

Independent

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28,000 tube wells in Balochistan to be converted on solar power: PM

Says federal govt to provide 70%, Balochistan to contribute 30% in Rs55 bln solarization project

QUETTA (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that under an agreement reached between the Federal and Balochistan provincial governments, a total of 28,000 agricultural tube wells in the province would be shifted to solar system within three months.

would provide 70 percent funds while 30 percent would be contributed by the provincial government for Rs 55 billion solarization project.

Earlier, the prime minister witnessed an agreement signing ceremony between the federal and the provincial governments for shifting of electricity run tube wells to solar powered mechanism.

the farmers and bring a large area of cultivable land under farming, adding that with functioning of the solar powered tube wells, the farmers would get uninterrupted power supply throughout the day.



QUETTA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif talking to the media after the signing of agreement to solarise agricultural tubewells of Balochistan.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti presides over the Provincial Cabinet meeting.

Imposes ban on new recruitments in public sector universities: Balochistan cabinet approves to populate government owned land under Green Corporation Partnership Project

Mir Sarfraz Bugti says provincial government working with diligence for Establishing good governance and improving service delivery system

Independent Report QUETTA: The Balochistan cabinet has approved settlement of the government owned land under the Green Corporation Partnership Project in the province.

ployees, abrupt recruitments are being made and new buildings are being built there.

Minister for Finance, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani, Provincial Minister for Planning and Development, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buladi, Provincial Minister Livestock, Bakht Muhammad Kakar and Secretary Higher Education.

It was decided in the meeting that the committee would prepare its recommendations within a week.

President directs completion of Kachhi Canal project within 18 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday directed the authorities concerned to ensure completion of the Kachhi Canal project within 1.5 years to irrigate around 713,000 acres of land in Balochistan province.

attended the meeting. President Zardari was informed that the construction of six strategic canals, viz. Chashma Right Bank Canal, Kachhi Canal, Rancee Canal, Greater Thal Canal, Cholistan Canal, and Thar Canal, would help enhance the agricultural potential of Pakistan by increasing the cultivable area as well as the livestock and fisheries potential of the country.

In the meeting, the president was briefed about the construction of six strategic canals for the Green Pakistan Initiative.

He urged the need to develop Pakistan's irrigation sector along modern lines to conserve water, reduce water losses, and enhance water availability.

Govt greenlights army deployment across country for Muharram security

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has granted the approval of army deployment across the country during Muharram to ensure security.

and numbers of deployment of army troops. Earlier, the Sindh government approved the deployment of army, rangers and FC personnel.

The federal government has approved deployment of Pakistan Army and civil armed forces in Islamabad, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan along with provinces, says a notification.

The notification mentions that details about army deployment will be discussed with relevant authorities. The deployment of army and civil armed forces has been allowed for an indefinite period.

The army as a quick response force is going to be deployed on request of provinces. The provinces will decide about the places

Over 66,000 community volunteers and 45,000 volunteers will perform security duty for Muharram processions.

Various field formations including CID, special branch, traffic police, Dolphin Squad, and Peru, will perform their duties as part of the security plan.

Across the province, 633 points have been identified as flashpoints, with 283 in Lahore alone.

In Lahore, 54 locations are deemed extremely sensitive, and 229 sensitive, with additional personnel deployed accordingly.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi chairing a meeting regarding maintenance of law and order during Muharram.

Governor thanks PM for taking special interest in dev. of Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has thanked the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif for taking special interest in development and prosperity of the province.

overall development of the province, programme of conversion of agricultural tube well were discussed threadbare.

Besides, the matters of mutual interests including the party matters were also discussed between the Prime Minister and Governor Balochistan. While the Governor personally thanked the Prime Minister for his special interest in development and prosperity of the province.

PM congratulates President-elect of Iran on telephone

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday held a telephone conversation with Dr. Massoud Pezeshkian, President-elect of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to extend his heartfelt felicitations to him on his victory in the recently held Presidential elections.

Dr. Massoud Pezeshkian, President-elect of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to extend his heartfelt felicitations to him on his victory in the recently held Presidential elections.

The prime minister conveyed his good wishes for Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei and congratulated him as well as the brotherly people of Iran on the successful political transition through the democratic process, a PM Office press release said.

He said that as brotherly neighboring countries, Pakistan and Iran were bound together by shared history, faith, culture and traditions.

Wishing the Iranian President-elect a successful tenure in office.

Tareen elected as Chairman PAC Balochistan Assembly

Independent Report QUETTA: The Member Provincial Assembly belonging to Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), Asghar Ali Tareen was elected as the Chairman Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Balochistan Assembly here on Monday.

