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Moody's raises Pakistan's ratings to CAA2, reflecting better outlook

Upgrade reflects improving macroeconomic conditions and moderately better liquidity, says rating agency; PM Shehbaz lauds Moody's credit rating upgrade for Pakistan; commends economic team's efforts

ISLAMABAD (Online): Global rating agency Moody's has upgraded Pakistan's local and foreign currency issuer and senior unsecured debt ratings to Caa2 from Caa3.

According to one of the top international rating agencies, the upgrade to Caa2 reflects Pakistan's improving macroeconomic conditions and moderately better government liquidity and external positions, from very weak levels.

It noted that concurrently, the outlook for Pakistan is changed to positive from stable.

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QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti distributing cheques of scholarships through Balochistan Education Endowment Fund (BEEF) under Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Scholarship Program

Baloch youth being kept away from state under planned conspiracy: People can displease with performance of Govt, but can't get annoyed with state: Chief Minister

Mir Sarfraz Bugti says provincial government implemented its education friendly vision; announces to expand educational scholarship programme further in future; youth policy got approved from cabinet to bring youth closer to State and provide ample opportunities of progress; 30,000 skilled youth would be sent abroad

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that the Baloch youths are being kept away from the state under pre-planned conspiracy. He said that one can displease with performance of the government, but one can not get annoyed with the state. He said that the incidents of terrorism occurred in last few days were sorrowful, and added that innocent people are not assassinated after offloading them from the buses in Baloch traditions.

The provincial ministers, Mir Zahoar Ahmed Buledi,

Mir Asim Kurd, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Secretary Finance, Babar Khan, Chief Executive of BEEF, Zikriya Khan Noorzai and other concerned high ups. The students securing BEEF scholarships were also present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister distributed cheques of academic scholarships among the students. It may be mentioned here that scholarship cheques would be distributed among 2500 students under the programme. As many as 1200 scholarships are provided to the students under the scholarship programme, however, the Chief Minister made extraordinary increase in the number. Five new categories have been included in the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Scholarship Programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said that you people are future of Pakistan and Balochistan. He said that the provincial government has implemented its

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ISLAMABAD: Newly-appointed IG Balochistan, Mr Moazzam Jah Ansari, meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr

President stresses effective measures for improved law & order in Balochistan

Independent Report
Abdul Khaliq transferred: Moazzam Jah Ansari posted new IGP Balochistan

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari met with the newly appointed Inspector General (IG) of Balochistan, Moazzam Jah Ansari, and emphasized the need for effective measures to improve the law and order situation in the province.

The President expressed his good wishes for Ansari's successful tenure as IG Balochistan and stressed the importance of fulfilling his responsibilities with dedication and diligence.

President's meeting with him underscores the government's commitment to restoring peace and stability in the region.

Ansari's appointment is seen as a significant step towards addressing the security challenges faced by Balochistan, and the

President's meeting with him underscores the government's commitment to restoring peace and stability in the region.

Internet slowdown likely to continue till Oct: PTA

ISLAMABAD (INP): The ongoing internet disruption across the country is likely to continue for over a month as the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) on Wednesday said the submarine cable, which caused degradation of the services, was expected to repair by early October.

The internet disruptions faced strong criticism from netizens and information technology (IT) sector, attributing the prevailing internet slowdown and limited connectivity to the purported testing of an internet firewall to rein in social media, which is equipped with filters to block unwanted content from reaching a wider audience.

Last week, the PTA blamed the internet slowdown on fault in "two of the seven international submarine cables connecting Pakistan internationally".

In a statement issued today, the telecommunication authority said that the ongoing internet disruption was mainly due to fault in two submarine cables.

"It is updated that fault in SMW-4 submarine cable is likely to be repaired by early October 2024," it said.

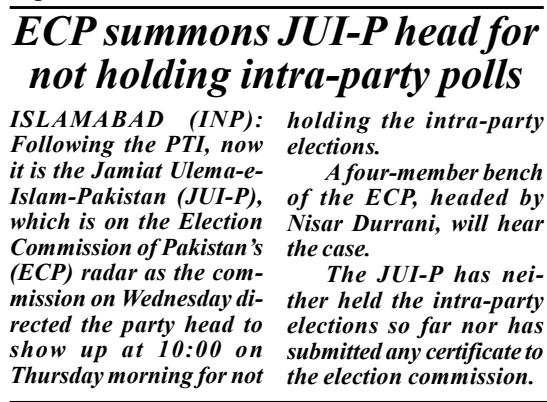
DC's permission declared mandatory for organizing conference & seminar at PC

Independent Report
QUETTA: The permission of Deputy Commissioner has been declared mandatory for organizing any conference and seminar at the Quetta Press Club.

In this regard, the Deputy Commissioner Quetta has issued a letter to the President Quetta Press Club on Wednesday.

According to the notification, no political party or organization can conduct seminar or conference not anyone can hold protest without the prior permission of the district administration.

Meanwhile, the Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ) has rejected the decision of government in this regard. The BUJ said that interference of the district administration in the Press Club is condemnable.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafiqat and Country Head Global Alliance 360 Dr. Faisal Habib signing a MoU regarding mutual cooperation on technical services in government departments

ISLAMABAD (INP): Following the PTI, now it is the Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam-Pakistan (JUI-P), which is on the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) radar as the commission on Wednesday directed the party head to show up at 10:00 on Thursday morning for not holding the intra-party elections.

A four-member bench of the ECP, headed by Nisar Durrani, will hear the case.

The JUI-P has neither held the intra-party elections so far nor has submitted any certificate to the election commission.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding economic growth and investment.

SCIB passes bill regarding protection of journalists and media professionals

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting on Wednesday unanimously passed the Private Member's Bill "The Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals (Amendment) Bill, 2023" presented by Senator Saleem Mandviwalla.

The bill was passed during the meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting held at the Parliament House under the chairmanship of the Committee Senator Syed Ali Zafar.

During the meeting, the minutes of the committee meeting held on 10 July 2024 were given approval, while Private Member's Bill for "The Right of Access to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2023" presented by Senator Dr. Zaqra Suharawardy Taimur in the Senate session held on 20th November 2023 was also reviewed.

Similarly, the committee also discussed in details the Private Member's Bills titled, "The Right of Access to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2020 introduced by Senator Manzoor Ahmed in the Senate session held on 25th January 2021," and "The Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals (Amendment) Bill, 2022 introduced by Senator Saleem Mandviwalla in the Senate session held on 31 January 2022."

In addition to the Private Member's Bill for the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals (Amendment) Bill 2022, the matters were reviewed in details regarding the law of defamation, its objectives, and its future, in the light of Articles 19 and 19-A of the Constitution of the

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QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail addressing the participants of two-day workshop regarding Geo Politics held in BUTITEMS with cooperation of King College London

UN urged to play role in stopping cross-border TTP attacks in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held a meeting with the UN delegation led by UN Special Representative for Afghanistan Indrika Ratwatte.

The high-level delegation included UN Resident Coordinator Mohamed Yahya, Fady El Meouchy, Special Assistant to the DSRSG, and Head of the UN mission in Afghanistan Malik Ceeseay.

The minister welcomed the UN delegation at the Ministry of Interior.

The UN Special Representative for Afghanistan strongly condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that terrorism is a global issue and Pakistan is the most affected country by it.

He highlighted that Pakistan's security forces, police, and people have rendered unparalleled sacrifices in the war against terrorism.

He also informed the

delegation about the involvement of banned TTP in the terrorist attacks in Pakistan. He stated that banned TTP is using Afghan soil for these attacks, which must be stopped. He said that Pakistan is desirous of peace and stability in Afghanistan and is providing all possible support in this regard.

Mohsin Naqvi said that Pakistan has been hosting Afghan refugees for decades, adding, that the phase-wise repatriation of illegal foreigners has already started.

He stated that no action is being taken against individuals holding legal documents, adding that no one can be allowed to stay in Pakistan without a visa or other illegal documents.

He said that the second phase of the repatriation of Afghan refugees will be started soon. He emphasized the need for the role of the United Nations and the international community in the rehabilitation of Afghan refugees.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti distributing giving away cash award and employment order in PDMA to Mohibullah who rescued a family stranded in flood in Killa Abdullah. DG PDMA Jahanzeb Khan is also present

CM appreciates excavator driver, gives cash award

Independent Report
QUETTA: The excavator driver, Mohibullah, who had rescued a family from the flash flood in Killa Abdullah, called on the Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti here on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister appreciated Mohibullah and gave his cash award. He also announced to provide the excavator driver in the Provincial Disaster Management Authority.

He announced that the provincial government would construct a school in the native area of the brave excavator driver.

Besides, the government would also nominate excavator driver for the gallantry award. He said that we are proud of his bravery and courage.

Also present on the occasion were the Director General PDMA, Jahanzaib Khan, Director PDMA, Faisal Tariq and the concerned teams of PDMA.

Traders observe shutter down strike, lodge protest against taxes, hefty electricity bills

Independent Report
QUETTA: The traders of Balochistan observed shutter down strike against the enforcement of new taxes and hefty utility bills of the electricity across the province including Quetta, on Wednesday.

All the business concerns, trading centers and shops



remain closed on call given by the traders organizations including Markazi Tanzim Tajran Pakistan and Markazi Anjuman Tajran Pakistan and Balochistan in the metropolis and different other parts of the province.

The flow of traffic also remained less than the routine in Quetta city.

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Nawaz Sharif likely to depart for London next month

LAHORE (Online): PML-N president Mian Nawaz Sharif is likely to leave for London next month.

According to party sources Nawaz Sharif can depart for London after Begum Kalsoom Nawaz death anniversary on September 11.

Nawaz Sharif has to undergo medical check up in London. Later he will spend his time with his

sons. Nawaz Sharif is likely to stay in London from two to three weeks. His departure from London can be linked to political situation.

It is pertinent to mention here that Nawaz Sharif had reached Pakistan from London on October 21 last year. Earlier Nawaz Sharif was staying in London since 4 years for his treatment.

DC conducts surprise visit to GBHS Gandawah Independent Report.

JHAL MAGSI: Deputy Commissioner Jhal Magasi, Syed Rehamatullah Shah, made a surprise visit to Government Boys High School Gandawah, where he checked the attendance of teachers and staff. He also interacted with students and inquired about their educational activities.

President for improving cricket infrastructure, training facilities in Sindh

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday emphasized the need to improve cricket infrastructure and training facilities in Sindh province to nurture and promote the province's cricket talent.

Sadr. Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Department of Sindh, Jalaluddin Mahar, Vice Chairman SPL, Major General Zahid Mehmood, President SPL, Arif Malik, CEO SPL, Chaudhary Shahzad Akhtar, and senior government officials attended the meeting.

The delegation briefed the president about the role of SPL in uncovering and promoting Sindh's cricketing talent and improving cricket infrastructure. The delegation also highlighted the achievements of SPL's inaugural season and shared future plans for establishing a high-performance centre in Karachi, aimed at training young talent, particularly from rural and underrepresented areas of Sindh.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Sindh Premier League (SPL) presenting the SPL shirt to President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with the UN Special Representative for Afghanistan Indrika Ratwatte.

People can displease with...

Continued from page 1 education friendly vision announcing to expand the educational scholarship programme further in future. He was confident that these children would serve the country and Balochistan after getting best education in future.

The Chief Minister also mentioned that the programmes have also been launched to provide technical skills to youngsters besides imparting education to them. He said that the youth policy has been approved by the cabinet to bring youth of the province closer with the State.

Our national...

Continued from page 1 sizes that the geographic location of any of the country and it's neighbouring countries is decided. Therefore, attention should be paid on the equal and pleasant relations with all the neighbouring countries, adding he stressed.

Moody's raises Pakistan's ratings...

Continued from page 1 Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves have about doubled since June 2023.

It highlighted that the positive outlook reflected a balance of risks skewed to the upside. It captures the possibility that the government is able to further lower its government liquidity and external vulnerability risks, and achieve a better fiscal position than we currently expect, supported by the IMF programme. Besides, sustained reform implementation, including revenue-raising measures, can increase the government revenue base and improve Pakistan's debt affordability.

SCIB passes...

Continued from page 1 Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

On the special invitation of the Chairman Committee, eminent journalists of Pakistan like Muhammad Malik, besides representatives of electronic and print media also attended the meeting and gave their suggestions on the amendment bills. Regarding the protection of journalists and media professionals, the committee agreed that journalists and media professionals are the fourth pillar of the state i.e. representatives of the state.

Traders observe shutter down

Continued from page 1

Meanwhile, the protest demonstration was held under the auspices of Markazi Anjuman Tajran outside the Quetta Press Club the same morning. The leaders of traders including Abdul Rahim Kakar, Yasin Mengal and others led the protest demonstration which was participated by large number of local traders from various parts of the city.

