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dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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CM Sindh reviews arrangements for Muharram Majaalis, directs for security of processions

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday presided over a joint meeting with administration and religious scholars to finalise arrangements for Majaalis and processions during Muharram ul Haram.

The CM said there would be no load-shedding from Muharram 1 to 12 for which he issued directives to KE, HESCO and SEPCO.

The meeting was held at CM House and attended by provincial ministers including Sharjeel Memon, Nasir Shah, Saeed Ghani, Zia Lanjar, Riaz Shah Shirazi, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi, Additional IG Karachi Imran Yakoob, Secretaries of different departments, Asadullah of water Board, Haris Siddiqui

of KE and Solid Waste Management representative Ulema-e-karam-Allama Syed Razi Naqvi, Molana Mohamad Hussain and others also attended the meeting.

Addressing the Ulema the CM said that province had full religious harmony where people had been living in peaceful environment.

He said: "I am sure this practice of mutual respect would further strengthen." After consultation with Ulema-e-karam (religious scholars) the CM directed the IG Police to provide necessary security to the Majaalis and Moharram processions across the Sindh province.

The Ulema pointed out that most of the roads and the drain in the city were better but even then, drainage systems in the streets, particularly where

Majaalis were scheduled to be held.

At this, the CM directed the water board to ensure the repair of the drainage system in the city. The KMC would repair its roads, if necessary. He also directed the water board to provide water to the masjid and Majaalis. Mr Shah directed Solid Waste Management to further focus on the sweeping and cleanliness of roads and streets for Majaalis and Moharram processions.

The Ulema pointed out the problem of load-shedding in their areas and requested the CM to direct K-Electric not to resort to load-shedding during the month of Muharram, particularly from Muharram 1 to 12. On this, the CM directed KE representatives to ensure an uninterrupted power supply to the masjid, and majaalis.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a joint meeting with administration and religious scholars to finalise arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram held at CM House in Karachi.

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.

They also apprised the prime minister of the appreciation of fiscal budget by the business community and expressed the confidence that it would cause positive impacts upon the business activities in the country.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday while noting the positive trajectory of bilateral ties between Pakistan and Kazakhstan emphasized the need to enhance trade and investment, besides

focusing on regional connectivity and security.

The prime minister received the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yezhan 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.



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

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 acted through 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.

The minister said the provision of Rs 38 per unit electricity to exporters was a major relief for industry, clarifying that the exports dividends were only taxed in the budget.



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

Sindh introduces OMR system for exam assessment: Malkani

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Universities and Boards Muhammad Ali Malkani, on Monday, said that semi-automation has been introduced in the examination system of all the educational boards by bringing in optical mark recognition (OMR) system for evaluation and marking of answer sheets.

OMR based evaluation will be introduced in 2024 supplementary examination and then will be rolled out in annual examination 2025, he said while addressing the closing ceremony of the training workshop on digitizing the examination assessment system in Sindh organized by Sindh Second-

ary Education Improvement Project (SSEIP). Malkani said that integration of technology in evaluation, a first-of-its-kind attempt at examination reform in Sindh, will help reducing the system errors involved in board assessment. Underscoring the need of leveraging technology to reform the examination system, Malkani said that we have to increase the skills of our teachers by using the current and future digital technologies.

The minister said that we are also making efforts to conduct next board exams in the province in March as in other provinces, the exams are held in March, while in Sindh,

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.

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.

Announcing sit-in protest in Islamabad, Hafiz Naeemur Rehman appealed masses to come out of their houses for their rights.

He also asked the government to lower power tariff and taxes. Read more: "How much tax feudal is paying", Hafiz Naeem asks Govt Earlier on June 16, Jamaat-e-Islami chief Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman said that the salaried class has paid 360 billion rupees in tax, while feudal paid only four billion rupees.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with the Executive Committee Members of P@sha (Pakistan IT Industry Association) led by Chairman P@sha Muhammad Zohaib Khan.

Nasir Shah attends APC convened by Afaq Ahmed regarding K-Electric

KARACHI (APP): Provincial Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Monday said that the government will support whatever recommendations the All Parties Conference prepared on legal and technical grounds regarding electricity.

He expressed these views while addressing the all-party conference organized by Afaq Ahmed regarding K-Electric here in a local hotel.

Apart from Shahi Syed, Irfanullah Khan Marwat, Javed Naguri, Nihal Hashmi, Owais Noorani, various political, social activists, media men, traders and industrialists also participated in the conference. Minister thanked Afaq Ahmed for organizing the event and said that legal and peaceful protest was the right of everyone, we have also been protesting but government property should not be damaged.

