

Independent

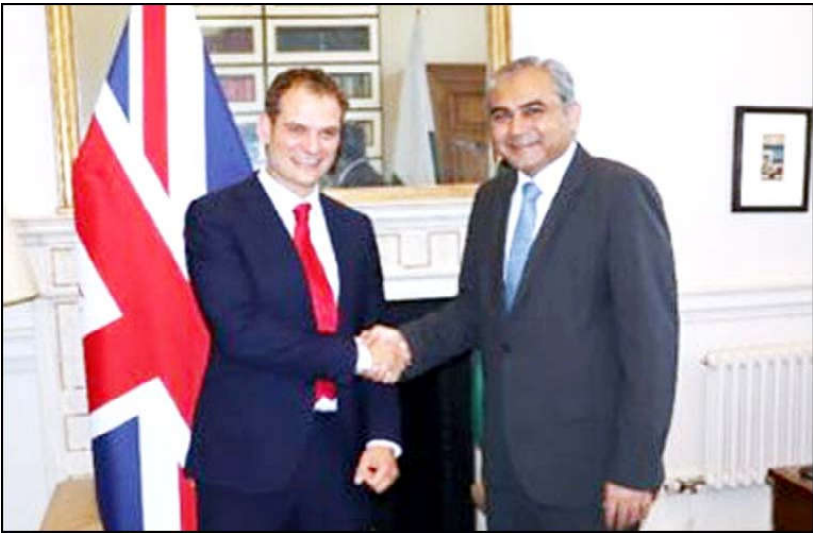
dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

Vol. XIV No. 189 Reg. mails-B/ID-445 Friday August 16, 2024, Safar 10, 1446 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

COAS warns of attempts to create rift between public and armed forces

Pays tribute to Army veterans for dedication, instrumental role in shaping nation's history

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir has paid heartfelt tribute to the contributions of the retired personnel, lauding their dedication and instrumental role in shaping the nation's history. He emphasized the paramount importance of unity and resilience in the face of challenges, urging veterans to continue playing a vital role in Pakistan's progress and development. The COAS also cautioned against the insidious threat of fake news and propaganda being perpetrated by inimical elements to weaken the bond between the people of Pakistan and the Armed Forces. He reassured that the unwavering support of the nation, including the veterans would foil all such futile efforts. The veterans expressed faith and confidence in the leadership of the Pakistan Army, pledging their support in combating both internal and external security challenges. The event served as a testament to the unbreakable bond between the Pakistan Army and its veterans, united in their commitment to the nation's prosperity and security.



Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi meeting with British Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Hamish Falconer in London.

Pakistan, UK agree to continue counter-terrorism cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi met with British Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan) Hamish Falconer in London and discussed matters of mutual interest, including the promotion of Pakistan-UK bilateral relations. The British Under-Secretary of State extended felicitations to Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and the people of Pakistan on the occasion of Independence Day, said a press release. During the meeting regional peace & stability and combating the scourge of terrorism were also discussed. Both ministers emphasized the need to increase mutual cooperation for peace and stability. The minister stated that the second phase of repatriation of the Afghan refugees to their homeland would start soon. He said that Pakistan was the most affected country by terrorism, while its security forces have made unprecedented sacrifices in the war against terrorism and added that terrorism was a global issue, and many countries face this challenge in various forms. While welcoming British cooperation in combating terrorism, the minister said that joint actions in this regard would be fruitful. He emphasized that Pakistan was a peaceful country and desired lasting peace in the region. He further highlighted that Pakistan and the UK have historical friendly relations. The British Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State said that Pakistan was an important member of the Commonwealth and acknowledged Pakistan's sacrifices in the war against terrorism.

Gen (Retd) Bajwa removed Gen (Retd) Faiz to seek extension in his service: Imran

Arrest of Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed internal matter of army

RAWALPINDI (Online): PTI founder Imran Khan has said Gen (Retd) Faiz is our asset who was wasted. Gen (Retd) Bajwa removed Gen (Retd) Faiz for extension in his service despite being forbidden by me. If Gen (Retd) Faiz is behind May 9 then it should be investigated. He held it is good army is conducting internal accountability. If it is carrying out accountability then it should be done in respect of all. He held "Khawaja Asif has said Gen (Retd) Faiz is directly linked to May 9 incidents. In fact all the matter started from my arrest. Why it is not being investigated. If Gen (Retd) Faiz is behind May 9 then investigations should be made in this regard. He added May 9 in fact was part of London plan. Wherever fire has erupted the CCTV footages of these areas are missing, our CCTV footages being before us and we proved faulty. He held whoever ordered for my arrest is involved in conspiracy. He observed Chief Election Commissioner, Chief Justice of Pakistan and chief justice Islamabad High Court Amir Farooq were part of London plan. Qazi Faez Isa recalled Faizabad Commission and Bhutto case but he is not hearing our petition. His problem is this PTI won election on February 8. Chief justice and Election commission are hiding fraud election. He pointed out that former commissioner Rawalpindi had said every thing right. They want reserved seats are not given to PTI so that they could make constitutional amendment. They are now violating constitution for the third time. They did not hold election in 90 days and then they ran away from election in October. Now they are going to make amendment in the constitution for the third time. But now we are going to go on roads and party has been asked to get ready.



ISLAMABAD: People of Jammu and Kashmir observed Black day on the occasion of Indian Independence day in the Federal Capital.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir interacts with retired officers of Pakistan Army during a graceful reception in honor of Pakistan Army veterans on the eve of 77th Independence Day of Pakistan held in Rawalpindi.

PM calls for vigilance against flooding in Punjab's urban, Chenab river areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif directed the NDMA, PDMAs, and other relevant agencies to remain on high alert to address the potential severe flooding in areas near the Chenab River and urban flooding caused by heavy rains in Punjab. According to a statement from the PM Office Media, the prime minister indicated that he was personally monitoring the anticipated heavy monsoon spell until August 25. He had directed National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMAs), rescue and relief agencies, civil defense, and district administrations to be prepared to protect residents in the Chenab River catchment area and cities at risk of flooding due to heavy rains. The prime minister directed the relevant authorities to ensure preparations for the evacuation and rescue of people, as well as for drainage, water, medicines, tents, and other relief items in any emergency situation, besides safeguarding the public. He directed the relevant agencies to keep the public informed about the anticipated flooding in vulnerable areas and to take precautionary measures to prevent expected floods around canals, nullahs, and rivers. He also instructed that citizens be made aware of NDMA's Disaster Alert application to monitor the situation at all times.

