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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on Chinese investment in Pakistan.

Governor calls for taking revolutionary changes in old curriculum, traditional procedure in public sector varsities

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the world is moving ahead at a fast pace, as such we have to bring revolutionary changes in the capacity of human resource, traditional procedure and old curriculum at the public sector universities level to be compatible with the ever changing world.

The Governor said that all the vice chancellors of universities have been made bound to achieve these objectives so that they may introduce the subjects of their universities compatible with the relevant and market demands.

He stressed the need to

avoid from opening unnecessary and irrelevant departments in the universities.

The Governor was speaking on occasion of the briefing conducted about performance and future plan of the Bolan University of Medical and Health Sciences here on Monday.

Also present on the occasion were the Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Dr Shabbir Ahmed Lehri and Principal Secretary to Governor, Muhammad Hashim Khan Ghilzai.

The Governor said that it is requirement of the time that our higher educational institutions may produce maximum professional according to the prevailing circumstances and modern re-

quirements and even to prepare design for our mechanics, technical experts and machine operators at the district level.

He said that he has issued directives being chancellor of the public sector universities to their vice chancellors to identify irrelevant subjects and unnecessary departments in their respective universities.

They have also been directed to prepare their future roadmap for introducing the subjects based on the important and market for near future.

In this regard, they should also keep the steps of quality control in view for ensuring effectiveness of every new programme, he added.

SC stays IHC's proceeding in audio leaks case

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday served notices to respondents in an appeal of federal government against the order of Islamabad High Court (IHC) related to the alleged audio leaks of Najam us Saqib and Bushra Bibi.

The top court also suspended the order of IHC dated June 25, and stopped its proceeding into the matter till further orders.

A two-judge bench comprising Justice Amin ul Din Khan and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan heard the case. The apex court, in its order regarding the hearing, said that the Additional Attorney General has stated that the proceedings of the IHC have not been finalized. The high court has exceeded the jurisdiction of Article 199, the principles have been laid down in two decisions of

the Supreme Court that the high court cannot take suo-moto notices by itself.

It said that the court was told that the five questions decided in the hearing of the high court on May 31, were not the case of the petitioners. It was also told that the high court could not investigate.

The Additional Attorney General Amir Rehman told the court during the hearing that in the order of the IHC of May 29, the authorities were stopped from phone tapping and CDR. Due to the order the institutions are unable to do counter intelligence and caught terrorists.

The court said in its order that the order of the IHC dated 29 May 2024 was reviewed. This order was not extended in the next court proceedings, so they are not suspending the order, it added.

Announces cash prize for heroic work of driver: CM applauds excavator driver on rescuing family from flashflood

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has highly praised an excavator driver on immediately rescuing a family stranded in the flashflood in Killa Abdullah area.

According to an official hand out issued here on Monday, the Chief Minister also announced cash prize for the driver of excavator. He said that the driver set a fine example of public service by saving life of a female and children while demonstrating extreme courage and bravery.

The Chief Minister said that those serving the society with dedication are our real heroes. He announced to award commendation certificate and cash reward to the driver of excavator. It may be mentioned here that a car was stranded in the flashflood in Toba Achakzai area of Killa Abdullah.

By seeing the critical situation, the local dwellers called the driver of excavator immediately, who rescued the family with car they were riding in, from the flood water demonstrating extreme courage and bravery.



ISLAMABAD: General Secretary Jamiat Ulema-Islam-Fazi (JUI-F) Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri addressing during Aalmi Majlis Tahaffuz Khatm-e-Nubuwwat protest in favor of their demands in front of Parliament house, in the Federal Capital.

CS announces to form task force for prevention of narcotics at provincial & district level in Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has announced to form task force for prevention of narcotics at the provincial and district level in the province.

The Chief Secretary was presiding over the meeting about prevention of narcotics in the province, here on Monday.

The meeting reviewed the measures for prevention of the narcotics in educational institutions of the province. Those who were present in the meeting were included Additional Chief Secretary Home, Shahab Ali Shah, Secretary Health, Muhammad Saleh Baloch, Secretary Information, Imran Khan, Regional Director of ANF, Brigadier Adnan, Director General Public Relations, Noor

Khetran. Addressing the meeting, Chief Secretary said that the narcotics sellers are bringing our generations at the brink of destruction.

He stressed that we have to keep our youth and every individual away from narcotics so as to save them from this curse.

He directed to take action against use and sale of the drugs in educational institutions.

PM orders 50% of public sector cargo to be routed via Gwadar Port

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed to bring 50 percent of all public sector cargo inland by sea through Gwadar port.

He was chairing an important review meeting regarding Chinese investment in Pakistan, in Islamabad today. The Prime Minister was given a detailed briefing on the visit of the delegation of Chinese experts to Pakistan.

It was informed that a delegation of Chinese experts visited Pakistan from 30th of last month to 6th of this month. The Chinese delegation met representatives of various ministries in which the ministries gave

suggestions regarding increasing cooperation in related fields.

During the visit of the delegation, significant progress was made in terms of cooperation and investment in the fields of trade and investment, energy, agriculture, information technology, communication and infrastructure.

It was briefed that services of Chinese experts will be hired to increase domestic exports and eliminate non-trade barriers. Sectoral road shows will be organized in different cities of China to increase exports of Pakistani products.

It was apprised that Chinese companies have in-

creased interest in relocating Chinese industries to Pakistan. Pakistani students and research scholars will be trained in the field of agriculture in China for which 572 applications have been received so far.

The Prime Minister directed to give equal participation to students from all provinces for this training.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the completion of Information Technology Park project in Islamabad would help boost country's exports in this sector and prove as significant milestone in achieving \$25 billion IT exports target.



Lt Gen Ahmed Dawood Salman, Secretary Defence of Iraq meeting with General Sahir Shamsah Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi.

Tarar says: Provinces should follow Center, Punjab to ensure substantive relief to masses

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar on Monday brushed aside the undue criticism about relief initiative of Federal and Punjab governments in power bills, and called upon other provinces to follow suit for ensuring instant relief to the masses during summer season.

Talking to the media, he said it was the foremost priority of the government to provide substantive relief to the masses, reduce price of the electricity and bring down the inflation in the country.

"Provision of the relief to the people by the federal and Punjab governments during the summer season is a good move which should be welcomed by all," he added.

He said the federal gov-



ernment had already given upto Rs 5 per unit relief to all the protected and non-protected consumers in three months' electricity bills (June to August) with a generous allocation of a subsidy of 50 billion rupees.

Tarar pointed out that all those consumers who used upto 200 units of the electricity per month, had already received the relief across the country.

Likewise, the Punjab government allocated Rs 45 billion from its own funds to give subsidy to those who were using 200 units to 500 units per month.

