# nachentent

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Vol. XIV No. 196 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Saturday August 24, 2024, Safar 18, 1446 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

# Govt mulls shutting down all utility stores across country

Prime minister seeks recommendations for introduction of alternative system to such stores

cies): The federal government has decided to close Utility Stores across the country, a move confirmed by the secretary of industries and production ministry during a Senate government's aim is to Standing Committee meet-

The secretary told the meeting the decision was tial. part of a broader strategy of the government to exit non-essential business operations, and that efforts were ongoing to reassign affected employees

tary emphasized that the daily wages. streamline its operations standing committee took tivities deemed non-essen-

while the subsidy on items available at the stores had already ended. According

ISLAMABAD (Agen- was made during a meet- the news of closure of the has sought proposals for ing of the Senate Standing stores, there was concern Committee on Industry among more than 11,000 and Production, which was chaired by Senator Aoun Abbas. The secre-

> by moving away from ac-strict notice on the decision to close Utility Stores and sought details on the According to the Util-ity Store management, the statement of the indus-tries secretary. Committee amounts to BISP consumfederal government has Chairman Senator Aoun given them two weeks, Abbas Bappi expressed concern over the government's decision.

INP adds: Prime

shutting down the stateowned Utility Stores Corporation (USC) and replaces it with a new sys-

The prime minister On the other hand, the also called for proposals within two weeks for an alternative system in place of the Utility Stores.

The government was ers of the Utility Stores. In the meanwhile, the

Utility Stores have stopped sale of subsidized items to the BISP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on matters related to Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority.

Imran Khan says:

# Another May 9 incident could have been leveled against us had we held August 22 public meeting

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI founder Imran Khan has said there was apprehension of chaos on September 22, therefore, Islamabad public meeting

was postponed.

Had we held public meeting May 9 like incident could have occurred. This is question of prestige of court. Court allows us to hold public meeting but administration cancels it. Islamabad public meeting has been postponed for last time, he said this in an informal talk with the journalists here in Adiala jail Rawalpindi.

He further stated no judicial inquiry has been conducted so far in respect of May 9, 2023 incident. Had we insisted on holding public meeting on August event could have been

was reported positive.

with fear that we are hold-ing talks with establish-ment then they recall May I have not to talk with any government of form 47. I will never want country

was given religious parties

are on protest. There is

threat for fomenting chaos.

Therefore I called Azam Swati and Barrister Gohar and postponed public

He pointed out they have issued NOC for Sep-

tember 8 public meeting. If

any one tries to create any hindrance then on Septem-

ber 8 then they will them-

selves be responsible. When PML-N is seized

meeting.

drifts into chaos. Reacting to security sources statement he said who I am. I am head of the country. Therefore, I am shifted to us again.
He held information
He held information demanding for open trial of

Health ministry confirms

second case of Monkeypox

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Health on Friday confirmed that second case of Monkeypox has been re-

the patient came from the Gulf countries with symptoms.

transferred the patient to hospital timely whose Mpox test

ensuring continuous monitoring of the situation.

system was functional at all airports.

airports and entry points.

per Prime Minister's direc-

tives, NDMA convened the

fourth meeting of National

Disaster Response Com-

mittee (DRC) at NDMA

headquarters here on Fri-

chaired by Prof. Ahsan

Iqbal, Federal Minister for

Planning and Special Initia-

tives and co-chaired by

NDMA Chairman Lt Gen-

eral Inam Haider Malik, a

The meeting was

According to spokesperson of the Ministry of Health,

He added that the Health Desk at Peshawar Airport

The spokesperson said that the Ministry of Health is

National Coordinator for Health Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad

He added border health staff were working diligently

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad said that the government was

ensuring serious measures to keep people safe from epi-

NDMA convenes 4th session of

**Disaster Response Committee** 

said that an effective system of screening and surveillance

# Government seems to be beneficiary of enforced disappearances: IHC ISLAMABAD (Online): fixing this case on Tues-Islamabad High Court day. But I will not be here on Tuesday. We don't electricity. Balochistan wala will say provide gas to me.

Missing brothers of Mashwani case:

to issue strict order in the case pertaining to recovery of two missing professors brothers Mashwani.

The court remarked apparently it seems as if government is beneficiary of enforced disappearances. How the people are kidnapped and chief executive does nothing. Attorney General (AG) had said he would brief Prime Minister (PM). Chief Executive knows about these matters but even then enforced disappearances are taking

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked if government has not to follow due process then what can we say. They cannot estimate how much such things are defaming the country. I am national interest then I will

want delay in this case due to my non availability. He gave these remarks

taining to recovery of two missing professor brothers of Azhar Mashwani Fri-Babar Awan counsel for the petitioner gave arguments. During the hear-

during hearing of case per-

ing of the case the court inquired have you come to know any thing .
Additional Attorney General (AAG) Munawar Igbal Dogal told the court today contact has been

made at high level. Efforts are under way in all ways. Babar Awan argued five laws deal with treason and inciting to treason. It has not been told anywhere How the people in this what is national interest. If country are kidnapped and

His national interest is this.

SP from Punjab Police Lahore appeared in the court and he told that CCTV footage has been provided by family. Nothing could become known from NADRA or forensic agency. Geo-fencing of 10000 number was obtained but nothing has been ascertained so far. No practicable information has been found till today August 23. Safe city project does not cover from every angle. No law enforcement agency could ascertain any thing in this regard so far.

The court remarked it seems as if only government is beneficiary of enforced disappearances. it is asked from me what is chief executive does noth-



funeral prayer of martyred police personnel in Rahim Yar Khan.

Attends funeral prayers of martyred policemen

# Naqvi determines to take action against attackers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister (APP): Mohsin Naqvi has pledged to take stern action against the attackers who killed 13 police personnel in the Kacha area of Rahim Yar

Khan Presiding over a highlevel meeting at Rahim Yar Khan Airport on Friday, Naqvi emphasized the need for robust security measures and instructed authorities to equip operational forces with modern weapons and safety equip-

Naqvi described the incident as a "sad tragedy" and directed all necessary measures to prevent such incidents in the future

He ordered a coordinated operation against the perpetrators, stating that

they would be dealt with 'iron hands.' Meanwhile the funeral

prayers for police personnel martyred in the attack by robbers in Machhka were held at the Sadiq Shaheed Police Lines Rahim Yar Khan

Minister Interior Mohsin Naqvi, Punjab IGP Dr. Usman Anwar and Punjab Home Secretary Noor-ul-Amin Mengal attended the funeral prayers. A large number of senior police and military officials, police personnel, public, and relatives of martyrs also participated in the prayers.

In the robbers' attack in Machhka area the previous night, 12 police personnel were martyred and eight were the Hindu community. A ample

smart contingent of police paid tribute to the martyrs After the funeral prayers, the bodies of the martyrs were sent to their native areas. The martyrs will be given full honors during their burial in their hometowns.

Mohsin Naqvi visited police personnel receiving treatment at Sheikh Zayed Hospital Rahim Yar Khan. Speaking to the media, he said the great sacrifices of martyrs would not go in vain. The federal government would provide complete support to the Punjab government in eliminating robbers from Kachha area. Mohsin Naqvi called the martyrdom of police personnel a tragedy for Pakistan and emphasised that injured. Three of the those involved in the heinous martyred police belonged to act would be made an ex-

#### Malik urges PTI to shun hate rhetoric, promote peace approach to politics. ISLAMABAD (APP):

Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Masood Malik on Friday warned the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership, particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Chief Minister should desist from making hate-based statements and spreading chaos in the country.

