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On government's plea

Supreme Court removes controversial paragraphs in Mubarak Sani case

CJP Isa-led bench says expunged paras can't be cited as precedent; JUI-F to observe "thanksgiving day"

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered the removal of the controversial paragraphs in the ruling of Mubarak Sani case.

The Supreme Court heard an urgent application from the Punjab government, requesting the removal of certain portions from its July 24 verdict in the Mubarak Ahmad Sani case.

A three-member bench, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, took up the matter. The other members were Justice Irfan Saadat Khan and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan.

The bench accepted the Punjab government's application and ordered the removal of paragraphs No 7, 42 and 49-C.

On Feb 6, a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, annulled the conviction of Mubarak Sani who had been charged in 2019 under the Punjab Holy Quran (Printing and Recording) (Amendment) Act.

The court observed in its ruling that the offence for which the defendant was convicted was not actually criminalised until 2021. As a result, the Supreme Court ordered the petitioner's immediate release.

This decision sparked what was described by the government and legal circles as a "malicious and defamatory campaign" against the chief justice, leading the Supreme Court to issue a public clarification.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Asim Munir in a group photo along with a delegation of 44 students from Harvard Business School (HBS), at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

COAS cautions students against perils of misinformation and fake news in digital age

Gen. Asim Munir emphasises significance of education, critical thinking & innovation in addressing contemporary security challenges

RAWALPINDI (APP): The interactive session provided a platform to share perspectives on Pakistan's pivotal role in promoting regional peace and stability, its unwavering efforts against terrorism, and its commitment to upholding democratic values. The Army Chief highlighted Pakistan's vast potential and encouraged the attendees to form their own opinions based on personal experiences.

He also cautioned against the perils of misinformation and fake news in the digital age, urging the students to navigate this landscape with discernment.

The Harvard students expressed their gratitude to the COAS for facilitating a constructive and enlightening interaction.

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President, PM, Interior Minister condemn 11 cops martyred as bandits attack with rockets in RYK

RAHIM YAR KHAN (INP): At least 11 policemen were martyred and seven others injured in an attack on police mobile vehicles by dacoits of Kacha near Machka police camp II in Rahim Yar Khan.

A group of dacoits launched the attack when one of the vehicles in the convoy broke down. Some of the policemen were also missing after the incident.

The culprits first attacked the police vehicles with rocket launchers before opening fire. Injured policemen have been shifted to Sheikh Zayed Hospital in Rahim Yar Khan for treatment.

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif strongly condemned the attack on a police convoy in Rahim Yar Khan.

A press release from the President's House, the President stated that the president extended his condolences to the families of the police officers, who were martyred in the attack. The president

emphasised the need for strict action against criminals in the Kacha area and warned that attacks on personnel of police and law enforcement agencies would not be tolerated.

The president paid tribute to the martyred policemen and prayed for their elevated ranks. He also wished for the speedy recovery of those injured in the incident. Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has strongly condemned attack on Police convoy in Rahim Yar Khan.

In a statement, he expressed deep sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of police personnel in the attack.

The Prime Minister prayed for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks and patience for their families.

He also prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured police personnel and directed that they should be provided with the best medical facilities. He instructed immediate and effective action against the attackers in the Kacha area.

Islamabad admin issues NOC to PTI for Sept 8 rally

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad administration has issued a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for holding a rally on September 8.

Along with the NOC, a notification with 40 guidelines for the organisers of the PTI rally at Tarnol has been released.

According to the notification, the administration will provide security for the rally on September 8. PTI workers are expected to

gather at the venue by 4 PM, and the rally must conclude by 7 PM.

As per the notification, the organisers of the rally are strictly instructed not to infringe upon the fundamental rights of any citizen during the event on September 8.

The notification also declared that the responsibility of dispersing the crowd after the rally will lie with the organisers of the PTI rally in Islamabad.



Commander Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi exchanging views with Real Admiral Saleh Bin Abdullah Alamri of Royal Saudi Navy Force during his visit to Karachi

Two children killed, five injured after gunmen attack school van in Attock

ATTOCK (APP): Some unidentified attackers Thursday opened indiscriminate firing on a school van and killed at least two students and injured five others and the driver in Dheri Kot area of the district.

The police sources said a van carrying students to Malik Anwar Ul Haq Memorial School, when the culprits opened fire and killed Ramin Akhtar, aged 2 years and Arowa, 10.

They said five other students including Mohib Ali,

Sumaira, Shazif, Haseeb Ali, Shazim and the van's driver, Afzal 48 received injuries in the firing incident.

The outlaws fled from the scene, they added.

Rescue 1122 team shifted the bodies and injured to District Headquarter Hospital. Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif took notice of the incident and directed the authorities concerned to take urgent action to nab the culprits.

Will announce a five-year economic plan very soon as parameters finalised: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that he would unveil a five-year economic revival plan in the coming weeks as broad parameters had already been finalised through months-long deliberations with the stakeholders.

The prime minister, addressing the launching ceremony of the Buna-Raast connectivity project, said the "Home-Grown Economic Program" would envisage measures to boost the country's economy by uplifting agriculture, information technology, and other untapped sectors.

"Our program is under

discussion and I will announce it very soon. Great work has gone into it. It involves discussions and deliberations with all stakeholders over the last many months. Recently we have finalised its broad parameters. By next week or so, we will finalise it. I will go to the people to announce the program for the next five years," the prime minister remarked.

Highlighting the challenges of reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue and power sector, he told the gathering that he was personally monitoring the digitisation of FBR and that the government was

hopeful of positive outcomes of power sector reforms.

"There is no magic band. It is all about hard work, sacrifice, blood and sweat. Our nation is robust and strong. Our people are full of hope and energy. Let us put our work together. Let us not waste time on debates as we had done in the past. Let us now use this time for actual implementation on the ground. Insha Allah, you will see we will have dividends and will find our place in the comity of nations through hard work, hard work and hard work," he said.



ISLAMABAD: Activists of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan hold a protest in favor of their demands at D-Chowk, in the Federal Capital.

Tarar for providing opportunities to youth by correcting priorities in IT, agriculture, education, sports fields

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Ataulah Tarar on Thursday stressed the need to provide maximum opportunities to the youth by correcting the priorities in the fields of information technology (IT), agriculture, education, and sports arena.

Addressing the National Youth Convention here he said Pakistan was a lucky country as its 60% population consisted of

youth below 30 years of age who could change the destiny of the nation.

"There is a need to correct the direction and economy of the country, bring IT revolution, and promote quality education to the new generation", the minister said.

He urged the young generation to understand the vision behind the creation of a separate state for Muslims in the subcontinent.

He remarked that Indian atrocities in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and on Indian Muslims across the border had vindicated the

stance of Muslims for an independent state.

He said that Kashmiris were still struggling to become part of Pakistan with great resolve, resilience, and determination despite the brutality and oppression of Indian rulers.

He told the participants of the convention that the Quaid-e-Azam was supported by a large number of youths in the Pakistan Movement.