Three more retired Army officers taken into military custody: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (APP): In connection with the Field General Court Martial (FGCM) proceedings of Lt General Faiz Hameed, three retired officers were also in military custody for their actions prejudicial to military discipline. Further investigations of certain retired officers and their accomplices for fomenting instability at the behest of and in collusion with vested political interests, are continuing, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said on Thursday.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presents a Fifty Million Rupees Cheque to Javelin Thrower Olympian, Arshad Nadeem during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

SC serves contempt notice to Monal Restaurant's owner

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Park area. The order stated that Luqman Ali Afzal, the owner of the restaurant, campaigned against the SC. The restaurant owner propagated that the employees became unemployed due to the court decision. The court said that Luqman Ali Afzal's anti-judiciary campaign is contempt of court so a notice is issued to him in the matter. It said that the court was told that the notification to bring the Wildlife Management Board (WLMB) under the Ministry of interior was withdrawn by the Prime Minister. It said the Prime Minister's Office should not be disrespected. The PM Office should view whether the given advisory was in public interest or personal interest, it said, adding that matter is left to the government.

PML-N decides to fully support establishment

LAHORE (INP) - Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif directed the party leaders to be very careful while issuing statements on Faiz Hameed case. Chairing a high-level party meeting in Model Town Lahore, Nawaz Sharif said that all party leaders should refrain from giving emotional statements. It was also decided to fully support the government and the establishment. During the meeting, the situation arising after the arrest of Gen Faiz Hameed was debated. During the meeting, the report of the legal team on the proposed constitutional amendment regarding the extension of the tenure of the judges was discussed. Moreover, a proposal to ban public demonstrations in Islamabad and Punjab for law and order was also considered. PM Shehbaz Sharif briefed the participants of the meeting on the role of Parliament in ending the political and judicial crisis. Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar told the participants about the latest situation on the country's economy and negotiations with the IMF. The government's strategy for dealing with the opposition in the political field was also discussed during the meeting. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, National Assembly speaker Ayaz Sadiq, Khawaja Saad Rafique, Hamza Shehbaz, Rana Sanaullah, Salman Shehbaz participated. Other attendees were federal Ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Ata Tarar, Awais Leghari, Khawaja Asif, Ali Parvez Malik, Bilal Azhar Kayani, Pervaz Rashid, Maryam Aurangzeb and federal secretary Rashid Mehmood Langrial.



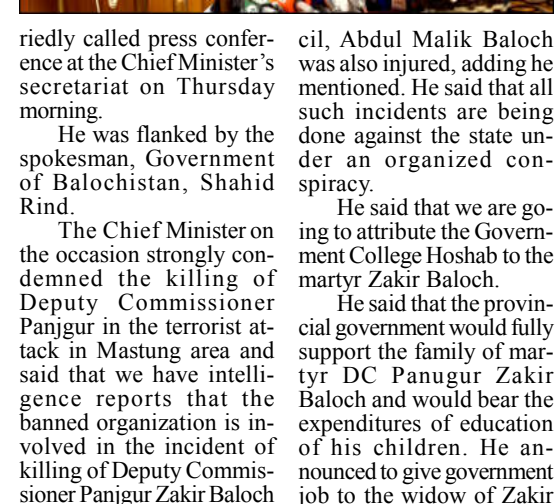
RAWALPINDI: A large quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives were recovered after security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in Kurram District on reported presence of Khwarij.

President, PM praise security forces Seven terrorists killed, five injured in Kurram IBO

RAWALPINDI (APP): Seven terrorists were eliminated while five got injured during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) conducted by the security forces in Kurram district on Thursday on the reported presence of Khwarij (TTP terrorists). During conduct of the operation, the Army troops effectively engaged the Khwarij's location, as result of which, seven Khwarij of Fitna Al Khwarij were sent to hell, while five of them got injured, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The Khwarij's hideout was also busted and a large quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives was recovered. The killed Khwarij remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as the innocent civilians. "The sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other Kharij found in the area as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe-out the menace of terrorism from the country," the ISPR said. Meanwhile President Asif Ali Zardari paid tributes to security forces for their successful operation against Khwarij terrorists in district Kurram, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Thursday. In a statement released by the President House, President Zardari praised the professional expertise of the security forces for their successful operation against the terrorists. He also reaffirmed the national commitment to continue such operations until the complete eradication of the Khwarij threat. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif lauded the armed forces on Thursday for their successful operation in Kurram District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which led to the death of seven Khwarij terrorists besides the arrest of five others.

Independence Day celebrates with great enthusiasm in Balochistan: Govt. has to work against proxies of separatist movements & RAW: Bugti

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically stated that government has to work against the proxies of separatist movements and Indian notorious secret agency "RAW", and anyone can't be allowed to act as their proxies. The Chief Minister said that everyone has the right to do politics, but it should be done remaining in the framework of constitution of the country. He said that "yes there is the issue of missing persons, but 80 percent of the same has been resolved while we are ready to sit with the concerned to resolve the remaining 20 percent." These views were expressed by the Chief Minister while addressing a hurriedly called press conference at the Chief Minister's secretariat on Thursday morning.



He said that we are going to attribute the Government College Hoshab to the martyr Zakir Baloch. He said that the provincial government would fully support the family of martyr DC Panugur Zakir Baloch and would bear the expenditures of education of his children. He announced to give government job to the widow of Zakir Baloch as per her qualification.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Throttling connectivity

The five stages of internet governance in Pakistan seem to be as follows: curb, deny, double down, reluctantly admit, and repeat. By now, nearly every smartphone user in Pakistan has experienced interruptions to WhatsApp, the Meta-owned messaging app that has become indispensable to billions of people the world over.

According to Downdetector, a website that tracks internet disruptions, thousands of Pakistani users have reported outages and interruptions in connectivity over the past week. Most reports have been about trouble with calls and messages, including voice notes, multimedia content and downloading problems over mobile data. This means that everything, from important legal documents to the customary 'Jashn-i-Azadi Mubarak' messages, is getting lost in the ether as cellular providers, undoubtedly at the behest of the authorities, continue to throttle connectivity.

We know why this is happening — because of the need to clamp down on so-called digital terrorism; the state has already made its intentions quite clear with its treatment of the social media platform X. The latter served as a virtual town hall where people could debate, argue, protest and mobilise in support of various worthy causes.

This made it liable to be deemed a threat to national security. And yet, ministers and government departments continue to use X for official communications through virtual private networks. Now the authorities seem to have decided that WhatsApp has replaced X as the new staging ground for dissent and are tightening the noose, with little to no regard for the social and economic disruptions this will cause.

The authorities may have genuine concerns with the platform, including its use to share misinformation and disseminate propaganda against the state and its institutions. It is also true that some smear campaigns against important personages, including recent claims regarding two judges of the Islamabad High Court, have been fuelled by their circulation via the messaging app. However, curbs are never a solution. As with X, those who wish to use it can always connect via a VPN. Experts say there is no real way to completely block access to a particular piece of content without disrupting the whole pipeline. One need only think about how people currently use WhatsApp: businesses share quotations, shipping invoices and pay orders with their clients; doctors are sent medical records and queries over WhatsApp, lawyers need to be kept abreast of court dates and legal documentation. These are just some examples of how irreplaceable the app has become for people from all walks of life.

