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PM directs enhancing seaports' efficiency to tap full potential

KARACHI (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday directed the relevant authorities to take special initiatives to tap full potential of maritime trade and to spur the economic growth.

The prime minister chaired a meeting here regarding Karachi Port Trust, Port Qasim Authority and Pakistan National Shipping Corporation.

The prime minister directed to take steps to minimize the custom clearance time by installing the modern equipment and machinery at Port Qasim and Karachi Port Trust.

He also instructed to ensure the installation of state of the art scanning machinery at the ports besides taking steps on priority to fully benefit from the ports' potential.

To ensure uninter-

rupted delivery of goods to and from Karachi Port Trust, the prime minister directed the relevant authorities to keep open the Lyari Expressway for cargo traffic for 24 hours a day.

The Malir Expressway should be connected to the port to further improve the delivery of goods, he added.

He further directed to increase the capacity of supply of goods to and from Karachi Port through railway. "Fees for LNG ships at Port Qasim should be reduced and fixed according to prevailing rates at the international level," the prime minister said adding that a comprehensive action plan for the regulation of shipping lines should be prepared and presented on priority.

He directed the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation to formulate

and present a comprehensive plan to reduce its cost and make its operations effective.

The prime minister said that he held meetings with the Russian President Vladimir Putin and the leaders of the Central Asian countries during his recent visit to Kazakhstan.

Pakistan, he said offered the most suitable sea trade route for the Central Asian states.

Central Asian states have expressed deep interest in using Pakistan's ports for trade, the prime minister said adding that Pakistan could earn foreign exchange reserves worth billions of dollars by introducing modern systems in the ports.

He stressed that the development of the existing ports in Karachi will increase exports from value addition industries.



KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receives briefing about Hutchison Ports Pakistan Terminal at Karachi Port.

Country's ports being developed for regional corridor: PM

KARACHI (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that the government was taking steps for the development of seaports for provision of shortest corridor to the regional countries, especially to the Central Asian States.

He said that with a spur in sea trade by the Central Asian States, China and other countries of the region would have inter-connectivity via Pakistani ports that would enable the country to earn foreign billions of dollars as foreign revenue every year.

The prime minister expressed these views during a visit to Hutchison Port, South Asian Pakistan Terminal at Karachi port where he was given a briefing, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

On the occasion, he directed the Chairman

Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to prioritize installation of latest scanners on Pakistani ports.

The prime minister said that the customs authorities in collaboration with the ports authorities should take immediate steps for complete utilization of the seaports in Pakistan. The prime minister was briefed that the process for installation of latest scanners on ports by the FBR was in the final stages which would enable rapid scanning of containers in the short time with assistance of latest gadgets and artificial intelligence.

The prime minister said that for the progress of the country, it was imperative that its ports were also developed.

He said that for increasing country's exports, the government was taking measures on priority basis.

'No plan to abolish Ministry of IT'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication here on Sunday clarified that no directions have been issued to abolish the Ministry and its other departments.

The news item in a section of media giving the impression that the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication, among others, is being abolished is distorted and fabricated, the Ministry said in a press release.

"It is to clarify that the 'Committee on the Right Sizing of the Federal Government' has sought recommendations for right-sizing the attached departments from the respective ministries and there is no directive to abolish the said ministries", it added.

President calls for promotion of national unity, interfaith harmony

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has stressed upon the nation to nurture the qualities of affection, forbearance and tolerance by shunning all differences and play role for strengthening of national unity and interfaith harmony in the country.

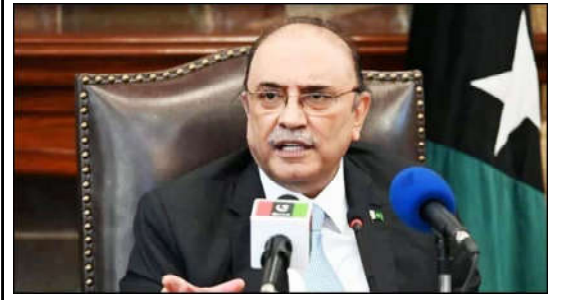
In a message on the advent of new Islamic year 1446 Hijrah, the President felicitated the nation on the arrival of new Islamic year and prayed for the peace, stability, progress and prosperity of the country.

He said that Muharram-ul-Haram signi-

Muharram-ul-Haram also reminds us about the unprecedented sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his faithful companions and gave a lesson for the real objective of struggle in life which was linked with sacrificing everything in the path of religion.

The President said that Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions laid down their lives while facing the evil and atrocious forces of cruelty and in this way, they had always been referred as beacons of determination and sacrifices.

He said that this



month gave us lesson to stand against forces of cruelty and evils by raising standards of righteousness while facing ordeals of life.

The President said that the new Islamic month provided them an opportunity to transform lives in accordance with the Islamic teachings and stressed upon the need to discern between the virtue and evil and create awareness and understanding of Islamic teachings.

He said that

Asif Ali Zardari said that this month called for avoidance of sins, following the Islamic teachings and devotedly worshipping of the Creator, besides reminding about holding of introspection of the Islamic teachings.

He said that

IHC Bar condemns social media campaign against Justice Tariq

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Bar Association has condemned the recent social media campaign targeting Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri.

In a statement, the IHC bar described the campaign as malicious and harmful.

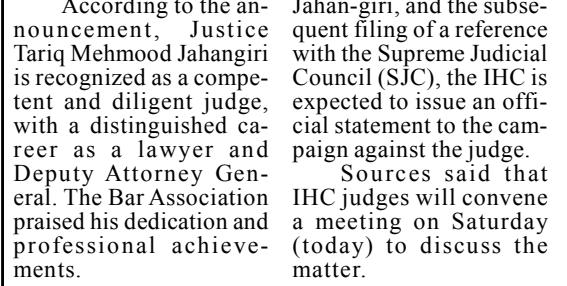
In a response to the controversy, the Bar Association's Executive Committee has scheduled a meeting for July 9 to address the issue.

According to the announcement, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri is recognized as a competent and diligent judge, with a distinguished career as a lawyer and Deputy Attorney General. The Bar Association praised his dedication and professional achievements.

The Islamabad High Court Bar Association reaffirmed its commitment to judicial independence and autonomy in its statement, underscoring the importance of supporting the judiciary against baseless attacks.

In response to a letter circulating on social media purportedly from the Karachi University's (KU) controller of examinations regarding the law degree of Islam-a-bad High Court (IHC) judge Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, and the subsequent filing of a reference with the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC), the IHC is expected to issue an official statement to the campaign against the judge.

Sources said that IHC judges will convene a meeting on Saturday (today) to discuss the matter.



HYDERABAD: Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party (STP) Chairman, Dr. Qadir Magji addresses during the Sindh Sawanro Conference held in Hyderabad.

Rs15mn value smuggled Iranian oil seized

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Rangers, in collaboration with Police and Customs officials, conducted a successful operation near the Northern Bypass, resulting in the seizure of illegally smuggled Iranian oil valued at Rs 15 million.

According to a spokesperson, Pakistan Rangers Sindh, in collaboration with Sindh Police and Customs Enforcement, acted on intelligence to raid the Fast Oil Baloch Filling Station.

The operation faced resistance, with over 100 individuals pelting stones at customs officials, allowing some Mazda trucks to escape.

Prompt response

from Pakistan Rangers Sindh and police led to the situation being brought under control. Five oil tankers were deployed to transport the illegally obtained Iranian oil from underground tanks to the Customs Collectorate for further legal proceedings.

The operation underscores Sindh Rangers' commitment to eradicate smuggling activities, with seized goods handed over to customs authorities for necessary action.

The spokesperson urged the public to report suspicious activities to Rangers via their helpline and WhatsApp number, ensuring anonymity to assist in combating crime effectively.



RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Interior and Anti Narcotics Mohsin Naqvi in a group photo during his visit to ANF Headquarters.

Visits ANF Headquarters

Naqvi directs to launch crackdown against drug mafia

RAWALPINDI (APP): Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi here on Sunday visited Anti-Narcotics Control (ANF) Headquarters.

The minister was welcomed by Director General (DG) ANF, Major General, Abdul Moeed and senior officers of the Force.

Mohsin Naqvi visited the Martyrs Memorial at ANF Headquarters and laid floral wreath. He offered Fatiha and paid tribute to the great sacrifices of the martyrs.

The interior minister chaired an important meeting at the ANF Headquarters where he was briefed on counter narcotics achievements of ANF, current drug situation, ANF performance, functions and operations and major challenges being faced with regard to trafficking of narcotics.

Mohsin Naqvi appre-

ciated the performance of ANF for effective operations against drug mafia across Pakistan despite the lack of resources and manpower.

It was decided in the meeting that an effective crackdown would be launched against the drug mafia to save the new generation from the scourge of drugs. The authorities were directed to formulate a comprehensive plan in this regard.

Strict action will be taken to stop supply of drugs, especially ice, to the students of the universities, colleges and hostels of public and private universities, the meeting decided.

It was also decided that the provinces would be taken into confidence, in this regard. A joint meeting of federal and provincial departments would be held at the end of this month. The provincial ministers of Excise and Inspector Gen-

eral of Police of the provinces would be invited to attend the meeting.

The minister also sought a plan to stop the online purchase and sale of the drugs. Mohsin Naqvi directed the ANF to develop cyber drug control mechanism. He said that the scourge of drugs, especially ice, had destroyed many families. Multi-pronged measures must be taken urgently to control the growing drug addiction, he added.

For the sake of the children, everyone has to fight this scourge with full force and determination, he said adding, "Today, if we contribute to end of this scourge, it will be a great work."

Later, the minister also planted a sapling in the lawn of the Headquarters.

Federal Interior Secretary, Khurram Agha and the ANF officers were also present on the occasion.



KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding Karachi Port Trust, Port Qasim Authority and Pakistan National Shipping Corporation.

Session held to promote trade relations between Pakistan, Indonesia

KARACHI (APP): The Indonesian Consulate in Karachi, in collaboration with the Policy Advisory and Research Council of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), hosted a pivotal session titled "Bilateral Talks: Addressing Challenges and Identifying Solutions to Promote Trade Relations between Pakistan and Indonesia" here at a local hotel.

This important event aimed to strengthen trade ties between the two nations by addressing current challenges and exploring new opportunities.

The meeting brought together prominent stake-

holders from both the countries, including officials from Ministry of Trade Indonesia, Indonesia Palm Oil Association, Embassy of Islamabad and stakeholders from palm oil, paper, automotive, and food.

Participants provided valuable insights into the current trade landscape and potential areas for growth.

The session highlighted Indonesia's significant role in supplying essential commodities to Pakistan, particularly in palm oil, where Indonesia contributes approximately 90% of Pakistan's total imports.

President Zardari to pay three-day visit to Lahore from today

LAHORE (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari will pay three-day visit to Lahore from Monday (July 08). During the Lahore visit, the president was likely to attend a seminar besides holding meeting with PPP's parliamentary party in Punjab Assembly. President Zardari will also chair a meeting regarding the reorganizational structure of PPP. He will also hold meeting with Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider on the occasion.

Punjab police raids Umar Ayub's residence, leader escapes arrest

ISLAMABAD (INP): Punjab Police raided the residence of National Assembly opposition leader Umar Ayub in an attempt to arrest him, but he evaded capture as he was not present at home. In a message on social media website X, Umar Ayub revealed that the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Sargodha had issued a bailable warrant for his arrest. He stated that police from Islamabad and Mianwali had recently conducted a raid at his house. He described the raid as evidence of the lack of rule of law in the country and reaffirmed his commitment to continuing the struggle until PTI founder Imran Khan becomes the prime minister.

Indian forces martyr five Kashmiri youth in Kulgam

SRINAGAR (INP): Indian forces in their fresh acts of state terrorism martyred five Kashmiri youth in Kulgam district of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Kashmir Media Service (KMS), the youth were martyred by Indian troops during cordon and search operations in Mudergham and Frisal Chinnigan areas of the district. Four youth were killed by Indian troops in Chingam Frisal while one body of youth was found on Sunday morning from

the debris of the house destroyed by Indian troops with chemical substances in Mudergham. Earlier, two Indian troops were killed in attacks in the Mudergham and Frisal Chinnigan areas of Kulgam.

Meanwhile, an Indian army man was injured in an attack on an Army camp in Galuthi Manjakote area of Rajouri district. The freedom fighters managed to flee into the nearby forest. The massive operations were continuing in different areas of Kulgam, Rajouri, Poonch and Samba.

Sindh culture minister pays tributes to Sindhi singer Mai Bhagi

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Culture Syed Zulfikar Ali Shah here on Sunday paid rich tributes to Sindhi singer late Mai Bhagi on her 38th death anniversary.

He said that Mai Bhagi was the identity of Thar area of Sindh. The minister said that

the traditional songs of Mai Bhagi were still sung in weddings and celebrations. He said that the deceased singer gained fame through her unique style.

Zulfikar Shah said that she would always be remembered due to her art of singing.

CTD DSP shot dead in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A Deputy Superintendent of Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Ali Raza was shot dead in Karachi's Karimabad area on Sunday.

As per initial reports, DSP Ali Raza was on his way home when unidentified gunmen riding a motorcycle opened fire on his vehicle in the Karimabad area.

He was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital where he breathed his last.

Senior officials of the police and security agencies reached the scene upon receiving reports of firing by unidentified persons that killed one and severely injured another officer.

It was also reported that he worked closely with deceased SSP Chauhary Muhammad Aslam.

Meanwhile, Sindh Interior Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar ordered immediate actions to apprehend the perpetrators involved in the attack, stressing that no effort should be spared in ensuring the proper treatment and care of the injured police officer.



KARACHI: Residents of Hussainabad are blocked road as they are holding protest demonstration against non-availability of water in their area, at Muhammadi Colony in Karachi.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Political prerogative

On the question of national security at least, the PTI is willing to lend an ear to the government. The party's decision to participate in a political stakeholders' conference on Operation Azm-i-Istehkam, confirmed to the media by the PTI's incarcerated chief Imran Khan on Friday, has been welcomed by the PML-N-led government and is being seen as a significant development with respect to the prospects of the proposed military action. The PTI has been one of the strongest critics of the operation and has resisted it strongly, along with other opposition parties. The party and those aligned with it on the matter believe that another military operation may destabilise the country further by disrupting the economies of the affected areas and precipitating the kind of social uprooting and upheaval that became part and parcel of earlier military operations against militants and terrorist forces.

Despite those reservations, Mr Khan has instructed party leaders to hear the government out and present the PTI's concerns through the forum of the proposed multiparty conference. "It is good to hear the PTI founder's statement [...] this is a matter of national importance, and all political parties should be taken on board," the information minister said. However, the government should announce a date for the conference as soon as possible in order to capitalise on the opportunity. Since the PTI rules KP and represents a large section of the national electorate, its buy-in is critical for the operation's success. Encouragingly, some in the ruling party seem to be taking the PTI's willingness to participate as an opportunity for engagement on broader issues as well. The defence minister, while commenting on the matter, has said the government remains open to engaging with the PTI and that the PML-N president, too, has kept the doors for negotiations open.

