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Institutional reforms to ease burden on national exchequer, says PM

Cabinet Committee proposes curtailing 150,000 vacant government posts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Cabinet Committee on Institutional Reforms Friday recommended for cur- for five federal minisday recommended for the tailing 150,000 vacant positions, banning contingency recruitment, and outsourcing non-core services like cleaning, janito-interest which will gradu-interest the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, the Ministry of State and Frontier Regions, Ministry of Information Technology of Information Technology

In a meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, for reducing public In a meeting, chaired by The Committee Ministry of National Health Services. The committee Ministry of National He emphasized that Sharif, for reducing public sector size and expenses, the committee, chaired by the Federal Finance Minister, presented its recommendations for right-sizing in the federal government departments. The Ministry of Finance was asked to oversee the cash balances of

The committee proposed merging the Ministry of Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan with the Ministry of State and Frontier Regions (SAFRON).

The proposal involves closing 28 institutions across these five ministries,

The committee pro- Privatization Ministry and vided a detailed briefing some other ministries to on recommended reforms federal units, and merging 12 institutions within these

Cabinet and that a compre-

curtailing government expenditure was his top pri-

ority.

The goal of the government's institutional reforms was to lessen the burden on the national treasury and enhance the quality of services provided to



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Asim Munir presenting a shield to Arshad Nadeem, Javelin Throw Olympian Gold Medalist during a ceremony in his honor held at Army Auditorium General Headquarters (GHQ)

Pakistan refrains foreign | PTI has nothing govts from interfering in internal affairs

Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch Friday said that foreign governments should refrain from interfering in Pakistan's internal affairs.

The spokesperson of the Foreign Office stated in the weekly briefing that no information has been provided by the US government regarding Asif Merchant.

Pakistan is waiting for it.

She added that the people of Bangladesh can solve their problems, but Pakistan is worried about the situation in the Middle

Mumtaz Zahra further said that Iran has every right to defend itself. Israel should be held accountable for such

The spokesperson of the Foreign Office also stated that Israel's humanitarian atrocities are continuing in Gaza. 40,000 innocent civilians have been killed in Gaza so far. Pakistan condemns the ongoing Israeli atrocities in Gaza. Israel should be held accountable

She continued to say that Indian atroci ties are continuing in

Occupied Kashmir, Paki stan condemns the mar tyrdom of four Kashmiris in Occupied Kashmir. United Nations should take notice of human rights violations in Occupied Kash-

Mumtaz Zahra said that Pakistan has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Iraqi government regard ing arrangements for pil

Talking about the health issues, the spokesperson "We have seen the World Health Organization (WHO) advisory on monkeypox, the Ministry of National Health can only give a formal response in this regard". The spokesperson of the Foreign Office added that there are active diplomatic missions of Pakistan and Afghanistan and there are high-speed contacts in all areas of mutual relations between the two.

to do with arrests of former army officers: Gohar

ISLAMABAD (INP) Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar has clarified that he has not accepted the resignation of PTI Punjab president

Hammad Azhar. Responding to a query on recent arrests of former army officers, Gohar said that he had already given his statement on this issue.

Barrister Gohar further said, "Arrests of Faiz Hameed and others have nothing to do with the party and leadership. Our stand on the current arrests is clear.'

He urged that speculations should not be made on this

The PTI chief said that the army has its code of conduct. He asserted that a military trial of a civilian cannot take place.

PNS Hunain visits Turkish Ports of Golcuk, Aksaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): The newly commissioned Pakistan Navy Ship HUNAIN, during maiden voyage from Romania to Pakistan, visited Turkiye and participated in EX TURGUTŘEJS-X with Turkish Coast Guard Ship GELIBOLU.

The exercise focused on various Joint Maritime Operations with the aim to enhance interoperability between both Navies, a Pakistan Navy news release said. Earlier, PNS HÛNAIN visited Turkish Naval ports at Golcuk and Aksaz. Upon arrival at the ports, the ship was received by Senior Officials of Pakistan Embassy and Turkish



Navy. During stay at Golcuk, Commanding Officer of PNS HUNAIN called on Turkish Navy Fleet Commander Vice Admiral Kadir Yildiz and Commander of Golcuk Naval

Base Rear Admiral Ali Tuna Baysal. During the meeting, professional matters of mutual interest and enhancement of bilateral cooperation between both the navies were discussed. During stay at port Aksaz, Commander 2nd Destroyer Squadron of Turkish Navy, Commodore Captain Cenk TASLI along with Commanding Officer of TCG GELIBOLU visited onboard ship and appreciated

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on Rightsizing of Government Size.

COAS vows to support youth for prosperous Pakistan

Army Chief appreciates Arshad Nadeem's remarkable achievement at Paris Olympics, attributes his commitment, perseverance

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Friday appreciated Arshad Nadeem's remarkable achievement of winning Pakistan's first-ever gold medal in a singles' event and setting a new Olympic record in jayelin throw pic record in javelin throw, attributing it to his com-

mitment, perseverance, and passion for excellence.
The Army Chief hosted a ceremony at Army Auditorium GHQ to honour Olympian Arshad Nadeem's historic achievement in Paris Olympics 2024 here an Inter Services 2024 here, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.
The COAS highlighted

Arshad's inspirational journey from humble beginnings to achieving greatness, emphasizing the importance of hard work and determination.

The Army Chief recognized Arshad Nadeem's achievement as a national pride and highlighted that he has been honoured by the complete nation befitting his achievement. The COAS reaffirmed

the commitment to support and empower not only achieving success

sportsmen, but the entire wealth of Pakistani youth to achieve excellence towards a prosperous Pakistan. The COAS highlighted the need for Youth Engagement, Development and Entertainment as essential cardinals of a healthy and prosperous society.

The event was at-

tended by sports teams and legendary olympians in-cluding 1984 Olympic and National Hockey Teams, National Cricket Team, Street Football Team, Army Polo Team, Visually Impaired Cricket and Women Goal Ball Teams, Medal Winners of Common Wealth, SAF and Asian Games and participants of Paris Olympics 2024. Notable legends included Jehangir Khan, Isalah Ud Din, Shahbaz Senior, Sohail Abbas, Muhammad Asif coaches. Athlete, Arshad Nadeem expressed gratitude and emphasized the immense potential of Pakistani youth, stressing the importance of hard work, positivity, and perseverance in overcoming challenges and

Arrest of retired military personnel internal affair of Pakistan: Pentagon WASHINGTON (Online): US Department of Pentagon Defence has said arrest of retired military personnel is

US Department of Pentagon Defence Press Secretary Maj Gen Paticik Ryder has said in a statement there is stable partnership between Pakistan and US. Arrest of retired military personnel is internal matter of Pakistan. US is committed to work with Pakistan.

The spokesperson further said US will continue to help Pakistan for regional security and achievement of nmon objectives.

The military and political leadership from both the countries continue to hold talks. We are aware of report and causes of arrest of retired military personnel.

Ishaq Dar declares arrest of Gen (Retd) Faiz Hamed a miracle

ISLAMABAD (Online): added. Declaring the arrest of Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed a miracle, deputy Prime took his family with him Minister (PM) Ishaq Dar during visit to IPU. Wife has said such thing have and children of joint secrehappened for the first

I was also among the affectees of Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed. Gen (Retd) Faiaz had apologized to me in the mid of October, he said this while talking to journalists in Parliament house Friday. The dirty politics has reduced the country to miserable condition, he alarmed. The 24th world economy has lowered to 47th position due to dharnas and dirty

politics, he regretted. We paid heavy cost

To a question he said joint secretary of Senate tary took political asylum.

