

Independent

dailyindish@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Gwadar

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XX No. 56, Safar 28, 1446 AH Tuesday September 03, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs.15

CM calls on Chairman PPP, briefs about recent wave of terrorism, flood situation in Balochistan

Independent Report
 QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti called on the Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in Zardari House, Islamabad on Monday. During the course of meeting, there was discussion about the political situation of Balochistan between the Chief Minister and Chairman PPP.

Baseless litigation causes increase in number of pending cases: CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa on Monday remarked that the baseless litigation used to waste the courts' time and lead to an increase in the number of pending cases. He gave these remarks during a hearing of a case regarding the distribution of property. The CJP noted that litigations was done on a property dispute after the



QUETTA: Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Imran Zarkoon presenting appreciation certificate to MD Trauma Center Dr. Kamran Kasi on behalf of Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti

CM awards certificate of appreciation to MD Trauma Center

Independent Report
 QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has awarded a certificate of appreciation to Managing Director Trauma Center Dr. Arbab Kamran Kasi for his outstanding performance. The certificate was received by Dr. Arbab Kamran Kasi from the Chief Minister's Personal Secretary, Mr. Imran Zarkoon. This move by the Chief Minister is expected to bring further improve-

Jatak describes publicising all completed projects in newspapers as big achievement of government

Independent Report
 QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Mir Ali Madad Jatak has stated that publicising all development projects completed during the financial year 2023-24 in the newspapers is a big achievement of the incumbent government. The credit of this goes to the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, maintained by the Provincial Minister while speaking to different delegations who called on him here on Monday. Jatak said that there's no such example in the history of the province even Pakistan that all the projects were publicised in the newspapers. The Minister said that this would not only help aware the general public about the projects, but it would also update them about the incomplete and substandard projects. The people may register their complaints about the projects at the complaint cells of the Chief Minister's secretary and of the Commissioners of the concerned divisions.

Azam Nazeer Tarar says Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa not interested in extension

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Law Azam Nazeer Tarar says Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa is not interested in extension of his tenure. Speaking to media in Islamabad, Tarar clarified



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti photographed with Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Treasury and Opposition benches join hands against terrorism: Joint resolution condemning terrorism acts of August 25 & 26 tabled in BA

Independent Report
 QUETTA: The joint condemnation resolution was tabled in Balochistan Assembly condemning the terrorists' attacks made in different areas of the province in the midnight of August 25 and 26, 2024. The Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Mir Ali Madad Jatak tabled the joint condemnation resolution on behalf of the provincial Minister and parliamentary secretaries Wali Muhammad Noorzai, Mir Muhammad Asghar Rind, Barkat Ali Rind, Sanjay Kumar and Ms. Mina Majeed Baloch. The Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Ms. Ghazala Gola was in the chair. According to the content of the resolution, the cowardly and barbaric attacks were made in different areas by the anti-state terrorists in between

the nights of August 25 and 26. These incidents included the gory incident of Musa khail which took place at Rad sham area in which 23 innocent and armless citizens were mercilessly martyred after offloading them from the passenger buses and trucks. Some 35 vehicles were also set ablaze by the terrorists. In the resolution it was stated that these gory incidents are being condemned worldwide. The resolution strongly condemned the cowardly, terrorism and barbaric acts of the terrorist organization and the Baloch Yakjehti Committee which blocked the roads in the whole province causing agony to the people of areas. The House paid homage to personnels of security forces and law enforcement agencies on martyr-



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal chairing a meeting to review the progress of Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) projects in Balochistan.

Election Tribunal dismisses petition against winning candidate in PB-34

Independent Report
 QUETTA: The Election Tribunal 1, comprising Justice Abdullah Baloch of the Balochistan High Court, has dismissed the election petition filed by Muhammad Rahim Mengal of the Balochistan National Party (Mengal) against the winning candidate, Mir Ghulam Dastagir Badini of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, in the PB-34 constituency of Nushki. The tribunal, after examining the evidence and records, found that the petition filed by Muhammad Rahim Mengal was not maintainable under Section 144(4) of the Election Act, 2017, and was dismissed due to various legal flaws. Rahim Mengal was represented by his counsel, Jameel Ahmed Babai, Advocate, while Mir Ghulam Dastagir Badini was represented by Kamran Murtaza, Adnan Ejaz, and Khalil-ur-Rehman, Advocates. The Government of Balochistan was represented by Nusrat Baloch, Assistant Advocate General.

Approval accorded to set up new National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency: NA told

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar apprised the National Assembly that approval has been given to set up new National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency in the country as FIA lacked cyber-crimes investigation capacity. Responding to supplementary questions during the Question Hour, the minister said that hand-holding would continue till fully operationalization of new cyber crime investigation agency. It would also be examined which employees of FIA would be merged in the new cyber-crime investigation agency, he added. He said that cyber crimes cases already with FIA would not be ended rather these would be transferred to the new agency. The minister said that employees of abolished ministries would either be retained or be given golden handshake. After dissolution of Public Works Department (PWD), some of its employees would be retained while others would be given golden handshake, he added. To a separate question, the minister said that the government has taken some new initiatives for skills development of youth in the country. National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC) was being revamped, he added. Attaullah Tarar said local manpower would be trained as per market demand of other countries. The IT exports witnessed increased and was recorded as \$ 3.1 billion, he added. To another question, he said that proper survey was being carried out before construction of any road adding that it was need of the hour to construct 10th Avenue. After traffic count, it was decided whether the road would be constructed or not, he added.

PM hails major achievement Pakistan's annual inflation slows to 9.6%, first single-digit stat in nearly 3 years

August annual CPI figures down from 27.4% this time last year and 11.1% in July; Govt's prudent policies steering country's economy towards stability, says PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): The core inflation measured by Consumer Price Index (CPI) decelerated further to 9.6 percent during August 2024 as compared to 11.1 percent recorded during July 2024, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported Monday. According to PBS data, the CPI based inflation during the same month of last year (August 2023) was recorded at 27.4%. On month-on-month basis, it increased to 0.4% in August 2024 as compared to an increase of 2.1% in the previous month and an increase of 1.7% in August 2023. According to data, CPI inflation Urban increased to 11.7% on year-on-year basis in August 2024 as compared to an increase of 13.2% in the previous month and 25.0% in August 2023. On month-on-month basis, it increased to 0.3% in August 2024 as compared to an increase of 2.0% in the previous month and an increase of 1.6% in August 2023. CPI inflation Rural, increased to 6.7% on year-on-year (YoY) basis in August 2024 as compared to an increase of 8.1% in the previous month and 30.9% in August 2023. On month-on-month (MoM) basis, it increased to 0.6% in August 2024 as compared to an increase of 2.2% in the previous month and an increase of 1.9% in August 2023. The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) inflation on YoY increased to 10.8% in August 2024 as compared to an increase of 15.7% a month earlier and 27.9% in August 2023. On MoM basis, it decreased to 0.3% in August 2024 as compared to an increase of 2.0% a month earlier and an increase of 4.1% in August 2023. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation on YoY basis increased to 6.3% in August 2024 as compared to an increase of 10.4% a month earlier and an increase of 24.3% in August 2023.



