going to Qatar at Bacha Khan International Airport. 400 grams ice was recovered from a parcel sent to Australia from a cargo office in Rawalpindi. 460 kg opium was recovered from Mashakhi and 319 kg opium was recovered from an area near Pishin Road Quetta.

International News

Fighting rages in Gaza City's Shujaiya for fourth day

Monitoring Desk
GAZA STRIP: Heavy battles and bombardment hit Gaza City's Shujaiya district for a fourth day on Sunday, months after Israel declared Hamas's command structure dismantled in the northern area.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians have fled the devastated neighbourhood, where the army said it has fought Palestinian fighters both "above and below ground" in tunnels.

Months of on-and-off talks towards a Gaza truce and hostage release deal have meanwhile made little progress, with Hamas saying there was "nothing new" in a revised plan presented by US mediators.

The Israeli military said ground and air forces had carried out raids on compounds used by fighters and "eliminated several

terrorists" over the past 24 hours. It also reported clashes in central Gaza and the southern Rafah area, a week after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that the "intense phase" of the offensive that started on October 7 was nearing an end. The United Nations humanitarian agency OCHA estimated that "60,000 to 80,000 people were displaced" from Shujaiya since new fighting broke out there on Thursday and the army issued evacuation orders.

For those who remain, "our lives have become hell", said 50-year-old Shujaiya resident Siham al-Shawa. She said people were trapped as strikes could happen "anywhere" and "it is difficult to get out of the neighbourhood under fire". "We do not know where to go to protect our-

selves," Netanyahu said. Israeli "forces are operating in Rafah, Shujaiya, everywhere in the Gaza Strip".

According to a statement from Netanyahu's office, he told his cabinet that "dozens of terrorists are being eliminated every day."

Six people were killed in an air strike at dawn targeting a house in Rafah, said medics at Nasser Hospital where the bodies were taken. Artillery shelling also rocked parts of the city, witnesses said.

The Israeli military launched a ground operation in Rafah in early May, leading to the closure of a key aid crossing.

The United Nations and other relief agencies have voiced alarm over the dire humanitarian crisis and the threat of starvation in the Israeli siege has brought for Gaza's 2.4 million people.



A Palestinian woman bakes unleavened bread in a makeshift oven while sitting on the rubble of buildings destroyed in the Israeli bombardment, as some residents return to the city of Khan Yunis.

Israel FM says 'Iran deserves to be destroyed'

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said on Saturday that Iran's message of an "obliterating war" made it worthy of destruction. "A regime that threatens destruction deserves to be destroyed," Katz said in a post on X. He also said Israel will act with full force against Iran-backed Hezbollah if it does not stop firing at Israel from Lebanon and move away from the border.

Iran's UN mission said on Friday that if Israel embarks on a "full-scale military aggression" in Lebanon, "an obliterating war will ensue." The Iranian mission also said in the post on X,

formerly known as Twitter, that in such an event "all options, incl. the full involvement of all resistance forces, are on the table."

Hezbollah has been exchanging fire with Israel since October, in parallel with the Gaza war. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said this week they prefer a diplomatic path to resolving the situation. Though Katz is a member of Israel's security cabinet, war policy has largely been led by Netanyahu and a small circle of ministers that includes Gallant, who visited Washington this week for talks on Gaza and Lebanon.

Japan successfully launches an advanced Earth observation satellite on its new flagship H3 rocket

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japan successfully deployed an upgraded Earth observation satellite for disaster response and security after it was launched on a new flagship H3 rocket Monday. The H3 No. 3 rocket lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Center on a southwestern Japanese island and released its payload about 16 minutes later, putting it into a targeted orbit as planned, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA.

Kenyan activists call for more protests as govt pledges austerity

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: Kenyan activists called for protesters to take to the streets again on Tuesday, with many rejecting appeals from President William Ruto for dialogue following his decision to withdraw proposed tax hikes.

At least 24 people were killed in clashes between protesters and police last week, when parliament was briefly stormed and set ablaze.