He observed that foreign office will not provide any facility to officers of parliament with reference to visa in coming days.

The visa facility will continue to be provided to members of national assembly and members of Senate. Facility will be provided to families of members of parliament but not to friends and mohalla

Due to restrictions on passport thousands of Pakistanis could not return to and still we are paying, he Pakistan, he stated

Bomb blast targeting police van injures four in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): A remote-controlled device bomb blast, targeting a Police van in the Pir Bala area on Warsak road, injured four people including two policemen here on

According to Rescue 1122 authorities, the Police

van was patrolling on Warsak Road and upon reaching at Pir Bala area was targeted by the blast. Among the injured

two were policemen and two were passersby who all were rushed to Lady Reading Hospital for treat-

PM hails Punjab govt's historic relief Nawaz Sharif announces Rs 14 per unit electricity relief in Aug, Sept bills

PML-N supremo blames Imran -led govt for skyrocketing inflation

LAHORE (APP): In a significant move aimed at providing financial relief to the people of Punjab, Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) President party, the prime minis-Muhammad Nawaz Sharif ter, and the chief minis-Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has announced a reduction ter, and the chief minis-ter for the lives of ordiin electricity prices.

Addressing a news conference alongside Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Friday, he revealed that the Punjab government would provide a relief of Rs 14 per unit for electricity bills up to 500 units for the months of August and

September. The decision, according to Nawaz, comes after careful reduction of expenditures across various sectors, allowing the government to allocate Rs 45 biland Aisam-ul-Haq. The event was also attended by Arshad Nadeem's close relatives, associates and relatives, associates and relatives. these hard months. He highlighted that this is not the first relief effort from the government. Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had announced similar support for consumers using up to 200 units of electricity per month.

Nawaz emphasised that the Punjab government's actions demonstrate the deep concern of his nary citizens. He also mentioned an-

other significant project introduced by the chief providing solar panels to people in need. The project, with an estimated budget of Rs 700 billion, aims to bring comfort to poor, lower-middle, and middle-class citizens. He expressed his hope

that these measures would alleviate the financial strain on the common people and praised both the PM and the CM for their commitment to the welfare of citi- of the country.

provinces to follow Punjab's example and take similar steps to improve the lives of their people. He also reflected on the government's ongoing efforts over the past six to seven months to provide

relief to the public. Reflecting on past po-

Sharif litical challenges, Nawaz at the Sharif lamented that Pakistan's progress had been repeatedly dis-rupted by conspiracies against him.

He recalled how his government had successfully managed the economy, reducing interest rates to 5.25 per cent and maintaining a stable dollar minister, which involves rate. He questioned who was responsible for the current economic challenges, including the high interest rates and the re-turn of the IMF. He especially named the PTI chief for this situation and financial crunch facing by the country. Nawaz Sharif concluded by vowing to stay connected with the people and continue working towards the betterment

Meanwhile Prime He called on other Minister Muhammad vinces to follow Shehbaz Sharif on Friday welcomed the historic package for the electricity consumers announced by Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif under the leadership of PML-N President and former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.



the press conference along with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz in Lahore.

Installation of firewall, closure of internet challenged in IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Petition has been filed in Islamabad High Court (IHC) against closure of internet owing to installation of firewall.

The petition was filed on Friday making cabinet secretary, IT secretary, and interior secretary respondents. PTA and ministry of human rights are also included in the respon-

Security forces kill three terrorists in N. Waziristan RAWALPINDI (INP): Se-

curity forces have killed three terrorists during an intelligence-based operation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) area of Razmak, the Înter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Friday. "On 16 August 2024,

security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in the general area of Razmak, District North Waziristan, on the reported presence of Khwarij,' the army's media wing said in a "During the conduct of

three Khwarij of Fitna al Khawarij were sent to hell, while one Kharji got injured." Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the terrorists, who were actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces as well as the targeted killings of innocent civilians, it added.

The statement further said that the process of sanitisation in the area is underway to eliminate any other terrorists found in the locale as security forces are the operation, intense fire determined to wipe out the exchange took place be- menace of "khawarij" and tween the troops and terrorism from the country.

KP minister Shakeel Ahmad resigns over 'corruption, bad governance'

CM says he has already sent a summary to de-notify the minister

PESHAWAR Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Communication and Works Shakeel Ahmad Khan resigned from his post while levelling allegations of corruption and bad governance against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-backed provincial government.

Shakeel said that he had sent his resignation to KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur.

The development ber committee to monitor came days after incarcerated PTI founder Iman Khan, in a stern message from Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, warned members of his party's government in KP that they would be held accountable for corruption and governance issues in their depart-

In line with the directions of Khan, the PTI constituted a three-memcorruption and governance in KP, where the party formed government after the February 2024 general It should be noted

that Khan decided to constitute the committee after provincial minister Shakeel, during a meeting with him in jail, complained about embezzlement in various depart-

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

High power costs

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's promise to significantly reduce the extremely high power tariffs in the next few days should be taken with a pinch of salt.

On Independence Day, Mr Sharif acknowledged that the electricity bills were everyone's foremost concern, and that without reducing power tariffs, Pakistan's industry, agriculture, and exports could not grow. He said that the government was working round the clock to rectify matters, and that he wanted to ensure 'maximum relief'.

Similar statements have been given by Energy Minister Awais Leghari in recent weeks amid growing criticism of the government's expensive power purchase contracts with IPPs by the powerful textile lobby and some political parties. The only difference is that the minister sees electricity prices decreasing from January — not earlier. How Mr Sharif plans to deliver this miracle in the coming days, or even months, has not been explained.

Indeed, the contracts with the IPPs offering high guaranteed profits to their local and Chinese owners are an issue, but they are only one part of the problem. The issue is complex, with many other factors contributing to our higher-than-regional electricity prices. The government says it is mulling various options to cut power generation costs, such as shifting three coal plants from imported fuel to Thar lignite.

However, these and other solutions will take time before we see any meaningful reduction in generation costs, if at all. The biggest problem is that the challenge of electricity tariffs is largely linked to our overall fiscal troubles and the severe dollar crunch that has led to a sharp depreciation in the value of the rupee over time. This has caused a spike in the cost of imported fuel used to generate electricity, as well as dollar-indexed costs and profits of power producers in recent years, resulting in higher electricity rates for all consumers. Can Mr Sharif, or anyone else, bring down electricity prices even a bit, without actually tackling budget issues and dollar liquidity? That is unlikely.

The good news is that the government has prepared a 'home-grown economic strategy', focusing on export-led growth and the removal of continuing economic bottlenecks to achieve 6pc annual growth, with the help of a foreign consultant. The bad news is that the authorities seem to be second-guessing the plan as it is likely to hurt the business interests of Pakistan's rent-seeking elite; this was evident to many when it deferred its promised announcement on Independence Day. Nonetheless, the sudden unexplained delay in the announcement of the new economic reform plan is not reason enough to suspect the government's intentions. Rather, it raises concerns about vested interests wielding their influence to protect their benefits. Still, we must keep our fingers crossed as perhaps the age of miracles is not over yet.

Solving problems

ings we receive.

intelligence.

heart

quently gives rise to

many desires and ambi-

vidual entertains hun-

survival instinct, social

and biological needs.