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Jiang Zaidong calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Ahsan reviews ongoing PSDP projects in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal, also Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, on Monday presided over a meeting to review ongoing projects under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) in Balochistan. During the briefing, the meeting was informed about the progress of PSDP projects in the province, a news release said. The minister said all-out efforts were being made to ensure the provision of funds for Balochistan's projects. He also stressed the need for measures to address the security situation in the province, suggesting that Frontier Corps (FC) services be entrusted to local people with necessary training. The minister asked provinces to prepare action plans for PSDP projects according to their priorities, adding that projects with 70 percent completion would be prioritized for timely completion.

PM seeks enhanced collaboration with China in key sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that Pakistan aims to enhance its collaboration with China in areas such as information technology, artificial intelligence, modern agriculture, and other sectors. In a conversation with Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, the prime minister remarked that the friendship between Pakistan and China has endured and remained strong throughout the years. He stated that the friendship between Pakistan and China has with-

We will go for talks with those who have decision power: Imran Khan

RAWALPINDI (Online): PTI founder Imran Khan has said he is already for talks and has never refused to talk. "We will talk to them who have decision power, if I am appointed chancellor of Oxford University then it will be matter of honor for Pakistan," he said this in an informal talk with the journalists in Adiala jail here Monday. We have given mandate to Mehmood Khan Achakzai and if he brings some offer from them then the talks will go ahead. If we talk to them it means we have accepted fraud election. He held "they say us to talk. What talk we can go for with them who fear if election is opened then their politics will come to end. 2 records will be written in Guinness book of record. One this they gave respect to boot and second record will be recorded Nawaz Sharif sought support of 4 chiefs and even then he lost the election. Nawaz Sharif kept on saying vote ko izzat do for two and half years."



QUETTA: Acting President Balochistan National Party Sajid Tareen Advocate addressing a public gathering on eve of 3rd death anniversary of founder of BNP Sardar Attaullah Mengal

Bill seeking increase in number of SC judges lands in Senate

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Seeking an amendment to the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1997, a bill was tabled in the Senate on Monday to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court to 20 other than the chief justice — to "address the rising number of pending cases". The bill titled "Supreme Court (Number of Judges) (Amendment) Act", 2024, was presented by an independent senator from Balochistan, Mohammad Abdul Qadir. He sought the increase in the number of top court judges from 17 to 21 as "more than 53,000 cases" pending in the apex court.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and MPs expressing their views on condemnation resolutions presented in Balochistan Assembly

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Bad air

A recent report by the Air Quality Life Index delivers a sobering message for South Asia on its air pollution outlook.

Though the report highlights an 18pc decline in air pollution in 2022, attributed largely to above-normal rainfall, it also underscores the grim reality that air pollution remains the most significant external threat to public health in the region — including Pakistan. It highlights that South Asia continues to grapple with dangerously high levels of air pollution and that, despite the recent decline, the region still accounts for a staggering 45pc of total life years lost due to pollution. It paints a worrying picture: if the World Health Organisation's air quality guidelines were met, the average person in South Asia would gain 3.5 years in life expectancy. In Pakistan, the situation is equally alarming. While the report notes a 10pc decline in particulate matter levels in 2022, the average resident's life expectancy is still reduced by 3.3 years due to air pollution. In cities like Peshawar and Lahore, where pollution levels are even higher, life expectancy is shortened by over five years.

One of the most striking aspects of the AQLI report is its focus on inequality. It reveals that people living in the most polluted areas breathe air that is six times more polluted than those in the least polluted areas. Consequently, their life expectancy is reduced by an average of 2.7 years. This inequality in pollution exposure reflects broader socioeconomic disparities and underscores the need for targeted interventions in the most affected regions.

This report should ring alarm bells for our leaders, but instead this subject is largely met with indifference. The increase in the number of vehicles and the reliance on fossil fuels for electricity generation have been major contributors to the country's pollution crisis. Since the early 2000s, the number of vehicles has quadrupled, while electricity generation from fossil fuels in Pakistan and neighbouring countries has tripled from 1998 to 2017. Without significant policy changes, the demand for energy and the corresponding pollution levels are likely to rise further, exacerbating the public health crisis. In the past, citizens' attempts to report high pollution with independent monitors have been met with criticism and denial. The government must take stock of this report and make long-term policy decisions to protect the future of its citizens. In the landmark Shehla Zia case, the Supreme Court declared the right to a healthy environment to be part of the fundamental constitutional rights of all citizens. While the state has taken initiatives like installing more pollution monitors and shutting down factories during high-pollution periods, they need to be part of a broader, more comprehensive strategy that includes promoting electric vehicles, transitioning to cleaner technologies in industries and enforcing stricter emissions standards.

The VNSA threat

Mohammad Ali Babakhel

Modern states are faced with numerous traditional and non-traditional security challenges, including threats from Violent Non-State Actors (VNSAs). VNSAs are usually defined as groups that employ violence and propagate and support extremism for the furtherance of their ideological or political objectives. Since most of today's armed conflicts take place within states, the VNSA phenomenon can also be described as 'the enemy within'.

VNSAs either attract volunteers or recruit activists by force. They have a hierarchy and command structure that usually operates outside state control or influence. Where a chain of command is absent, VNSAs exist as loosely organised groups. In exceptional situations, some VNSAs control territory and have established parallel administrative control. Some VNSAs may have clearly defined political objectives, while others operate in ambiguity. Some are active in rural areas, while others are mainly in urban areas. Groups active in urban areas require more sophistication and proficiency. A few groups prefer targeting the military, while others prefer civilians. Some groups appoint women in important roles; in others, they serve in support roles.

VNSAs can take full advantage of the weaknesses in a state's internal and external security policies and may derive their strength from neighbouring or powerful states. Some groups exert considerable influence on the daily lives and activities of the people within their territory. For example, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in the Philippines,

the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Sri Lanka, and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in South Sudan have wielded considerable influence in the past.

However, the scale of territorial control is not the sole factor determining the success of such groups. Even without territorial control, VNSAs may be able to cause great disturbances or create disorder. A group may not aim to change the regime but merely to destabilise the state. On the other hand, territorial control enables a group to exploit resources, indulge in illegal businesses, and introduce speedy and inexpensive justice, improved health facilities, and environmental protection standards. In a few instances, VNSAs have tried to redistribute wealth, protect local people, and offer basic social services. The introduction of the concept of 'revolutionary justice' provides a sense of protection to common folk and improves support for VNSAs within the community.

VNSAs influence the distribution and exploitation of local resources and individual identities. Upon joining the group, individuals adopt an alias or a nom de guerre, ensuring their protection and gaining a new identity at the expense of their family identity. The organisational identity of members assumes priority, especially for young members, who may feel more valued and elevated within their new family. As members of this new family, they adopt new norms, values, and behaviour patterns.

Social resources, such as shared beliefs, expectations and norms within certain ethnic, religious, cultural, and ideological groups can

recruit 'high-commitment' individuals. On the other hand, the opportunity to exploit economic resources, such as by extracting natural resources, taxation, criminal activity, or external patronage, may attract 'low-commitment' individuals seeking short-term personal gain. This creates a distinction between 'activist' and 'opportunistic' groups. For example, the PKK may be classified as an activist group, while the Revolutionary United Front in Sierra Leone can be characterised as an opportunist group.

