

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

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CM Bugti authorizes opposition to hold talks with protestors on behalf of govt

Says government believes in dialogue to solve the issues; our doors are always open for those who agreed to set on table with us for any kind of talks in order to maintain peace in the province

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Monday has authorized members of the opposition in Balochistan Assembly to hold talks with Baloch Yakjehi Committee on behalf of the government.

Addressing the assembly session, he said that the government believes in dialogue to solve the issues and asked the opposition members to play their vital role in the current situation.

He offered that our doors are always open for those who agreed to set on table with us for any kind of talks in order to maintain peace in the province.

Sarfraz Bugti said that the state would ensure all rights including right to assemble to the people on a condition to accept the right to organized.

Sarfraz Bugti said the government had held negotiations multiple times to convince the BYC to organized gathering at Turbat instead of Gwadar.

He added that the BYC was decided to hold rally in Gwadar with clear intentions to sabotage the CPEC, development works and

malign the country internationally.

The Chief Minister said foreign delegations are to visit Gwadar in August as the second phase of CPEC is to begin, the government was granted the permission to organized the gathering at GDA stadium.

Sarfraz Bugti said the government cannot give the authority to run the gov-

ernment affairs in the hand of Jehtha and would not allow anyone to chock the government machinery and stop the development process in the province.

Sarfraz Bugti said that intelligence driven war is being run against the country and the province.

He said that there is conspiracy against Paki-

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QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti expressing views in Balochistan Assembly



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar along with Secretary General of the Commonwealth Patricia Scotland addresses a joint press stakeout at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Pakistan committed to CW agenda of connectivity, climate resilience: Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Monday reiterated that Pakistan remained committed to working with the Commonwealth to promote its agenda of connectivity, education, youth and women empowerment, and climate resilience.

land after their meeting, said that Pakistan was also resolved to support the initiatives aimed at strengthening and modernizing the Commonwealth to meet the 21st-century challenges, besides continuing to play an active role in building bridges among member states.

He appreciated the secretary-general, who is on a five-day maiden visit here, for serving the organisation with "dedication and grace"

across her eight-year term and her role in promoting the Commonwealth's values and mission and modernizing the outlook.

The deputy prime minister lauded her contribution to promoting cooperation in education, youth empowerment, capacity building, and climate action, besides supporting Pakistan after floods, particularly regarding the appointment

of another one percent reduction in interest rate by the State Bank of Pakistan was another sign of economic

independence.

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PM welcomes Fitch upgrades Pakistan rating to CCC+ following IMF agreement

Independent Report
SLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday hailed the upgrading of Pakistan's long-term foreign currency issuer default rating (IDR) from CCC to CCC+ by the Credit Rating Agency Fitch.

emphasized that the government was working hard on the economic reforms agenda, the fruits of which would surely reach to the people soon.

The reports of Fitch and other international financial institutions are important for the economic improvement of Pakistan, PM Shehbaz said adding that "we will move forward with more effort and passion on the path of economic improvement of the country".

He hoped that the new International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme would further improve the economic activities in the country.

The announcement of another one percent reduction in interest rate by the State Bank of Pakistan was another sign of economic

independence.

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Soldier martyred, 16 injured as violent mob assaults security forces' personnel in Gwadar

An officer also among injured as mob in garb of "Baloch Raji Muchi" attacked security forces, says ISPR

RAWALPINDI (APP): A violent mob in the garb of so called Baloch Raji Muchi assaulted Security Forces' personnel employed for security duties in Gwadar district that resulted in the martyrdom of a soldier and left an officer and 16 others injured during unprovoked assaults.

The martyred soldier was identified as Sepoy Shabbir Baloch (Age: 30 years; resident of: District Sibi), who embraced shahadat, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

While on the other hand, fake and malicious propaganda is being spread on social media using doctored pictures and videos by the propagandists to

gain sympathy and support for the unlawful violent march, it said. "Security forces have displayed extreme restraint to avoid unwarranted civilian casualties despite provocations.

The violent actions of the mob are unacceptable and those responsible will be brought to justice," the ISPR said.

All citizens were urged not to fall prey to the propaganda, remain calm and peaceful, and to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in maintaining public safety and order, it added.

"Security Forces of Pakistan, in step with the Nation, remain determined to thwart attempts of sabotaging peace and stability of Balochistan," the ISPR said.

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Indonesian envoy calls on Jaffar Mandokhail: Governor stresses need to expand relations between Pak & Indonesia in various sectors further

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that deep and pleasant relations are established between Pakistan and Indonesia and there is a need to expand these relations in different sectors further according to the changing circumstances and modern requirements.

There would be positive impacts on the bilateral trade and commerce relations between Pakistan and Indonesia with participation of the people associated with the trade and commerce in the International Business Expo due to



be held in October in Indonesia. The Governor Balochistan was speaking to the Indonesian ambassador to Pakistan, Rehmat Hiniarta Kasuma, who called on him here at the Governor's House on Monday.

During the course of meeting, different matters about bilateral relations between Pakistan and Indonesia as well as the potential of investment in Balochistan and others were discussed.

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Justices Sardar Tariq, Mazhar Alam take oath as SC's ad hoc judges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Justice Qazi Faez Isa, Chief Justice of Pakistan on Monday administered the oath of offices to Justice Sardar Tariq Masood and Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhal as Ad-hoc Judges, Supreme Court of Pakistan.

A simple and dignified oath taking ceremony was held at Supreme Court of Pakistan in this regard. The judges of apex court, Attorney General for Pakistan, members of Pakistan Bar Council, Supreme Court Bar Association, senior lawyers, law officers and officers of Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan attended the ceremony.

Registrar Supreme Court of Pakistan conducted the proceedings of oath taking ceremony.