"The youth contributed to the creation of this country, and the youth will change the destiny of this country", the information minister remarked.

Rizwan Sheikh assumes charge as Pakistan's ambassador to US

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to the United States, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, assumed responsibilities of his new assignment Wednesday, saying that cementing the US-Pak relationship, strengthening economic ties and enhancing people-to-people contacts would be his top priorities.

Speaking to the mission officers, he also underscored the importance of the Pakistani community in the U.S., describing them as the country's valuable asset.

Ambassador Sheikh said that the community was serving as a strong bond in the Pak-U.S. relationship, and every possible effort should be made to ensure better service delivery to the community.

In this regard, the envoy stressed the need to pursue result-oriented diplomacy.

On his arrival in Washington on Tuesday, the Ambassador was received at the airport by officials of the US State Department and the Pakistani embassy.

Safe Journey, Safe Punjab: Maryam Bring down crime rate in every district under any circumstances

LAHORE (INP): "Bring down crime rate in every district under any circumstances," Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed police officers while chairing a special meeting to discuss their performance. She added, "Immediately stop road dacoity incidents in the province."

She reviewed the proposed KPIs for evaluating performance of police officers. She directed to undertake necessary measures to ensure safe journey on roads besides launching a crackdown to eliminate

criminal hot spots across Punjab. She also directed to eradicate dacoity incidents to ensure protection of traders and shopkeepers.

Maryam Nawaz asserted, "Dacoity and other crimes on roads of small and big cities are unacceptable under any circumstances." She directed to make every road and street safe besides undertaking strict legal action against the criminals. She said, "Relevant police officers will be held responsible if any dacoity or crime occurs anywhere."



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presides over the meeting to review performance of Police Officers.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Signs of trouble

The state — both its civilian and military components — needs to take note of the troubling developments on the militancy front, before the country is dragged into a new cycle of terrorist violence.

The signs are not good, as an increasing number of security personnel are being targeted in the field, while militant groups have begun to make inroads in areas thought to have been cleared of the terrorist menace.

At least three soldiers were martyred in a gunfight with militants in Bajaur on Sunday, close to the Afghan border. The latest casualties indicate the grim reality that Pakistan has been losing an unacceptably high number of men in confrontations with terrorists.

Moreover, in KP's Tirah valley, there are disturbing reports that fighters belonging to the banned TTP and Lashkar-i-Islam have begun patrols in certain areas. LI had been active in the region for years; its dreaded leader Mangal Bagh was killed in Afghanistan in 2021. The TTP and LI have combined forces in the past, and the reactivation of the latter outfit is a fresh headache for the state.

Where troop fatalities are concerned, as this paper has highlighted previously, better gear and training are required to save lives. As per media figures quoting ISPR, at least 139 troops have been martyred while confronting terrorists up till July 2024. Militants employ asymmetrical methods, which are difficult to counter for traditional militaries. Even the American and Soviet militaries could do little to defeat foes using asymmetrical methods. Therefore, perhaps crack new units need to be trained in such methods to outsmart the militants in the field, while intelligence-based operations should neutralise terrorists before they can strike. Regarding the patrols of terrorist groups, this development should not be taken lightly by the state. Locals in the Tirah area told this paper that while TTP and LI fighters were moving around with freedom, the police and Levies had 'vanished'. Moreover, residents said militants were demanding food and shelter from them, which the locals could only refuse at their own peril.

The administration cannot leave people in the affected areas at the mercy of terrorists. The writ of the state must be established forthwith as no violent non-state actor can be allowed to set up parallel governance structures. It should be remembered that militants started taking over territory in Waziristan and Malakand in similar fashion. These developments morphed into full-blown insurgencies that required the state to invest much blood and treasure to quell. The same mistake must not be repeated. Perhaps the powers that be should redirect their attention from 'digital terrorists' and hone in on the actual terrorists who have risen up against the state in the past, and appear intent on doing so again.

A golden buffalo

F.S. Aijazuddin

The Summer Olympics 2024 are over. The victors have returned to savour their spoils, the vanquished to count their losses.

These Olympics had 10,714 athletes competing before a worldwide audience of 30.6 million viewers — truly a global spectator sport.

None but Olympians know the price they have had to pay — for full-time training, co-aching, medical, travel and other costs, apart from being deprived of a regular income.

The International Olympic Committee does not grant any awards beyond the medals themselves. It believes that the spirit of the Olympics is enough: "It is not to win but to take part; it is not the triumph but the struggle."

Before the Paris Olympics began, the World Athletics Federation announced that \$2.4m (\$50,000 each) would be given to each gold medalist in the 48 athletic events.

National Olympic committees supplement this with incentives to their own nationals. Hong Kong topped the list with \$768,000. (It won two golds.) Singapore offered \$745,000, but that was clearly not enough. It won only one bronze. The lowest incentive (\$13,000) came from Australia, whose athletes won 18 golds. But as one Olympian put it: "A gold medal is a wonderful thing, but if you're not enough without it, you'll never be enough with it."

Each country honours its Olympians in different ways — some with victory parades, others with cash rewards, a few with national awards. Far-sighted nations support their athletes on their way up Mount Olympus. The myopic wait until they have succeeded, and then applaud them

on the way down.

Pakistan's Olympian Arshad Nadeem has been smothered with garlands and suffocated with banquets ever since his triumphant return. The cornucopia of gifts emptied upon him have included a cash of Rs280m, plus cars and other gifts.

In Punjab, the governor gave him cash of Rs2m and a car. The chief minister Punjab presented a cheque of Rs100m and the key to a Honda Civic car '92.97'. The chief minister also presented Nadeem's coach Salman I. Butt with a cheque of Rs5m.

In Sindh, the chief minister awarded Nadeem Rs50m. The Karachi mayor announced a Rs50m cash award for Nadeem and promised to establish an athletics academy named after the Olympian. The Sindh sports minister gave a cheque, both from his department and personal funds. The local government minister declared that an important road in Karachi would be named after Arshad Nadeem. The planning and development minister gifted a car to Arshad Nadeem's mother.

Army Chief General Asim Munir announced the allotment of a residential plot at DHA Multan (once a huge mango orchard).

Wapda has awarded Rs1m to Nadeem while his employer Lesco has proposed his promotion to the 19th grade. And President Zardari promised to award him the country's highest civilian honour — the Hilal-i-Imtiaz.

It is proposed to grant the Sitara-i-Imtiaz to Salman Butt (Nadeem's coach), and also to Nadeem's mother. While her efforts, like Nadeem's, were a solo achievement, some might cavil whether a SI award should be distributed so freely. They might say it demeans its stature. Apart, that is, from it being regarded as a re-

buke to shared parenthood. Surely, Nadeem's father Muhammad Arshad deserves acknowledgement too. He supported his son from his modest, honest earnings for 36 years as a construction labourer.

Nadeem has asked the government for a modern track and field stadium and a university for women in his hometown — Mian Channu.