The election of Asghar Tareen as Chairman PAC was held in the meeting of PAC here in the assembly.

The members of the committee met for election of its chairman and thus elected Mr. Tareen for the important slot. Similarly, the meeting of standing committee for Local Government, Gwadar Development Authority, Balochistan Development Authority and Balochistan Coastal Development Authority was also held in which MPA Patrick Sant Maseeh was elected its chairman.

During the course of meeting, different matters including overall development and projects were discussed.

Besides, the projects of public interest included in the federal and provincial public sector development programmes (PSDP).

The Chief Minister also referred to the initiatives taken and being taken by the provincial government for uplift of different sectors. He said that we are paying attention on law and order, education and health sectors in Balochistan. The Prime Minister on the occasion appreciated and expressed satisfaction over the initiatives and efforts of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti for bringing good governance.

Kenyan court declares Pak journalist Arshad's murder illegal, unconstitutional

Court orders Kenya to pay family of Pak journalist 21.7m as compensation

ISLAMABAD (INP): Kenya High Court judge declared the murder of the Pakistani journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya as illegal and unconstitutional penalized the Kenyan police officer involved in the planned target killing.

Pakistani Journalist Arshad Sharif who was shot dead by Kenyan police officers in October 2022.

While delivering her judgement, Justice Stella Mutuku said the use of lethal force against Sharif by shooting him in the head was unlawful and unconstitutional.

Kenya's Kajiado High Court has awarded Rs21.7 million to the family of slain

proceedings. The appeal plea of KP is wrapped up being withdrawn.

A 7-member larger bench of SC presided over by Justice Amin ud Din took up the case for hearing.

Deadly road mishap claims life of 4 family members

GWADAR (INP): A dreadful collision between a private car and a truck claimed lives of four family members including a woman here on Monday.

According to details, an over speeding truck hit a car on the Makran Coastal Highway near Ormara.

The deadly collision resulted in immediate death of all four members on the spot.

The bodies of deceased were shifted to a local hospital. The authorities were investigating into the incident.



QUETTA: Activists of Balochistan Sunni Ullama Council hold rally in connection with Hazrat Umar Farooq (RA) Shahadat.

Bilawal says: Security linked with economic situation; PPP to attend Govt called APC

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that security was linked with the country's economic situation and the entire nation.

He hailed the Prime Minister's decision to invite the PTI in APC. He said that we stand with our brave security forces in their fight against menace of terrorism and demanded strong action against facilitators of terrorists. Bilawal Bhutto said that collective decisions against scourge of terrorism were imperative for durable progress.

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Ahsan for transformation in tech education for sustainable development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Monday called for a transformative approach to technical education, emphasizing the need for digitalization, gender inclusivity, and green practices to drive innovation, growth, and sustainable development.

"Empowering workforce and gender inclusivity through digitalization and green practices is not only crucial for the future of our global workforce but also for societal advancement," the minister said.

He underscored the pivotal role of digital tools and technologies in revolutionizing TVET, making training more accessible, engaging, and relevant through online learning platforms, virtual reality simulations, and AI-driven personalized learning.

He highlighted a recent World Economic Forum report indicating that digital transformation could create up to 150 million new roles by this year while displacing 75 million jobs, underscoring the need for a workforce skilled in digital tools and technologies.

He also stressed the importance of gender inclusivity, noting that women were often underrepresented in STEM careers and vocational training programs.

Prof. Iqbal called for policies promoting gender equality, providing scholar-



QUETTA: A delegation of PML-N Parliamentarians from Balochistan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

IHC dismisses appeal plea against cancellation of permission PTI gathering

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has dismissed the appeal of PTI against the cancellation of its public meeting on Monday. Justice Babar Sattar remarked that the cancellation of PTI public meeting was a lawful decision.

Justice Babar Sattar gave these remarks during the course of hearing of contempt of court plea Monday. Justice Babar Sattar remarked that the cancellation of PTI public meeting was a lawful decision.

Shoab Shaheen said "award punishment to them. Their conviction should come to public."

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Burhan Wani remembered on his 8th Martyrdom anniversary at both sides of LoC

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): The public rallies across Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) besides in various parts of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) on Monday were held to reiterate resolve to continue the noble mission of shaheed e Hurriyat.

Justice Babar Sattar gave these remarks during the course of hearing of contempt of court plea Monday. Justice Babar Sattar remarked that the cancellation of PTI public meeting was a lawful decision.