Tharparkar: Lightning strike claims 8 lives

HYDERABAD (APP): As many as 8 people died as a result of lightning strike during rain in Tharparkar on Monday, while more than 60 cattle were killed in different areas.

According to details, six individuals lost their lives when lightning struck the village of Akraro in Nagarparkar during the rain. The deceased include 20 year old Ramesh Bheel, 17 year old Ranjit Bheel, 40 year old Bhamro Bheel, 14 year old girl Sagna Bheel, 16 year old Vikram Bheel and 17 year old girl Anita Bheel. Another person, named Tabo was injured and shifted to the civil hospital Mithi for treatment.

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Govt, Ulema agree to curb religious intolerance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ulema, belonging to different schools of thought, and the government have agreed that nobody will be allowed to take law into hands in the name of religion.

Addressing a joint news conference, along with Ulema, in Rawalpindi today, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar strongly condemned the issuance of fatwas against Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa. He said the Supreme Court, in its Urdu press release, has clarified that believing in the finality of Holy Prophet Hazrat

Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) is part of every Muslim's faith.

The Minister said neither law nor society permits anyone to issue decrees against fellow Muslims' faith. He said a case has been registered against the culprits behind such fatwas, aimed at spreading hatred. He said strict action will be taken in this regard.

He said that the state would respond to the malicious campaign against the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) and no one would be allowed to decree religious notions against anyone.

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Funeral prayer of martyred FC official held in Gwadar

By Special Correspondent
GWADAR: Funeral prayer was held for Frontier Corps (FC) official Sabir Baloch, who was martyred during protests in Gwadar. The prayer was attended by Balochistan's Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau, DC Gwadar Ahmedullah Larak, and other high-ranking civil and military officials.

The body of Sabir Baloch was sent to his native area for burial with state honors.

Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau praised the martyrdom and bravery of Sabir Baloch, saying that he was a true patriot who sacrificed his life for the country.

In a statement, Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau said that the government and people of Balochistan stand with the grieving family of Sabir Baloch in this difficult time. He condemned the terrorist attack that led to Baloch's martyrdom and said that the government will take all necessary measures to ensure justice is served.

Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau also condemned the actions of protesters who failed to respect the dignity and cooperation of the security forces during the protests.

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Govt condemns life threats to CJP, adopt legal course against such tendencies

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government on Monday strongly condemned life threats to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa by a certain group and announced initiating legal proceedings so that no one could dare to challenge the writ of the state.

"The law will take its course against the elements behind the provocative and baseless propaganda campaign against the CJP" said Defence Minister Khawaja Asif while addressing a press conference along with Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal.

He regretted that an attempt was being made to spread bloodshed in the

name of religion for vested political interests.

He said that believing in the finality of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) is part of our faith. He said that the Supreme Court has already clarified its position on the matter.

The minister pointed out that Qazi Faez Isa is being targeted for many years under various pretexts. He stated there is an ongoing effort to silence a principled and upright voice in the judiciary.

Emphasizing the need for the rule of law, Khawaja Asif stated that the dictation of any individual or group will not be accepted.

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One document passport regime to remain enforced at Pak-Afghan border, Brigadier Umar Hayat

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Brigadier Umar Hayat of Frontier Corps (FC) has categorically stated that the one document passport regime would remain enforced at the Pak-Afghan border.

He said that there has been no talk of the higher authorities with the dharna committee about the national identity cards or tazkara for across border movement.

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Brigadier Umar Hayat was speaking to the media persons of Chaman at the FC Qila Chaman on Monday.

He said that the anti-passport dharna "parlat" had come to an end on resolving the issues of education and health besides increasing the staff of passport and Laghari package.

He said that the dharna organizers also made assurance that they would not become part of any protest against the state laws.

SBP cuts policy rate by 100bps to 19.5% as inflation cools down 'slightly'

SBP Governor Jameel Ahmed says inflation rate eased to 12.60%, while external account continues to improve

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Monday reduced the interest rate by 1% or 100 basis points (bps) from 20.5% to 19.5%, the second cut in a row, citing a slight cooling in the inflation rate — a move that is mostly in line with the general market consensus.

Addressing a press conference after the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, SBP Governor Jameel Ahmed said, "We have noted that the infla-

tion is on a declining trend."

"The inflation rate has come down to 12.60% from 38% while the external account has continued to improve," the SBP governor said adding, "The reduction in the interest rate reflects our confidence in the current economic trajectory."

Last month, the SBP's MPC trimmed its benchmark interest rate by 150 bps to 20.5%, following a record-high 22% that had been maintained for almost a year.

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QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting

President for enhanced BISP outreach, number of beneficiaries

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday underscored the need for enhancing the outreach of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) as well as the number of beneficiaries for the uplift of underprivileged sections of society.

The President expressed these views during a briefing given by the Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Mrs Rubina Khalid, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

He asked the Chairperson of BISP to establish an office at Gwadar so that

the deserving people of the area could benefit from the Programme. Taking note of the 0.45% service charges by the banks from BISP cardholders, the president said that the service charges needed to be waived off, and in this regard, the State Bank of Pakistan should be approached to ask banks for opening accounts for BISP beneficiaries.

He said that the new payment system would also protect BISP beneficiaries from exploitation. He also called for engaging donors and the private sector to support BISP in its endeavours to

provide scholarships to the maximum number of deserving students.

During the briefing, the President was informed about the core initiatives taken by BISP, including the Benazir Kafalat Program, Benazir Taleemi Wazaif Program, BISP Scholarships for Undergraduates Program and Benazir Nashounuma Program. Chairperson BISP informed that Rs 598.718 billion had been allocated for BISP during the ongoing fiscal year. She said that Benazir Kafalat was the flagship program of BISP,



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari being briefed about the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) by Chairperson BISP, Mrs. Rubina Khalid at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



ISLAMABAD: H.E. Patricia Scotland, Secretary General of the Commonwealth of Nations in a group photograph during visit the National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) at NDMA Headquarters.