UN chief lauds move to limit proliferation of small arms

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has praised the adoption of a strong outcome document at the end of a conference dedicated to combating illicit small arms and light weapons worldwide, saying it is an important sign of progress.

The proliferation, diversion and misuse of small arms and light weapons continue to undermine peace, security and sustainable development around the world fuelling conflict and

devastating human costs, the UN chief said in a statement. He congratulated member states on successfully concluding the Fourth Review Conference, welcoming the setting up of an open-ended technical expert group to

address developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design.

Mr Guterres also recognised the commitments the states have made to strengthen international cooperation and assistance and to implement gender-responsive policies.

He expressed hope that the progress will help strengthen our collective and national efforts to combat illicit small arms and light weapons until the next review conference in 2030.

The UN chief added that he hoped the commitments regarding small arms would inform discussions at the 'Summit of the Future' in September to find forward-looking and action-oriented solutions for a more peaceful future.

Iran election shows declining voter support amid calls for change

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: The first round of Iran's presidential election revealed shrinking support for both reformists and conservatives even though some voters are pushing for change by backing the sole reformist candidate, analysts say.

Masoud Pezeshkian, the reformist contender, and ultra-conservative Saeed Jalili led the polls held on Friday to replace the late ultraconservative president Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash last month.

Friday's vote, marked by a historically low turnout, "clearly shows that both reformists' and conservatives' bases have considerably shrunk," said Ali Vaez of the International Crisis Group think tank.

The reformist coalition supported Pezeshkian, with endorsements by former presidents Mohammad Khatami and Hassan Rouhani, a moderate.

"The reformists brought out the big guns and tried their best to mobilise their base," Vaez said on social media platform X, but "it was simply insufficient." Likewise, the conservatives failed to garner sufficient votes "despite the tremendous resources they deployed," he added.

Vaez pointed out that the combined votes of Jalili and conservative parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who came in third, totalled 12.8 million.

That figure was well below Raisi's nearly 18 million votes in the 2021 election.

Uruguay holds primary elections as opposition left gains ground

Monitoring Desk
MONTEVIDEO: Uruguayans take to the polls on Sunday in primary elections ahead of October's presidential race, in which the left-wing opposition is seen edging ahead according to opinion polls with voters concerned about rising inequality and public safety. Polls show voters cooling on the center-right coalition of President Luis Lacalle Pou, despite its successful steering of the farming economy of 3.4 million people through the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic setbacks following the war in Ukraine. Lacalle Pou, 50, has struggled to back up a pledge to tackle drug crime which is hurting Uruguay's reputation as a beacon of stability in turbulent South America. A perceived weakness of the welfare state and rising corruption has also hurt his party.

That has seen the center-left Broad Front coalition, which ruled from 2004 to 2015, edge ahead of the main center-right parties, latest opinion polls showed. Uruguayan pollster Cifra predicts the Broad Front getting 47% support in May, some 15 points ahead of Lacalle Pou's National Party, the main force within the ruling coalition. The wider conservative bloc combined, though, would get around 43%.

Around 10% remain undecided suggesting that October's presidential election will be tight. Whoever wins in general elections scheduled for Oct 27, or more likely in a November runoff, will need to bring down high homicide rates, improve the social safety net, balance trade with major partner China and keep on track an economy that is expected to grow nearly 4% this year.

Arab League shifts position on Hezbollah

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: The Arab League says it has decided to remove Hezbollah from its blacklist, as conditions for establishing relations with the Lebanese resistance movement have been met, Anadolu Agency reported.

In a statement aired on Egyptian Al-Qahera News, Arab League assistant secretary-general Hossam Zaki said that the member states "agreed that the label of Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation should no longer be employed."

"In previous Arab League decisions, Hezbollah was designated as a terrorist organisation, and this designation was reflected in the resolutions, leading to the severing of communication based on these decisions." In March 2016, the Arab League accused Hezbollah of "promoting extremism and sectarianism", and "meddling in the internal affairs of countries".

North Korean officials sport Kim Jong Un pins for first time

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korean officials wore pins with a portrait of Kim Jong Un in public for the first time in pictures released by state media on Sunday, the latest step in the development of a cult of personality about the leader.

