

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Hub

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 143, Muharram 03, 1446 AH Wednesday July 10, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs.15

Govt authorizes phone tapping for national security, crime prevention

Granting blanket powers of phone tapping to ISI deplorable: PTI

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan government has authorized Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to phone tapping in the context of national security and crime prevention. This authorization has been given to the ISI under Section 54 of the Pakistan Telecommunication Act. The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication has issued a gazette notification to this effect. According to the notification, at least an officer of grade 18 will be appointed for this task. The notification also grants the authority to trace calls, messages, and any form of communication. Last month, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) ruled that any action of phone tapping without a legal mechanism as "illegal" and turned down the additional attorney general's request for an in-chamber hearing in the audio leaks case. IHC's Justice Babar Sattar presided

over the hearing of the petitions filed by former first lady Bushra Bibi and ex-CJP's son Najam Saqib regarding the audio leaks. During the proceedings, Additional Attorney General (AAG) Manoor Iqbal Dogal informed the court that the Ministry of Interior had established a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) allowing ISI and IB to directly retrieve data from service providers. Justice Babar expressed concern that an SOP issued by a section officer, rather than the appropriate authority, raises questions about its legality. Meanwhile, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) vehemently condemned the federal cabinet's notification to give blanket powers to ISI to intercept calls and message under the guise of national security in sheer violation of constitution and law, demanding the Supreme Court of Pakistan to annul this notification forthwith.



QUETTA: Former Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

Governor Balochistan says: Present Govt determined to resolve Balochistan issues

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the present government is determined to resolve the issues of province and it's masses. The people of Balochistan have full trust on wisdom, vision and friendship of the elected government. He said that it is the public leadership that understands their issues and can take result-oriented steps. This sets new avenues for securing and increasing rights and powers of the people besides strengthening democracy. The Governor was

speaking to a delegation of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Mastung, who called on him here at the Governor's House on Tuesday. The political and social leader Pasand Khan led the delegation. The members of delegation appraised the Governor about the lack of basic facilities in Mastung besides the issues being faced by the people there. The Governor mentioned that the Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif inaugurated the project of solarization of agricultural tube wells for the zamindars of province.

CS expresses federal Govt.'s resolve to expedite work on solarization of agricultural tube wells in Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has expressed the federal government's resolve to expedite work on the conversion of agricultural tube wells on solar energy in the province. He said that welfare of farmers is top priority of the provincial government and as such all available resources are being utilized for ensuring timely completion of the development project. He said that the solarization of agricultural tube wells would cast positive impacts on the agriculture as they would get inexpensive and uninterrupted supply of electricity. The Chief Secretary was chairing

a meeting on solarization of the agricultural tube wells here on Tuesday. The Secretary Agriculture, Dawood Bazai, Secretary Energy, Bashir Ahmed Bazai, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat and Shaikat Jogezi were among those participated in the meeting. The Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners of other divisions and districts participated through video link. Addressing the meeting, Chief Secretary said that an agreement has been reached between the federal and provincial governments under which the agricultural tube wells would be converted on the solar energy.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif briefing parliamentarians regarding power sector reforms.

PM announces Rs 50b relief package to benefit 25m domestic power consumers

Referring to PTI-led govt in past, Sharif recalled tall claims of eliminating corruption within 90 days and repatriating \$300bn from abroad; Instead, the sugar and wheat scams surfaced

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced Rs 50 billion package to provide a relief of up to seven rupees per unit to around 25 million domestic power consumers, falling in the protected category for three months till September. "Today, an amount of Rs 50 billion has been allocated to provide a relief of Rs 4-7 per unit as a concession to our protected category consumers using up to 200 units a month for three months period from July to Sep-

tember. This will benefit around 25 million domestic power consumers which constitute around 94% of the total consumer base," the prime minister said addressing a ceremony held to discuss the prevailing issues related to electricity bills and reforms in the power sector. He said that the federal government had scrapped the said amount from its development budget to realise its commitment to public relief, contrary to the hollow claims of the previous governments.