Amin Valliani

We all know that life is transitory, limited in time and overcoming proband one has to strive hard for survival. During helps us develop a more life's long struggle, one comes across many problems. Sometimes it seems that life is full of problems. They occur every day for everyone and all are engaged in problemsolving as no problem gets solved just by wishing it away. Therefore, solving problems successfully, depends on the right way of tackling

The frequent occurrence of problems in life is an opportunity where other fields. Sometimes one can turn to Allah, seeking His help and guidance in problematic situations. Humans have been created as the Holy Quran says ... 'crown of creation', and are born to be problemsolvers. Whenever a person has a problem, he is forced to find a solution. If the solution is based on intelligence and consultation with others, then the result would be

We should not be afraid of problems. They will remain with us as long as we exist. In fact, they are blessings in disguise. They can help us grow and learn important lessons. Some problems have a lasting impact on the life of a person. They set or reset the direction of life. Nature teaches many lessons through problem-solving activities; it opens up new avenues where one can take the positive from the negative. It can help us become stronger, more resilient, more focused and more capable of handling future problems. It also makes us skilled in negotiations and evaluation of mat- The struggle itself is a ters. If the problem we central part of life, deface does not make us better and stronger, then all our efforts are in vain.

Additionally, solving problem can give us a sense of accomplish- their effort in the our problems are solved. ment and help us feel struggle to solve prob- - Courtesy Dawn

more confident in our lems and seek fulfilment ability to handle difficult of earnest desires. situations. Finally, facing There are certain steps that should be unlems and challenges

dertaken for problemsolving. The first and positive outlook on life foremost is a deep unand can increase our derstanding of the probgratitude for the blesslem itself. One must be clear what the problem Modern research is about and then come has also developed up with a plan to address it. The third step many scientific methods problem-solving, relates to carrying out which is now considered the plan. This is the step the science of overcomof doing, and looking ing the hurdles that back at or learning from come our way. Problems the exercise. Here one in need of solutions can consolidate the range from simple perknowledge gained dursonal tasks to complex

ing the exercise. issues in business and Throughout the exercise, one needs to be problems emerge due to rational and flexible. our own recklessness; at This enables us to naviother times, they are gate various methods nature's test for us. The of solving problems. The modern world has "And certainly, We shall everything but it needs the small message of test you with something four words: 'turn back to God'. This means of fear, hunger, loss of wealth, lives and fruits, that the struggle of but give glad tidings to As-Sabirin (the patient)" problem-solving must (2:155). When Allah tests be accompanied by the sense of God's presbelievers, they must respond with God-given ence. One must not forget to pray, as it is the Problems also occur medium whereby believers seek divine help due to excessive engagement with the mateand guidance in order rial world, which subseto overcome problems

and also seek the

fulfilment of their de-

tions. Thus, every indi-Performing and reciting prayers with an attendreds of desires in his and wants tive mind enables us to fulfilment. Human demend what is broken in sires are driven by a valife. This is an important riety of factors including step towards healing and finding solutions. The Holy Quran mentions nuand cultural conditioning, personal experiences merous prayers/ duas ascribed to various prophets and believers who According to some experts, if even half of have sought help in solvone's desires are fulfilled, ing problems. All human beings, including prophone is extremely fortunate, but as per Islam one ets and believers, faced problems. They had dehas to strive day in and day out to get results. sires and wishes and the method they used in addressing their problems and to fulfil their wishes, spondency is a sin, and procrastination and was prayer/ dua. They quick-fixes are consid- have left lasting exered undesirable. There- amples, mentioning how fore, one must continue to pray in humility so that

Freelancers for ruin

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

Another Aug 14 has passed by with familiar proclamations about the evil designs of the proverbial 'foreign hand'. As usual, outside conspirators are complemented by enemies inside our own borders. The list is long and comprised of absurdly opposed actors like retired spy chiefs and a women-led Baloch peace movement. Blanket categories like 'digital terrorism' are devised. The now months-old

ban on social media sites like X has been extended operationalisation of a long-touted digital security system (also known as a firewall). Leaving aside for a while the absurd notion that all of this makes

has been triggered.

Pakistan is reportedly the fourth biggest gig economy in the world, with millions of (mostly young) people generating incomes through a host of digital platforms. There can be no romanticising the realities of pla-t-form capitalism: it is exploitative, has my-r-iad gendered effects and is cause and consequence of the unprecedented com-m-o--d-i-f-i-c-a-tion of social life. Yet beggars can't be choosers in a country where land grabbing, khaki real estate schemes, hoarding, contraband trade, useless mega projects and the like rep-

of 'economic development Unlike most variants of Pakistani capitalism, the gig economy's one saving grace is that it generates some employment opportunities for young, educated segments of the population, thus offsetting some of the demographic pressure that is culminating, with almost two million people joining the labour force annually.

resent the dominant model

before. Temporary bans on YouTube, TikTok and other big social media sites have suffocated the livelihoods of those who have had more or less success monetising their content. Increasingly regular moves to suspend mobile data have badly affected sharing and many other

The current internet clampdown is affe-c-ting all this as well as call centres, software developers, digital marketing and many other sub-sectors.

commu-nications apps like WhatsApp have been crippled. A number of foreign companies — most prominently Fiverr have suggested they will soon shift their operations away from Pakistan beus safer, let us focus on cause their daily losses the economic fallout that run into the millions. I care competence here, only less abo-ut the profits of multinationals than I do about the call centre workers who are being deprived of even their mea-

> gre daily wages. The latest hybrid regime started off exhorting the need for foreign investment, and has now succeeded in thwarting its own stated imperative. In 2022, digital freelancers brought in \$500 million, which is at least as much concrete currency than we've actually see come economic into the country through the much-touted SIFC.

Our khaki-dominated ruling class is so coninfrast-ructure sumed by palace intrigues and the windfall profits of big office that it is unable to see where it is taking what is already a sinking ship. When X and WhatsApp are dee-med threats to 'national security' because urban middle class types from military and civilian backgrounds — previously the biggest defenders of the established order are now using these platforms to criticise the inc-umbent regime, it is the Courtesy Dawn

We have been here est-ablishment and its lackeys have lost the

It is unsurprising that the powers are petrified by youth-led movements in the peripheries, including the women-led Yekjheti Committee. Such movements are precarious workers reliant anti-establishment, and on food delivery, ride- represent a threat to all warring ruling class factions. But here too even a slightly competent ruling class with an eye for the future would realise the clamping down on social media to suppress the group's reach is a double-edged sword because digital freelancing helps incorporate at least some young disaffected Baloch (as well as Pakhtun, Sindhi, Gilgit-Baltistani, Kashmiri, Seraiki) youth into the system.

But there is little

gimmicks like 'Digital Pakistan'. Meanwhile young working people in the once-loyal Punjabi heartland are seeing their fragile middle class aspirations go up in smoke, which is, in turn, generating even more disaffection as evidenced not only through political opinions in digital spaces but also in the realms of art and culture. All of this can certainly be suppressed, but the pressure cooker cannot bubble over indefinitely. Let me be clear: the decision to suffocate the digital economy mostly affects white-collar youth. The vast majority of our bluecollar working population has no outlet whatsoever, other than menial jobs and emigration by any means necessary. But they could care less, so we should expect more of the same to come. Without a meaningful, countrywide alternative to the game of the thrones, we will all be reduced to

freelancers for ruin. --

Commerce News

PM decides reforms to promote gemstones exports, industry

Says smuggling of precious stones will not be allowed at any cost

carry out reforms in the of reforms. gemstones sector to promote the industry and enhance its exports.

gemstones sector, said that he would personally head the steering committee to promote the industry and its reformation.

tasked gemstone sector was

He said the government would launch pertaining to the reforms in industry, assuring the measures federal in this regard.

said that unfortunately the sector and their outcome.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Privatisation Minister neglected during last 77 Prime Minister Shehbaz Abdul Aleem Khan to years and the precious years and the precious Sharif on Friday decided to ensure the implementation asset was being wasted through conventional

a project in Gilgit Baltistan authorities concerned to consultation with the GB The prime minister, to elevate the standards of formulate an action plan of chairing a meeting to mining, chiseling and value international standard minister also called for the discuss the matters addition of gemstones within a month and take priority measures to industry, assuring the federal government's support to GB government support to GB government support to GB government support to GB government sought a report on the gemstones. In the briefing practical measures for The prime minister reforms in the gemstone

told

He

participants that the government would not allow smuggling of the gemstones and sought a the mining methods. report on the subject aunch

He directed the within a week, after government. The prime it was told that a total of 178 licenses had so far been issued for mining of



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding development of gemstone sector.