While Pakistan grapples with its many economic woes, this connectivity crisis threatens to sap whatever economic potential is left in the services industry. Given our earlier failed experiments at banning YouTube and Facebook, it is about time we learned not to throw the baby out with the bathwater.

The lone ranger

F.S. Aijazuddin

It took our solitary Olympic gold medalist Arshad Nadeem to remind us of the old adage: Success has many fathers but Failure is an orphan.

No matter how many awards, honours, cash prizes and plots may be bestowed upon him, it is clear that Arshad's achievement in Paris was singularly his own. His trusty javelin soared into the skies and landed at 92.97 metres, and then to show that this second throw was not a fluke, on its final flight it landed a metre short — at 91.79m.

Arshad's portly coach Salman Iqbal Butt watched from the stands, recalling when, as a teenager at Aitchison College in 1977, he threw a javelin and set a collegiate record of 50.69m.

The public has opened its hearts to Arshad. Governments (federal and provincial) have opened their coffers to him, but not their private purses. They are personally as ungenerous as Lord Chesterfield once was to Samuel Johnson when he begged his lordship for patronage to support his project — the first English dictionary. It took Johnson seven years to complete his magnum opus. Chesterfield then condescended to offer an endorsement.

In February 1755, Johnson sent a letter to Chesterfield that has served as a warning to tight-fisted patrons: "Is not a patron, my lord, one who looks with unconcern on a man struggling for life in the water, and when he has reached ground, encumbers him with help? The notice which you have been pleased to take of my labours, had it been early, had been kind; but it has been delayed till I

am indifferent and cannot enjoy it; till I am solitary and cannot impart it; till I am known and do not want it."

Hopefully, all the gratuitous patronage being showered on Arshad will shake the government out of its lethargy and schools out of their unconscionable neglect of sports as an integral part of education. Famously, Lord Wellington attributed his success on the battlefield to his school: "The battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton." A grateful nation rewarded Wellington with both an estate in Hampshire and a fortune of £400,000.

Many would contend that the World Cup 1992 was won on the playing fields of Aitchison College. No one could have imagined that the captain (an Aitchisonian), who held that trophy aloft in March 1992 at Melbourne and then in processions across the country, would watch Arshad Nadeem's triumph from a cell in Adiala jail. Sic transit gloria.

For those of us armchair enthusiasts who forfeited sleep to watch the Paris Olympics, it became clear that few of the major countries sported their own nationals. The Chinese and the Japanese did. Others were populated with hyphenated Africans. One commentator even went so far as to compliment one sprinter for being the first African from the African continent to win a gold medal. Hadn't anyone briefed him that all of us homo sapiens originated in Africa? Over the centuries, the mobile migrated. Some were exported as slaves, a few repatriated by the US to populate the new nation of Liberia. Some fought desperately to avoid deportation by Rishi

Sunak's government to Rwanda. Millions remained to fight for liberation from their colonialist masters. The best among them today compete for their adopted countries in the Olympics.

Soon, the IOC will have to drop national groupings in favour of individual participation. With so many blacks in the US, British, French, and German teams, spectators may parrot Lady Susan Hussey's tactless question of a Black Briton: "But where do you really come from, where do your people come from?"

After his winning javelin throw, Arshad Nadeem prostrated himself in a sajdah and then draped himself in our flag. No one needed to ask Arshad where he came from. He was a humble Muslim, and a proud Pakistani son of a justifiably proud Pakistani mother from Mian Channu.

The British novelist E.M. Forster had once observed that "I am sure that if the mothers of various nations could meet, there would be no more wars." The mothers of both Arshad Nadeem and his Indian rival (and friend) Neeraj Chopra made moving statements 'adopting' the success of each other's son. Social media hummed with their messages and with images of Arshad and Neeraj, clothed in their national flags, shaking hands on the podium.

It is unlikely that PMs Modi and Shehbaz Sharif will bring Arshad and Neeraj to the Wagah border where the four can shake hands. The next best thing would be for their two mothers to be brought there to embrace across the white line. It would be better than our two countries aiming nuclear javelins at each other. -- Courtesy Dawn

Fixing the IPPs

Tasneem Noorani

Visiting Islamabad with my grandchildren, I decided to introduce them to our very impressive Islamabad Sports Complex. Getting there, we found that the Asian Junior Individual Squash Championship was going on. It was a delight to see scores of kids, both boys and girls, from the age of 10 onwards, from 12 different countries competing hard. I felt proud that Pakistan was hosting such a lovely event with international-level infrastructure. But my pride was shattered when I asked a parent of a Malaysian kid what all they had done in Islamabad. Nothing, he said, because we are confined to our guest house and not allowed to move around because of security concerns.

Each time I've travelled to Islamabad of late, I find a new roadblock or security barrier. Twenty years ago, on official visits to Kabul, I would be struck by the number of security barriers there. Back in relaxed Islamabad, one could understand why Afghans wanted to come to Pakistan. We seem to be fast headed in a similar direction, where the flow of migration may be reversed. Why are we in such a fatal dive?

Economy is the more obvious reason; however, that's not the cause but the result of misgovernance, which is a consequence of a fluid governance structure. This, in turn, is due to the establishment's arbitrary and unchecked brute power. Even if we look at just the last 25 years — and not the previous 50, which were no different — we see army chiefs either imposing martial law, or when the cost-benefit of taking over directly turns adverse, manoeuvring and strategising for a tenure extension. Politicians,

parties and the Constitution were used as pawns to achieve the ultimate objective of an extension.

Without delving further into that argument, as it is dangerous territory, one can say that even if the establishment calls the shots we could have still stayed the course had we possessed a sturdy local bodies system. I say this after watching Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speak at a joint session of the US Congress. The way the Congress men and women stood up 53 times during his 50-minute speech to give him a standing ovation was ridiculous. They must have clapped for 30 minutes out of the 50.

The managers of our rent-a-crowd jalsas could learn something from the Congress representatives. It seems that those present were under watch and had to show their loyalty and how grateful they were to Netanyahu for massacring innocent women and children. This joint session was a crass demonstration of how effectively the Zionist establishment controls the most powerful country in the world. But despite this helplessness of the US politicians before the establishment, much like in our case, their country runs smoothly.

This, in my view, is due to the fact that their state governments are powerful, effective and independent of the centre, and most civic services, including law and order and the criminal justice system, work smoothly. So the American public would not be unduly bothered if President Joe Biden naps during meetings because their law and order, criminal justice system, electricity and gas bills, etc, are not affected.

A strong local government system with manageable-sized provinces would do wonders

for this country, despite the unending shenanigans of the centre, for which there is little hope of betterment.

In addition to our dysfunctional local bodies and disproportionate federating units, there is the issue of mega corruption, where the scale of corrupt gains is beyond the comprehension of the common man. Take the case of setting up independent power producers (IPPs), where decision-making politicians have been claiming it as their contribution to national progress.