However, the government and opposition's tentative steps towards political engagement on Operation Azm-i-Istehkam may face difficulties. The Corps Commanders' Conference, held on the same day the multiparty conference was being considered, was followed by a terse public rebuke to those criticising the operation. The military command reportedly considers the critics to be engaging in "deliberate misrepresentation of the [military's] vision, only for furthering their vested interests", according to a statement issued by ISPR. This perspective seems to completely overlook the concerns held by the residents and representatives of the areas that are most likely to be affected by the proposed operation.

To avoid the social instability that the politicians have voiced their concerns about, it would be better if the proposed counterterrorism operation starts only after a political consensus has been reached. It should be left to parliament to decide how the country must proceed on the matter.

Chinese investment

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Since 2015, China has invested billions of dollars in Pakistan. Has that bolstered our economic development? Opinions vary. Most people feel that Chinese investments, led by CPEC, have contributed to improving the country's road, electricity and port infrastructure. A smaller segment is sceptical, arguing that these investments have contributed to Pakistan's debt trap. A dispassionate analysis is needed.

When President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan in April 2015 to launch CPEC, Pakistan was in the throes of transnational terrorism. Operation Zarb-i-Azb was underway in North Waziristan. In 2016, the US, India and Afghanistan commenced efforts to isolate Pakistan diplomatically. Naturally, no country was ready to invest here at that time. Under these circumstances, the \$46 billion worth of promised investments from China were a breath of fresh air.

An early CPEC harvest was the reduction in electricity shortage and load-shedding, which had made everyday life difficult and had choked industrial production. The other benefit was an improved road infrastructure. Work was also initiated on Gwadar port and allied projects, many of which have since been completed.

Under the grand design, once energy shortages had been met and infrastructure developed, Pakistan was supposed to move to the industrialisation phase, for which work had to start on establishing special economic zones. However, we failed to seamlessly transit to the second CPEC phase for two reasons. One, the development of SEZs was inordinately delayed. Consequently, Chinese industry shifted to other

countries in the region. Two, from 2017 onwards, Pakistan entered into another round of political instability. Chinese confidence for investing in Pakistan was shaken gravely. The investments that were once expected to rise to \$92bn tapered at around \$26bn.

The present government has decided to upgrade CPEC. During Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China last month, the Chinese side agreed to help boost industrialisation in Pakistan, digitise the economy, and open new corridors for growth, livelihood, innovation, and the green economy. Decisions were taken to rehabilitate the Karakoram Highway, optimise the port at Gwadar, and train Pakistani experts in tech and agriculture.

This is a welcome agenda. However, there are big challenges to its implementation. First, evolving geopolitics, particularly the US-China competition, is making it difficult for Pakistan's policymakers to strike a delicate balance in its ties with the US, which is a destination for large Pakistani exports, and China, whose investments and financial help are important. The US is doing all it can to check China's economic rise through trade tariffs, investment curbs, and export controls, and is advising allies and friends to avoid Chinese investments.

The second challenge is the security of Chinese personnel working on China-assisted projects in Pakistan. Several attacks have been carried out against them, mostly by TTP and BLA. While China and Pakistan have decided to "enhance counterterrorism cooperation", Pakistani authorities would be well advised to mobilise the support of local people by addressing their grievances and making them a

partner in countering this menace.

In order to sustain China's economic engagement with Pakistan, a number of steps would need to be taken. First, Pakistan must find a way to stabilise its politics. A politically unstable country, with weak institutions, is unlikely to attract foreign, or even local, investment.

Second, there should be a long-term development plan with all major political groups on board so that continuity of the plan can be ensured across governments.

Third, given that CPEC is now open to third countries, we may explore the possibility of multinational joint ventures that include Chinese businesses. As is often said, no candle loses its light while lighting other candles. In a recent roundtable at a Lahore university, one Chinese expert mentioned that Chinese companies would be ready to work with transnational investors for projects in Pakistan.

Fourth, Pakistan would need to expedite the SEZs, without which major investment is unlikely to trickle in. Fifth, Pakistan needs an early solution to the IPP conundrum. Our treasury is bleeding while heavy taxes are imposed on the people to make 'capacity payments' to IPP owners. Chinese investors, who had set up IPPs in Pakistan, are also complaining that their repatriation of \$1.8bn is being held up.

Finally, all good ideas will remain on paper unless implemented in earnest. In this regard, government functionaries and regulators must recognise that facilitating foreign and local firms to do flourishing business in Pakistan is critical for our economic future. -- Courtesy Dawn

So lonely together

Muna Khan

I cannot count the number of times I was made to give up my bedroom for a relative visiting wherever we were living as expats in the '70s to '90s. It was not a choice. In fact, I didn't even know I had a choice until I turned 21. It was pretty common for people to turn up unannounced — aunts and uncles who helped raise us — and we were expected to be there, irrespective of homework, exams etc. We were scolded if we complained about unexpected guests.

Now, I can't remember the last time we had an unexpected visitor drop by. I myself have not dropped in on anyone without calling to check if they are available. I guess we're all just that busy now. Technology has undoubtedly changed our lives and made the world smaller; we can talk to friends and family anywhere, anytime. You can attend birthdays, weddings, even funerals online. You can find everything you need online; you may even be safer online. But you are also cocooned in your own world online and the internet has made us more self-absorbed.

Yet paradoxically there's a loneliness epidemic all over the world. The UK was the first to announce a minister for loneliness in 2018, with the aim of reducing feelings of isolation, anxiety, and suicide ideation. Japan followed in 2021 as it sought to address the social isolation caused by Covid-19 which also saw the first uptick in suicide in 11 years.

Maybe we're ashamed to say 'I'm lonely' because loneliness is seen as taboo, something to feel embarrassed about. Perhaps because we are seen as a family-oriented society, with a strong sense of com-

munity, it's hard to say you're lonely when you're surrounded by people, even when you don't want to be.

As sad as that is, I'm more worried about younger folks who may not even know they are lonely because they believe their community is online. But as their elders, we know better: it is not the same as showing up for someone in their time of grief and happiness or just to shoot the breeze.

"The liminal spaces of our new world are massive — easy for us to be swallowed into — and disorienting," writes Athena Dixon in *The Loneliness Files*, part memoir, part critique on technology's impact on our lives.

Loneliness is personal but it's also the result of technological advancement in communication. By now, most of us have experienced some form of isolation courtesy the pandemic. In fact, isolation was mandated; quarantine was essential for one's survival. Some isolated with families while others were on their own — both faced issues: either wanting space or craving company.

Back in the day, artists and writers sought solitude and produced great works of art. Today, if you have a minute to yourself, you reach for your phone, as if being left alone with your thoughts is too awful a task to bear. Solitude is necessary for creation but look around you and everyone is scrolling on their phones, bookmarking places we'll never travel to or books we'll never read. We are simply 'liking' posts, not living lives. We're moving away from what made us human in the first place.

Given the current economic crisis, which makes it harder to meet

up with friends because we simply cannot afford to, could we begin to see a loneliness epidemic among youngsters, the largest demographic in the country and one that is always online?

We won't even get a minister to care about this. They would probably find tax loneliness if they could. Or happiness. Or breathing, bad air at that too.

Simone Heng, who wrote a book on loneliness, told Al Jazeera English: "Online connection is the junk food of connection." How can we find our way back to that time when we showed up for each other and didn't have so many boundaries that are isolating us? Dixon writes about her overwhelming loneliness. "I know there are those who feel the world is always just a little too far away or a little too close — never comfortable in either situation," she writes.

Loneliness is more than a mental health issue; it has serious health consequences. Loneliness can increase our chances of dementia, heart disease, depression, early death.