Robust plan must to showcase Pakistan's resilience-building initiatives at COP29: Romina

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam said that all-out efforts would be taken to project Pakistan's climate vulnerability and resilience-building measures in different socio-economic sectors, particularly agriculture, water, energy, health, education and gender.

Chairing the first meeting of the Prime Minister's Committee on the 29th session of the Conference of Parties (COP 29) here on Monday, she urged the meeting participants to come with a concrete plan in close coordination with relevant federal and provincial departments to show-

case Pakistan's resilience-building initiatives being implemented by federal government and provinces.

The meeting focused on preparations for the country's active participation in the upcoming COP29, a UN-led annual global climate summit, which is scheduled to kick off from 11 to 22 November 2024 at Baku, Azerbaijan's capital. "We must come up with a well-thought out plan to showcase the country's resilience-building measures with own resources and highlight the finance, technology and capacity-building needs to strengthen further the country's resilience against myriad climate risks

through adaptation and mitigation measures," she urged the meeting participants. She pointed out that global community is very much cognizant of the fact that Pakistan is among the few countries most affected by climate change, facing climate change-caused challenges like recurring and intensifying flooding, heatwaves and shifting monsoon patterns.

"But, there is pressing need for the country to emphasise the need for financial and technical support needed to cope with these vulnerabilities, protect lives and livelihoods of the communities and socio-economic sectors," Romina Khurshid Alam Suggested.

Mohsin Naqvi directs Chairman CDA to ensure swift water drainage

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has contacted Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa and directed him to ensure swift drainage of water after torrential rain in Islamabad. The Interior Minister while directing the mobilization of field teams for the drainage of water said that the relevant officers and staff must remain in the field.

He said that all possible resources should be utilized to deal with the situation caused by the heavy rain adding that additional staff and machinery should be mobilized to

monitor the drains, high-ways, and waterways.

The Interior Minister also directed to ensure speedy drainage of water from the underpasses and other places. He further said that the traffic police should perform their duties in an active manner to maintain the flow of traffic. He added that no effort should be spared to resolve the issues being faced by citizens during the rain. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa apprised the Interior Minister regarding the steps taken for the drainage of water.

Ahsan Iqbal unveils PM's Programme to eliminate Hepatitis C

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Reform, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal stated that the government is committed to eradicating hepatitis C from the country.

He said that in April 2022, after the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government took office, they summoned 1,000 experts from various fields to propose solutions to address the significant challenge of saving the country from default. Ahsan emphasized that stable leadership and consistent policies are crucial for success, citing expert opinions. A total of 26 million children are out of school and realizing the dream of an educated nation requires enrolling them.

Member PM's Task Force on Hepatitis Elimination Dr. Saeed Akhtar said almost 10 million Pakistanis are active carriers of hepatitis. He stated that the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) has approved a PCI of 68.25 billion for the Prime Minister's Programme for the Elimination of Hepatitis C in Pakistan. The federal share will be 34.78 billion, while the provinces will contribute 33.42 billion for the programme in the next three years. The programme would be ex-

ecuted with assistance from 40 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as private partnership is key for the success of any programme.

He said that the programme aims to screen the entire population and attain hepatitis-free status by December 2029. A PM's portal has been set up for individuals to self-register for hepatitis virus screening, he added.

He asked people to avoid unnecessary injections and drips, tattoos, and get dental and surgical procedures only from authentic medical facilities with proper sterilisation of instruments, ask barbers to use new blades and in case of blood transfusion make sure it is screened properly.

Prime Minister's Coordinator Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath stated that there are 60 million people worldwide suffering from hepatitis, with 10 million of them in Pakistan.

Dr. Mukhtar said the PM's Hepatitis elimination program is being launched in collaboration with the federal government and all four provinces. Everyone over the age of 12 will be screened, and free treatment will be provided to those diagnosed

HEC, PBC collaborate to uplift quality of legal education

ISLAMABAD (APP): Members of PBC including Syed Anjad Shah, Hassan Raza Pasha, Haroon Rashid, Director (DLE) and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Monday to streamline efforts to uplift the standard and quality of legal education in the country. The signing ceremony was attended by the Federal Minister for Law & Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar and Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed.



ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Bar Council through its Directorate of Legal Education (DLE) and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The ceremony attended by Minister for Law & Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar and Chairman Higher Education Commission Dr. Mukhtar.

IESCO for adopting precautionary measures in rainy season

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has advised power consumers to adopt precautionary measures during the rainy season as little negligence can cause fatal incidents.

"As the incessant rains continue in the entire IESCO's Regions, the risk of electrical accidents becomes more prominent," IESCO Chief Director Operation Muhammad Aslam Khan told here Monday.

The IESCO requested esteemed customers to take necessary precautions to ensure their safety during rainfall and keep proper and safe distance from electrical installations like transformers, electric wires, poles and

PTA carries crackdown on illegal issuance of SIMs in 5 cities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Zonal Offices Lahore, Faisalabad and Peshawar have conducted a series of raids against franchisees cellular companies, located in Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Kot Momin, Kohat and Hangu.

The franchisees were reportedly involved in the illegal issuance of SIMs, often associated with criminal activities such as fraud, identity theft, and other illicit operations.

During the raids, the FIA seized 4 laptops, 1 PC, 12 BVS devices, active SIMs, mobile phones, hard disks, original CNICs with photocopies and soft copies of Afghan passports and POR cards. Fifteen persons working for the franchisees were arrested on the spot and FIRs have been registered by the agency, said a news release.