The traders' strike has brought business activities to a standstill in major markets, with shops closed and streets empty. In Karachi, markets such as Liaquatabad, Jodia Bazaar, Light House, Bolton Market, and Tariq Road have shut down, with banners protesting the IMF's grip, rising power bills, and the government's policies displayed prominently.

Request for Proposal for selection of Consultancy service invited on Electronic Public Procurement System (EPPS) from well national/International firms (JV) / service provider meeting with eligibility criteria, viz having registration with FBR for Income Tax and who are on Active Taxpayers List (ATL), and are not black listed in any procuring agency or authority for preparation of "Consultancy Services from Consulting Firms" Titled as CONSULTANCIES (Design Charges +Top Supervision) CONSTRUCTION OF JUDICIAL COMPLEX AT SANJAVI, DISTRICT ZIARAT.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TSE-242508528764 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TSE-242508531224 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TSE-242508531224 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER Note: Only the firms registered with BPPRA can apply. The Executive Engineer (Roads), CW,PP&H Department District Killa Saifullah invites sealed percentage tender based on composite schedule of rates 2023 G.O.B from interested contractor / firm for the work list below: Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Earnest Money 2% for each work.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER Only electronic bids will be submitted for S#1. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.

Romina calls for policies for protecting breastfeeding women's from climate impacts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordinator said that breastfeeding is a vital practice with profound health benefits for both infants and mothers. Because, it provides infants with essential nutrients, boosts their immune systems, and fosters an emotional bond between mother and child.

"Breastfeeding supports healthy development, strengthens the mother-infant bond and yields positive economic and environmental impacts. However, promoting and supporting breastfeeding through education, policy and community support can lead to healthier individuals and a more sustainable future," Ms Alam said while addressing as keynote speaker at a seminar 'National Advocacy & Sensitisation with Parliamentarians on the World Breastfeeding Awareness Week' held here on Wednesday.

The event was organized by 'Save the Children' in collaboration with the Climate Change and

Environmental Coordination Ministry, WHO, Unicef, and the World Food Programme.

Highlighting climate change impacts on mothers' access to healthy nutrition, PM's Climate aide told the participants that Pakistan is on the frontline of climate change impacts, facing extreme weather events, water scarcity, and shifts in agricultural productivity.

These challenges have a direct impact on food security and, by extension, on maternal and child nutrition, she added. The PM's Climate Aide, however, emphasized upon the need for hammering out policies and action plans to protect breastfeeding women from exacerbating fallouts of climate change, particularly floods and heatwaves.

"As climate change exacerbates poverty and food insecurity, the most vulnerable segments of our population—women and children—are at increased risk of malnutrition," she remarked. Romina Khurshid suggested, "To address this, we must integrate climate resilience into

our national nutrition programmes and policies." "This means promoting sustainable agricultural practices, ensuring that our food systems are resilient to climate shocks, and prioritizing nutrition in our climate adaptation strategies. By doing so, we can protect our children from the dual threats of malnutrition and climate change," she elaborated. The PM's aide Romina Khurshid Alam emphasized that breastfeeding lies at the heart of our nation's future—empowering maternal, child, and adolescent nutrition in Pakistan. She remarked, "Achieving adequate and health-boosting nutrition is not just a health challenge for mother and child during breastfeeding age, it is also a cornerstone for the development of our society, our economy, and our resilience to the growing challenges posed by climate change." Romina Khurshid also highlighted that breastfeeding in Pakistan has long been recognised as a crucial practice for ensuring the health and survival of our children.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui along with Dr. Muhammad Shahid Soroya Director General PIE, Prof Dr. Nasir Mahmood Vice Chancellor AIOU and Ms. Fajer Rabia Pasha Executive Director Pakistan Alliance for Girls Education (PAGE) launching report on 'Girls' Education in Pakistan and announcement on Statistics and Trends for 2022-23 at AIOU Auditorium.

Governor KP stresses need for action against climate change

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Faisal Karim Kundi, on Wednesday underscored the devastating impact of climate change on Pakistan and stressed the need for comprehensive action at all levels to address these challenges.

During a meeting with senior officials from the World Wide Fund (WWF)'s Recharge Pakistan project, he pointed out that Pakistan, particularly the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, has been severely affected by climate variability and flooding. He noted that Dera Ismail Khan, among other districts,

has been particularly hard-hit and emphasized the importance of raising public awareness and implementing strategic protective measures. The governor assured support for the Recharge Pakistan program to maximize its benefits for the public. The meeting was attended by Senior Director of the Recharge Pakistan Project, Fawad Hayat; Manager of Gender, Shafiqullah Baloch; Livelihoods in Islamabad, and KP Assembly Member, Ahmad Karim Kundi.

Fawad Hayat provided a briefing on the project, explaining that it is designed to support Pakistan's climate-vulner-

able communities. He stated, "The need for the Recharge Pakistan project has never been greater than it is today."

The project has received backing from the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Climate Change, and the Federal Flood Commission and has been made possible with funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), US Aid, Coca-Cola Foundation, and WWF. With an investment of \$77.8 million, it is the largest national-level investment of its kind, directly benefiting over 680,000 individuals, with an additional 7 million people benefiting from project sites.

Latif calls Opposition for table talks to address economic woes

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior PML-N leader, Mian Javed Latif Wednesday appealed to the opposition parties to refrain from destabilizing the country and instead engage in constructive dialogue to find solutions to the economic challenges facing Pakistan.

Talking to a private news channel, he emphasized the need for table talks to address the issues, rather than resorting to anarchic measures that could further exacerbate the situation.

However, Mian Javed Latif suggested that opposition parties should engage in meaningful dialogue with the government to find solutions to the economic challenges facing Pakistan.

He emphasized that table talks could provide a platform for constructive discussion and consensus-building, rather than confrontation and agitation.

He also pointed out

that the country is already facing numerous challenges, including inflation and a sluggish economy. He warned that further destabilization could have severe consequences, including a decline in investor confidence, a decrease in economic growth, and an increase in unemployment.

Responding to a query about joint political movement of PTI and JUI-F, he disclosed that Maulana Fazlur Rehman's JUI-F party will go solo in its political movements, shunning any joint ventures with PTI due to Imran Khan's stubborn stance, which has soured ties between the two opposition parties.

"The PTI government's incompetence and lack of vision have led to the current economic crisis," Latif said adding, "their policies have failed to deliver, and the country is paying the price".



ISLAMABAD: Employees of Utility Stores hold a sit-in protest (Dharna) at D-chowk in favor of their demands in the Federal Capital. The Islamabad administration has sealed off D-Chowk with containers in anticipation of a potential protest by employees of the Utility Stores Corporation (USC) against the possible closure of the corporation.

NA education body visits PAL, praises its role for promotion of languages

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation consisting of members of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Education and Professional Training and National Heritage and Culture Azim-ud-din Zahid Lakhvi (Chairman), Mahtab Akbar Rashid and Usama Hamza along with the National Assembly officers on Wednesday visited the Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL).

The Chairperson of the PAL, Dr. Najiba Arif and the Chief Moderator, Sultan Nasir, welcomed the members of the delegation and informed about the aims and objectives, activities and literary projects of the institution.

The committee members paid tribute to the services of the Pakistan Academy of Letters for the promotion of literature and said that the PAL is performing

very important services for the expression of national and literary identity.

The members emphasized the importance of Urdu and English translations of literature written in various Pakistani languages. Highlighting the diversity and richness of Pakistani languages, President PAL said that the Academy will represent all the languages spoken in Pakistan in the literary museum of Pakistani languages. President Dr. Najiba Arif presented the gift of books and journals of the academy to the distinguished members of the delegation. The members of the delegation also visited the hall of honor and library of the academy and expressed special interest in the Hall of Honor, stating that bringing the services of prominent writers across Pakistan to the fore in this way is a very desirable act.

NEPRA concludes hearing into FCA for July

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Electric Supply Company (NEPRA) on Wednesday concluded public hearing into fuel cost adjustment (FCA) for the month of July for WAPDA power distribution companies (DISCOs).

The Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) on behalf of XWAPDA DISCOs in its petition has sought 31 paise per unit reduction in power tariff for July which would be applicable in billing month of September.

The consumers had paid Rs 2.56 per unit under FCA in billing month of August. Similarly, Rs 2.87 per unit reduction in FCA is likely for the billing month of September. It is expected the consumers would likely to get relief Rs 1.91 per unit by combining both adjustments.

PTI founder moves IHC on matter of his meeting with lawyers, political leaders

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI founder Imran Khan has filed miscellaneous petition in Islamabad High Court (IHC) in connection with his meeting with lawyers and political leaders.

Imran Khan has earlier got relief through petitions in this respect. Interior secretary, chief commissioner and superintendent Adiala jail have been made respondents in the petition. Petition has been filed through barrister Ali Zafar. The petition said that

IHC February 26 order regarding his meetings be got implemented fully. Political leaders and counsels are not being allowed to meet him. According to decision 6 lawyers and 6 political leaders can meet him two days in a week. But jail authorities are not implementing this decision fully.

It has been said in the petition the petitioner is not serving sentence in any case at present. PTI founder is in jail on judicial remand.

IRSA releases 290,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 290,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 308,700 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1550.00 feet (maximum conservation level) and was 152.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 183,700 cusecs and 183,200 cusecs respectively.

Shibli highlights CPEC as Pak development lifeline, supports China's Vision

ISLAMABAD (APP): Leader of Opposition, Senator Syed Shibli Faraz on Wednesday called the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as a lifeline for Pakistan's development and future growth.

He remarked, while addressing the 20th Central Session of the Communist Party of China. The event was organized by the Pakistan-China Institute. Senator Syed Shibli Faraz praised China's policy of Reform and Opening-Up, which has propelled it to become the world's second-largest economy and stressed the relevance of these principles for Pakistan's economic and social development.

Emphasising the deep-rooted and enduring friendship between Pakistan and China, highlighting it as a model of bilateral

relations built on mutual respect and shared goals, he reaffirmed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) commitment to this vital relationship, noting its importance not only in terms of bilateral cooperation but also as a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy.

Acknowledging China's pivotal role in global affairs, particularly within the Global South, and expressed support for China's vision of a multipolar world, he highlighted China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as a transformative project with the potential to reshape global trade routes and foster the economic cooperation. Senator Syed Shibli Faraz reiterated PTI's commitment to strengthening Pakistan-China relations and working closely with Chinese counterparts to explore new avenues of cooperation.

Delegation of Argentina embassy visits Traffic Headquarters Faizabad

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: According to the details, a delegation from the Argentine embassy visited the Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) headquarters. During the visit, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic Muhammad Sarfraz Virk provided a tour of various branches of the Traffic Police headquarters, a public relations officer said.

He said that, the delegation was briefed on the ITP central system, the modern technological digital one-window operational hall, and other sections, including their processes and effectiveness.

SSP Traffic Islamabad informed the delegation that ITP is playing a vital role in various areas through modern technical projects, including traffic police field operations and the e-challan

system. Additionally, the delegation was informed that, following the vision of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, ITP is deploying all resources to ensure that all facilities for obtaining driving licenses and for the protection of life and property are available under one roof through modern technology.

In this regard, the 24/7 Police Khidmat Markaz provides various services to citizens, and digital smart vans are being deployed to issue learner permits to students at various colleges and universities.

The delegation appreciated ITP's modern technical system and its effectiveness and expressed special gratitude to SSP Traffic Islamabad and his team for the successful visit.



NHMP imposes Rs 350,000 fine on foodlets

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP), in its ongoing drive against overcharging and expired items of checking foodlets in the services area on Wednesday, inspected various sites and fined Rs 350,000 for violating Food Authority Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). NHMP North Zone spokesman Muhammad Saqib said that the teams comprising respective Assistant Commissioners, Motorway Police, and Food Authority officials, while inspecting on M-1, M-2, the Saat Expressway, and Hazara Expressway, found expired items at several outlets and discarded them on the spot and imposed Rs 350,000 on them. He further said that strict action was being taken against the violators on the motorways.

Rehman lauds China's 'Global Meteoric Rise', 'All-Weather Friendship' with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman on Wednesday underscored China's meteoric rise as a 'global power', a power that not only influences the world but also profoundly shapes the mindset of nations, particularly in the Global South.

She was speaking at the 'Friends of Silk Road-3rd Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the CPC' organized by Pakistan China Institute.

Senator Rehman highlighted the significance of the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee of the CPC, under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, emphasizing its crucial role in shaping global history, a news release said.