The fact is that their decisions, based on unmitigated greed and political point-scoring, has landed the country with a permanent hole in the bucket, haemorrhaging Rs2 trillion every year, which equals defence spending and is almost 25 per cent of the government's revenue. How could it be anything but greed when four power houses receive Rs10 billion monthly, without producing a unit of electricity? How could it be anything but greed if a power plant based on imported coal were set up 1,000 kilometres away from the port? How could it be anything but greed if more and more power houses were established to take the installed capacity to 44,000 MW when the transmission capacity is only 22,000 MW?

Those who are corrupt have no fear of being prosecuted nor of the recovery of their illegal gains; the government, on the contrary, is in a fix as to how to stop the bleeding in the face of agreements being appealed before the trigger-happy International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes. I wonder if the experience gained by the powers that be in fixing a political party could be used to fix the IPPs? -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Senate body on IT discusses issue of recent internet disruptions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunications Thursday discussed the issue of recent internet disruptions across the country causing real-time hindrances for individuals running e-commerce businesses.

Senator Palwasha Muhammad Zai Khan chaired the meeting.

Secretary for the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications, Aisha Humera Chaudhry,

explained that there is no issue with broadband connections; however, mobile operators using mobile data are facing disruptions.

The PTA is assessing the issue, and the ministry will be in a better position to provide an overview once the assessment is completed in two weeks.

The committee addressed the complaint of MNA Ali Jaan Mazari regarding poor internet service in Kashmir.

He said that internet services have been crawling

for the last four months, and despite several requests, no action has been taken so far.

PTA officials highlighted that there are around 156 sites of three major service providers in the area and that internet services are mostly down due to unannounced load shedding.

However, the PTA is assessing the issue and will submit its report in the next 15 days.

The committee also directed the PTA to submit its quarterly survey report at the next meeting.

NA body constitutes sub-committee to revive PSM

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly (NA) Standing Committee on Industries and Production on Thursday constituted a sub-committee to address the financial and administrative challenges faced by Pakistan Steel Mill (PSM), prioritizing the concerns of its employees. The committee was met under the chairmanship of Member National Assembly (MNA) Syed Hafeez ud Din, said a news release.

The Terms of Reference (ToRs) and composition of the Sub-Committee are as follows: "To address the financial and administrative issues,

particularly those related to employees and the operations of Pakistan Steel Mills."

The sub-committee's membership includes Convener Ms. Naz Baloch, along with Abdul Hakeem Baloch, Muhammad Arshad Sahi, and Dr. Mahesh Kumar Malani as its members. Earlier, the Minister for Industries and Production provided an extensive briefing on the status of Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM). He said that PSM has a total landholding of 19,000 acres, of which 4,008 acres remain unutilized, while 305 acres have unfortunately been illegally encroached.

Gold rates dip by Rs.300 to Rs257,400 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold witnessed a decrease of Rs.300 on Thursday and was traded at Rs 257,400 against its sale at 257,700 on the last trading day in the local market. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat also decreased by Rs256 to Rs.220,680 from Rs.220,936, whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat decreased to Rs202,290 from Rs202,525. All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.2,850 and Rs.2,443.41 respectively. Prices of gold in the international market decreased by \$4 to \$2,454.



ISLAMABAD: federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb presiding over a meeting of Economic Coordination Committee (ECC).

PCJCCI wants CPEC turned into a 'green' initiative

LAHORE (APP): President Pakistan-China Joint Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) Moazzam Ghurki said on Thursday that 'Green' is the future of humanity on planet, which has already been affected by severe climate change.

Speaking at a think tank session held at the PCJCCI, he said that China - Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) should be turned into a model Green Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to protect and preserve

the natural environment in the region. "Hopefully, it will preserve the environment as well as accelerate pace of green technologies and production of green energies channels in the ongoing projects of the CPEC in the country," Ghurki said and added "Intensified plantation, development/support of natural forestation, bee's honey hatcheries/production and last but not the least green tourism activities would play a pivotal role in this connection."

BoR, FBR decide to modernise tax recovery system

LAHORE (APP): In a strategic meeting on tax audit conducted under the chairmanship of Senior Member Board of Revenue (SMBR) Punjab Nabeel Javed, it was decided to integrate and automate the tax recovery systems of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and the Punjab Board of Revenue (BoR).

The meeting was attended by Member Taxes Zaman Wattoo, Regional Commissioner Withholding Tax (RTO) Bilal Hussain, Dr. Imran Javed and other officials from both institutions.

The SMBR stressed the urgent need for a system to modernise tax recovery procedures between the FBR and the BoR Punjab. He highlighted the importance of digitalizing the audit processes of PLRA (Punjab Land Records Authority) and FBR to reduce the chances of tax evasion.

It was also proposed that a joint committee be formed between the FBR and the BoR to compile comprehensive data of taxpayers.

STZA establishes four new special technology zones worth Rs 30 bln

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) announced the establishment of four new Special Technology Zones (STZs), focusing on business process outsourcing, information technology, high-tech production, research and development, tech skill development, and knowledge products.

The decision has been taken in line with the vision of the Prime Minister and the Federal Government to enable job creation for the

youth and prioritise the technology sector.

According to news release, these four new zones consists of 1.4 million Sqft high-quality tech infrastructure and 130 acres of land available for exclusive use of the technology companies.

An investment of Rs. 30 billion has already been made in developing the specialised tech infrastructure by the zone developers while more than Rs 150 billion investment is expected in next 2-4

years by local and foreign technology companies.

The 4 new zones will have the capacity to house more than 50,000 professionals with an export potential exceeding US\$ 350 million annually.

The newly designated zones included the NUST Special Technology Zone and Tech7 Special Technology Zone in Islamabad, Mindbridge Special Technology Zone in Lahore, and Capital Smart Technology Zone in Rawalpindi.

Registration of 1m farmers for Kisan Card to be met by 31st

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Agriculture Secretary Iftikhar Ali Sahoo has said that registration target of one million farmers for Kisan Card will be achieved by August 31st. According to official sources here, the secretary said that till now more than 600,000 farmers had registered themselves for the cards. He said the provision of Kisan Card would start from September 1st and it would be provided from the nearest branches of Bank of Punjab. From October 15, fertilizer, pesticides and seeds could be purchased from Kisan Card, he added. He directed the relevant officers to speed up registration process of dealers for purchasing pesticides.

ADM Group to invest \$250m in Pakistan's electric vehicle sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): ADM Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Yasir Bhamhani on Thursday said that the ADM Group was keen to invest an amount of \$250 million in Pakistan for the manufacturing of electric vehicles to provide ecological-friendly automobiles to local consumers.

In a meeting with Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, he said the first phase of the project charging network station would be established, followed by the manufacturing of electric vehicles in the second phase. He said the

electric vehicles will have a range of 300 kilometres on a single charge.