Cumulatively, the relief initiatives of both the governments did provide the much-needed relief to the masses, he said, adding now it was up to other provincial governments to take identical steps to ensure relief for the masses.

Three brave sons of soil embrace martyrdom. Five terrorists killed during infiltration attempt at Pak-Afghan border

RAWALPINDI (INP): Three soldiers were martyred and five militants were killed during an intense exchange for fire near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

Four others got injured. The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a statement said a movement of a group of militants, who were trying to infiltrate Pakistan-Afghanistan border, was picked up by the secu-



der in Bajaur district.

The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a statement said a movement of a group of militants, who were trying to infiltrate Pakistan-Afghanistan border, was picked up by the secu-

Iraqi Defence Secretary, CJCS discuss bilateral security enhancements

Independent Report

RAWALPINDI: Lt Gen Ahmed Dawood Salman, Secretary Defence of Iraq called on General Sahir Shamsah Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi.

Matters of bilateral interests including, emerging security environment and enhancement of security and defence cooperation between the two countries were discussed during the meeting.

The visiting dignitary commended the professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged the sacrifices rendered by people and Armed Forces of Pakistan in the war against terrorism.

Torrential rains claim 18 lives in Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: As many as 18 persons died while 11 got injured in different rain and flood related mishaps occurred in different parts of Balochistan since July 1, 2024.

According to an official report shared by PDMA on Monday, human losses including casualties were reported from Khuzdar, Zhob, Hub, Sibi, Loralai, Ziarat, Kachhi and Killa Abdullah.

As per the report, 124 houses were completely collapsed while 293 were partially damaged during the rains and flashflood in different parts of the province.

Similarly, the heavy rains and flashflood also caused damages to six bridges in the province.

190 million pounds case: IHC stops trial court to announce final decision

ISLAMABAD (INP): Approving a request by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) stopped the trial court from announcing the final verdict on the £190 million settlement case.

A two-member divisional bench, comprising IHC's Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Babar Sattar, on Monday, heard a plea filed by the deposed prime minister, seeking the records for a past National Accountability Bureau (NAB) decision to close the graft case.

The incarcerated PTI chairman is accused of causing billions of rupees loss

to the national exchequer in a case also involving a property tycoon. During the hearing, Khan's counsel Salman Safdar maintained that the proceedings in the reference against the former prime minister are still underway, and the last of the 35 witnesses are under cross-examination. He apprised the court that there were eight accused, six of which are absconders and the two are Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi.

As per the allegations in the case, the petitioner of this plea, facilitated the settlement between the government and the property tycoon when he was the prime minister, the counsel added.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding provision of medicines to provincial hospitals

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Reluctant austerity

The time for tokenism has long gone. Unless the current government gets serious about introducing and implementing a long-term sustainability plan, the financial pain the nation is being made to suffer now will yield few positive outcomes for the future.

Under pressure to curtail its expenditures, the government is reportedly mulling various measures to 'right-size' its footprint. The proposals currently under consideration include merging some ministries, and either collapsing, shutting down, or transferring a total of 28 departments under five identified ministries to the private sector.

Another proposal seeks to consolidate 12 institutions running under these five ministries, while yet another suggestion is to abolish the around 150,000 positions currently lying vacant in the federal government and gradually phase out various posts in grades 1 to 16. Meanwhile, the prime minister is also said to be insisting on shutting down or privatising any state institution "which has not shown adequate performance".

But the question is, will these measures make any real difference? It may be recalled that PM Shehbaz Sharif has previously announced not one, but two government austerity drives at different points during the last two odd years. Both failed and have since been quietly shelved.

Meanwhile, the federal government's total expenditures have more than doubled since the ouster of the PTI government in April 2022. Within the same period, the combined budget for the National Assembly and the Senate has been increased by more than 100pc; from Rs9.9bn in fiscal 2022-23 to a total of Rs19.98bn for this fiscal year. Furthermore, government salaries have been increased by 25pc this year, while additional financial resources of around Rs40bn have been allocated for civil servants in the form of loans and advances. At a time when ordinary citizens have been forced to tighten their belts in extremely painful ways, this profligacy cuts in inexpressible ways.

There is no question that the size of the government needs to be reduced post-haste. However, these efforts need to go beyond mere sound bites. Pakistanis have paid dearly for their government's inability to run the country within its means. Public debt, which has continued to accumulate at an accelerated rate over the past few years, has seemed not to be as much of a problem for those responsible for its accumulation than for ordinary citizens, who have paid for it in the form of runaway inflation and higher taxes.

The only way to demonstrate a commitment to righting this wrong is by the government cutting its expenditures in meaningful and painful ways. It must take back all unnecessary perks and privileges given to certain categories of public servants, such as free fuel, electricity and air tickets. Austerity should begin at the top. Otherwise, it will be little more than just for show.

COP in Pakistan

Aisha Khan

As the climate crisis continues to escalate, the pressure to implement sectoral policies will also increase. It is often said that climate change is multi-sectoral therefore making it difficult to implement policies after the 18th Amendment. However, beyond that no mention is made of how to bridge the gap between policy and implementation, affix responsibility, monitor progress and make systemic functions robust and accountable. It has become common practice to identify problems and attribute inaction to lack of finance, capacity and technology without examining the core issues responsible for slow progress or taking action to make policy implementable.

All the major sectors affected by climate change have a policy that serves as the guiding document for coping with emerging threats. The National Climate Change Policy 2021, National Water Policy 2018, National Food Security Policy and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy are comprehensive documents that outline the challenges and provide a roadmap for action. The implementation frameworks provide targets and timelines but fall short of sharing means of implementation or any mechanism for monitoring, reporting and verification.

The institutional arrangement in climate governance after the 18th Amendment raises many questions. The fundamental question of responsibility stands diluted. Every province has developed its own climate change policy with place-based and people-centred priorities. While ostensibly sub-national policies feed into the National Climate Change Policy, there is no mechanism

under which the centre can demand timely implementation from the provinces.

The Pakistan Climate Act, 2017, was designed to strengthen the technical capacity of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, build capacity of provincial stakeholders and provide a forum for discussion between the centre and the provinces for coordinated action. After a delay of seven years, the notification for operationalising the Climate Authority was done at the behest of the Supreme Court but questions about procedural due diligence still remain.

The lack of human capital and short-changing the system in procurement are two big hurdles. Recruitment routinely ignores merit. This has caused a steady decline in functions and now we are confronted with a critical capacity crisis. In climate governance, the world has moved into a domain where technical qualification, subject specific knowledge and quality research is needed to address challenges. This was the fundamental objective of creating a provision for setting up a 'Climate Authority' under the Climate Act. However, if roles are not assigned on merit, it will become another white elephant providing people with high salaries for low performance.