NHMP launches Radio FM 95 in 3 major cities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Inspector General of National Highway and Motorway Police (NHMP) Salman Chaudhry on Monday announced launch of Radio FM 95 transmission in three major cities including Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sargodha Punjab and Jamshoro for Sindh.

According to him, the initiative was a significant milestone in promoting road safety education among commuters on national highways.

He said since its inception, Radio FM 95 has been broadcasting informative and engaging content, including road safety tips.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to PM on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam chairing first meeting of Prime Minister's Committee on COP 29.

ICT admin cracks down on dengue violators: arrests 4, seals 3 outlets

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a determined effort to combat the spread of dengue, the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has intensified operations, resulting in the arrest of four individuals and the closure of three businesses for violations of standard operating procedures (SoPs) set by the government.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon emphasized the need for city-wide efforts to stop the growth of dengue larvae.

He called for unbiased and comprehensive inspections to be carried out across all sectors of the city.

Memon also stressed the importance of keeping citizens informed about ongoing operations and health measures.

The crackdown highlights the city's commitment to enforcing health guidelines and protecting public health.

The district administration plan to continue their stringent inspections and enforcement actions until dengue risks are significantly reduced.

CDA, EOBI collaborate on mega commercial projects in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) have agreed to collaborate on mega commercial projects in Islamabad.

The partnership aims to enhance revenue generation and contribute to the city's development.

During a meeting between CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa and EOBI Chairman Khaqan Murtaza, on Monday, various commercial initiatives and projects were discussed.

EOBI chairman expressed interest in investing in these projects, recognizing their potential for substantial returns.

Chairman CDA said the collaboration will explore new avenues for investment and development within Islamabad, with CDA sharing a basket of projects with EOBI for future collaboration. This strategic partnership marks a pivotal step towards enhancing the infrastructure and economic landscape of Islamabad, reflecting a shared commitment to progress and prosperity.

Islamabad Police ensures safe travel during rain

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, Islamabad Police officers are performing their duties in the field regarding cautious driving and road safety during the rains in the federal capital.

The recent spells of intermittent rain continue in Islamabad. Despite the rain and harsh weather, police officers are providing awareness to citizens about road safety and cautious driving during construction work at various locations in the city and provide every possible assistance to ensure the best travel facilities. The citizens praised this initiative of Islamabad Police, stating that Islamabad Police plays a key role in preventing traffic accidents and maintaining an integrated traffic system in the city.

The citizens are urged to follow traffic laws and ensure the safety of their own and others' lives by driving cautiously during the rains.

Moreover, citizens should avoid unnecessary travel during the rains, and if travel is unavoidable, they should take precautionary measures and follow traffic laws, especially maintaining lane discipline and adhering to the instructions of the traffic police officers present on site.

PM's Green Youth Movement launches training on climate action education

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Prime Minister's Green Youth Movement (GYM) has launched a four-day training program on Climate Action Education Curriculum and Digital Learning Portal at International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI).

The initiative is a collaboration with British Council Pakistan.

Ms. Noor Anam Malik, Managing Director National Academy for Higher Education-HEC, attended the event as chief guest. She emphasized the importance of equipping youth with knowledge and skills to address climate change.

The training aims to empower GYM focal persons and oversight committee members with advanced knowledge and practical



ISLAMABAD: Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, Chairperson Senate Functional Committee on Human Rights presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament Lodges.

Syed Zahid Raza says Pakistan's engagement with Africa has historical roots

Ambassador designate to Mauritius visits
Islamabad Chamber

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's engagement with Africa has historical roots and is characterized by mutual respect and cooperation. By harnessing mutual cooperation, Pakistan and Africa can unlock new economic opportunities and foster sustainable development. This has been stated by Pakistan's Ambassador designate to Mauritius Syed Zahid Raza during his meeting with former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry here on Monday.

He said that deeper engagements with Africa remains a strategic imperative for Pakistan, adding that forging a strong and effective partnership for peace, progress and prosperity is an indispensable goal, which should be advanced through a clear vision, consistent policy, and a long-term strategy. The Ambassador, while appreciating the role of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in advancing trade relations with friendly countries all over the world said that he would do his level best to strengthen the business to business and people to people relations with Mauritius alongside the diplomatic ties.

He said to achieve the objective, he will do his best to organize business delegations' visits to Mauritius especially the ICCI members for

nurturing the bilateral business relations. Zafar Bakhtawari apprised the visiting guest that the Chamber is already Africa focused and has recently celebrated Africa Day in a befitting manner for bringing Pakistan and the African countries closer to each other and that the Ambassador to Mauritius who is known as the best friend of Pakistan was also among the attendees.

He said that in the changed circumstances, Pakistan's envoys have to work with missionary zeal and devotion for the economic betterment of the country and bringing the countries closer to each other and strengthening business relations especially in the promotion of Pakistan exports and tourism potential.

He added that the



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with the Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan.

Finance Minister lauds PM's Youth Programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Monday appreciated Prime Minister's Youth Programme, recognizing it as a valuable scheme for supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

During a meeting with the Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, the minister expressed support for the initiative, highlighting its role in stimulating entrepreneurial activity and contributing to economic growth. Earlier, Rana Mashhood provided an overview of the Prime Minister's Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme. The scheme promotes entrepreneurship among youth by providing business loans on simple terms and with less markup through Commercial, Islamic and SME banks.



KARACHI: Brokers are busy in trading at Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi.

Shares rise as Pakistan Stock Exchange awaits monetary policy decision

KARACHI (INP): The share prices at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) rose by over 700 points on Monday as the buyers kept their eyes on the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) monetary policy announcement due later today.