The operational presence of VNSAs within states raises questions about the efficacy of the state apparatus and indicates the need for introspection. Such circumstances warrant a national-level kinetic option or regional or international military action. Globalisation has strengthened VNSAs, as planning, training, financing, facilitation, and targeting operations are now conducted in different parts of the world. Besides employing a coercive approach, states must also opt for an inclusive approach where appropriate. Deradicalisation and reintegration should be top priorities. A living state has to be protective and humane. It must act as a shield for innocent citizens, protecting them from extremists.

Globalisation, technology, and innovation have enabled VNSAs to be innovative, keeping themselves unpredictable and testing the patience of states, governments, and people.

Without cooperation among states, the use of technology, and an active role of the public in countering narratives, defeating VNSAs will remain an elusive dream. -- Courtesy Dawn

SCO's ambitions

Huma Yusuf

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi last week told the Senate that the coordinated attacks across Balochistan were aimed at subverting the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting, which Pakistan will host this October. Linking the militant attacks to the SCO highlights how high stakes the upcoming meet is for Islamabad. But how significant is the SCO in Pakistan's broader foreign policy landscape?

The focus on the Balochistan attacks' implications for the SCO is largely driven by bilateral India-Pakistan dynamics, as Islamabad wants to hear back from Delhi regarding India's attendance. India has not attended any Saarc meetings in Pakistan since 2016, and any high-level participation in the SCO meet would be a major departure from Delhi's current approach to non-engagement.

Whether or not India shows up, regional terrorism is likely to be top of the agenda. The SCO, after all, has its roots in security cooperation, fighting what the organisation terms are the 'three evil forces': terrorism, separatism and religious extremism.

In recent years, security and counterterrorism discussions have focused on Afghanistan's role in fuelling regional terrorism. Afghanistan is an observer at the SCO, but the Afghan Taliban-led government has not been invited to meetings, as members disagree about how to engage the country. They agree, however, that stability and effective counterterrorism in Afghanistan is a top priority for the wider region. Given that our Foreign Office just declined an Afghan Taliban offer to

mediate with the TTP, one can expect robust discussions on how to tackle Afghanistan-based militant groups at the summit.

The Balochistan attacks will feature too. India has often made veiled statements about Pakistan's role in regional terrorism at SCO forums. Given longstanding concerns about India's backing of Baloch militant groups, Islamabad will take the opportunity to land a reverse blow.

But this is also why the SCO is unlikely to be more than a talking shop. While it is growing in size and significance, frequently framed as a Eurasian counterpoint to Nato, it is too plagued by tensions among its members to take meaningful strides as a bloc. Beyond the India-Pakistan rivalry, there's the India-China dynamic, with New Delhi still wary of throwing its support behind a Beijing-led enterprise.

The simmering tensions don't end there. There are sectarian tensions (say, between Iran and Afghanistan), and the underlying resentment among Central Asian states who feel increasingly sidelined as the SCO evolves from a small, security-focused regional grouping to a geopolitical platform with Eurasian and anti-Western ambitions (Belarus became a member in July; dialogue partner Turkey is considering membership despite its Nato links; and the SCO itself is eyeing simpatico countries like Hungary as potential members to further extend the organisation's reach into Europe).

As it grows, the SCO has sought to expand its scope beyond regional security by floating plans for increased connectivity, joint energy infrastructure, banking platforms to enable local currency transaction (and so reduce members' dependence on the

dollar) and boosting regional trade. But the economic competitive dynamics between China and India, and China's reluctance to share its tech know-how with Russia, keeping it in the position of a captive consumer rather than a rival producer, continue to curtail these economic aspirations.

In his book, The New Cold War, Robin Niblett argues that China and Russia are making overtures across the Global South because they are seeking to build international appetite for their autocratic political systems. In this context, part of the driver for growing and empowering a multilateral grouping such as the SCO could be to create forums where autocratic approaches — such as the suppression of free speech and dissent or limits to judicial independence in the name of national security — are normalised. There is a danger that the SCO becomes a grouping of countries seeking to walk away, hand in hand, from democratic principles.

This is a scenario that Pakistan — an ostensible, multiethnic, multi-linguistic, religiously diverse and youth-oriented democracy — should seek to avoid, particularly in its current chairmanship of the SCO HOG council.

It could do that by opting to veer the discussion away from security considerations alone, to include human rights considerations in discussions about Afghanistan. What, for instance, are the SCO members going to do about the latest Afghan Taliban edicts that seek to erase women from the public sphere entirely? Without tackling fundamental topics such as human dignity and prosperity, the SCO will only ever get so far. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Denmark wants to invest in Pakistan's mining industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Denmark on Monday expressed its commitment to investing in and modernizing Pakistan's mining industry during a high-level meeting.

The interest was expressed by a delegation of FL Smidth headed by the CEO Mikko Keto including Chris Reinbold, president of Mining Products, Iqar Hussain, global key account project manager during a meeting with Federal Ministers Dr Musadik Malik, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Abdul Aleem Khan, Jam

Kamal Khan, said a news release. The Danish Ambassador to Pakistan, Jakob Linulf, was also in attendance.

FL Smidth, a leading global supplier of technology and services to the mining and cement industries, has been active in Pakistan for over three decades.

The company has played a significant role in the development of the country's cement industry, having supplied approximately 60-70% of the cement plants in

Pakistan.

In 2017, FL Smidth expanded its operations by opening an after-sales service office in Islamabad, employing a local workforce to provide comprehensive services to cement plants across the country. The company is now looking to extend its expertise to Pakistan's mining sector.

Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik, welcomed the Danish delegation and highlighted the government's focus on the mining sector. He said that

the partnership with FL Smidth would go beyond financial investment, including the transfer of technology, training, capacity building, and introducing new ways of thinking.

He also mentioned the government's strategy to establish small industrial clusters to enhance competitiveness.

Jakob Linulf, the Danish Ambassador, said that Pakistan holds a significant place on Denmark's agenda, with growing momentum for collaboration.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Ministers Dr. Musadik Malik, Abdul Aleem Khan, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Jam Kamal held a meeting with CEO of FL Smidth Mikko Keto and Danish Ambassador H.E. Jakob Linulf.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi is called on by representative delegation of UK-Pakistan Trade & Investment Board at Governor House.

Finance Minister holds review meeting with Pak, Kuwait Investment Company

ISLAMABAD (APP): The finance minister commended Pak-Kuwait Investment Company for its strategic contributions to Pakistan's economy, especially in sectors vital to the nation's long-term development. He specifically acknowledged PKIC's proactive approach to integrating Islamic finance into its operations, noting that this approach not only aligns with Pakistan's development priorities but also resonates with the broader goals of ethical and sustainable growth.

On the occasion, Saad ur Rehman Khan provided an overview of PKIC's current portfolio, highlighting the PKIC's initiatives in the real estate sector leveraging Islamic finance structures to fund major infrastructure projects addressing Pakistan's investment needs while ensuring that investment activities adhere to Islamic principles, thereby attracting a broader range of investors. The discussions also highlighted PKIC's dedication to supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across Pakistan.

Rana Tanveer assures stable sugar prices amid surplus stock

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Industry and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Monday chaired a meeting of the Sugary Advisory Board (SAB) that reviewed the availability of the commodity stock and its price.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, a news release said.