She reflected on the deep-rooted and historic relationship between the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the CPC, nurtured by the visionary leadership of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, and Asif

Ali Zardari. "The PPP has the oldest relationship with CPC, curated and nurtured by our leadership," she stated.

Discussing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Senator Rehman lauded China's commitment to the project, calling it a "spectacular opportunity" that has propelled Pakistan onto a historic pathway of development.

Senator Rehman emphasized the environmental aspects of the project, particularly the Green CPEC Initiative, which aims to decarbonize and green Pakistan's future.

She noted, "The CPC's Third Plenum placed a premium on pushing green development through carbon reduction, pollution reduction, and improvement of environmental governance systems."

Highlighting the Karot Hydropower Project as an example of this vision, Senator Rehman pointed out its significant environmental and economic contributions.

Tahir Ashrafi condemns recent violence in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of Pakistan Ulama Council, Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi on Wednesday condemned recent incidents of violence in Balochistan, resulting in the loss of innocent lives.

Ashrafi, in a news conference, extended his condolences to the family of the late Maulana Qazi Abdul Rasheed and emphasized the importance of unity within the country.

He stated that the people of Balochistan are as patriotic as those from other provinces and condemned the silence of individuals and groups who claim to advocate for human rights.

The council chairman announced that the days from September 1st to September 10th would be celebrated as Defense, End of Prophethood, and Defense of Pakistan, promoting unity and solidarity within the country. Ashrafi urged the state to take strict action against elements spreading unrest in Balochistan, alleging an external agenda behind the recent incidents.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Syed Ali Zafar, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.



ISLAMABAD: A view of closed shops at Aabpara Market in the Federal Capital, during a nationwide strike called by trade organizations against the high electricity bills, excessive taxes and the absence of business-friendly policies.



ISLAMABAD (APP): IGP Islamabad briefed the establishment members of the IGP on all relevant matters. The IGP Islamabad said that the recruitment process in Islamabad Police will advance while adhering to legal requirements and ensuring merit and transparency at all costs.

DC pushes for digital land record overhaul

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon has chaired an important meeting focused on revenue matters, with key officials from the Revenue Department and ADCR in attendance.

The meeting primarily discussed the auditing of fees charged by housing societies, alongside the implementation of decisions made in previous meetings, said the spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration.

In a crucial meeting, Islamabad's Deputy Commissioner (DC) emphasized the need for swift action on pending revenue cases and audits of housing societies, marking a significant

move towards transparency and efficiency in the city's administrative processes.

A thorough review of Islamabad's pending revenue cases was conducted.

The DC stressed the urgency of resolving these cases to provide relief to the citizens, calling for daily reporting on progress from ADCR Revenue.

The DC also highlighted the need for action against revenue staff who delay cases without justifiable reasons.

In addition, the meeting addressed the digitization of land records, with the DC noting that the newly implemented digital policy would simplify the process for citizens, making it easier for them to access services.

A new vision

After the shocking cycle of violence that began on Sunday night in Balochistan, the state is trying to formulate a response to the beleaguered province's militancy problem.

Addressing a cabinet meeting on Tuesday, the prime minister vowed to crack down on terrorism, insisting there was "no room for weakness". In a related development, the interior minister dashed to Quetta, and while reiterating his support for the Balochistan chief minister, he observed that the entire national leadership was "working towards a solution" to address the province's issues.

Past administrations have made similar resolves, using both carrots and sticks to 'fix' Balochistan. Yet, as the recent attacks have shown, the separatist threat has grown in lethality and reach, and a fresh approach is needed to bring peace to this tortured land.

The state's prime responsibility is to stop further violence in Balochistan and ensure that the lives of its people are secure. While the security forces pursue terrorists, it must be ensured that no innocent people are hauled up in the dragnet, and that there are no human rights violations during counterterrorism operations. If innocent people are penalised, the terrorists' narrative will only be strengthened.

Furthermore, the recent violence indicates an intelligence failure of significant proportions. Terrorists massacred bus passengers based on their ethnicity, while also attacking installations of security forces. And, this was not an assault in a limited area; the insurgents struck at multiple locations in the province. In fact, the sophistication of the attacks point to a high level of coordination and planning, possibly aided by hostile foreign forces. A full investigation, therefore, is required to unearth how terrorists were able to go on the rampage, causing such high loss of life.

As this paper has pointed out, the state's response must go beyond kinetic measures. The prime minister said on Tuesday that talks could be held with those who "acknowledged Pakistan's Constitution and flag", but there could be no dialogue with terrorists.

Perhaps the administration can start with promising to ensure that the people of Balochistan have the protections guaranteed by the Constitution. Much of what ails the province is the result of denial of fundamental rights to Balochistan's people, and lack of holistic development — health, education, economic opportunities — reaching its people. Correcting course would require engagement with the province's genuine representatives, who are often crowded out by pro-establishment 'influentials' on the province's political stage.

On the other hand, Baloch nationalist leaders should also condemn killings based on ethnicity, as such barbaric behaviour cannot be condoned. Ultimately, the rulers should realise that if people are not allowed to secure their rights — in Balochistan and other areas — through the peaceful democratic process, then the doors for rebellion and violence will be flung wide open.

Rafia Zakaria

One of the hardest things to do in this world is to face and tell yourself the truth. In the world that we inhabit, our roles are more or less defined; we wear our masks, and say the 'right' things in the appropriate context.

Sadly, it is true that the more we surround ourselves with these external details of our lives, the more submerged our inner voices tend to be. It is also true that one of the ways in which people can be controlled is to never permit them to listen to their inner voices, or to overwhelm their narrative of reality with another one and to reiterate it over and over until it crowds out whatever that individual may once have been able to deduce by himself.

This is how people are brainwashed. Uighur prisoners in China, for instance, must repeat a version of alternate reality several times so that they become ever more distanced from their own

inner voices. Mind control is real, and its chief goal is to silence a person's dialogue with themselves. It is hardly surprising that mind control is used as an instrument of coercion in several settings — in families, societies and by the state.

On the other hand, our inner voices can also be the instruments of our private rebellions, especially when they are weaponised. There are many situations in life, particularly in countries such as Pakistan, where so many of our roles and circumstances are defined by duty and obligations that it appears as if there is little room for independent thought or choice.

The repercussions of action impact many lives, and so individual action or thought seems either impossible or too harmful to exercise without feeling mental strain, guilt or remorse. The tension between our wants and needs as individuals and our duties to other people is not only real

and pressing, it is quite possibly a defining trait in society. This is particularly acute in the present time in Pakistan, as the country urbanises, family structures fragment, and people have to consider whether they should privilege their own family unit or the larger extended circle of relatives.

In our society, the problematic persistence of patriarchal structures means that the greatest pressure against having ideas and thoughts of one's own is confronted by the women of Pakistan. If a woman in the country is lucky, she may have a mother or sister or a friend with whom she can be truthful and share thoughts without editing or filtering them.

Those who have such relationships in their lives have a far less chance of being abused by their husbands or their in-laws. This is because, in being able to share the details of their lives, they are essentially undertaking that inner dialogue that can reveal

the truth of their existence not just to the person in whom they are confiding, but to their own selves as well. They can recognise patterns and motives and what makes sense in life and what does not.

Unfortunately, most people do not have relationships that are based on such honesty and frankness. In fact, many have relationships in which one party exploits the other — the person doing the sharing may not be aware that their confidant is using the information to try and control them. This is sheer manipulation.

The period immediately after a woman is married is particularly vulnerable in this regard, because there is pressure to form close bonds with a life partner and one's new family. It is unsurprising, therefore, that many in-laws and husbands in this society try to limit the contact that a new bride has with her own family and friends. Close female friends present a particu-

lar threat, because they represent a means through which a newly-wed woman can retain her independent judgement about the new family set-up she is becoming a part of.

A few months ago, I came across a novel called Forbidden Notebook. Set in post-World War 2 Italy, and originally published in Italian by feminist author Alba de Cespedes, it tells the story of a middle-aged woman who begins to keep a journal. Her family pokes fun at her desire to do so, asking what she could possibly have to write in a notebook. Her life is difficult — financial strain has forced her to take a job in an office, and she also has to run her household without the help to which she is accustomed.

The story reveals how a small act of keeping this notebook, of deciding what is and what is not important enough to write down, to pen one's own truth, can be a transgressive act that can change a life. Not

only is the process of writing an act of rebellion, there is also constant anxiety over whether the notebook is safe, whether it could be discovered by someone in the linen closet, whether the hiding place selected for it is a good one. The truth written down is dangerous, and even the people that love you the most may not be the readers that you want. At the same time, the novel reveals the reality that not all rebellions need to be dramatic and destructive. All humans deserve the ability to speak honestly to themselves, and it is up to every individual to take charge of their own truth. It is our ability to tell ourselves the truth that is ultimately at the core of being self-aware and conscious of how our actions impact others. Without it, we become stunted; creatures of delusion and validation, and simply worse off. We render ourselves incapable of being accountable for our actions in the world. -- Courtesy Dawn

Inner truths

Balochistan conundrum

Zahid Hussain

It was a well-coordinated wave of terrorist attacks across the troubled province that shook the country. The militants not only targeted security installations but also massacred bus passengers after checking their identity. It was one of bloodiest days in insurgency-hit Balochistan, leaving scores of people, including several security personnel, dead.

An outlawed Baloch separatist group has claimed responsibility. While the latest surge in violence demonstrates the growing capacity of the separatist groups to carry out high-profile terrorist attacks, it also raises questions about the state's failure to deal with the serious security challenge extending from KP to Balochistan.

Both strategically located provinces have become battlegrounds for diverse militant groups challenging the writ of the state. While the security forces are fighting the group that seeks to enforce retrogressive Taliban rule in parts of KP, the Baloch separatist organisations have expanded their operations in restive Balochistan. The lat-

est surge in violence has exposed the vulnerability of an increasingly fragmented state. The large toll of casualties suffered by the security forces underscores the gravity of the situation.

It is apparent that the Baloch militants are now better organised and seem to have a stronger support base that allows them to operate effectively. Unsurprisingly, all the attacks have taken place in a region that has long been the epicentre of political discontent. The low-intensity insurgency that has gripped the province for the past two decades is fast turning into a full-blown insurrection with the growing alienation of the local population. The latest high-profile militant attacks took place after weeks-long mass protests in southern Balochistan.

There were not only targeted terrorist attacks, the militants reportedly also clashed with the security forces and blocked the highways connecting the province with other parts of the country. Some unconfirmed footage showed gunmen roaming the streets of Turbat, the second-largest town of the province. Government of-

ficials were also targeted. There was complete mayhem with the administration's collapse in the troubled districts.

Most worrisome is the report of passengers being offloaded from buses on the main highway linking the province with Punjab and being shot in cold blood. This was not the first time; but it was the most heinous incident. The militants are increasingly targeting non-leads, most of them workers. Such incidents have given a horrific turn to the separatist militancy.

Indeed, no state can tolerate such acts of violence and challenge to its writ. There can be no two views about the state's right to the use of force to fight off the menace of terrorism. But there is also a need to look at the roots of the political unrest that is feeding into the rising insurgency in the province. Despite its resort to kinetic measures, the state has failed to contain the insurgency. In fact, it has gained ground with the increasing alienation of the population that has been deprived of its democratic and economic rights.

The use of force to

suppress protests and growing incidents of enforced disappearances has fuelled anger, particularly among the youth, providing the separatist groups with an increasing supply of recruits. What happened this week must not be seen in isolation. The responsibility of the tragic incident also lies with the state's failure to address the genuine demands of the people.

The latest wave of terrorist attacks also marked the death anniversary of Nawab Akbar Bugti, a former governor and chief minister of Balochistan, and one of the most powerful tribal chieftains. He was killed in a military operation on Aug 26, 2006. His death contributed to what is described as the third (and longest) insurgency in the province.

Unlike the previous two, the nucleus of the current insurgency is not the region dominated by tribal chiefs. Most of the leaders of the separatist groups come from a middle-class, educated background rather than a tribal one. Writing in this space on Balochistan recently, Tariq Khosa described how state

atrocities turned Dr Allah Nazar, a gold medalist from Bolan Medical College, into a dissident.

The leader of the Baloch Liberation Front, Allah Nazar had earlier been picked up by intelligence agencies in 2005. His brother was killed in illegal custody. The story of other dissidents is not very different. The continuing enforced disappearances and the dumping of tortured dead bodies are pushing many of the victims' family members towards militancy. Even those who have been peacefully protesting against the state excesses are branded traitors.