In all this maelstrom of flattery, Nadeem has retained his sense of humour. When asked about the buffalo gifted to him by his father-in-law, Nadeem replied: "I was a bit surprised [...] I wondered since my father-in-law is a very rich person and has a lot of land... if only he had given me four to five acres of farmland instead of the buffalo."

The rustic father-in-law may feel miffed. Having given Nadeem first his daughter and now a healthy buffalo, in Mian Channu that is regarded as largesse enough.

Hopefully, all the promises made to Arshad Nadeem will be honoured. He should heed the advice of the late Prince Philip who had experience in such matters.

Prince Philip visited Lahore in the 1990s to raise funds for the World Wildlife Fund (of which he was president). He attended an auction of paintings by local artists. As soon as the auction ended, he took the Pakistani auctioneer aside and advised him to collect the money before the successful bidders left the event. "Be quick. They tend to change their minds once they have had their photographs taken with me."

The ancient Greeks rewarded their victorious Olympians with a crown woven from fresh laurel leaves.

They found it cheaper than cash, and handy the morning after as fodder for the buffalo. — Courtesy Dawn

Roof of dignity

Dr Noman Ahmed

In a recent move, the Sindh cabinet approved Rs10.065 billion to resettle all those uprooted along Gujjar, Orangi and Mahmoodabad nullahs. The various demolition drives conducted in recent times razed thousands of houses, rendering scores homeless. The matter landed in the Supreme Court; specific directives were issued to the provincial government in the judgement on Oct 25, 2021, as well as other rulings. These verdicts lay down the concept and procedure of developing a resettlement scheme. Based on the submission of its reports, the Sindh government was directed by the apex court to provide land and essential infrastructure to the affected at the earliest.

A robust campaign was launched by the Karachi Bachao Tehreek, which demanded housing for demolition-affected people. Apart from those left to suffer along the three nullahs, many others still need a proper response, such as the victims of the anti-encroachment drive for the Karachi Circular Railway who are still running from pillar to post for some relief. Besides, the listing and verification process of the nullah affectees has been questioned by residents and community leaders in the neighbourhoods; it was argued that only bulldozed houses were counted, not the households that lived in them as many structures were home to two or three families. This may trigger numerous conflicts when the construction work begins.

Additionally, other concerns must be addressed with a focus on lessons learnt from previous resettlement endeavours. For instance, despite transportation and housing ex-

perts highlighting the enormous number of houses and households earmarked for demolition and displacement in the Lyari Expressway Resettlement Project — a joint initiative of the federal and provincial governments — the authorities went ahead thoughtlessly. Over a quarter of a million were displaced.

The now defunct City District Government Karachi announced the allocation of plots measuring 80 square yards with Rs50,000 for every household. Four sites were allotted in Taiser Town, Hawkesbay and Baldia Town and an estimate of 14,811 plots was provided. But the affectees, claiming that their numbers were far greater, approached the court. In the end, the government provided 30,743 plots on 1,234 acres of land. The overall cost of the rehabilitation project rose significantly. It is, therefore, important that utmost care is taken by the authorities during reviews of the actual affectees' records. Political interference and influence have to be thwarted for transparent allocation of land to the affected.

Moreover, construction requires comprehensive urban planning and design input. The authorities would do well to remember that a physical plan includes road layouts, right of way for buried infrastructure, neighbourhood parks and playgrounds, commercial areas, educational and healthcare spaces. An urban design exercise to accommodate mixed-use development is also considered necessary.

At present, Taiser Town is a sparsely populated area with low-density, low-rise development. In 20 years, this locality will be under pressure to lodge more residents, resulting in haphazard densification. This should be tackled in due

course with a larger plan comprising reserved areas for medium- and high-density developments for the locality.

In sum, without a forward-looking and technically sound urban design scheme, an isolated resettlement project cannot deliver appropriate living and working conditions for residents and visitors. Another crucial aspect is the availability of social support; eviction affectees are traumatised and need counselling so that they can connect with the housing scheme and become active participants in the decision-making process.

There should be more organisations such as Saibaan to mobilise communities and Khuda ki Basti in Karachi and other cities must be remembered as model blueprints that can be replicated. The welfare association enabled low-income groups to formulate infrastructural choices and arranged for affordable technical assistance with donations.

While road infrastructure and water supply are vital, settlers will be dependent on water tankers and informal paratransit mobility in the initial years. The average person now uses rickshaws and employed youth, as riders, service providers and small-scale entrepreneurs, have motorcycles. All the government needs to do is develop roads to link settlements to the city as connectivity alleviates the need for off-grid electricity and LPG gas depots. A technically viable, socially compatible and administratively accommodating approach towards vital development initiatives carves out comprehensive templates, which can be implemented across the country for many years to come. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Digitization of E-commerce sector, government's top priority: PM Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Arab Monetary Fund Dr. Fahad M Alturki Thursday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and discussed matters relating to mutual concerns.

The prime minister highlighted that Pakistan and Arab countries enjoy long standing brotherly relations that were further strengthening with the passage of time.

He said the Government of Pakistan was taking steps to legally bring the foreign remittances to the country. "The digitization of E-commerce sector and the

economy is top priority of the government," he said adding that a large number of Pakistanis were residing in the Gulf countries who send a large amount of foreign remittances to Pakistan.

The prime minister said that setting up a digital connection between Pakistan and the Middle East with the cooperation of Raast and Buna was a welcoming sign.

Buna-Raast connectivity project will make the digital transactions in the country more effective, PM Shehbaz said adding that "this important step would help regularizing the flow



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Arab Monetary Fund Dr. Fahad M Alturki calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Pakistan achieved 'Macroeconomic stability,' economic indicators showing positive trends: Aurangzeb

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday said that the countries achieved micro-economic stability and all the economic indicators showing positive trends.

He said that currently, the country is going through a phase of economic stability and the government will be led on the path of sustainable economic growth with a good economic foundation.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said this while addressing the Inaugural

Ceremony of Buna-Raast Connectivity Project Implementation Phase here.

He said that all economic indicators, including foreign reserves, workers remittances, policy rates, exchange rate, revenue collection and twins deficits including Current Account are going positive, leading towards growth and adding that foreign investors are showing confidence on the Pakistan economy.

Aurangzeb said that "We have two months import cover and the exchange rate is also stable."

He said that during

the last two months, foreign companies and potential investors are showing their interest to make investment in the different sectors of the economy.

The minister said that the government is working on the digital economy and through the digitization of the economy, "We prioritize documenting the local economy."

He said that because of prudent economic policies of the government and through reforms and administrative measures the country received the \$3 billion workers' remittances in the last month of July 2024.

Export of sports goods increases 12.51% in July 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The export of sports goods from the country witnessed an increase of 12.51 percent during the first month of the current fiscal year (2024-25) as compared to the exports of the corresponding last year.