Federal cabinet meeting today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Meeting of federal cabinet has been called today (Tuesday) in Prime Minister (PM) house.

Important national issues will come under discussion in the federal cabinet meeting to be held under the Prime Minister (PM). The summary of ministries will be presented in the cabinet meeting for approval. Overall economic and law and order situation of the country will be reviewed in the meeting.

Balochistan..

Continued from page 1

This, reforms are being brought for improvement in different provincial government departments, he added. The Chief Minister said that it is important to set right direction more than time. We have to implement the things after choosing right direction.

He also stressed that we have to prepare such strategy that may benefit the coming generations.

He said that we have to take decisions on merit setting aside the personal interests and expediencies. He said that we have never refused to provide resources to the public sector universities, but it is necessary to establish effective system of check and balance.

He said that the matters are disappointing, if take review of the quality as compared to the resources provided to them.

Kenyan court..

Continued from page 1

tutional. She faulted the Attorney General, the DPP and other investigating agencies for their laxity in concluding the probe and charging police officers behind Arshad's death. Kenya's Kajiado High Court has awarded Rs21.7 million to the family of slain Pakistani Journalist Arshad Sharif who was shot dead by Kenyan police officers in October 2022.

High Court orders the government to award Ksh 10 million to the family of Pakistani journalist Arshad Sharif, who was mistakenly shot dead by police officers in Kajiado in October 2022, ruling his killing unconstitutional.

While delivering her judgement, Justice Stella Mutuku said the use of lethal force against Sharif by shooting him in the head was unlawful and unconstitutional. A two-member fact-finding team set up by the Pakistani government to probe the killing said it found several contradictions in the version given by Kenyan authorities, and believed it was a case of pre-planned murder.

The team travelled to Kenya and conducted a number of interviews, examined and reconstructed the crime scene and examined the deceased's phones and computers.

"Both the members of the (fact-finding team) have a considered understanding that it is a case of planned targeted assassination with transnational characters rather than a case of mistaken identity.



QUETTA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif along with Federal Minister, Governor Balochistan, Chief Minister Balochistan and members of the provincial cabinet witnesses the signing of the agreement between federal and provincial governments regarding solarization of tube wells.

TENDER NOTICE TSE-242507491103 Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.

Table with 3 columns: S.No, Name of Work/Package, E/Cost. Item 1: CONST. OF BT ROAD TUFTILLES, SEWERAGE LINE ETC AT LORALAI CITY PSDP No. 3768. E/Cost: 50,000,000.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LOCAL GOVT LORALAI PRQ No.161/08-07-2024

Table with 3 columns: S.No, Name of Work/Package, E/Cost. Item 1: CONSTRUCTION OF 2 No BOX CULVERTS, KILLI HAJI HABIB KHAN & KILLI HAJI MASOOM KHAN CHAMAN. E/Cost: 19,048,493.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR CWP&H Dept, Chaman PRQ No.163/08-07-2024

28,000 tube..

Continued from page 1

forms agenda, he said that a huge sum of Rs500 billion would be saved from going down the drain. The prime minister said that the federal government would be absolute of paying Rs80-90 billion burden which was provided as subsidy to the province due to non-payment of bills and still the farmers community was getting 2 to 6 hours power supply.

With the solarization process, the issue would be resolved forever, he expressed the hope. The prime minister said that throughout the world, the utilization of solar capacity was tapped for generation of environment friendly power which was considered as the inexpensive source of power.

He said that the government was taking steps on priority basis for the provision of solar power and assured that the federal government would work closely with the provincial government for the uplift of the province.

The prime minister said that they had reserved 10 percent of additional quota for the students of province in a batch of 1,000 graduate students being sent to China on government scholarships to seek the latest training in the agriculture sector.

While 10 percent additional quota for the students of Balochistan was also allocated in the training programme to be imparted by Huawei to 300,000 students in IT sector, he added.

He further informed that the federal government had already set aside funds in the fiscal budget for Danish schools in the province, adding that they were keen to broaden Danish schools to the divisional level so that students in the entire province could be benefited from the education facility.

The prime minister said that when the young people of Balochistan were equipped with the latest education, the country and province would move on path of progress. The prime minister also appreciated ideas and efforts of the chief minister and said the today's signing of agreement was part of the reforms agenda and collective efforts made by the federal and provincial governments for the progress and prosperity of the country.