The minister said the government is ready to facilitate direct foreign investment in the country, and the Ministry of Industries and Production is committed to collaborating closely with all relevant stakeholders to ensure a smooth process. He emphasized the importance of focusing on green energy, adding that electric vehicles have become a reality.

Rana Tanveer highlighted the benefits of electric vehicles, including their lower cost compared to traditional vehicles and fuel savings.



Senator Palwasha Muhammad Zai Khan, chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Ministry of Information Telecommunication in Islamabad.

Governor KP emphasizes support for youth affected by terrorism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Thursday stressed the importance of providing benefits to the war on terror affected youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through the Prime Minister's Youth Program.

The Governor said this during a ceremony at the Prime Minister's Secretariat, where squash player Norina Shams from Dir was awarded a sponsorship by the Zakori Group.

The event was attended by Prime Minister's Advisor on Youth Affairs Rana Mashood, NEVTEC Chairperson Gulmina Bilal Ahmad, Zakori Group Chairman Ayub Zakori, Bilour Group Director Sherbaz Bilour, Deputy

Secretary of Sports Qasim Khattak, and other officials.

Governor Kundi expressed appreciation for the support extended to Norina Shams and urged similar backing for other talented youth from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He criticized the provincial government for neglecting sports and highlighted that many young people are making significant achievements in sports through their own efforts.

He emphasized that the Governor's House is dedicated to encouraging talented youth and is working to promote educational and recreational activities as a means to protect the province from terrorism and extremism.

For the first time in

the history of the Governor's House, conferences on Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Pashto famous poet Khushal Khan Khattak, as well as interfaith harmony, have been organized.

Governor Kundi called on the federal government to ensure that 50 percent of social welfare funds are allocated to sports and youth welfare.

He also urged institutions and affluent individuals across the country to support and encourage talented youth from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Rana Mashood, Advisor to the Prime Minister, affirmed the government's commitment to making Khyber Pakhtunkhwa a priority under Governor Kundi's leadership.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Industry and Commerce, Chaudry Shafay Hussain called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

Punjab Governor says: Boosting trade & business activities indispensable for the country's stability

Independent Report
LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Industry and Commerce, Chaudry Shafay Hussain called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, investment and promotion of technical education in Punjab were discussed. The Provincial Minister informed the Governor of Punjab about the steps taken for the promotion of investment and technical education in the province. Speaking on this occasion, Punjab

Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider said that boosting trade and business activities is indispensable for the country's stability. He said that significant investment initiatives have been taken in Punjab due to which foreign investors including Overseas Pakistanis are also showing keen interest. He said that everyone should play a role to take the country on the path of development. Governor Punjab further said that the future of Pakistan hinges on the promotion of technical education.

CM condoles martyrdom of four security personnel in SW

Independent Report
PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur has expressed deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences over the martyrdom of four security personnel in South Waziristan.

In his message, the Chief Minister conveyed his sympathies to the families of the martyrs and prayed for the highest ranks of the martyrs in Jannah, as well as strength and patience for the bereaved families.

KP CM inaugurates model design, online application for solarization scheme

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur inaugurated the Model Design and Online Application System for the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Solarization Scheme on Thursday.

In addition to the initial plans, the Chief Minister announced an expansion of the scheme to 130,000 households, with 30,000 exclusively from the Merged Districts. This ambitious project will provide complete 2kW solar systems to underprivileged households across the province, significantly enhancing energy access for those most in need.

The solarization scheme is part of the provincial government's broader efforts to address energy needs in communities where access to electricity remains a challenge, particularly in backward and remote areas.

By prioritizing the most vulnerable populations, the scheme aims to reduce the energy burden on families, enhance living standards, and promote the use of clean energy solutions.



LAHORE: School teachers welcome the students on the opening day after Summer Vacation as Students arrive to attend their first day of school.

Senior minister reviews CM's vision 'Pollution-Free Punjab'

Independent Report
LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb Thursday presided over a progress review meeting on four important sectors in which a high-level delegation from the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office participated.

A briefing was given on the progress of matters pertaining to air quality, school education, population and health issues. The meeting was held to fine tune the smog reduction target.

Marriyum Aurangzeb ordered to carry out implementation of the plan for establishing at least 100 VICS stations in Lahore at the earliest.

of May due to burning crop residue.

The target is to bring the Air Quality Index from 100 PM to 70 PM by 2028. 1800 new bikes are registered in Lahore every day and motorcycles are the biggest cause of air pollution. Motorcycles generate more than 75 percent of transport pollution. Effective legislation and enforcement on the environment will make it possible to achieve the smog reduction target.



FAISALABAD: Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora holding a press conference along with CPO Kamran Adil in Operations Complex at Police Lines.

WASA signs MoU with KOICA to cope with urban flooding

Independent Report
MULTAN (APP): WASA district to resolve underlying matter of urban flooding. MoU of Record of Discussion was signed in Lahore amid presence of Special Secretary Housing Punjab, DG MDA and Country Director of KOICA.

Under the agreement, a master plan would be chalked out to save the district and adjacent places from urban flooding, said the DG.

1 Gutka material supplier arrested

Independent Report
THATTA: On the instructions of SSP Thatta, Dr. Muhammad Imran Khan, Thatta Police's crackdown on narcotics, crime elements, habitual criminals, gutka, and mainpuri is on-going.

On the instructions of SSP Thatta, Incharge CIA Thatta, Inspector Mumtaz Ali Brohi, along with his staff, successfully raided near Solangi Stop Thatta during a patrol and foiled an attempt to supply gutka material in a vehicle, number AAN-582, and arrested 1 gutka material supplier, Khuda Bux son of Suleman Dal.

Police seized the vehicle and recovered 104 kg of gutka material, 200 packets of gutka mawa, and registered a case against the accused at Thatta Police Station.

Punjab minister stresses awareness on rains, flood risks at local level

Independent Report
LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister and Chairman Cabinet Committee for Disaster Management Khawaja Salman Rafique emphasised the need to raise awareness among citizens regarding the risks of rains and floods at the local level. Presiding over a Cabinet Committee meeting at the PDMA Head Office here on Thursday, he urged the district

FIA arrests 3 suspects in Hundi case

Independent Report
LAHORE (APP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) arrested three suspects involved in a Hundi case from the provincial capital on Thursday. According to an FIA spokesman, Corporate Crime Circle Lahore Zone arrested two suspects, Muhammad Usman and Muhammad Aftab, while conducting operations in Bara Market, Rs 3,090,000 in cash, check books and other documents were seized from the accused. The spokesman said that another accused was arrested in Shah Alam market here, Rs 3 million in cash.

International News

Turkiye will continue to increase pressure on Israel, Erdogan tells Palestinian leader Abbas

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan told visiting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Wednesday that Türkiye will continue to support the Palestinian cause and push the international community to increase pressure on Israel, his office said.

