

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Hub

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 206, Rabi-ul-Awwal 16, 1446 AH Saturday September 21, Pages 04, Price Rs.15

Chinese firm to set up textile parks in Pakistan aiming \$5b exports, 0.5m jobs; MoU signed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Board of Investment and Chinese textile firm RUYI Shangdong on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under which the latter would establish textile parks of international standards in Pakistan to boost country's exports to \$5 billion and create around 0.5 million jobs.

The document was signed as a nine-member delegation of RUYI group led by Chairman QiuYafu called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here as a significant development regarding Chinese investment in Pakistan following the prime minister's recent China visit.

According to the MoU signed at a ceremony witnessed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the Chinese company would es-

tablish textile parks in Sindh and Punjab provinces where around 100 Chinese textile firms would be invited to invest.

The prime minister lauded the time-tested Pakistan-China friendship and observed that the bilateral economic ties were strengthening with each passing day.

He welcomed the Chinese RUYI group to Pakistan and lauded its investment in Pakistan's textile sector, recalling that the firm had been the first investor of Sahiwal Coal Power Plant established under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Briefing the prime minister, the company head said that the textile parks aimed at boosting textile exports and making the country a hub of textiles and garments.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnesses signing of an MoU between Board of Investment and RUYI Shangdong.

Federal cabinet approves SC amendment practice and procedure ordinance

Ordinance on Practice and Procedures Act to further improve transparency in judicial proceedings: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister and federal cabinet have approved Supreme Court Amendment Practice and Procedure Ordinance.

According to sources federal cabinet accorded approval to draft bill through summary circulation.

Practice and Procedure Amendment Ordinance 2024 is likely to be approved by president soon.

Following the imple-

mentation of amendment ordinance 2024 whatever proceedings of the judiciary is, its draft will be prepared and proceedings of the judiciary will be available for the people.

Supreme Court Practice and Procedure amendment ordinance is aimed at bringing more transparency in court's process.

A committee was constituted under Practice and Procedure act-2023. Improvement is being brought

in the committee to ensure hearing of the cases on merit and their disposal.

Under new amendment ordinance, Chief Justice can nominate any learned judge member of committee in case of non availability of some member.

Meanwhile Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Friday that the promulgation of Ordinance on Practice

and Procedures Act will further improve transparency in the judicial process.

Talking to the media here, he said an ordinance for amendment in the Practice and Procedures Act has been promulgated by the President after approval from the federal cabinet.

He said that from now on, the case that comes first would be taken up first by the court and the cases coming after would be fixed on their number.



QUETTA: Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (ret'd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai presiding over a meeting with Task Force of District Administration Chaman for solution of problems

Sardarzada Faisal Jamali assigned portfolio of Livestock & Dairy Dev.

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister, Sardarzada Faisal Khan Jamali has been assigned the portfolio of Livestock and Dairy Development, Balochistan with immediate effect.

This was announced in an official notification issued here by the Services and General Administration Department, Government of Balochistan on Friday.

According to the notification, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has assigned the portfolio of Livestock and Dairy Development.

BA session summons on September 24

Independent Report QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly's session has been summoned on September 24 in Quetta.

According to an official notification issued here by the Provincial Assembly's secretariat on Friday, the Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has summoned the session of assembly at 03:00 PM on September 24. According to the notification, the session would remain continued till October 3, 2024. The entry of public and private armed security guards would be banned in the assembly's secretariat during the session.

National Assembly Secretariat deprives PTI of seats, declares its members as that of SIC

Latest party position in National Assembly: PML-N leads with 110 seats; All 80 of PTI's members now recognized as part of Summi Ittehad Council

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Assembly Secretariat on Friday annihilated the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) when it issued party position on the basis of Election Amendment Act.

According to a National Assembly Secretariat notification, "All 80 members of the PTI are members of the Summi Ittehad Council (SIC)." Earlier, on the orders of the Supreme Court, 39 parliamentarians have been declared as members of the PTI and 41 of the SIC.

It may be noted that a day ago, the National Assembly speaker wrote a letter to the Election Commission (ECP) giving reference to the Election Amendment Act. The assembly secretariat acted in a haste without waiting for the ECP reply and issued a new party position.

According to the notification, the PML-N has 110 seats, the PPP 69 seats, the MQM 22 seats, the Q-League five and the IPP four. The Muslim League-Zia, the BAP and the National Party have one member each in the National Assembly.

The assembly secretariat mentioned that 80 members belonged to the SIC, eight to the JUI-F while the number of independent members is also 8. The PK-MAP, the BNP-Mengal and MWM have one seat each while an independent member has joined the PML-N.

CJP picks Justice Aminuddin as third member of key committee under new ordinance

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa has nominated Justice Aminuddin Khan as the third member of the committee tasked with forming benches and fixing cases under Article 184(3) of the Constitution.