Talking to a Private news channel, he urged the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership to abandon their hate-filled rhetoric and instead embrace a peaceful and constructive

The Minister's warning comes amidst concerns that the PTI leadership has been engaged in a systematic effort to destabilize the country through various means, including the provocative events of May 9.

By perpetuating divi-sive rhetoric and promoting unrest, the PTI leadership is not only undermining national harmony but also compromising the country's stability and security, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, and British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Ms. Jane Marriott, jointly launched the "District Education Performance Index" in

## Ahsan concerned over alarming results of **District Education Performance Index**

ISLAMABAD (APP): outcomes such as access, Minister for Planning, De-Iqbal on Friday expressed percent of the country's Pakistan's 124 districts mains slower compared to category of the District Education Performance Index (DEPIx), and remaining in the under-per-

Addressing a news conference following the release of the DEPIx 2020-23 report, Iqbal said Pakistan's literacy rate of 60 percent was insufficient for progress and must be increased to 90

percent. "Pakistan's national average score on the index is a modest 53 out of 100, placing the country in the 'Low' performance category," according to the report Compiled by the Planning Commission in collaboration with international experts and government agencies.

The report is the first of its kind to measure district-level education performance, focusing on key

53 percent in education, with no district falling into the high-performance category except Islamabad.

The report highlighted issues such as lack of Internet access and the diminishing role of technical institutions in educa-

The minister said the declining quality of education has led to decreased enrollment in government schools and stressed the need for revolutionary measures like providing Internet access in schools, ensuring technological education and increasing

digital literacy. He also informed that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has recently established a task force to on would be shared with the



LAHORE: German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Svenja Schulze meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.

# **ECP** forms inquiry panel to probe Ijaz Chauhan's secret foreign visit

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has formed a five-member inquiry committee to investigate allegations of violation of the code of conduct by Punjab Election Commissioner Ejaz Anwar Chauhan on

According to media reports, the Provincial Election Commissioner of Punjab, Ejaz Anwar Chauhan, has been directed to submit a written response within 10 days.

According to the order issued by the ECP, Ejaz Anwar Chauhan is accused of concealing foreign travel to Canada without obtaining a No Objection Certificate (NOC).

As per the ECP order, it is also alleged that Provincial Election Commissioner Ejaz Anwar Chauhan did not show interest in his supervisory role. Reportedly, on Au-

gust 5, 2024, Provincial Election Commissioner Punjab Ejaz Chauhan, who is a grade-20 officer, was made Officer on Special Duty (OSD). Ejaz Ânwar Chohan took charge of his responsibilities as Punjab Provincial Election Commissioner on January 18, 2024. Before taking charge in Punjab, Ejaz Anwar Chauhan served as the Provincial Election Commissioner of Sindh. In Septem-

ber 2023, Muttahida Qaumi

Mevement-Pakistan

learning, equity, gover- findings of the report, he velopment and Special Ini- nance and inputs like in- acknowledged the progress tiatives Professor Ahsan frastructure and public fi- Pakistan has made in human capital development Ahsan Iqbal said but noted that the pace redistricts in the medium have scored an average of other emerging economies

and regional peers. "These findings serve as a sober reminder that much more needs to be done to improve education outcomes across the country. We are in an era of knowledge revolution where the intellectual capital of the nation determines

its destiny," he observed. Ahsan Iqbal stressed that Pakistan's education indicators lagged behind those of peer countries and stated "Ûnless we achieve 90 percent literacy and universal primary enrollment, we cannot enter the devel-

He emphasized the importance of fostering creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork skills in chileducation emergency. He dren and vowed to bring 25 said, a five-year plan million out-of-school children into the education sys-

#### German Minister meets Maryam Nawaz

AHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister on Friday met the German minister for economic coordination and development.

The duo discussed cooperation in economic and ade spheres and vowed to deepen bilateral and trade relationship between Pakistan and Germany.
Punjab CM thanked

the visiting minister for doling out 91.1 million euros to help people affected from floods. Partnerships in clean energy and climate friendly projects was also agreed upon. CM Maryam said that economic relations between Pakistan and Germany were improving. She also appreciated Germany's help in extending GSP+ status to Pakistan'

#### Govt appoints **Arshad Munir as** Addl. Secretary, **PMO Public**

SLAMABAD (APP) The Federal Government on Friday appointed Muhammad Arshad Munir, BS-21 officer of the Information Group as Additional Secretary, Prime Minister's Office (Public). The Cabinet Secré-

tariat and Establishment

Division have issued a no-

tification to this effect, said

a news release

news release said. The session focused on evaluating the progress of directives issued during the third DRC and updates were provided on response undertaken by the provincial departments during rain emergencies. The plans to address potential emergen-

ISLAMABAD (APP): As pen in the next monsoon spell specifically in South Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan were discussed. Representatives of Pakistan Railway and National Highway Authority apprised the forum about damages of infrastructure and communication lines during localised rain emer-

Officials of NDMA provided an overview of the anticipated impacts, situation of water reservoirs and risk calculations prepared by NEOC for the current monsoon along with NDMA's preparedness and plans. NEOC also gave an appraisal of the weather outlook of regional countries and the on-going flood situation in Bangladesh.



ISLAMABAD: As per PMs directives, NDMA convened the fourth meeting of National Disaster Response Committee (DRC) at NDMA HQs in Islamabad. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives and co-chaired by NDMA Chair man Lt. General Inam Haider Malik.

# Daily Aoice of Masse. Independent

### Who to believe?

Pakistani netizens, always quick to find humour in the darkest places, have dubbed it 'the return of the shararti (mischievous) sharks'

Contradicting the state minister for IT, who had on Sunday claimed that slow internet speeds were due to Pakistanis' newfound love for VPNs, the PTA chairman on Wednesday told the National Assembly Standing Committee on IT and Telecommunication that the slowdown was, in fact, attributable to a problem with one of the submarine cables connecting Pakistan to the rest of the world.

A major fault in Pakistan's submarine cables was once, many years ago, attributed to shark activity, much to the amusement of ordinary citizens. It has since turned into a running gag about Pakistan's frequent struggles with unexplained internet failures. That it has resurfaced is a sign of how seriously the Pakistani people are taking the government's flip-flopping on ongoing internet connectivity issues

It seems worth asking at this point whether the government realises how much damage it is causing to its credibility by repeatedly denying the problems being faced by citizens and then contradicting itself when explaining what may be causing them. Facing the NA committee, the PTA chairman deflected questions regarding the 'firewall' reportedly being rolled out by the state. Later, while speaking to a reporter, he acknowledged that the PTA has been upgrading its 'web management system' but did not elaborate on how this system works. A report published in these pages suggests that this system may be being upgraded to have the capability to throttle and limit content on an application basis, as well as allow URL filtering, IP blocking, including complete blocking of websites, and VPN whitelisting. However, experts warn that any problems with the system could impact a very large number of users because of the way Pakistan's internet is structured. This seems to have been confirmed by experience in recent days.

Pakistan cannot progress in the modern world if the keys to its nascent IT industry are to remain in the hands of a regulatory authority that cannot even prevaricate with consistency. The secrecy surrounding the ongoing tinkering with the internet is giving rise to all kinds of speculation and uncertainty, which, as multiple stakeholders have warned, has been affecting business confidence too. Meanwhile, even established experts seem to be in the dark about what the authorities seek to achieve and at what cost. This is a deeply problematic situation that may have far-reaching consequences for Pakistan. Civilian leaders must continue to demand answers from the PTA and seek clarity on what it is trying to achieve. They must also enforce a system of accountability for those responsible for this new 'web management' technology, especially for the economic losses it has been causing due to frequent disruptions to the internet.