SIALKOT: Agroup Photo of H.E Mr Park Kijun, Ambassador of Republic of Korea to Pakistan with exporters at Chamber of commerce.

Senate body stresses modernization of Pakistan Railways is crucial

ISLAMABAD (APP): charges over the past five actions taken against the The Senate Committee on Railways emphasized on that the modernization and enhancement of the railway system are crucial for ensuring the long-term well-being and prosperity

The Committee's meeting was chaired by Senator Jam Saifullah

During the session, the Committee discussed measures to control corruption within the railway system and Shahadat inquired about the number of officials held responsible theft, or penalized for corruption

Senator Shahadat entire loss to pension issues is not justifiable.

Senator Jam Saifullah Khan, Chairman of the issues raised by Senator and Awan,

perpetrators.

The Secretary of the Awan suggested that the Ministry of Railways Ministry of Railways informed the Committee provide comprehensive that there is a clear directive details regarding instances of zero tolerance for of fraud within the corruption. He added that department. He further the Ministry is prepared to argued that attributing the scrutinize matters as extensively as this august house deems necessary. He emphasized that

Ministry will Committee, recommended thoroughly review audit that the Ministry deliver a reports, guided by the detailed briefing on the Committee's direction, assured Committee that all particularly concerning decisions will be made in corruption, strict accordance with monetary losses, and the rules and regulations

SME's to Rs10 million KARACHI (APP): The Facility been updated State Bank of Pakistan accordingly to enhance the (SBP), in order to facilitate clean lending limit for an Small and Medium-sized SME borrower from Rs5 million to Rs10 million.

Enterprise (SME) sector's access to finance, on SBP's SME, Housing Friday, increased clean lending limit for SMEs to and Sustainable Finance Department issued a circular in the regard The banking regulator advising heads of all banks has made an amendment in and DFIs stringent The banking regulator Prudential Regulations for compliance of the SME Financing and SME Regulation SME R-4 regulatory measures taken in light of National SME

regarding Limit on Clean Policy 2021. CCP imposes Rs 5 mln penalty on Diamond Paint for deceptive marketing

SBP enhances clean

lending limit for

The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) on Friday took decisive action against M/ s Diamond Paint Industries (Pvt) Ltd., imposing a penalty of Rs 5 million for violating Section 10 of the Competition Act, 2010, which prohibits deceptive

marketing practices.
A CCP bench, led by the Chairman Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu and Member Salman Amin, issued an order in response to a complaint filed by Nippon Paint Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd against Diamond Paint's

ISLAMABAD (APP): marketing campaign for its The Competition product 'Durasilk' run on television various channels, said a news release. This was the third occasion concerns were raised about omission of material information in Television Commercials by paint (TVC) manufacturers. The investigation found that Diamond Paint, despite including disclaimers on its packaging and shade cards. does not disclose the presence and value of

redeemable tokens in its

paint buckets in its

television commercials

between Pakistan and Korea. He made these remarks during a meeting with exporters at the Sialkot Chamber of

exporters to seize opportunities in Korea's Ambassador international trade markets highlighted Korea's strong to enhance bilateral trade interest in deepening trade and economic ties with Pakistan, emphasizing the potential of Pakistan as a significant market for business. He proposed Commerce and Industry further promoting bilateral (SCCI) on Friday. The trade through the exchange meeting was attended by of trade delegations and Abdul Ghafoor Malik, expressed his commitment President of SCCI; Wahub to strengthening trade contributions to the Jahangir, Senior Vice relations President (SVP) of SCCI; countries. relations between the two

PSX loses 60 points

Ambassador Park Ki Jun

of the Republic of Korea

has called on Sialkot

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) shed 60.67 points on Friday, showing a negative change of 0.08 percent, closing at 78,045.31 points against 78,105.98 points on the last working day. A total of 600,719,724 shares were traded during the day as compared to 591,065,051 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 21.071 billion against Rs 20.102 billion on the last trading day. As many as 440 companies transacted their shares in the stock market.

Korean ambassador stresses

boosting trade with Pakistan

Yeonjeong Yoo, Assistant

Public Diplomacy Officer;

and members of the Sialkot

In his address,

business community.

infrastructure development. **Short-term inflation** eases by 0.16 percent

weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed a decrease of 0.16 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on August 15, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

(PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the abovementioned group was recorded at 322.03 points as compared to 322.54 week. As compared to the corresponding week of last

ISLAMABAD (APP): The year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 16.86 per cent.

The weekly SPI with

stressed the importance of

enhancing people-to-

people contacts between

Korean and Pakistani

business communities. He

underscored that economic

cooperation between

Korea and Pakistan is

crucial for boosting trade

ties and noted the cordial

relationship enjoyed by

praised Sialkot for its role

as a key export hub in

Pakistan and recognised its

national economy and

The ambassador

the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure

However, the SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732, witnessed a nominal increase of 0.07 per cent points during the past and went up to 311.04 points from last week's 310.83 points.

Governor KP lauds efforts of ICRC, suggest to improve health, education sectors

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday lauded the efforts of the International Committee of the Red (ICRC) and health and education

He said this during a meeting with Nicolas Head International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), at the Governor House. Edith Joseph, the ICRC Sub-Delegation Head for present during the meeting.

During the discussion, the ICRC delegation briefed the Governor on the services provided by

Lahore High Court (LHC)

on Friday reserved its

verdict on a petition filed

against the disruption of

internet service across the

country. The single bench,

comprising Justice Shakil

Ahmed, heard the petition

filed by Advocate Nadeem

proceedings, the court

summoned a federal law

During the

hearing for a short while. officer.

(APP): the organization. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially in the merged districts. The report in the capacity of hospitals relief essential medicines in districts such as Khyber, Kurram, and Bajaur. The Delegation of the ICRC emphasized its focus on enhancing health commitment to supporting families affected by the merged districts. disasters in Pakistan.

Peshawar, was also to address emergency situations and natural disasters in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through partnerships.
The ICRC has

RAWALPINDI: Members of the Christian com-

munity held a protest demonstration outside the

LHC reserves verdict on

petition against disruption

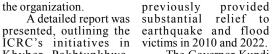
of internet services

officer and ordered him to appropriate orders would

seek instructions from the be issued, besides relevant quarters until 12 questioning the level of

pm, while adjourning the seriousness of the law

Press Club against the Jaranwala incident.



The Governor Kundi acknowledged the valuable contribution of the suggested to improve highlighted improvements ICRC in the province's activities, and the provision of particularly during natural disasters.

Faisal Karim Kundi suggested that the ICRC and education services in He noted

The delegation also significant impact of shared their ongoing efforts environmental changes and terrorism on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa emphasizing the need for better health and education systems in the province's rural southern districts.