It is the flawed approach of the security apparatus that has largely been responsible for the present state of affairs in the province. I remember being at a media briefing given by a top security official in Quetta in January 2017. He described "sub-nationalism" as a major problem. According to him, the main task before the security agencies was to turn it into nationalism. There was no answer when I asked why it was wrong to be a Baloch nationalist and how it clashed with

one being a Pakistani at the same time.

This colonial mindset has also been the reason for the growing alienation of the Baloch nationalist leaders who chose to participate in mainstream politics. Every effort is made to keep the nationalist leaders out of power. The way political parties are created and installed in power in the province has made a mockery of the democratic process. The Feb 8 election was perhaps the worst example of the way the system is being manipulated in the province.

But the government, with its questionable legitimacy, is now being challenged by people's power, as demonstrated by the recent protest marches in Gwadar and Turbat. The protesters are not separatist or terrorists but are being pushed to the wall by the state's actions. No country can fight terrorism by alienating its population. There is no denying that some external forces are involved in supporting separatist groups in carrying out terrorist attacks. But outside forces can only fish in troubled waters.

Taliban on steroids

Mahir Ali

The inspired but abortive effort a century ago by a king and his feminist queen to thrust Afghanistan into their vision of modernity offers a stark contrast with the proclivities of that nation's present rulers, whose mediaeval inclinations are crudely reflected in last week's codification of an ostensibly faith-based but effectively barbaric 'moral code'.

Amir Amanullah — whose ascent to the Kabul throne in 1919 was followed by strategic success in the third Anglo-Afghan war (the Rawalpindi peace treaty in August that year removed British influence over the conduct of Afghanistan's foreign affairs, and established the Durand Line) — and Queen Soraya embarked on a reform programme that focused, among other things, on education (the literacy rate was about two per cent at the time), not least for girls, land reform, lifting the veil, and shaving off beards.

The Taliban last week formalised the denial of education to girls, reinforcing the invisibility of women — who can neither be seen nor heard (their voices apparently trigger irresistible impulses among the Taliban fraternity) without attracting penalties — and specifying the size of beards that men are obliged to sprout. With the partial exception of Iran, given its absurd and occasionally lethal obsession with the nitty-gritty of hijabs, hardly any other Muslim nation goes to the kind of lengths that the Taliban aspire to.

That, too, doesn't escape their notice. Spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid lately advised fellow components of the ummah to "take inspiration" from the Taliban's "Sharia-based systems". Perhaps the only Muslim nation at risk of doing so is Paki-

stan. After all, the Taliban in their original incarnation were spawned some 30 years ago by a grotesque ménage-à-trois emerging from Saudi-funded and US-approved madrasahs along Pakistan's north-western periphery some 30 years ago, and their initial conquest of an Afghanisthan further torn apart following the Soviet withdrawal by the internecine tussles for power among the mujahideen — who had chiefly been backed by the same three nations — was aided and abetted by what are nowadays euphemistically referred to as 'the agencies' and guided to some extent by the fanatical former ISI chief Hamid Gul.

Small wonder, then, that many Afghan exiles blame Pakistan for the resurgence and second coming of the Taliban. But even supporters of the present dispensation are ill-disposed towards their neighbour. A New York Times report about the celebrations marking the third anniversary of the 2021 takeover quoted a young man keen "to continue the jihad" as saying, "I want to go to Palestine", but he is contradicted by an even younger Taliban who proclaims: "No, it's Pakistan's turn. Our first enemy is Pakistan..."

The blowback has, of course, already been occurring for a couple of decades — and direct Taliban intervention might not be required if the likes of extremists in Pakistan have their way.

Shock and horror, rather than surprise, have been common reactions to Afghanistan's newly codified morality laws, which give vast leeway in terms of implementation to the Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice. Who, though, would have dared to go as far as the supreme leader of the Taliban,

Hibatullah Akhundzada, in proclaiming earlier this year, "You may call it a violation of women's rights when we publicly stone or flog them for committing adultery... [but] you represent Satan"?

There's no mention, of course, of the male offenders. Likewise, the latest injunctions against singing, reciting or speaking loudly in public is restricted to women. The sheer ob-scenity of such rules has inevitably riled the various ag-gencies that were still engaged with Afghanistan to some degree. Interestingly, though, an aid worker anonymously contributed an article to The Guardian this month, arguing that aid must flow so that she and her colleagues can keep aiding women who are desperately in need of assistance amid a veritable epidemic of mental health challenges.

Amanullah's broadly well-intentioned but ill-designed reforms in the early 20th century faced a backlash in Khost in 1924, and steady rural resistance that led to his abdication and exile five years later. Subsequent attempts at transcending the status quo, from the Saur 'revolution' in 1978 to the misguided Soviet and American occupations, failed to shift the dial — with Pakistan playing a retrograde role, in alliance with the US in the 1980s and, later, on the strength of its own aspirations to 'strategic depth'.

The consequences cannot be disguised. Afghan women bear the brunt of the retrogressive revival, tragically, but men unaligned with the Taliban are not spared either. Pakistan, meanwhile, has been reaping the whirlwind for many years, yet there could be worse to come. -- Courtesy Dawn

Predicate offences

Rashid Javid Rana

Investigations of predicate offences can be more complex than solving mystery puzzles. Predicate offences are camouflaged in the darkness of a criminal env-i-ronment. For example, tax evasion can be considered a predicate offence as its unlawful profits can lead to money laundering and the financing of terrorism (ML/FT).

Terrorism plays havoc with human lives and economies. It is a complex phenomenon whose roots are embedded in the political, religious, and economic interests of certain mafias. Each time the state tries to clip its wings through kinetic measures, terrorism manages to regrow them, as demonstrated in its recent resurgence, which, apart from harming law and order and the economy, has fractured the country's international image.

Terrorist organisations operate in a very systematic fashion, covertly conducting their operations through money laundering and financing terrorist activities by taking advantage of the absence of a legal framework that could round up, investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of heinous activities. In an increasingly interconnected world, the harm done by these criminal groups is global, affecting the integrity and stability of the entire region and beyond.

UNSC Resolutions 1617, 2253, and 2368 have made it binding on UN member states to comply with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force, which was founded by the G7 countries and given the mandate to set standards to protect the global financial system from money laundering and terrorist financ-

ing. The FATF has classified 21 offences as predicate offences. These include terrorism, murder, arms trafficking, tax fraud, racketeering, kidnapping, extortion, smuggling, counterfeiting, forgery, robbery, corruption, bribery, etc. Each crime, when investigated thoroughly, would prove to be merely the tip of the ML/FT iceberg.

When Pakistan was put on the 'grey list', the FATF required it to ban militant groups and freeze their bank accounts. It provided a blessing in disguise for Pakistan, as it provided an enabling environment to the state to enhance its anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism efforts, with the help of key institutions, including the FBR, SECP, FIA, State Bank, the ministries of finance and foreign affairs, and the security intelligence agencies.

In turn, their efforts were boosted by legislation such as the Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2010, and the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 2017, as well as the establishment of the National Counter-Terrorism Authority and the Directorate General of Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions, and a National Action Plan, which, together, helped Pakistan to eventually get off the 'grey list'.

Though the law-enforcement agencies have been empowered through statutes to take kinetic measures to address the issue, the judicial system, which is typically defined as the 'criminal justice system', lacks the tools to enable effective financial investigations and prosecutions of predicate offences. The very low conviction rate points to the mild deterrence effect of the justice system, especially against terror-fi-

nancing activities — this factor itself constitutes several missing pieces of the mystery puzzle. Well-coordinated and determined efforts are required to fulfil international commitments to ensuring effective investigations and prosecutions of predicate offences.

Investigation/ prosecution agencies including NAB, FIA, ANF, the Directorate General of Intelligence and Investigation — Inland Revenue, Customs, FBR and the provincial CTDs should conduct joint investigations and have swift data-sharing protocols under the umbrella of the Financial Monitoring Unit. Stronger inter-agency cooperation and specialised trainings of law enforcers, civil servants and judges could improve the rate of convictions.

A strategic approach to the issue must include non-kinetic measures, such as revisiting ideological motivations by promoting the rule of law, democracy, tolerance, and inclusivity. The administration of fiscal justice and poverty alleviation through social protection programmes, education and social awareness through the media, as well as the documentation of the economy, is the cornerstone of this roadmap.

Last but not least, religious scholars must be engaged to communicate how sabotage is frowned upon by religion, while technical skills studies must be introduced in the madrasahs. While we have to create a just and equitable environment for progress and prosperity by addressing ethnic tensions, separatist sentiments, and religious extremism through sustained dialogue with the relevant stakeholder, we must also put in extra effort to resolve domestic and regional political disputes. -- Courtesy Dawn

Funeral prayer in absentia of civilians, martyred soldiers of Balochistan incident offered

KARACHI (APP): The Governor Sindh emphasized that those trying to disrupt peace in Balochistan are miscreants, and called for strict action against those attempting to destroy the peace. In his discussions with business leaders, Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori while addressing a press conference at the Governor House, said that the recent incident in Balochistan is being orchestrated by foreign elements, said a statement issued by a spokesperson of the Governor House.

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LAHORE: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi offering dua at the shrine of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh Ali Hajveri.

Governor Kundi visits Data Ganj Bakhsh shrine

LAHORE (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday visited Lahore for a two-day and paid a visit to the shrine of the renowned Sufi saint, Data Ganj Bakhsh. At the shrine, Governor Faisal Kundi offered a floral tribute and prayed for the security and stability of the country. He emphasized the importance of fostering interfaith and inter-sect harmony in Pakistan. Governor Kundi remarked, "It is crucial to promote interfaith and inter-sect unity. To achieve this, we must follow the teachings of Syed Ali Bin Osman Al-Hajveri (Data Ganj Bakhsh)." He further stressed that for improving the peace situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, it is essential to abandon intolerance and violence. The Governor highlighted the significant role of the Sufi tradition in promoting peace and tolerance. He also announced the initiation of conferences and seminars in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to promote the teachings of Allama Muhammad Iqbal and other Sufi saints, aiming to spread their messages of peace and unity. Governor Kundi's visit underscores his commitment to enhancing peace and harmony in the province through the teachings of historical and spiritual leaders.

Sindh CM inspects rain emergency measures during his Sujawal visit

SUJAWAL (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has said that the monsoon weather system after Bangladesh and India, has reached Sindh. Sindh's CM Shah was talking to media at Sujawal-Thatto Bridge on Wednesday during his visit of Sujawal district to monitor arrangements to tackle the rain emergency situation. Murad Ali Shah said that Tharparkar receiving heavy rainfall for last two days. "Karachi, Thatto, Sujawal, Badin, Umakot, Sanghar and Shaheed Benazirabad have more threat of the stormy weather system," chief minister said. "Continuous heavy rainfall makes the rainwater drainage a difficult challenge," he added. Sindh's CM said that his government building 2.1 million housing units for around 12 million people affected in 2022 heavy rainfall and flooding. "We have completed two lac houses, while six lac homes have been under construction," he said. Sindh's chief minister after Karachi and Thatta reached Sujawal to be received by provincial minister Muhammad Ali Malkani and others. He visited different areas with provincial cabinet members and also inspected the water flow at Dolah Darya Khan Bridge over the Indus River.

CM launches internship program for youth's bright future

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has launched the 'Chief Minister Internship Program' for bright future of the youth. Youth aged between 18 to 25 years can register for the internship program at www.cmpip.punjab.gov.pk. The selected interns will get placement opportunities in prominent private sector institutions. The CM said "We want to guide youth to the path of financial independence in a dignified manner. Young people! step up, bright future awaits you." The CM said that 6,000 internships spanning over six months duration will be offered in Phase-I, and the interns will receive a monthly stipend of Rs 25,000 during their internship period. In the Chief Minister Internship Program, preference will be given to graduates who have completed their degrees in the last two years, she informed.

CM grieved over loss of lives

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has expressed a deep sense of sorrow and grief over the loss of human lives due to electrocution and collapse of roofs during torrential rains. The chief minister expressed her heartfelt sympathies and condolence with the bereaved families. The CM directed to provide best medical treatment facilities to the injured persons due to collapse of roofs.

Ministers promise quality public healthcare, open plantation campaign

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Ministers Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaja Imran Nazir reaffirmed the government's commitment to public healthcare, asserting that the government hospitals were consistently providing care to patients, even in the most challenging circumstances. They made these remarks during the inauguration of a plantation campaign at Lahore General Hospital (LGH) on Wednesday. Khawaja Salman Rafique highlighted the hospital's capacity, stating that more than 2.3 million patients receive treatment at Lahore General Hospital annually, with 12,000 to 13,000 patients being treated daily in the Outpatient Department (OPD) and Emergency. He announced plans to submit a request for a new campus for Post Graduate Medical College to Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, emphasizing the ongoing dedication of the medical community to public service. "We are working diligently to complete the ongoing revamping project in government hospitals as quickly as possible," Rafique said. "Under the leadership of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, we are committed to continuously improving healthcare facilities for the people."