He also assured the people of further relief as the government got a fiscal space consequent to its ongoing measures of taxing the elite class, expanding the tax net, closing the non-performing entities and plugging the holes, causing financial leakages. He told the gathering of federal ministers and senior government officers that during its previous 16-month stint, the coalition government saved the country from default by putting its politics at stake. Referring to the PTI-led government in the past,

the prime minister recalled the tall claims of eliminating corruption within 90 days and repatriating \$300 billion from abroad. Instead, he said the sugar and wheat scams surfaced and the 190 million pounds coming from the UK through the NCA could not land in the national kitty as was supposed to be done. Similarly, the same government announced a sudden decrease in oil prices causing loss to the national kitty, just for political gains, at a time when the prices were skyrocketing in the global market.

ATC dismisses Imran's bails in three May 9 riot cases

ISLAMABAD (INP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday rejected the interim bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan in three cases related to May 9 riots. ATC Judge Khalid Arshad announced the reserved verdict on Imran Khan's bail petitions concerning attacks on Jinnah House, Askari Tower, and the torching of Shadman Police Station. The court had reserved its verdict on the bail petitions after the completion of arguments by the parties on July 6.

Barrister Salman Safdar represented Imran Khan and argued for bail while Special Prosecutors Rana Abdul Jabbar and Rana Azhar opposed the bail petitions during the final arguments on behalf of the prosecution. Earlier, on August 11, 2023, an ATC had revoked pre-arrest bails for Imran Khan in seven cases due to his absence.

Govt announces two-day Muharram holiday

ISLAMABAD (APP): The federal government on Tuesday announced public holidays across the country on the 9th and 10th of Muharram (July 16 and 17) on account of Ashura. "The Prime Minister is pleased to declare 16th and 17th July, 2024 (Tuesday and Wednesday) as public holidays on the occasion of Ashura (9th & 10th Moharram 1446 AH)," a notification issued by the Cabinet Division said.

Washington says has 'shared interest' with Pakistan in combating regional threats

ISLAMABAD (INP): Washington has a "shared interest" with Islamabad in combating regional security threats, US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said in response to a question on whether America would support Pakistan if it conducted cross-border attacks against militant targets in Afghanistan. Tensions escalated between Islamabad and Kabul last month after Pakistan's Defense Minister Khawaja Asif hinted Pakistan could carry out cross-border attacks in Afghanistan against militants. Pakistan has suf-

Azerbaijan president due in Islamabad on July 11 for two-day visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev is scheduled to undertake an official visit to Pakistan from July 11-12, 2024, at the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. During the visit, President Aliyev will hold meetings with President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, a Foreign Office press release said. The two sides will engage in wide-ranging discussions on areas of mutual interest in order to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Cultural festival to be organized in Ziarat this month: GoB decides to take practical steps for promotion of localized culture & civilization of Balochistan

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has decided to take practical steps for promotion of the localized culture and civilization of the province. In this regard, the provincial government decided to hold cultural festival in Ziarat by end of the current month besides arranging Azadi (independence) mushaira (poetry session) in next month. Besides, Balochistan Literature Festival would also be organized in first month of next year. These decisions were made during a review meeting of the departmental affairs of Culture, Tourism and Archeology department held with Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti in the chair here on Tuesday. The Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan and administrative secretaries of the provincial government departments were in attendance. While chairing the meeting, Chief Minister directed to promote departmental initiatives regarding cultural events on social media in a big way. The meeting decided to hold different cultural events for promotion of the province's culture, tourism and historic heritage. Earlier, the concerned high ups briefed the meeting about different departmental matters and wings. They also briefed about the new and ongoing development projects of the departments. In addition to this, the funds allocated for grant-in-aid for the cultural and tourism activities in the province.