PDWP approves two development schemes

LAHORE (APP): The 18th meeting of Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) FY 2024-25 was held under the chairmanship Board Chairman Barrister Nabeel Ahmad Awan, in which two development schemes of Social Welfare and SHC&ME sector were approved with an estimated cost of Rs 3366.896 million

The approved schemes are as follows: CM Himmat Card Programme for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) at the cost of Rs 2,658.120 million. Establishment of Paeds Burn Centre at Children Hospital, Lahore at the cost of Rs 708.776 million Secretary P&D Board Dr Asif Tufail, Chief Economist P&D Board Masoud Anwar, Members P&D Board, Head of relevant departments and other representatives of the relevant provincial departments attended

the meeting.



on by ICRC delegation Head in Pakistan Nicolas Lambert at Governor House.

KPCM calls for immediate implementation of Ehsaas Rozgars, Housing Programs

Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, has emphasized urgent need to address the issue of unemployment in the province

He has directed the immediate finalization and implementation of Ehsaas Naujwan Rozgar, Ehsaas Hunar and Ehsaas Rozgar Programs.

Similarly, in order to cater for the housing needs of low income house holds in the province and raise their socio-economic these initiatives.

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief conditions, the preparation for "Ehsas Apna Ghar Program" was reviewed. Under "Ehsas Apna

Ghar Program" interest-free loans up to 1.5 million rupees would be offered to low income people for construction of new house, renovation & improvement of existing house or owning an apartment

During a joint meeting relevant the departments, the chief minister highlighted the importance of a realistic and equitable approach to

UNDP GLOG-II project benefiting people massively

PESHAWAR (APP): The and 9,262 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) recently hosted an exposure visit journalists, showcasing the significant achievements of

the GLOF-II Project. The visit provided journalists with a firsthand view of the project's impact on local communities across the targeted valleys, says a press release issued here on Friday. During the visit, journalists observed several key achievements of the GLOF-II Project including 70 channels, 19,859 meters in length, benefiting 9,512 men Kalam.

protection walls of 178 schemes, benefiting 15,354 men and 14,955 women. They also observed

base Platforms for 61

systems installed Slope Stabilization and Bio Engineering: 13 schemes covering 280

hectares, benefiting 4,957 men and 4,859 women. Renovation of PMD Observatories:

observatories renovated. Renovation Conservation Sites for Forest Department: 2 sites renovated in Utror and

Gul Khan appointed as focal person for

merged areas

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, has appointed former MNA from Bajaur, Haji Gul Zafar Khan, as the Focal Person to the Chief Minister for merged areas. According to a notification issued by the CM Secretariat, his services will be provided on an honorary basis without any compensation or remuneration.

13 killed in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At leas 13 people were killed and 1,356 others injured in 1,236 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many 611 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 745 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

The data analysis showed that 704 drivers, 33 underage drivers, 132 pedestrians, and 481 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. The statistics showed that 284 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 319 people, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by Faisalabad with 84 accidents and 74 victims, and at third Guiranwala with 72 accidents and 70 victims.

Punjab Governor says: Everyone should play a positive role for development and stability of the country

Independent Report Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan today visited the residence of Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. During the meeting parliamentary affairs and the current situation of the country was discussed. Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expressed good wishes for Punjab Governor.

Speaking on this Punjab occasion, Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that everyone should play a positive role for the development and stability of the country. Governor smoothly.

coalition government should run successfully to bring political stability in the country, adding that political stability is vital to the economic development of the country. expressed determination strengthen the relation

Punjab said that the

between the federation and Punjab and play every possible role for the improvement of the province. On this occasion, the Governor of Punjab appreciated the role of Speaker Assembly for conducting the proceedings of the House impartially and



LAHORE: Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan during his visit to residence of Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq discussed the parliamentary affairs and the current situation of the country.

IPO enhances collaboration with PIPRA

KARACHI (APP): In a bid to promote transparency and inclusivity in the intellectual property (IP) sector, the Chairperson of IPO-Pakistan, Ambassador (Rtd.) Farukh Amil, met with a delegation from the Pakistan Intellectual Property Rights Association (PľPRA).

The delegation in-Court (former Chairman PIPRA), Syed Aquil Ali Shah (Chairman PIPRA), Saleem Ghulam Hussain, Advocate Supreme Court vancing the IP system.

(Senior Vice Chairman PIPRA), Salman Ahmed Sheikh, Advocate High Court (Member Managing Committee PIPRA), and Didar Karim, Advocate High Court (Honorary Secretary PIPRA), according to a news release on Friday. The discussions cen-

tered on IP-related challenges, including Pakistan's cluded Sultan Ahmed accession to international Sheikh, Advocate Supreme agreements, amendments to laws, and fee structures.

The Chairperson emphasized the crucial role of the private sector in ad-

International News

Gaza ceasefire negotiations extend to another day as death toll exceeds 40,000

proceedings resumed, the

law officer requested time

to submit a detailed

response to the petition.

stating the need to consult

Telecommunication

Authority regarding the

noted that this was a public

interest petition and that

slow internet speed.

the Pakistan

However, the court

Monitoring Desk DOHA: Negotiators were to meet in the Qatari capital Doha again on Friday in an effort to hammer out a Gaza ceasefire agreement as Israel continued to slam targets in the Palestinian enclave. Gaza health officials reported separately on Thursday that the death toll there had surpassed 40,000 people after more than 10

months of fighting. This round of negotiations opened on Thursday, and the talks would resume on Friday for a second day, Qatari and US officials said.

A US official briefed on the discussions in Doha, who declined to be identified, told Reuters that Thursday's talks were "constructive." "This is vital work. The remaining obstacles can be overcome, and we must bring this process to a close," US national security spokesperson displaced Palestinians and

the White House. Israel, meanwhile, pressed its assault on Gaza. Gaza health officials said at least six Palestinians were killed on Thursday night in an Israeli air strike on a house in Jabalia in northern Gaza Strip. Israeli troops earlier hit targets in the southern cities of Rafah and Khan Younis. In a statement issued late on Thursday on Telegram, Hamas politburo Hossam Badran said Israel's continuing operations were an obstacle to progress on a ceasefire. Hamas officials did not join

Thursday's talks. must move toward implementation of a framework agreement accepted previously and achieve a complete ceasefire, withdrawal of Israeli forces, return of

White House says deals struck to

cut prices of popular Medicare

John Kirby told reporters at a hostage exchange deal member defence officials said.

Badran said the talks

ongoing negotiations in Doha regarding a ceasefire and a hostage exchange from a strategic perspective with the goal of ending the aggression on Gaza," he added. Mediators planned to consult with Hamas' Dohabased negotiating team after the meeting, the US official told Reuters. The Israeli delegation includes spy chief David Barnea, head of the domestic security service Ronen Bar and the military's hostages chief Nitzan Alon,

The White House

'Hamas looks at the

sent CIA Director Bill Burns and U.S. Middle East envoy Brett McGurk. Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani and Egypt's intelligence chief Abbas Kamel also took part.

Pheu Thai Party's leader Paetongtarn Shinawatra reacts during a press

conference after the Thai parliament confirms her as the country's next prime minister, in Bangkok, Thailand.