Bilawal Bhutto, Asefa condole death of Raza Rabbani's sister

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Member National Assembly Asefa Bhutto Zardari arrived at the residence of Senator Raza Rabbani and offered condolences over the death of Rabbani's sister. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Asefa Bhutto Zardari recited Fateha for the elevation of the deceased and prayed for the patience of the bereaved family. PPP Sindh President Nisar Kihuro and General Secretary Waqar Mehdi were also present on the occasion and offered Fateha.

3 development schemes worth Rs 1.48bn approved

LAHORE (APP): At the 22nd meeting of the Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP), chaired by Chairman P&D Board Barrister Nabeel Ahmad Awan, three development schemes worth Rs 1.48bn were approved on Wednesday. The approved schemes include Provision of Stand-By Pumping Water Supply Scheme, Murree, at a cost of Rs 717.387 million, Rehabilitation of Donga Gali Water Supply Scheme, Murree, at a cost of Rs 766.733 million and Feasibility Study for Installation of Chairlift/Cable Car System at Kotli Sattian, District Murree, at a cost of Rs 1 million.

Motorcyclist killed in road accident

FAISALABAD (APP): A teenaged motorcyclist was killed in a road accident in the area of Raza Abad police station. Police spokesman said here on Wednesday that 16-year-old Hasnain resident of Chak 241/R-B Chinchal Singhwala was going on a motorcycle when a speeding tractor trolley hit the two-wheeler near Abbas Nagar. As a result, the motorcyclist received serious injuries and was rushed to hospital but in vain as he breathed his last in the way. The police handed over the body to his relatives for burial after completing necessary.

Maryam has become role model for other provinces: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Information Minister Azma Bokhari said on Wednesday that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz had become a role model for the other provinces. She said in a statement that Maryam Nawaz's mission is to make Punjab prosperous, peaceful and developed province. On the other hand, she added, former ruling party had nothing to offer to the nation except for lies, propaganda, and accusations. She added that Maryam Nawaz, following in her father's footsteps, is setting records in public service. After electric bikes, "Apna Ghar Apni Chhat," relief in electricity bills, and the "Himmat Card" are commendable projects by the Punjab chief minister, she added. The minister said the people of Punjab were being provided with basic facilities at their doorsteps. She said, "I can proudly say that the projects initiated by my chief minister have been followed by Sindh and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. The leadership of the Pakistan Muslim League-N will eliminate the politics of division and hatred." The people of Pakistan have seen the ugly faces of those who spread chaos and discord. Those who spread despair were disgraced before and will be humiliated again, the minister said and added that those who prayed for Pakistan's bankruptcy were now begging for forgiveness.

16 dead, 1,086 injured in Punjab road accident

LAHORE (APP): At least 16 people were killed and 1,086 others injured in 1,049 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 437 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 649 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams. The data analysis showed that 623 drivers, 41 underage drivers, 158 pedestrians, and 321 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. The statistics showed that 245 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 272 people, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by Faisalabad with 79 accidents and 97 victims.



HYDERABAD: A view of the roof of a house collapsed due to heavy rain in the Old Vegetable Market area, resulting in the death of one child and injuries to four people.

CM Assistant says: KP govt to boost technical education, skill development

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government is set to enhance technical education and skill development to reduce unemployment and empower youth. Abdul Karim Tordher, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister said that KP government already allocated Rs 4 billion allocation for these efforts. Key initiatives include loans of up to half million for certified youth through the Akhuwat Foundation and a new loan scheme under the Social Welfare sector. The government will focus on sustainable technical and vocational education and training, strengthening links between institutes and industries, and improving institutions in backward areas, along with offering short-term soft skills courses. He chaired a meeting with the heads of government polytechnic institutes to discuss the development and standardization of diploma courses and to address the challenges faced by these institutes.

Staff put on high-alert with machinery in view of rain prediction: Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Muratza Wahab Wednesday said that in the light of current weather situation, all staff have been put on high alert with machinery to prevent inconvenience to citizens during the rains. He said this during his visit to various areas, streets and storm water drains of Karachi. Barrister Muratza Wahab said that due to a powerful rain system entering the city, there has been a continuation of light to heavy rain in various areas. He said that teams of Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) were working around the clock on water drainage at locations where water has accumulated due to continuous rain, and all relevant staff was present on the roads. Despite of continuous rain spell, main roads and underpasses are clear and attention is also being given to low-lying areas, he said. He said that the flow of water in the storm-water drains is normal, and despite clearing all choking points, continuous monitoring of the drains is ongoing. The Mayor Karachi mentioned that rain has been ongoing for the past two days, with some places experiencing heavy rainfall. Consequently, the KMC team has been continuously working on water drainage.



PESHAWAR: Activates of Transport Employees Union hold protest outside Provincial Assembly.

'Clean Punjab' task to be completed on priority basis: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq on Wednesday said that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif wanted to see Punjab clean in every aspect. The goals of 'Suthra (clean) Punjab', set by the chief minister are very clear which will definitely be achieved. He was addressing a video link meeting of chief executive officers (CEOs) of waste management companies. Secretary Local Government Shakeel Ahmad Mian, Special Secretary Asia Gul and Additional Secretary Maria Tariq also attended. During the meeting, CEOs of eight waste management companies updated the provincial



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Transport Bilal Akbar Khan chairs steering committee meeting regarding provision of Bikes to students.

Transport minister chairs 14th steering committee meeting

LAHORE (APP): The 14th steering committee meeting, led by Punjab Minister for Transport Bilal Akbar Khan, took place at the Transport House, here on Wednesday. The session primarily focused on evaluating the progress of the student bike scheme, with key discussions aimed at enhancing the scheme's accessibility and efficiency for students. Officials of the Transport Department, Higher Education Commission (HEC), Higher Education Department (HED), Information and Culture Department, and the Bank of Punjab, and others participated in the meeting. During the meeting, various suggestions were considered to further streamline and enhance the bike distribution process. Transport Minister Bilal Akbar Khan directed all relevant authorities to expedite the delivery of bikes. A key decision was made to set up counters and stalls in different universities, allowing successful students to submit and process their necessary documents directly on campus. This initiative aims to accelerate the scheme and save time for the students by providing them with on-site guidance and support for obtaining their bikes. In line with Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's announcement, work on providing free bikes to orphan students who apply for the scheme is nearing completion. Speaking at the meeting, the minister shared that the bike delivery process for students has officially begun. He confirmed that, as per the Chief Minister's directive, over 1,800 orphan students would receive free bikes. Additionally, bike delivery is being arranged in the students' hometowns to further facilitate them. The minister emphasized that the scheme is being made increasingly accessible, with the Punjab.

DC Jamshoro inspects flood preparedness in Sehwan

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Jamshoro Riaz Hussain Wassan conducted an inspection visit to Sehwan on Wednesday, focusing on the Manchar Lake, MNV Drain, Sehwan protective bund and LS Bund to assess the district's preparedness for potential flood situations. According to a handout, during the visit, Wassan received a comprehensive briefing from XEN Shahbaz Irrigation regarding the capacity of the protective bunds to withstand flood situations. The officials concerned assured the DC that the situation was under control.

Dengue surveillance under way in city

LAHORE (APP): The anti-dengue drive, initiated by the district administration, is in full swing under which surveillance is being carried out at various points in the provincial capital. In this regard, Deputy Commissioner Lahore Syed Musa Raza visited Youhanabad area on Wednesday, where he inspected anti-dengue arrangements and instructed the house owners about dengue preventive measures. Assistant Commissioner Model Town Sahibzada Yusuf, CEO Health,



KARACHI: Shopkeepers close their businesses during strike against inflation in Karachi on August 28, 2024. A countrywide strike is being observed today on the call of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan against the imposition of heavy electricity bills and taxes.

LHC seeks reply from FIA on petition against issuing notice to journalists

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has sought reply from FIA on the petition against issuing notice to the journalists. Justice Asjad Javed Ghural took up the petition for hearing Wednesday. Barrister Hasnain Chaudhry appeared on behalf of the journalists. The counsel for the petitioner took the plea journalists appeared before FIA following the issuance of notice to them. The petitioner sought list of charges which has not been provided so far. FIA has issued notice for exparte action on August 29 without providing list of allegations. The counsel for petitioner said FIA keep sit the citizens whole day long and degrades them. It is feared that journalists will be arrested if they appear before FIA. The state counsel opposed the petition filed by journalists. Justice Asjad Javed Ghural while expressing resentment over FIA attitude with citizens remarked no one can prevent institutions from initiating proceedings but they should proceed as per law. Justice Asjad Javed Ghural remarked it has become habit of FIA, Anti Corruption and other institutions to call the citizens and keep them sitting. The institutions keep the citizens sitting for the reason that they have no material to move the inquiries ahead.



LAHORE: Employees protesting for their demands in front of the town hall of the provincial capital.

Commerce minister pledges support for leather, footwear industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister Khan underscored the critical role that sectoral councils can play in policy formulation. By maintaining close contact with industry leaders, listening to their concerns, and working collaboratively on a forward-looking strategy, these councils can greatly influence the future direction of the industry. "The government is fully committed to instilling confidence in our local industry and providing robust support," Khan assured the council members. He highlighted the need to capitalize on "low-hanging fruits"—immediate opportunities that can be seized with minimal effort—and reiterated that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is dedicated to supporting the industry and exporters by offering all possible incentives. Khan further assured the council that both he and the Ministry of Commerce, supported by an energetic and vibrant team, are fully available to the council and are eager to receive its recommendations and proposals. Chaudhry Zulfiqar Hayat, Chairman

of the Pakistan Leather and Footwear Council, appreciated Minister Khan's vision and intervention, stating that the business community and the industry are encouraged by the minister's commitment to empowering these councils. "For the first time, we feel that a minister is genuinely thinking about empowering these councils," Hayat remarked. Minister Khan also conveyed to the Prime Minister that these councils are the only platforms providing a true representation.



ISLAMABAD: Mirza Ikhtiar Baig MNA/Convener in a group photo with H.E. Mohamed Karmoun, Ambassador of Morocco, Additional Secretary Africa MOFA Hamid Asghar Khan, DG Africa MOFA Husnain Yusuf, Secretary Africa Ministry of Commerce Muhammad Arifullah and Participants of Friendship Group (PFG) in a meeting at Parliament House.



ISLAMABAD: H.E. Dr. Mehmet Paçacı, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb at Finance Division.

KP governor stresses joint efforts for economic development, prosperity

LAHORE (APP): Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said on Wednesday that Pakistan is a country rich in potential and resources and urged all segments to work together for the country's development and prosperity. He expressed these views during his visit to Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where LCCI President Kashif Anwar presented the address of welcome and highlighted various issues including industry, economy, Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and tourism etc. Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, Executive Committee Member Fareeha Younis and other distinguished members were also present. The KP governor said the situation in Punjab was relatively better while KP was suffering from 16 to 18 hours of load-shedding, adding that after Tarbela no major dams have been constructed. He suggested that if KP, which produced the cheapest electricity, was given even half of its production, the province's load-shedding issue could be solved. LCCI President Kashif Anwar said that running businesses has become exceedingly difficult. The industry is

grappling with challenges such as currency depreciation, rising tariffs for electricity, gas and fuel, high-interest rates, and numerous other issues that are escalating the cost of doing business. He said that continuity in policies is essential for business stability. Governor Kundi agreed with Kashif Anwar that a robust tax net is crucial for national development. He shared his experience from a recent visit to Dushanbe, where investors questioned whether Pakistan could offer the same facilities they receive in Tajikistan such as electricity at 2 cents per unit.

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Pakistan, Morocco commit to strengthening ties through Parl. friendship groups

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan-Morocco Parliamentary Friendship Group held its first meeting on Wednesday, with Mohamed Karmoun, the Ambassador of Morocco to Pakistan, in attendance. Chaired by Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, MNA and Convener of the Pakistan-Morocco Parliamentary Friendship Group (PFG), the meeting was attended by group members, including Syed Naveed Qamar, Shaista Pervaiz, Aijaz Hussain Jakhri, Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon, Khurshid Ahmed Jonejo, Makhdoom Syed Sami ul Hassan Gillani, and Sabheen Ghoury, said a news release. The members discussed ways to strengthen bilateral ties between Pakistan and Morocco. While welcoming the Moroccan Ambassador, Mirza Ikhtiar Baig expressed satisfaction with the existing cordial relations between the two countries and assured that these ties would be further strengthened through cooperation. The meeting aimed to explore avenues of cooperation between the two nations, with various areas of mutual interest discussed in detail. The Ambassador expressed Morocco's desire to enhance bilateral and economic ties with Pakistan.