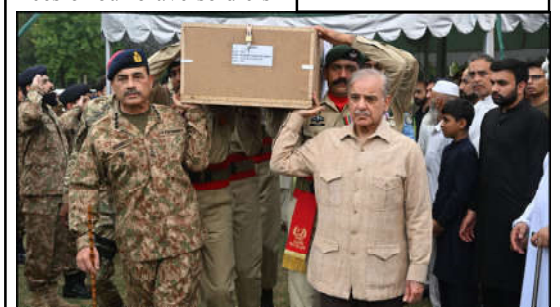
Captain Osama martyred during exchange of fire with terrorists

RAWALPINDI (Online): A fire exchange took place between security forces and terrorists in North Waziristan district. During the fierce engagement, own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, as result of which two terrorists were sent to hell. However, during the intense exchange of fire, leading his troops from the front, Captain Muhammad Osama bin Arshad (age: 24 years, resident of Rawalpindi District), having fought gallantly, made the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat. Sanitization operation is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area. Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers

further strengthen our resolve.

Funeral prayer of martyred Capt offered

Funeral prayers of Captain Muhammad Osama Bin Arshad Shaheed were offered at Chaklala Garrison Rawalpindi. He embraced martyrdom while defending the motherland in North Waziristan District. Prime Minister of Pakistan, Defense Minister, Information Minister, Chief of Army Staff and a large number of serving and retired military officers, soldiers and relatives of Shaheed attended the funeral.



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, COAS General Syed Asim Munir carrying the coffin of captain Muhammad Osama Bin Arshad Shaheed after funeral at Chaklala Garrison Rawalpindi.

SC orders Balochistan govt to file details of property of Qasim Suri

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has ordered Balochistan government to file details of all the property of former Deputy Speaker National Assembly (NA) Qasim Suri. Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Issa issued Order. According to order advertisement was given in news papers but Qasim Suri did not come. Lawyer Naeem Bokhari has no connection with his client. Notices are issued to federal government, Balochistan government and FIA. Balochistan government should file the details of all the property of Qasim Suri. Federal government and FIA should tell how Qasim Suri went outside the country. The CJP Qazi Faez Issa while moving to counsel Naeem Bokhari said how I can say such a beautiful person to leave this case. Justice Musarrat Hilali remarked why you are escaping from court. You should convey our message to him. Counsel Naeem Bokhari said I have no contact with him. How should I send message. A 4-member bench of SC presided over by the CJP Qazi Faez Issa took up the case for hearing. At the inception of hearing the CJP remarked we are thinking what we should do in this case. Naeem Bokhari counsel for Qasim Suri said you please hear me and give decision. The CJP inquired from the counsel have you no contact with Qasim Suri. The counsel said yes he has no contact with Qasim Suri. The CJP remarked you cannot bring your client by holding him. Tell him SC will not be allowed to be used so. The counsel said whatever have you to do it hurriedly. If you order me I leave the case. Justice Musarrat Hilali said why are you running from court.

Justice Musarrat Hilali said why are you running from court.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Parliamentary Secretary for Excise and Taxation Haji Muhammad Khan Lehri meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Tarar stresses Comprehensive measures to address societal challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Human Rights, Law & Parliamentary Affairs, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday underscored the need for comprehensive measures to address societal challenges, particularly in policy-making and implementation. Addressing an event "The Art of Parenting, highlighting critical social issues and emphasizing collective action for effective solutions," he said called for the effective implementation of the policies, thus bridging the gap to effectively support families and children. He said: "In the realm of parenting, it is imperative for the government, civil

society, and all stakeholders to collaborate." He acknowledged that raising children was a fundamental concern for every household, transcending economic disparities. He also addressed prevalent issues such as poverty, destitution, and child labor, which significantly impact the ability of families to provide proper upbringing and education to their children. He advocated for a shift towards robust family planning initiatives to mitigate these challenges effectively. "We must raise awareness among our populace about their role in fostering the proper upbringing of children."