As the business was set into motion in the first session, the stocks soared by 768.61 points or 0.98 percent, taking the benchmark KSE-100 index to 78,798.11 points as compared to previous close of 78,029.50.

Experts were of the view that the market was reacting positively to a string of factors including monetary policy decision and support by China.

On the last trading day on Friday, the stock market had failed to protect the psychological level of 80,000 points, closing the week in the red at slightly above 78,000 with a sharp drop of nearly 2,100 points.

FPCCI seeks industry status for packaging sector

LAHORE (APP): Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Regional Chairman and Vice President Zaki Aijaz

emphasized that the packaging sector is the backbone of all industries, and the government should grant it industry status to reap maximum benefits. Zaki Ijaz stressed that packaging is a significant sector where products inevitably reach local and international consumers. This industry is the backbone of our business, but regrettably, this sector has not yet been given industry status.

The packaging industry is the world economy's third-largest and fifth-largest industry in Asia. Zaki Ijaz also highlighted that the packaging sector is a significant part of our business and has not yet been given industry status. He expressed these views while addressing the members of All Pakistan Corrugated Cartons Manufacturers Association (APCCMA) here at FPCCI Regional Office.

Minister, WB team discuss green tourism

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora held a significant meeting on Monday with a World Bank team at his camp office.

The meeting was attended by Kiran Fazal Butt, representing the World Bank, along with the team from the Tourism for Economic Growth Project while Secretary of Human Rights Ali Bahadur, deputy secretary minorities, PS Syed Sajjad Imran Haider, and other relevant persons were also present.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the topics of minority religious tourism and green tourism. Furthermore, a five-year strategic plan was also discussed.

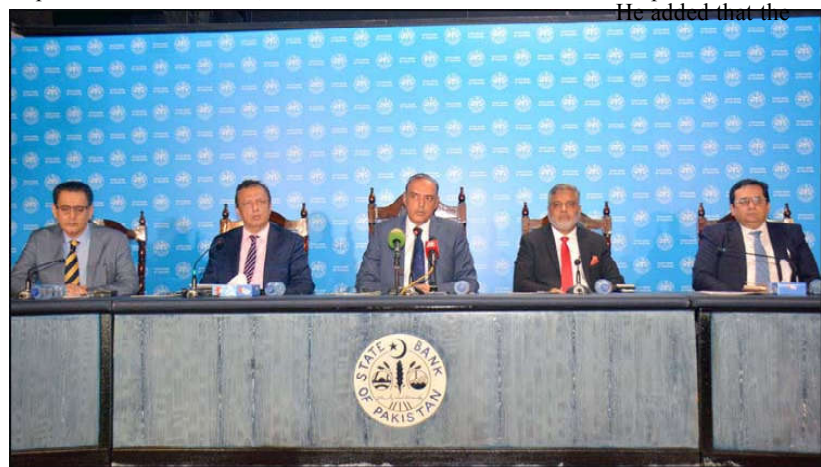


FAISALABAD: An artisan is giving final touch to the clay ovens (Tandoors) at his workplace Novlty Bridge Samanabad.

DDWPC reviews, approves new schemes

LAHORE (APP): A significant meeting of the Divisional Development Working Party Committee (DDWPC) was convened on Monday under the leadership of Commissioner Lahore, Zaid bin Maqsood.

The meeting focused on reviewing and approving 19 new development schemes across various sectors. The new development schemes for Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, and Kasur districts were evaluated. The meeting saw participation from Deputy Directors across all districts as well as representatives from pertinent departments.



KARACHI: Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Jameel Ahmad announce Monetary Policy during press conference at State Bank of Pakistan.

SECP initiates consultation to revamp Mutual & Pension Fund regimes

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) on Monday published a consultation paper, suggesting various alterations to the total expense regime (TER) and distribution paradigm for mutual funds and pension funds.

These suggestions aim to reduce the burden on retail investors, optimize their returns, inculcate better saving habits, and increase retail penetration, said a news release.

The consultation paper is made available on SECP's website to solicit public feedback and comments from stakeholders. The paper reviews the current regime in three parts including the TER framework for mutual funds, the TER of pension funds, and a review of distribution models.

Commissioner says Action plan prepared to eliminate encroachments for improved traffic flow in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi chaired a weekly meeting on Monday to review the progress of the improvement of traffic related and other civic issues.

The meeting discussed and planned actions to improve traffic flow, eliminate haphazard parking and illegal parking, restore basement parking in commercial buildings, and remove encroachments from footpaths and roads. Important decisions were made to make these actions effective.

All Deputy Commissioners attended the meeting. Deputy Commissioner South Altair Sario, Deputy Commissioner Central Fawad Ghalifar Soomro, and Deputy Commissioner Kemari Juned Khan briefed the Commissioner on various city improvement measures in their respective districts. Other Deputy Commissioners shared their efforts via video link. Food department officials also attended the meeting and briefed the commissioner on the measures to check the quality of milk and other food items and prevent the sale of adulterated or unhealthy food.

The meeting reviewed and decided that Food department officials would check the food quality with the concerned district administration officials.

In the meeting, it was decided that Deputy Commissioners will take action to solve the problems of encroachments, parking, billboards, and construction materials with comprehensive planning, in coordination with concerned departments including with Traffic Police.

Zong launches 'Doorstep Delivery'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G, the leading telecommunication service provider in Pakistan, on Monday announced the launch of its new "Online Booking Portal and Home Delivery Service".

Zong is committed to making digital services accessible to all Pakistanis by offering affordable and convenient solutions.

The company's focus on affordability ensures that everyone can benefit from the power of technology, while its commitment to convenience brings services directly to the doorstep, said a news release.