TENDER NOTICE-CORRIGENDUM. The notice inviting tender called by this office, which published in daily news papers Quetta vide PRQ No.126/05.07.2024, the scheme at S.# 3 which may be read as under.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER. The Chief Officer District Council Duki invites bids from Eligible bidders for execution of following works for the year 2024, based on a composite schedule of rates, 2023 G.O.B on percentage rates. Tender Fee Rs. 1000/-, Bid Security 2% for each work.

CHIEF OFFICER DISTRICT COUNCIL, DUKI. TSE-242507491163 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.

Table with 3 columns: S.No, Name of Work/Package, E/Cost. Item 1: CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION BUND KILLI SHAKARDAN GIDDIR DISTRICT SURAB. E/Cost: 49,504,340.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, SURAB PRQ No.157/08-07-2024

Large table of tender notices with columns: S.No, T.S.No, Name of Work, E/Cost. Includes items like Const. of Solar system WSS Killi Zehri Khan, Killi Muhammad Umer, Killi Goranjo, etc.







## Saudi group to invest in retail Oil Sector in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a recent development, Saudi Group Asyad Holding through UAE-based Wafi Energy Holding Limited has acquired 77.42% shareholdings and control of Shell Pakistan Limited.

The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the acquisition under Section 11 of the Competition Act, 2010, thus solidifying the said transaction to boost the retail oil sector in Pakistan, according to a press release issued here on Monday.

M/s Shell Pakistan Limited, listed on the Pakistan Stock Exchange, maintains a substantial business footprint in the retail supply of motor fuels and lubricants across Pakistan. Whereas, M/s Wafi Energy LLC is a wholly-owned affiliate of Asyad Holding Group which specializes in the management and operation of fuel stations in Saudi Arabia. The Group has established M/s Wafi Energy Holding Limited to flex its wings for investment purposes in Pakistan.

The CCP's Phase I competition assessment identified 'Retail Fuel, Vehicle Lubricants, and Industrial Lubricants' as the relevant product markets. It was also revealed that Shell Pakistan has distinct shares in all three relevant markets but that will remain unchanged post-transaction.

The analysis further confirmed that Wafi Energy Holding Limited will not gain a dominant position in the relevant markets even after attaining direct control of Shell Pakistan. Therefore, the CCP has swiftly authorized the said acquisition under Section 31 of the Competition Act, 2010.

Chairman CCP, Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, while signing the Order expressed that this development is expected to boost competition by elevating service standards in the retail fuel supply chain and thus, contribute immensely to flourishing Pakistani markets.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi chairing a meeting regarding over-billing of protected consumers.

## Finance minister assures KE of resolving delayed payment issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday assured K-Electric of addressing its matters related to delayed payments.

The minister asked the KE team to focus on improving service delivery in Karachi and to expedite its plan for adding cheaper generation capacity so that the cost of electricity could be brought down.

Earlier, the KE representatives stated that the agreement signed between the government and KE earlier this year had addressed a number of issues and KE was now vigorously working on implementing the new generation projects to improve its electricity mix.

The delegation raised the issue of delayed payments of KE's consumer bills collected through the post office.

According to press release issued by the finance ministry, the minister was talking to delegation of K-Electric that called on him here. The delegation members included Chief Executive Officer (CEO) K-Electric Syed Moonis Abdullah Alvi, CFO KE Muhammad Aamir Ghaziani and Chief Regulatory Affairs Muhammad Imran Qureshi.

## Philippine ambassador visits Dhodial Mansehra to foster trade relations

MANSEHRA (APP): Ambassador of the Philippines, Maria Agnes M Cervantes on Monday visited Dhodial Mansehra with her embassy staff to discuss and promote trade relations between the Philippines and Pakistan.

The ambassador visited at the invitation of former Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry Hanif Gohar.

During her visit to Gohar House, the ambassador and her delegation met with key figures from the business community. They engaged in discussions about enhancing trade between the two nations and explored the economic landscape of Pakistan.

Former Federal Minister Azam Khan Swati was also present to participate in the discussions.

The delegation extended their visit to include the Al-Mustafa Trust Gohar Campus Hospital in Dhodial and the Dadar Sanatorium Hospital. At Al-Mustafa Trust Hospital, the hospital administration provided a detailed briefing on the medical facilities and modern machinery available at the hospital.

Furthermore, the ambassador visited the SOS Village Dhodial, where she and her team interacted with the children residing there. They were informed about the residential and educational facilities provided to the children.

The children showcased their skills through impressive performances of judo, karate, and taekwondo, which were highly appreciated by the visitors.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja chairing first meeting of Functional Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication.