The officials, speaking at a key meeting chaired by Kim of the exclusive state's ruling

party, wore the typical party logo pin on the right lapel and, on the left chest, the pin with Kim's face against a flag-shaped red background.

The 10th Plenary Meeting of the 8th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, which reviews the party's performance for the first half of the year, began on Friday, state news agency KCNA said.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani attending launching ceremony of the "China Chamber of Commerce Sustainable Development Report 2023" of CCCPK (formerly "All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises" Association APCEA), co-organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) Hall.

CM directs to digitalize land record of Quetta city completely in beginning of September

Independent Report
 Those who were present in the meeting were included the provincial ministers Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Mir Asim Kurd and Mir Ali Madad Jatak, parliamentary secretary, Mir Liaquat Lehri, members of the provincial assembly and other concerned high ups.
 The meeting was briefed about the matters about land record and its digitalization besides other related issues.
 During the briefing, it was informed that fards (documents of ownership of land) and transfers of the land have been digitalized through land record information management system.
 The Chief Minister said that settlement is necessary for the better land record as such, adding he directed to complete the settlement of Quetta city within two months.
 The Chief Minister was presiding over the land record digitalization here on Monday.



LAHORE: Ameer Jamat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman addressing a press conference.

Visits Mufti Mehmood Hospital Kuchlak CM dismayed over absence of doctors, medical staff and poor cleanliness

Independent Report
 QUETTA: The Chief Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has expressed displeasure over the absence of doctors and other medical staff from their duties and directed to the Special Secretary Health to take disciplinary action against those found absent from their duties.
 The Chief Minister on an occasion asked the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital not to hide the facts rather tell the truth.
 He regretfully pointed out that billions of rupees are provided for medical treatment of the poor people, however, there are no results of the same.
 He directed to the Medical Superintendent of Mufti Mehmood Hospital to improve the attendance of doctors and situation of cleanliness in the Hospital within couple of days. Stern action would be taken if the situation was not improved, adding the Chief Minister warned.
 Mir Sarfraz Bugti was on surprise visit to the MMMH on Monday when he went round of different departments and sections of the Hospital and inspected the health facilities being provided to the patients there.
 He also inspected the record of attendance of the doctors and other staff at the Hospital. He was displeased with absence of



QUETTA: Leader and members of Central Anjuman Tajran Pakistan are cutting cake during celebration ceremony held in Quetta.

Indian troops martyred 12 Kashmiris in June

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indian forces' personnel in their unabated acts of state terrorism martyred twelve (12) Kashmiris during the last month of June in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.
 According to a report released by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, today, of those five youth were martyred by the troops in fake encounters or custody.
 During the month, at least twenty-six people were injured after Indian troops and police personnel used brute force on peaceful protesters while five hundred seventy civilians, mostly youth and political activists including prominent lawyer and former head of Kashmir Bar Association Mian Abdul Qayoom, were arrested under black laws, Public Safety Act (PSA) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) during at least one hundred ninety-six (196) cordon and search operations in the month, the report added.
 The Modi regime did not allow Kashmiris to offer Eidul Azha prayers at historical Jama Masjid and Eidgah in Srinagar. The troops also damaged two houses while a woman was molested in the month.