The country exported sports goods worth US\$ 29.358 million during July 2024 as opposed to the export of US\$ 26.093 million during July 2023, showing growth of 12.51

SCCI delegation meets minister for industries

SIALKOT (APP): A detailed meeting between a delegation of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industries (SCCI) and Minister for Industries, Commerce, Investment and Skills Development Punjab Chaudhry Shafay Hussain was held on Thursday, which discussed issues of restoration of cancelled plots of SEPZ, waiver of late construction and maintenance charges, execution of Sialkot Industrial Zone and allocation of funds for sustainable operations of Business Facilitation.

Enhanced efforts propel Pakistani agricultural exports to China

ISLAMABAD (APP): Many Pakistani seed companies have cooperated with Chinese counterparts to carry out hybrid rice breeding on a large scale, and have cultivated a variety of hybrid rice that adapts to the planting conditions in different regions, and their export competitiveness continues to increase. In addition to rice, vegetables such as onions, peppers, tomatoes, and fruits such as mangoes and cherries that come from the south Asian country, are also quite

competitive in the international market.

"The government is closely following the trends in the international agricultural product market as well as actively coordinating relevant measures with exporters. With the active promotion of various departments, Pakistan's agricultural product exports will further grow," noted Waheed Ahmed, chairman of All Pakistan Fruit & Vegetable Exporters Importers and Merchants Association.

Rains good for paddy and sugarcane crops

LAHORE (APP): Recent rains have left positive impact on paddy and sugarcane crops while cotton and vegetables growers must follow the Agriculture Department's guidelines to protect their crops from negative effects of rains. A spokesman for the Agriculture Department said here on Thursday that paddy crop had been cultivated on more than 6 million acres of land in Punjab. He said recent rains had left positive impact on rice crop. In Punjab sugarcane had been cultivated on more than 2 million acres of land.

EU's GSP-Plus status to Pak significant for increasing trade in both sides: Kionka

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador said that after getting GSP-Plus status trade between Pakistan and the European Union has increased manifold and the role of the private sector is significant for increasing the trade volume on both sides.

She said that the private sector, including the Chambers of Commerce, should play its due role in this regard, and there is a need to increase both economic and commercial activities on both sides.

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FPCCI & GIZ signed MoU setup to RBH at FPCCI

Jam & German Minister for Economic Cooperation witness ceremony

ISLAMABAD (APP): Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI and Ms. Maria Jose Poddey, Country Director, GIZ Pakistan, have signed the MoU to establish Responsible Business Helpdesk (RBH) at FPCCI in the esteemed presence of Mr. Jam Kamal

support of German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for its substantial contribution to Pakistan's economic development. The RBH platform, supported by BMZ, is instrumental in helping textile sector of Pakistan to adapt to the new EU regulations, ensuring that Pakistani exporters meet



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Khan, Honorable Federal Minister for Commerce, Pakistan and Ms. Svenja Schulze, Honorable Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation & Development (BMZ), Germany. Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI, apprised that the business community of Pakistan deeply appreciates the unwavering

international standards of human and environmental responsibility. Mr. Jam Kamal Khan, Honorable Federal Minister for Commerce, Pakistan, elaborated that the government of Pakistan is committed to promote international best practices and human rights standards in Pakistan to enable swift growth in Pakistani exports.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a virtual meeting with Dr. Adnan Chihwan, Group CEO of Dubai Islamic Bank to discuss Pakistan economic trajectory and explore potential avenues for increased investment in the country.

Kundi highlights importance of funds transparency for good governance

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday highlighted the importance of ensuring transparent use of funds for good governance in the province. The Governor said this in a meeting with Nasiruddin Sarwar, the Accountant General of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa here at Governor House. During the meeting, Sarwar briefed the Governor on the performance of his office. The discussions focused on financial matters, emphasizing the correct and transparent use of public funds. The audit systems for public sector universities and provincial institutions

were also discussed. Governor Kundi on this occasion said that transparent use of funds for good governance in the province is need of the hour for the uplift of all sectors. He acknowledged the significant role of the Accountant General's Office in maintaining transparency in the province's economic affairs. Meanwhile, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi in a meeting with a four-member delegation from the Naghman Ultralight Club and Sports Flying Club, led by pilot Qazi Tufail, included Qazi Sajjad, Azad Khan, and Babar Khan. During the meeting, Governor Kundi praised the club for its positive activities and expressed

that the club's promotion could attract global attention to the province. He acknowledged the club's efforts to continue its activities despite challenging conditions, noting that such initiatives could present Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in a new and positive light to the international community. The Governor assured that every effort would be made to address and resolve the club's challenges. The delegation briefed the Governor on the club's history, explaining that it was established in 2009 and operated from the Peshawar University Botanical Garden in Azra Khel until 2012.



PESHAWAR: Accountant General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Naseeruddin Sarwar meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor House.

No religion permits violence: Ramesh Singh

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora said on Thursday that no religion permitted violence. In his special message on the International Day Commemorating Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief, he said there was no religion that encouraged violence against people of different beliefs. The minister condemned violence on the basis of

religion and belief. He emphasised that people around the world, including Muslims, are being targeted due to their religion, with the rise in Islamophobia being a prime example. For decades, Muslims in Kashmir and Palestine have been subjected to violence based on their beliefs. Ramesh Arora highlighted that Pakistan gives equal respect to followers of all religions and beliefs.

Constable martyred, dacoit killed in police encounter

FAISALABAD (APP): A police constable was martyred while a dacoit was killed and his accomplice managed to escape after an encounter in the area of Thikriwala police station. Police spokesman Talish Abbas Jutt said here on Thursday that eagle squad of Thikriwala police station witnessed a suspect motorcycle carrying two persons after noon and signalled them to stop near Godawara Chowk Jhang Road but the motorcyclists opened fire which caused serious injuries to the constable Abid Ali.

Governor Punjab calls on Karbala Governor in Iraq

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan on Thursday called on his counterpart in Karbala Engr. Naseef Al-Khattabi during his visit to Iraq. According to the information shared by the Punjab Governor's media cell here, both the dignitaries discussed matters of mutual interest, provision of facilities to Pakistani pilgrims and promotion of bilateral relations in the fields of trade, culture and education during the meeting. Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider Khan said that Pakistan and Iraq have deep brotherly relations due to common religion and culture. He said that Pakistan and Iraq are determined to increase relations in every field, especially trade. He said that there are many opportunities to increase bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Iraq in the fields of trade, tourism, culture and education. Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan also invited Karbala Governor Engr. Naseef Al-Khattabi to visit Pakistan. Karbala Governor Engr. Naseef Al-Khattabi said that both countries enjoy fraternal relations. He reiterated his determination to take the trade, tourism and cultural relations between Pakistan and Iraq to new heights. The Governor Karbala presented a commemorative shield to the Governor Punjab Sardar Salim Haider.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan on Thursday called on his counterpart in Karbala Engr. Naseef Al-Khattabi during his visit to Iraq.