# **Babies** galore

#### Zubeida Mustafa

Ours is a society where parents start planning their daughter's marriage soon after she is born. Here the social compulsion for couples to prove their fertility is so great that they have their first child within a year or so after tying the knot. Worse still, women are desperate to produce a son to protect their marriage and preserve their marital status. On top of that, we are so prudish that to talk about family planning is considered immoral.

Given the above, can family planning succeed in Pakistan? Whatsane among us will have to continue to focus their attention on this field because population has become a global issue as the UN's recent World Poputells us. It concedes that Earth can no longer sustain the massive population that continues to grow. It is now calculated that the world population will not peak before 2100 when it will stand at 10.3 billion. Pakistan is one of the 126 countries whose populations are still growing. Pakistan's population growth rate has been around 2.5 per cent in the mends the use of techlast 25 years. Its total fertility rate is 3.6 while the world average is 2.2 and the replacement rate is

In these bleak circumstances comes a ray of hope: a report produced by Research and Development Solutions. by the private sector and It suggests pragmatic the government should strategies to meet supplyside needs, which have financier rather than probeen inadequately addressed in this country, leading to many unin-tended pregnancies, Pakistan's contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) is tended pregnancies, abortions and a high unmet need. Above all, as the writers of this report, able Development Goals, Dr Adnan Khan and there must be 20m mar-Ayesha Khan, tell me, ried women of reproducthese strategies have active age using contratually been applied in the ceptives by next year.

Foundation's Urban Im- target under the present pact Lab and have produced results.

In a nutshell, the report confirmed my observation that our family planning programme has failed to provide the services that many young married couples are looking for. With data gathered from various sources, the report tells us that many utilities clinics, population centres and contraceptive outlets — exist but are grossly underutilised.

have even one client in a day. Private facilities show a better outreach but even that is not satisfactory. The Lady ever the prospects, the Health Workers, who are the backbone of the programme, are ineffective as they are so loaded with numerous non-family planning duties that they give only an hour a lation Prospects report week to mobilising women to become contraceptive users. Hence the programme has turned out to be highcost and ineffective. There is also the problem of the procurement of contraceptives as their import pretty centralised. Sometimes this leads to shortages that are not warranted.

Dr Adnan recomnologies to gather information on locations where there is likely to be a need, track users, increase the outreach of utilities and communicate with users. The procurement of contraceptives should also be allowed concentrate on its role of vider of services.

present, 34pc with 11 million users. To meet the Sustain-Akhtar Hameed Khan This is an unattainable

system as only 5m more women will join the contraceptive users' ranks.

By using technology, Dr Ayesha has transformed these vital statistics in her project. In the first phase (2019) for 15 months), in a population of 278,000 with 36,000 women she managed to increase CPR from 33pc to 44pc. Mainly injections and IUCD (intra-uterine contraceptive devi--ce) were used with the per user Some utilities do not cost amounting to only Rs1,100. In the second phase (2023 for two years) more residents were added — 800,000 with 126,000 women. The results? The CPR shot up dramatically to 51pc. In the second phase, technology was used and the rise in CPR was dramatic.

> Dr Ayesha says that if all urban slums were provided with this technology-driven programme, 37m people would be reached. And that is a substantial num-

Will the increase in the outreach of family planning facilities cause people to internalise the small family' message? Dr Adnan believes it will not. Once the pressure is withdrawn, they will lapse into having sex without using contraceptives. The narrative has to be changed. I agree. Fundamentally, it calls for the empowerment of women and to teach all and sundry about the rights of the young ones they give birth to. The need is to treat

human development holistically. We have to promote education, provide healthcare, livelihood and shelter for all. Without these basic needs being fulfilled, people will have no control over their lives. Would a man unaware of what lies in store for him worry about the planet being overpopulated?

# **Dropped chances**

We have been approaching polio wrong all along. It is not just a public health, water, and sanitation problem. Above all else, it is a political economy and geostrategic challenge.

Poliomyelitis is a viral infection transmitted via the oral-faecal route that targets the motor nervous system, leading to paralysis. It is sometimes fatal. Pakistan and Afghanistan are the last holdouts of polio. The fate of the rest of the world depends on these two countries separated by the Durand Line. Those who have been helping Pakistan eradicate polio face a choice; how would they choose if the choice came down to a polio-free world and the status quo in the re-The custodians of

Pakistan's national security must decide if any strategic depth is worth inflicting on the country's future generations this crippling disease and, in the process, being singled out as the chain, nation that took down the entire globe with it because it sought to treat as its backyard.

The the streets in the thou- channel countering the sands to participate in peace rallies; it is the security apparatus that should realise that we suffered enough by embroiling ourselves in other people's wars and espousing proxies.

If we had informed certain 'guests' that they were not welcome on our soil, those hunting them would not have stooped so low as to go sniffing in the guise of vaccinators. The backlash continues to haunt us.

political the polio vaccine drops

Shahzad Sharjeel tion IDA buyback street. India and Nigeria programme by successive governments in fits and starts warrants an inhave a history of underthe-table deals on anything and everything, sugar exports. What will not salivate when

procuring polio drops? No country in the world has lost as many polio vaccination workers, including health and police personnel, in terrorist attacks as we have. of om--ission and According to reports, more than 200 members of vaccination teams have been killed. The shambolic handling of security strategy in cam- out im--m--igrants. Even paigns is among the prime reasons Polio eradication is

more of a communication

challenge than anything else. Mullah Fazlullah was running over 100 illegal FM channels, spewing venom against the vaccine and vaccinators. Pakistan and its development partners were solely focused on vaccine drops, the cold att-ention to inter-provincial movement. No effort was made to in hospitable of religion. One cannot people in the border- think of a single public lands regularly take to or community radio

> A lack of political will is usually disguised as a lack of capacity. We would have had different rid ourselves of polio. results if even five per One wonders if the cent of the polio eradi- amused look on his face cation budget had been during his last meeting earmarked for strategic communication and the ership was because he right expertise had been tapped.

militant vitriol.

Photo-ops prominent personalities administering polio drops are fine but insufficient. An in-depth and nuanced communication economy of procuring strategy is required, with the right messages and and utilising the Bill and messengers reaching ev- a hunt for the last one. Melinda Gates Founda- ery neighbourhood and - Courtesy Dawn

did it despite poverty, illiteracy, and myriad insurgency movements to depth investigation. We match ours, so why can't we? The poorest corners of Africa have won the battle against this disfrom wheat imports to ease; whenever a freak case reappears anymakes us believe some where, we brace ourselves lest it be traced back to us. The last case Malawi recorded two years ago was traced to a Pakistani strain. We are not too popular around the globe for myriad acts co--mmission. The world is seeing a tilt tow-ards right-wi--ng, authoritarian leaders vowing to bui-ld iron walls to keep supposedly friendly countries go about announcing that Pakistani la--bour is not welcome. Before the world de--cides to put poliorelated travel curbs on us, we need to put all the genies of extremism, militancy, and regression

back in the bottle. All entities trying to help Pakistan need to change tack. They and some should use all the leverage; any stakeholder who does not cooperate polio eradication a neighbouring country counter the negative should forget about tranpropaganda in the guise sit trade, continued facilitation to refugees, defence courses, spare parts for the stockpiled junk, and access to technology

At times, one feels pity for Bill Gates. He tries his best to help us with the Pakistani leadhad heard 'resolves to fight polio' before or if he was merely bemused by the matching socks and

neckties in the room. Fourteen new polio cases have already surfaced in Pak-istan. We must turn the search for the latest polio case into

# Commerce News

# Pakistan eyes Turkish expertise to elevate aviation industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): that the collaboration in aviation. Federal Minister for this field was aligned with Finance and Revenue, the Prime Minister's Mehmat Muhammad appreciating the success of Turkish aviation industry on Friday, said that collaboration in this sector with Turkiye was an important part of bilateral relations between the two

During a meeting with Chairperson of Pegasus Airlines, Mehmat T. Nane, who was accompanied by CEO of Lucky Cement Limited Muhammad Ali

Tabba, the minister noted

Pakistan's aviation

industry. where both sides discussed various avenues for trade and business collaboration, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

This meeting, he noted, was part of the broader strategy to strengthen ties between Pakistan and Turkey in

On the occasion, vision to enhance presented an overview of the Turkish aviation strategy, highlighting key He also recalled a aspects that could benefit recent meeting with the Turkish Trade Minister, He elaborated on how Pakistan could leverage Turkiye's experience and expertise to advance its own aviation industry.