Third Doha Talks: Pakistan and US hold consultations on Afghanistan

DOHA (INP): In Doha, Qatar, Pakistan and the United States held consultations on Afghanistan during the third 2-day Doha talks, reported on Monday.
 The consultations between Pakistan and the US took place in Doha, where US Special Representative for Afghanistan, Thomas West, and his delegation met with the Pakistani delegation.
 The Pakistani delegation included Special Representative Asif Durrani, Pakistan's Ambassador to Qatar Dr Muhammad Ijaz, and Head of Mission in Kabul Obaid-ur-Rehman Nizamani.
 According to the report, before the United Nations-sponsored conference in the capital city of Qatar, the Pakistani delegation had significant meetings Sunday.
 Diplomatic sources said that the parties discussed the matters related to the situation in Afghanistan, the third Doha conference, and options.
 The Pakistani delegation also had meetings with delegations from other countries, including a meeting with Russian Special Representative Zamir Kabulov.
 Additionally, the Pakistani delegation met with the European Union delegation, led by Special Representative Tomas Niklasson.
 The Afghan Interim Government is also participating talks and conference this year. The Afghan Taliban interim government had boycotted the participation of Afghan women and civil society representatives in the last second Doha talks.
 For the first time, special representatives on Afghanistan from around the world is sit in front of the Afghan Taliban in the Doha talks.
 Yesterday, representatives of Afghanistan's Taliban government began meetings with UN officials as they attended talks in Doha with special envoys to the Central Asian country for the first time.
 The two-day, UN-hosted meeting in Qatar is the third of its kind in the gas-rich emirate in just over a year but the first to include Taliban authorities who seized power in Afghanistan in 2021. UN officials and over 20 envoys, including the US special representative to Afghanistan, were expected to meet with the Taliban government's delegation led by spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid. The talks in Doha were due to discuss increasing engagement with Afghanistan and a more coordinated response to the country, including economic issues and counter-narcotics efforts.

Return of leaders to PTI halted until Imran's release from jail

ISLAMABAD (INP): The process of any Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader returning to the party has been halted until the release of the party's founder, former premier Imran Khan, from jail.
 According to media reports, this decision has been made by PTI founder Imran Khan himself. The sources said that only after Imran Khan's release would the return of leaders be decided.
 Following the PTI founder's instructions, a seven-member committee has also been constituted to determine the inclusion of any leader in the party again. This committee will be headed by former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, while former speaker Asad Qaiser, Hamid Khan, Shehryar Afridi, Barrister Gohar, and Shibli Faraz will be members. Additionally, a female member will also be included to oversee the return of women to the party. PTI leader Shandana Gulzar will provide reports on women's cases and reasons for leaving the party.

Three labourers shot dead in Lakki Marwat

LAKKI MARWAT (INP): In a tragic incident, three labourers were shot dead by unknown armed men in Lakki Marwat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
 As per details, the labourers were targeted near Gorkha Shah Hussain in Lakki Marwat. The deceased were identified as Farooq, Naeem and Saleh Khan. The bodies were moved to the hospital by the police and rescue teams. Further details were awaited.
 Earlier, at least 14 passengers had been offloaded from buses and shot dead on the Makran Coastal Highway in Balochistan's Ormara town. According to Levies sources, 15-20 unidentified armed men had intercepted five coaches travelling between Karachi and Gwadar near the Buzi Top area.
 The assailants had checked the identity cards of passengers and offloaded 16 of them. They then had opened fire, killing 14 of the offloaded passengers as two managed to escape from the scene.

Petroleum dealers announce nationwide strike on July 5

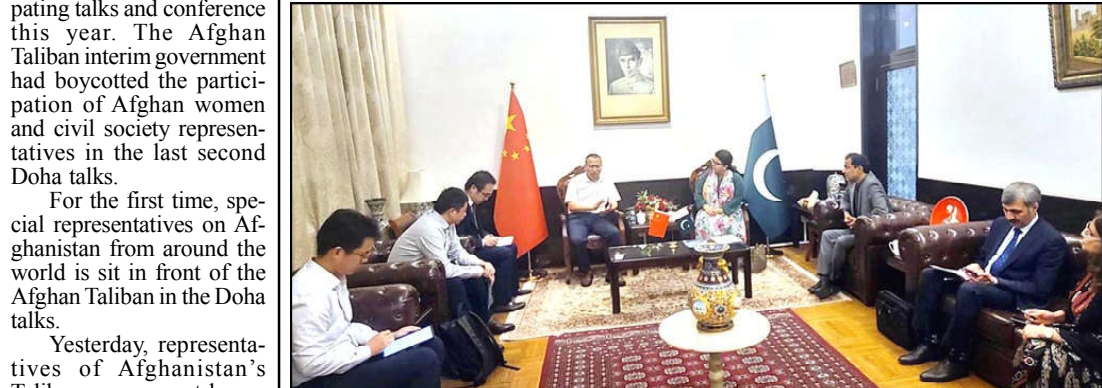
KARACHI (INP): The Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association has announced a nationwide strike on July 5, against the government's decision of 0.5% advance tax, says in media reports. According to Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) chairman, Abdul Sami Khan, stated that talks are scheduled with the government in Islamabad on Monday, but if they fail, the petrol pumps will be shut down across Pakistan as planned.
 Expressing his concern over the advance turnover tax, he said that the strike may be extended beyond a day if necessary. The chairman urged the government to withdraw the tax immediately as it will make impossible for the petrol dealers to run their businesses. Yesterday, the federal government increased the petrol price in the country by Rs 7.45 per litre for the next fortnight.
 The Finance Division has officially issued a notification, fixing the new price of petrol at Rs265.61 per litre, Rs7.45 up from the previous Rs258.16 per litre, burdening the inflation-hit public.