SACM directs to expedite work on Jehangira-Swabi highway

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Industries, Commerce, and Technical Education, Abdul Karim Tordher has directed the acceleration of the pace of construction work on the expansion project of Swabi-Jehangira highway here on Thursday. The project is being executed by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Highway Authority (PKHA) to ensure smooth traffic flow and minimize the risk of accidents. He issued these directives while chairing a meeting to review the progress of construction work on the expansion project of the Jehangira-Swabi highway here on Thursday. The project is being executed by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Highway Authority (PKHA).



KARACHI: Paramedical staff prepare an isolation ward set up as a preventative measure at a hospital, following Pakistan's health ministry has confirmed a case of m.pox in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, in the Provincial Capital.

KP govt, Save the Children International inaugurate new girls model school in Swat

PESHAWAR (APP): The Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Khan Tarakai and Muhammad Khuram Gondal, Country Director, Save the Children International officially inaugurated the newly constructed Government Girls Model School in Karira Jambal, Swat on Thursday. The school was developed through a collaborative effort between Save the Children International (SCI) and the Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP), in partnership with the Elementary and Secondary Education Department KP and the District Education Office (Female), Swat.

AIOU extends admission date for BS program

FAISALABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University has extended the date for admission to BS programme till September 5. Regional Director Dr Bashir Ahmad Samim said here on Thursday that the university had taken a decision to facilitate students seeking admission to BS programme (face to face) in autumn semester. Earlier, the last date for admissions was set at August 20. The admissions to BS program (face to face) are being granted in the following subjects: Botany, Chemistry (evening), Environmental Sciences, Bio-Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Health and Physical Education, Instructional Design and Technology, Human Nutrition and Diets, Physics (Data Science Mines), Computer Science, Information Technology, Microbiology and Statistics.

LDA, TEPA & MCL seal 70 properties in operation

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Development Authority (LDA), Traffic Enforcement II sealed over 70 properties. The TEPA Enforcement Wing conducted operations on Faisal Town Main Boulevard, Abu Al Sufhani Road, PIA Road, Shadiwal to Khokhar Chowk, and in Johar Town. The sealed properties included well-known brands, tire shops, showrooms, private offices, private schools, shops, and food outlets. Additionally, private banks, restaurants, clinics, bakeries, coffee shops, and other properties were also sealed during the operation.

11 dead, 1319 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least 11 people were killed and 1,319 injured in 1,242 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 560 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 759 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams. The data analysis showed 756 drivers, 42 underage drivers, 154 pedestrians.

International News

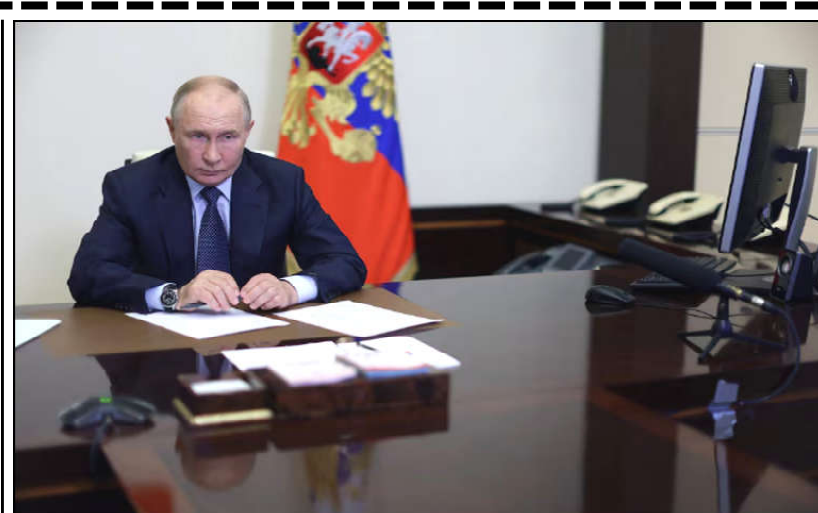
Putin accuses Ukraine of trying to strike Russia's Kursk nuclear power plant

Kursk nuclear plant is one of Russia's top atomic power stations

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin on Thursday accused Ukraine of trying to strike Russia's Kursk nuclear power plant in an overnight attack and said Moscow had informed the U.N. nuclear safety watchdog about the situation. Putin, who did not provide further details about the incident or provide documentary evidence to back up his assertion, made the comments at a meeting of senior officials. There was no immediate comment from Ukraine whose lightning incursion into Kursk, the biggest into Russia by a foreign power since World War Two, saw thousands of Ukrainian troops punch through Russia's western

border on Aug. 6, apparently catching Moscow by surprise. The Kursk plant is one of Russia's top nuclear power stations. It supplies about half of the electricity used in the Black Earth region of southern Russia. It is located on the Seym River near the town of Kurchatov, named after Soviet nuclear physicist Igor Kurchatov, in Russia's western region of Kursk. Ukrainian forces launched a cross-border incursion in the Kursk region on Aug. 6. The plant has four Soviet graphite-moderated RBMK-1000 reactors - the same design as those at the Chernobyl nuclear plant which in 1986, when part of the Soviet Union,

became the scene of the world's worst nuclear disaster. Reactor Number 1, which dates from 1976, was shut down at the Kursk plant in 2021 to operate in non-generation mode. Reactor Number 2, which dates from 1979, was shut down in 2024. Reactor Number 3, from 1983, and Reactor Number 4, from 1985, are both operational. Construction of Kursk-2, essentially new reactors of the VVER-TOI type, was begun in 2018. The two reactors are not operational yet. Alexei Smirnov, acting governor of the Kursk region, told Putin at the same meeting that the situation at the Kursk nuclear power station was stable.



Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a meeting on situation in Belgorod, Kursk and Bryansk regions following an incursion of Ukrainian troops in the course of Russia-Ukraine conflict, via video link at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence outside Moscow, Russia.

Ukraine attacks Moscow in one of largest ever drone strikes on Russian capital

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Ukraine attacked Moscow on Wednesday with at least 11 drones that were shot down by air defences in what Russian officials called one of the biggest drone strikes on the capital since the war in Ukraine began in February 2022. The war, largely a grinding artillery and drone battle across the fields, forests and villages of eastern Ukraine, escalated on Aug. 6 when Ukraine sent thousands of soldiers over the border into Russia's western Kursk region. For months, Ukraine has also fought an increasingly damaging drone war against the refineries and airfields of Russia, the world's second largest oil exporter, though major drone attacks on the Mos-

Democratic convention ends Thursday with the party's new standard bearer, Kamala Harris

Monitoring Desk
CHICAGO: Vice President Kamala Harris closes out the Democratic National Convention Thursday night when she accepts her party's historic presidential nomination and seizes one of her few remaining opportunities to appeal to an audience of millions. Harris will lay out her vision for the country and prosecute her case against Republican Donald Trump, capping a whirlwind month that began when President Joe Biden ended his reelection bid and endorsed her to replace him atop the Democratic ticket. Harris has three objectives for her speech, according to a campaign official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive speech preparations. She'll share her background rising from a middle-class family to protect others as a prosecutor, contrast her "optimistic" vision with Trump's "dark" agenda and evoke a sense of patriotism, the official said. Harris spoke briefly to the convention on Monday, when she thanked Biden and celebrated his record as president, and again on Tuesday, when the beginning of her rally in Milwaukee was streamed into the convention hall after Democrats reaffirmed their nomination of her with a state-by-state roll call. Harris will be the first Black woman and the first person of South Asian descent to accept a major party's presidential nomination. She'll speak a day after Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, her choice for running mate, thanked the packed Chicago arena for "bringing the joy" to the election. "We're all here tonight for one beautiful, simple, reason: We love this country," Walz said as thousands of delegates hoisted vertical placards reading "Coach Walz" in red, white and blue.