The internet is filled with tips on how to manage it — finding hobbies, volunteering, exercise. But my non-expert, tried and tested tip is to embrace it. To resist Netflix, true crime podcasts, the news — all these 24/7 connections are geared to keep you distracted from facing up to something you're avoiding. I believe a period of solitude helps you reflect on things that matter, which in my case, was relationships with friends. We meet to talk about how we're doomed, but at least we are doomed together. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

5G-AI Revolution: Huawei leads next-level human facilitation towards intelligent future

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the coming decade, the transformative potential of 5G and AI technologies promises to revolutionize every facet of human existence. From smart kitchens that anticipate our culinary needs to autonomous vehicles that redefine travel safety and efficiency, the integration of advanced AI into daily life will streamline processes, enhance productivity, and elevate experiences.

In the recently concluded Mobile World Congress in Shanghai, where the transformative potential of artificial intelligence took center stage, Huawei emerged as the vanguard of the 5G AI revolution, pioneering

next-level human facilitation and ushering in an intelligent future.

The event, a convergence of global leaders and tech giants, highlighted groundbreaking advancements poised to redefine connectivity and human interaction in the era of 5G and AI.

Among the prominent unveilings was Honor's breakthrough technology designed to combat deepfake scam calls — an increasingly prevalent threat in the age of generative AI. These fraudulent calls, which manipulate audio and video to deceive victims, underscore the critical need for AI-driven solutions to safeguard authenticity. Honor's real-time detection

system, set to debut this year, employs AI to scrutinize minute details such as eye contact and lighting, swiftly alerting users to potential scams.

George Zhao, CEO of Honor, emphasized the empowering potential of on-device AI, addressing concerns over AI's impact on authenticity and security. His remarks echoed sentiments shared by industry leaders who see AI as pivotal in shaping the future landscape.

At the forefront of these discussions was Huawei, whose executives outlined a vision where AI's omnipresence is supported by robust telecom networks, particularly the forthcoming 5.5G.

Result-oriented policies vital for attracting investment: Iftikhar

LAHORE (APP): SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik said on Sunday that results-oriented policies promoting good governance are crucial for building investor confidence and attracting foreign investment in diversified sectors of Pakistan.

Talking to a delegation of traders led by Muslim Khan Buner, he said, "Good governance, characterized by transparency, accountability, and efficiency, creates an environment where investors feel secure and confident in the stability and predictability of their investments."

He said in Pakistan, result-oriented policies could play a transformative role in achieving and maintaining economic stability, said a

press release issued here. Transparency reduces the risk of corruption and builds trust between the government and the business community, he said and added that accountability mechanisms must be strengthened which include establishing independent regulatory bodies to oversee financial markets, ensuring that laws and regulations were enforced fairly and consistently. Iftikhar Ali Malik said that streamlining procedures for starting and operating businesses could reduce the time and cost associated with investment whereas simplifying tax codes, reducing red tape, and enhancing the ease of doing business could make Pakistan a more attractive destination for both domestic and foreign investors.

PFF delegation visited SCCI

SIALKOT (APP): President Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) Haroon Ahmed Malik along with the delegation visited Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI).

President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Abdul Ghafoor Malik, Senior Vice President (SVP) Wahub Jahangir, Vice President (VP) SCCI Amer Majeed Sheikh and President Sialkot Football Association Ch. Muhammad Ikhtlaq welcomed the distinguished guests.

During an important meeting scheduled at SCCI Auditorium, discussions were held regarding the promotion of football in Sialkot.

On the occasion, President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Abdul Ghafoor Malik in his welcome address said that Sialkot was an important economic hub and totally export-oriented city of the country.



QUETTA: Adviser on Environment and Climate Change to Chief Minister, Naseem-ur Rehman Khan Mulakhel addresses during the inauguration of My Abbas Industry held in Quetta.

Cosmetics, agro based industry exports can fetch billions of dollars to Pak: MCCI president

MULTAN (APP): Exporting cosmetics, utilities and agro based industry products can bring foreign exchange worth billions of dollars to Pakistan to strengthen the economy which is undergoing troubled times the government should introduce business friendly policies to attract maximum investment to increase exports.

"Cosmetics and utilities are a huge sector for export. It has potential of 10 to 12 billion dollars.

Call for overhaul of export training infrastructure

LAHORE (APP): Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Chairperson Ejazur Rahman has stressed the need for a major overhaul of existing institutions and the establishment of new ones to provide specialized training in export-related fields. He cited that current setup is inadequate to meet the demands of the industry.

He was talking to a delegation of technical and vocational training experts in a meeting, in which a detailed discussion was held regarding the shortage of skilled workers for the hand-woven carpet industry and other issues.

If we shift its certification from Drugs Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) to Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA), we can inject these dollars to our economy overnight, Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) President, Mian Iqbal suggested during an exclusive interview with APP here on Sunday.

Moisturizing lotions, whitening creams, beauty

soaps, facials and scrubs are basic utilities which are in daily usage for everyone, he said and added that if rules are relaxed for its exports in the market, these can add billions of dollars to Pakistani exports.

He informed that fruits and vegetables are perishable and these can be transported to foreign countries with different means. Some countries who import fruits and veggies have set their standards and criteria for it.

9 arrested for overpricing essentials

LAHORE (APP): In a significant move to enforce official prices, the Price Control Magistrates have conducted inspections at 2,862 locations, leading to the arrest of 12 individuals for overpricing fruits, vegetables, and other essential items.

Lahore Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rafia Haider told media on Sunday that 11 cases have been registered for violations of government-set prices. Furthermore, fines totaling Rs 400,000 have been imposed for 95 instances of non-compliance.

Governor KP underscores railway line expansion to Uzbekistan under CPEC

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday highlighted the plans to extend railway connectivity to Uzbekistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said this during discussions with Sajid Hussain Turi, former federal minister and provincial vice president of Pakistan Peoples Party at the Governor House.

The proposed expansion aims to lay tracks from Rawalpindi to Kohat and from Kohat to Parachinar, ultimately

connecting to Uzbekistan. The Governor expressed optimism that this initiative would significantly benefit both regions, enhancing economic ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

Regarding local concerns, Governor Faisal Kundi addressed the issues related to Kohat division, including delayed project of Kohat University campus in Parachinar.

He assured of resolving these issues promptly, promising to engage with the Higher Education Commission's officials for necessary actions.



ISLAMABAD: People purchasing seasonal fruit displayed by vendor at Fruit and Vegetable Market in the Federal Capital.

Collectorate of Customs achieved the target set by FBR

SIALKOT (APP): The Collectorate of Customs Sambrial, Sialkot achieved the revenue target set by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Islamabad for the financial year 2023-24. According to a press release issued by Deputy Collector Javeria Shahid here on Sunday, under the supervision of Collector Customs Saima Aftab, Additional Collector Customs Liaqat Ranjha, Deputy Collector Javeria Shahid, Chief Accounts Officer Amara Farooq, Assistant Collector Muhammad Khalid, Assistant Collector Amir Hamza and Assistant

Collector Humayun Mukhtar worked tirelessly together with their staff and the result was received in the form of achieving the target.

Anti-Smuggling Organization, Recovery Branch, Bank Guarantee Branch, DTRE, Export Facilitation Branch and Auction Branch played prominent role to get the target. Apart from this Rs. 852.369 million was recovered due to administrative measures, while a total of Rs. 1356.250 million was collected as customs duty and other revenue in the financial year.

Meeting held for reforms in education, health sectors
CM KP underscores need of digitizing the health, education depts for better utilization of resources

PESHAWAR (APP): An important meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur regarding reforms in Health and education sectors in which important policy

decisions were taken. Directives were issued by the CM to improve and streamline the existing system of education and health aimed at ensuring efficient management and improving service delivery to the desired level. The chief minister stressed the

need of devolution of management in these sectors to lower level and further directed to post additional director general at the regional level for better and efficient management. He remarked that such large departments

with huge human resources could not efficiently managed from provincial level, adding that service delivery can be improved only when managed and looked after at local level; and therefore, it is necessary to shift the workload to regional level

. He further directed that teachers and paramedical staff recruited on domicile basis should be posted in the areas of their respective domicile where they are supposed to serve and necessary amendments be proposed in the relevant laws for this purpose.