## Telenor launches Startup Mentors' Network to empower entrepreneurial ecosystem

ISLAMABAD (APP): Telenor Pakistan, a frontrunner in providing telecommunication services and digital solutions across the country, unveiled its latest initiative, the 'Startup Mentors' Network'.

As a natural extension of Telenor Pakistan's successful corporate accelerator program, Telenor Velocity, which has empowered startups to scale through access to expertise in product management, growth hacking, and digital assets, the Startup Mentors' Network aims to deliver an even more supportive entrepreneurial landscape across the nation, said a news release issued here Monday.

The Startup Mentors' Network features a distinguished panel of 31 seasoned professionals from Telenor Pakistan, each recognized for their profound expertise spanning critical domains such as communications, marketing, finance, strategy, and business models. These mentors, selected for their proven track records and dedication to innovation, will collaborate closely with startups embedded within various incubators and accelerators nationwide.

The primary objective of the network is to provide tailored guidance and strategic support to emerging ventures, enabling them to refine business concepts, devise robust strategies, optimize pricing models, and enhance their market positioning. By leveraging the extensive industry knowledge and network of Telenor Pakistan's mentors, startups will gain invaluable insights and actionable advice to accelerate their growth trajectory.

## IT industry share to be increased up to 25 bln dollars; Chairman PMYP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Monday expressed the resolve to increase the Information Technology (IT) industry share up to 25 billion dollars from the current 2.5 billion dollars in the next five years.

Addressing the "International Conference on Sustainability in Workforce" at a local hotel, he said that as many as 200,000 youths would be trained in high-tech and Information technology programmes with the skills needed to thrive in the modern workplace.

"By equipping students with the latest tools and technologies, and fostering collaboration with industry leaders, we can prepare them for the jobs of tomorrow."

Mashhood said that the government was intensifying efforts under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif towards enhancing skill development through strategic partnerships and targeted programs.

He added that the country's economy was moving towards the right direction under the leadership of PM Shehbaz Sharif and will succeed in overcoming the financial problems. Rana said due to the economic policies of the government during the last three months and the signing of multi-billion-dollar investment projects with China, Qatar, UAE.

## PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 353 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 353.41 points, a positive change of 0.44 percent, closing at 80,566.21 points against 80,212.79 points on the last working day.

A total of 261,649,614 shares were traded during the day as compared to 448,981,017 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 13,024 billion against Rs 18,995 billion on the last trading day.

Around 427 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 216 of them recorded gains and 158 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 53 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Hum Network with 20,667,563 shares at Rs 11.36 per share, National BankXD with 19,555,510 shares at Rs 50.92 per share and Bank of Punjab with 17,587,329 shares at Rs5.79 per share.

## Customs Appraisal Chief Collector to resolve genuine issues & expedite digitalization: Saquib

Independent Report KARACHI: Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI, has apprised that Chief Collector of Customs Appraisal (South), Mr. Mohsin Rafiq, has agreed with principal stand of FPCCI to improve ease of doing business benchmarks vis-a-vis customs during clearance at customs appraisal.

The only way forward to cut human interaction is to want our due and rightful facilitation during customs appraisal.

Mr. Asif Sakhi, VP FPCCI, maintained that Custom House and its staff in Karachi should be made more hospitable, amicable and facilitative as it will promote liaison and compliance from the traders. WeBOC was meant to be a 24/7 facility; but, it is not being operated as such and shortage of staff is the primary reason



Mr. Aman Paracha, VP FPCCI, highlighted that business community can provide thousands of real-time and realistic prices without charging a penny; therefore, customs appraisal should take them on board. We, at FPCCI, are willing to play the role of a bridge between the stakeholders of the system from either sides, he added.

Mr. Shabbir Mansha, VP FPCCI, pointed out that updated rules of section 203 pertaining to warehouse or storage fee have not yet been drafted; causing tremendous financial losses to the importers in case of any discrepancy or delays. Additionally,

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LAHORE: AWPDA engineer is busy in repairing Transformers at G.R.O in the Federal Capital.

## Shaza chairs first meeting of functional committee on IT, Telecom

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja chaired first meeting of Functional Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication. Secretary IT Captain (Retd) Muhammad Mahmood was also present in the meeting, said a news release issued here on Monday. Member IT Syed Junaid Imam, Member Telecom Muhammad Jahanzeb Rahim, and

## Jazz appoints Farrukh Khan as CFO and CEO of MFH

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jazz appointed Farrukh Khan, CEO & Managing Director of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and CEO of Micro-Finance Holdings (MFH), effective September 15, 2024.

Farrukh will also join the board of Mobilink Microfinance Bank.