In order to improve coordination, build consensus, and enhance transparency and accountability, developing a customised model of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would be useful. An annual COP in the country will bring all stakeholders together to discuss country climate issues and how best to agree on an agenda of solutions. The Paris rule

book can serve as the toolkit for steering the process.

The modalities and responsibilities of the parties can be developed once the concept is actualised and representative bodies identified. Hosting an annual COP in Pakistan will allow for a systemic review of policies and compliance with 'Provincially Determined Contributions' that feeds into the Nationally Determined Contributions. The issues of mitigation, adaptation, finance and means of implementation can also be discussed at this annual convening, making the process both transparent and accountable with 'Common but Differentiated Responsibilities' for developing an equitable and inclusive roadmap that leaves no one behind.

In 2016, Pakistan had also signed the Open Government Partnership at the Paris Summit but that agreement, too, fell by the wayside. The OGP offered the perfect tool for strengthening good governance by co-creating policies with agreement on priority actions between civil society and sector-specific government agencies. This participatory approach to development would have made it possible to create collective ownership and a transparent mechanism for monitoring progress.

However, with mounting threats, the country can no longer afford inaction on climate. The judiciary in Pakistan has always taken a proactive stance on climate justice, upholding human rights. The best way forward is to enhance parliamentary oversight and increase judicial vigilance to ensure that the system is not derailed by vested interest groups. -- Courtesy Dawn

Predatory instincts

Huma Yusuf

The government installs a 'web management system'. Unidentified men whisk away a YouTuber who posts satirical content. A fashion designer threatens legal action against the director and cast of a TV serial. A legislator objects to a female professional's outfit and calls for SOPs for women's attire. These may seem like disconnected matters. But they are signs that a surveillance society is becoming entrenched in Pakistan, an outcome we must resist.

Anxieties about surveillance have been mounting globally and are largely linked to 'surveillance capitalism', ie, the commodification of personal data, particularly by Big Tech. There is a growing focus on the extent to which individuals are aware of what personal data they are surrendering, to whom, and why.

Concerns about surveillance capitalism mounted when it became clear that customer data collection was enabling not only targeted advertising and improved user experience but also behavioural manipulation, for example, by skewing voting preferences. The regulation of Big Tech and its use of personal data will soon be a key human rights battle.

In this context, old-fashioned state surveillance — in the sense of the state collecting information about its citizens — seems passé. But it continues to be a major concern globally, and certainly in Pakistan.

In an article for Constitutional Political Economy, Alshamy et al argue that state surveillance can either be protective-productive or predatory. In the former case, the state collects personal information to support citizens and im-

prove welfare service delivery. In the latter, state data collection "reduces citizen welfare by violating the rights of citizens or by extracting resources from citizens to benefit a small group of politically connected elites. This harms individual agency, freedom and self-governing democracy."

The authors note that predatory data collection is non-transparent, poorly legislated and regulated, and often in the service of nebulous national security considerations that can be interpreted variously by whichever stakeholder has most power. In this scenario, the courts become helpless to challenge surveillance, as they too become subsumed by the state narrative. The plight of missing persons in Pakistan is the perfect illustration of a predatory surveillance state in action.

Increasing attention is paid to the links between capitalist and state surveillance, in the sense of public understanding that private sector players, such as internet service providers or social media platforms, are required to surrender customer data when the state comes calling.

But what is less considered is the impact of surveillance becoming normalised — the de facto approach to political and social interaction. When power becomes synonymous with the ability to surveil the activities of others — shame them, report them, and so ultimately control them — then it will contaminate society. Those who seek status and control will increasingly use surveillance as a tool to shape public behaviour to their own ends. Meanwhile, self-censorship, the survival tactic of Pakistani media, will become the default mode of all citizens.

Pakistan has already

seen the toxic effect of this kind of social surveillance through the misuse of the blasphemy laws — the fear that someone may perceive something you say, do, or absent-mindedly forward to be profane, and wield that ultimate power of an accusation, resulting in conviction or lynching.

But we are now on the precipice where social control and abuse previously linked to state monitoring of 'anti-establishment' activities is becoming more pervasive. We are moving from the realm of state and capitalist surveillance to one of social surveillance, one in which citizens, taking a cue from the state itself, are willing to police each other's clothing, artistic output and sense of humour.

The powers that be may be pleased by this ripple effect. But they should tread with caution as no good comes of surveillance states. The most obvious toll is economic. We have heard all week about the millions lost to internet disruptions while the state installs its 'web management system', but that may not be the extent of it. Academic research on the Stasi in East Germany (admittedly an extreme example) has documented economic losses from lack of innovation, less self-employment, widespread unemployment and brain drain. More material is the social toll of less inclusive, more predatory societies. In our highly weaponised and already conflict-prone context this would manifest as surveillance as a trigger for violence. The ultimate problem with surveillance is that its parameters are necessarily non-transparent and ever-shifting, meaning everyone is vulnerable. Who knows who already has eyes on your data? -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Govt taking measures to facilitate investments into country: FM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Reiterating government's commitment to provide a stable and conducive business environment, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said here Monday that all necessary measures were being taken to facilitate investments.

The minister was talking to President and Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO) Mashreq

Bank, Ahmed Abdelaal, who virtually called on him to discuss the economic outlook and explore investment opportunities in Pakistan, according to press release issued by finance ministry. The meeting was also attended by Minister of State, Ali Parvez Malik, and senior officers from the Finance Division and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) the press release added. The Finance Minister underscored the

significant potential of Pakistan's IT and Agriculture sectors, calling for increased investment from both local and international stakeholders to drive economic growth. He expressed appreciation for Mashreq Bank's interest in Pakistan's financial landscape and expressed keen interest of the government to re-engage with Mashreq Bank. The Minister

provided an overview of the economic outlook of the country and mentioned the recent improvements in the macroeconomic indicators and stability of the currency and financial markets. He also mentioned the economic policies and initiatives of the government, emphasizing the ongoing efforts to stabilize the macroeconomic environment and enhance investor's confidence.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a virtual meeting with Mr. Ahmed Abdelaal, President / GCEO of Mashreq Bank to discuss the economic outlook and explore investment opportunities in Pakistan.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh unveiling the plaque during the one-day conference titled 'COLMAB 24' on Logistics, Maritime Affairs and Blue Economy.

Pakistan's earns \$297m from IT services' export during July 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned US \$297 million by providing different Information Technology (IT) services in various countries during the first month of the current fiscal year 2024-25.

This shows a growth of 32.46 per cent as compared with the US \$ 224.950 million earned through the provision of services during the corresponding month of the last fiscal year 2023-24, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

During the month under review, the computer services grew by 23.09 per cent as it surged from US \$187.470 million last year to US \$230.750 million

during July 2024. Among the computer services, the exports of software consultancy services witnessed an increase of 24.53 per cent, from US \$62.780 million to US \$77.262 million this year while the export of hardware consultancy services also surged by 189.32 per cent, from US \$0.067 million to US \$0.677 million.