The government reaffirmed its benchmark condition for the retail price of sugar for export,

ensuring a stable market price.

According to reports, the average retail price of sugar has decreased by RS 2 per kilogram, and the market price remained steady.

Rana Tanveer Hussain said there was a surplus stock of sugar in the country, and any price increase would be unacceptable. The government's commitment to maintaining stable sugar prices aims to protect consumers' interests and prevent price hikes.

RCCI organizes 'Hum Se Hai Pakistan'

RAWALPINDI (APP): In a spirit of national pride and recognition of the vital role of women in Pakistan's development and progress, the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has organized the event titled, "Hum Se Hai Pakistan - Celebrating Independence Day 2024" at the chamber house.

According to the details, Beenish Fatima, Chief Traffic Officer of City Traffic Police, was the chief guest on the

occasion. Several distinguished personalities, including Kanwal Cheema, Founder and CEO of My Impact Meter, Abida Malik, President of Behbud Association and Awaiz Manzoor Tarar, Additional Director General RDA also attended the event. These notable figures, along with other esteemed guests, were welcomed by RCCI President Saqib Rafiq and Group Leader Sohail Altaf.

Senate body told Initiatives undertaken to enhance country's water storage

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Water Resources on Monday apprised that the ministry has undertaken initiatives to increase the country's water storage and the share of hydropower generation in the overall energy mix.

The committee which met with Shahadat Awan in the Chair was further told that as of now, there are six ongoing projects being financed by the Federal Government. These

projects include Diamer Basha Dam, Mohmand Dam, Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme, Nai Gaj Dam, Kachhi Canal Project, and Dasu Hydropower Project.

The installed capacity of Diamer Basha Dam is 4500 MW and it will be completed in December 2029, while the installed capacity of Mohmand Dam is 800 MW and it will be completed in December 2025. Briefing the

Committee, Secretary of the Ministry of Water Resources, Syed Ali Murtaza said that the focus is on the development of the country's water resources and six entities were assigned to the ministry, namely WAPDA, IRSA, Federal Flood Commission, Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), CEA, and Pakistan Commission for Indus Water (PCIW).

Public transport fares reduced by 2 percent

SARGODHA (APP): In a move to provide relief to the public following the government's decision to reduce the prices of petroleum products, the Secretary Regional Transport Authority (RTA), Malik Muhammad Tahir, held a meeting with public and goods transporters on Monday. During the meeting, it was agreed to immediately reduce fares by two percent. The Secretary of the RTA stated that since the government has reduced the rates of diesel and petrol, transporters should also reduce their fares accordingly.

Punjab internship program launched for Agricultural graduates

SARGODHA (APP): In a significant move to enhance the agricultural sector in Punjab, the provincial government has initiated an Agriculture Transformation Program aimed at providing internships to young agricultural graduates. As many as 41 selected candidates from the district received their one-year internship offer letters during a ceremony led by Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA) of Pakistan Muslim League-

N Rana Munawar Ghous Khan and Assistant Commissioner Sargodha Amina Ehsan Tarar on Monday. The ceremony was attended by Agriculture department officials, including Director of Agriculture Shahid Hussain and Deputy Director Masood Saqib. The PML-N MPA Rana Munawar Ghous congratulated the selected agricultural graduates while emphasizing the dual benefits of the program.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi in a meeting with the representative of delegation of International Lawyers Association at Governor House.

CM Punjab reviews green transport system project

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has reviewed the Green Transport System project under which 5,000 electric buses will be run across Punjab. In the first phase 1,000 buses would be provided to start the project in major cities of Punjab and in five years, an "end-to-end" green transport system will be launched in major cities.

In a meeting with a Chinese delegation led by Liu Junhua, Chairman of Chinese vehicle company Chongqing CRH Hang Tong, here on Monday, the CM discussed the launch of a proposed Green Transport System Project in Punjab. The CM said, "We want a complete green transport system for the people of big cities. China is leading in every sphere of life, we are eager to benefit from their cooperation and expertise" the CM said. She said that traffic jam is a big problem, environmental pollution is also increasing, adding that people are increasingly being attracted towards electric vehicles. "We are eager to benefit from China's skills in the transport sector" she pledged.

CM Maryam Nawaz said Chinese transport companies will be welcomed in Lahore and will be fully supported. She added, "We want to run bullet trains, metro buses and electrified buses in every district of Punjab. Many areas of Lahore need a transport system. We want to completely redesign the transport system of Punjab. We want transport infrastructure.

Punjab government launches innovative 'Smart Classroom' project with Huawei

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Sharif has unveiled the Smart Classroom Project at the government Kinnaird Girls High School, Empress Road. This cutting-edge initiative, developed in collaboration with Huawei, represents a major leap forward in transforming education in Punjab by integrating advanced technology into the classroom said a news release issued by Huawei on Monday. The Smart Classroom Project is a key component

of the "Back to School" enrollment campaign. It introduces state-of-the-art technology, including cameras that record lectures, allowing students to review and engage with lessons outside of class time. This initiative aims to enhance educational quality and make learning more interactive and accessible. Huawei's support is remarkable for this project, highlighting its strong commitment to advancing educational innovation. By integrating Huawei's advanced

technology, Punjab sets a new benchmark for educational excellence and technological integration in schools. Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz highlighted the significance of the project, stating, "Incorporating Huawei's technology into our classrooms is a testament to our commitment to providing high-quality education to every student in Punjab. Our goal is to elevate every government school to the standards of the best private institutions."

Salman Rafique chairs law and order meeting

LAHORE (APP): The 12th Law and Order meeting took place in the Home Department, chaired by Provincial Health Minister and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee for Law and Order Khawaja Salman Rafique, here on Monday. Provincial Minister Bilal Akbar Khan also attended as a committee member. The meeting involved a comprehensive review of the law and order situation across the province, with Punjab Home Secretary Noorul Amin Mengal and other relevant officers providing briefings. Khawaja Salman

Rafique emphasized that foolproof security measures will be implemented for the by-elections scheduled for September 12 in Rahim Yar Khan. "Approval has been granted to deploy three companies of the Army and Rangers in the area. Additionally, extraordinary security preparations are in place for the cricket series with Bangladesh. Efforts will be relentless in maintaining peace and order in Punjab. Those disrupting public order will be dealt with firmly, and operations will persist until the last terrorist in the Kacha area is eliminated."



LAHORE: Provincial Health Minister and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee for Law and Order Khawaja Salman Rafique chairs 12th Law and Order meeting at Home Department.

Pb. Govt starts sewage projects in 200 cities: LG Minister

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq said on Monday that water supply and sewage projects had been started in 200 cities of 35 districts of Punjab. A meeting was held at the office of Punjab Municipal Development Fund Company (PMDFC) with Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq in the chair. The ongoing and new projects for providing municipal services at small

and big cities across the province were reviewed. Secretary Local Government Shakeel Ahmad Mian and Managing Director Punjab Municipal Development Fund Company Syed Zahid Aziz and other officials attended the meeting. The Minister said: "PMU has created a complete database of 100 cities while maps of 75 cities are also ready.

CM takes notice of acid throwing incident

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz sought a report from Inspector General Punjab about acid throwing incident in Rohelaiali, district Muzaffargarh. According to police, Bashir Ahmed, resident of Basti Mullana Banda Ishaq, along with his two sons Imran, Irfan and another companion Khadim Hussain allegedly threw acid on three women identified as Kalsoom Bibi (50), Sawaira Bibi (20) and Sania Bibi (6).