Gábor Kocsis, the outgoing CFO, will remain with Jazz until the end of the year, focusing on strategic projects to facilitate a smooth transition and maintain momentum in ongoing initiatives said a news release.

Farrukh Khan brings over 30 years of leadership experience in major financial institutions, including roles as CEO of Acumen Fund, co-founder and CEO of BMA Capital Management, and CFO at American Express. His expertise in mergers and public offerings will enhance Jazz's financial strategy and innovation.

Amir Ibrahim, CEO of Jazz & Chairman MMBL, commented, "We welcomed Farrukh Khan to our leadership team. His rich expertise and leadership in capital markets are crucial as we evolve into a ServiceCo."

## Pak-China Joint Lab for AI to intelligently Pakistan's agriculture

BEIJING (APP): In May, the Pakistan China Joint Lab for Artificial Intelligence and Smart Agriculture (AI&SA) has been established at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF).

Punjab Province, as Pakistan's main agricultural production area, its annual grain output accounts for about 76% of the country's total annual grain output.

Both parties agreed that it has unique advantages to carry out pilot applications of high-throughput crop monitoring projects here. In this province, about 600 farmers have joined the pilot application.

Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan, Vice Chancellor UAF, noted lately that in the 25,000 villages across Punjab, if drone spraying technology could be adopted on a large scale, it will help increase productivity, reduce costs and greatly promote the development of intelligent agriculture. "We use drones equipped with visual recognition equipment to fly around the fields to

achieve intelligent management of crop monitoring, cultivation management, pest and disease analysis, and agricultural production, including growth determination, crop health monitoring, water requirement analysis, fertilizer, as well as pesticide application." Dr. Wu Jun, the Chinese Director of the lab, introduced.

Mohammad Malik, a local farmer who has been growing wheat, sugarcane and other crops in Punjab for more than 30 years, is one of the participants in the pilot project. At first, he had many doubts about the project. "This technology is too complicated for farmers like me, and I doubt its effectiveness and practicality."

The project team members promptly explained it, "We could produce a text guide and audio-visual materials of the vegetation health map written in the local dialect and send them to your son's smartphone application."

## PIC directs SBP to make public list of 1000 loan defaulters

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Information Commission has issued a directive to the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to disclose the list of the top 1000 loan defaulters.

The order said: "It is an admitted fact that 1000 individuals obtained loans from the concerned banks and failed to repay them, causing significant financial damage to both the country and the banks involved. Such individuals cannot be protected from disclosure."

The Commission observed that the exemption cited by the SBP did not pertain to this case. Consequently, the plea of the public body has been rejected.

The SBP Governor has been directed to disclose the required information and submit it to the Commission within 10 days.

Information Act, 2017, which exempts certain records from disclosure, does not apply to the requested list of loan defaulters.

The order said: "It is an admitted fact that 1000 individuals obtained loans from the concerned banks and failed to repay them, causing significant financial damage to both the country and the banks involved. Such individuals cannot be protected from disclosure."

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## Gold rates dip by Rs.1,300 per tola to Rs.245,100

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of per tola of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.1,300 and was sold at Rs.245,100 on Monday against its sale at Rs.246,400 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.1,113 to Rs.2,10,134 from Rs.2,11,247 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.192,622 from Rs.193,644, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.2,900 and Rs.2,486.28 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$12 to \$2,376 from \$2,388.



HYDERABAD: LPG dealers, users and Taxi drivers hold a protest demonstration to block the center point of city Hyder Chowk, demanding the ban on LPG should be lifted and dealers should be allowed to do business, which was ban after 24 deaths in cylinder blast in a shop.

## Israel deepens its operation in Gaza City in pursuit of militants. Thousands flee again

**Monitoring Desk**  
DEIR AL-BALAH: Israeli forces deepened an operation in the Gaza Strip's largest city in what the military said was meant to weed out militants, sending thousands of Palestinians fleeing on Monday from an area already ravaged in the early weeks of the nine-month-long war. The incursion into eastern Gaza City expands Israel's engagement in the beleaguered territory's north, an area Israel said it had seized control of months ago. Pockets of militant resurgence have scaled back Israeli military gains and drawn forces back into such operations. Israel had ordered evacuations in the area before the raid, the military said.

Heavy fighting in the war's first weeks all but emptied Gaza City and its environs, and the Israeli military has prevented most people from returning to their homes. But several hundred thousands of Palestinians remain, living in the shells of their homes or shelters. The fresh fighting meant new displacement. "We fled in the darkness amid heavy strikes," said Sayeda Abdel-Baki, a mother of three who was sheltering at her relatives' home in the Daraj neighborhood. "This is my fifth displacement."