UN rights chief deplores 'grim milestone' of 40,000 Gaza dead

Monitoring Desk rights chief on Thursday deplored the "grim milestone" of 40,000 Palestinians reported killed in Israel's 10month assault on Gaza, accusing the country's military of breaking the "rules of war". United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk blamed Israel for the soar-

40,005 people, with another 92,401 wounded. 'Today marks a grim milestone for the world,

Turk said in a statement. "Most of the dead are women and children. This

unimaginable situation is overwhelmingly due to recurring failures by the Is-

In Beirut, US envoy says on Gaza ceasefire

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Visiting US en-

comes a day before ceasefire negotiations between Hamas and Israel are set to resume, with top diplomats scrambling to avert all-out war after Iran and Hezbollah vowed revenge for recent high-pro-

Hochstein told a

help enable a diplomatic resolution here in Lebanon and that would prevent an outbreak of a wider war, Hochstein said

Mpox kills 548 in DR Congo this year

Monitoring Desk Gaza said on Thursday that cratic Republic of Congo the death toll from the consaid on Thursday an flict had reached at least mpox outbreak has killed 548 people there this year, as the first case outside Africa of the virus's more dangerous variant was recorded in a traveller in Sweden.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) on Wednesday declared the mpox surge in Africa a global public health emergency, worried by the rise in cases in the DRC and the spread to nearby countries.

UK police charge two teenagers with right-wing terror offences

Monitoring Desk LONDON: Two teenagers suspected of extreme rightwing terror offences will appear in court in London on Friday, with police saying they both face "ex-

tremely serious charges". Metropolitan Police (the Met) said that an 18year-old man and a 19-yearold woman were charged on Thursday following a "proactive investigation" by its Counter Terrorism Command unit.

Shinawatra is elected Thailand's prime minister

Thaksin's daughter Paetongtarn

Monitoring Desk BANGKOK: Thailand's

Paetongtarn Shinawatra as prime minister Friday, continuing the legacy of the political dynasty that be-gan with her father Thaksin Shinawatra, one of Thailand's most popular but divisive political fig-

Thaksin, a former Prime Minister, was ousted by a military coup in 2006, which triggered decades of deep political divisions. Paetongtarn appears to be the beneficiary of a deal her father made with his old conservative foes, allowing the populist party led by her to take power while pushing aside the more progressive party that finished

first in last year's election. Paetongtarn becomes

year, and her aunt Yingluck Shinawatra, who lives in exile. Paetongtarn also is Thailand's second female prime minister after her aunt, and the country's youngest leader at 37. As the only nominee,

she was confirmed by 319 votes in favor, with 145 against and 27 abstentions. Paetongtarn is the leader of the Pheu Thai party, the latest of a string of parties linked to Thaksin. She is not an elected lawmaker as that was not required for her to be a candidate for prime

"I really hope that I can make people feel confident, that we can build opportunity and quality of life," she said.

"I hope that I can do Thailand's third leader from the Shinawatra family, af-

Iran hackers target **Harris and Trump** campaigns: Google

Monitoring Desk N FRANCISCO: Google confirmed that hackers backed by Iran are targeting the campaigns of US presidential rivals Kamala Harris and Donald Trump. A hacker group known as "APT42" linked to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps went after high-profile individuals and organizations in Israel and the United States, including government officials and political campaigns, according to a threat report released by Google. Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris's campaign said Tuesday it had been targeted by foreign hackers, days after ri-

been hacked by Iran. "In July, the campaign legal and security teams were notified by the FBI that we were targeted by a foreign actor influence operation," a Harris campaign official told AFP. "We have robust cybersecurity

val Donald Trump's cam-

paign suggested that it had

measures in place and are not aware of any security breaches of our systems resulting from those efforts." Google's threat analysis group continues to see unsuccessful attempts from APT42 to compromise personal accounts of individuals affiliated with President Joe Biden, Vice President Harris and Trump, the report said. The hacking group

works by gleaning information about targets and tailoring "phishing" efforts to dupe victims into revealing log-in information for accounts like Gmail. Examples given in the report included posing as a think tank or other credible contact to lure victims to fake video meeting landing pages, where login credentials are needed to take part. While technical tools abound in hacker arsenals, some opt for "social engineering" tactics that trick people into clicking on booby-trapped links or logging in to realistic replicas of legitimate web pages.

drugs that cost \$50 billion yearly **Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: The Biden administration said Thursday that drug price negotiations will knock

hundreds of dollars — in some cases thousands — off the list prices of 10 of Medicare's most popular and costliest drugs. The discounts, agreed to after months of negotia-

tions with drug manufacturers, range between 38% and 79% on the medication's list price, which is the cost of medication before discounts or rebates are applied — not the price people actually pay for prescriptions. Medicare spent \$50 billion covering the drugs last year and taxpayers are

expected to save \$6 billion

on the new prices, which

do not go into effect until

2026. Older adults could

save as much as \$1.5 bil-

lion in total on their medi-

cations in out-of-pocket

costs. Administration offi-

cials released few details about how they arrived at those calculations.

The newly negotiated prices will impact the price of drugs used by millions of older Americans to help manage diabetes, blood cancers and prevent heart failure or blood clots. The drugs include the blood thinners Xarelto and Eliquis and diabetes drugs Jardiance and Januvia.

It's a landmark deal for the Medicare program, which provides health care coverage for more than 67 million older and disabled Americans. For decades. the federal government had been barred from bartering with pharmaceutical companies over the price of their drugs, even though it's a routine process for private insurers.

"For years, millions of Americans were forced to choose between paying for medications or putting food on the table

Jamaica declares southern state of emergency after Sunday night killings **Monitoring Desk**

INGSTON: Jamaican rime Minister Andrew Holness declared a state of emergency in the Caribbean nation's southern Clarendon parish after eight people were killed in separate gun attacks on Sunday night, including a seven-year-old boy.

"This is an opportunity for the government to mobilize fully to have a very serious focus on gangs," Holness told a press conference at his office. "We cannot allow murders to be normalized in our country.'

The prime minister did not immediately detail what regulations would be imposed, but these can typically involve nightly curfews, longer detention periods without formal charges and the ability by police to search properties without warrants.

raeli Defence Forces to ing death toll in the terricomply with the rules of war," he added. tory. The health ministry in 'no more time to waste'

voy Amos Hochstein warned Wednesday the clock was ticking for a Gaza ceasefire that could also help end 10 months of cross-border exchanges between Lebanon's Hezbollah and Israel.

His Lebanon trip

Beirut news conference that he and parliament speaker Nabih Berri, a Hezbollah ally, discussed "the framework agreement that's on the table for a Gaza ceasefire, and he and I agreed there is no more time to waste and there's no more valid excuses from any party for any fur-

'The deal would also

NA body expresses dismay on overbilling, IPPs performance

The National Assembly Energy (Power Division) while expressing grave concerns on overbilling provide relief to the con- procedure in vogue. and performance of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) on Friday sought detailed briefing from IPPs in the next meeting.

Muhammad Idrees in the due to increase in the tended by MNAs, Dr. Chair discussed overbilling and unannounced loadshedding in Karachi.

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Energy (Power Division) briefed the Committee regarding overbilling and unannounced load-shedding of electricity in Karachi.

Committee that the means ity is not same in every region. The generation of Electricity in Karachi is privatisation. through thermal resources sive forms of power generation. Under the government uniform tariff policy cussing the issue of overeveryone in the country pays the same price for mittee that there is no that the generation cost in

However, the govern-Standing Committee on ment provides differential garding overbilling, the ispayments to K-Electric in sue is investigated and form of subsidy just to bills are corrected as per

Committee that K-Elec-The Committee tric has been facing sig-fully. met with nificant financial losses number of defaulters. K-Electric is facing severe fiare impacting the ability to provide reliable and affordable energy services.