The export of repair and maintenance services however decreased by 6.06 per cent from US \$0.033 million to US \$0.031 million whereas the export and imports of computer software services also dipped by 13.36 per cent.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity remained active at the port where four ships namely One Reliability, Suzy, Ullswater and Marangas Kalymnos scheduled to load/offload Containers, Iron ore, LPG and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Engro Terminal and Gasport Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile three more ships, Agios Dimitrios, Two million Ways and Fairchem Mako carrying Containers, Mogas and Palm oil also arrived at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim during the last 24 hours. A total of eight ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships.

SECP roundtable on 'Insured Pak through promoting Takaful'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The SECP organized a roundtable discussion to support its 'Insured Pakistan 5-year strategic plan' by promoting the development of the takaful sector in Pakistan with the CEOs and heads of takaful operations of all insurance companies. The session titled "Takaful: Unlocking the Growth Potential" was a half day event, held at Karachi.

The aim of the roundtable was aimed at exploring avenues for the growth and development of the takaful sector in Pakistan in the Journey towards an insured Pakistan, said a press release issued here Monday.

SECP Chairman, Mr. Akif Saeed in his welcome address highlighted Takaful's acceptability among masses, and that SECP placed specific focus on takaful as a strategic priority in the 5-year plan for the insurance sector. He assured the takaful sector of SECP's support to work together for the sector's advancement.

JazzCash transforms 350,000 businesses' smartphones into POS machines

ISLAMABAD (APP): JazzCash, Pakistan's leading fintech platform has launched its latest feature, 'Tap-Pay for Businesses', enabling over 350,000 businesses across the country to accept payments through their Android smartphones.

This cutting-edge feature allows businesses to seamlessly receive payments from any contactless debit or credit card or another smartphone with a simple tap on the businesses' NFC-enabled device, said a news release. The launch closely

9th Colour & Chem Expo to open on 24th

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan's leading and dedicated exhibition for dyes, chemicals, and allied sectors, the 9th Colour & Chem Expo is being organized from 24th August 2024 at Lahore International Expo Centre.

The event will host more than 300 exhibitors representing the forefront of innovation in Dyes, Chemicals, and allied industries. Companies and their representatives from China, Malaysia, Turkey and Iran are also participating in the expo.

Exhibition is being organized by the Event and Conference International, Rainbow Group and Punjab Dyes & Chemicals Merchants Association.

PSX loses 214 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) shed 214.97 points on Monday, showing a negative change of 0.28 percent, closing at 77,830.34 points against 78,045.31 points on the last working day.

A total of 471,749.071 shares were traded during the day as compared to 600,719,724 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 16.915 billion against Rs 17.071 billion on the last trading day.

ICT exports remittances surges to US\$286 mln in July: Shaza

ISLAMABAD (APP): ICT exports remittances reached US\$286 million in the first month of Financial Year 2024-25 (July).

ICT exports increased 33.64% over the US\$214 million remitted during corresponding period last year FY2023-24 (July), said Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja.

She in a statement said that the present government is committed

for increase in IT exports. Minister of State for IT said that the Prime Minister of Pakistan is fully focused upon uplift of the IT sector.

She said that on the directives of the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the full support of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), Ministry of IT and Telecommunication, and Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) are taking steps to increase country's IT exports.

Internet disruption adversely affecting the business activities: CAP

LAHORE (INP): The Chainstore Association of Pakistan (CAP) has expressed serious concerns over the recent internet disruptions, primarily affecting mobile internet and WhatsApp, warning of significant impact to export-oriented and domestic commercial activity across the country.

Chairman CAP Mr Tariq Mehboob, along with CAP Co-Founder and National E-Commerce Council Member Mr Asfandyar Farrukh, highlighted the far-reaching consequences of these disruptions, stressing the urgent need for permanent

resolution. They were of the view that Pakistani businesses were already grappling with multiple challenges, including high taxes, soaring electricity costs, and increasing liquidity challenges. Amidst these difficulties, inconsistent and unreliable internet services were creating additional hurdles, severely affecting revenue streams and service quality.

Chairman CAP Mr Tariq Mehboob said, "These internet disruptions not only impact large-scale businesses but also individuals running small enterprises who rely on stable connections.

Governor KP acknowledges tribal people services to nation

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Monday acknowledged the valuable services of the tribal people to the nation and measures will be taken to redress undertaken their problems and grievances.

The Governor expressed these views during a meeting with a representative delegation of the Koki Khel tribes from the merged district of Khyber at the Governor House in Peshawar.

The delegation included Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) candidate Malik Naheed Shah, Khan Muhammad, and Sanaullah, among other tribal elders. They informed the Governor about the difficulties faced by the Koki Khel tribes' displaced persons.

The delegation highlighted that they have been living as temporary displaced persons (TDPs) since 2012. Although approximately 60 percent of the area has been cleared since 2017, they are still forced to live as TDPs.

They also mentioned that the provincial government has not shown serious commitment to resolving their issues, including the compensation for completely destroyed homes, which remains unimplemented.

The delegation requested the Governor to raise their issues before the federal government and seek cooperation for resolving their problems.

Governor Kundi assured the delegation that, since taking office, he has been engaging with the federal government to address the issues faced by both the province and the merged districts. He committed to continuing to advocate for the resolution of these problems at all relevant forums.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of District Bar Association Peshawar meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi.

Punjab leads in modern technology usage: Marriyum

LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb announced that under the visionary leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the province has taken the lead in utilising cutting-edge technology across Pakistan.

Punjab has embraced a new era of modern technology to safeguard wildlife and protect endangered species, she added. In a groundbreaking initiative, Punjab has begun using advanced thermal

technology to detect blackbucks and houbara bustards, both of which are facing threats to their survival.

Following the guidance of CM, the senior minister spearheaded the deployment of thermal drone technology.

She said that with the expertise of modern specialists, the Punjab Wildlife Department has successfully implemented the technology, which identifies animals by detecting the heat they emit.

ANF recovers 85 kg drugs in 11 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations across the country managed to recover 85 kg drugs worth Rs 25 million and arrested 11 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that 1 kg ice was recovered from a parcel sent to Qatar at a courier office in Rawalpindi.

In second operation, 250 grams ice was recovered from a passenger going to Bahrain at Faisalabad Airport.

In third operation, 189 grams ice was recovered from a passenger going to Bahrain from Lahore Airport.

40 kg hashish and 14.4 kg ice were recovered from a vehicle intercepted near RCD Road Lasbela and an accused was arrested during the operation.