Residents reported artillery and tank fire, as well as airstrikes. Gaza's Health Ministry, which has limited access to the north, did not immediately report casualties. The Hamas-run Civil Defense said the area was inaccessible because of the fierce clashes. In a sign that the operation could be expanding, Israel issued additional evacuation orders Monday for areas in other neighborhoods of central Gaza City, calling on residents to head south to the city of Deir al-Balah.

The fighting comes as Israel and Hamas appear to be the closest they have been in months to agreeing to a cease-fire deal that would pause the war in exchange for the release of dozens of Israelis held hostage by Hamas.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves as he disembarks his plane in Moscow.

## India's Modi lands in Russia for first visit since Ukraine offensive

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Russia on Monday, as the Indian leader trod a fine line between maintaining a longstanding relationship with Moscow and courting closer Western security ties.

The visit is Modi's first since Russia launched its campaign in Ukraine and since he was returned to power last month as leader of the world's most populous country.

## Hezbollah launches drone attack on Mount Hermon in Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan Heights

**Monitoring Desk**  
AMMAN: The Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group said on Sunday it launched a drone attack on Mount Hermon in the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan Heights where Israel has a key surveillance centre.

It said this was its first such bombing since it began trading fire with Israel on Oct. 8, a day after its Palestinian ally Hamas attacked southern Israel, sparking the Gaza war. Hezbollah says it would halt operations only when the war ends. Although it had hit other areas in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights repeatedly.

## Uganda provided support to M23 rebels in Congo, UN report says

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: The Ugandan army has provided support to the M23 rebel group operating in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, a United Nations report seen by Reuters on Monday said, as escalating clashes there fuel fears of a new all-out conflict.

Ugandan troops were part of a regional force deployed in November 2022 to monitor a ceasefire with the M23. Congolese authorities called for the force to withdraw last year, saying it was ineffective.

## Iraq exhibits ancient artefacts returned by US and other countries

**Monitoring Desk**  
BAGHDAD: Iraq on Monday exhibited several ancient artefacts that it said had been returned by the United States and other countries, long after they were looted and smuggled out following the 2003 US invasion.

Iraqi authorities have been trying to retrieve thousands of archaeological relics missing since the invasion, which was followed by widespread looting in the country that some historians regard as the cradle of civilisation.



PARIS: People waving Palestinian flags and carrying 'anti-fascist' slogans attend a gathering at Republique Square, following the second round of elections in France on Sunday. Projections show a broad left-wing coalition leading the tight race, ahead of right-wing and centrist parties.



A Palestinian boy checks the damage in a house hit by Israeli bombardment in Zawayda in the central Gaza Strip.

## Philippines says pact with Japan takes defence ties to unprecedented high

**Monitoring Desk**  
MANILA: The Philippines hailed an "unprecedented" high in defence ties with Japan after the signing on Monday of a landmark military pact allowing deployment of forces on each other's soil in the face of China's increasingly assertive stance in the region.

The Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA), the first of its kind Japan has signed in Asia, will ease the entry of equipment and troops for combat training and disaster response, smoothing military co-operation between Manila and Tokyo.

## Moroccans march in pro-Palestinian rally

**Monitoring Desk**  
TANGIERS: Thousands of Moroccans demonstrated Sunday in the northern city of Tangier in support of the Palestinian people and against Morocco's ties with Israel, an AFP journalist saw. "Gaza is not alone," chanted the protesters during the event which saw the grouping of leftist parties and Islamist movements.

## Vote projections show French left on course to victory

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: A loose alliance of French left-wing parties thrown together for snap elections was on course on Sunday to become the biggest parliamentary bloc and beat the far right, according to shock projected results.

The New Popular Front (NFP) was formed last month after President Emmanuel Macron called snap elections, bringing together socialists, greens, communists and the hard-left into one camp.

## Democratic US Representative Schiff says VP Harris may win 'overwhelmingly'

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Democratic US Representative Adam Schiff told NBC News he felt Vice President Kamala Harris could win "overwhelmingly" if she ran against former President Donald Trump, but that President Joe Biden needed to make a decision about his own candidacy.



People help emergency and rescue personnel clear the rubble of the destroyed building of Ohmadyt Children's Hospital following a Russian missile attack in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv.

## Biden tries to ease Democrats' worries about his candidacy

**Monitoring Desk**  
PHILADELPHIA: An embattled US President Joe Biden faced escalating pressure on Sunday from fellow Democrats worried about his candidacy, which he aimed to ease with a pair of campaign stops in the battleground state of Pennsylvania.