This move follows the promulgation of an ordinance on the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act, which aims to enhance transparency in Pakistan's judicial process.

12 Khwarij killed, six soldiers martyred in North & South Waziristan

RAWALPINDI (APP): The security forces on Friday killed 12 Khwarij terrorists and six army troops were martyred in two different fierce encounters in North and South Waziristan districts on September 19 and 20.

According to the ISPR, on September 19, the movement of a group of seven terrorists, trying to infiltrate Pakistan-Afghanistan border, was detected by security forces in general area Spinwam, North Waziristan District.

The infiltrators were surrounded, effectively engaged and after an intense fire exchange, all the seven Khwarij were sent to hell. A large quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives was also recovered from them, the ISPR said.

In the second incident in general area Latha, South Waziristan District, a group of Khwarij attacked a security forces' post. The army troops fought bravely, foiling the attempts of intrusion and killed five Khwarij.

However, during intense exchange of fire, six sons of soil, having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat.

"Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Kharij present in the area, as security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthens our resolve," the ISPR said.

Meanwhile Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday praised the security forces for eliminating 12 terrorists belonging to the "Fitna Khawarij" group during operations in South and North Waziristan.

In a statement, Interior Minister Naqvi paid tribute to the six brave soldiers of the security forces who were martyred in the fierce clashes with the terrorists.

He expressed his heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the families of the martyrs.



Spokesman of President Asif Ali Zardari for Balochistan and Provincial Advisor for Trade & Industry Mir Ali Hassan Zehri addressing a Press conference

Mir Ali Hassan Zehri reaffirms government's commitment to fulfilling electoral promises

Independent Report

HUB: Provincial Advisor for Industries and Commerce, Mir Ali Hassan Zehri, reaffirmed the government's commitment to fulfilling electoral promises and ensuring equal development across Hub District. Zehri, also the spokesperson for President Asif Ali Zardari on Balochistan affairs, emphasized the Pakistan People's Party's dedication to raising the standard of living for ordinary citizens, staying true to Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's vision.

During a meeting at the Lasbela Industrial Estates Development Authority (LIEDA), Zehri approved PKR 30 million for essential medicines for the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital and directed officials to urgently address healthcare shortages. This comes alongside a major infrastructure overhaul, with PKR 780 million allocated for new road construction and sewerage systems. Zehri stated these initiatives will improve both healthcare and municipal services, ensuring better living conditions for Hub residents.

The development plans and healthcare upgrades, set to be completed in the near future, mark a significant step in the district's growth, with Zehri promising continued efforts to serve the people of Hub without political bias.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Communications, Privatization & Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan presides over high level meeting of NHA.

Shakeel chairs Divisional & Deputy Commissioners on certain issues: CS exhorts all officers to speed up measures for improving service delivery in respective institutions

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has exhorted all officers to speed up measures for bringing improvement in the service delivery in their respective departments so that people may get all basic facilities at their doorstep.

The Chief Secretary was presiding over the Divisional and Deputy Commissioners here on Friday. The meeting discussed about the overdue cases on IPMS, prevention of smuggling, education and healthcare facilities, price control, recruitment of the teachers and solarization of agricultural tube wells in the province.

Those who were also present in the meeting were included: Additional Chief Secretary Home, Shahab Ali Shah, Secretary Forests and Wildlife, Dostain Khan Jamaldini, Secretary Social Welfare, Abdul Rehman Buzdar, Secretary Industries, Durra Baloch, Secretary Transport, Muhammad

Hayat Kakar. The Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners participated in the meeting through video link.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Secretary said that the provincial cabinet has approved recruitments of the teachers on contract in the Education Department. He directed to all Deputy Commissioners to make all closed schools non-functional on the contract basis within four months and ensure imparting quality education to the students.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chairs the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) at the Finance Division.

Speaker BA directs concerned high ups to resolve issues of Chaman district on priority basis

Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai asks to terminate absentee teachers, reopen non-functional schools, resolve issues of medicines and doctors in Chaman

Independent Report QUETTA: The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Ret'd) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai has stated we have firm resolve to resolve the problems being faced by Chaman and it's people.

The Speaker emphasized that Chaman needs special attention because of its status of newly newly formed district.

He directed the concerned high ups to terminate the absentee teachers and appoint their substitutes immediately.

The Speaker also directed to reopen all the non-functional schools and meet shortage of the lecturers in higher education.

Moreover, adding he asked the concerned au-

thorities to provide necessary medicines in the district headquarter hospital and ensure attendance of the doctors in the district.

The Speaker was presiding over the meeting held to resolve the issues of Chaman here at the Provincial Assembly on Friday.

The meeting discussed different issues being faced in different sectors in Chaman.