PESHAWAR: Former MNA Usman Khan Tarkai meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi.



PESHAWAR: Awami National Party (ANP) Leader, Ghulam Ahmad Bilour addresses during ceremony to mark the 6th death anniversary of his nephew Haroon Bilour, in Peshawar.

Federal Minister receives UNHCR's high level delegation

PESHAWAR (Online): Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions & Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Engr Amir Muqam warmly received UNHCR's high level delegation led by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi on arrival at his residence. The Federal Minister welcomed the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Pakistan. Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam also

presented a flower bouquet to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees on this occasion. During the meeting, they discussed various issues pertaining to refugees. Later, the Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions & Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Engr Amir Muqam also hosted a luncheon reception in honour of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi in Peshawar at his residence.

Swindler Gang busted, gold ornaments recovered

MULTAN (APP): Old Kotwali police have arrested a gang of swindlers and recovered gold ornaments from their possession during a crackdown launched here on Sunday. In line with special directives of the City Police Officer (CPO) Sadiq Ali Dogar, Old Kotwali police under the supervision of Station House Officer (SHO) Shabana Saif, launched a crackdown against a gang involved in depriving citizens of valuables. The police busted a gang and recovered gold ornaments from their possession, however, further investigations.

Governor KP stresses on quality education through collaboration with international institutions

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday emphasized that the provision of technical education under the supervision of globally renowned institutions will yield positive results. He underscored the need to focus on quality education rather than quantity in the province. These views were expressed during a meeting with education experts, including the prominent educationalists Nasir Qasuri and his wife, renowned educationist Amina Wattoo. Education experts from Beaconhouse School System were also

present at the meeting. Congratulating Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on assuming the constitutional office, Nasir Qasuri, and his wife praised his efforts and vision for promoting education and combating unemployment. Governor Kundi highlighted the urgent need for modern and professional education in line with current global requirements. He anticipated fruitful outcomes from enhanced collaboration between the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission and Beaconhouse School System.

Climate changes to have wide-ranging impacts on DI Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): D I Khan District has faced catastrophic floods, droughts, and cyclones in recent years that have killed and displaced thousands, destroyed livelihoods, and damaged infrastructure. Climate change raises the prospect that these and other natural hazards will increase in frequency and severity in the coming decades—a stark reminder that the district is one of the country's most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Addressing these risks requires the mainstreaming of climate change into national strategy and policy; and climate-smart investments in infrastructure, businesses, and skills. Adapting to these impacts may include: development or use of crop varieties with greater heat and drought tolerance, modernizing irrigation infrastructure and employing water-saving technologies, integrated watershed management, reforestation of catchment areas and construction of additional water storage, diversification of energy mix including investment in renewable and small hydropower projects, improved weather forecasting and warning systems, retrofitting of critical energy infrastructure, and construction of dikes or village protection walls.

Crops are categorized into two: Rabi and kharif. Rabi crops are sown in autumn i.e. October–December and is harvested in spring (March–April). Wheat is the major Rabi crop. Crops sown in summer are called kharif crops. The kharif crop season is generally longer in Pakistan, starting with sugarcane in February, cotton in March–May, rice in June–July and maize in July–August.

The model predicted the largest decrease of around 14 days for 10C rise in temperature in the growing season's length of wheat in the northern mountainous region compared to southern Pakistan, the agriculture expert said. The climate change has impacted and strained the agriculture sector in the region and has disrupted the entire pattern of cultivation. The sowing and harvesting of different crops especially wheat, has changed considerably in terms of months depending on rain

patterns and weather. The causes and effects are: First of all, in the rain fed/ flood irrigated areas, the availability of water is dependent on rains, which has changed its pattern. The monsoon rains are either scarce or too heavy impacting on rain fed/flood irrigated areas. Scarce rains make the area barren and heavy rains benefit the rain fed areas and damages the flood irrigated regions resulting in damage to flood channels and causing floods. Similarly, the winter rains required in the months of December and January when the crops need water the most have shifted to March and April which instead of doing good adversely affects the crops.

Climatic changes are expected to have wide-ranging impacts on DI Khan district with reduced agricultural productivity, increased variability of water availability, increased soil erosion along river Indus and increased frequency of extreme climatic events, Abdul Haleem Baloch agricultural expert said.

The major patterns are: (i) rice–wheat, (ii) maize–wheat, (iii) cotton–wheat, (iv) Sugarcane & wheat, and (v) coarse grain–wheat, and some other minor patterns. Crops grown in both irrigated areas and those under spate farming systems are highly sensitive to the amount of water available and temperature variability. It is estimated that with rise of temperature (+0.50C–

20C), agricultural productivity will decrease by around 8%–10% by 2040. Different simulation studies, using the crop-growth simulation model, estimated a decrease in yield of major crops, specifically for wheat and rice, and the length of growing season in four agro climatic zones of Pakistan. The model predicted the largest decrease of around 14 days for 10C rise in temperature in the growing season's length of wheat in the northern mountainous region compared to southern Pakistan, the agriculture expert said.

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Second, The sowing of wheat and grain used to be done in the month of October but due to severity of weather has been shifted to November.

PFA seizes 200 kg expired snacks

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has seized 200 kilogram expired snacks during a special operation launched on Sunday. In line with special directives of Director General (DG) Punjab Food Authority (PFA) Muhammad Asif Javed, the food safety teams striving hard to ensure good quality food items to the masses. In this regard, a special operation was conducted by Muzaffargarh food safety team and seized 200 kilogram expired snacks. The expired snacks were going to be supplied at different shops.

Floods, glacier bursts likely in 11 districts of KP: Monsoon Alert

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has issued a monsoon alert, warning of potential floods and glacier bursts in eleven districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The PDMA has instructed all district administrations in the province to remain vigilant, reported a private news channel. According to the PDMA alert, thunderstorms and heavy rains are expected in the mountainous areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. There was also a

possibility of dusty winds and floods in low-lying areas. Districts that may be affected include Swat, Chitral Lower, Chitral Upper, Dir Upper, Dir Lower, Charsadda, DI Khan, Nowshera, Tank, and Shangla. The PDMA highlighted that rising temperatures and melting glaciers could lead to flooding. Despite the alert, the situation is currently normal in all districts of KP. PDMA said that to mitigate potential disasters, control rooms will be established in the affected districts.

International News

Israeli strike kills 16, injures over 50 at UN school in Gaza

CAIRO: At least 16 people were killed in an Israeli strike on a school sheltering displaced Palestinian families in Al-Nuseirat in central Gaza on Saturday, the territory's health ministry and the official Palestinian news agency said. The Israeli military said it was looking into the report. The health ministry said the attack on the school killed at least 16 people and wounded more than 50. Mahmoud Basal, spokesman for the Gaza Civil Emergency Service, said the number of dead could rise because many of the wounded were in critical condition. The attack on the school meant no place in the enclave was safe for families who leave their houses to seek

shelters, he said in a statement. Al-Nuseirat, one of Gaza Strip's eight historic refugee camps, was the site of stepped-up Israeli bombardment on Saturday. An air strike earlier on a house in the camp killed at least 10 people and wounded many others, according to medics. In its daily update of people killed in the nearly nine-month-old war, the Gaza health ministry said Israeli military strikes across the enclave killed at least 29 Palestinians in the past 24 hours and wounded 100 others. Among those killed in separate air strikes were five local journalists, raising the toll of journalists killed since October last year to 158, according to the Hamas-led Gaza government me-

dia office. Gaza health authorities say more than 38,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's offensive. Israeli forces, which have deepened their incursions into Rafah, in the south of the enclave near the border with Egypt, killed four Palestinian policemen and wounded eight others, in an air strike on their vehicle on Saturday, health officials said. A statement issued by the Hamas-run interior ministry said the four included Fares Abdel-Aul, the head of the police force in western Rafah neighbourhood of Tel Al-Sultan. The Israeli military said forces continued "intelligence-based operations" in Rafah.