QUETTA: Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman, Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad along with others joint hand with each other to express their solidarity during the Ittehad Ummat Conference, held at Quetta Press Club

Finance Minister meets with PMLTC CEO, discusses energy sector reforms and collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday met with the President and CEO of Pak Matiari-Lahore Transmission Company (PMLTC) Ms. Zhang Lei to discuss various aspects of energy sector development and cooperation.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy CEO Ma Desheng and CFO Wang Bo, said a news release.

The minister acknowledged the

contributions of PMLTC to infrastructure development and assured the delegation of required support through relevant government channels.

Finance minister meets Chairman Nestle Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday met Chairman Nestle Pakistan Syed Yawar Ali and Ex-President Farmers Association of Pakistan Afaq Ahmed Tiwana to explore avenues for enhancing the growth of Pakistan's agriculture and livestock sectors.

Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik and Member-IR Policy Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) also attended the meeting, said a news release.

The minister thanked the delegation for their constructive proposals. He underscored the government's commitment to support these vital sectors through enhanced financing mechanisms.

The minister assured that relevant ministries would be consulted to consider the proposed framework, aiming to translate it into actionable policies that drive tangible results. Syed Yawar Ali shared insights on the current state of these sectors and emphasized their potential to significantly increase yield productivity and exports.

Syed Yawar Ali and Afaq Ahmed Tiwana appreciated the government for prioritizing agriculture and livestock in its policy framework.



QUETTA: A delegation of representative of Zamindar Action Committee meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti. Provincial Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries are also present.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain chairing 11th meeting of the National Coordination Committee on Small Medium Enterprises Development.

500kV Double Circuit Quad Bundle transmission line to enhance national grid's capacity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the China Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan (CCCPK) Wang Huihua has said that the 500kV Double Circuit Quad Bundle Transmission Line will play a pivotal role in enhancing national grid's capacity, ensuring stable and efficient transmission of electricity by connecting Nelum Jhelum and 844 MW Suki Kinari project.

Pakistan's quest for energy security and economic growth, said a press release issued here Tuesday.

reliable energy network", he said.

Govt needs to engage businessmen for workable economic policy: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (INP): President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has urged the government to devise a viable solution to boost industry and businesses through providing affordable electricity and imposing nominal taxes.

when inflation has already dropped to 12%, he pointed out. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari stated that providing electricity to the industry at a rate of 9 cents/kWh would increase exports by \$6 billion, add over 300 megawatts to the grid, generate Rs. 500 billion in revenue, and reduce debt servicing by Rs. 240 billion.

Emphasizing that the business community can't secure international orders when the government imposes high charges under cross-subsidies, he questioned why international buyers prefer Pakistan over countries like Vietnam.

In a statement here on Tuesday, he highlighted that exorbitant taxes, high power costs, and a poor law and order situation severely impact the economy and could further accelerate unemployment. There was no justification for maintaining exorbitant interest rates at 20.5%



ISLAMABAD: A vendor is displaying Bananas attraction for customers on his loading van alongside a road, in the Federal Capital.

Pro rata billing system to eliminate overbilling issue in Pesco region: Pesco chief

PESHAWAR (APP): Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) chief Akhtar Hameed Khan has said that a pro-rata billing system has been implemented to eliminate overbilling in the region.

in this regard and explaining that this software did not remove consumers from the protected category.

In a statement he said with the introduction of this new software, consumers would only be charged for the units which they had consumed. Giving details, he said the pro rata software automatically reduces and charges only the used units if additional units are added. He also said that some fake news is circulating on social media

the implementation of the pro rata billing system had increased the number of protected consumers.

In March 2024, the number of protected consumers in PESCO was 1.85 million, which increased to 2.217 million in April. Similarly, this number reached 2.462 million in May. However, the number of protected consumers decreases due to increased electricity usage in the summer.

Zong expands data network with addition of 400 new 4G sites in H1, 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The private mobile operator - Zong 4G - has announced the successful expansion of its network with over 400 new 4G sites added in the first half of the current year.

This significant expansion solidified Zong 4G's position as the second largest data network in the country.