According to the official spokesperson for Zong 4G, "Keeping the evolving demands of our customers, Zong's new Online Booking Portal and Home Delivery Service innovates the customers experience. This is one of the many steps we are taking to digitalize our customers' journey with Zong."

Through its home step services, Zong's goal is to make its services directly available to customers' homes and ensure that even those who may have limited mobility or access to physical stores can still benefit from the digital products and services.

RCCI welcomes interest rate cut

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has welcomed the reduction in interest rate by the State Bank of Pakistan.

In a statement issued here today, the Acting President of RCCI Muhammad Hamza Sarosh has lauded State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) for its decision to reduce the interest rate from 20.5% to 19.5%. He said that the reduction in interest rates will increase business activities. However, he noted that interest rates were still high as compared to the neighboring countries in the region, and underlined the need to further reduction in it.

Pakistan fifth among countries affected with hepatitis: FCCI President

FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan is fifth among countries most affected with hepatitis B&C after China, India, Indonesia and Nigeria with a total number of 12.6 million patients suffering from this deadly disease, said Dr Khurram Tariq, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).

In a statement on Monday, he said that the prevalence of hepatitis in Pakistan is around 8.64% while it is a whopping high up to 17.77% in Faisalabad alone. However, the ratio of this silent killing disease is much higher in aged persons, he added. He stressed the need for an organized, collaborative and continuous effort to contain this disease in this industrial, commercial and business hub of Pakistan. He said that most of the public sector hospitals have special facilities for the treatment of hepatitis in addition to a dedicated Liver Centre in the Allied Hospital-II (DHQ Hospital) Faisalabad.

However, he lamented that there was no facility for liver transplant in Faisalabad as a kidney and liver transplant institute is available only in Lahore. He said that the Punjab government has established 36 hepatitis filter clinics in different districts and these clinics must be made more proactive to identify patients suffering from this disease.



HYDERABAD: A woman farmer busy in cutting the rice crop in her field at Tando Muhammad Khan Road.

PYMA urges PM Shahbaz to abolish RD on yarn, citing threat to textile sector, SMEs

KARACHI (INP): Sohail Nisar, Sr. Vice Chairman of the Pakistan Yarn Merchants Association (PYMA), along with Vice Chairman Jaweed Khanani and members of the Executive Committee, expressed deep concern regarding the imposition of regulatory duty (RD) on polyester yarn under HS Codes 5402.3300, 5402.4700, and 5402.4600.

He urged Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Industries and

Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, to intervene and rescind the 5% RD on this essential textile raw material, warning of dire consequences for the textile sector and its associated small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

PYMA office bearers highlighted that both last year and this year, the National Tariff Commission (NTC) had recommended the removal of the 5% RD on Polyester Yarn. Despite meetings within the Ministry of

Commerce, it was agreed to abolish RD; however, the RD was unfortunately retained in the new Federal Budget for 2024-25. This decision has triggered widespread anxiety within the textile industry, particularly among yarn importers. He emphasized that the 5% RD effectively amounts to 8% due to its compounding impact and called on the government to instruct the Federal Board of Revenue to eliminate this duty. They argued that levying RD on Polyester Yarn is unjustifiable since it constitutes a fundamental raw material essential for affordable fabric production. With rising operational costs, including utility charges, local business activities have stagnated, and industrial operations are running below capacity. Mr. Sohail pointed out that the local textile industry already benefits from an 11% customs duty subsidy. Adding a 5% RD during the import stage pushes the effective duty rate to around 19-20%.



QUETTA: Special Secretary Finance Habibur Rehman Jamote presiding over meeting of Investment Committee.

Govt taking measures to combat environmental pollution : CM

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that all possible measures are being taken to eliminate environmental pollution in Punjab.

In a meeting with British High Commissioner in Pakistan Jane Marriott to discuss promotion of mutual cooperation in education, health and other sectors, here on Monday, the CM added, "We are providing solar panels to people for economic relief." The solarization project will be started in Punjab from August 14, she mentioned.

The CM said that transparency and merit would be ensured in the bidding of solar panel project, adding that British companies are welcomed

to participate in the project. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif briefed British High Commissioner Jane Marriott that the Punjab government was taking all possible measures for the protection of women and children. She apprised her about the establishment of first Virtual Women Police Station and Virtual Child Safety Center in Punjab.

The British High Commissioner appreciated the implementation of the Sikh Marriage Act in Punjab, and termed the Child Marriage Bill an exemplary initiative of the Punjab government. She said the Punjab government was taking unique and historic steps for the protection of women and children.



LAHORE: British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott meeting with Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan.

KP assembly passes Provincial Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 2024

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Assembly on Monday passed the Provincial Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 2024 while Khyber KP Zakat and Ushr (Amendment) Bill 2024, the Provincial Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2024, and the KP Police (Amendment) Bill 2024 were introduced in the house.

Assembly Secretariat Employees Terms and Conditions of Service Bill 2024 was also presented. The passage of the Provincial Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill aims to enhance accountability in the province. The bill, introduced by Law Minister Aftab Alam, passed with a majority vote. It stipulates that the Ombudsman will serve a three-year term, with a maximum age limit of 60 years, and will have the authority to address

corruption complaints from citizens.

The KP Zakat and Ushr (Amendment) Bill 2024 facilitates the collection of Ushr from landowners, lessees, or occupants. The Assembly Secretariat Employees Terms and Conditions of Service Bill 2024 was referred to the Select Committee, chaired by Law Minister Aftab Alam, with the Deputy Speaker and Advocate General as members.

The government proposed amendments to the Police Act 2017, including changes in the recruitment process for Assistant Sub-Inspectors and increasing the quota for police martyrs' families from 5% to 12.5%.