The discussions were deemed highly fruitful, marking a step forward in Pakistan's efforts to boost its aviation capabilities and foster stronger economic multiple sectors, including ties with Turkiye.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, in a meeting with Mr. Mehmat T. Nane, Chairperson of Pegasus Airlines, accompanied by Mr. Muhammad Ali Tabba, CEO of **Lucky Cement Limited.** 

KARACHI (APP): Three ships, Tolten, X-Press Anglesey and Epic Burano carrying Container and LPG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminals and Engro Vopak Terminal respectively on Thursday. Eleven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships Tolten, X-Press Anglesey and New Apex left the port today morning while four more ships, Antares, Epic Burano. Navig-8 Constellation, and Madison Eagle are expected to sail on Friday.

Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them two ships, Solar Roma and Gaschem Mosel & four more ships Bolan, Beijing, Hyundai Busan, and Maersk Columbus carrying Palm oil, Chemicals, Mogas, and Container are expected to take berths at LCT, EVTL.

#### collaborate to transform Pak startup landscape ISLAMABAD (APP): In nurturing entrepreneurs, a strategic move to bolster this partnership aims to

Telenor Velocity, I2I

Pakistan's growing startup ecosystem, Telenor Velocity, Telenor Pakistan's premier startup accelerator, forged a powerful alliance with

Invest2Innovate (i2i). According to news release by combining Telenor Pakistan's market reach, technological infrastructure, industry expertise with empower startups to scale rapidly and compete on a global stage

Pakistan's youthful demographic, with 64% of the population under 30, presents an immense opportunity innovation. population of nearly 240 million and teledensity, the country boasts a vibrant startup i2i's proven track record in ecosystem.

# removed.

KARACHI (APP): State Compliant

received 19 bids for 7-day tenor cumulatively offering an amount of Rs1,119.4 billion at the rate of return

ranging between 19.58 to 19.65 percent while 2 bids were received for the 28day tenor offering an amount of Rs16.5 billion at the rate of return ranging between 19.61 to 19.62%.

The SBP accepted 18 quotes for 7-day tenor amounting to Rs800 billion at 19.59 % rate of return while 2 quotes for 28-day tenor amounting to Rs16.5 billion were accepted at 19.61% rate of return.

Meanwhile, central bank also conducted Shariah Mudarabah based Open Market Operation for 7day and 28-day tenors and injected Rs150 billion in the market

#### **SNGPL** disconnects eight more connections

ODHRAN (APP): Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) UFG Control Task Force cut off eight more connections including one commercial besides removing six extensions. Giving details, SNGPL sources said a consumer was found using a compressor to suck gas, and his connection was severed.

In Gaggu Mandi, a consumer was found using a domestic meter for commercial purposes, and his meter was also

#### **PSX** gains 08 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Friday and gained 08.01 points, showing a slight positive change of 0.01 percent, closing at 78,801.43 points 78,793.41 points on the last working day.

total 682,409,886 shares were traded during the day as compared 804,261,249 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 18.168 billion

#### demands extension in **TAD** implementation Businessmen dealing in Collectorate

Pak-Afghan liaison body

Pak-Afghan trade have demanded a two-month implementation of the enforced recently Temporary Admission Documentation (TAD) policy to allow clearance of the long queue of trucks standing on both sides of the border in wait of permission for goods

The demand was made during a meeting of the Pak-Afghan Liaison Committee held at the Frontier Custom Agents

delivery.

Additional Director Transit Trade, Dr. Tahir Igbal Khattak. According to a press

release issued here on Friday, the meeting was attended by Coordinator Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi, Former SVP SCCI, Engr Manzoor Elahi, President Chamber of Commerce and



HYDERABAD: A worker is busy operating a power loom to prepare cloth in a local factory.

# **Short-term inflation** eases by 0.10 percent

measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed a decrease of 0.10 percent for the witnessed decrease of 0.24 combined consumption groups during the week ended on August 22, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 321.72 points as compared to 322.03 points during the past week. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption and 21 (41.18%) items group in the week under remained stable. The items, review witnessed an

increase of 16.69 per cent.

The weekly SPI with
the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban

ISLAMABAD (APP): centres and 51 essential The weekly inflation, items for all expenditure groups. Likewise, SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732 per cent and went down to 310.29 points from last week's 311.04 points. The SPI for the consumption groups of Rs 17,732-22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175 decreased by 0.22 percent, 0.15; 0.12 percent and 0.05 percent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 21 (41.18%) items increased, (17.64%) items decreased which recorded major decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included tomatoes

#### QUETTA: A vendor displaying fresh Melon (Garma) at Joint Road Quetta to attract customers to experience the sweet, juicy flavor of locally grown fruit. Naeem Mir says: Tax table being reviewed to address

trader'apprehensions

FAISALABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister for Tajir Dost Muhammad Naeem Mir has said that tax table is being reviewed to address apprehensions

Addressing a meeting in the committee room of DC Office here, he said that main objective of PM's Tajir Dost Scheme is and now to facilitate traders for tax the traders could get them registered as filer through mobile app without the

This scheme would help the non-filers to file their income tax returns easily. He said that under

Tajir Dost scheme, the tax table is being reviewed so that apprehensions of the traders could be redressed. He said that powers of tax collection are being transferred at regional level Commissioner FBR could filing. Under this scheme, review the tax table after consulting the traders and addressing apprehensions

#### Shipping activity at **Port Qasim**

Cargo volume of 142,127 tonnes, comprising 94,464 tonnes of import cargo and 47,663 tonnes of export cargo carried in 3,294 Containers (2.003 TEUs Imports & 1,291 TEUs Export) was handled at the port during the last 24 hours.

Four ships at Outer

# SBP injects Rs966.5b into market

Bank of Pakistan (SBP) injected Rs966.5 billion in the market on Friday through reverse repo purchase and Shariah Mudarabah based Open Market Operation (OMO). According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on August 23, 2024 for 7-day and 28-day tenors and accepted 20 bids cumulatively amounting to

Rs816.5 billion. The central bank Compliant against Rs 16.975 billion on the last trading day.

# Punjab Health minister emphasizes commitment to providing best health facilities

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique reiterated the government's commitment to enhancing vision, healthcare services across the province. In a meeting with Professor Javed Akram, Head of the Pakistan Society of Internal Medicine (PSIM), and other key officials at the Department of Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education, the minister emphasized the ongoing efforts to provide the best health facilities to the masses. During the discussion, he highlighted that the PSIM has been instrumental in advancing

including within Pakistan. He further stated that, in line with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's significant improvements are being made in the healthcare system and available facilities. "Allah Almighty has given us a rare opportunity to serve patients in government hospitals," he remarked. underlining unc ...... of this responsibility.

Javed

Professor Javed Akram announced that the PSIM is organizing an international conference in November, aimed at furthering education.



PESHAWAR: President and Founder of Digital Centre Senator Mian Ateeq Shah meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi.