This effort underscores the company's commitment to providing widespread and reliable connectivity. Currently serving 49 million customers, Zong aspires to democratize access to data across Pakistan, said a news release issued on Tuesday. In addition to expanding its network, Zong 4G has concluded an extensive network modernization project to

address capacity challenges.

The company replaced 2T2R technology with advanced 8T8R, focusing particularly on enhancing the customer experience for remote projects along the CPEC route.

As part of its commitment to network sustainability, Zong 4G completed over 1,400 power upgrades in H1-2024. The upgrades featured Li-Ion solutions, known for their fast-charging capability and longer life compared to traditional battery banks.

Senior management from Huawei and ZTE also joined Zong 4G in celebrating these achievements, pledging their continued support for future endeavors.

CCP Green-lit merger of SCL in JKSM

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved a Scheme of Arrangement for the merger of M/s. Shamim and Company (Pvt.) Ltd with M/s. JK Sugar Mills (Pvt.) Ltd.

products namely, molasses, bagasse, and mud. SCL, since 1967 is into the business of manufacturing and distribution of PepsiCo products across Pakistan.

The Phase-I competition assessment by the CCP identified two relevant markets namely, 'Sugar and by-products' and 'Non-alcoholic beverages'. As per the Scheme of Arrangement, the transaction involves merger of SCL with JKSM.

JKSM is a private limited company with the business of production and sale of sugar or related products in Pakistan, said a press release issued here on Tuesday.



MULTAN: A worker weighing and packing good quality mangoes into the boxes for delivery to the other City.

Advisor to Ombudsman for steps to enhance revenue of Pakistan Post

KARACHI (APP): Advisor Federal Ombudsman Regional Office Karachi Seema Shakil, on Tuesday, paid a visit to Pakistan Post GPO Sadder Karachi to inspect facilities being offered to public.

area for customers need to be improved and water and other basic facilities should be made available there.

The senior advisor, while speaking to media at the occasion, said that federal Ombudsman is the only institute that resolves the grievances of citizens without any fees while they don't need assistance of lawyer as well.

Seema Shakil said that complaints filed to Ombudsman office by public against the Pakistan Post were mostly about lost parcels. In case of missing of booked parcel the customer was eligible to receive a compensation amount up to Rs.1000 irrespective of the value of the goods dispatched, she pointed out and stressed on the need of enhancing the compensation amount as well as ensuring insurance of parcels at the time of booking.

The officials of Ombudsman secretariat conduct visits and inspections of federal government departments and organizations engaged in public service delivery to review their performance and service delivery status and forward their findings and recommendations for not only resolving the public grievances but also to address the issues faced the relevant institution, she mentioned.

Though the customers present in GPO expressed satisfaction on available facilities and services, she said and added, waiting

Ali Pervaiz says: Reforms in energy sector to be introduced shortly

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Power Ali Pervaiz Malik massive will be introduced in energy sector shortly which will ensure a sustainable and efficient energy sector for the future. During an interview with PTV News on Tuesday, he stated that the government was adopting a multi-faceted approach to overhaul the energy sector.

grade utilization was needed to reduce per unit capacity costs. Emphasizing the importance of shifting towards local fuel sources to decrease dependence on imported fuels, he highlighted the ongoing efforts in local exploration. A significant portion of the reform strategy involves the privatization of distribution companies (DISCOs) and generation companies (GENCOs).

He said that inefficient and obsolete furnace oil plants currently

incurring costs despite being non-operational would be scrapped, auctioned, or liquidated. "Efficient plants will be put on a privatization model," he added.

The state minister said that the government was working on establishing a robust regulatory framework to safeguard consumer interest's post-privatization. The government is working to enhance corporate governance and auditing practices in the DISCOs.

Flour price reduced

FAISALABAD (APP): Price of flour bags have been reduced across the district Faisalabad to facilitate the masses.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with the Chairman Nestle Pakistan and Ex-President Farmers Association of Pakistan.