QUETTA: Additional Chief Secretary Home Zahid Saleem presiding over a meeting regarding zaireen management.

CPEC emerges as catalyst for investment, technology transfer: Chairman Senate

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani has said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has become a catalyst for not only investment but technological transfer, skill development, and knowledge sharing between the two friendly nations.
 He was addressing the launch ceremony of the "China Chamber of Commerce Sustainable Development Report 2023" of CCCPK (formerly "All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises" Association APCEA), co-organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) Hall.
 The report was unveiled by Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Chinese Minister Counsellor, Yang Guangyuan, Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, and Chairman CCCPK, Wang Huihua.
 Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani said Pakistan has faced a lot of testing times whereas the perseverance and patience of its masses created narratives of resilience emanating from the stories of resilient and successful men and women bracing all the challenges.
 He said that the CPEC is a nonpartisan agenda in Pakistan as all of its opposition parties support the government on it. The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) was the first under the leadership of then President Asif Ali Zardari who paved way for initiation of the CPEC.
 Moreover, the successive governments of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), and the current government rendered extreme commitment for CPEC, he added.
 He said the government of Pakistan is mindful of the challenges faced by the Chinese companies, and people working on various projects under CPEC and was ensuring fool proof security for the Chinese citizens.
 Gillani informed that the bureaucratic processes were being streamlined and Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) like institutions were developed to expedite different projects under the second phase of CPEC or CPEC2.0.
 "CPEC has created 155,000 skilled and unskilled jobs for local masses in Pakistan. However, the signing of MoU for CPEC's second phase underscores continued collaboration in industrial development, green energy initiatives, low carbon development, and other areas," the Chairman Senate said.
 CPEC 2.0, he said, would upgrade and implement renewed focus on industrialisation, sustainability, and inclusivity.
 "Pakistan lauds President Xi Jinping's commitment and funding of \$100 billion for Greening BRI for eco-friendly development. Chinese banks play a fundamental part in greening of the CPEC projects, pivotal for development and environmental protection. Both countries are eager for collaborative green initiatives, such as green bonds, concessional financing, and Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPS). I urge Chinese to work out solutions to improve access to these financing tools and initiate all economic transactions in Chinese RMB instead of USD," Gillani said.



BEIJING: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a meeting with Cybernet and PEACE Cable Management in Beijing, China.

Outgoing ambassador calls for persevering efforts to fortify Pakistan-US relations