Being the representative of his election constituency, the Speaker stressed the need to take immediate action for resolving issues of the border town. He also asked the concerned quarters to eliminate corruption from the passport office and post new employees in place of the existing ones.

Three ECP officers suspended for incompetence, misconduct

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja suspended three Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) officers for 120 days for incompetence and misconduct.

According to the notification issued by the ECP, Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh Sharifullah, Director Admin Election Commission Sindh Azhar Hussain Tanwari were suspended for incompetence and misconduct. According to the notification, Election Officer Karachi Khuda Bakhsh has also been suspended and directed that the three officers will remain in Karachi until the inquiry is completed and further orders.

While Joint Provincial Election Commissioner Ali

Asghar Sial has been appointed Acting Election Commissioner Sindh. The Election Commission stated that on the night of September 17, many bags of different polling stations were damaged by forcibly breaking the locks of the strong room in Papri Karachi, for which a committee has been established to investigate. The notification of Election Commission further stated that Joint Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh Nazir Abbas, Director Waseem Ahmed and REC Larkana Abdul Waheed are included in the inquiry committee.

According to the Election Commission, the committee will complete the investigation within three days and submit its report.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan addressing Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners Conference

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

What now?

The Election Commission of Pakistan appears to be in no mood to obey the Supreme Court, and, continuing a pattern observed over the last year, the federal government seems eager to provide it political cover.

It emerged on Wednesday that the ECP would, instead of implementing the Supreme Court's verdict in the reserved seats case, seek further opinion from 'legal experts' on the matter. This, despite being warned by the court not to delay any further.

As it turns out, it did not need legal counsel: on Thursday, the National Assembly Speaker himself came to the ECP's rescue, informing the Commission that since a new law — bulldozed last month through parliament to prevent the reserved seats from being given to the PTI — had come into effect, it need not heed the Supreme Court's order. Unexpected though the move was, it was not the first time that the ruling set-up had come to the ECP's aid against the courts.

Last year, the ECP had similarly refused to obey the apex court when it made it clear it would not hold elections to the Punjab Assembly despite what the court ordered. The then-PDM government had endorsed the ECP's stance, even though it had been in clear violation of the timeline for polls provided in the Constitution. Emboldened, the ECP has continued to thwart the courts since, be it in the matter of election tribunals or, as recently seen, in the case pertaining to the PTI's reserved seats.

It may be recalled that the Commission's last attempt to delay implementation of the Supreme Court's verdict in the reserved seats matter was officially condemned as "dilatory tactics, adopted to delay, defeat and obstruct implementation of the decision of the court". The ECP was also warned that continuing on this path "may expose the Commission" to legal action in terms of the Constitution and the law. It had zero effect.

Now, the government's actions could turn this into a major clash between institutions. It is a risky and unfortunate escalation. Any confrontation on this issue is a direct challenge to the separation of powers as envisioned in the Constitution. The incident underlines that, despite its repeated claims to institutional 'supremacy' derived from democratic ideals, this government seems to have little interest in, or understanding of, democracy's core principles.

The fact that it is relying on tailor-made legislation, moved after a court verdict, to thwart its implementation will be seen as defiance against the judiciary. The situation is made worse by the Speaker of the National Assembly stepping in and endorsing the Commission's position.

The separation of powers must be respected and no institution should overstep its bounds. At this critical juncture, all state institutions must remain within their mandates to prevent further erosion of democratic values.

Dogar Courts

Asad Rahim Khan

After hearing the case his life would be known for, Muhammad Munir retreated to his private quarters, where he collapsed on the sofa.

We know this because another (future) chief justice, Nasim Hasan Shah, was there: "I saw a heartrending scene. Here was this man, who half an hour earlier had been presiding with all the majesty of his office at the Federal Court, now lying prostrate," as others sprinkled water on his face. "Obviously," writes the author, "he had been physically and emotionally drained by the proceedings."

That was gracious of him: the decision in Federation vs Tamuzuddin not only derailed democracy for good, it also delivered the courts to the deep state.

In the decades since, the executive carried on tightening its grip — some of those sad notes still echo today: Bhutto amending the Constitution to extend a favourite chief justice; Zia's PCO, a purge by any other name, burying judicial independence for years.

With the rise of Pervez Musharraf, the Dogar Courts were brought in to dry-clean emergency rule — the price of serving on them was to betray the Constitution. Through it all, it would be fair to say the house usually won; that there were old judges and there were bold judges, but almost no old, bold judges.

It may be time to make that choice again. Because the 26th Amendment — what's been leaked — is an all-out assault on the Constitution. Lawyers across the spectrum have dubbed it a scandal, a suicide pact, a neo-PCO, and with reason: this is, in 77 years, the most corrosive solution to the executive's major check:

the unbowed judge.