Nasir Shah said that the Sindh government has also set up a parliamentary committee to review public complaints regarding K-Electric and to redress them and it is reviewing the abuses done to the public regarding load-shedding and over-billing and was in constant contact with K-Electric to resolve the complaints and several meetings have also been held in this regard. Minister said whatever committee the conference will form, the government will also take this committee on board. In order to review the public complaints, I also made a detailed visit to the Central Load Dispatch Center of K-Electric last night and found out the details regarding the load management and told K-Electric that if it is absolutely necessary, it should do load shedding during the day time but not load shedding between 12:00 am and 6:00 am.



KARACHI: Health worker administers polio vaccine drops to a child during anti-polio immunization campaign, at Cantt Railway Station in Karachi.

Sindh govt demands Governor Tessori to step down immediately

KARACHI (INP): Led by Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the Sindh government has demanded of the Governor Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori to step down immediately.

While addressing a press conference in Karachi on Monday, Sindh Minister for Excise and Transport Sharjeel Memon rebuked the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) for allegedly promoting "hated and violence" in the province.

MQM-P has become irrelevant at the local level, he claimed and said that the party's politics of hatred and accusations were outdated. "They are no longer visible at the Union Council level," he added.

Criticizing MQM-P Convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui for his remarks against the former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto regarding quota system, the PPP leader said that Bhutto was the one who made Pa-

kistan a 'nuclear power'. He noted that the MQM-P was indulged in hiring its workers in local government institutions, adding: "The party's demands to end the quota system are inappropriate."

Sharjeel Memon said that the MQM-P even today was responsible for a number of Sindh issues, adding that the party had new vacancies banned through stay order. "They have always tried to stop employment of people", he alleged.

The provincial minister further criticised the MQM-P leadership, saying that they left the party founder Altaf Hussain during 'bad times'. "Khalid Maqbool and the rest of the leadership are not ready to accept their leader", he added. Recalling the past incidents, he claimed that the MQM had been involved in various nefarious activities, including the killing of innocent people during their strikes.



The outgoing Ambassador of Belgium to Pakistan, Mr Charles Delogne, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Awan-e-Sadr.

Bilawal expresses concern over diminishing space for independent journalism in KP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto 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.

Mayor Karachi to continuously monitor cleaning of drains

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi, Barrister Muratza Wahab, Monday said that he will continuously monitor the cleaning of drains and in addition to the 46 major drains, smaller drains are also being cleaned.

He expressed these views during his visits to the stormwater drains. Municipal Commissioner of KMC, SM Afzal Zaidi, the Mayor's Political Affairs Spokesperson, Karamullah Waqasi, and other relevant officials accompanied him.

He said that a joint strategy will be employed to ensure the drainage of rainwater across all towns. As soon as the rains begin, staff, machinery, and pumps will be dispatched to major roads. We believe in working indiscriminately across all districts of Karachi and

will respond to critics through our work, he said. Barrister Muratza Wahab visited several drains including Bilawal Chowranghi Nala, Essa Nagri Nala, Songal Nala, and Nursery Nala, and inspected drainage arrangements in various locations in District Korangi such as Khadda Stop, Ten Thousand Road, Kala Board Malir, Falaknagar Plaza, and Railway Crossing.

He issued on the spot instructions to the official concerned during his visit.

Mayor Karachi directed that all choking points in the drains be cleared daily and the cleaning process be accelerated. Along with major drains other drains in suburban areas should also be cleaned to prevent drainage issues.

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 compare 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.

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.

Abbas Muhammad, a Pakistani jeweler who has lived 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 from Beijing to participate in the expo.

He said that he believed the Pakistani goods would be successful in China, which was a huge market.

Pakistani merchants have been participating in the China-Eurasia Expo for several consecutive years. The diverse range of exhibits from around the world has embarked on a journey along the Silk Road to converge at the expo.

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.



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 for 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.

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

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.

M u h a m m a d

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.

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.

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 Muharramul-Haram and said that DCC meeting.

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 M a n a t s c h a l - 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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.



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.

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 ourselves," 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.

Israel FM says 'Iran deserves to be destroyed'. 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,

Israel FM says 'Iran deserves to be destroyed'

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. 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. 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 armed violence and causing 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. 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. M a s o u d 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. In the lead-up to the election, Iran's

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%.

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.

Iran election shows declining voter support amid calls for change

main 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.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Khurshid Alam, and 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 Counselor, Yang Guangyuan, Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina

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



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani attending 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.

SC resumes hearing on SIC plea challenging denial of reserved seats

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court has resumed the hearing on the petition filed by the Sunni Ittehad Council an ally of the PTI challenging the denial of reserved seats in the national and provincial assemblies.