Biden, 81, has faced growing calls to end his re-election campaign after a halting performance in a June 27 debate with Republican Donald Trump, 78, raised questions about his ability to do the job for another four years.

## Hungary's Orbán makes surprise visit to China after trips to Russia and Ukraine

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán is making a surprise visit to China on Monday after similar trips to Russia and Ukraine to discuss prospects for a peaceful settlement in Ukraine.

## Monsoon rains bring floods, disrupting transport, in India's Mumbai

**Monitoring Desk**  
MUMBAI: Heavy rains flooded roads and railways on Monday in India's financial capital of Mumbai, disrupting flights and forcing the closure of some schools and colleges, while overflowing rivers elsewhere affected more than 2 million people.

Just before the morning rush hour, more than 300 mm (11.8 inches) of rain lashed the city of 12 million over the six hours until 7:00 am (0130 GMT), municipal officials said, with more heavy showers forecast later in the day.

## West Africa's ECOWAS decries lack of progress with junta states

**Monitoring Desk**  
ABUJA: The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) said it was disappointed with a lack of progress in reconciling with breakthrough, junta-led Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger and will make "more vigorous" reconciliation efforts.

## Russian missiles kill 24 in Ukraine, gut Kyiv children's hospital

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Russia fired dozens of missiles at cities across Ukraine on Monday in a massive barrage that killed at least 24 people and smashed into a children's hospital in Kyiv, trapping victims under the rubble, officials said.

Zelensky visited Warsaw before heading to the Nato summit in Washington, where he was expected to appeal for more military support from the country's allies.

Dozens of volunteers, doctors and rescue workers were digging through the debris of a part of Ohkmatdyt paediatric hospital in a desperate search for survivors after the rare day-time bombardment.

Natalia Svidler, 40, was in the hospital at the time of the strike with her two-year-old son, who was due to have surgery this week, when the air raid sirens sounded.

## Landslides kill 12 on Indonesia's Sulawesi island, 18 missing

**Monitoring Desk**  
JAKARTA: At least 12 people died and 18 are missing after a torrential rain caused a landslide in an illegal gold mine over the weekend in Indonesia's Sulawesi island, officials said on Monday.

(12.43 miles) to reach the landslide site and were being hampered by thick mud over the road and continuing rain in the area, Heriyanto said.

The landslide on Sunday morning in Suwawa district, Gorontalo province, killed miners and residents living near the illegal mine, said Heriyanto, head of the local rescue agency (Basarnas).

Five survivors had been evacuated, he said, adding that a rescue team was searching for 18 missing people on Monday.

## China state media slams Sinograin over alleged use of fuel tankers to transport cooking oil

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: Chinese state media on Monday criticized the state grains stockpiler Sinograin after local media reported that its fuel tankers were allegedly used to transport cooking oil, sparking food safety concerns.

and Beijing stepping up controls, after a series of scandals, including the sale of baby formula containing lethal amounts of the industrial chemical melamine in 2008.

The Beijing News last week reported it was an "open secret" in the transportation industry that Sinograin was using tankers to transport both fuel and food products like cooking oil, soybean oil and syrup, without cleaning the tankers in between.

Transportation units and carrier vehicles found in violation of the regulations would be terminated immediately and any major problems found would be reported to the relevant regulatory authorities, Sinograin said.

## Hurricane Beryl expected to weaken quickly as it churns across Texas

**Monitoring Desk**  
TEXAS: Hurricane Beryl lashed Texas with strong winds and heavy rain on Monday as it churned inland, forcing the closure of oil ports, the cancellation of hundreds of flights and leaving thousands of homes and businesses in the state without power.

evacuation of some production sites.

Beryl, the season's earliest Category 5 hurricane on record, made landfall near the coastal town of Matagorda in Texas early in the day, pounding the coast with dangerous storm surges, the US National Hurricane Center (NHC) said.

Following warnings that it could be a deadly storm for communities in its path, residents had rushed to board up windows and stock up on fuel and other essential supplies.

The storm, which was expected to rapidly weaken as it moved inland, swept a destructive path through Jamaica, Grenada, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines last week, killing at least 11 people and toppling buildings and power lines.

Before daybreak, strong gusts and torrential rain lashed down on towns such as Lake Jackson and Freeport, television footage showed. The storm had strengthened into a Category 1 hurricane as it crossed the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico before making landfall, but the NHC said it was now expected to weaken rapidly.