Palestinians gather at the site of an Israeli air strike on a UN school sheltering displaced people at Nusairat in central Gaza Strip.

Hamas says it's waiting for Israeli response on Gaza ceasefire proposal

CAIRO: Hamas is waiting for a response from Israel on its ceasefire proposal, two officials from the militant Islamist group said on Sunday, five days after it accepted a key part of a US plan aimed at ending the nine-month-old war in Gaza. "We have left our response to the mediators and are waiting to hear the occupation's response," one of the Hamas officials told Reuters, asking not to be named. The three-phase plan for the Palestinian enclave was put forward at the end of May by US President Joe Biden and is being mediated by Qatar and Egypt. It aims to end the war and free around 120 Israeli hostages being held by Hamas. Another Palestinian official, with knowledge of the ceasefire deliberations, said Israel was in talks with the Qataris. "They have discussed

with them Hamas' response and they promised to give them Israel's response within days," the official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters on Sunday. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that negotiations would continue this week but has not given any detailed timeline. Hamas, which controls Gaza, has dropped a key demand that Israel first commit to a permanent ceasefire before it would sign an agreement. Instead, it said it would allow negotiations to achieve that throughout the six-week first phase, a Hamas source told Reuters on Saturday on condition of anonymity because the talks are private. A Palestinian official close to the peace efforts has said the proposal could lead to a framework agreement if embraced by Israel and would end the war.

Scorching heat expected in US West, Southeast over weekend

MARIPOSA: Dangerously hot conditions will dominate over the rest of the July Fourth holiday weekend in much of the U.S. West Coast, Southeast and Middle Atlantic seaboard, forecasters said on Friday, as California firefighters battled one of the first big wildfires of the season. Around 108 million Americans will spend the remainder of the weekend under excessive heat advisories, with record-breaking temperatures forecast for many spots in California, southern Oregon and the Southwest, the National Weather Service said. The West Coast will hover 15 to 30 degrees above average, reaching 110 Fahrenheit (43 Celsius) on Friday. "Expect only subtle changes to our daily high temperatures through the

weekend," the National Weather Service in Flagstaff, Arizona, said on X. "Where did you go, monsoon? Hurry back," it said, referring to a recent bout of torrential rain in the area, which is usually bone-dry this time of year. Some of the hottest spots will include Phoenix where it will be 115 F (46 C), Washington D.C. where it is expected to climb to 100 F (38 C), and Palm Springs, California, where it will reach 119 F (48 C). That is almost three times as hot as it will be in Yellowstone National Park in Montana, where the forecast was for temperatures to dip to 37 F on Friday night. The weather service urged people to stay hydrated, out of the sunlight, and in buildings with sufficient air-conditioning.

Tokyo Governor Koike set to win re-election, exit poll shows

TOKYO: Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike has won re-election to a third term on Sunday, fending off challenges from dozens of candidates vying to unseat the ruling Liberal Democratic Party-backed incumbent, according to an exit poll from public broadcaster NHK. Koike, 71, got more than 40% of the vote, followed by Shinji Ishimaru, 41, a former mayor of a town in Hiroshima prefecture, who was in second place, the exit poll showed. Renho, 56, who was supported by the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (CDPJ), came in third. A victory for Koike could help embattled Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida resist calls from within the LDP to step down as public support for him and his ruling group ebbs amid a political donations scandal.

NATO is spending more on defence, but it's likely not enough

BRUSSELS: Spurred on by Russia's war in Ukraine and the spectre of Donald Trump's potential return to the White House, more of NATO's European members are finally hitting the alliance's defence spending target. But as leaders gear up to celebrate at a NATO summit in Washington there is a clear feeling that will not be sufficient to tackle the challenges it faces. "Even in countries historically reluctant to spend more on defence, there is now a growing

sense of the importance of greatly increased defence spending," said Ian Lesser, from the German Marshall Fund of the United States think tank. "I think, broadly speaking, in the next years we're looking at levels of defence spending that will begin to approach those of the Cold War." A decade after setting a spending goal at two percent of gross domestic product, just over two-thirds of NATO's 32 countries are now expected to reach or top that threshold this year.

13 injured as elephant goes on rampage in Sri Lanka

KATARAGAMA: An elephant went on a rampage during a religious event in southern Sri Lanka, injuring 13 people, local media reported on Sunday. The incident occurred on Saturday night during the Ruhunu Kataragama Mahadevala procession, a major religious and cultural event held at Kataragama, in the Uva province, local English daily The Sri Lanka Mirror reported. The injured are being treated at the local hospital, and no one was critically injured.

Floods and landslides kill 14 in Nepal: police

KATHMANDU: Lashing rains in Nepal causing flash floods and landslides have killed at least 14 people across the country, with disaster teams searching for nine missing, police said on Sunday. Flooding in neighbouring India, as well as in downstream Bangladesh, has also caused widespread damage and impacted millions. "Police are working with other agencies and

locals to find the missing people," Nepalese police spokesperson Dan Bahadur Karki told AFP. Those killed and missing are in multiple locations. Monsoon rains from June to September bring widespread death and destruction every year across South Asia, but the number of fatal floods and landslides has increased in recent years. Experts say climate change and increased road construction are exacerbating the problem.

Brazil says G20 sherpas to avoid thorny issues at prep meetings

RIO DE JANEIRO: G20 diplomats have agreed to avoid prickly geopolitical issues during their ministerial meetings preparing for the summit of the world's largest economies in November, host Brazil's sherpa said on Friday. Meetings through October will avoid geopolitical discussions so that agreements can be advanced on issues such as climate change.

France votes, with far right seeking power

PARIS: France voted on Sunday in a parliamentary run-off election with the far-right National Rally (RN) bidding for power but likely to fall short of a majority, raising the spectre of a chaotic hung parliament. A hung parliament would severely dent President Emmanuel Macron's authority and herald a prolonged period of instability and policy deadlock in the euro zone's second biggest economy. Should the nationalist, eurosceptic RN secure a majority, it would usher in France's first far-right government since World War Two and send shockwaves through the European Union at a time populist parties are strengthening support across the continent. Voting closes at 6 pm (1600 GMT) in towns and small cities and 8 pm in bigger cities. Pollsters will de-

liver initial projections based on early counts from a sample of voting stations at 8 p.m. Opinion polls forecast Marine Le Pen's RN will emerge the dominant force in the National Assembly as voters punish Macron over a cost of living crisis and being out of touch with the hardships people face. However, the RN is seen failing to reach the 289-seat target that would out-right hand Le Pen's 28-year-old protégé Jordan Bardella the prime minister's job with a working majority. The far right's projected margin of victory has narrowed since Macron's centrist Together alliance and the left-wing New Popular Front (NPF) pulled scores of candidates from three-way races in the second round in a bid to unify the anti-RN vote. "France is on the cliff-edge and we don't know if we're going to jump."

Pak upcoming IMF bailout will 'not be our last' if tax revenues don't rise: Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan will keep seeking financial assistance packages from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) if it does not significantly boost its tax revenues, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said.

Aurangzeb's comments come days after Pakistan's president signed the federal budget for the current fiscal year, which has been criticized by the opposition, trade bodies and even the government's allies, for its ambitious tax targets.

The tax-heavy budget aims to raise Rs13 trillion (\$46.6bn) by July 2025, a roughly 40 percent increase from the current financial year. Financial experts say the budget is aimed at satisfying the IMF, which has repeatedly asked Islamabad to bring tax reforms to ensure growth in its fragile economy.