Iran lawmakers approve new president's cabinet

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran's conservative-dominated parliament on Wednesday approved reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian's proposed cabinet, which includes one woman and a foreign minister open to dialogue with the West. Lawmakers voted in favour of all 19 ministers chosen by Pezeshkian—who was inaugurated in July after his predecessor Ebrahim Raisi died in a helicopter crash—during a session broadcast on state television. In a speech in parliament ahead of the vote, Pezeshkian said he initially "had ideal candidates on my mind". "But when I saw that there was no mutual agreement on them, I backed down," said Pezeshkian, who later held his first sessions with the newly approved cabinet. "Because agreement was more important to me than ideal (candidates)," he added, vowing "to move forward with unity". Wednesday's vote was the first time in 23 years that Iran's parliament granted confidence to all ministers proposed by a president since the term of reformist Mohammad Khatami, according to the reformist daily Etemad. Following the vote, Pezeshkian posted a photo of himself on social media platform X alongside Iran's conservative parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and chief justice Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei, with a caption reading "consensus for Iran". "The parliament will be with the government on the way to solving the problems of the country," Ghalibaf wrote on social media platform X after the vote.

Kenya police offer reward for escaped serial killer suspect

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: Kenyan police offered a cash reward on Thursday for information leading to the arrest of a suspected serial killer who escaped from a Nairobi police cell. Police launched a manhunt on Tuesday after Collins Jumaisi, who is accused of murdering and dismembering dozens of women, broke out of a police station in an upmarket area of the Kenyan capital along with 12 Eritreans. Five officers appeared in court on Wednesday suspected of aiding Jumaisi's escape and have been freed on a 200,000 Kenyan shilling (\$1,500) bond, despite prosecutors seeking an order to keep them in custody for 14 days.

Biden speaks with Netanyahu as US prods Israel and Hamas to come to agreement on cease-fire deal

Monitoring Desk
BUELLTON: President Joe Biden spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday as the United States presses Israel and Hamas to agree to a "bridging proposal" that could lead to a cease-fire in the war in Gaza. Hamas and Israel have signaled that challenges remain amid significant differences over the presence of Israeli troops in two strategic corridors in Gaza and other issues, dimming Biden's hopes that a deal can soon be reached. Vice President Kamala Harris, who is in Chicago this week to accept her party's nomination at the Democratic National Convention, also joined the call. Biden "stressed the urgency of bringing the ceasefire and hostage release deal to closure," the White House said in a statement.

At least 24 killed as Congolese boat overturns

Monitoring Desk
BENI: At least 24 people died after an overloaded boat capsized on a river in Congo's Mai-Ndombe province, and the death toll is expected to rise as many passengers are missing, a local official said on Wednesday. The boat carrying about 250 to 300 passengers overturned on Sunday night after it hit tree trunks underwater, Kutu territory administrator Jacques Nzenza told Reuters. Overloading was the main cause of the accident, he said.

15 killed in blast at pharmaceuticals factory in India

Monitoring Desk
HYDERABAD: At least 15 people were killed in an explosion on Wednesday at a pharmaceuticals manufacturing plant in southern India's Andhra Pradesh state, a district government official said. "Death toll as of now is 15 and is likely to go up. Nearly 40 people have been injured. Rescue operations under way," District Superintendent of Police M Deepika said. The fire broke out in the afternoon at privately held Escientia Advanced Sciences' 40-acre manufacturing unit that was operational since 2019 in the state's Anapalli district, according to district collector Vijaya Krishnan. "The injured have been shifted to nearby hospitals...it appears that there could have been a blast at the chemical reactor," Krishnan's office said, adding that the blast occurred during lunch time at the unit. Escientia did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The state government has ordered an inquiry into the incident.

Australia greenlights world's 'largest' solar hub

Monitoring Desk
SYDNEY: Australia approved on Wednesday plans for a massive solar and battery farm that would export energy to Singapore, a project billed as the "largest solar precinct in the world". Authorities announced environmental approvals for SunCable's US \$24 billion project in Australia's remote north that is slated to power three million homes.

President directs lifetime pension payment to disabled son of a deceased employee

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday directed the Employees' Old Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) to ensure lifetime payment of pension to Muhammad Shehzad, a person with visual disability as the facility was earlier denied to him following his father's death.

He regretted that EOBI displayed grave insensitivity by neglecting a PWD and that too at a time when all his predecessors had passed away leaving him without any support. Muhammad Shehzad (the complainant), who was blind by birth, had filed a complaint with the Wafaqi Mohtasib, stating that his father, Muhammad Afzal Zafar, was an Old Age Pensioner of EOBI and died on December 20, 2016. The complainant's

mother had passed away even before his father. So, he requested EOBI to grant him a "family pension" for life as a "disabled legal heir" of his late father. The EOBI, however, rejected his application citing Section 22B (3) (i) of the EOBI Act, 1976, which provides that only male minors under 18 years of age are eligible for a family pension, whereas Shehzad was 44 years old. The Mohtasib closed further investigation of his complaint, after which, Muhammad Shehzad filed

a representation before the President of Pakistan. The president accepted the complainant's representation and emphasised that keeping in view the letter and spirit of the Constitution of Pakistan, particularly Articles 9 and 25, a Person with Disability could not be deprived of such a pension, since he deserved to be treated on a much better footing and placed in a more deserving category than any other recipient of pension in the country presently.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding matters relating to aviation sector.

Pak Army's Major Sania Safdar wins UN gender advocacy award

ISLAMABAD (APP) - Pakistan Army's Maj Sania Safdar has become the first UN peacekeeper in Cyprus to receive the 2023 'Certificate of Recognition' for advocating gender equality. According to the mission, she is serving with the United Nations Force in Cyprus as a Mission's Force Signal Officer. The award, issued by the New York-based U.N. Department for Peace Operations, was presented to her by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Cyprus, Colin Stewart. In a statement, Maj Sania Safdar said receiving this certificate as the first peacekeeper from UNFICYP is deeply mean-



ingful to her and significant for Pakistan Army Mission in Cyprus. Maj Safdar is currently serving as the Mission's Force Signal Officer and one of the UNFICYP's military gender focal points. Her primary tasks involve overseeing communication systems and promoting gender equality

within military component. Since her deployment to the Mission last year, she proactively took charge of several initiatives to contribute to achieve this recognition by focusing on integrating the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda into military components of the Mission's work.