For starters, it hollows out the Supreme Court of its main function — interpreting the Constitution — and sets up a brand new federal court to do it. Shorn of its purpose, the demoted Supreme Court shall now concern itself with civil nosebleeds, land disputes, maybe the odd buffalo wandering into a stranger's rice paddy.

Not yet content with asking him to lord over the ashes, the Supreme Court's chief justice will be chosen by a crew of MNAs dominated by the ruling parties. This not only reverses any gains made for independent appointments since at least 1996, it encourages hopefuls to audition for their role as power's number one favourite.

Things get even worse for high court judges, who can now be transferred from province to province in the manner of common bureaucrats. Imagine if, at the first sign of resistance, the centre keeps ping-ponging courageous judges between Quetta and Karachi: would the integrity of the Islamabad High Court remain intact if the state could have dispersed the six letter-signing judges over four units? Or if their writ jurisdiction had to cede to 'national security'?

All of which brings us to the new Dogar bench so proposed: this federal constitutional court, or 'FCC', will have its first chief justice hand-picked by the prime minister! Unless the FCC stands for Fully Controlled Chaperones, this is no less than extraordinary. Plus, if our history around the term 'consultation' is anything to go by, then that same chief justice will go on to pick his fellow judges.

Not least, Pakistan is a common law jurisdiction, hence its reliance on interpretation; on hundreds of years of precedent. We already have a 'constitutional court': the high courts and Supreme Court. A separate constitutional court is from civil law countries — think France or Germany — one that's alien to our legal system.

In sum, the Supreme Court is being destroyed and replaced by a brand-new, even-more-supreme court, just one that's junior to the PM. If this sounds like the end of the in-dependence of the judiciary, that's because it is: the third branch will be sawed off and remade a support beam.

Father of man

Zubeida Mustafa

Aug 31 was Dr Maria Montessori's birthday. The Pakistan Montessori Association had planned to honour its icons that day, starting with its legendary founder-educator and followed by her luminous successors in Pakistan — Mrs Gool Minwalla and others. Special tribute was to be paid to Farida Akbar, whose contribution as a child-trainer is unparalleled. Cyclone Asna disrupted the programme. The event was held a week later.

The storm was nature's revenge for the excesses committed by humankind. This was a warning to us not to tamper with nature's ways. The same also holds true for the child's education. When incorrectly managed, our school system causes 'deviations' — a term used by Dr Montessori — in the child.

I quote from The Absorbent Mind to show how misunderstood our children are. "Education is not what the teacher gives: [it] is a natural process spontaneously carried out by the human individual. It is acquired not by listening to words [of a teacher], but by [gaining] experiences from the environment."

The gist of the Montessori philosophy is that the child 'constructs' itself and by doing so it constructs the man/woman it will grow up to be. The teacher's role is to facilitate the child in this self-construction process. She prepares the environment from where the child gains its experiences. Montessori's emphasis is on the psychic development of the child that begins at birth.

This is an autonomous process. It must be fully respected. Every child is born with diverse 'tendencies', strengths and weaknesses. The child must be encouraged

to explore its self-learning instincts. Any attempt to control the child in the name of discipline and uniformity is self-defeating. The 'strait-jacketing' of children destroys their interest in education itself.

Farida Akbar would always remind her students: "Follow the child." It sounded so exciting. I would wonder, can't we make our early childhood education more child-friendly by adopting some basic principles of the Montessori philosophy?

In March 2023, I decided to experiment with 10 children from a low-income community. Having acquired a classroom from a neighbouring school for two hours in the afternoon thrice a week, I launched my 'Aao Khailain Markaz' (Come Let's Play Centre). My friend Hawa Mohammad, an excellent teacher trainer who acquired her expertise from renowned institutions, readily agreed to join me in my venture for six months. Above all, it was a privilege to have Farida Akbar as our mentor and guide. I had requested her to brief Hawa about her relationship vis-à-vis the children. Hawa says the time she spent with Mrs Akbar was a unique learning experience. "She enriched my understanding of a child. Her passion for her work was remarkable. She visited the centre whenever she felt her presence was needed."

We collected a lot of teaching material, including many colourful picture books, flash cards and stationery for the children.

The basic principle Hawa followed was to ensure that every child had the freedom of choice of the activity that interested it. Other do's and don'ts for Hawa included: speak softly; don't order the child, just do yourself whatever needs to be

done and the child will imitate you; do not say "no" to a child if it has to be stopped, just distract it with something more attractive. Being a gentle person herself, Hawa was quick on the uptake.

How fast the children oriented themselves to their surroundings and pace of work was amazing. They showed a remarkable sense of timing. They started recognising their names written in Urdu and were attracted by books which they picked up themselves for Hawa to read out to them. The most significant of all was their immense interest in whatever they chose to do. Each of them sat and worked with great concentration without being asked to. Above all, they became very articulate as we always spoke in Urdu, the language they spoke at home.