PTI chief begging for talks with Nawaz Sharif: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that Imran Khan has been begging for negotiations with Nawaz Sharif for the past one and a half years but he does not even consider it appropriate to mention the PTI chief's name. In her remarks in response to Barrister Saif's statement, she said Imran Khan is an ungrateful, backstabbing and opportunistic and no one is willing to sit with him. She

said that Imran Khan is desperately seeking negotiations, but the PML-N has no interest. "PTI's political orphans are creating imaginary scenarios on their own. One who refers their benefactors as Mir Jafar cannot be trusted," she added. Bokhari emphasized that Nawaz Sharif's politics, vision, and mission are solely focused on the development and prosperity of Pakistan. She criticized those who fail to understand the politics of Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif.

Three died, 1 injured due to rockfall in Kohistan

GILGIT (APP): A bus traveling from Rawalpindi to Gilgit was hit by a rockfall in the Kohistan area, as a result, three passengers were killed and one injured. The bus was operated by Northern Areas Transport Corporation (NATCO) Express company which offers daily services from Gilgit to Rawalpindi, Chilas, and Karachi.

Workshop held to discuss EPA role to protect environment

PESHAWAR (APP): Project Management Unit (PMU) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Integrated Tourism Development Project (KITE) arranged a one-day training workshop on Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) role to develop and enforces environmental regulations and to protect environment. EPA guidelines, WB safeguard documents compliance and KITE-GRM in Peshawar. The workshop began with a warm welcome from Project Director KITE DoT Touseef Khalid, he explained the aim of today workshop is orienting development authorities and DoAM staff on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) role and requirements. Dr. Habib Jan, Deputy Director of EPA, delivered an in-depth and comprehensive session, shedding light on the EPA's guidelines and the

significance of the EPA Act of 2014. Consultant Dr. Irfan elaborated on safeguarding documents, discussing PCRMP and ESMP, while Shafiq Ali Khan explained the KITE-Grievance Redress Mechanism. Attended by participants from Tourism department and its allied departments including Galiyat Development Authority, Kagan Development Authority, Upper Swat Development Authority, and Directorate of Archaeology and Museums KP, the workshop was meticulously crafted to equip attendees with indispensable knowledge for ensuring environmental compliance, especially within the realm of tourism projects. Additional Tourism Secretary, Mr. Yasir Ali Khan of the Department of Tourism lauded KITE's capacity-building efforts and distributed certificates to participants, emphasizing the workshop's significance.

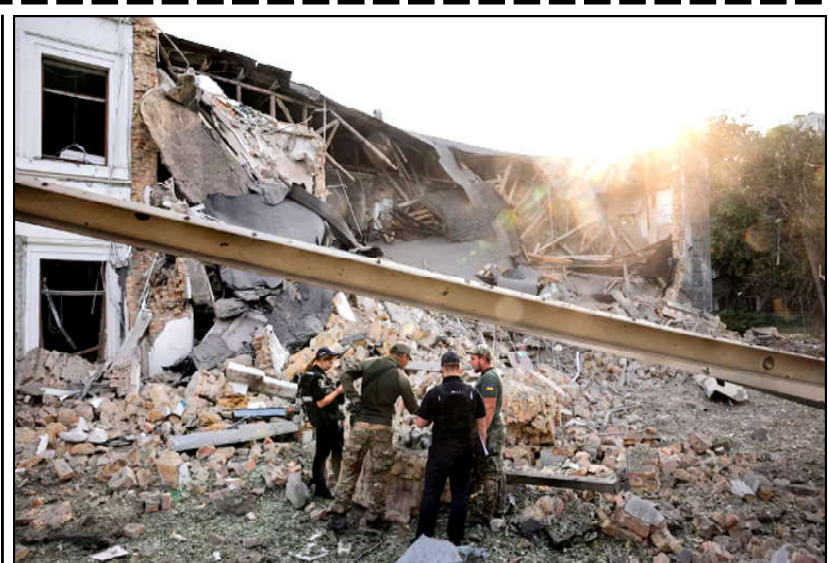
International News

Russia fires a barrage of drones, cruise and ballistic missiles at Kyiv as children return to school

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Russia launched an overnight barrage of drones and cruise and ballistic missiles at Kyiv, officials said Monday, as children prepared to return to school across Ukraine. Some pupils found classes canceled because of damage from the attack. Several series of explosions rocked the Ukrainian capital in the early hours. Debris from intercepted missiles and drones fell in every district of Kyiv, wounding three people and damaging two kindergartens, Ukraine's Interior Ministry said. City authorities reported multiple fires. After more than 900 days of the war, Russia and Ukraine show no sign of letting up in the fight or moving closer to the negotiating table. Both sides are pursuing ambitious ground offensives, with the Ukrainians driving into Russia's

Kursk region and the Russian army pushing deeper into the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine that is part of the industrial Donbas region. Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday that Ukraine's Kursk assault won't prevent Russian forces from advancing in eastern Ukraine. Ukrainian forces haven't achieved their goal of diverting Russian troops from the fighting there, he said. "The main task that the enemy set for themselves — to stop our offensive in Donbas — they haven't achieved it," Putin told school students during a trip to southern Siberia. However, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said last month that the aim of the Kursk incursion is to create a buffer zone that might prevent further attacks by Moscow across the border. Putin predicted that

Ukraine's Kursk offensive, which began Aug. 6, will fail and that subsequently Kyiv officials will want "to move to peace talks." Russia launched 35 missiles of various types and 26 Shahed drones at Ukraine overnight from Sunday to Monday, the Ukrainian air force said. Nine ballistic missiles, 13 cruise missiles and 20 drones were downed, it said. Residents of the capital hurried into the city's bomb shelters. Oksana Argunova, an 18-year-old student at a Kyiv high school, said that she was still shaking after the nighttime scare. "I woke up, my neighbor was shouting: 'Let's go down (to the shelter), there are big explosions.' We all ran," Argunova told The Associated Press. Monday was the first day back at school after the summer vacation.



Investigators inspect the site of the Russian missile strike in an office building, amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict, in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Six killed, 13 wounded in Kabul suicide bombing: police

Monitoring Desk KABUL: A suicide bomber triggered explosives in the Afghan capital on Monday, police said, killing six people and wounding 13 more. Violence has waned in Afghanistan since the 2021 Taliban takeover, however, several militant groups remain active, including the regional chapter of Islamic State. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Monday afternoon's attack, which took place in the Qala-e-Bakhtiar area of Kabul's southern outskirts. Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadran said "a person wearing explosives on his body detonated", and one woman was among the fatalities. "The injured

were transferred to hospitals on time and investigations are ongoing," he posted on social media platform X. Afghanistan's Taliban authorities have declared security their highest priority since surging back to power following the chaotic withdrawal of foreign forces three years ago. While their sweeping security operations have led to a decline in militants challenging their rule, according to analysts, they also downplay or delay confirmation of attacks. The last suicide attack in Afghanistan claimed by the regional chapter of Islamic State was in the southern city of Kandahar — the Taliban's historic stronghold.