A full-court bench led by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, is conducting today's proceedings. Other judges on the bench are Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A. Malik, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice

Irfan Saadat Khan and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan. Lawyer Sikandar Bashir, representing the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), is presenting his arguments before the 13-member full court.

Pakistan Peoples Party lawyer Farooq H Naek is also scheduled to advance his arguments. The PTI had, after losing its electoral symbol 'bat', directed the independent candidates who won election with its backing to join the SIC. In March, the ECP ruled that the SIC was not entitled to claim quota for reserved seats "due to having non-curable legal defects and violation of a mandatory provision of submission of party list for reserved seats".

Jahangir Tareen calls on PM; lauds people friendly budget

ISLAMABAD (APP): Renowned businessman and member of Economic Advisory Council Jahangir Khan Tareen on Monday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Tareen, who was accompanied by Isteqam-e-Pakistan Party leader Aon Chaudhry, appreciated the prime minister for presenting a pro-business and people-friendly budget, despite tough financial conditions.

He also congratulated Prime Minister Shehbaz for putting the national economy on a positive trajectory.

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.

CM orders start of work on establishment of an Inclusive city for special persons in Dec

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presiding over a meeting directed to start work on the establishment of an Inclusive City for differently-abled persons by December 2024.

The city would have all the facilities for differently-abled persons so that they could be brought into the mainstream.

The meeting was held at CM House and was attended by Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, PSCM Agha Wasif, Secretary Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD) Tauha Farooqi and others.

Mr Shah said that an inclusive City would be established through a Company to be registered under the Companies Act 2017. He directed the chief secretary to suggest well-reputed



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

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.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah chaired a meeting to review the arrangement for the arrival of Bohra Jamat Spiritual Leader Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin held at CM House in Karachi.

5Es Framework to foster economic stability, growth: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Kearney, a leading global management consulting firm Monday called on Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal to explore support for Pakistan's private investment initiatives.

During the meeting, the minister elaborated on the 5Es Framework, a cornerstone of the National Economic Transformation

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.

SC directs provinces to submit report on climate change measures

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday ordered provinces to submit report about steps taken to tackle the climate change.

A three-member bench of the apex court headed by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah heard case with regard to constitution of the climate change.

The court demanded Punjab and Balochistan governments to provide details of steps taken over the climate change. "There is policy in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh but what practical steps

Two killed in separate incidents in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Two people were killed and another injured in separate incidents in different localities of the metropolis, police said on Monday.

According to details, a blind bullet claimed life of an unidentified man at Korangi No 4, Karachi.

Body of another person was recovered from Ghareeb Nawaz Colony in Old Golimar area.

A 12-year-old body identified as Bilal was injured after hit by a bullet fire from unknown located near Swati Mohallah of Landhi.

The bodies and injured were shifted to different hospitals for medico-legal formalities and police after registering separate cases at respective police stations started investigations.



HYDERABAD: District Health Officer (DHO), Dr. Lala Jaffar Pathan cutting the inaugural ribbon during the inauguration of the Polio Training Camp, at Tando Jam Ruler Health Care Centre in Hyderabad.

Teacher training on creating a peaceful classroom environment held

KARACHI (APP): A day long teacher training session was held at a private school on University Road under the joint project SHE The Peacebuilders by Search for Common Ground and Aurat Foundation.

The training focused on creating a peaceful and improved classroom environment for children, said a statement on Monday.

Hiba Rizwan, a member of Aurat Foundation and a Women Peace Architect, conducted the session titled "Educators as Peace Builders, Conflict Resolution and Role Development."

The training was attended by teachers from

Bullet-riddled body of man found at DHA bungalow in Karachi

KARACHI (NP): A bullet-riddled body of a man has been found in a bungalow in Phase-4 of Khyaban Badar, Defence Housing Authority (DHA), Karachi on Monday. According to SHO Darakhshan Irfan Asif, the body of the deceased, who has been identified as Asif Latif son of Muhammad Latif, has been shifted to South City Hospital.

Quoting the man who works as a guard at the bungalow, the SHO has said that Asif shot himself dead while he was sitting on the lawn of his bungalow. "I was offering Isha prayer between 9:15 PM and 9:30 PM when I heard the gunshot."

Naqvi lauds FC and Police Personnel foiling terrorists' attack on Takhta Baig

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Monday paid tribute to the bravery of FC and police personnel who foiled the terrorists' attack on Takhta Baig police checkpoint in District Khyber.

The Interior Minister said that the sacrifices of Shaheed FC official Shahzad and Shaheed Police official Ejaz, who laid down their lives fighting against terrorists, will always be remembered by the nation.