We gave nature time to do its work as there was no hurry. We had been told that when a child's finger muscles and hand-eye coordination are ready, it will begin to write without being shown how to.

We never made the children competitive or rewarded them for their good work. But we ensured that they were always happy and did what they wanted to do in a carefully planned environment. Thus, they derived satisfaction from accomplishing their work. This satisfaction was their own reward.

I now understand why our present system is flawed. We push the child too much and create competitiveness. That has made us what we are: ambitious, greedy and willing to cut corners to get what we want. Give the child time and it will turn out to be nature's best specimen in a world of diversity. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Awais chairs introductory meeting of BoDs, CEOs, WB, ADB, IDB experts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The introductory meeting of Chairpersons Board of Directors (BoDs), Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of power companies, experts from World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank and other development partners was held here on Friday. Federal Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Laghari presided over the meeting, said a press release issued here.

For the first time in history, chairmen of distribution companies,

NTDC and development partners were brought together on one platform under the leadership of the federal minister to formulate a comprehensive strategy for the future.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that NTDC would be restructured to make the grid strengthen and sustainable.

He said that there were some hurdles in the system due to lack of infrastructure and technology. "We need more transparency in the system and Power Division is

working on it to achieve the goal," he added.

Awais Laghari sought effective proposals from development partners in order to create a more efficient, effective and transparent environment in the power sector. In current scenario, each matter required to be referred to the board of NTDC, which needed to be changed. He said due to slow decision making, targets were not achieved on time which created more uncertainty and added that the Power Division would restructure NTDC.

to introduce a robust and sustainable system.

The minister stressed that we need more transparency in data and investment plans, to reduce electricity costs for consumers. "Transparency is part of our vision and we need to make prompt, data-driven decisions for the benefit of consumers," he said. Awais Laghari appreciated the support of development partners and the vision of the newly appointed chairmen BoDs and NTDC, and directed them to focus on transparency and effective decision-making.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of RUYI Group led by Chairman Qiu Yafu calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.



Federal Minister for Privatisation, Abdul Aleem Khan presiding Privatisation Commission Board Meeting in Islamabad.

Steps being taken to boost cultivation of onion, tomato: Ashiq

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Agriculture Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani on Friday said the Punjab government was taking practical steps to boost seasonal and off season cultivation of onion and tomato in Punjab.

While presiding over a meeting at the Agriculture House, here, he said that to increase production of onion and tomato the government had started pilot project worth Rs 6 billion. In this regard 33 farmer enterprise groups of 450 farmers would be formed on an area of 2500 acres to ensure availability of affordable quality vegetables to the

people throughout the year, he added.

Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani said that modern agricultural machinery and solar system would be provided to farmers on subsidy for increasing seasonal and non-seasonal cultivation of onion and tomato.

For success of the project, it was need of the hour that there should be link of farmer groups with value added industry, local businessmen and investors with international market, he said and added that World Bank would provide financial support for onion and tomato seeds, nursery plants, machinery and agricultural equipment.

Honorary CG of Kazakhstan visits SCCI

SIALKOT (APP): Honorary Consul General of Kazakhstan Rao Khalid Mahmood, Director of Kazakhstan House, Lahore Abuzar Butt and Manager of Travel and Tourism at Kazakhstan House Umair Afzal visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI).

SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik and Senior Vice President (SVP) Wahub Jahangir warmly welcomed the distinguished guests.

The office-bearers of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) had a productive meeting with Honorary Consul General of Kazakhstan Rao Khalid Mahmood.

Indonesian market open to Pak rice, meats, medicines, cosmetics and more: Envoy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The delegation included JW Holdings Chief Executive Officer Hasnain Waheed, Yasir Kamran Khattak, and Malik Mubasher Khan.

Rahmat underlined the vital role that Pakistani food products could play in enhancing global food security in the future. "There is an ample opportunity to absorb Pakistani rice, meats, medicines, cosmetics, and other commodities in the Indonesian market," he added.

Senate body reviews overbilling, power theft, data discrepancies

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Power Division on Friday reviewed overbilling, power theft and data discrepancies in power sector. The Committee which met with Mohsin Aziz in the Chair discussed a point of public importance raised by Senator Palwasha Muhammad Zai Khan regarding the overbilling of electricity bills and the indifference of officers/officials to the plight of consumers. Senator Palwasha

UN resident coordinator meets Jam Kamal to discuss sustainable trade growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): The newly appointed United Nations (UN) Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (UNRHC) Mohamed Yahya on Friday met with Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and discussed sustainable trade growth in Pakistan.

He was accompanied by representatives from UNRHC office, United Nations Industrial Development Organization and International Trade Centre, said a news release. During the meeting, the minister appreciated

the work of UN in the realm of trade and advised to take provinces and other relevant stakeholders onboard in the process.