Minister Ramesh Arora extends greetings to Hindu community

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora has extended heartfelt greetings to the Hindu community in Pakistan on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

In his message, he stated that Raksha Bandhan is a symbol of love, protection, and brotherhood, reminding us of the values of sacrifice and safeguarding one another.

He highlighted that Raksha Bandhan reflects the eternal bond between brothers and sisters, where a sister prays for her brother's long life and prosperity, and in return, the brother vows to protect and ensure his sister's happiness. This festival promotes love and unity within families, which is the foundation of any strong society.

The Provincial Minister further emphasized that all religious and cultural minorities in Pakistan have complete freedom to celebrate their customs and traditions.

The Government of Punjab is committed to protecting the rights of minorities and is taking all possible measures for their welfare, he added.



MULTAN: Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani offering feteiha on the death of Makhdoom Syed Hamad Raza with his brothers and other relatives.

Minister for public-private partnership to improve education's quality

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Education Faisal Khan Tarakai on Monday directed the management of eight selected schools under the Public-Private Partnership for the current academic year to improve the quality of education in the province.

He was chairing a meeting regarding Public-Private Partnership (PPP) where significant measures to enhance the quality of education in the province were discussed.

The meeting was attended by Additional Secretary Reforms Jahangir Azam, Additional Director Dr. Iqbal, and the Public-Private Partnership team.

The provincial minister further directed that a case be prepared for management of eight more schools in the next phase-2.

During the meeting, a list of over 100 newly established primary schools for boys and girls in various districts of the province was also presented.

It was decided to make these schools functional as soon as possible under the PPP to provide quality and modern education to children in underprivileged areas.

Health minister chairs provincial outbreak committee meeting

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Health Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah presided over a crucial meeting of the Provincial Outbreak Committee in Peshawar, emphasizing the importance of public precautions and social distancing to prevent the spread of diseases.

He urged the media to collaborate with the Health Department in raising awareness about monkey pox virus, vaccination and other vital health measures. In response to potential outbreaks, the Health Department has established Rapid Response Teams and is setting up isolation wards across districts. The current patient, who arrived in Pakistan on August 10, has been isolated at the Hayatabad Medical Complex.

Genetic sequencing revealed that the patient had contracted the virus, prevalent in West Africa. A Provincial Control Room has been established at the Directorate General of Health Services, with additional district-level control rooms in the works.

3 children die of measles in Ahmadpur East

BAHAWALPUR (APP): According to the report issued from the Chief Executive Officer of Bahawalpur, the deaths of three children from a single household in the neighboring union council of Rajroho, Ahmadpur East were not due to any mysterious illness.

Medical reports indicated that the three children of Mahboob Ahmed, a resident of Rajroho, were afflicted with measles.

Their parents opted for home treatment, but two of the children passed away on August 3 and August 5, respectively.

Bail of Cheema confirmed in 12 May 9 related cases

LAHORE (Online): Bail of PTI leader Musarrat Jamsheed Cheema has been confirmed in 12 cases related to May 9.

Musarrat Jamsheed Cheema appeared in Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) along with lawyers team of Insaf Lawyers Forum.

The court confirmed bail of Musarrat Jamsheed Cheema after lawyers arguments.

Talking to media men later Musarrat Jamsheed Cheema said "I refute it strongly what allegation has been leveled by a journalist. I swear that PTI founder has never asked me to contact General (Retd) Faiz Hameed.

What has been said

about using name of Azam Swati as code word for making contact with Faiz Hameed or Atta Bandial is only presumption.

The day Imran Khan was arrested he did not ask me to contact Faiz Hameed at all. She indicated the journalist evolved presumption that PTI founder Imran Khan made me call and asked me to contact Azam Swati. In code word Azam Swati meant Justice (Retd) Bandial or Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed.

On that day I would have contacted any one with whom Imran Khan asked me to contact because that was most trying time.

Man gunned down by rivals

SARGODHA (APP): A man was gunned down by his rivals over old enmity here at Kacha Tari Khalil area on Monday.

Rescue 1122 sources told that Nusrullah Khan (45) r/o Tari Khalil had an old enmity over domestic issues with Hameed-ullah and Muhammad Nawaz. On the day of incident, they killed him after opening fire at him.

The body was shifted to hospital whereas Musa Khalil police.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Communication and Works Malik Sohaib Ahmed addressing the ceremony organized in the honour of officers of Excise Department those who made best recovery.

International News

Blinken, in Israel, says now is 'maybe the last' chance for a Gaza cease-fire deal

Monitoring Desk TEL AVIV: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Monday the time is now to conclude a Gaza cease-fire agreement that would return hostages held by Hamas and bring relief to Palestinian suffering after 10 months of devastating fighting in Gaza.

Blinken's ninth urgent mission to the Middle East since the conflict began came days after mediators, including the United States, expressed renewed optimism a deal was near. But Hamas has expressed deep dissatisfaction with the latest proposal and Israel has said there were areas it was unwilling to compromise.

The trip, days ahead of new talks expected this week in Egypt, comes amid fears the conflict could widen into a deeper regional war following the killings of top militant commanders in Lebanon that Iran blamed on Israel.

"This is a decisive moment, probably the best, maybe the last, opportunity to get the hostages home, to get a cease-fire and to put everyone on a better path to enduring peace and security," Blinken said as he opened talks with Israeli President Isaac Herzog in Tel Aviv.

"It's also time to make sure that no one takes any steps that could derail this process," he said in a veiled reference to Iran. "And so we're working to make sure that there is no escalation, that there are no provocations, that there are no actions that in any way move us away from getting this deal over the line, or for that matter, escalating the conflict to other places and to greater intensity."

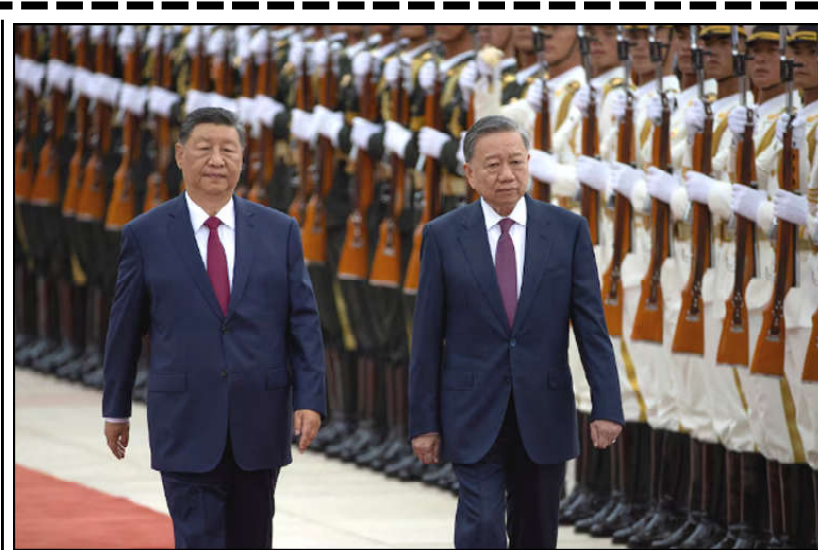
Herzog thanked Blinken for the Biden

administration's support for Israel and lamented a spate of recent attacks against Israelis in the past 24 hours.