After more than 900 days of the war, Russia and Ukraine show no sign of letting up in the fight or moving closer to the negotiating table. Both sides are pursuing ambitious ground offensives, with the Ukrainians driving into Russia's

Ukraine's Kursk offensive, which began Aug. 6, will fail and that subsequently Kyiv officials will want "to move to peace talks." Russia launched 35 missiles of various types and 26 Shahed drones at Ukraine overnight from Sunday to Monday, the Ukrainian air force said. Nine ballistic missiles, 13 cruise missiles and 20 drones were downed, it said. Residents of the capital hurried into the city's bomb shelters. Oksana Argunova, an 18-year-old student at a Kyiv high school, said that she was still shaking after the nighttime scare. "I woke up, my neighbor was shouting: 'Let's go down (to the shelter), there are big explosions.' We all ran," Argunova told The Associated Press. Monday was the first day back at school after the summer vacation.

Ukraine's Kursk offensive, which began Aug. 6, will fail and that subsequently Kyiv officials will want "to move to peace talks." Russia launched 35 missiles of various types and 26 Shahed drones at Ukraine overnight from Sunday to Monday, the Ukrainian air force said. Nine ballistic missiles, 13 cruise missiles and 20 drones were downed, it said. Residents of the capital hurried into the city's bomb shelters. Oksana Argunova, an 18-year-old student at a Kyiv high school, said that she was still shaking after the nighttime scare. "I woke up, my neighbor was shouting: 'Let's go down (to the shelter), there are big explosions.' We all ran," Argunova told The Associated Press. Monday was the first day back at school after the summer vacation.

Israel set for general strike after prisoners found dead

Monitoring Desk GAZA STRIP: Israel's main union on Sunday ordered a nationwide general strike after soldiers recovered the bodies of six prisoners from the Gaza Strip. The remains of the six were recovered on Saturday "from an underground tunnel in the Rafah area" in southern Gaza, the military said. They were among 251 hostages seized during

Hamas's Oct 7 raid on Israel, 97 of whom remain captive, including 33 the army says are dead. Scores were released during a negotiated one-week truce in November, but relatives of those still held believe not enough is being done to free them. Campaign Group the Hostages and Missing Families Forum said a negotiated "deal for the return of the prisoners" was urgently needed.

Saudi tanker, another oil ship attacked in Red Sea, sources say

Monitoring Desk LONDON: A Saudi-owned crude tanker and a separate Panama-flagged oil ship were attacked on Monday in the Red Sea off Yemen, two sources familiar with the matter said, although it was unclear if the vessels were hit by Iran-aligned Houthi militants. The sources said the Saudi-flagged Amjad and Panama-flagged Blue Lagoon 1 were sailing near to each other when they were hit, although the tankers were able to continue their voyages with no major damage assessed or any casualties.

Storm sets off floods and landslides in Philippines, leaving at least 14 dead

Monitoring Desk MANILA: A storm set off landslides and unleashed pounding rains that flooded many northern Philippine areas overnight on Monday, leaving at least 14 people dead and prompting authorities to suspend school classes and government work in the densely populated capital region. Tropical Storm Yagi slammed into Casiguran town in the northeastern province of Aurora Monday afternoon and gained strength with sustained winds of 85 kilometers (53 miles) per hour and gusts of 105 kph (65 mph), according to the weather bureau. The storm, locally called Enteng, gained speed and was moving northward at 20 kph (12 mph) toward the country's northernmost provinces. It was forecast to strengthen further, possibly becoming a typhoon, before blowing away toward southern China in the next two days, the weather bureau said. At least 14 people died, mostly due to land-

slides and drownings, officials said. A landslide hit two small shanties on a hillside in Antipolo city on Monday in Rizal province just to the west of the capital, killing at least three people, including a pregnant woman. Four other villagers drowned in swollen creeks, Antipolo's disaster-mitigation officer Enrilito Bernardo Jr. told The Associated Press by telephone. "The creeks overflowed and a part of the hillside gave in because of the heavy rains," Bernardo said. Four residents died in separate landslides in central Cebu city and North-eastern Samar province. Three others died in the eastern city of Naga — two by drowning and one due to electrocution, officials said. Storm warnings were raised in a large swath of Luzon, the country's most populous region, including in metropolitan Manila, where schools at all levels and most government work were suspended due to the storm.

Russia's Putin says his young family members speak fluent Mandarin Chinese

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Monday that young members of his family speak fluent Mandarin, though he told school children they should not forget the importance of English too despite the growing popularity of Chinese. Putin has two daughters with his ex-wife Lyudmila and they speak Russian, English, German, and French. Putin, who divorced his wife in 2014, rarely speaks about his family but has at least three grandchildren, according to Russian media. "Some of my family members, the little ones, speak Chinese too - they speak it fluently," Putin told pupils of Secondary School No. 20 in Kyzyl, Tuva, about 4,500 km (2,800 miles) east of Moscow. Amid a growing partnership

between China and Russia, Mandarin has been growing in popularity across Russia as a foreign language of choice, a trend Putin said was due to developing contacts across economics, politics and society. Putin, who speaks fluent German but has also taken lessons to improve his English, said that pupils should not forget the importance of English. "English is a great language, it has given humanity a great deal in terms of combining knowledge and uniting people in the field of culture, and so on," Putin said. Russian, English, Tatar, German and Chechen are the most widely spoken languages in Russia, according to the 2022 census. While Mandarin is spoken far less, it has been growing swiftly in popularity in recent years as a foreign language.

Taliban chief tells Afghan officials to enforce new morality law

Monitoring Desk KABUL: Taliban supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada has ordered Afghan officials to enact a sweeping new morality law curtailing women's rights and enshrining an austere vision of Islamic society. Taliban authorities last month announced the law, which includes rules that women's faces, bodies and voices should be "covered" outside the home, among 35 articles dictating behaviour and lifestyle. While many of the measures have been informally enforced since the Taliban's takeover in 2021, their formal codification sparked an outcry from the international community and rights groups. Akhundzada told civil and military officials "they should implement ... the law of promoting virtue in society".

Azerbaijan's ruling party retains parliamentary majority after snap vote

Monitoring Desk BAKU: Azerbaijan's ruling party retained its majority in snap parliamentary election, preliminary results showed, in the country's first vote since staging a lightning offensive a year ago to recapture the breakaway territory of Karabakh. The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), a rights watchdog, criticised the vote, saying it had fallen well short of democratic standards. President Ilham Aliyev's party was on course to win 68 out of 125 seats in parliament, according to pre-

liminary results from the Central Election Commission reported by the TASS news agency. It had 69 seats in the outgoing parliament. Just over 2 million people in the energy-rich nation cast their ballots, bringing the turnout at the time of the close of polling stations to 37.3%, said Central Election Commission chief Mazahir Panakhov. Exit polls suggested dozens of other seats would go to candidates who are nominally independent of political parties but in practice back the government as well as to minor pro-government parties.

China warns Japan of retaliation over potential new chip curbs

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China has warned severe economic retaliation against Japan if it further restricts sales and servicing of chipmaking equipment to Chinese firms. Bloomberg News reported on Monday, citing people familiar with the matter. Toyota Motor privately told Japanese officials that Beijing could react to the curbs by cutting Japan's access to minerals required.