A spokesman of local administration said here on Tuesday that on special direction of Chief Minister Punjari Maryam Nawaz, the government had made reduction in the flour bags and new rate for 10 kilograms (kg) flour bag was fixed as Rs.800 while 20 kg bag would be available at Rs.1600.

In this connection, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abdullah Nayyar Sheikh also directed the price control magistrates as well as assistant commissioners and officers of the Food department to ensure the availability of flour bags on its new price.

Dr Murtaza Mughal said that if there were some reduction in the

Dr Mughal says: Budget has nothing for masses but distribution of resources among legislators

LAHORE (INP): President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW), Dr Murtaza Mughal has said that the federal budget has nothing for masses but it is only distribution of resources among legislators. He said that differences among major political parties regarding budget was not aimed to facilitate countrymen but about their share in resources. In a statement issued on Tuesday, he said that Rs 16 billion have been earmarked for development projects in the budget, which will be used to please the members of national and provincial assemblies and supporters.

development budget, electricity tariff would not have to be hiked to unbelievable levels. Still, the rulers were not concerned about people's problems and were busy shaping their future.

The government was making life difficult for the masses through taxes and blaming the IMF, which was not a reality, he added.

The President PEW said that the government had increased its current expenses by 24 per cent, for which the right to live has been taken away from the people and the salaried class.

According to a recent survey, 94 per cent of people want to leave the country because they don't see anything here.



QUETTA: Anjuman-e-Tajran Balochistan Central President, Abdul Rahim Kakar along with Hazrat Ali Achakzai, Jaffar Khan Kakar and others addressing to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club

DG Agriculture says: Punjab govt striving for welfare of farmers

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Agriculture Department will guide farmers on crop cultivation, better yields, and proper use of agricultural medicines at the Farmer Facilitation Centers by the Punjab government is a farmer-friendly initiative where fertilizers, quality agricultural medicines, and spray machinery are available at reasonable rates.

These views were expressed by Director General Agriculture (Extension) Chaudhry Abdul Hameed during a visit to the Farmer Facilitation Center in Bahawalpur. He urged farmers to take full advantage of the Punjab government.

Farmer Facilitation Centers have been established throughout Punjab to provide relief to farmers as per the instructions of the Punjab government. The

shipping activity at Port Qasim was reported at the port where two ships, MSC Mundra VIII and Al-Thakhira carrying Container and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal and Elengy Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile two more ships, Common Venture and Sky Blue scheduled to load/offload Rice and Palm oil also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on during last 24 hours. A total of four ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a containership 'MSC Mundra VIII' left the port on today morning while another ship 'Suvari Reis' is expected to sail on today.

Cargo volume of 87,510 tonnes, comprising 64,293 tonnes imports cargo and 23,217 tonnes export cargo carried in 1,497 Containers (610 TEUs imports and 887 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours. There are 07 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships, Common Venture, IVS Kerstrel and Sky Blue are expected to take berths at respectively FAP.

PM says: Int'l community must recognize Pak for hosting huge refugee population

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday urged the international community to recognize the burden being shouldered by Pakistan while hosting such a large refugee population and demonstrate collective responsibility. The prime minister, in a meeting with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Filippo Grandi at the PM House, reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to address the protection and safety needs of people in vulnerable situations and underscored that the international community needed to be mindful of the socio-economic challenges and security threats being faced by Pakistan in this regard, according to a PM Office press release.

Ahsan highlights importance of social media in enhancing citizens' engagement in different processes

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday highlighted the significance of social media, calling it an "essential tool" in promoting citizen engagement, transparency and participation in government and political processes.

He said social media platforms provided spaces for dialogue, enabling people from all walks of life to voice their opinions, share concerns, and disseminate information, he said. The minister expressed these views while addressing an event titled "Digital Democracy in Action: Enhancing Engagement through Social Media," organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



President for holistic approach, prudent financial policies for country's development

LAHORE (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari has called for adopting a holistic approach and prudent financial policies to put the country on the path of development. He said that different sectors of the economy, especially the agricultural sector, needed to be developed along modern lines. He added that the government was planning to tax agricultural income as per the International Monetary Fund's conditions, however, the provincial governments would be leading the initiative to tax large landholding farmers in accordance with their profitability and expenditures.