# **Justice Chaudhry Iqbal** recuses from hearing case against internet shut down

LAHORE (Online) Justice hearing cases similar to this Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal of Lahore High Court (LHC) has recused from hearing petition against internet shut down and installation of firewall.

The petition against internet shut down and installation of fire wall came up for hearing in LHC Friday.Justice Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal while recusing from hearing petition filed by Judicial Activism Panel ordered to transfer the case to the court of Justice Shakil Ahmad. The court said Justice Shakil Ahmad is order for complete.

case. The petitioner had taken plea internet and social media apps have been shut down in the country without giving any reason and notice. . Every sphere of life and business is being affected due to internet shut down.

It was further said in the petition that shutting down internet runs contrary to fundamental human rights. The court was requested to nullify the federal government decision for shutting down internet besides issuing

# over the 7th meeting of cabinet committee for Dengue and other diseases.

Saturday August 24, 2024

LAHORE: Provincial Ministers for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaja Imran Nazeer preside

DEPARTMENT

# **Governor Kundi thanks PM in** construction of Dera-Rajanpur road

Governor Pakhtunkhwa, Karim Kundi, on Friday expressed his gratitude to Minister Prime Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Minister for National Highways Abdul Aleem Khan and the officials of the National Authority Highway (NHA) for their support in the construction of 329 kilometers Dera Ismail Khan to Rajanpur road.

In a video message, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said that the construction work on this

**ANF** recovers

234 kg drugs in

four operations

RAWALPINDI (APP):

Anti-Narcotics Force

(ANF) while conducting

four operations managed

to recover 234 kg drugs worth Rs 20 million and

arrested five accused, said

an ANF Headquarters

spokesman here on Friday.

opium and 108 kg hashish

were recovered from a

vehicle intercepted on M-

1 Motorway İslamabad

and two accused were

1.5 kg heroin was recovered from a woman

netted near Kamalpur

Interchange, Faisalabad.

400 grams ice was

recovered from an accused

rounded up on Hub River

Road Karachi.

In another operation,

arrested.

He said that 123.6 kg

vital road will begin this year. Khyber He said that the road will be upgraded from a two-lane to a four-lane highway with the support of the Asian Development Bank, holds immense importance for both Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. Tenders for the project have already been issued that would ushr new era of development, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi added.

The Governor also highlighted that construction work on the Ramak to Tibba Qaisarani section of the road will start within this year. The revealed that the No

level meeting regarding the

implementation of CBMs

for the Diamer Bhasha

Dam and Dasu Dam said

that these dams are of

utmost importance for

Pakistan's prosperity. CM

GB said the people of

Diamer have made

sacrifices for the completion of these

projects. It is our collective responsibility to address

the genuine concerns and

apprehensions of the

affected people, he added.

He said the non-

implementation of CBM's

has raised severe concerns from Diamer.

phases, with the Dera Ismail Khan to Ramak to Punjab Tibba Qaisarani section covering 96 kilometers. Additionally, Kundi mentioned that tenders for the Dera Ismail Khan Chashma Lift Canal project will soon be issued. The Prime Minister has allocated 19 billion rupees from the federal budget for this project. Kundi thanked Federal Minister Musadiq Malik and the Chairman of WAPDA for their roles in

The Governor also

issue of CBM's was also

discussed. In the meeting,

Brigadier ® Shoaib Tahir, General Manager of Land

Resettlement, and General

Manager/Project Director

Diamer Bhasha Dam

Engineer Nizakat Hussain

presented the revised

CBM plan on the directives of the Chairman

WAPDA and briefed about

it. On this occasion, the

Chief Minister formed a

members of the Assembly

Acquisition

this initiative.

**GB** govt forms committee

to address dam affected

people's grievances

GILGIT (APP): Chief among the people of Minister of Gilgit-Diamer. He added that in a Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan recent meeting with the while addressing a high-Chairman WAPDA, the

project is divided into four Objection Certificate (NOC) for the Dera Ismail Khan International Airport has been issued, with construction expected to start next year.

Kundi emphasized

that these mega projects will significantly contribute to regional development, highlighting that practical steps are being taken rather than just making promises.

The road and canal

projects are set to be inaugurated later this year, while the airport project will commence in the coming year.

#### 4 of family found dead in car

SARGODHA (APP): Four members of a family were found dead in a car, in the iurisdiction of Bhera police station on Friday.

Motorway police received a call about a Motorway suspected car (LEF-7339) at Bhera motorway interchange.

information, the motorway police reached the spot and found five member of a family in a precarious condition in the car. Rescue-1122 volunteers shifted the victims to a hospital where Romeela (60), Mehwish (30), Samer (28) and Auon (4) expired while Umar Qasim (30) was still under treatment. The victims were belonged to Lahore. Doctors said the consumption of tainted food was the cause of death.

# Meeting appreciates govt plans, efforts to protect minorities' rights in Punjab

Civil Secretariat on Friday to highlight and appreciate the Punjab government plans and efforts to protect rights of religious minorities in Punjab.

Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora, presiding over the meeting, said that the Punjab government was taking all possible steps to protect rights of religious minorities to ensure elimination of the sense of deprivation that emerged in the past among the religious minorities.

Chairperson meeting was held at the Punjab Women Protection Authority Hina Parvez Butt highlighted the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's Digital Punjab and development of the province. She said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, the rights of women, especially those belonging to religious minorities, were being safeguarded. She added that women in Punjab were making s contribution significant development of Pakistan, and they were prominently

visible in every field.



HYDERABAD: People are using boat for transportation due to non-availability of bridge to cross the canal, at Channel Mori in Hyderabad.

## **Eman Shah savs:** GB govt's Rs 5bln fund to bridge healthcare gaps for deserving patients

Advisor to Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan, Eman Shah Friday said that Gilgit-Baltistan government has taken a major step towards bridging the region's healthcare gap with the establishment of a Rs 5 billion endowment fund, where the fund will cover treatment costs for deserving patients, alleviating financial distress and ensuring timely medical care.

The government's commitment to prioritizing citizens' health and wellbeing is further demonstrated by plans to increase the fund annually, he said while talking to PTV news.

The establishment of provide them.

ISLAMABAD (APP): the endowment fund is a testament to the Chief Minister's vision for a healthier Gilgit-Baltistan, he added.By providing financial assistance to deserving patients, the government aims to reduce the burden of medical expenses on low-income families and ensure that everyone has access to quality healthcare, he mentioned.For deserving patients in Gilgit-Baltistan, the endowment fund brings a ray of hope, he said, adding, many patients in the region have been unable to access medical treatment due to financial constraints where this fund will now

# International News

special

comprising

# Kamala Harris accepts Democratic nomination ahead of US elections with pledge of 'new way forward'

WASHINGTON: Kamala Harris accepted the Democratic presidential nomination in Chicago on Thursday before a rapturous crowd, pledging a "new way forward" if she beats Republican Donald Trump in November's blockbuster election.

59-year-old The sought to strike a presidential tone as she delivered a message of unity and onportunity for Americans following one of the most extraordinary turnarounds in US political history.

She lashed out at Trump, accusing him of trying to "take our country" backwards and of cosying up to foreign "ty-rants" like Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"On behalf of everyone whose story could only be written in the greatest nation on earth. I accept vour nomination to be president of the United performed as the Demo-

States of America," the vice crats rolled out a list of cepresident said to huge cheers. "I will be a president who unites us around our highest aspirations,"

she vowed. The convention became a giant party to celebrate Harris's astonishing ascent from something of a political afterthought to Democratic standard bearer upon President Joe Biden's surprise decision to end his reelection bid.