Jam Kamal stressed that Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) should be given preference while devising policies.

He emphasized that to ensure sustainability benefits of exports growing should be equitably with marginalized and vulnerable including the populace living in peripheral areas.

He appreciated the work being done under UN

agencies for promoting equitable and sustainable development in bordering districts.

He specially took note of the projects working in agricultural sector to improve the conditions of small farmers and growers.

Earlier, Yahya briefed the official on wide range of interventions for improving trade competitiveness of Pakistan. He said trade was an important sector for generating much needed fiscal space vital for ensuring sustainable development.

Rupee gains 08 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Friday appreciated by 08 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 277.83 against the previous day's closing of Rs 277.91. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279.25 and Rs 280.75 respectively. The price of Euro increased by 36 paise to close at Rs 310.19 against the last day's closing of Rs 309.83, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Sahiwal Coal Power Plant paid Rs 120.5 bln tax so far

ISLAMABAD (APP): Since its establishment, the Sahiwal Coal Power Plant has made a significant contribution to Pakistan's fiscal landscape, with approximately Rs 120.5 billion in taxes paid to the federal and provincial governments.

These tax contributions are a testament to the plant's role in driving economic growth and supporting public finances, said a press release issued here Friday. Since its inception,

this plant has significantly contributed to the country's fiscal health, playing a pivotal role in expanding Pakistan's tax net and fostering economic growth.

The financial impact of the Sahiwal plant reaches far beyond its direct contributions through corporate taxes. A substantial portion of its revenue flow comes from value added tax (VAT) generated through its extensive procurement processes.

Punjab Governor says: Pakistan, Azerbaijan enjoy long standing brotherly ties

Independent Report
LAHORE: The Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov, called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan here today at Governor House Lahore. The two sides stressed the need to enhance trade relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

Speaking on the occasion, the Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the two countries enjoy long standing brotherly relations. He appreciated the role of the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan in supporting

the direct flights between the two brotherly countries and mutual exports from Azerbaijan to Pakistan and from Pakistan to Azerbaijan. He stated that Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoy close ties and it is heartening to know that Pakistani flags are displayed in Azerbaijan that reflects the love of Azerbaijan's people towards Pakistan, adding that Pakistani people cherish the same feelings for Azerbaijan.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique chairs high level meeting at Punjab Health Initiative Management Company.

LHC orders DC to decide on PTI's plea for rally

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday ordered the deputy commissioner of Lahore to make a decision by 5 PM on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) application for permission to hold a rally in the provincial capital.

A three-member bench, headed by Justice Farooq Haider and comprising Justice Tariq Nadeem and Justice Ali Zia Bajwa, passed the order while disposing of a petition filed by former MNA Aliya Hamza and others, seeking permission for a rally scheduled to be held on September 21 at Minar-e-Pakistan.

9 dead, 1488 injured in 1372 road accidents in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Nine persons were killed and 14,77 injured in 1372 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 653 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 835 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by rescue medical teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals.



LAHORE: Punjab Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafique chairs high level meeting regarding preparation of app for citizens under "Suthara Punjab Program".

KP govt takes initiatives to empower youth for future challenges: Saif

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Information and Public Relations Barrister Dr. Saif Friday said the provincial government was actively working on policy and at ground levels to provide better opportunities to prepare the youth for future challenges.

Addressing the Young Leaders Parliament Conference, he emphasized that the youth should not merely focus on acquiring degrees, but also strive to become responsible citizens and better individuals, equipped with modern education and skills.

Barrister Dr. Saif urged young people to prioritize entrepreneurship over relying on government jobs. He stated, "We need to move beyond nepotism and corruption, and it is essential for the youth to contribute to this change."

CM KP to inaugurate development projects next month

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, will inaugurate several projects next month under the Peshawar Uplift Program phase second. After the timely provision of funds by the provincial government, the ongoing projects under the Peshawar uplift program have gained further momentum.

The ongoing projects include the construction of the six kilometer-long Hayatabad Jogging and Cycling Track in the provincial capital, the renovation and construction of Peshawar Zoo Road (Palosi Road), the Iqra Chowk Island on University Road, the Park Avenue Island on University Road, and the construction of the Walkway Town Market. Additionally, several projects have been completed at the historic University of Peshawar, including the renovation of the university, repair and construction of the main roads, flooring of key areas, construction of public washrooms, and modern parking facilities.



HYDERABAD: Allottees of Shams Icon Plaza are holding protest demonstration for demanding possession, at Hyderabad press club.

Meeting of district coordination committee for nutrition held

HYDERABAD (APP): A meeting of the District Coordination Committee for Nutrition was held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Matiari Fahad Sahito, to address the issue of malnutrition in the district.