NEW YORK (INP): Outgoing Pakistani ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan called for persevering efforts to strengthen Pakistan-US relations, despite periodic ups and downs.
 Pakistan on Friday decided to replace Khan and appoint Additional Foreign Secretary (Middle East and SIFC) Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh as envoy to the United States.
 At a farewell dinner organised in honour of the outgoing Pakistani envoy, United States Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Elizabeth Horst Friday praised Khan, for his services towards building "bridges" between Islamabad and Washington.
 "On behalf of the State Department, I just want to note that the US-Pakistan relationship is in the best place it's been in years, in large part to what Ambassador Masood Khan has done to represent Pakistan, to build bridges between Islamabad and Washington," said Horst.
 On Khan called for persevering efforts to strengthen Pakistan-US relations, despite periodic ups and downs.
 Khan was given agreement by the US Department of State for serving as ambassador to Washington in February 2022. He was nominated for the post by the then prime minister Imran Khan in November 2021.
 In his farewell note, Khan wrote: "A robust relationship between our two nations is work in progress, backed by a history of nearly 77 years."
 As he completed his assignment as the ambassador of Pakistan to the US, he said since March 2022, after taking charge of the office, they had tried to build strong Pak-US relations.
 The envoy thanked a host of entities including "American friends" from the administration, Congress, state governments and assemblies, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), think-tanks, media, civil society and the private sector, as well as the diaspora community for the support in building the bilateral ties.
 "I am indebted to the influential Pakistani-American professional organisations that have helped me, our missions, and our two nations to navigate through challenging but promising landscapes," he maintained.
 Khan said he was confident that the same would extend full support to his successor as well.
 "As I leave, I wish you all success and prosperity. Have faith in Pakistan and keep nurturing Pakistan-US relations," he concluded.

Hashmi meets with Minister of State for IT in Beijing

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi met with Minister of State for IT and Telecommunications Shaza Fatima Khawaja and leaders of Chinese and Pakistani companies here on Monday.
 During the meeting held at Pakistan House ahead of Global Digital Economy Conference being held in Beijing, the ambassador had a useful interaction with the state minister and the leaders of the companies.
 "Useful interaction today at Pakistan House between Minister of State for IT & Tel @ShazaFK, leaders of companies, ahead of Global Digital Economy Conference, part of follow up of prime ministers' recent visit," ambassador posted on social media platform X formerly known as Twitter after the meeting.
 The state minister has arrived in the Chinese capital on Monday morning to participate in the Global Digital Economy Conference being held from 2 to 5 July 2024 in Beijing.
 She is leading a delegation of 20 IT companies from Pakistan for developing business to business cooperation with the Chinese companies.
 Hadiya Nawaz said she had already finalized development projects and soon work on them would be started.
 She said a carpet center would be set up in the city for skill training of the youth for which Rs 30 million has been earmarked. Similarly, Rs 20 million was specified for the construction of the press club building, she added.
 Likewise, MPA Hadiya said, Rs 10 million was earmarked for the repair and restoration of the temple so that the Hindu community members could perform their religious rituals, she added.
 She said Rs 75 million was kept aside in the budget for the repair and rehabilitation of the Officer's Club phase one, Rs 10 million for taxi stands, Rs 10 million for the Government Model High School examination hall, and Rs 32.25 million for the rehabilitation of Bilal Football Mini Stadium.
 The MPA said work many other projects in the Dera Allah Yar city and surrounding areas, installation of electricity poles and transformers, tuff tiles, water drainage schemes and roads would be carried out in cooperation with the Federal Government and non-governmental organizations.

Rs 500 mln allocated for Dera-Allah-Yar development: MPA

QUETTA (APP): PML-N Parliamentary Secretary for Population Welfare Hadiya Nawaz Behrani on Monday said that Rs 500 million was allocated for the financial year 2024.25 for various development programmes of Dera-Allah Yar.
 It was her desire to develop her home town as a model city and that was why she had got earmarked such a hefty amount in order to provide maximum basic facilities to its people, she said while talking to the media outside the Balochistan Assembly.
 She said a carpet center would be set up in the city for skill training of the youth for which Rs 30 million has been earmarked. Similarly, Rs 20 million was specified for the construction of the press club building, she added.
 Likewise, MPA Hadiya said, Rs 10 million was earmarked for the repair and restoration of the temple so that the Hindu community members could perform their religious rituals, she added.
 She said Rs 75 million was kept aside in the budget for the repair and rehabilitation of the Officer's Club phase one, Rs 10 million for taxi stands, Rs 10 million for the Government Model High School examination hall, and Rs 32.25 million for the rehabilitation of Bilal Football Mini Stadium.
 The MPA said work many other projects in the Dera Allah Yar city and surrounding areas, installation of electricity poles and transformers, tuff tiles, water drainage schemes and roads would be carried out in cooperation with the Federal Government and non-governmental organizations.