A sea of waving Stars and Stripes flags and chants of "USA" filled the arena as jubilant Democrats anointed Harris

She was later joined on stage by her running mate Tim Walz and their families, as they held their arms aloft while 100,000 red, white and blue balloons

tumbled from the ceiling.
Country act The Chicks sang a version of The Star-Spangled Banner' while pop star Pink also

president for all Americans" in a bid to reach out to undecided voters. With the November

election, Americans have a "fleeting opportunity to move past the bitterness, cynicism and divisive battles of the past — a chance to chart a new way forward," she promised.

Harris then took aim at 78-year-old Trump, whose campaign has been upended by having to face a woman two decades younger, rather than the increasingly frail Biden, 81

"We know what a second Trump term would look like," she said, referring to a right-wing think tank's blueprint for a future Republican government. It's all laid out in 'Project 2025,' written by his closest advisors, and its sum total is to pull our country back to the past."

US Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff, US 2024 Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris, Minnesota Governor and 2024 Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim Walz and Tim Walz's wife Gwen Walz hold hands at the end of the fourth and last day of the DNC at the United Center in Chicago, Illinois.

# India's Modi meets **Zelensky on historic** Ukraine visit

**Monitoring Desk** KYIV: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met

Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenksy on a historic visit to Kyiv on Friday, where he is pushing for a solution to end more than two years of war with Russia. Modi embraced

Zelensky — who looked visibly emotional — at the Mariinsky palace in Kyiv, in the first ever visit by an Indian premier to Ukraine.

The Indian leader is casting himself as a possible peacemaker between Moscow and Kviv.

But his visit comes at a dramatic moment in the two-and-a-half year war, with a diplomatic settlement appearing more elusive

Kyiv's forces are mounting a major incursion into Russia's Kursk region while Moscow's army is advancing in eastern

# 21 Indians dead, more feared missing after bus plunges into Nepal river

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Half of the passengers in a bus carrying 43 Indians died on Friday when the vehicle plunged into a rain-swollen river in neighbouring Nepal, according to a spokesperson for the Himalayan nation's armed police.

A total of 21 people died and 22 were injured, Shailendra Thapa, a spokesperson for the armed police said, adding that all 41 passengers and two crew were Indian and headed to the capital Kathmandu from the tourist city of Pokhara when the accident

occurred. Roads in the mountainous region can challenge drivers as they are often narrow and treacherous, making it tough to manoeuvre large vehicles around hairpin curves.

Rescuers pulled 22 people from the rain-swollen waters of the Marsyangdi river in the Tanahun district, about 118 kilometres from Kathmandu, of which 12 were seriously injured and airlifted to the capital. Police and army teams climbed down long metal ladders to reach the river, using ropes to pull out the injured and dead

#### World's second largest diamond found in Botswana

**Monitoring Desk** GABORONE: A massive 2,492-carat diamond — the

second largest in the world - has been discovered in Botswana, the Canadian mining company that found the stone announced on Thursday. The diamond was discovered in the Karowe Diamond Mine in northeastern Botswana using x-ray detection technology, Lucara Diamond Corp. said in a statement. Lucara did not give a value for the find or mention its quality. But in terms of carats, the stone is second only to the 3,016-carat Cullinan Diamond discovered in South Africa in 1905.

#### 10 migrants drown as boat sinks on Serbia-Bosnia border

**Monitoring Desk** SARAJEVO: Authorities recovered 10 bodies, including an infant, after a boat carrying migrants capsized on Thursday in the Drina River on the Serbia-Bosnia border, but officials said other people were believed missing. Police said the vessel was carrying several migrants when it flipped near Liuboviia in Serbia, a transit country on the so-called "Balkan route" that migrants use to reach the EU.

#### 27 killed as Israeli tanks push deeper into Gaza their demands. **Monitoring Desk**

CAIRO: Israeli forces pressed deeper into areas of the central and southern Gaza Strip as they battled Hamas fighters, while Palestinian health officials said on Thursday that Israeli strikes had killed at least 27 people across the enclave.

The new escalation comes hours after US President Joe Biden pressed Israeli Prime Minister Beniamin Netanyahu on the urgency of sealing a deal for a truce in Gaza and the release of prisoners, the White House said.

Separately, US and Israeli delegations started a new round of meetings in Cairo on Thursday to secure a ceasefire deal. Months of on-off talks on a ceasefire have circled the same issues, but Israel and

In the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahiya, a strike on a house killed 11 people, including children and women, the bodies of some of whom had been burnt, according to the territory's Civil Emergency

Medics said another strike killed six people, including a local journalist, in a house in Al-Maghazi camp in the central Gaza Strip, while five others were killed in separate strikes in the south. Later on Thursday, five Palestinians were killed and several wounded in an Israeli airstrike that hit people near a square in Khan Younis, health officials said.

The Israeli military said its forces had intensified their operations in Deir Hamas have stuck firmly to Al-Balah, in central Gaza.

# **UK PM tells China's** Xi he hopes for 'honest' discussions

**Monitoring Desk** ONDON: UK Prime

Minister Keir Starmer told Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday he hoped they could have "honest" discussions about thorny issues as they held the first call between leaders of the countries in over two years.

The formal conversation was the first between the pair since Starmer won power last month, and was also the first official call between a British leader and Xi since March 2022. The chat comes amid

a period of strained relations between London and Beijing over espionage allegations and Beijing's tightening control over former British colony Hong Kong.

The two remain major trading partners, however, and are both permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

According to Downing Street readout of the call, Starmer noted hope that he and Xi "would be able to have

open, frank, and honest discussions to address and understand areas of disagreement when neces-

Such issues include "Hong Kong, Russia's war in Ukraine, and human rights," the readout said. China was Britain's

fifth-largest trading partner as of 2023, according to UK statistics, but diplomatic relations were icy under Starmer's predecessor Rishi Sunak.

Soon after taking office in October 2022, Sunak declared an end to the socalled "golden era" of UK-China relations trumpeted by former prime minister David Cameron. Sunak characterised China as a systemic challenge" to

UK values. Espionage allegaons have since presented additional hurdles to repairing relations, with Beijing saying in June that MI6 recruited Chinese state employees to spy for the UK.

#### France's Macron holds talks with key political players in a bid to form a new government servant Lucie Castets. **Monitoring Desk** said after Friday's meet-

PARIS: After the excitement of the Paris Olympics and a Mediterranean vacation, now French President Emmanuel Macron has to figure out how to make his country governable again. Faced with a hung

parliament, social tensions and ballooning debt, Macron kicked off talks Friday with key political players in a bid to choose a new prime minister who would form a government and end the deadlock created by snap legislative elections last month. Members of the

left-wing New Popular

Front coalition that won

the most seats pres-

sured Macron for a

quick decision. Their

ings in the Elysee Palace that she was ready to govern, and ready for compromise to get things But the party only has about a third of the

seats in the National Assembly, France's powerful lower house of parliament, and no party has a majority. Macron's centrist

alliance came in second and the far-right National Rally came in There's no rulebook that requires Macron to name a candidate from

timeline for a decision. The absence of any dominant political bloc is nominee for prime min- unprecedented in France's ister, little-known civil modern Republic.

the party that won the

most seats, or lays out a

#### Body found by Italy rescue divers is Mike Lynch's daughter: source

**Monitoring Desk** PORTICELLO: Italian

divers have retrieved the body of British tech magnate Mike Lynch's 18-yearold daughter, Hannah, who was the last person still unaccounted for after the family's luxury yacht sank this week, a source with knowledge of the situation said.