The two leaders discussed recent developments and the steps to be taken for a lasting ceasefire and peace in Gaza, Erdogan's office said in a post on X.

Erdogan condemned Israel's war in Gaza, the statement said, accusing some Western countries of remaining silent and continuing to support Israel.

Erdogan also told Abbas that all countries, especially in the Muslim world, should step up efforts to ensure an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian aid to Palestinians.

Abbas is set to address an extraordinary session of Türkiye's parliament on Thursday. Israel's assault on Gaza started after the Palestinian Islamist militant group Hamas attacked Israel on Oct 7.

Türkiye has denounced the war and has halted all trade with Israel. It submitted a request to join South Africa's case at the International Court of Justice accusing Israel



A charity kitchen worker hands out food to Palestinians, amid a hunger crisis in the northern Gaza Strip.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman fears for his life

Monitoring Desk
RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman also informed US lawmakers that any potential agreement with Israel should include a genuine path to establishing a Palestinian state, especially amidst rising Arab anger against Israel.

It may be noted that in February, Saudi Arabia informed the US that it would not establish diplomatic relations with Israel until a Palestinian state was established within the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Lebanon says two killed in Israeli strikes

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Lebanon's health ministry said Israeli strikes killed two people in the country's south on Wednesday, with Hezbollah announcing the deaths of two of its fighters, the latest cross-border violence amid fears of a full-blown regional war.

Hezbollah has traded near daily fire with the Israeli army since the Palestinian militant group Hamas's unprecedented October 7 attack on Israel triggered the Gaza war.

US approves \$20 billion weapons package for Israel

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden's administration approved more than \$20 billion in new weapons sales to Israel, brushing aside pressure from rights activists to stop arms deliveries over the death toll in Gaza.

The sale comes as Biden has pressed Israel and Hamas to reach a ceasefire after 10 months of bloodshed, although the weapons would take years to reach Israel.

In a notification to Congress, the State Department said it had approved a sale of 50 F-15 fighter jets to Israel for \$18.82 billion.

Israel will also buy nearly 33,000 tank cartridges, up to 50,000 explosive mortar cartridges and new military cargo vehicles. The F-15 aircraft, which will begin to be delivered in 2029, will upgrade Israel's current fleet and include radar and secure communications equipment.

"The United States is committed to the security of Israel, and it is vital to US national interests to assist Israel to develop and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability," the State Department said in its notice on the F-15s, which are made by Boeing.

On the tank cartridges, the United States said the sale "will improve Israel's capability to meet current and future enemy threats, strengthen its homeland defense and serve as a deterrent to regional threats."

The US Congress can block weapons sales, but such a process is difficult.

Bangladesh mob beats suspected supporters of ex-PM Hasina after rally call

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: A mob wielding bamboo rods and plastic pipes beat several suspected supporters of Sheikh Hasina on Thursday, vowing to quash a rumoured rally for the ousted Bangladesh premier outside her childhood home.

Hasina, 76, fled by helicopter last week to neighbouring India, where she remains, as student-led protests flooded Dhaka's streets in a dramatic end to her iron-fisted 15-year rule.

Thursday is the anniversary of the 1975 assassination of her father, independence hero Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, during a military coup — a date her government had declared a national holiday.

Previous years saw huge rallies around Bangladesh to mark the occasion, but the students who toppled Hasina were

Meth found in sweets given by New Zealand charity

Monitoring Desk
WELLINGTON: Pine-apple sweets dished out by a New Zealand charity have tested positive for potentially lethal amounts of methamphetamine, police said on Wednesday, sparking an urgent race to remove them from the streets.

A child, a teenager and a charity worker have already been taken to hospital after they tasted the candies. Although none are seriously ill, police have launched a criminal investigation and are now trying to track down up to 400 other people who may have received the sweets. "We need to round these up as quickly as we can," said Detective Inspector Glenn Baldwin, adding that 16 of the sweets had been found so far. Police suggested the drugs might have been packaged inside the distinctive yellow "Rinda" wrapping by traffickers or dealers to evade detection.

Qatar to host high-stakes Gaza truce talks

Monitoring Desk
DOHA: Qatar will host Gaza ceasefire talks on Thursday, sources close to the negotiations said, seeking a so-far elusive agreement that the United States hopes would stop Iranian retaliation against Israel and avert a wider conflict.

US, Qatari and Egyptian mediators have invited Israel and Hamas for negotiations aimed at ending fighting that the health ministry in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip says has claimed nearly 40,000 lives in the Palestinian territory.

Hamas said it would not take part in a new round of Gaza ceasefire talks, but an official briefed on the talks said mediators expected to consult with the Palestinian group afterwards.

The office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the heads of Israel's Mossad spy agency and Shin Bet secret service would go to Doha.

Ukrainian President Zelenskyy says Kyiv troops have full control of the Russian town of Sudzha

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Thursday that the country's troops have full control of the Russian town of Sudzha in the Kursk region in their incursion into Russian territory.

The town, the largest that Ukraine has reportedly seized so far, had a prewar population of around 5,000 people. It holds a measuring station for Russian natural gas that flows through Ukrainian pipelines to Europe.

Natural gas flows from West Siberian gas fields through pipes that pass through Sudzha and cross the Ukrainian border into Ukraine's system.

Zelenskyy said a Ukrainian military commander's office is being set up in Sudzha. He didn't elaborate on the details or the functions of the office.

The claim couldn't be independently verified. Russia did not immediately respond to Zelenskyy's statement, but its defense ministry said earlier Thursday that Russian forces had blocked attempts to take several other communities.

There was no indication of any disruption of the gas flow through Sudzha, which accounts for about 3% of Europe's imports.

Satellite images analyzed by The Associated Press on Thursday show that a Ukrainian drone attack on Russian air bases damaged at least two hangars and other areas.

Images taken Wednesday by Planet Labs PBC show that two hangars at Borisoglebsk Air Base had been struck, with a field of debris around both.

It was not immediately clear what purpose the hangars served. There also appeared to be potential damage to two fighter aircraft at the base.

'Ring leader' must now face the music for his misadventures: Tarar

LAHORE (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage on Thursday said swift and rigorous accountability of the 'ring leader of anarchist group' was long-overdue, for his misadventures to sabotage the national interests.

Addressing a news conference, he said that "irrefutable and glaring" evidence came forth after an investigation of the former spy chief Faiz Hameed that showed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder was the real mastermind of the conspiracy against the country.

The May 9 arson attacks on the sensitive installations and writing of a letter to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by the PTI leadership for sabotaging the agreement, were the clear indications of the conspiracy, he added.

The minister said the whole nation witnessed the misadventures of the

'group of anarchists', hell bent upon creating chaos and instability.