He further informed the Committee that 2000 MW has been added to the

(HESCO) while disbilling informed the Comany individual mistake re-

He further apprised Similarly, Chief Ex- the Committee that 91.8% ecutive Officer (CEO), K- complaints received in re-Electric informed the spect of overbilling has been resolved success-

The meeting was at-Tariq Fazal Chaudhary, Sheikh Aftab Ahmed, Raja nancial constraints that Qamer ul Islam, Chaudhry Naseer Ahmed Abbas Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar, Rana Muhammad Hayat Khan, Mr. Muhammad Shahryar Khan Mahar, Mr. Khurshid Ahmed National Grid since the Junejo, Mr. Nauman Islam He informed the company has been Sheikh, Syed Abar Ali privatised. Similarly, Shah, Syed Waseem of generation of electric- the losses of K-Electric Hussain, Mr. Junaid have been reduced from Akbar, Mr. Sher Ali Arbab, 40% to 15% since and Malik Muhammad Aamir Dogar. Mr. The Chief Executive Muhammad Iqbal Khan which is one of the expen- Officer, Hyderabad Elec- and Syed Rafiullah, tric Supply Company MNA's/Movers were also present in the meeting. The senior officers from Ministry of Energy (Power Division) and its electricity in spite the fact overbilling in HESCO ju- attached departments also



IHC issues order

for recovery of

Azhar brothers

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court

(IHC) has issued a written

order in the case of arrest

and detention of two miss-

ing brothers that violates

Articles 4, 9, and 10 of the

Justice Miangul Hassan

Aurangzeb remarked that

action should also be taken

against those who were in-

deadline of August 20 for

the recovery of the two

brothers, who are linked to

Azhar Mashwani, a focal person of Pakistan

The court granted the authorities until August 20

to fulfill its orders regard-

ing the recovery of the

Ayaz Sadiq

condoles demise

of Syed Zafar

Hashmi's sister

SLAMABAD (APP):

Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz

Sadiq Friday expressed his

condolences on the passing

away of senior journalist Syed Zafar Hashmi's sister.

Zafar Hashmi, the Speaker

conveyed his deep sorrow

and sympathy over the

loss. He expressed solidar-

ity with Syed Zafar

Hashmi and his family dur-

to the Almighty to grant the

departed soul eternal peace

and to provide the bereaved

family with the strength to bear this loss with fortitude.

AIOU

celebrates

50 years of

educational

excellence

SLAMABAD (APP)

Allama Iqbal Open Uni-

versity (AIOU) proudly

celebrates its 50th year of

service, having educated

nearly 5 million students

across the nation during

this period. As the univer-

sity continues its mission

to provide accessible edu-

cation, admissions for the

Autumn 2024 semester

are now open. Vice-Chan-

cellor Professor Dr. Nasir

Mahmood emphasized

the university's commit-

ment to ensuring that no

child in Pakistan is de-

prived of their basic right

to education. He high-

lighted that AIOU offers

fee concessions and schol-

arships to support under-

privileged and deserving

students

The Speaker prayed

ing this difficult time.

In a message to Syed

missing brothers.

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

volved in the illegal deten

tion of citizens.

During the hearing,

The court has set a

Constitution of Pakistan.

ISLAMABAD: NDMA & Ministry of Climate Change & Environment Coordination organized a National Seminar on Climate & Disasters Risk Financ-

Senator Afnan Ullah promises swift solution to Pak internet crisis

promising a swift resolu- WhatsApp. tion to the issue within a

few days. Talking to a private news channel, he stated that the relevant authorities are working diligently to address the technical issues and ensure that internet services are restored to their

optimal levels. government's proactive approach, Senator Khan expressed confidence that the issue will be resolved within a few days which will bring relief to the affected parties and revitalize Pakistan's digital

Responding to a query, he further explained that the slow internet speed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- has already taken a devaskistan Muslim League- tating toll on Pakistan's Nawaz (PML-N) Senator economy with estimated Afnan Ullah Khan Friday losses of at least Rs500 expressed serious concerns million, adding that the situover the slow internet ation is further exacerbated speed and assured that the by the disruption of essengovernment is taking timely tial online services, inmeasures to restore stable cluding media downinternet connectivity, loads and uploads on

> This has not only affected personal communication but also hindered business operations, causing irreparable damage to the country's digital landscape, he added.

To another query, Senator Khan stressed that the government is committed to upholding freedom of expression, but also recognizes the need to prevent the spread of misinformation, hate speech, and online harassment.

He assured that the laws will strike a balance between individual liberties and societal responsibilities, promoting a culture of respectful and constructive online discourse.



ISLAMABAD: Indonesian diplomat women looks a traditional truck art vehicle placed at a shopping mall during Indonesian Expo 2024, in the Federal Capital.

Islamabad Police to provide foolproof security to foreign delegation: Jawad Tariq

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (ÎGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the DIG Security division Jawad Tariq chaired a high-level meeting regarding security during the visit of a foreign delegation to Islamabad.

Senior police officers of Islamabad Police, as well as officers from other law enforcement departments, attended the meeting. During the meeting it was decided that foolproof security would be provided during the delegation's stay and movement, and all necessary arrangements would be ensured.

Similarly, complete checking of all routes will be carried out by bomb disposal squads, and the route will be monitored through

Quick response teams will remain on high alert during the delegation's movement, and suspicious individuals will be closely monitored to prevent any anti-state elements from achieving their nefarious

Full coordination among all law enforcement agencies will be ensured, and an alternate route plan will be issued to manage traffic flow and provide all necessary facilities to the del-

The DIG Security Division said that, the delegation's security would be made foolproof, and modern cameras would be used for aerial surveillance to enhance security and en-

sure monitoring. With the assistance of the CDA, shrubs on both sides of the greenbelt along the route will be

tourism sector of Pakistan, a news release said. The management of almost seventy travel comattended the meeting. panies and tour operators, airlines, local media, television and radio, as well as in Tajikistan, scheduled for late September 2024.

alms-seekers continues coordinated effort led by the Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad, Assistant Commissioners and Magistrates have launched an operation targeting professional beggars across various areas of the Federal

Capital. According to the spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration, the operation resulted in the arrest of 27 professional beggars. The arrests were made by Assistant Commissioners in different jurisdictions.

The Assistant Commissioner City apprehended 10 beggars near Jamia Masjid Rumi and Faisal Market. In the Pothohar area, six beggars were arrested, while the on the streets.

Assistant Commissioner Rural area detained eleven beggars from P.S. Lohibher, Sahala, and nearby areas.

The arrested beggars were taken to the police station. Meanwhile, minors found begging were sent to the Edhi Center for care and rehabilitation. This operation is part

of a daily crackdown supervised by the Assistant Commissioners, aimed at addressing the issue of begging in Islamabad.

The ICT admin has planned to continue their daily operations to address the issue of begging in Islamabad. The focus will remain on arresting professional beggars and providing care for minors found



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Coordinator on health Dr Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath Chaired high level meeting regarding M pox in Ministry of Health.

Tajikistan Embassy hosts Pakistan Roadshow for tourism opportunities

present.

Crackdowns against

Ambassador

ISLAMABAD (APP): the employees of diplo-The Embassy of Tajikistan in Islamabad hosted the Asian countries were also event entitled "Tajikistan — Pakistan Roadshow" to present tourism opportunities here on Friday.