District Health Officer (DHO) Matiari Pir Ghulam Husain, Dr Babar, Deputy Director Livestock Riaz Hussain Legari, Deputy Director Agriculture Asad Kaka and other key stakeholders attended the meeting.

Naat Khwani competition of the blind people held

KARACHI (APP): AMIGOS Welfare Trust organized Naat Khwani competition of the blind people in the seminar hall of Karachi Development Authority (KDA) Head Office Civic Centre here on Friday. On this occasion, Director General KDA Syed Shujaat Hussain, President AMIGOS Welfare Trust Anwar Masih, General Secretary Syed Muhammad Hussain and the management of the Welfare Trust were in attendance.

Code of ethics for 'Social Media Influencers' in Pakistan stressed

KARACHI (APP): Speakers in a "Social Media Influencer Conference" stressed the need for formation of the code of ethics so that flow of misinformation and the disinformation could be discouraged. If code of ethics not to be formed, Government would have no other option but to introduce strict laws affecting freedom of speech.

The conference brought together leading journalists, social media influencers and digital media experts to discuss the growing influence of social media and the pressing need for ethical guidelines in content creation.

International News

Israel kills top Hezbollah figure in Beirut strike

Israeli military says around 10 senior Hezbollah commanders killed along with Aqil

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Israel killed a top Hezbollah commander in an airstrike on Beirut's southern suburbs on Friday, the Israeli military and two security sources in Lebanon said, sharply escalating the year-long conflict between Israel and the Iran-backed group. Israeli military said that Aqil, who served on Hezbollah's top military body, was the acting commander of the group's elite Radwan force and that he was killed along with other senior commanders of the unit. One of the security sources in Lebanon said he was killed with members of the Radwan unit as they held a meeting.

The strike killed nine people and wounded 59 others, Lebanon's health ministry said, in a preliminary toll. The strike inflicted another blow on Hezbollah after the group suffered an unprecedented attack earlier this week in which paggers and walkie talkies used by its members exploded, killing 37 people and wounding thousands. That attack was widely believed to have been carried out by Israel, which has neither confirmed or denied its involvement. The civil defence said its rescue teams were searching for people under the rubble of two buildings hit in Friday's strike.

The Israeli military said it had conducted a "targeted strike" in Beirut, without giving further details. It marks the second time in less than two months that Israel has targeted a leading Hezbollah military commander in Beirut. In July, an Israeli airstrike killed Fuad Shukri, the group's top military commander. Aqil has a \$7 million bounty on his head from the United States over his link to the deadly bombing of Marines in Lebanon in 1983, according to the U.S. State Department website.



People and members of the military inspect the site of an Israeli strike in the southern suburbs of Beirut, Lebanon.

Saudi crown prince says no Israel ties without Palestinian state

Monitoring Desk
RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler said that the kingdom will not establish ties with Israel until a Palestinian state has been created, in a blow to US efforts to seal a normalisation deal. "We renew the kingdom's rejection and strong condemnation of the crimes of the Israeli occupation authority against the Palestinian people," Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman told the opening session of its advisory Shura Council.

"The kingdom will not cease its tireless efforts to establish an independent Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital, and we affirm that the kingdom will not establish diplomatic relations with Israel without one," he added. Normalisation deals brokered by then US president Donald Trump in 2020 between Israel and Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates had ended a longstanding Arab consensus that there should be no normalisation without an independent Palestinian state and thrown the spotlight on their more powerful neighbour Saudi Arabia.

Israeli forces deepen raid in Rafah, kill 27 people across Gaza

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Israeli forces killed at least 27 Palestinians in tank and air strikes on north and central areas of the Gaza Strip on Friday, medics said, as tanks advanced further into northwest Rafah near the border with Egypt.

The unrelenting fighting between the Israelis and Hamas militants in the enclave carried on even as a parallel conflict in the Lebanon-Israel border area involving Hamas' allies Hezbollah intensified. Meanwhile, some Palestinians displaced by the Israeli assault on Gaza said they feared their temporary beachside camp would be inundated by high waves.

US polls: Donald Trump says Jews will be partly to blame if he loses election

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON DC: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said on Thursday that Jewish-American voters would be partly to blame if he lost the November 5 election to Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic candidate.

Bangladesh struggling to muster dollars to pay Indian power debts, sources say

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Bangladesh's efforts to clear debts of more than \$1 billion owed to Indian power companies are being hampered by its inability to access the dollars it requires to pay them, documents showed and sources familiar with the matter said.

The country has been struggling to pay its bills due to costly fuel and goods imports since the war in Ukraine began in 2022, while political turmoil which led to the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in August has added to its troubles. Bangladesh is urgently seeking \$55bn in financial aid from international lenders to stabilise its dwindling foreign exchange reserves and its central bank has raised key interest rates to tame soaring inflation. Last year, it sought a \$4.7bn bailout from the International Monetary Fund.