PESHAWAR: Vendor displaying old clothes to attract the customers at Ferdos area in Provincial Capital.

Huawei Pakistan makes significant debut at ITCN Asia 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Huawei Pakistan made a notable debut at ITCN Asia 2024, held at the Karachi Expo Centre, showcasing its latest innovations and technology solutions. ITCN Asia powered by Huawei for the global technology leader presented cutting-edge solutions from its Digital Power and Enterprise Business Group (EBG), including advancements in Data Center Facility & Critical Power, FusionSolar products for Commercial & Industrial PV Solutions, and the IdeaHub. Additionally, Huawei launched its new EKIT product line, featuring significant breakthroughs in foundation models and a wide range of new SMB models and applications, said a news release issued here. Representatives from Huawei highlighted the benefits of intelligence, digitalization, and the strategic advantages of advanced network and digital power technologies, emphasizing the importance of accelerating intelligence through business development, industry advancements, and ecosystem growth.

PSX loses 91 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) shed 91.45 points on Wednesday, showing a negative change of 0.12 percent, closing at 77,992.79 points against 78,084.24 points on the last working day. A total of 636,024,989 shares were traded during the day as compared to 591,511,522 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 16.267 billion against Rs 17.177 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 452 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 140 of them recorded gains and 260 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 52 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Kohinoor Spinning with 124,735,968 shares at Rs 11.44 per share, Fauji Foods Ltd with 39,280,114 shares at Rs.8.92 per share and Yousuf Weaving with 34,902,609 shares at Rs 5.81 per share. Mari Petroleum Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 88.16 per share price.

47 nomination papers filed for FCCI executive committee polls

FAISALABAD (APP): Forty-seven nomination papers have been filed for the election of 30 seats of executive committee of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) for the term of 2024-26. According to the members of the election commission Muzammil Sultan, Chaudhry Muhammad Nawaz and Rashid Munir, 23 nomination papers have been received for 14 seats of corporate class while one nomination paper was received for one reserved seat of women for this class. Similarly, 22 candidates are contesting for 14 seats of associate class whereas one female candidate has filed her nomination paper.

PM Coordinator appeal traders to join tax net

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister Rana Ehsan Afzal on Wednesday appealed the traders to join the tax system and share their genuine concerns which create a conducive environment for traders to comply with tax regulations and contribute to the country's economic development. Talking to a private news channel, Afzal urged traders to come forward and register themselves under the tax net, promising that the government would provide necessary support and facilitation. He also warned that failure to comply with tax regulations would result in consequences, but

emphasized that the government's preference was to work together with traders to achieve mutual goals. The Coordinator's appeal comes at a time when the government is facing significant revenue shortfalls. By bringing more traders into the tax net, the government hopes to increase revenue collection and allocate resources more effectively. Responding to a query, Rana Ehsan Afzal acknowledged that the economic issues plaguing the country could not be resolved overnight. "The economic challenges we face today are a result of 10 years of mismanagement and neglect," he said.

German delegation visits PSGMEA

SIALKOT (APP): A German delegation on Wednesday visited the Pakistan Sports Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PSGMEA) and discussed trade issues. The delegation was included Bettina Muller, Project Director, SEQUA, Christian von Mitzlaff, Supply Chain Due Diligence Consultant, Sarim Mehmood, Sector Expert/Consultant and Dr Michael Arretz, Managing Director VFI e.V German Importers. Chairman PSGMEA Muhammad Arshad Latif Butt, Vice Chairman Zarrar

Ahmed Dodhi, Secretary General Mohsin Masood and other members welcomed the guests. Arshad Latif Butt said: "We look forward to learn how we can collaborate to enhance sustainable practices within our supply chains, ensuring that Pakistani products continue to meet the highest standards."

He said that Sialkot is famous all over the world for making footballs and footballs made in Sialkot are also used in Germany, adding that: "We believe that an exchange of trade delegations will pave the way for new business." Meanwhile two more ships, Estia and IVS Trader carrying Gas oil and Coal are arrived at outer anchorage port during last 24 hours. A total of nine ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships.



LAHORE: The Governor of KP, Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi, talks to media at Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Telenor participates in launch of Pakistan's first ESaaS project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Telenor Pakistan on Wednesday announced its participation in the historic launch of Pakistan's first low-carbon Energy Storage as a Service (ESaaS) project, marking a significant milestone in the country's telecom and energy sectors. The ESaaS project represents a transformative step in Pakistan's journey toward sustainable development said a news release. Hosted by Brillanz Group in collaboration with key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Climate Change, Telenor Pakistan, Bank of Punjab, and Saudi-Pak Investment Company, this initiative underscores the critical intersection of environmental responsibility and technological innovation. Khurram Ashfaq, CEO of Telenor Pakistan, emphasized the company's commitment to sustainability, and said, "Our participation in this groundbreaking project underscores Telenor Pakistan's dedication to reducing our environmental footprint while ensuring the long-term sustainability of the operations. "By embracing low-carbon energy storage solutions, we are not only transforming our infrastructure but also contributing to a greener, more sustainable Pakistan." Awais Vohra, Telenor Pakistan's Chief Technology Officer, highlighted the technical advancements that make this project a game-changer for the industry.

Pakistan, Turkiye vow to expand bilateral trade ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb. The meeting underscored the deep-rooted and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Turkiye, founded on shared faith, history, and cultural affinities. The finance expressed appreciation for the outgoing Ambassador's contributions to strengthening bilateral relations and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to continue deepening its partnership with Turkiye across various sectors, including trade, investment, technical cooperation, and more. The Minister also highlighted the progress

made during the recent visit of the Turkish trade delegation to Pakistan, led by Trade Minister of Turkiye, Prof. Dr. Omer Bolat which helped in exploring new avenues for cooperation in sectors such as energy, agriculture, infrastructure, and technology. He extended his best wishes to Ambassador Paçacı in his future endeavors and expressed confidence for continued collaboration and enduring friendship between Pakistan and Turkiye. Ambassador Paçacı, in his remarks, expressed gratitude for the cooperation and support extended by the

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was report at the port where three ships, Maersk Denver, Lydia and Tivoli Park carrying Container, Mogas and Chemicals, berthed at Container Terminal, FOTCO Terminal and Engro Terminal respectively on Tuesday. Meanwhile two more ships, Estia and IVS Trader carrying Gas oil and Coal are arrived at outer anchorage port during last 24 hours. A total of nine ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships.



RAWALPINDI: Activists of Caterers and Bakers Association hold a protest in favor of their demands at Chandni Chowk area in the city, during a nationwide strike called by trade organizations against the high electricity bills, excessive taxes and the absence of business-friendly policies, in the city.

Govt working on tax reforms, right sizing of dept to bring economic prosperity: Malik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik on Wednesday said that incumbent government is working on tax reforms and right sizing of departments and ministries to bring economic prosperity for the people of Pakistan. Talking to a private television channel, he said all genuine issues of traders are being addressed to bring them into tax net in a proper manner. Large number of heavy income groups in the country are not paying taxes and we are not interested to put burden of

taxes on salaried group or industrial sectors, he said. "The doors of my ministry and chairman FBR are opened for helping the people who want to come into tax net through easy way," he said. There is an APP for traders fraternity, he informed. Commenting on foreign loan burden for Pakistan, he said that friendly countries including Saudi Arabia, China and United Arab Emirates are always ready to financial assist Pakistan. About Saudi Arabia, he said the KSA is taking keen interest in various sectors of Pakistan for investment.

SCCI, CS KP to establish close-liaison for issues resolution

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President Fuad Ishaq and Chief Secretary (CS) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry on Wednesday decided to establish liaison between SCCI and secretary office for promptly resolve business community issues. The decision was made during a meeting presided over by SCCI President Fuad Ishaq on the occasion of Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry's visit to the chamber. Leader of the Businessman Forum former senator Ilyas Ahmed Bilour especially participated in the meeting. Fuad Ishaq apprised the meeting about reservations of the business community over the implementation of two

percent tax on exports by the provincial government, obstacles in mutual trade, transit trade, taxes through various provincial departments/authorities, the security situation and other relevant issues, and gave practical suggestions for their resolution. SCCI chief emphasized on solving all the issues through better policy and implementing business and trade friendly policies. Ilyas Ahmed Bilour also spoke on this occasion and demanded provision of all rights. He said that the people of province has made numerous sacrifices for the country and peace and the business community should be given facilities and privileges. He called for the abolition of all unnecessary taxes and the implementation of business-friendly policies.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

Starmer, Scholz seek reset in British-EU ties with bilateral treaty

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: Britain and Germany's leaders agreed in Berlin on Wednesday to work on an ambitious treaty covering issues from defence to trade that would be part of a reset of British relations with the European Union.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer's trip to the EU's top powers, Germany and France, aims to help Britain move beyond the previous Conservative government's fractious relations with European allies. Starmer, who took office last month, has put improved ties at the heart of his efforts to boost Britain's economic growth.

He billed the new co-operation treaty as a "once-in-a-generation chance to deliver for working people in Britain and in Germany" as it would deepen collaboration in sci-

ence, technology, business and culture while increasing trade.

Starmer said that growth was his government's "number one mission".

"And what we understand clearly is that building relationships with our partners here in Germany and across Europe is vital to achieving it," he said.

Starmer, addressing a press conference alongside German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, said a reset would not mean reversing Britain's 2020 exit from the EU under the Conservatives, or re-entering the bloc's single market or customs union.

"But it does mean a closer relationship on several fronts, including the economy, including defence, including exchanges," he said.

Scholz said Germany

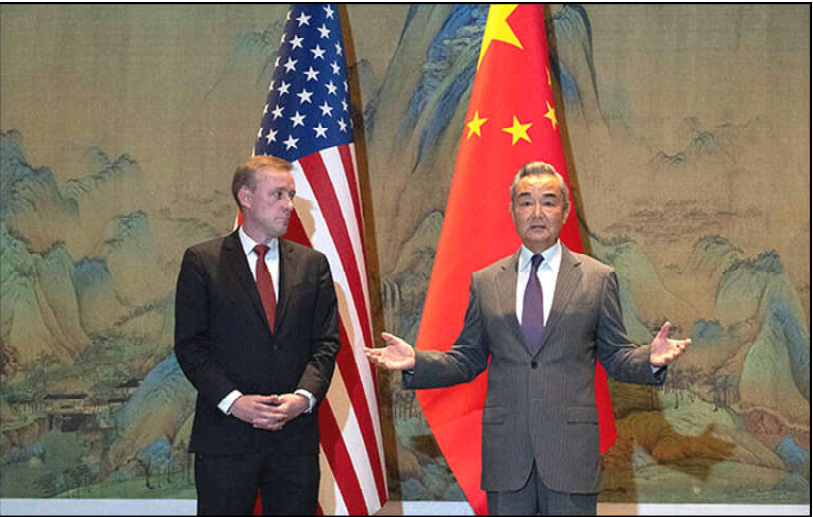
wanted to take this outstretched hand.

"The United Kingdom has always been an indispensable part of solving the big issues that affect the whole of Europe," he said. "This has not changed since it left the EU."

In a joint declaration, Britain and Germany said they hoped to sign the co-operation treaty at government consultations "by early next year".

Defence ministers were also working on a new defence agreement, they said, which would follow the signing of a joint defence declaration in July.

Stephen Hunsaker, a trade researcher at the UK in a Changing Europe think tank, said however that any efforts to properly improve trade would risk encroaching on EU rules and could only happen at the periphery.



Wang Yi, the director of the Communist Party's Central Foreign Affairs Commission Office, speaks before talks with White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan at Yanqi Lake in Beijing, China.

Biden adviser meets with Qatari leaders to discuss Israel-Hamas negotiations

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden's top Middle East adviser on Tuesday held talks in Doha with senior Qatari leaders on the efforts to complete a cease-fire and hostage deal between Israel and Hamas, as well as on the Qatari prime minister's meeting this week with Iran's president, according to a U.S. official.

White House senior adviser Brett McGurk's talks with Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani came after the prime minister's Monday visit to Tehran to meet with Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian.

The talks also come as cease-fire talks aimed at winning at least a pause in

the war between Israel and Hamas are shifting to Doha this week after several days of intense negotiations in Cairo. A round of high-level talks ended Sunday without a final agreement. But talks continued at lower levels Monday in an effort to bridge remaining gaps.

Those working-group level talks are now expected to resume Wednesday in Doha. It was not clear why the location of the talks shifted from Cairo to whether this will have an impact on negotiations.

An Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were discussing sensitive cease-fire talks, confirmed an Israeli delegation will head to Doha on Wednesday.

Kolkata medic's rape: Protesters block train tracks, buses in India's West Bengal

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Protesters blocked train tracks, stopped buses and shouted slogans in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal on Wednesday, the latest in a series of protests that have rocked the state since the rape and murder of a trainee doctor.

Police fired tear gas and water cannons to disperse protesters marching towards the state secretariat on Tuesday, prompting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is in opposition in the state, to call for a 12-hour state-wide strike on Wednesday, to protest against what it said were police atrocities.

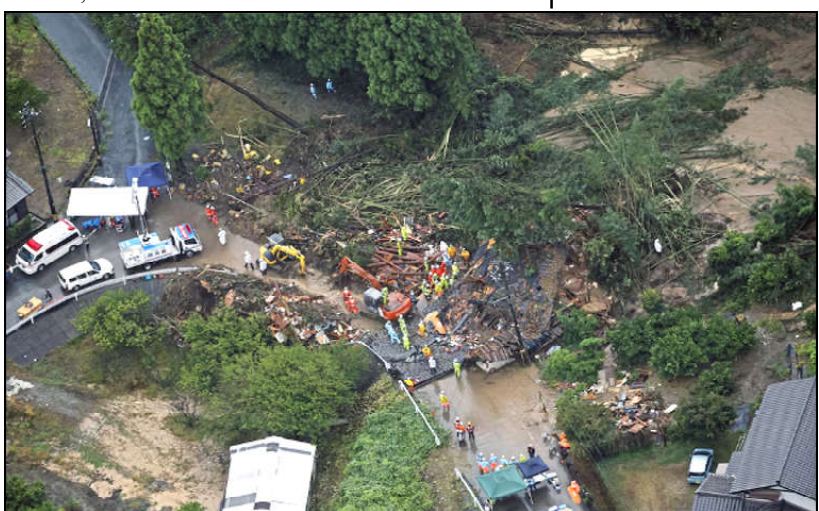
Thousands of protesters, most of them BJP workers, blocked roads and

railway tracks and forced shops to shut down on Wednesday, while authorities braced for more protests throughout the day.

A top police official said 5,000 police personnel were deployed to quell any violence across West Bengal.

The protesters on Tuesday, many of them university students, were demanding the resignation of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, a staunch opponent of Modi, for her handling of the August 9 rape and murder of a 31-year-old doctor in a government-run hospital in the state capital, Kolkata.

The attack on the 31-year-old doctor has caused nationwide outrage, similar to the widespread protests witnessed after a 2012.



An aerial view shows rescue workers conducting search and rescue operations at a landslide site caused by heavy rain due to the approach of Typhoon Shanshan in Gamagori, Aichi Prefecture, central Japan.

Afghanistan's Taliban government bans 'violent' mixed martial arts

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: Afghanistan's Taliban government has banned mixed martial arts (MMA), believing it to be un-Islamic, its sports ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

The order was passed down by Afghanistan's morality police in the Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice after an investigation into the sport's compliance with Islamic law, or sharia, the statement and local media said.

"It was found that the sport is problematic with respect to sharia and it has many aspects which are contradictory to the teachings of Islam," the Taliban government sports authority said in a statement sent to AFP.

"That's why this decision has been made to ban mixed martial arts in Afghanistan."

"That's why this decision has been made to ban mixed martial arts in Afghanistan."

China recognises Catholic bishop of Tianjin, Vatican says

Monitoring Desk
VATICAN CITY: China's government has recognized the authority of the Catholic bishop of Tianjin, Melchior Shi Hongzhen, the Vatican said on Tuesday, who had previously been placed under house arrest for refusing to join China's state-backed church structure.

"This development is a positive fruit of the dialogue established in recent years between the Holy See and the Chinese Government," the Vatican said in a statement. The Vatican struck a landmark deal with the Beijing government in 2018, which was renewed in 2022.



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer shake hands during a press conference in Berlin, Germany.

Top Chinese, US officials optimistic about Beijing talks

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and China's top diplomat Wang Yi said they were hoping for productive talks as they met in Beijing on Tuesday. After arriving at the Chinese capital, the top US diplomat said that he looked forward to "a very productive round of conversations" with foreign minister Wang. "We'll delve into a wide range of issues, including issues on which

we agree and those issues... where there are still differences that we need to manage effectively and substantively," he said.

Wang told Sullivan he was keen for "substantive" and "constructive" talks during his visit, the first to China by a US national security adviser since 2016.

He also said he wanted the two sides to "help China-US relations move forward towards the San Francisco vision".

Israel launches a large-scale military operation in the occupied West Bank, killing 9 Palestinians

Monitoring Desk
AL-FARAA REFUGEE CAMP: Israel launched a large-scale military operation in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, where its forces killed at least nine Palestinians and sealed off the volatile city of Jenin, according to Palestinian officials.

Israel has carried out near-daily raids across the West Bank since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Gaza triggered the ongoing war there. Israel says it is rooting out militants to prevent attacks on its citizens, while Palestinians in the West Bank fear it intends to broaden the war and forcibly displace them.

Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an Israeli military spokesman, said that "large forces" had entered the volatile city of Jenin, which has long been a militant stronghold, as well as Tulkarem and the Al-Faraa refugee camp dating back to the 1948 Mideast war, all in the northern West Bank.

He said the nine dead were all militants, including three killed in an airstrike in Tulkarem and another four in an airstrike in Al-Faraa.

Russian bomb kills Ukrainian family of four in the east, say Ukraine prosecutors

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: A Russian bomb killed a Ukrainian family of four on Wednesday in a small village in the eastern Donetsk region, the Ukrainian Prosecutor General's office said. The prosecutors said the guided aerial bomb hit a private house and killed both parents and their 24-year-old daughter and 17-year-old son in the village of Izmailivka. A picture posted by the prosecutors' office on the Telegram messaging app showed what it said was the destroyed house with its roof.

Japan scrambles jets against China plane that breached airspace

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japan's defence ministry said it had scrambled jets against a Chinese reconnaissance aircraft that had briefly breached its airspace on Monday morning.

The aircraft was identified as a Y-9 reconnaissance plane that flew over the Danjo Islands to the west of the southern island of Kyushu between around 11:29 a.m. and 11:31 a.m.



Mourners grieve next to the bodies of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, at Nasser hospital in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

24 missing after heavy floods in Yemen: authorities

Monitoring Desk
HAYS: Heavy flooding caused by torrential rains in Yemen overnight has destroyed homes and left at least 24 people missing, authorities said on Wednesday.

The floods in Al-Mahwit, a province west of the capital Sanaa controlled by Iran-backed Huthi rebels, triggered landslides that swept through several homes, police said in a statement carried by rebel media.

Iceland volcano eruption raises pollution fears, spa evacuated

Monitoring Desk
COPENHAGEN: A volcano spewed lava and smoke over southwestern Iceland for a second day on Friday raising fears of spreading pollution hours after its eruption forced the evacuation of a spa resort.

Fountains of glowing molten rock shot into the night sky when the volcano first erupted on the Reykjanes peninsula on Thursday.

The flow from the volcano has since slowed. Rikke Pedersen, head of the Nordic Volcanological Centre, said. "We have a quite intense fontaining and high output in the beginning and it rapidly declines, but that doesn't tell us anything about how long it will last."

The meteorological office warned that wind could carry gas pollution from the eruption towards the south and southeast.

The nearby Blue Lagoon spa, which has large outdoor pools heated by geothermal energy, was evacuated late on Thursday and said it remained closed on Friday.

"We just went there as tourists looking for a good day," said real estate broker Dennis Murphy, from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, who was there with his daughter.

"The next thing you know, the ground is exploding right next to us," the 53-year-old said.

Australia gives workers 'right to disconnect' after office hours

Monitoring Desk
SYDNEY: Australia gave millions of workers the legal right to "disconnect" on Monday, allowing them to ignore unreasonable out-of-hours calls and texts from their bosses.

People can now refuse to monitor, read, or respond to their employers' attempts to contact them outside work hours — unless that refusal is deemed "unreasonable".

Unions welcomed the legislation, saying it gave workers a way to reclaim some work-life balance. "Today is a historic day for working people," said Michele O'Neil, president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

"Australian unions have reclaimed the right to knock off after work," she said. In the streets of Sydney, people appeared to welcome the change. "I have a very hard time disconnecting and even though I may not necessarily be logged on, my brain is constantly working overtime," not-for-profit worker Karolina Josefski said. "So getting that after-hour call from my boss doesn't necessarily help." But the reform got a cool welcome from Australia's top industry body. "The 'right to disconnect' laws are rushed, poorly thought out and deeply confusing," the Australian Industry Group said in a statement.

Bangladesh lifts ban on local Jamaat-i-Islami party

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Bangladesh's caretaker government revoked a ban on the country's main Islamic party and its affiliates "in terrorist activities" on Wednesday, saying it has not found evidence of their involvement in "terrorist activities".

Former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government had banned the Jamaat-e-Islami party under an anti-terrorism law, blaming it for stoking deadly violence during student-led protests that turned into an uprising against Hasina, forcing her to resign and flee to India on Aug 5.

A gazette notification on Wednesday by the caretaker government that re-

placed Hasina's administration said there was "no specific evidence of involvement of Jamaat" and its affiliates "in terrorist activities".

The party has denied allegations that it stoked violence and had condemned the ban as "illegal, extrajudicial and unconstitutional."

Jamaat has not been able to contest elections in Bangladesh after a court said in 2013 that its registration as a political party conflicted with Bangladesh's secular constitution.

Shishir Monir, a lawyer for the party, said it will file a petition early next week at the Supreme Court to seek restoration of its registration.

Harris and Walz kick off Georgia bus tour as Democrats' hopes rise

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Democratic US presidential candidate Kamala Harris and her running mate Tim Walz will campaign together on Wednesday in Georgia, a state that Democrats narrowly won in 2020 and could play a decisive role in this year's election.

The election race has dramatically changed since Harris became her party's candidate last month, and she hopes to galvanise Black voters who make up about one-third of Georgia's electorate and will be crucial in the effort to win there.

Harris and Walz will take a bus through southern Georgia, home to some of its largest Black populations and where the campaign has added staff and opened field offices.

Before President Joe Biden dropped his reelection bid last month and endorsed Vice President Harris, polls showed Republican candidate Donald Trump with a clear lead in Georgia, and some Black voters were disillusioned with Democrats.

Since then, however, Harris has steadily gained ground in national polls and has been boosted by well over \$500 million in donations.

The latest polls compiled by FiveThirtyEight show Harris just behind Trump, 46.0 per cent to 46.6pc in Georgia, compared to about a five-point lead for Trump before Harris entered.

Ukraine's Zelenskiy to present plan to Biden to end war with Russia

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Tuesday that the war with Russia would eventually end in dialogue, but that Kyiv had to be in a strong position and that he would present a plan to US President Joe Biden and his two potential successors.

The Ukrainian leader, addressing a news conference, said Kyiv's three-week-old incursion into Russia's Kursk region was part of that plan, but that it also comprised other steps on the economic and diplomatic fronts.

"The main point of this plan is to force Russia to end the war. And I want that very much - (that it would be) fair for Ukraine," he told reporters in Kyiv of the war launched by Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022.

He did not elaborate further on the next steps, but said he would also discuss the plan with Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris and probably also with Republican

South Asia air pollution fell in 2022, but remains major killer

Monitoring Desk
BANGKOK: A surprising improvement in air quality in South Asia in 2022 drove a decline in global pollution, with favourable weather a likely factor, a new report said Wednesday.

But the region continues to breathe the world's most polluted air, with its residents losing more than 3.5 years of life expectancy on average, the annual Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) warned.

Globally, most countries have either no pollution standards or are failing to meet what they have set, subjecting their citizens to air quality that causes a broad range of health problems.

For two decades, air pollution has increased annually in South Asia, but satellite data for 2022 — the most recent year available — showed a surprise 18 percent fall.

The decline in South Asia led to a nine percent global drop in air pollution, even as poor air quality spiked elsewhere, including in the Middle East and North Africa, with concentrations up 13 percent from a year earlier.

what reduced PM2.5 levels across South Asia, it is safe to posit that favourable meteorological conditions may have played a part," the report said, referring to tiny particulates that can travel deep into the body.

The widespread nature of the decline, along with the above-average rainfall across the region in 2022, lend support to that theory.

"Only time will tell whether policy changes are having an impact," the report added, warning that people in South Asia are still breathing air eight times more polluted than the World Health Organization deems safe.

"Continued observations, efforts towards policy enforcement and monitoring impacts of policy interventions will be critical for understanding and sustaining these reductions," the report said.