The British-flagged Bayesian, a 56-meter-long (184-foot) superyacht carrying 22 passengers and crew, was anchored off the port of Porticello, near Palermo, when it capsized and sank on Monday within minutes of being struck by a pre-dawn

storm. For all the latest headlines follow our Google News channel online or via



ISLAMABAD: Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defence Production presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

# ESaaS to enhance Pakistan's tech capabilities, resilience efforts to combat climate change: Romina

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam Friday said that Energy Storage as a Service (ESaaS) at an industrial scale is an emerging model, where energy storage systems are offered to customers as a service rather than a tradi-

tional capital expenditure. Speaking as chief guest at the launching and signing ceremony of the "Industry-First Energy Storage as a Service Project" held here at a local hotel, the PM's climate aide said, "With the launching of the country's first ever project, we are embark today on a journey that not only would help advance our nation's technological capabilities but also reaffirms our unwavering commitment to combat

preparation for the upcom-

ing local elections in Islamabad, a total of 13,452

candidates have obtained

nomination papers so far,

reflecting high interest in the

municipal polls scheduled

mission of Pakistan (ECP)

has reported that 356 can-

didates have already sub-

mitted their papers for the

positions of Chairman and

Vice Chairman. For the

farmer seats, 268 nomina-

The Election Com-

for October 9

initiative represents a pivotal step forward in the nificantly reducing carbon present government's commitment to integrate innovative energy solutions better and sustained energy supplies to the people,' Ms. Alam remarked.

The initiative was actualized by the Brillanz Group and other key stakeholders involved in developing a transformative ecosystem for sustainability and decarbonization in Pakistan. She said that this project basically aims to revolutionise energy storage capabilities and provide a sustainable solution for our energy needs, aligning with the present government's vision for a greener and climate-resilience future. The

13,452 candidates obtain

nomination papers for

**Islamabad local elections** 

ISLAMABAD (INP): In preparation for the upcom-candidates have filed for

tion papers have been received by the District Re-

youth seats

Additionally, 95 can-

didates have submitted

their papers for minority

seats, and 1,508 for general

seats. In total, 2,900 nomi-

nation papers have been received by the District

Returning Office to date.

deadline for nomination

submissions as August 28,

providing candidates with

a few more days to com-

The ECP has set the

seats, 417 for women'

"The groundbreaking PM's climate aide said, "With potential role to sigemissions, the launch of Pakistan's first Energy Storage as a Service project and enhance the country's at the industry scale is not energy infrastructure for merely a technological milestone; it is a bold statement of our intent to lead by example in the global transition to a low-carbon fu-

> By adopting such innovative energy solutions that prioritize decarbonization agendas, the present government was sending a powerful message that sustainable practices are at the core of our development strategy, Romina Khurshid Alam stressed. adding that in fact the benefits of this project extended beyond mere addressing environmental

#### **NA Speaker** flays attack on police vans

ISLAMABAD (APP) Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, on Friday strongly condemned the attack on two police vans in Rahim

Yar Khan Expressing deep sorrow over the loss of police personnel in the incident. the Speaker extended his heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyrs and wished a swift recovery for the injured officers.

He said that the sacrifices made by the police and security forces in the fight against terrorism and in maintaining law and order in the country will not be

# SIGNING & LAUNCH GY STORAGE AS A SERVICE ISLAMABAD SER NA HOTEL

Coordinator to PM on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam addressing as chief guest at a ceremony about launching of industry-first energy storage as a service project in Islamabad

### ISSI hosts book launch for 'CPEC Beyond 2030: A Green Alliance for Sustainable Development'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised the launch of the book, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Beyond 2030: A Green Alliance for Sustainable Development' edited by Dr. Rabia Akhtar and published by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES).

The event was graced by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed as Chief Guest and Xu Hangtian, Minister Counselor at the Embassy of China in Pakistan, as Guest of Honour, a news release said.

Distinguished reviewers included Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi, former Ambassador of Pakistan to China; Dr. Salma Malik, Professor Associate Quaid-i-Azam University; and Dr. Hassan Daud Butt, former CEO Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment.

In his remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted the salience of the all-weather Pakistan-China Strategic Cooperative Partnership in Pakistan's foreign policy and of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as its central component. He said that the CPEC, as a flagship project of BRI, connects China's western provinces through Pakistan to the Arabian Sea. The project is transformative for Pakistan, addressing critical issues such as energy shortages and infrastructural deficit, and enhancing re-

gional connectivity. By revitalising trade routes and promoting economic integration, CPEC is envisioned to play a pivotal role in enhancing Pakistan's position as a central gateway to Asia, the Middle East, and beyond. He also highlighted the tangible outcomes accruing from CPEC projects since its

commencement 11 years

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood added that this book emphasises CPEC's potential to drive sustainable growth. It highlights how CPEC could be transformed into a green development initiative, aligning with global sustainability goals and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By integrating green technologies and sustainable practices, CPEC is positioned not only to advance economic growth but also to lead in environmental stewardship. This approach reflects a strategic effort to balance economic benefits environmental sustainability, ensuring that CPEC contributes positively to the region's long-

objectives. Mr. Felix Kolbitz, Country Director FES, expressed gratitude to the editor and authors of the volume and appreciated the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad for their support and collaboration.

term development. In this

context, with its actionable

recommendations, the book

can serve as a coherent

roadmap to advance these

#### Five-day anti-polio drive set to launch on Sept 9

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Ter-ritory (ICT) Administration is set to launch a comprehensive five-day anti-polio campaign starting on September

Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon on Friday chaired a meeting to review arrangements for upcoming anti-polio drive.

According to an ICT spokesman, the meeting was at-tended by District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. Zeem Zia, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) East and others.

Furthermore,

safety regulations.



after extensive fire damaged and burned numerous stalls.

# **Legal Aid Society** delegation calls on **Azam Nazeer Tarar**

ISLAMABAD (APP): A the ministry's commitment delegation of Legal Aid Society called on Federal Minister for Law and Justice & Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Thursday and discussed issues related to sexual and gender based violence and the organization's extensive work across Pakistan.

The representatives provided detailed briefings on the ongoing efforts to combat sexual violence and the challenges in delivering legal aid to victims.

The minister expressed his commitment for a strategic collaboration between the Legal Aid and Justice Authority (LAJA) and the Legal Aid Society, noting that reforms to LAJA are already underway to enhance legal aid to introducing comprehensive reforms in the Qanoone-Shahadat and the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) to protect the rights of victims and witnesses, ensuring that criminal proceedings remain free from external influence.

Tarar reiterated that these legal reforms will ensure the protection of every victim's rights and that no influential party can manipulate or subvert the law. He also commended the Legal Aid Society for its significant contributions and tireless efforts in combating sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) across the country.

He said the Legal Aid Society has been at the forefront addressing SGBV by services across the country.
He further emphasized ing protection mechanisms.

## Federal Board announces **Intermediate Part I&II** results 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) Islamabad on Friday announced the results of intermediate annual examinations 2024 Part I&II in which the girls again clinched the top

According to the details of results released by the Federal Board, the passing percentage of Class-11 students remained at 58.75%, while in Class-12th the passing percentage was 82.58%.

Furthermore, the number of students participating in the annual examinations of the year 2024 in Grade 11 was 93257, out of which the number of successful students was ber of students participating in the 12th class was 90,518, out of which the number of successful students remained 72,653.

As per details of position holder students, Arooba Asim belonging to Pre-Medical Group Punjab College for Women Khayaban Sadiq Sargodha clinched the first position by getting 1065 marks. Meanwhile, Tahreem marks.

Imran from Army Public School and College Gujranwala Cantt and Hajra Najeeb from Army Public School and College Girls Rawalpindi Cantt shared second position by securing 1054 marks.