Leader of Opposition in BA visits PDMA: Zehri expresses satisfaction over measures of PDMA for tackling natural disasters, emergent situation

Independent Report
 QUETTA: The Leader of Opposition in Balochistan Assembly, Mir Younas Aziz Zehri has expressed satisfaction over the measures taken by Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) for tackling the emergent situation and natural disaster in the province.

He said that the measures taken by PDMA for tackling the emergent situation following the natural calamities are satisfactory.

He said that the remarkable improvement has been witnessed in the service delivery and capacity of PDMA with increase in the modern machinery for the operational activities.

The Leader of Opposition was speaking on occasion of his visit to the PDMA office here on Monday.

The members of provincial assembly Mir Zaid Reki and Fazal Qadir were also accompanied the Leader of Opposition.

The Director General of PDMA, Jehanzab Khan briefed the Leader of Opposition and members of assembly about the operational activities and preparedness by PDMA to tackle the emergent situation following the natural disasters. While Mir Younas Zehri expressed satisfaction over the measures for tackling any emergent situation in case of the natural calamities, the members of assembly also appreciated the effective system of monitoring.



QUETTA: Opposition Leader in Balochistan Assembly, MPA Younas Aziz Zehri along with others visiting Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Headquarters in Quetta.

Consider case of Aafia as case of army chief extension in service: IHC asks AAG

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) while rejecting plea of Additional Attorney General (AAG) Munawar Iqbal Dogal for giving 5 weeks more time in Dr Aafia Siddiqui case who is imprisoned in US jail has remarked "consider it this is case of extension in army chief service."

Monday
 Imran Shafiq counsel for petitioner Fouzia Siddiqui and amicus curiae Zainab Janjua appeared in the court as well.

Clive Smith who is counsel for Fouzia Siddiqui in US appeared in the court through video link.

The court remarked Clive Smith made efforts in the case. He went to Afghanistan. There is no one among government officials who can say he stands with Smith. Justice Sardar Ejaz Khan remarked I cannot understand government fears of what. AAG Munawar Iqbal Dogal said government is supporting Aafia Siddiqui on permanent basis.

"When Dr Aafia Siddiqui returns any day to Pakistan then you should all apologize to her collectively. Let the history write one US lawyer contested this case free, these remarks were given by Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan during the hearing of petition related to release and return of Dr Aafia Siddiqui to Pakistan



HUB: Senior Member Board of Revenue Balochistan Qambar Dashti and Commissioner Kalat Division Naem Bazai receiving Provincial Advisor Industries Mir Ali Hassan Zehri upon arrival at LIEDA

Senior MBR visits Hub, presides over meeting on settlement affairs

Independent Report
 QUETTA: The senior Member Board of Revenue, Kambar Dashti visited Hub on Monday.

During the visit, the senior MBR monitored the settlement matters in Hub.

He also visited the Lasbela Industrial Estate Authority along with the Advisor to Chief Minister for Commerce, Mir Ali Hassan Zehri.

They were welcomed by the Commissioner Kalat, Muhammad Naem Bazai on their arrival at LIEDA.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Commissioner Hub, Rohana Gul Kakar, Assistant Commissioner Hub, Ali Durrani and the Revenue officials.

The senior MBR presided over the meeting on the settlement affairs.

Certain important decisions were made about implementation of the settlement manual and revenue affairs.

Gwadar Administration issues new price list for fish to ensure fair prices

Independent Report
 GWADAR: The Gwadar administration has issued a new price list for various types of fish to ensure fair prices for citizens. The move comes after Deputy Commissioner Hameed Rehman's special instructions to provide relief to citizens and address public complaints.

Assistant Commissioner Mir Javed Ahmed Zahri has issued the new price list, which aims to provide fresh fish to citizens at reasonable prices. The list includes:

- Ghalbath fish: Wholesale rate Rs. 400 per kg, Retail rate Rs. 800 per kg
- Sarm Gurdani: Wholesale rate Rs. 350 per kg, Retail rate Rs. 700 per kg
- Sarm: Wholesale rate Rs. 400 per kg, Retail rate Rs. 600 per kg
- Sonam: Wholesale rate Rs. 650 per kg, Retail rate Rs. 800 per kg
- Gor: Wholesale rate Rs. 2200 per kg, Retail rate Rs. 2400 per kg
- Kankawar: Wholesale rate Rs. 300 per kg, Retail rate Rs. 600 per kg
- Bakoo: Wholesale rate Rs. 200 per kg, Retail rate Rs. 300 per kg
- Bangra/Sem: Wholesale rate Rs. 80 per kg, Retail rate Rs. 200 per kg
- Pathar: Wholesale rate Rs. 700 per kg, Retail rate Rs. 1000 per kg
- Ahur: Wholesale rate Rs. 300 per kg, Retail rate Rs. 500 per kg



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chairing a meeting of CCoSOEs at the Finance Division.

Ahsan suggests holding int'l summit to establish strong S&T, economic development linkage

Independent Report
 ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Monday highlighted the key role of science and technology (S&T) and engineers in the economic development of the country.

Accordingly, he suggested convening an international S&T Summit to invite the world's top scientists and researchers, aiming to find ways to establish a strong link between the science and technology sector and national economic development.

Addressing a symposium, the minister said thousands of Ph.Ds in the S&T and engineering sectors due to the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) initiative, the "Teachers Researchers Overseas Scholarship Scheme," which was initiated in 1998 under Vision-2010. At that time, the number of S&T Ph.D holders stood at around 350.

He explained that under the scheme, the government had offered 5,000 overseas and indigenous scholarships to brilliant students, resulting in a significant increase in human resource development, particularly in the S&T and engineering sectors.

"There is a need for effective utilization of their capabilities to find solutions to our issues, engaging them in university laboratories," he said, citing examples of developed nations, including America and European countries, that relied on solving issues—whether related to the corporate sector or national level—through laboratories under professors.

"Unfortunately, Pakistan is totally disconnected in this area despite repeated attempts and having internationally acknowledged human resources," he observed.

Ahsan Iqbal mentioned that the country faced numerous challenges related to agriculture, health and climate change; and there should be regular ideas from university labs to address these issues effectively.

"We are all aware of our national problems," the minister said, adding that the government's 5Es framework focused on environment and climate change, food and water security.

He said the government has established a unit in the Ministry of Planning to monitor and evaluate ministries' Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) regularly, under the 5Es framework (Export, Energy, Equity, E-Pakistan, and Environment), launched for national economic development.

He stressed the need for peace, political stability, consistent policies and an uninterrupted reform process to achieve national goals of progress and prosperity.



ISLAMABAD: Former caretaker Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Soomro along with his family meeting with Chairman PkMAP and Chairman Tehreek Tahafuz-e-Ain Pakistan Mehmood Khan Achakzai

Sui Rifles 130 wing provides aid to flood-affected families

Independent Report
 SUI: Sui Rifles 130 Wing organized a ceremony to distribute tents, rations, and essential items to families affected by recent torrential rains in the outskirts of Sui, specifically in the Sinhari Matt area.

Commander 130 Wing, Lieutenant Colonel Asadur Rehman, distributed tents, rations, and daily household essentials to the affected families. While interacting with the victims, Lieutenant Colonel Asadur Rehman said, "We stand with our brothers in this difficult time."