Speaking to British newspaper Financial Times, Aurangzeb said he was "relatively confident" of reaching a staff-level agreement with the IMF this month for a loan his government has estimated to be between \$6-\$8bn.

"But it will not be our last fund program if we don't bring our tax revenues up," the minister said.

Pakistan hopes the IMF bailout package will stabilize its economy, one of the worst-performing ones in Asia, that has been troubled by double-digit inflation, slow growth and low foreign reserves.

Pakistan's economic indicators have recorded an improvement over the past few months, with inflation dropping down to 12.6 percent in June from the record-breaking 38 percent in May 2023. Pakistan's stock market has registered high growth in recent weeks while the central bank's foreign reserves have risen to over \$9 billion.

"The direction of travel is positive, and investors are showing confidence in the stock market," Aurangzeb said.

However, he acknowledged Pakistan's tax collection authority, the Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR), was viewed negatively by the masses.

"People don't want to deal with the tax authority because of corruption, because of harassment, be-

cause of people asking for speed money, facilitation money," Aurangzeb noted. "That's not sustainable."

The finance minister lamented how Pakistan's economy was reliant on imports, stating that Islamabad had to borrow to pay off existing or accumulating debt.

"We need to create the capacity to repay loans," Aurangzeb said. "As long as this economy stays import-based, what happens is the moment it heats up? ... we run out of dollars [and] we have to go back to the lender of last resort on our knees."

Since April, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has visited Saudi Arabia, UAE and China to attract foreign investment in Pakistan's key sectors. His government has repeatedly assured Pakistan's allies it seeks not loans but "mutually beneficial" partnerships.

"It's about time we get real," Aurangzeb said, pointing to Gulf investors' demands for equity and board seats.

"The ball is in our court to provide bankable, investable projects."



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Interior and Anti-Narcotics Mohsin Naqvi laying floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada in ANF Headquarters.

Three Turkish NGOs to serve in Pakistan's education, health, culture sectors

ANKARA (INP): Three prominent Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) of Türkiye have announced of providing services in education, health, culture and social uplift sectors in Pakistan to facilitate its people.

This was announced during a ceremony organized to award certificate of appreciation to President Turkish-Pakistan Women Forum Shabana Ayyaz by four-member directors of Anatolian Union, Turkish World Association of Academics and Bureaucrats, and World Reporters Association in recognition of her services to enhance Pak-Turkiye brotherhood and friendship. The ceremony was also attended by the directors of all three organizations, Ismet Ta?, Professor Dr. Issa Eleri, Dr. Mehmet Tekin, and President of the Women's Wing, Nur Dilce. Speaking on the occasion, Director General Ismet Ta? said that President Shabana Ayyaz of the Turkish-Pak Women Forum did not leave us alone in our event "Be the Voice for the Silent Children's Scream" and supported us in every possible way.

Mortar shell hits house in DI Khan; two girls killed, three injured

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (INP): A mortar shell struck a house from nowhere in the village of Zadkani in Dera Ismail Khan, resulting in the deaths of two young girls on the spot.

In the incident, two women and another girl of the same family were also hurt on Sunday morning. The grieving family members have placed the bodies on the road in protest and blocked the Daraban Domanda Highway.

Speaker, Dy Speaker extend warm felicitations to Muslim Ummah on occasion of new Islamic year

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Deputy Speaker, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah on Sunday extended their warm felicitations to the Muslim Ummah on the advent of the new Islamic year Hijri 1446.

On this occasion, the Speaker said that this day was a divine blessing, affording an opportunity to rejuvenate faith, resolve and recommit to noble values of peace, justice and compassion. He expressed the hope that this occasion would inspire people to rededicate themselves to the service of humanity and the pursuit of excellence.

The Speaker said that the Muslim Ummah was facing numerous challenges, including conflicts, terrorism and economic inequality, which required united efforts to address. He emphasized the need for Muslim countries to stand together in solidarity and work towards peace, stability and prosperity.

He reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the legitimate people for their right to self-determination and urged the international community to play its role in resolving the conflict.

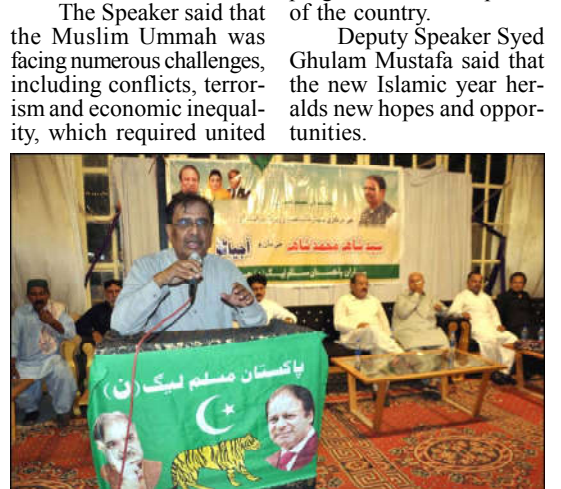
The Speaker prayed that the new Islamic year may bring peace, prosperity and harmony to the country and the world at large, and urged the people to work together for the progress and development of the country.

Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa said that the new Islamic year heralds new hopes and opportunities.

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HYDERABAD: Muslim League (PML-N) Senior Vice President Shah Muhammad Shah addresses during a reception ceremony held in Hyderabad.

Hefty electricity bills making lives miserable

ISLAMABAD (INP): An anchor of a private TV channel in a report disclosed alarming revelations regarding the heavy electricity bills. The report revealed that the common people are grappling with the heavy electricity bills but on the other hand, the president, prime minister and CJP are provided with unlimited electricity units. Even after retirement, the president of Pakistan is provided with 2,000 free electricity units per month. After the president's death, his spouse also receives 2,000 free electricity units. The prime minister of Pakistan is also provided with unlimited free electricity.

The Chief Justice receives 2,000 free electricity units per month during and after their term. The poor are so distressed by the hefty electricity bills that they are attempting suicides. Recently, a rickshaw driver named Ghulam Muhammad attempted to commit suicide by sprinkling petrol after receiving an electricity bill of over 19,000 rupees. Over the past year, the government has increased electricity prices by 67%, while before the elections, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Pakistan People's Party were promising free electricity units.

Joint action Committee pay tribute to two eminent journalists Ishaq Mangriyo, Karamat Ali

HYDERABAD (APP): Joint action Committee Khana hosted a programme to pay tribute to two eminent journalists Ishaq Mangriyo and social activist Karamat Ali here at Khana badosh writer's cafe.

Eulogizing the contribution of Ishaq Mangriyo writers termed demise of Ishaq Mangriyo a big loss of journalism in this prevailing situation.

They said that Ishaq Mangriyo in his stories highlighted various problems and miseries of the people living along with coastal areas and pointed out several environmental issues.

Chief Executive Director Muhammad Tehseen said that Karamat Ali was a very best and cooperative friend who always struggled for the rights of peasants and marginal segments of society and always worried to resolve their genuine problems.

He suggested compiling stories of Ishaq Mangriyo in a book form as he introduced environmental journalism in Sindh media which was a big accomplishment.

Irfana Malah said that Ishaq Mangriyo used to write stories on soil and transformed journalism into journalism of masses.

She said that Karamat Ali narrated about peace in that time when there was severe confrontation between Pakistan and India.



KARACHI: Activists of Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) Sindh are holding protest demonstration against Operation Azm-e-Istehkam, at Karachi press club.

Monsoon rains to 'begin' in Karachi from today

KARACHI (INP): After suffering from a great deal of scorching hot weather, Karachi is finally expected to get some respite as monsoon rains have been forecast from July 8 to 10 in the city, a weather pundit informed.

The weather expert Owais Haider said the metropolis was expected to receive drizzling in the evening or night today (Sunday). He said "a thunder-cell" was expected to take shape in the northeast.