The Assembly also adopted several resolutions. PPP Parliamentary Leader Ahmad Kundi highlighted the deteriorating law and order situation.

Investigation into Janikhel incident referred to KP Standing Committee

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly has referred the investigation into the Jani Khel incident, in which four people were killed, to the Standing Committee.

The Assembly session, presided over by Speaker Babar Saleem Swati, began with a delay of two and a half hours.

During the session, MPA Adnan Khan of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) party questioned the Home Department about the 2021 incident in Jani Khel, Bannu, where four bodies were found.

He inquired about the actions taken since the agreement made with the then-Chief Minister but received an unsatisfactory response from the department.

Adnan Khan demanded that the matter be referred to the Standing Committee, citing the government's lack of

concrete steps to address the issue. Law Minister Aftab Alam clarified that the agreement was made with the district administration, not the Chief Minister, and a package was announced for the affected families.

Provincial Minister for Public Health mentioned that talks with the affected families were planned and a package would be announced soon.

Adnan Khan persisted in his request for the matter to be referred to the Standing Committee.

Speaker Babar Saleem Swati emphasized the importance of addressing the security concerns of lawmakers and suggested forming a committee to tackle these issues.

The matter was then referred to the Standing Committee, with Law Minister Aftab Alam stating that the government had no objections.



LAHORE: Blind persons hold a protest in favor of their demands outside press club in the Provincial Capital.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi presides over the 4th senate meeting of the University of Agriculture D.I.Khan at Governor House.

Chairs 18th Senate meeting of Gomal University Governor stresses for improvement in quality of education, finance

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday chaired the 18th Senate meeting of Gomal University Dera Ismail Khan here at Governor House and stressed the administration of the varsity to bring improvement in quality of education and in finance.

During the meeting, the annual budgets for the fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 were conditionally approved, subject to a re-evaluation by the Senate's standing committee.

Governor Faisal

Karim Kundi on this occasion issued directives to all universities to conduct a third-party audit within six months.

He advised Gomal University to complete its third-party audit process within two months instead of one and to inform the Chancellor's Office in writing.

The Governor also directed for details regarding the university's solarization plan.

An allocation of 80 million rupees has been set aside for this purpose, with 40 million rupees provided by the Higher

Education Commission (HEC) and the remaining amount to be covered by the university's own resources, briefed the Governor.

"A total of 480 million rupees is required for the complete solarization of the university,"

The Governor emphasized the need to make every effort to secure the necessary funds and mentioned discussions with State Life Insurance to develop a scheme for universities.

He urged Gomal University administration

to provide the required information promptly to facilitate the process and set an example for other institutions.

He said that technical issues were noted in the budget preparation, and the committee will review the transparency of the statistics. Governor Faisal Kundi stressed that the university should contribute regularly to its pension fund, noting a current need of 1.7 billion rupees solely for pension payments. He expressed the desire for universities to become self-reliant and increase their resources.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a joint Agriculture and Irrigation department meeting, held at CM House.

IGP releases Rs2m for medical treatment

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr Usman Anwar on Monday released over Rs2 million for providing medical facilities to police employees in Lahore as well as other districts.

According to the details provided by the IGP office, Constable Shifa Ullah Khan from DG Khan was granted Rs500,000 for knee and leg surgery; Office Superintendent Muhammad Shafiq Awan Rs500,000 for brain haemorrhage treatment; Security Constable Muhammad Awaiz Butt from the Special Protection Unit Rs200,000 rupees for lung treatment; Sub-Inspector Waheed Iqbal, Special Branch, Rs200,000 for brain injury treatment. Constables Irfan Ali from Lahore and Muhammad Farooq from Gujrat have also been provided Rs100,000 each for treatment.

Whereas, Constables—Muhammad Naseer Khawar and Javed Iqbal—from Toba Tek Singh were granted Rs100,000 for medical treatment. Head Constable Muhammad Hussain and Naib Qasid Ali Haider Hashmi have each been given 100,000 rupees for their families' medical treatment. Additional IG Welfare and Finance Riaz Nazir Gara chaired the welfare management committee, which reviewed the applications received from across the province. On the recommendations of the committee, IGP Punjab Dr Usman Anwar issued orders to release.

We have to move forward with latest tech, artificial intelligence: Siddiqui

KARACHI (APP): The Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, on Monday said we have to move forward by equipping ourselves with modern technology and artificial intelligence.

He said that our all-time tested friend China invested at right time in right place and took it's poor people out of poverty level. While addressing a cheque distribution ceremony of Nursing and Arts and Culture Students by Pakistan Education Endowment Fund (PEEF) at National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA), he said that our region was

developing in spite of the more population in our neighboring countries. He said that they did not make the population a liability, but made it their asset and China was the best example of it. The Education Minister said that the youth of the country were our assets. Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that NAPA was an institution for the promotion of intellectual freedom and art. He said that the students were important to us. He further said that most of the countries had high population level, but there was innovation in these countries and those countries needed our manpower.

Chinese Consul General meets Karachi Police Chief

KARACHI (APP): A three-member delegation, led by Yang Yundong, the Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Karachi, met with Additional IGP Karachi Javed Akhtar Odho at the Karachi Police Office on Monday. According to the Karachi Police spokesperson, the meeting with the Karachi Police Chief covered the overall security situation in the city and other related issues.

The delegation informed the police chief about the challenges faced by Chinese citizens in Karachi, to which the police chief assured prompt action for their resolution.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Additional IGP Karachi presented honorary shields to the Chinese Consul General and the other members of the delegation.