Zelenskiy says Ukraine 'victory plan' depends on quick decisions by allies

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine's "victory plan" in the war against Russia depends on quick decisions being taken by allies this year, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Friday during a visit by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

Zelenskiy told a joint press conference with von der Leyen that Ukraine planned to use a proposed multi-billion dollar European Union loan for air defence, energy and domestic weapons purchases. Zelenskiy singled out the importance of U.S. President Joe Biden to the victory plan, which he said the two leaders will discuss when they meet. The Ukrainian leader is travelling to the United States next week.

Ex-Iran president Rafsanjani's daughter released from prison after two years

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Faezeh Hashemi Rafsanjani, the daughter of former Iranian president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, has been released from Tehran's Evin prison after serving two years for her role in protests over women's rights. Faezeh was sentenced to five years in prison following her arrest during the 2022 protests.

Sudan's warring parties say they are open for peaceful solutions

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Sudan's army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) said they are open for peaceful solutions to a war that has been ongoing for more than 17 months, in response to US President Joe Biden's call on warring parties to re-engage in talks.

Army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan said on Wednesday the Sudanese government remains open to all constructive efforts aimed at ending the war, before RSF leader Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo followed suit with a similar sentiment early on Thursday. "We reaffirm our commitment to ceasefire negotiations. We believe that the path to peace lies in dialogue, not random violence, and we will continue to engage in peace processes to secure a future free from fear and suffering for all Sudanese civilians," Dagalo said on X.

However, both men traded blame for a failure to bring an end to a conflict that has killed more than 12,000 people since it started in April 2023.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on transformation plan of Federal Board of Revenue.

Ayaz Sadiq urges for global unity to maintain peace

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Friday said that global unity, tolerance, and dialogue are essential for establishing long-lasting peace. He also said that peace is essential for the progress and well-being of humanity and stressed the importance of resolving conflicts through peaceful means.

Saad, Syedaal urge political parties to end economic turmoil in country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Federal Minister for Railways and Senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Khawaja Saad Rafique called on Deputy Chairman Senate, Syedaal Khan Nasar where both the leaders urged all the political parties of the country to strive for pulling that nation out of economic turmoil.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Finance Babar Khan presiding over board meeting of Balochistan Education Endowment Fund

9 shopkeepers held on violation of price control in Quetta

QUETTA: At least nine shopkeepers were arrested and 13 others were charged fine of thousands of rupees during the campaign continued against the profiteering and violation of the hygienic principles in provincial metropolis.

NAB operates strictly in accordance with laws: DG

QUETTA: A group of students and faculty members from University Law College Quetta visited the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan office on 20th September 2024. The team was warmly welcomed by Addl. Director (A&P), ensuring a seamless and informative experience.

The students group visited different wings of the bureau where they were provided insightful over-

FBR's digitisation, improved enforcement vital for economic reforms: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said the digitisation of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and its improved enforcement mechanism were the need of the hour to bring about economic reforms in the country.



DUBAI: Consul General of Pakistan in Dubai, H.E. Hussain Muhammad, honored Mr. Muhammad Siddique Bakhsh, a long-standing Pakistani expatriate, with a Certificate of Appreciation for his exemplary conduct while working in UAE since 1968.

ECC approves export of 40,000 tons sugar to Tajikistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Friday approved a proposal to export 40,000 metric tons of sugar to Tajikistan, subject to finalizing the sale agreement with the Tajik entity.



QUETTA: Members of Tehreek-e-Jawan-e-Pakistan are holding rally in favor of Pakistan Armed Forces, at Quetta press club.

DEO says 87 closed schools made functional in Pishin

QUETTA: As many as 87 closed schools have been made functional in while 40 temporary teachers of the Balochistan Education Community Schools and NCHD have been made permanent in Pishin district.

Protest in Gwadar: pickup drivers demand freedom of movement

GWADAR: Choose the one that suits your preference! drivers in Gwadar's Kontani Hor area staged a protest at the Coastal Highway's Sarbandan Cross, bringing traffic to a standstill.

Dr. Musadik invites Chinese enterprises to invest in Pak energy, petroleum sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik Friday invited Chinese enterprises, especially those from Shaanxi province, to invest in Pakistan's energy and petroleum sectors.



collaborate through investment, joint ventures and technology transfer said a news release received here.

He highlighted that this was a part of Pakistan's broader effort to attract foreign direct investment to

Pak elected as Member of IAEA's Board of Governors

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan has been elected as Member of International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Board of Governors (BOG) for a two-year term.

Grand Jirga affirms support to Pak Army in war against terrorism

PESHAWAR (APP): The tribal elders and scholars from Wana, South Waziristan on Friday expressed strong resolve to extend full support to Pakistan army in war against terrorism and militants.

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