He welcomed and lauded the decision of the institution to hold its former ISI chief accountable under its self-accountability initiative which ought to be followed by all institutions. He referred to the press release issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations that indicated that three retired officers had also been taken to the custody after the investigation of former spy chief Faiz Hameed. The political instability and chaos was apparently created on the behest of the PTI founder, he added. He said the conspiracy was handiwork of the PTI leader, for fomenting instability in the country.

Tarar said that it seemed that Faiz Hameed was somehow involved in the politics as he worked to foil the no-confidence motion against the PTI founder. Nobody would be allowed to harm the na-

tional interests for some vested interests, he added.

He said the current investigation might lead to the arrest of more individuals who were involved in anti-state activities.

The minister wondered that now the PTI founder had distanced himself from those conspiracies despite his direct messages from the jail to carry out the negative motives.

He said efforts were underway to prevent chaos and bring political and economic stability under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The prime minister, while delivering his speech on the occasion of August 14, had announced the launch of home-grown economic reform programme for the next five years which was bound to progress, he added. arar said the government had stabilized the rupee, and did reduce petrol and electricity prices through prudent economic policies.



ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training (MoFEPT) held an important event to launch two key reports on education technology and foundational learning, and to shine a light on its reforms in assessment and teacher education.

"Country be not run this way: IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): During the hearing of the petition regarding recovery of missing worker of PTI Faizan, Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb of Islamabad High Court (IHC) "has remarked country be not run this way."

He remarked, "show his arrest. We will say nothing. But the country be not run this way. Change the constitution. Remove fundamental rights from it."

He further observed my one fellow judge issued tough order in a case then propaganda machinery of incumbent government started propaganda against him.

Additional Attorney General (AAG) Muhammad Iqbal Dogal appeared in the court.

At the inception of hearing Justice Miangul

Hassan Aurangzeb inquired "Faizan is who."

The counsel for the petitioner said Faizan relates to media cell of PTI.

The court while moving to AAG remarked by expressing resentment that "change the constitution. Remove basic rights from it. Abolish our power of jurisdiction and run the country this way. I don't know state wants to get what. Show him as arrested. We will say nothing. But country be not run this way."

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked ministry of defence, interior ministry, state and all are happy over it. It is incomprehensible to me what is happening. The bench before which this case was it earlier wrote this is case of enforced dis-

appearance. This is tyrannical act. The constitutional courts should do what in this situation. World is seeing Pakistani courts are doing what in these cases. Or we should say this world should come here and do investment. People will go missing and courts will not be able to do any thing."

He remarked federal government means Prime Minister and federal government. The responsibility eventually rests with the executive head.

The state counsel said the petitioners have not knocked door of the court with clean hands.

The court remarked they have not filed petition with clean hands. Should we therefore, reject the petition then. You want should I become submissive judge.

MOU signed for provision of better health facilities to cops

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, efforts are ongoing to provide the best facilities and discounted medical services to Islamabad Police officers and their families.

In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between Islamabad Police and the private organization Nayab Labs and Diagnostic Center.

On behalf of Islamabad Police the agreement was signed by SP

Police Shuhada families will receive a 40% discount on lab tests and 25% on radiological tests.

To avail the discounted tests, all officers and their families will use service and family medical cards.

IGP Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that the best medical facilities are being provided to the serving officers of Islamabad Police, as well as the families of martyrs and officers who passed away during service.

Such measures are boosting the morale of police officers and helping to provide their families with



Headquarters Qaiser Niaz Gilani and Nayab Labs and Diagnostic Center Medical Director Dr. Nawab Zaheer Ud Din Shaikh.

the best medical facilities. Further steps are being taken for the welfare of police officers. He added that police officers often suffer from various illnesses due to law and order duties and other tough responsibilities, and they faced difficulties in getting the best medical treatment.

ICT admin crackdown on overpricing vendors

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a decisive move to ensure fair pricing, Islamabad's district administration has launched a crackdown on vendors overcharging customers in local markets and registered cases against the 12 violators.

The Islamabad District Administration has intensified its efforts to tackle overpricing by local vendors, said the spokesman of ICT administration.

In a recent operation led by Assistant Commissioner Pothohar, Aneeq Anwar, 12 traders were arrested for not adhering to the official price list in the vegetable market. The accused shopkeepers were found charging customers more than the rates prescribed by the government.

During the inspection, it was discovered that many vendors had failed to display the official rate list, which is a mandatory requirement. The absence of this price list led to customers being charged higher rates, prompting immediate action from the authorities.

Assistant Commissioner Anwar emphasized that all shopkeepers must prominently display the official price list to avoid legal consequences. The District Commissioner has appealed to the public to report any vendor who fails to display the rate list or charges more than the official prices. This action was part of a broader effort to regulate prices and protect consumers from unfair practices in the market.

Govt. underscores value exceptional bravery, commitment of SI Zulfiqar

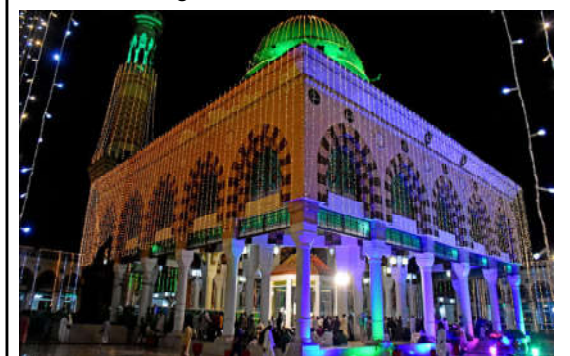
ISLAMABAD: Inspector General, National Highways and Motorway Police Salman Chaudhary said that Government of Pakistan underscores the value the exceptional bravery and commitment of Sub Inspector Zulfiqar Ali toward his duties.

IG, NHMP said that the Government of Pakistan has honored National Highways and Motorway Sub Inspector with this prestigious award. His bravery and courage have been acknowledged at the

national level. Sub Inspector Zulfiqar Ali was performing his duty on Motorway M-5.

While taking action against overloaded vehicles, meanwhile an overloaded truck driver resisted and ran over Patrol Officer, resulting in the loss of both of his legs.

Inspector General Salman Chaudhary's acknowledgment of Zulfiqar Ali's bravery and his reference to him as a valuable asset and role model reflects the esteem in which he is held within the force.



ISLAMABAD: Annual Urs of Hazrat Syed Abdul Latif Kazmi alias Bari Imam Sarkar kicked off in Federal Capital. Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar already directed extraordinary security arrangements on the occasion of Urs and asked administration and Capital Development Authority to provide shuttle service to the pilgrims.

ICAMEA hosts webinar on "Interim Afghan Government three years in Power"

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Centre for Afghanistan Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) hosted a webinar on "Interim Afghan Government, Three Years in Power" at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) here Thursday. The webinar was moderated by Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA. Speakers included Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI; Sardar Ahmad Shakeeb, Charge d' Affaires/Minister Counselor, Afghanistan Embassy,

news release said. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood stated that while the Taliban had consolidated power over the past three years, significant concerns persisted regarding their governance, respect for human rights and women's rights and counter-terrorism measures. He acknowledged the positive developments such as improved security and certain economic indicators like increased revenue and exports, but noted that these were overshadowed by ongoing challenges in other domains.