Political parties unite to reaffirm unwavering support for CPEC

Pakistan-China Institute hosts multi-party moot, pledges commitment to strengthen Pak-China ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), headed by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, successfully organised a unique event under its 'Friends of Silk Road' series...

Corridor (CPEC) has created numerous investment opportunities in Pakistan, Senator Rehman stated. She praised China's Global Security Initiative...

Sherry Rehman noted that the Third Plenary Session of the 20th Central Committee will have far-reaching impacts not only on China but also on the world. 'China has played a crucial role in the development of the Global South...

Leaders belonging to parties from Government and Opposition, PML-N, PPP, PTI, MQM, BAP, NP, NDM and JUI-F, from all provinces, were represented. They discussed the results of the recently-concluded 3rd Plenum of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and its impact on China and its foreign relations...



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan being briefed by Chairman National Highway Authority in the departmental briefing of National Highway Authority.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Mr. Qaisar Ahmed Sheikh was chief guest in the special event program organized by Pak-China Institute in COMSTECH Auditorium.

High quality network of roads, motorways being built the country: Aleem

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization, and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan said on Wednesday that a network of high-quality highways and motorways was being laid in the country. In future, no motorway will be constructed with less than six lanes while the motorways from Karachi to Sukkhar and Sialkot, Kharian to Islamabad will be the top priority of the National Highway Authority (NHA)...

He further directed that all motorways should be constructed with at least three lanes on one side so that these can fulfill the needs of the future. He said the NHA should collect maximum revenue by constructing a toll plaza for heavy traffic, and public and private transport.

available resources, professional skills, and manpower. 'NHA should be a financially stable and independent entity in the future', he remarked. Improving the means of transportation was one of the top priorities of the government while creating a business model compatible with modern requirements has become inevitable as well. 'By introducing a new vision in NHA, we should not only enhance our capacity globally by offering our expert services to other countries but also earn a significant amount of foreign exchange', he added.

NHA Chairman while giving a briefing to the Minister said that in the current situation, it was a bitter reality that only 13% of toll tax was being collected from the NHA highways. He further informed that the process of refinement has been started in the light of the instructions. Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he 'very much hopes that member states, in their wisdom, will bring the process of Security Council reform to a result'.

Pakistan urges push for narrowing differences

UNITED NATIONS (APP): The United Nations General Assembly Tuesday unanimously decided that the long-running inter-governmental negotiations (IGN) on restructuring the UN Security Council will continue during its upcoming 79th session, with Pakistan calling the process 'the most appropriate platform' to pursue 15-member body's reform.

'We welcome the adoption of the oral decision today to 'roll over' the negotiations on Security Council reform within the IGN process,' Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the 193-member Assembly after the vote. With the aim of 'instilling new life' into the discussions on Security Council reform, the General Assembly further decided to include in its next session's agenda the item entitled 'Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council'.

Despite a general agreement on enlarging the Council, as part of the UN reform process, member states remain divided over the details. Full-scale negotiations to reform the Security Council began in the General Assembly in February 2009 on five clusters—the categories of membership, the question of veto, regional representation, size of an enlarged Security Council, and working methods of the council and its relationship with the General Assembly.

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QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shaheel Qadir Khan presenting shield to Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

CM, Governor Balochistan urged to establish Information Commission

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) has once again called on the Government of Balochistan to take immediate action to establish the Balochistan Information Commission, as mandated by the Balochistan Right to Information Act 2021.

Despite repeated letters to various authorities, including the Chief Minister, Governor, and key legislative officials, no progress has been made in appointing the members of the Commission, a delay that undermines the fundamental right to information and violates the law, a news release said. The latest letters were sent to Governor of Balochistan, Shaikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail and other officials urging them to facilitate the establishment of the Commission.

This follows several earlier communications, including letters dated March 12, May 07, June 07, and August 01, 2024, addressed to Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, Chief Minister of Balochistan. These letters highlighted the provincial government's failure to appoint Commission members within the legally mandated period of 120 days from the commencement of the Act.

Access to information is not just a legal right; it is a pillar of democratic governance,' said Mukhtar Ahmad Ali, Executive Director of CPDI.



ISLAMABAD: Employees of PWD scuffle with the police during a sit-in protest (Dharna) in favor of their demands at Srinagar Highway in the Federal Capital.

Information Commission Balochistan's website launched, hailed as milestone

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Information Commission Balochistan's website has been launched, marking a significant milestone in promoting transparency and access to information in the province. Secretary Information Imran Khan praised the efforts of the Commission in implementing the Right to Information Act.

The website was launched during a meeting attended by IT expert Abdul Astar Baloch, Executive Director Adil Jehangir, Director General Public Relations Muhammad Noor Khetran, and other officials. Speaking at the meeting, Adil Jehangir said that the Commission plans to celebrate International Day for Universal Access to Information for the first time in Balochistan in collaboration with the Information Department. Muhammad Noor Khetran emphasized the need for a user-friendly website that provides easy access to information for the public. Other officials, including Mir Bahram Baloch, Mir Bahram Lehri, and Rana Ahson, suggested uploading awareness material on the website to educate the public about their right to information.

The launch of the website is seen as a significant step towards promoting transparency and accountability in Balochistan.



QUETTA: Team of AD Balochistan briefed Provincial Secretary Imran Khan and Director General Public Relations Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran regarding website of Information Commission

Our players are second to none in intelligence, potential: Governor

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that our players are second to none in intelligence and potential, but they need opportunities and necessary facilities. He was addressing ceremony of All Balochistan Arshad Khan Master Weightlifting Championship at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIEMS) here on Wednesday. The Advisor and Parliamentary Secretary, Nasimur Rehman Musakhail, Mir Asghar Rind, Barkat Ali Rind, Member Provincial Assembly, Ms. Salma Kakar, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafaqaat and Director General of Sports, Dr. Yasir Bazi.

Addressing the participants, the Governor said we have to strengthen the sports sector in the province. He stressed that equal opportunities should be provided to all talented sports persons so that they may brighten the name of our country. He also said that Pakistan has a big name and place in the world of sports at international level. He said that the world-fame squash player, Jahangir Khan has been declared as one of the best players of 1,000 years as he maintained his victory in 555 matches. Similarly, the gold medalist Arshad Nadeem brightened the name of country and nation by setting new record.

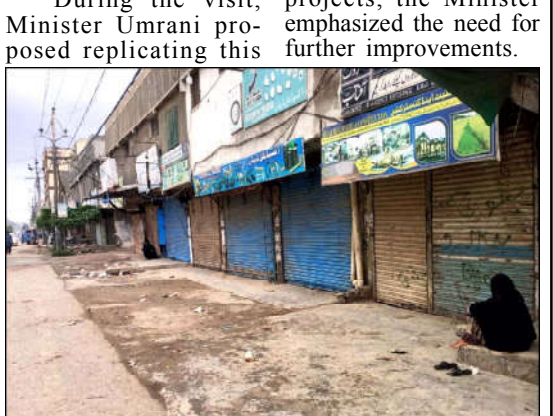
DC Jhal Magasi cracks down on absenteeism at Veterinary Hospital

JHAL MAGSI: In a surprise move, Deputy Commissioner Jhal Magasi, Syed Rehmatullah Shah, visited the Veterinary Hospital in Gandawah and expressed strong displeasure over the absence of key staff members. He promptly issued orders to issue show-cause notices to those who failed to report for duty. The DC's visit comes in the wake of the district's recent struggles with livestock diseases and floods in 2022, which had a devastating impact on the local animal population. He emphasized the critical need for preventive measures, vaccination drives, and strict maintenance of cleanliness and attendance at veterinary centers to safeguard the public's animals from diseases.

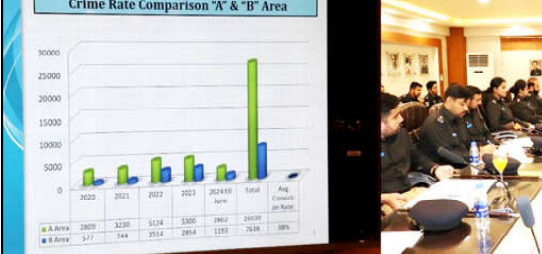
He suggested adopting the Ömerli Dam as a model for future irrigation initiatives in Balochistan to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of water management in the region. Although the irrigation department is already implementing integrated water resources management in several projects, the Minister emphasized the need for further improvements.

Umrani visits Ömerli Dam in Çekmeköy, Istanbul

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Minister for Irrigation, Government of Balochistan, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, visited the Ömerli Dam located in the Çekmeköy district of Istanbul Province, accompanied by senior officials. The dam, which was constructed based on the principles of integrated water resources management, features upstream watershed management, significant water storage capacity, and downstream irrigation to support agricultural activities. During the visit, Minister Umrani proposed replicating this strategic approach in Balochistan. Although the irrigation department is already implementing integrated water resources management in several projects, the Minister emphasized the need for further improvements. He suggested adopting the Ömerli Dam as a model for future irrigation initiatives in Balochistan to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of water management in the region. Although the irrigation department is already implementing integrated water resources management in several projects, the Minister emphasized the need for further improvements.



HUB: View of business activities seen shutdown due to strike called by Business Community against rising sales and advance taxes, inflated electricity bills and the FBR's fixed tax policy, in Hub.



QUETTA: Under trainee officers of National Police Academy Islamabad being briefed during their visit to Levies Directorate. DG Levies Naseebullah Kakar is also present

Fintech industry leaders meet Chairman NADRA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Industry leaders from Pakistan's fintech sector on Wednesday met with Chairman NADRA Lieutenant General Muhammad Munir Afsar and presented the current landscape, status and challenges to the industry. The discussions focused on the progress made by fintechs, the potential they offer for growth, innovation and the challenges faced by the industry, said a press release. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman NADRA acknowledged the pivotal role of fintechs in driving financial inclusion and digital transformation in Pakistan and expressed his strong commitment to supporting the industry. He also emphasized the need for a collaborative approach to overcome the challenges and assured the industry leaders that NADRA is fully aligned with the vision of a financially inclusive Pakistan. He further said that the authority is keen to work closely with fintechs to develop solutions that will streamline processes and enhance the overall digital experience for consumers.

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Training Program on Google Workspace held for Info Dept officials

QUETTA: In line with the global shift towards paperless technology, a training program was organized for officials of the Information Department in Balochistan to promote digital documentation and workflow. The program was conducted under the directives of Provincial Secretary Information Imran Khan and Director General Public Relations Muhammad Noor Khetran. The training focused on its applications, providing detailed insights into its usage and benefits. Officials from the Information Department, including Director Syed Tanveer Akhtar, Director Saeed Ahmed Shahwani, Deputy Director Muhammad Najeebullah Langove, and Deputy Director Syed Jafar Shah, attended the program. System Analyst Muhammad Asim Durani and Information Cell DGPR Zainul Abideen provided training and highlighted the ease of using Google Workspace.

PM approves transfer of NESPAK from Power to Cabinet Division

ISLAMABAD (Online): Right-sizing continues in the institutions by the federal government, it has been decided to transfer the control of NESPAK, a subsidiary of the Power Division, to the Cabinet Division. The PM gave green signal for transferring NESPAK.

Rs. 320 m approved for flood protection embankment to save DAY from floodwaters

QUETTA (APP): Member of the Balochistan Assembly, Abdul Majeed Badini, on Wednesday said that the provincial government has approved Rs. 320 million for a flood protection embankment to save Dera Allah Yar from floodwaters. The Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfray Bugti, has also approved Rs. 180 million for the strengthening of drainage canals in Jaffarabad city. Talking to APP, he said Dera Allah Yar faces a significant sewage issue as there has been no sewage system since the beginning. Due to a lack of proper management, no development work has been carried out in the past in Jaffarabad district, leading to increased unemployment numerous problems. He noted that there is no existing sewage system in Dera Allah Yar, and rainwater remains stagnant in the streets, homes, and roads, causing the city to appear flooded. He further stated that this is a waterlogged and flood-prone area, and the water does not get absorbed for a whole month. MPA Majeed Badini deplored that during the floods of 2010 and 2012, the entire Jaffarabad was submerged, and water remained stagnant for four months. The 2024 floods again affected the area, and recent rains have once again impacted it. The Chief Minister of Balochistan has approved Rs. 180 million for the strengthening of drainage canals and has also approved a flood protection embankment, which will help resolve these issues, he helped. Expressing his displeasure over poor management issue, he said the lack of resources is not the problem, but the issues remain unresolved due to poor management, with no one fulfilling their responsibilities. From 2010 to 2022, the government and NGOs spent billions on development projects, but the ground situation is contrary to this, as not a single brick is visible in Jaffarabad.

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