US Deputy Chief Mission appreciates formation of Youth Assembly

MULTAN (APP): US Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Schofer appreciated the formation of Youth Assembly at Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture Multan and stated that youth were future of Pakistan and it could play role in promotion of civic, social justice and gender equality. He said this while addressing ceremony of Youth Assembly, held under auspices of "HumAhang" at local hotel on Monday. The US deputy chief of mission also lauded the active role of the varsity. He hoped that youth assembly would surely play its role for

professional success by shaping minds of the students. He also pledged that US would continue to support such initiatives.

Andrew Schofer stated that he was first time visiting Multan. He however added that he was very happy to visit the city of the people who were sweet like mangoes and soft like cotton. Dean Environmental Science Shaqat Saed also spoke and stated that the youth assembly would serve as nursery to promote leadership skills amongst the student. The students would be able to resolve their issues by raising their voice in effective manner.

British High Commissioner, Governor discuss climate change, bilateral issues

Independent Report
LAHORE: The British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott called on Governor of Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan and discussed ways to strengthening bilateral relations and tackling challenges of climate change during a meeting at the Governor's House here on Monday.

Governor Sardar Saleem Haider said Pakistan attaches great importance to relations with Britain, adding that the British government's cooperation in education, health, social and other sector is commendable.

He said climate change is a global issue, stressing despite having minimum contribution in carbon emissions climate, Pakistan has suffered a lot due to climate change. He said that climate change is

also having adverse effect on the agricultural sector of the country.

Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said federal and provincial governments are working on various projects to deal with the issue of climate challenge. He said Pakistan has plenty of renewable energy resources. He said that there is a need to bring people towards solar energy to deal with the energy crisis. The Governor informed the British High Commissioner about the efforts to solarize the Governor House Lahore and universities of Punjab.

He hailed the British government for the water management program started in different districts of Punjab.

British High Commissioner Jane Marriott, speaking on the occasion,



PESHAWAR: Activists of Human Rights Association hold protest outside PPC.

CM Sindh to provide small growers with agri equipment, tube wells, smart systems to boost sector

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM), Syed Murad Ali Shah presiding over a joint meeting of agriculture and Irrigation departments has decided to facilitate small and medium-level farmers and landholders by providing through the Agriculture Department agricultural equipment, machinery, tubewells, solar systems, and smart irrigation systems at subsidised rates.

The meeting was held at the CM House and was attended by Minister P&D Nasir Shah, Minister Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro, Minister Agriculture Sardar Mohammad Bux Mahar, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder

Shah, PSCM Agha Wasif, SMBR Baquallah Unar, Secretary Agriculture Rafiq Burio, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoui, and other concerned officers.

The CM said that he wanted to facilitate small and medium-level farmers and landholders by providing agricultural equipment, machinery, tubewells, solar systems, and smart irrigation systems at subsidised rates. "Farmers will pay only a small share of the total cost of the facilities so that they could own them, utilise them for their benefit and ultimately contribute to strengthening agro-economy," he said.

Minister Agriculture Mohammad Bux Mahar briefed the CM about the measures taken to boost the agriculture sector. He said that the provision of agriculture equipment and solar systems for tube wells to the growers would support agricultural productivity.

The CM directed the Secretary Agriculture Rafiq Burio to submit to him a detailed proposal of the growers that may be targeted under the provision of equipment. "We have to work out its financial implications so that necessary funds can be arranged apart from the allocations made in the current budget," he said.



RAWALPINDI: People wade through a flooded street at Raja Bazaar amid heavy rainfall, in the city.

Intense rains, RCB personnel put on high alert

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Cantonment Board has put its filed personnel on high alert after the city has witnessed intense rain with gusty winds on Monday. Since the MET Office has predicted more rain during the current monsoon spell in Punjab province, the RCB's filed teams have been tasked to be vigilantly prepared to respond with full magnitude.

Rawalpindi Cantonment Board's CEO Syed Ali Irfan Rizvi had issued instructions to all the officers to stay in the field in this regard.

The CEO said that staffers deployed for drainage in low-lying areas were engaged in draining water. Arrangements are complete in view of any flooding situation, he said.

The spokesman RCB, Rasheed Saqib informed that both the Additional CEOs were present in the field and monitoring the developing situations in low lying areas and the nullahs.

Drainage is being ensured by the personnel under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Officer, he said. Additional CEO Umair Mehboob visited different areas of the Cantt early in the morning and reviewed the entire situation.

Court adjourns hearing of Punjab Assembly illegal recruitment case

LAHORE (APP): An anti-corruption court on Monday adjourned the hearing of the Punjab Assembly illegal recruitment case until September 4 and gave a final opportunity to former chief minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi to appear on the next date of the hearing.

Anti-Corruption Court Judge Safdar Ali Bhatti conducted the proceedings during which accused Muhammad Khan Bhatti was produced after being brought from jail.

The other accused who were on bail also

appeared and marked their attendance. A counsel on behalf of Chaudhry Parvez Elahi submitted an exemption application, stating that his client had not recovered from a fracture yet and that doctors had advised him to rest. He pleaded with the court to exempt Parvez Elahi from personal appearance for one day. However, the court expressed annoyance at the non-appearance of Chaudhry Parvez Elahi and reminded the counsel that it was giving the last opportunity for Parvez Elahi to appear.

LHC dismisses Azam Swati's application to transfer bail cases

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday dismissed an application filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Azam Swati for the transfer of his interim bail applications from an anti-terrorism court (ATC) to another court. The single bench, comprising LHC Chief Justice Ahsan Neelum, heard the application filed by the PTI leader.

Swati's counsel argued before the court that his client had obtained interim bail in the May 9 cases from the ATC in Lahore. He submitted that the ATC judge had disclosed a bias against the petitioner during a recent hearing of the interim bail applications.

However, the Chief Justice observed that Azam Swati had not yet joined the investigation.