ECC accords conditional approval to 0.1m sugar exports

Approves Rs. 1951.995m for payment of security charges—Reko Diq Project to Frontier Corps Balochistan (South) and Rs. 20 billion as a special allocation for Operation Azm-e-Istehkam

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet on Thursday gave conditional approval to the export of an additional 0.100 million metric tons of sugar, the summary for which was submitted by the Ministry of Industries and Production.

According to press release issued by finance ministry, the ECC put condition that in view of procedural delays encountered during export of sugar, the period allowed for export of sugar from the date of allocation of quota by respective Cane Commissioner should be extended from forty-five (45) days to sixty (60) days.

In addition, it said, export proceeds should be received in advance in case of Afghanistan only through banking channel however, export proceeds in case of LC may be allowed within a period of 60 days of opening of LC for export of sugar to other destinations.

It said, the benchmark for retail price of sugar may be delinked from the permission to export sugar as retail price is not directly under the control of sugar mills.

The condition of revoking of export quota in case of non-payment of dues of the growers from proceeds of export of sugar should be applicable only to the non-compliant mills rather than PMSA as a whole, it added.

Moreover, the ECC decided to monitor the market situation on a monthly basis and review its decision as per emerging needs, and instructed the Sugar Advisory Board to develop a comprehensive sugar policy within two months to address the sector's challenges and ensure sustainable growth. Meanwhile, the ECC also considered and approved the following Technical Supplementary Grants including Rs. 276.250 million in favor of the Ministry of Interior to HQ Frontier Corps KP (N) TSG for Project Implementation Letters (PILs).

It also approved Rs. 1951.995 million on account of payment of security charges—Reko Diq Project to Frontier Corps Balochistan (South) and Rs. 20 billion as a special allocation for Operation Azm-e-Istehkam during CFY 2024-25.

PM Shehbaz directs better airport services, shorter wait times

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday instructed that facilities for passengers, tourists, and overseas Pakistanis at the country's airports be improved and called for an increase in the number of counters during international flights to reduce long wait times for passengers. Chairing a review meeting on aviation sector reforms, the prime minister directed that the safety audit for the current calendar year be completed as soon as possible. He reminded that during his previous tenure as head of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government, an aviation act was enacted to facilitate

reforms in the sector, according to a press release issued by Prime Minister Office. He instructed that all policy measures and reforms outlined in the Aviation Act be implemented. He noted that the aviation sector in Pakistan was moving in the right direction due to these reforms. To promote tourism, the prime minister emphasized the need to provide top-notch facilities for passengers at Skardu International Airport and called for a detailed action plan for the expansion of both Skardu International Airport and Gilgit Airport. He expressed satisfaction that the country's aviation sector was progressing positively due to

the reforms and noted that the installation of automatic immigration gates under the automated border control system would offer greater convenience to passengers. The meeting was briefed in detail about the reforms in the aviation sector. The Aviation Act 2023, passed under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's leadership during the previous administration, had initiated large-scale reforms in the sector. The meeting was informed that the separation of the Airport Management Authority and Civil Aviation under the Act was ensuring more efficient execution of the operator and regulator duties.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb presiding over a meeting of Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) in Islamabad.

AIOU's Phase-II admissions to begin from 1st Sept

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) will begin the second phase of admissions for the Autumn 2024 semester on September 1st. The educational programs offered in this phase include Associate Degree in Arts (BA General), Associate Degree in Commerce (B. Com), BBA, Associate Degree in Education, BS (ODL) programs, 1.5-year, 2.5-year, and 4-year B.Ed programs, Postgraduate Diploma programs, and Certificate courses.

IWMB successfully releases rehabilitated female leopard

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB), working under the Ministry of Climate Change, on Thursday announced the successful release of a female leopard in an undisclosed location in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). She was found injured with a wounded tail, was rehabilitated at IWMB's rescue center for five weeks. Once cleared by veterinarians, she was released into the wild of AJK forests with the assistance of the AJK Wildlife Department, a news release said. Wildlife ambassador and leopard expert Jamal Leghari accompanied the IWMB team to Muzaffarabad and onwards to photograph and monitor her release into the wild.

AJK PM says Ideology of accession to Pak most important spiritual ideology for Kashmiris

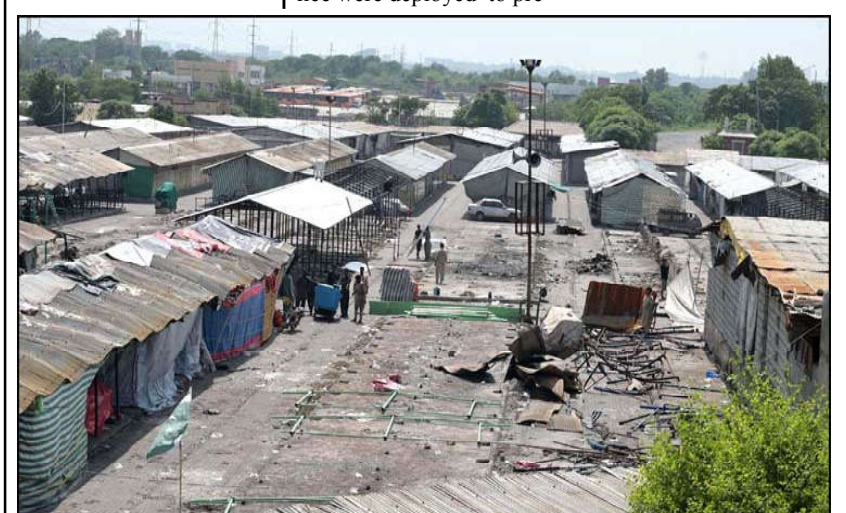
MIRPUR (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the ideology of accession to Pakistan is the most important spiritual ideology for him and the entire population of Jammu and Kashmir state. "Whoever will try to sabotage it then the law will take its course," the PM stated. PM Anwar ul Haq said he had inherited this ideology from his father and would pass it on to the next generation. "Our parents, us, and our future generations have always advocated for this ideology and we will continue to do so in the future until it is translated into reality," Anwar expressed

these words while talking to various public representative delegations here late on Wednesday. "Being a democratic person, everyone has permission to promote their ideology, but the state will not allow spreading hatred or sectarianism, and wherever peace is endangered or disrupted, the government will perform its duties," he warned. The AJK PM continued that his government provided historic subsidies on electricity and flour to the public and bore a budget deficit of 71 billion. Anwar said his government provided Rs. 1 billion in funds to local government institutions to spend on public welfare projects.

Anti-encroachment operation launched in Peshawar

Independent Report PESHAWAR: The district administration of Peshawar, in collaboration with the Peshawar Development Authority (PDA), launched an operation against encroachments on Ring Road, during operation dozens of illegal constructions and encroachments were demolished. According to Deputy Commissioner Peshawar Sarmad Salim Akram, the operation was carried out in light of orders from the provincial government, District administration and PDA officials participated in the operation alongside a heavy contingent of police were deployed to pre-

vent any untoward incidents. During the operation, heavy machinery was used to demolish the illegal encroachment, and several individuals were arrested on the spot for violating the law and illegal construction. Deputy Commissioner Sarmad Salim Akram said on the occasion that operation against illegal encroachments will continue indiscriminately in District Peshawar, strict action will be taken against repeated offenders. He appealed to the public to cooperate with the district administration to eradicate encroachment and free Peshawar from the encroachment mafia.