The President highlighted that one had to face trials and tribulations in life, however, one needed to stay steadfast in the face of challenges. He paid rich tribute to the political struggle and sacrifices of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed for democracy, saying that Pakistan People's Party had a history of facing pressures and assassinations, however, continued its struggle for the cause of democracy in Pakistan. He said that assassination attempts and political pressures could not deter us from our mission as we firmly believed that life and death were in Allah's hands. The President also paid rich tribute to the services and contributions of Late Professor Waris Mir towards democracy and journalism.

SC reserves verdict in SIC's appeal regarding reserved seats

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Tuesday reserved the judgment after hearing the arguments from respondents in an appeal of Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) regarding reserved seats. A 13-member bench of the apex court, led by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, comprising Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Ayesha Malik, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Irfan Saadat Khan and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan, heard the case. Barrister Salman Akram Raja and SIC's Faisal Siddiqui presented their arguments before the court during the hearing which was live streamed on the website.



ISLAMABAD: UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

AJK govt plans to settle post-1990 Kashmiri refugees on permanent basis: Anwar

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Prime Minister, Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq on Tuesday said that permanent settlement of post 1990 Kashmiri refugees, pouring in from Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) into AJK, was his government's priority.

"The AJK government in collaboration with the government of Pakistan, will use all resources for the resettlement of the Kashmiri refugees," he said this while speaking the inauguration and foundation stone laying ceremony regarding the construction of 750 houses for the post 90s refugees in the state metropolis.

Iddat case IHC dismisses plea seeking review of court orders for deciding central appeal pleas

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has dismissed the plea seeking review of court orders to decide the central appeal pleas in iddat case within one month.

The court upheld the order that Sessions court should decide the appeal pleas within one month. High Court has already directed sessions court to decide appeal pleas within a month.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb of IHC took up Khawar Manki petition for hearing Tuesday. The assistant lawyer to Khawar Manika said senior lawyer Rizwan Abbasi is pre-occupied in Supreme Court (SC). Please announce some interval in the case. Suleman Akram Raja counsel for Imran Khan argued counsel for Khawar Manika has written he wants to go to Iran, Iraq for pilgrimage.

Secretary finance visits Quaid-e-Azam public library in Ziarat

QUETTA (APP): Provincial Secretary Finance Babar Khan on Tuesday visited Quaid-e-Azam Public Library in Ziarat.

The focal person of the library, Abdul Manan Sarangzai briefed the Secretary about the library. Provincial Secretary Finance said on this occasion that former Deputy Commissioner Ziarat Hamood-ur-Rahman built a library under his help and in a very short time that he gave a great gift not only to Ziarat but to the people of Balochistan as a whole.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presides over the meeting regarding shifting of Agricultural Tubewells on solar.

Khair Jan to lead Committee on Education: Chairmen of standing Committees of BA elected

QUETTA: The Chairmen of four standing committees were elected in meetings of the respective committees held here on Tuesday.

According to the official release, the standing committee for Information, Sports, Culture, Tourism and Libraries was held with all its members in attendance.

The committee unanimously elected MPA Rehmat Saleh Baloch as chairman of the standing committee for Information, Sports, Culture, Tourism and Libraries.

Pakistani coast guards seize over 15,000 liters of smuggled Iranian diesel

QUETTA (INP): Pakistan Coast Guards seized over 15,000 liters of Iranian diesel being smuggled into the country through the south-western Balochistan province in two separate operations, state media reported on Tuesday.



QUETTA: MNA Mian Khan Bugti and Wadera Kalpar Bugti meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

Bilawal launches first travelogue on China by columnist from KP

PESHAWAR (APP): First travelogue by any columnist from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa focused on China, now featured by China Window, a cultural center in Peshawar promoting Sino-Pak friendship is launched here on Tuesday.