"This is the way we are living these days," Herzog said. "We are surrounded by terrorism from all four corners of the earth and we are fighting back as a resilient and strong nation."

Mediators are to meet again this week in Cairo to try to cement a cease-fire. Blinken will travel to Egypt on Tuesday after he wraps up his Israel stop in meetings with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant later Monday.

The war began Oct. 7 when Hamas-led militants broke into Israel, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250.



Chinese President Xi Jinping walks next to Vietnam's President To Lam as they pass by the honour guard during a welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China.

China and Vietnam's top leaders meet in Beijing

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China's President Xi Jinping held talks on Monday with Vietnam's new leader To Lam in Beijing on his first state visit since he took office, Chinese official media Xinhua said. The meeting signals the close ties between the two communist-run neighbours, which have well-developed economic and trade relations despite the occasional boundary clashes in the energy-rich South China Sea.

China, displaying exuberance over Lam's choosing China for his first official trip, said last week it "fully reflects the great importance he attaches to the development of ties between both parties and countries". Lam arrived in China's southern province Guangzhou on Sunday for a three-day visit that would include meetings with Chinese Premier Li Qiang and other Chinese top officials.

While in Guangzhou, he visited some Chinese locations where former President Ho Chi Minh conducted revolutionary activities. Last December, China and Vietnam signed more than a dozen agreements when Xi visited Vietnam.

The agreements, specifics of which were not announced, covered strengthening railway cooperation and development, investments in various fields and establishing communication to handle unexpected incidents in the South China Sea. In a lengthy joint declaration, both countries said they would work on cross-border railway connectivity, naming three rail projects that included one connecting through mountainous Lao Cai in the Vietnam's northwest to the port city Haiphong.

Putin arrives in Azerbaijan for state visit

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Azerbaijan's capital Baku on Sunday for a two-day state visit, Russian news agencies reported.

Russian television broadcast images of the Russian president's plane as it arrived in Baku in the evening.

His visit to the Caucasus country, a close partner of both Moscow and Turkey but also a major energy supplier to Western countries, comes against the backdrop of an unprecedented Ukrainian military offensive on Russian soil.

Putin is due to hold talks with his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev on bilateral relations and "international and regional problems", the Kremlin

Kamala Harris labels Donald Trump as cowardly in campaign speech

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: U.S. Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris has labeled her Republican opponent, Donald Trump, as "cowardly."

During a campaign speech in Pennsylvania, Harris criticised Trump, stating that the upcoming presidential election on November 5 would be a contest against a cowardly candidate whose political strategy revolved solely around undermining opponents.

Harris pointed out a troubling trend in recent years, where a leader's power and capability were judged by their ability to bring others down.

Ukraine destroys second key bridge in Russia's Kursk region

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Ukraine said on Sunday it had struck a second key bridge in the Kursk region, seeking to disrupt Moscow's supply routes as Kyiv's unprecedented incursion on Russian soil stretched through its second week.

Russia meanwhile ramped up pressure in east Ukraine, claiming to capture another village just a few kilometres from the Ukrainian-held logistics hub of Pokrovsk.

"Minus one more bridge," Ukrainian Air Force Commander Mykola Oleschuk said on Telegram, publishing an aerial video of a blast tearing through a bridge near the Russian town of Zvanoye.

"The Air Force aviation continues to deprive the enemy of logistical capabilities with precision air strikes," he said.

Yemen flood toll climbs to 60

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: Flooding caused by torrential rainfall in war-torn Yemen has led to at least 60 deaths since July, with 13 others still missing and a total of 268,000 people affected, the United Nations said Monday.

Yemen, already grappling with an almost decade-long war, suffers from severe floods on a near-annual basis that are triggered by torrential rainfall, while climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of precipitation.

Since July, flash floods have caused 36 deaths in Hodeida province, nine in Ibb, eight in Marib, and seven in Taiz.

Russian forces capture town of Zalizne in Ukraine's east, defence ministry says

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia's Defence Ministry said on Monday that its forces had captured the town of Zalizne in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region, as its offensive against the nearby city of Toretsk gains steam.

Zalizne, which Russia calls by its Soviet-era name of Artyomovo, adjoins Toretsk, a mining town and longtime bastion of Ukrainian forces operating in the Donbas region.

Thousands of activists expected in Chicago for Democratic convention to call for Gaza cease-fire

Monitoring Desk CHICAGO: Thousands of activists are expected to converge on Chicago this week for the Democratic National Convention, hoping to call attention to abortion rights, economic injustice and the war in Gaza.

While Vice President Kamala Harris has energized crowds of supporters as she prepares to accept the Democratic nomination, progressive activists maintain their mission remains the same.

Activists say they learned lessons from last month's Republican National Convention in Milwaukee and are predicting bigger crowds and more robust demonstrations in Chicago, a city with deep social activism roots. Demonstrations are expected every day of the convention and while their agendas vary, many activists agree an immediate cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas war is the priority. Police lined the march route and there were no signs of major conflict. At one point, anti-abortion activists staged a small counter-protest.

Police did not immediately respond to an email asking if there had been arrests more than three hours into the march. Organizer Linda Loew said even though Democrats have pushed to safeguard reproductive rights at home, the issue is international. They marched in solidarity with people everywhere who struggle for the right to control what happens to their bodies, as well as to protest the money the U.S. spends to back wars that could be used for healthcare, she said.

"We believe that the billions of dollars that continue to flow to the state of Israel and the flow of weapons are having an inordinate and horrific impact, but in particular on women, children and the unborn," she said. "All of these things are tied together." The largest group, the Coalition to March on the DNC, has planned demonstrations on the first and last days of the convention.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal addressing the conference on food security SPP (National School of Public Policy) during the opening ceremony.

Ziaullah Langove exhorts youth to make pen strength instead of carrying weapons

Provincial Minister for Home says those advise youth to carry weapons instead of pen are actually responsible for backwardness of Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has stated that those advise the youth to carry weapons instead of pen are actually responsible for backwardness of the province.

He said that the talented youth are the precious asset of the country and nation, as such he exhorted them to make pen their strength instead of carrying weapons.