ISLAMABAD: View of the workers busy rebuilding the stalls at the Peshawar Mor Weekly Bazaar, which was damaged due to a fire.

Mohsin Naqvi reviews security situation in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi presided over a high-level meeting in Islamabad to review the law and order situation late Wednesday night. He said they would not allow anyone to enter the red zone because maintaining public order is our priority. He said it is everyone's right to protest but the protest should be at a suitable place and should not disturb the daily routine of the

people, he demanded from protesters. Naqvi said that the protection of the life and property of people is the first responsibility of the government and enforcement of the law will be ensured in this regard. He said that the law will act against those who take the law into their hands. In the meeting, the situation of public order was reviewed in detail.

Six vendors arrested in ICT for price gouging

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 arrested six violators. In a recent operation led by Assistant Commissioner Pothohar, Aneeq Anwar, six 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 custom-

ers 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 is part of a broader effort to regulate prices and protect consumers from unfair practices in the market. The public is encouraged to remain vigilant and report any violations to ensure that all transactions are fair and within the legal framework.



ISLAMABAD: A view of traffic jam due to road blocked with heavy shipping containers at Faizabad, in the Federal Capital.

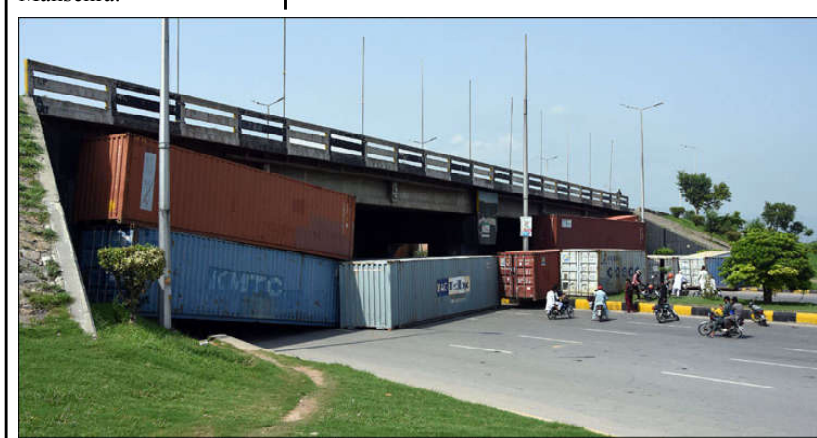
Tourism and Cultural activities accentuates prosperity: Secretary Dr Bakhtiar

Independent Report PESHAWAR: The KP Govt organised 3-day conference on "Heritage and Hospitality, Prospects of Archaeology and Tourism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" in collaboration with University of Peshawar. As part of this event, a concluding ceremony was held at the Baragali Summer Campus of Peshawar University, that provided a podium to review the vast opportunities in the province's culture and tourism, as asserted by the delegates of the conference. Dr. Muhammad Bakhtiar Khan, Secretary of Culture, Tourism, Archaeology and Museums, was chief guest. While Vice-Chancellor Qazi Muhammad Naem, academicians from various

parts of the country and high ups of KP govt participated in the event, sharing their recommendations and suggestions. Dr. Bakhtiar on this occasion highlighted the importance of tourism and culture in the national economic growth. He asserted that the promotion of tourism and culture provides employment opportunities to local people while currently a significant portion of the population is employed in tourism and cultural sectors, such as hotels, restaurants, tour guides and handicrafts. He added that the development of tourist sites and the organization of cultural events attract both local and foreign investment, which stabilizes the overall economy.

7 die in rains incidents in KP: PDMA

PESHAWAR (APP): At least seven persons died in rains related incidents during last 24 hours in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to Provincial Disasters Management Authority, these people had expired in different districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Two sisters namely Saima and Naima daughters of Bakhtullah died at Domail Bannu when roof of a house collapsed. Similarly, one person each expired at Tank, Mohmand and Dera Ismail Khan while two in Mansehra.



ISLAMABAD: A view of road blocked with heavy shipping containers at Islamabad Highway, in the Federal Capital.

Ayaz strongly condemns attack on school van in Attock

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, on Thursday, strongly condemned the tragic incident of firing on a school van in Attock, which resulted in the loss of two young children. "The attack on innocent children is heart-wrenching," the Speaker said in a statement, adding that those responsible for such heinous acts deserve no leniency. He called for the strictest legal action against the perpetrators. Ayaz Sadiq extended his heartfelt condolences to the families of the affected children, praying to Allah for the elevation of the ranks of the deceased and the swift recovery of the injured.

NHMP foils liquor smuggling bid

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Highway and Motorway Police (NHMP) on Thursday foiled a bid to smuggle liquor near Islamabad Toll Plaza link road and recovered 157 bottles of liquor from a vehicle. According to NHMP North Zone spokesman, Muhammad Saqib, the NHMP spotted a suspicious vehicle parked on Link Road while no one present in the car. On searching it, the NHMP recovered 157 bottles of liquor from the vehicle and handed them over to the Noon Police Station, for further legal action.

Parliamentarians urged to champion women's rights in reproductive health

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level seminar on reproductive health and family planning on Thursday called for increased access to contraceptives and family planning services, emphasizing the importance of women's rights and empowerment. The event, organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), brought together Sindh parliamentarians, government officials, and experts to discuss strategies for improving sexual reproductive health (SRH) and family planning (FP) in the province.

Key speakers, including Dr. Rubina Ali, Assistant Country Representative for UNFPA, and Shaheema Sher Ali, Sindh Minister for Women Development, stressed the need for a rights-based approach to family planning, highlighting the link between population management and sustainable economic growth. The seminar highlighted alarming statistics, with less than one-third of women in Pakistan having autonomy over their sexual and reproductive health, resulting in 4.2 million unplanned pregnancies and 2.2 million abortions annually.

UAJK introduces Manual Admission Forms in response to internet connectivity issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): In response to the challenges faced by prospective students due to slow internet connectivity, the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK), Muzaffarabad, has initiated the issuance of manual admission forms alongside the existing online application process. This step aims to ensure that all applicants can conveniently apply for their desired programs, said a press release. According to a press release issued by the Public Relations Department of the UAJK, the students seeking admission can now obtain printed admission

forms directly from the Director Student Affairs (DSA) offices at both the Chella Campus and King Abdullah Campus (Chatter Klass). These forms can be submitted to apply for the program of their choice. Additionally, to assist students in completing their online admission forms, the university has established online entry facilities at the Chella Campus and King Abdullah Campus (Chatter Klass). Information desks have also been set up in all academic departments to guide prospective students.