The unveiling ceremony at the Governor's House, graced by Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Governor KP Faisal Karim Kundi, and President of Peshawar Press Club

IHC allows Fawad to go abroad for two weeks

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has allowed former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry to go abroad for two weeks.

Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamir Farooq took up for hearing Fawad Chaudhry petition seeking removal of his name from Passport Control List (PCL).

During the hearing of the case the court ordered to remove name of Fawad Chaudhry from PCL for two weeks.

Mobile phone prices hit record high after 18% GST in budget

ISLAMABAD (INP): Following the imposition of an 18% GST in the federal budget for 2024-25, mobile phone prices have surged to unprecedented levels, causing widespread concern among consumers.

This drastic rise in prices is expected to heavily impact consumers and the mobile phone market.

Poliovirus 'detected' in sewage samples of three districts

ISLAMABAD (INP): The poliovirus has been detected in sewage samples of three districts across Pakistan.

According to sources, the Type-1 Wild Poliovirus was found in sewage lines. The affected districts include Karachi South, Korangi and Dera Bugti, Balochistan, the sources said.

The samples were collected for poliovirus testing between 11 and 13 June. The number of positive sewage samples has risen to 214 in 2024 after detection of three new samples, the sources said. Sampling for polio testing was conducted in the affected districts from June 6 to 11.

Pakistan has reported eight cases of poliovirus in 2024 so far.

Solarization of over 27,000 agri. tube wells in Balochistan: Joint strategy to be prepared with zamindars for implementation on project, assures Chief Minister

Bugti says legislation to be made for ending illegal connections; Zamindar Action Committee highly appreciates CM and members of provincial cabinet on success of solarization of agricultural tube wells in province, describes progress on project historic

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has announced that joint strategy would be prepared in collaboration with the zamindars for implementation of agricultural tube wells in the province.

He said that it is our utmost endeavour to complete the project within one month.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the representative delegation of Balochistan Zamindar Action Committee, who called on him here at the CM's secretariat on Tuesday.

Besides the office bearers of Zamindar Action Committee, the provincial ministers, parliamentary secretaries of different departments, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan and other concerned high ups were also present in the meeting.

The members of delegation highly appreciated the Chief Minister and members of provincial cabinet on success of the project of solarization of agricultural tube wells in the province.

They also appreciated the wholehearted and active role played by the Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan regarding implementation of the vital project.

Speaking to the members of zamindars' delegation, Chief Minister said that provincial government has taken practical steps for resolving long-standing issues of the zamindars.

He said that it is his endeavour to complete the project within one month. However, until then, supply of electricity would be ensured to the zamindars for six hours, the Chief Minister maintained.

He said that the registered tube wells would be converted on solar energy with cooperation of zamindars in due course of time.

He said that the registered tube wells would be converted on solar energy with cooperation of zamindars in due course of time.

He said that the registered tube wells would be converted on solar energy with cooperation of zamindars in due course of time.

He said that the registered tube wells would be converted on solar energy with cooperation of zamindars in due course of time.

He said that the registered tube wells would be converted on solar energy with cooperation of zamindars in due course of time.

He said that the registered tube wells would be converted on solar energy with cooperation of zamindars in due course of time.

He said that the registered tube wells would be converted on solar energy with cooperation of zamindars in due course of time.

He said that the registered tube wells would be converted on solar energy with cooperation of zamindars in due course of time.

He said that the registered tube wells would be converted on solar energy with cooperation of zamindars in due course of time.

He said that the registered tube wells would be converted on solar energy with cooperation of zamindars in due course of time.

He said that the registered tube wells would be converted on solar energy with cooperation of zamindars in due course of time.

He said that the registered tube wells would be converted on solar energy with cooperation of zamindars in due course of time.

He said that the registered tube wells would be converted on solar energy with cooperation of zamindars in due course of time.