In an official statement issued here on Monday, the Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Ziaullah Langove, who also happens to be the senior Vice Presi-

dent of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), maintained that the youth should take responsibility of the development and prosperity of province in a democratic manner by rejecting the politics of violence, confrontation and hatred.

He said that the elements who make politics of falseness and hatred would have to suffer disgrace.

The Minister Home also said that the top priority of provincial government is to promote education, provide healthcare facilities and healthy activities to the youth.

He said that the revolutionary measures taken under leadership of Chief

Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti are bearing positive results. He said that Balochistan is just like bouquet of different nationalities and we have to promote harmony, brotherhood and peace among ourselves.

Mir Ziaullah Langove further said that youth would reign the country in coming time, and surely the dream of educated Balochistan would be materialized with their cooperation.

He once again urged the youth not to pay heed towards the negative propaganda, as the enemy elements want to use our youth for their nefarious designs.

Gilani expresses grief over losses due to rains, floods

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani Monday expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and property caused by heavy rains and floods in various parts of the country, particularly in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In a message, he extended his heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, stating that he shares their grief during this

difficult time.

Gilani offered prayers for the swift recovery of those injured and urged the relevant authorities to expedite their relief efforts. He emphasized that natural disasters are a global challenge, and their negative impacts can only be mitigated through collective efforts. Highlighting the challenges Pakistan faces due to climate change, he advised people to take precautionary measures.



KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman along with others addresses to media persons during press conference, at Idara-e-Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi.

Instead of limiting relief to Punjab Hafiz urges nationwide reduction in power tariffs

KARACHI (INP): Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, Hafiz Naeemur Rehman, has called for a reduction in the basic electricity tariff across the entire country, rather than limiting relief to Punjab.

He demanded this during a press conference in Karachi on Monday, emphasizing that the proposed Rs14 per unit reduction for two months in Punjab should be extended nationwide.

Rehman criticised the heavy burden placed on the public by Independent Power Producers (IPPs), attributing the blame to suc-

cessive governments, including those led by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q), and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

He stated that the public could no longer bear the excessive capacity charges imposed by these agreements.

He warned that if the government failed to honour the agreement made with IP

to provide relief to the people, the party would initiate long marches towards Islamabad from across the country.



QUETTA: Secretary Local Bodies and Rural Development Abdul Rauf Baloch presiding over departmental meeting

Bus collides with trailer in Sukkur, killing 8 people

SUKKUR (INP): A speeding passenger bus collided with a trailer, resulting in the deaths of eight people, including women and children, and leaving seven others injured.

This incident took place in Sukkur Multan Motorway (MS) in the town of Ghotki.

According to the police, the ill-fated passenger bus was traveling from Mansehra to Karachi when the accident happened at a location near the village of Dring Malook in Ghotki. The bus collided with the

side of a trailer, leading to the loss of 8 lives and 7 injuries.

The deceased include women and children, and 3 of the injured are reported to be in critical condition. Upon receiving the information, the police and Rangers reached the site, rescued the injured, and transported them to the Tehsil Hospital in Ghotki. The motorway police stated that it was raining at the time of the accident, and the wet conditions may have been a contributing factor to the tragic incident.

Muqam urges KP govt to prioritize public service over politics

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for States and Frontier Region and Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs Engr. Ameer Muqam on Monday urged the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government to prioritize public service over politics after learning examples set by other provinces.

The KP government's focus on alleged corruption has hindered its ability to address the needs of its citizens, he said this while addressing a press conference here.

He emphasized that other provinces, such as Punjab, Balochistan, and Sindh, have made significant strides in providing relief to their populations.

Arif Alvi says he is not scared of Article 6

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former president Dr Arif Alvi said on Monday the government should go ahead with its plan to impose Article 6 on him as he was not scared.

"Let the government impose Article 6 on me: I am here and will go nowhere," the former president said in an interaction with journalist in the Islamabad High Court.

Answering a question, he said: "They (government) should go ahead and fulfill their wish of imposing Article 6 on me."

The government, he said, instituted hundreds of cases and it could add to these.

This would afford him an opportunity (to plead his case), he added.



Roof Hasan hasn't done anything illegal, says Barrister

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI) chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said on Monday that PTI leader Roof Hasan's contacts with foreign journalists were normal and legal. Speaking outside the office of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the PTI chief said that Raof Hasan was an educated person who wrote articles in different newspapers, adding that his contact with other journalists was a normal thing.

Political stability, continuous policies must to overcome economic challenges: Ahsan

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has stressed upon the need of political stability and sustainable policy framework to overcome the prevailing challenges to the economy including the food security and climate change.

He stated this while addressing the 2nd National Conference on Food Security organized under the auspices of the National School of Public Policy (NSPP) here on Monday.

The Minister termed the food security, water scarcity and unplanned population growth as the biggest problems being faced by the country. He said that the rapid increase in population was a serious threat that hinders the progress and development of the country. He added that Pakistan became the major victim of climate change in the world and the heavy floods in 2022 damaged the national economy up to billions of dollars.

He said that Pakistan was blessed with multiple

resources and there was a dire need to utilize these resources amicably and effectively. Referring to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor introduced during PML-N previous tenure 2013-18, he deplored the neglecting of this game changer project which led to the shifting of Chinese investment to other global destinations. He was of the opinion that policies must need more than 10 years.

The Minister also urged the provincial governments to come forward and play their due role to eliminate poverty by adopting effective policies in consultation with the researchers.

Ahsan Iqbal said that through 5Es i.e., Export-Led Growth, Environment, Equity and Empowerment, Energy Efficiency and Affordability, the country could progress. He added that youth empowerment and the role of women in the national economy were vital for the progress of the country.

Ahsan Iqbal said that

"we have to adopt modern technology". He informed that under the special initiative by the Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Pakistan will be sending 1,000 agricultural scientists to China in the coming months, who will learn modern techniques aimed at increasing average yield in agriculture and livestock productivity. He assured the government's all-out support to implement the recommendations of this conference. The objective of the conference was Food for All: Available, Accessible, Affordable, Edible. The Planning Minister said that incumbent government will soon unveiling 2024-2029 five years plan aimed at steering the country out of the economical crises. The two days national conference was also addressed by Dr Ejaz Muneer Rector of the NSPP, researchers and agri experts. The scholars presented their research papers and suggested possible solution to the issues of food security.



QUETTA: Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran, Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafiqat and Focal Person Chief Minister Media Cell Matloob Tahir Raja visiting Information Cell

BAEF approves 377 cases in its 21st board meeting

QUETTA (APP): The Board of Balochistan Awami Endowment Fund (BAEF) has approved 377 cases to provide financial assistance and medical facilities to poor patients suffering from various chronic diseases from across the province.

The decision was taken in 21st board meeting of BAEF, held under the chairmanship of Parliamentary Secretary Social Welfare Wali Muhammad Noorzai on Monday approved a total of 377 new cases suffering from various diseases across the province, said a news release.