Similarly, Aafia Wajid from Army Public School and College for Girls Humayun Rawalpindi Cantt and Amina Riaz from Army Public School and College Tufail Road Lahore Cantt shared the third position by securing 1053 marks. In the pre-engineering group, Huda Ali Murtaza from HITEC School and College for Women, Taxila Cantt secured the first position with 1045 marks. While Abdullah 53369. Similarly, the num- Jawad from Siddique Public School for Boys Madina Town Lohi Bhir Islamabad got the second position by getting 1043 marks. The third position

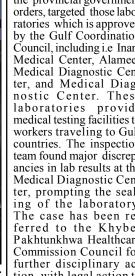
shared among Muhammad Haseeb Iqbal from Siddique Public School Madina Town Lohi Bhir Islamabad and Zayna Qasim from Army Public School Fort Road Rawalpindi with 1037

# **Senate committee forms** sub-committee to analyze country's EV Policy

ISLAMABAD (Online): Senator Aon Abbas chaired the meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Industries and Production held Friday at Parliament

The Senate Committee deliberated on the inclusion of cold storage in the industrial sector and the provision of affordable electricity rates. The matter was referred by the Chairman Senate. Officials informed that the ECC approved the matter and forwarded it to the Cabinet for their approval to declare 'Cold Storage' an industrial sector.

committee was briefed on Pakistan's Auto Policy. Officials informed that 13 automobile companies are currently operating in the country. Initially, there were 3 companies, but as a result of the 2016-21 Auto Policy, 8 new players entered the market. These companies have installed production capacity of 500,000 units annually in more than 40 models with over 100 variants. They contribute 4% to GDP, pay Rs. 300 billion in taxes, and generate over 2 million jobs in the country. Under the 2021-26 Auto Policy, the Ministry has introduced WP-29 safety regulations for auto manufacturers. These safety standards have been adopted by all manufacturers except Suzuki for 6 variants. Suzuki has decided to discontinue 3 variants and redesign the remaining three to comply with WP-29



# PM directs to instantly constitute SMEDA, other vital institutions' Boards

ISLAMABAD (APP): sures to integrate Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday chaired a meeting on matters related to the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), emphasizing the crucial role of SMEs in Pakistan's

economy.

He said the small and medium enterprises act as the back bone of the country's economy.

Expressing dismay over the non-functioning of the SMEDA Board, the prime minister directed its immediate constitution, stressing that boards of all institutions vital for the country's economy, should be established without de-Additionally, the he

called for promoting subcontracting in industries and taking all possible mea- currently 5.2 million small high officials.

industries into the global supply chain.

The prime minister also ordered to take necessary steps to ensure appointment of the SMEDA's Chief Executive

Additionally, he also directed to include the people from the private sector in the steering com-

During the briefing, the prime minister was informed that for the first time, SMEDA Development Fund had been launched for which an amount of Rs 30 billion had been allocated for 6 years. Out of the total, Rs 5 billion have already been provided for the year 2024-25, the meeting was told.

It was informed in the meeting that, there were

and medium enterprises in Pakistan, which account for 40 percent of the country's GDP whereas 31% of country's exports depend on the SMEs.

Apart from non-agricultural employment, SME sector provides 72% of employment while some Rs 491 billion have been provided in the form of bank credit for the SME sector so far, but the bank credit for the SME sector needs to be taken up to Rs 800 billion, the meeting was told. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, PM's Coordinator Rana Ihsaan Afzal, and other relevant



ISLAMABAD: A delegation from Legal Aid Society had a meeting with Federal Minister for Law and Justice and Human Rights Senator Azam Nazeer

# **HEC Chairman urges collective push** to keep young talent in Pakistan

Chairman, Higher Education Commission Dr Mukhtar Ahmed Friday called upon for a collective push serves as a timely reminder of the need for a cohesive strategy to stem brain drain and empower young Pakistanis to achieve their dreams within the country. Talking to a Private news channel, Chairman HEC expressed deep concern regarding the prevailing mindset among young people in Pakistan, who prefer to seek job opportunities abroad rather than staying in their home

homeland and its future. country. question regarding the 97 incentivize tudents who were awarded in Pakistan.

#### PM offers aid to Bangladesh amid severe floods

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Mohammad Shahbaz Sharif, expressing profound sorrow and grief over recent catastrophic floods, on Friday offered assistance Bangladesh to help cope with the devastating situation.

In a letter to Chief Advisor, Bangladesh Dr. Muhammad Younis, Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif expressed Pakistan's solidarity with Bangladesh during this challenging time, stating that the country stood with those who have lost loved ones. homes, and livelihoods in the floods. This was shared in a press release by the PM's Office.

#### Crackdown on illegal medical laboratories in Peshawar

**Independent Report** PESHAWAR: A surprise inspection of medical laboratories in Peshawar conducted today by the district administration in collaboration with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Čare Commission and sealed laboratory and impose corruption charges

The inspection, carried out in accordance with the provincial government orders, targeted those laboratories which is approved by the Gulf Coordination Council, including i.e Inam Medical Center, Alameer Medical Diagnostic Center, and Medical Diagnostic Center. These laboratories provide medical testing facilities to workers traveling to Gulf countries. The inspection team found major discrepancies in lab results at the Medical Diagnostic Center, prompting the seal ing of the laboratory. The case has been referred to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Healtȟcare Commission Council for further disciplinary action, with legal action to

ISLAMABAD (APP): need for a collective effort scholarships and sent from society, media, and parents to instill trust and confidence among youngsters about their prospects for a bright future in Pakistan. Chairman HEC, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, emphasized the crucial role of society, media, and parents in rebuilding the trust of young Pakistanis in their

> He urged these stakeholders to join hands in creating an enabling environyouth. Responding to a opportunities

abroad but have since disappeared, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad acknowledged that the incident highlighted a deeper issue of trust deficit and lack of continuity in policies. "The brain drain phenomenon is a complex problem that cannot be addressed overnight, and that it requires sustained efforts and consistent policies to rebuild trust among the

youth," he emphasized. 'To address this the ment that fosters a sense of HEC is taking concrete belonging, security, and steps, including introducing opportunity among the scholarships and research question regarding the 97 incentivize students to stay



PESHAWAR: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman along with others addresses to media persons during press conference, at Markaz-e-Islami in Peshawar.

# **CDA** chairman directs swift implementation of Digital Parking Project

Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, on Friday instructed the authorities concerned to expedite the installation of hardware for the Digital Parking Project in Islamabad.

after the development of software for the project.

The first phase of the project will focus on introducing digital parking in the city's busiest markets and marakiz. Chairman Randhawa

was chairing a meeting emphasizing the importance of taking all stakeholders, par- parking project.

ISLAMABAD (APP): ticularly local traders, into confidence to ensure the project's success.

He also directed that parking regulations and charges be finalized, drawing from experiences of other cities and international practices. The revenue generated

This directive comes from digital parking will be utilized for the beautification, uplift, and repair/maintenance of markets and

Notably, Chairman Randhawa stressed the need to include a system that prioritizes senior citizens, women, and people with special needs in the digital

# ICT admin launches crackdown on beggars, 15 arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has stepped up efforts to curb begging in the Federal Capital.

In a recent operation, 15 professional beggars were arrested in a crackdown led by the Assistant Commissioners and Magistrates spearheading the initiative in various areas, said the ICT's spokesman.

In an operation, the Assistant Commissioner City led by district administration teams arrested 5 professional beggars from Jamia Masjid Rumi and Faisal Market. While 6

were arrested in the Pothohar area. Similarly, the Assis-

tant Commissioner of Rural areas detained four alms-seekers from locations including P.S. Lohibher and Sihala. The arrested individuals were taken to local police stations. Minors found begging were sent to the Edhi Center for care. This crackdown was part of a daily operation focused on reducing begging in Islamabad.

The district administration was planning to expand its efforts by targeting more areas and conducting frequent raids.