However, temperature was expected to hover between 37°C to 39°C, as heat intensity was likely to increase during the day, he said.

On the other hand, the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has also confirmed that Karachi may receive drizzling today evening or night. Nevertheless, overall weather would remain hot and humid in the next 24 hours, it said.

The Met Office said winds were blowing at a speed of 17 kilometres from the west and humidity in the air was recorded 74%.

It predicted the mercury to rise as high as 37°C. In view of upcoming monsoon spell, the Cantonment Board Clifton (CBC) of Karachi on Saturday imposed rain emergency in areas falling under its jurisdiction by appointing special teams for timely drainage of rainwater.



KARACHI: Jamal-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Munam Zafar addresses to media persons during press conference, at Idara Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi.

Joint flag march held in Qamber Shahdakt district

LARKANA (APP): In view of security arrangements in connection with Muharram in Qamber Shahdakt district on Sunday SSP Qamber Shahdakt Muhammad Kaleem Malik, Deputy Commissioner Sajjad Haider Qadri and DSR Rangers Jahanzeb Khan led by police and rangers.

A joint flag march was held in which all DSPs, SHO and Rangers personnel of the district participated.

The flag march was started from SSP Office Qamber and people from different areas including Bhutto Chowk Qamber, Bus Stand Qamber, By Pass, Bahram, Shahdakt, Bigo Road, Kotomoto Chowk Shahdakt, Rajab Chowk, A.C office Chowk, Tanuri Branch Shahdakt, Sajawal and Merokhan Tulkas participated in the march.

Bilateral co-operation agreement inked between Government College University Hyderabad, Malakand University

HYDERABAD (APP): A bilateral co-operation agreement was reached between Government College University Hyderabad and Malakand University, which are among the leading universities of the country.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Tayyaba Zarif visited the University of Malakand. Vice Chancellor of the university Dr. Rashid Ahmed welcomed his counterpart. A ceremony on bilateral cooperation was held at Malakand University, Chakdara, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Vice-Chancellor Government College University Hyderabad Dr. Tayyaba Zarif and Vice-Chancellor University of Malakand Dr. Rashid Ahmed signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

During the ceremony, traditional gifts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh and souvenirs of both universities were exchanged. Vice Chancellor of Malakand University informed Dr. Tayyaba Zarif about the establishment of the university, the problems faced and the performance, especially the honour of the best university of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and visited the university.



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

SSP Sukkur visits several Imambargahs to check security arrangements

SUKKUR (APP): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sukkur, Amjad Ahmed Shaikh on Sunday visited the Central Imambargah Ghareeb Abad, Shah-e-Najaf in Rohri to check the security measures for the central Imambargah and the procession.

According to the details, during the visit, the officers concerned briefed him about the security arrangements. On this occasion, the SSP said that the Sukkur Police had made strict security arrangements throughout the district during the holy month of Muharram. In this regard, 900 officers and personnel of Sukkur Police have been deployed to ensure the security of Majaalis and processions on Muharram.

With the help of the CCTV cameras and drones, strict monitoring of the main Imambargah and the procession is being conducted from the already established central control room. SSP Amjad Ahmed Shaikh said that all technical resources were being used to ensure safety of the mourners in the procession. Security will be on high alert throughout the district in view of the main procession on the day of 9th and 10th Muharram.

Prominent Larkana businessman Haji Ghano Jatoi kidnapped

LARKANA (INP): A prominent businessman of Larkana Haji Ghano Khan Jatoi and his driver were kidnapped while travelling from Sukkur to his native city last night, police said Sunday.

The abduction took place near the Khairpur-Larkana bridge within the jurisdiction of Mehmood Kalohr Police Station in Khairpur district.

National Highway choked by protest over killing of women by alleged police firing

KARACHI (INP): A family is protesting on the National Highway near Ghaghir toll plaza for the past 22 hours, demanding justice for the death of their relative in a police firing incident in Karachi's Steel Town area. The protest has caused severe traffic congestion, stranding thousands of people on the highway between Karachi and Thatta.

The incident occurred on July 5 when a 60-year-old woman was killed and her 19-year-old daughter injured in a shooting while traveling in their car on the National Highway near Gulshan-e-Hadid.

Suspected outlaw injured, arrested in police encounter

HYDERABAD (APP): The City police have arrested a suspected criminal in injured condition after an exchange of fire near St Mary's School.

The police spokesman informed here on Sunday that the encounter occurred between suspected street criminals and a patrolling team of City police station.

According to him, Shahnawaz Shaikh was rounded up with a gunshot wound to his leg.

Forex trading reflects global financial stability; Experts

KARACHI (APP): The Business Administration Department of Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology (SSUET) here on Sunday organized an awareness seminar on "Forex Trading Awareness for Modern Entrepreneurs" to enlighten students about the opportunities in the Forex trading industry.

According to a University spokesperson, presenting a comprehensive overview of the scope, importance and various modes of the Forex market, renowned Master Trader and financial analyst, Muhammad Samiullah Khan, said that Forex market was a place where money meets opportunity and you are needed to trade smart to take the full advantage of the opportunities.

Empowering trade with cutting-edge technology, we set well defined goals to enhance your trading journey with trader's insight and intuition, he said.

He underscored that the key to trading success was emotional discipline.



LARKANA: Members of Samo Alliance Sindh are holding protest demonstration against killing of Saira Samo and demanding justice for her, at Larkana press club.

Pakistan Railways launches summer vacation special train from Karachi

KARACHI (INP): In response to the increasing demand during the summer vacation season, Pakistan Railways has launched a special train service from Karachi.

The summer vacation special train commenced its journey today, even though two hours behind schedule, carrying more than 1,000 passengers.

Despite the delay, the special train generated significant revenue, with earnings exceeding Rs 4 million. This initiative aims to cater to the surge in travel during the summer holidays and will operate regularly every two days throughout the month of July.

The introduction of this special service underscores Pakistan Railways' efforts to accommodate the increased travel needs of passengers during peak holiday periods, providing a convenient and affordable travel option for families and individuals alike.

SAU's first Mango Festival and exhibition ends with enthusiasm and vision for National development

Independent Report
 KARACHI: The First Mango Festival and Exhibition, hosted by Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tandojam, and co-organized with the Pakistan Maritime Museum, concluded with immense enthusiasm.

The festival featured Department, Government of Sindh, Sardar Muhammad Bux Mahar, Chairman Sindh Higher Education Commission (SHEC) SM Tariq Rafi, SAU Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri, Vice Chancellor of Begum Nusrat Bhutto Women University Dr. Tahmina Mangan, Sec-TDAP Abdul Karim, Chairman SIDA Qabool Muhammad Khatian, DG Trade Development Authority, and officials from Sindh Enterprise Development Fund, among others.

The exhibition showcased a variety of stalls from the Institute of Food Sciences and Horticulture the horticulture department of SAU demonstrated the modern technology of grafting mango plants. The event drew interest from people across Karachi and various parts of Sindh, with women enjoying traditional attire and children indulging in ice cream, juices, and other treats.



an array of mango stalls, mango ice cream, juices, and various other stalls. A large crowd of citizens attended the event, enjoying the diverse mango products, Sindh culture, and music during the closing celebrations.

The inaugural and closing ceremonies were attended by Minister Agriculture, Supply & Prices Department of SAU, Agriculture Research Sindh, Sub Campus Umerkot, Horticulture Institute Mirpurkhas, MH Panhwar Farms, Palh Farms Tando Allahyar, and others. These included mangoes and their by-products, mango grafting demonstrations, Sindh cultural stalls, and food stalls. On this occasion, experts from the primary objective of the festival was to promote national products, especially mangoes, at the business and export level, and to attract urban investors' attention to business and export opportunities in agricultural and food products. It also aimed to foster connections between industry and academia.