The aid would be given to poor and needy patients suffering from different chronic diseases under the BAEF initiative to

get them treated in the best public and private sector hospitals across the country. In the meeting Secretary Social Welfare and Special Education Abdul Rahman Buzdar, Director General Social Welfare Shujaat Ali Khoso, Balochistan Awami Endowment Fund Program Director Samina Rind, Deputy Director Admin Social Welfare Department Amjad Lashari, Dr Sadiq Achakzai, Dr Sher Zaman Mandokhail, Dr Zahid Mahmood, Dr Hanif Mengal, Dr Ariya Masoom, Dr Abdul Haq Baloch, Dr Pervaiz Achakzai, Amrit Lal, MIS Officer Saadat Iftikhar, representatives of Bolan Medical Hospital and Cenar Hospital also participated.

On the occasion, Par-

liamentary Secretary Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai said that all the cases were fully investigated and the documents were inspected in detail to ensure transparency. He said that the best medical facilities and treatment would be provided in the country's renowned hospitals. Under the BAEF initiative, financial assistants has been providing to the poor patients for the treatment of "open heart surgery, Thalassaemia, Cancer, liver and kidney transplants. All cases had been approved by the medical board on merit basis. As many as 123 patients would be provided treatment in Bolan Medical Complex (BMC) Hospital Quetta, 152 people would be treated in Cenar Hospital Quetta.



QUETTA: Sindh MPA Nawabzada Burhan Chaudhry meeting with Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Sadiq Umrani

Commissioner Quetta appreciates services of Jumma as DC Pishin

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Division, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat has highly appreciated the services of Captain (Retd) Jumma Dad Khan Mandokhail who was posted as Deputy Commissioner Pishin and now transferred from there.

The Commissioner Quetta was speaking on occasion of the farewell ceremony arranged in honour of the transferred Deputy Commissioner Pishin, Jumma Dad Khan Mandokhail on Monday.

Also present on the occasion were the Director General of PDMA, Jahanzaib Khan, Additional Commissioner Quetta, Sivan Dashti, newly appointed Deputy Commissioner Pishin, Zahid

Ahmed, Assistant Commissioners of Quetta and other officers.

The Commissioner Quetta appreciated the administrative capabilities of Jumma Dad Khan Mandokhail and said that he took wholehearted steps for resolving the public issues and implementation on the government policies during the posting in Pishin.

He said that the Deputy Commissioner also took steps for improving law and order, Tribal feuds, political and social problems under excellent strategy. In the end, Commissioner presented gift of traditional carpet to the transferred Deputy Commissioner Pishin.

Meanwhile, DG PDMA gave away commemorative shield to Jumma Dad Mandokhail.



ISLAMABAD: MPA Mir Zabid Ali Reki meeting with Chairman Standing Committee Senator Sardar Muhammad Umar Gorgage

AJK PM says: Govt committed to serve people indiscriminately

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister, Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq Monday said that the government was working with a missionary spirit to provide all possible reliefs to masses without any discrimination.

He stated this while talking to different delegations that called on him in his home town of Bhimber.

Anwar-ul-Haq said that financial assistance would be provided to the poor and needy under the Social Protection Program. He said that the

people would get economic benefits soon from different mega projects, the incumbent government had launched during the past couple of years.

The AJK PM said that addressing public grievances was the government's top priority.

He said that the governance system in the region had improved significantly.

On this occasion, the prime minister listening to the people's grievances, issued orders to the concerned authorities for effective redressal of their problems.



QUETTA: Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango talking with Secretary Health Saleh Baloch

Senate body takes notice of alleged malpractices in housing scheme

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Functional Committee on Problems of Less Developed Areas has ordered an inquiry into widespread power theft across Pakistan and took notice of alleged malpractice by a NESPAK consultant involved in the Park Road Housing Scheme under the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA).

The meeting, chaired by Senator Agha Shahzaib Durrani, scrutinized both the ongoing electricity theft concerns and the alleged corruption within the housing project.

During the session, the Committee reviewed the

implementation of recommendations from previous committees, particularly focusing on actions taken against corrupt officials of the Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) over the past five years.

Senator Shahzaib Durrani highlighted discrepancies in QESCO's disciplinary actions, criticizing the seemingly inconsistent grounds for the termination of certain individuals.

He noted that while some individuals were dismissed for not showing enough interest in anti-theft initiatives, others received only minor penalties for more serious misconduct and corruption.

MQM-P urges Sindh govt to provide Punjab-like relief in electricity bills

KARACHI (INP): Senior leader of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Dr Farooq Sattar has called upon the Sindh government to take a cue from the Punjab government and offer relief in electricity bills to consumers, the Sindh government has yet to take similar steps.

Farooq Sattar accompanied by members of the National and Provincial Assemblies held a press conference at the MQM-Pakistan House in Karachi on Monday.

Dr Farooq Sattar highlighted the growing frustrations of Karachi's residents

over soaring electricity costs and load shedding in the city.

He pointed out that while the Punjab government, under the leadership of Maryam Nawaz, has provided a relief of Rs14 per unit in electricity bills to its consumers, the Sindh government has yet to take similar steps.

The MQM-P leader expressed concerns over the continuous increase in electricity bills and the persistent load shedding in Karachi, which he described as discrimination against the city's residents.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Leaders, Farooq Sattar along with others addressing to media persons during press conference held at Pakistan House in Karachi.

New Toshakhana reference Court orders to send Imran, Bushra Bibi in jail on judicial remand

RAWALPINDI (Online): Judge Nasir Javed Rana of Accountability Court (AC) Islamabad has ordered to send PTI founder and Bushra Bibi to jail on 14 days judicial remand in new reference of receiving invaluable jewelries of Balghari company from Toshakhana.

The court has ordered to present both of the accused before it on September 02.

Both of the accused were presented in the court Monday on completion of their 11 days physical remand.

Barrister Suleman Safdar counsel for the accused and NAB Prosecutor General Sardar Muzaffar Abbasi were also present in the court.

NAB did not request for further physical remand of the accused persons. Former Chairman PTI

and Bushra Bibi filed written reply in the court to NAB questionnaire.

Upon it the court sent both the accused to jail on judicial remand besides directing they be presented before it on September 2.

It is alleged in new Toshakhana reference that PTI founder and his wife Bushra Bibi received jewelries of Balghari company from Toshakhana on low price and they sold them in the market. The cost of jewelry set was Rs 7 crore 50 lac. The accused have filed bail petition in this case.

It is pertinent to mention here that NA had arrested both the accused on July 13 in Toshakhana reference.

Court had approved first 8-day physical remand of the accused on July 14 and directed NAB to conduct investigation in jail.