The event was attended by Tajikistan's Am-Yusuf bassador, Sharifzoda, management of the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation, representatives of travel agencies of Tajikistan, and 150 representatives of the

Atadjan Movlamov, Turkmenistan to Pakistan

and Dean of Diplomatic Corps, specially attended the event. The Tajik delegation presented the tourism po-

tential of their country to the participants of the Moreover, ten memo-

randums of cooperation were inked with Pakistani tourism companies, which were simultaneously invited to the Travel Market

of Somon Travel LLC Umedjon Saidzoda said that those present were able to learn about the tourist attractions and opportunities in Tajikistan. He said that future of tourism in Taiikistan is bright Saidzoda further said they are proud of their country's success in the international

He said that from August 8 through August 15, representatives of several travel agencies of Tajikistan visited Pakistan, as well as held business meetings with central and regional public and private structures of the tourism sector in the

3 die after chairlift rope breaks in Kohistan

ISLAMABAD (APP) Atleast three people fell into the river after the rope of the chairlift broke in Upper Kohistan on early Friday. According to the police, the tragic incident took place in Barseen where the tourists were enjoying a ride on the chairlift when the rope broke and the three fell into the river.

The police said that as soon as the incident was reported, the operation was started to search for the ill-fatted tourists who fell into the river.

The bodies of the victims were retrieved by rescue teams, the drowned bodies were identified as Naseeb, Sher, and Fida, police informed.



posed by the government outside NPC.

Pak, Russia multi-sphere ties moving on a positive trajectory: Sehar Kamran

ISLAMABAD (APP): The bilateral relations between Pakistan and the Russian Federation are forging ahead on an upward trajectory, with both nations actively exploring multifaceted cooperation opportunities in sectors such as trade, energy, and diplomacy," said Sehar Kamran, Member of National As-

sembly, on Friday. Whether in trade, energy, or diplomatic engagements, the relationship between Pakistan and Russia is strengthening across all dimensions. Both countries possess vast untapped potential for collaboration. Russia is a major energy exporter, and Pakistan can benefit from its oil and gas resources. Similarly, Pakistan can provide regional connectivity and trade corridors to Russia," she said, talking to APP.

Sehar Kamran, who has represented Pakistan at numerous international forums in Russia, including BRICS, SCO Women Congress, IPU Assembly, and others in recent years, noted that the past two decades have seen a significant enhancement in Pak-Russian diplomatic ties, driven by consistent highlevel interactions.

She referred to a congratulatory letter from the Russian Ambassador in Islamabad, Albert Khorev, on Independence Day, which read: "The Russian Federation attaches great importance to its relations with Pakistan, and I am confident that their steadfast and consistent development serves the best interests of both our peoples. appreciate your important and constructive role in our bilateral engage-

"It underscores our strong friendship... It was truly heartening to see the colors of the Pakistani flag illuminated in Moscow.



ISLAMABAD: CDA workers work on restoring stalls after the fire at H-9 weekly bazaar in the Federal Capital

PTI found hatching conspiracy against national institutions on May 9: Irfan

ISLAMABAD (APP) PML-N Senator Ìrfan úl Haque Siddiqui on Friday said that PTI leaders have found hatching conspiracy against the national institutions on May

PTI should bear the cost of attempting to create rift among the national institutions and vandalism on May 9, he said while talking to a private television channel.

Following the organized plan made by the founder, the last regime of PTI had sent prominent leaders of PML-N, to jail on false cases, he

said. The PTI must face action for sabotaging peace and creating hurdles for sensitive institutions, he

In reply to a question about the role of PTI in national politics, he said the PTI members who joined the assembly should come forward for resolving the political issues. Commenting on the accountability process in the armed institutions, he said that Pakistan Armed forces have best accountability system for their officers

He suggested that judiciary should evolve the similar mechanism to strengthen the judicial

Rana Mashhood says:

Revival of economy govt's topmost priority

Chairman of the Prime Programme(PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan has said that the revival of the economy was the priority of the government and efforts were underway to address this challenge.

Talking to the media here on Friday, Rana said that PMYP in collaboration with the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) was equipping young individuals with both high-tech and conventional skills to empower them for future opportunities He informed that as velopment programmes.

ISLAMABAD (APP): many as 1.5 million young-Chairman of the Prime sters would be trained to get Youth employment abroad stating, "Our goal is to ensure that every young Pakistani has the skills necessary to succeed in today's competitive landscape. By focusing on both high-tech and traditional skill development, we aim to enhance employment prospects and foster economic growth." Referring to the recent maiden visit of Commonwealth Secretary-General RT Patricia Scotland to Pakistan, he said that the mutual interest between Pakistan and the Commonwealth will help promote cooperation in various fields of youth de-

Resolving public issues purely on merit is our foremost priority: DIG

Independent Report SLAMABAD: According to the details, following the special directives of the Inspector General of Police (ÎGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali

He also directed them to send reports to his of-



Nasir Ali Rizvi, the DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza said that the Islamabad Police is committed to resolve public issues on priority.

He said this while listening to the complaints and issues of the public as well as police officials during the Khuli Kachehri held at his office. Senior police officers were also present on this occasion.

During the Khuli Kachehri, he listened to the and marked their applicazens." he added.

He further said that strict action will be taken against officials involved in bribery or corruption and a zero tolerance policy will be adopted in this re-

He emphasized that Islamabad Police would not leave any stone unturned to secure the lives and property of the citizens. "Such interaction would be continued in future to provide complaints of the citizens maximum relief to the citi-

Chinese delegation visits CDA headquarters, discuss infrastructure development

ISLAMABAD (APP): A projects with transparency. high-level delegation from the China State Construct the world's largest contion Engineering Company (CSCEC) arrived at the companies, has already Capital Development Authority (CDA) headquarters on Friday to discuss various infrastructure development projects in the

The delegation was briefed on several ongoing and upcoming projects in Islamabad, including transportation systems, public buildings, and urban development initiatives.

Muhammad Randhawa, Chairman of CDA, expressed his appreciation for the Chinese company's contributions to Pakistan's infrastructure development, citing their timely completion of tion.

The CSCEC, one of struction and investment completed several highprofile projects in Pakistan, including the Sukkur-Multan Motorway Section, Arfa Karim Tower in Lahore, and the JF-17 Thunder aircraft project.

During the meeting, the Chinese delegation expressed deep interest in participating in various CDA projects, from design and construction to funding acquisition.

The two sides discussed the various stages of project development, exploring opportunities for collaboration and innova-



ISLAMABAD: A view of overloaded green line bus with passengers at Islamabad Highway in the Federal Capital, The passengers rush in green line bus during daily last bus service timing.

CDA chairman reviews ongoing plantation drive, beautification plan

ISLAMABAD Chairman Muhammad Randhawa, on Friday, presided over a meeting to discuss the ongoing plantation campaign and beautification plan for Islamabad. The meeting outlined the steps taken so far and the future plans to make Islamabad a more eco-friendly and beautiful city.

As part of the plantation drive, free saplings are being distributed to citizens through stalls set up in various centers, markets, and parks. Additionally, door-to-door distribution of free plants is also underway.

The Chairman emphasized the importance of involving the business community and civil society to make the drive more successful. To en- flyovers and bridges.

sure effective implementation, the city will be divided into four zones, with concerned officers and staff responsible for landscaping and beauti-fication work in each zone. The corporate sector is also expected to play a significant role in making Islamabad ecofriendly and beautiful.Renowned architects and landscaping experts will be consulted for the beautification and upliftment of Islamabad.

The plan includes beautifying interchanges, flyovers, loops, and high-ways, as well as planting fruit trees on medians and green belts along roads. Inspiration will be drawn from other cities' horticulture, and adequate lighting arrangements will be made along