He said that the brave officers and jawans of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police and FC have played a key role in the war against terrorism.

The Interior Minister

praised the bravery of Shaheed FC official Shahzad and Shaheed Police official Ejaz, who fearlessly thwarted the terrorists' attack. He said that the nation salutes the sacrifices of the two martyrs who laid down their lives fighting against terrorism.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi further said that the sacrifices of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police and FC will never be forgotten.

He said that the brave officers and jawans of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police and FC have played a key role in the war against terrorism.

The Interior Minister



LARKANA: Commissioner Larkana Division, Ghulam Mustafa Phul presided over the meeting in connection of Muharram-ul-Haram coming ahead, at his office in Larkana.

DC orders to ensure no-parking zones from Muharram 1-10

HYDERABAD (APP): The Deputy Commissioner Zainul Abideen Memon Monday directed officials of relevant departments to ensure that the road from Hyder Chowk to Gol Building is declared a no-parking zone from Muharram 1 to 10.

This directive was issued during a meeting of the Hyderabad Traffic Management Board held at his office.

Memon directed that the roads from Koh Noor Chowk to Sher Singh Road, and from the Chamber of Commerce to Basant Hall, should also be designated as no-parking zones during these days.

This measure is aimed at ensuring that mourners and the general public do not face any inconvenience during the processions, he added.

DC directed the Wa-

Police catch 2 trucks smuggling Indian gutka, arrest 6 suspects

HYDERABAD (APP): Two trucks transporting an illegal shipment of smuggled Indian gutka were caught here on Monday by the Hatri police which also apprehended 6 suspects.

The police spokesman Awais Rajput informed that the Hatri police seized both the trucks in raids carried out on a tip off.

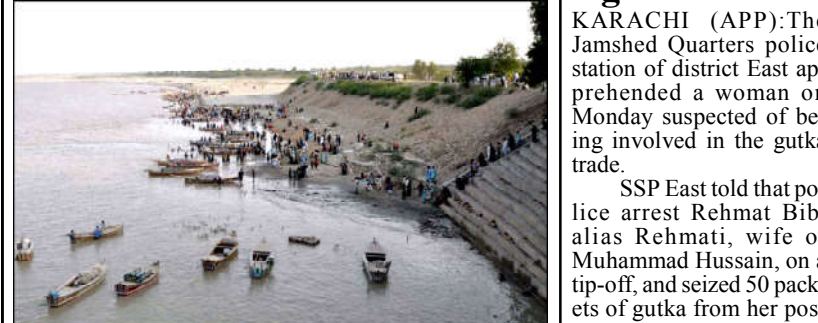
According to him, 2-21 gutkas weighing thousands of kilograms had been seized. He told that 3 suspects were arrested from the truck bearing registration number TLF-367 and as many from another truck with the registration number TLN-467.

The police later booked both the suspects in 2 separate FIRs which were lodged on the state's complaint.

Police arrest gutka seller

KARACHI (APP): The Jamshed Quarters police station of district East apprehended a woman on Monday suspected of being involved in the gutka trade.

SSP East told that police arrest Rehma Bibi alias Rehma, wife of Muhammad Hussain, on a tip-off, and seized 50 packets of gutka from her possession. She had previously been arrested for a similar offense and has served jail time.



HYDERABAD: A large number of people are enjoying bath to beat the heat of scorching sun during a hot day of summer season, at Indus River in Hyderabad.

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-United States 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



KARACHI: Police officials barricade protesters when they tried to move towards red zone area during the protest demonstration of Basic NCHD Teachers Committee Sindh for acceptance of their demands, nearby Karachi press club.

ASP Sukkur visits imambargahs, reviewed security arrangements

SUKKUR (APP): ASP Sukkur city, Muhammad Usman Khan on Monday paid a visit to various Imambargah of the Sukkur and Rohri city and reviewed security arrangements made by police to protect the participants of Majalis and processions to be taken out during Moharram Ul Haram. ASP Sukkur city inspected security arrangements of the Imam bargahs by the following directives of the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Sukkur Pir Muhammad Shah.

ASP Usman Khan reviewed the security measures and held meetings with the administrators of the Imambargahs who thanked the senior police officer for ensuring elaborate security measures. He also checked security arrangements on the routes of processions. During the visit, he also met the policemen posted on duty and told the policemen about their duties. Meanwhile, Sukkur Police and Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) also conducted a joint search and combing operation at various places, and a joint flag march was also held across the city. The purpose of the search and combing operation is to bring the criminals and suspicious persons under the law. While the purpose of the flag march is to make all citizens feel safe and secure and the process of checking information is going on.