The affected families expressed gratitude to Lieutenant Colonel Asadur Rehman, saying, "We are thankful to Sui Rifles for helping us in this challenging time."

This initiative by Sui Rifles 130 Wing

Free mobile veterinary campuses set up in Jhal Magsi

Independent Report
 QUETTA (APP): On the special directive of Deputy Commissioner Jhal Magsi Syed Rehmatullah Shah, Livestock Department Jhal Magsi set up free mobile veterinary campuses to vaccinate cattle to prevent the spread of various diseases after recent monsoon rain. Under the supervision of Deputy Director (Livestock) Jhal Magsi Dr. Mansoor Ahmed Tareen in Nowshera, Mutt Sindh and Kot Magsi, small and large animals are treated for various diseases and vaccination processes have been started to prevent ailments.

Deputy Commissioner Jhal Magsi Syed Rehmatullah Shah has said that free mobile veterinary campuses have been started in the areas affected by the recent monsoon rains and floods.

Bakht Kakar says Youth policy being introduced to provide jobs in Balochistan

Independent Report
 QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Minister for Livestock and Dairy Development Bakht Muhammad Kakar on Monday said that for the first time in the history of the province, the youth policy was being introduced by the provincial government to provide new employment opportunities for them.

He expressed these views while talking to various delegations of his constituency called on him at his office.

The Minister said that public service was considered worship, the aim of our struggle was to work for the development and prosperity of the people of our constituency and we would not disappoint our people in any way.

Bakht Muhammad Kakar said that his priorities included basic facilities of life such as education, health, water, electricity and employment opportunities so that people could benefit from these facilities.

He said that people were cheated in the name of PSDP in the past, people's representatives keep flourishing through bogus and inefficient schemes, but the people were standing still.



QUETTA: MPA Mir Zaid Reki meeting with Chief Executive Officer QESCO Engr. Shafiqat Ali

NADRA, NTCL, and PkCERT sign MoU to enhance cyber security

Independent Report
 ISLAMABAD: National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), NADRA Technologies Limited (NTCL), and Pakistan Computer Emergency Response Team (PkCERT) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen their cyber security measures and share information about potential threats. The signing ceremony took place at NADRA Headquarters in Islamabad, attended by the Chairman of NADRA. Under the agreement, NADRA, NTCL, and PkCERT will share sensitive information related to cyber security threats and incidents and will collaborate to respond to events that may affect Pakistan's digital assets. The partnership will also involve joint investigations into cyber security incidents and research and development projects to improve cyber security technologies and strategies.

Call attention notice on rehabilitation, financial assistance of rain affected people of Balochistan in BA session

Independent Report
 QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly session commenced with the Deputy Speaker, Ms. Ghazala Gola in the chair here on Monday.

The member of Provincial Assembly belonging to Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), Mir Zaid Ali Reki tabled a call attention notice in the House.

In his call attention notice, Mir Zaid Ali Reki diverted the attention of Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) towards the heavy financial and human losses caused due to the rains, flashfloods and hailstorm in the province especially Washuk district.

He said that the cattle, house, orchards and crops have been perished due to the situation. He said that due to the devastations, it has become very difficult for the people to make their both ends meet. Moreover, as the people of province live in the mud houses, so the rains and flashfloods have also caused damages to their house.

He inquired the government about the measures taken for rehabilitation of the people affected in the districts especially Washuk as a result of the torrential monsoon rains.

The Provincial Minister Revenue, Mir Asim Kurd said that we want that the losses caused to the people during rains and flashfloods may be compensated. He said that assistance has been provided to the people where there it has had access.

The Minister Communication and Works Saleem Khosa said that PDMA has made better arrangements this year than before. However, some amount should also be given to the affected for repair of their houses along with the relief goods.

Meanwhile, the questions about Home department and PDMA were deferred because of the absence of respective provincial ministers.

In the meantime, the members of opposition also staged taken out from the House after they were not allowed to speak about PDMA.

However, the members joined the session after sometime ending their taken walk out.

Earlier, on a point of order, the Member of Provincial Assembly and former Chief Minister, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch said that some 3,000 people of the province have been included in the fourth schedule list.

Those who were included in the fourth schedule list are: former Deputy Speaker, politicians, media persons besides others.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, addressing a symposium on "Climate Change and Health Development Consequences in Pakistan at the Pakistan Academy of Sciences.

PTA starts banning of mobile sims on expired ID cards

Independent Report
 LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has started the second phase of banning of mobile SIMs to prevent their illegal use.

According to the spokesperson of PTA, in the second phase, the identity cards of the current mobile sims are overdue. He says citizens should renew their ID cards to avoid being banned.

According to the spokesperson, in the first stage, fake SIMs and expired ID cards were being blocked, 16 fake SIMs and invalid ID cards were blocked in the first phase while more than 69 thousand illegal sims were blocked.

He said, based on the data obtained from NADRA, illegal sims were being blocked, in the third stage, sims registered in the names of deceased people will be blocked. Likewise, before the mobile blockage, a notification messages will be sent to the users.

The PTA spokesperson further said that fake sims are being used in various illegal activities, tax fraud and other activities.

CCoSOEs deliberates on management, strategic direction of key SOEs

Independent Report
 ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday presided over a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs) that focused on various critical issues related to the management and strategic direction of key SOEs. The meeting was attended among others by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Minister for Housing & Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, SBP Governor, SECP Chairman, TCP Chairman, PQA Chairman, federal secretaries, and other senior officers from the relevant ministries and divisions, a news release said.

The committee discussed a summary of the Ministry of Commerce regarding the plan to reinvigorate the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP).

It was decided that given the peculiar nature of the entity, TCP may be categorized as an essential SOE under the SOEs Policy, 2023. It was further decided that a detailed financial plan of the entity should be prepared, which should address the question of settlement of its liabilities.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta and Administrator Metropolitan Corporation, Hamza Shafiqat presides over the high-level meeting held at his office.

Chinese companies held job fair for Gwadar youth

Independent Report
 GWADAR (INP): Chinese companies held a job fair for Gwadar youth in collaboration with the Gwadar Port Authority (GPA).

It was held at Gwadar University Pak-China Vocational and Technical Training Institute (PCV&TI).

More than 250 graduates participated in the job fair, where five companies introduced their businesses and conducted separate job interviews.

Officials of Chinese company Agven and China Overseas Ports Holding Company said that the event was aimed to provide better opportunities to the students of the institution and the graduates of the Gwadar district, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

Provincial Ombudsman directs irrigation dept to give appointment orders to petitioner

Independent Report
 QUETTA (APP): Provincial Ombudsman of Balochistan, Nazir Muhammad Baloch issued directives to Irrigation Department to give an appointment order for applicant after taking action on receiving complaint of petitioner.

Petitioner Najma Khan had submitted a case against the Irrigation Department in the Provincial Ombudsman's office a few days ago in which petitioner said that the appointment order issued by Irrigation Department was not being implemented.

The provincial ombudsman sent the case to the relevant investigation officer Jameel Kakar for further inquiry.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Haji Ali Madad Jattak, Parliamentary Secretaries Asfand Yar Kakar, Mir Liaqat Lehri, Haji Abdul Majeed Badini, Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai and MPAs Malik Naem Khan Bazai and Nawab Changaiz Marri talk during Balochistan Assembly session.