ISLAMABAD: Minorities Alliance Pakistan Chairman Akmal Bhatti addressing a press conference

AJK PM terms India's independence day as 'black day'

Independent AJK Desk MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq has said that Kashmiris have proved by observing India's Independence Day as 'Black Day' that they reject India's illegal occupation of occupied Kashmir. In a special statement, he said that Pakistan, Azad Kashmir, and Kashmiris living around the world staged protests and made the world believe that India has illegally occupied Kashmir, and its 1.5 million army is involved in serious human rights violations in occupied Kashmir.

He added that through its unilateral actions on August 5, 2019, India wants to change the demographics of occupied Kashmir by issuing domicile certificates to hundreds of thousands of non-state subjects, thereby trying to turn the Kashmiri people into a minority in their own region.

He said that Pakistan is our only advocate that stands with the Kashmiri people in their freedom struggle and continues to provide political, moral, and diplomatic support. He also said that India is continuously violating UN resolutions.

Independence day celebrated with enthusiasm in Astore

Independent GB Desk ASTORE: Like the rest of the country, Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Astore district. The central ceremony was held at Government Boys High School Astore, organized by the district administration. Provincial Minister for Home Affairs Shamsul Haq Lone was the guest of honor, while Commissioner Damer Astore Division Faisal Ihsan Pirzada was the president of the ceremony.

Deputy Commissioner Astore Muhammad Tariq, heads of various departments, students, and a large number of people attended the ceremony. Addressing the gathering, Minister Shamsul Haq Lone said that due to the sacrifices of our ancestors, the dream of Pakistan came true, and we are breathing in the free air today. He credited Qaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's dynamic leadership and Allama Muhammad Iqbal's vision for the creation of Pakistan.

Outstanding Service DG FIA Ahmed Ishaq to Receive Prestigious award "Hilal-e-Imtiaz"

ISLAMABAD (APP): In recognition of his exceptional leadership and dedication to combating serious crimes, Director General of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Ahmed Ishaq Jahangir has been approved to receive Pakistan's second highest civilian award "Hilal-e-Imtiaz" by the President. Jahangir's tireless efforts in preventing human trafficking, terrorism, money laundering, and online sexual harassment have earned him this prestigious honor.

DG FIA Ahmed Ishaq Jahangir will be conferred with the Hilal-e-Imtiaz award on March 23, 2025.

in recognition of his meritorious services to the nation. Under his leadership, the FIA has made significant strides in combating serious crimes, including human trafficking, terrorism, and cybercrime.

Jahangir, a seasoned police officer with over three decades of experience, has played a pivotal role in transforming the FIA into a modern and effective law enforcement agency. His initiatives have led to the establishment of special cells across the country, tackling online sexual exploitation of children and developing strategies to prevent cybercrime.



ISLAMABAD: Former member of Pakistan Engineering Council Governing Body Engineer Zahoor Sarwar addressing a press conference at NPC.

Historic rally led by Mir Ali Hassan Zehri marks Independence Day in Balochistan

Independent Report HUB: On the momentous occasion of the 77th Independence Day, a record-breaking rally was held in the Hub district of Balochistan, led by Meer Ali Hassan Zehri, The Translator to President Asif Ali Zardari in Balochistan Affairs, President of the District Hub PPP, and Minister of Industries and Commerce. The rally was a testament to the unwavering spirit of the people of Balochistan, who gathered in large numbers to commemorate the sacrifices of the nation's heroes who laid down their lives for their homeland.

Under the leadership of Meer Ali Hassan Zehri, the rally moved through the streets of Hub district, paying tribute to the martyrs who fought for the country's freedom. The Minister emphasized that no power can suppress the people of Balochistan

from celebrating their independence, and that any attempts to create unrest will be met with resistance from the patriotic people of Pakistan.

Meer Ali Hassan Zehri also highlighted the crucial role of women empowerment in nation-building, stressing that women's participation is essential for the development of the country. He reminded the audience of the importance of educating children, who are the future of Pakistan.

The rally was attended by a large number of people from various walks of life, including political, social, and religious leaders. The event was a demonstration of unity and resolve, with the participants expressing their confidence in the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who have always brought about revolution and progress.



ISLAMABAD: Motorcyclists take shelter under a bridge at Zero Point during heavy rain in the Federal Capital.

Arshad Nadeem toured "Bell of Hope" at Sindh Governor's House

KARACHI (APP): Accompanied by Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, Olympic gold medalist Arshad Nadeem toured the "Umeed Ki Ghanti" (Bell of Hope) initiative, at the Sindh Governor's House here Thursday.

Arshad Nadeem expressed pleasant surprise after ringing the "Umeed Ki Ghanti," appreciating the symbolic gesture. Governor Kamran Tessori briefed him on the objectives and mission of the initiative. During the visit, the national hero also inspected the ration bags prepared under the Governor's Initiative, commending the effort to support the needy. Arshad Nadeem further visited the IT classes, where he was provided with detailed information about the facilities offered to the students.

He said that through its unilateral actions on August 5, 2019, India wants to change the demographics of occupied Kashmir by issuing domicile certificates to hundreds of thousands of non-state subjects, thereby trying to turn the Kashmiri people into a minority in their own region.

He said that Pakistan is our only advocate that stands with the Kashmiri people in their freedom struggle and continues to provide political, moral, and diplomatic support. He also said that India is continuously violating UN resolutions.



ISLAMABAD: Metro Bus Service celebrated Independence Day with great pomp and show in the twin cities.

Committee constituted to probe abduction of an alleged foreign national

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police on Thursday made notable progress in a troubling case involving abduction and sexual assault. The incident was first reported when a woman was found on Wednesday, abandoned with her hands and feet bound within the Aabpara police station limits.

According to a police spokesperson, the woman who initially identified herself as Farwa and asserted that she was a Belgian citizen who had arrived in Pakistan in January 2024, has now been confirmed as Farwa Kayani, Daughter of Sultan Farid Kayani age 44 years a resident of Rawalpindi. Despite her claims of foreign nationality, the Belgian Embassy has denied any record of her entry into the country. This

discrepancy has raised significant doubts about her alleged foreign identity.

The investigation into her case is being spearheaded by a special committee led by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Arsalan Shahzaib. The committee is delving into the motives behind Farwa Kayani's claim of foreign nationality and the nature of the allegations she made. Farwa Kayani, whose age was earlier said to be 28 years old, has been receiving medical treatment at Polyclinic Hospital after being discovered in a state of distress on Street No. 33, G6/1, Saddar Road.

According to the police spokesperson, there is currently no evidence supporting her claim of being a foreigner, and her statements have been marked by several inconsistencies.