

# Independent

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RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir presiding over Corps Commanders' Conference.

## PM stresses redoubled efforts for economic stability as inflation down to single-digit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that after bringing the inflation rate down to the single digit of 9.6%, more efforts were required to bring in economic growth and stability besides addressing the challenges of circular debt and tax evasion.

"Alhamdulillah, the burden of inflation is reducing gradually. A single-digit inflation rate of 9.6% was reported in August this year which was 27% this month of last year. But we have to keep up our efforts to achieve economic growth and stability, create productive employment, reduce expenditures by rightsizing and downsizing, shrink circular debt, curb evasion of receipts and eliminate smuggling," the prime minister said addressing the meeting of the federal cabinet chaired by him.

He congratulated the finance minister, State Bank governor and other economic team members for the achievement and said that serious and tireless efforts were underway to achieve the challenging task.

"This gradual improvement. We have to take it forward swiftly... The task is cumbersome but we will reach our destination if we remain focused on targets," he remarked. He said sincere efforts always led nations to excel and Pakistan too could achieve the same as the country had immense resources including competent minds, natural resources and youth.

Prime Minister Shehbaz told the cabinet members that the prerequisites of IMF program were under supervision and all-out measures were being taken to fulfill the conditionalities.

Earlier, in the day, the prime minister wrote on his X time that the reduction in Pakistan's annual inflation rate to 9.6% was not an accident but an outcome of the government's efforts.

"Pakistan's annual inflation rate has dropped to 9.6% in August, first single-digit figure in nearly 3 years according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. This is not an accident! These are results," the prime minister said.

### Pay tribute to counter-terrorism sacrifices

## Army top brass vows not to let hard-earned gains against terrorism be reversed

Military commanders deliberate on measures to neutralize threats posed by Pakistan's external and internal adversaries; Underscores critical need to safeguard national cyber space through stringent measures

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Pakistan Army's Corps Commanders' Conference (CC) held here at GHQ on Tuesday underscored the critical need to safeguard national cyber space through stringent cybersecurity measures.

Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir presided over the Corps Commanders' Conference, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

At the commencement of the conference, the participants offered Fateha and paid profound tribute to the ultimate sacrifices made by the Shuhada of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement

Agencies, and citizens who have laid down their lives in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in pursuit of peace and stability of Pakistan.

The forum was briefed on the prevailing geo-strategic environment, national security challenges, and strategic and operational responses to emerging threats.

In assessing the inimical forces, malicious actors, subversive proxies, and the facilitators of Pakistan's external and internal adversaries, particularly those active in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the forum deliberated on a range of measures to

neutralize these threats.

The forum reaffirmed that the Pakistan Army, with the unwavering support of the people, will not allow the hard-earned successes against terrorism to be reversed.

The forum emphasized that the Army is a disciplined institution, upholding the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and loyalty to the state and institution.

The institution's well-established and rigorous system of accountability ensures that these values are preserved with unwavering commitment, allowing no room for exceptions or partiality. This strict ad-

herence to accountability fortifies the Army's integrity, ensuring that no individual is above the law or exempt from scrutiny.

Recognizing the urgency and significance of a robust and effective legal system, COAS emphasized that the Pakistan Army would continue to extend comprehensive support to the government, administrative apparatus, and Law Enforcement Agencies in taking swift and lawful action against terrorists, anarchists, and criminal mafias.

The forum also expressed satisfaction over ongoing efforts against illegal spectrum operating in

collusion with terrorist networks.

In a show of solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, who continue to suffer gross human rights violations, the forum honored the martyrs of the Freedom Movement. The blatant continued violence and genocide of Palestinians by Israel were also condemned in the strongest terms.

The forum expressed confidence in the operational preparedness and readiness of the Pakistan Army and vowed to continue to uphold the standards in pursuit of professional excellence.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

### Deputy PM, US Ambassador discuss bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (Online): US Ambassador Donald Blome called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar in Islamabad Tuesday.

The discussion covered various aspects of Pakistan-US bilateral relations including avenues for enhanced cooperation in diverse fields.

They also discussed matters relating to the upcoming session of the UN General Assembly.

### Judicial reforms Govt's top priority: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar has said that judicial reforms are the top priority of the present government.

Speaking in the National Assembly on Tuesday, he said the government is actively working on it over the last five months.

Eight bills were laid before the house on Tuesday. These included:

The Constitution Amendment Bill, 2024 (Article 184); The Criminal Laws Amendment Bill, 2024, the Constitution Amendment Bill, 2024 (Amendment in Article 51, 59 and 106); The Constitution Amendment Bill, 2024 (Article 177, 193 and 208); The Contempt of Court (Repeal) Bill, 2024; The Constitution Amendment Bill, 2024 (Article 198); The Civil Servants Amendment Bill, 2024 and the Allocation of Special Seats for Deserving Persons in Universities Bill, 2024.

The chair referred the bills to the standing committees concerned.

### SSG MD Imran Maniar steps down

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Managing Director (MD) of Sui Southern Gas Company (SSG) Imran Maniar has resigned from his position to 'pursue other opportunities'.

Imran Maniar was already working on a six-month contract extension going to be ended on September 13.

Imran Maniar excused from taking another extension as Managing Director SSG and maintained that he would not be available after September 13.

Imran Maniar was appointed as managing director of SSG in February 2021.

Meanwhile, the SSGC informed the Stock Exchange about the resignation of the development through a notice.

### Ayaz Sadiq says: Parliament committed to building consensus for tackling collective challenges like energy crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday said that Parliament is the right platform to deliberate upon and find workable solutions to common problems.

Addressing the conference "Parliamentary Consultation on Strategic Options for Electricity Distribution Systems in Pakistan" he said that the energy sector in Pakistan has been grappling with challenges for decades.

He also said that although Pakistan has become successful in tackling the issue of load shedding, however, rationalizing the energy sector is pivotal for tackling the high cost of electricity in Pakistan.

Ayaz Sadiq said that energy cost is a global challenge. Energy costs have



ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq addressing the participants of the Seminar on "Parliamentary consultation on strategic options for electricity distribution system in Pakistan."

### IMF rejects Punjab's electricity bill subsidy, warns of loan program risk

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has rejected the proposal to provide subsidies on electricity bills, warning that such measures could jeopardize Pakistan's ongoing loan program.

According to sources, the IMF has taken a firm stance, asserting that neither the central nor provincial governments are authorized to offer subsidies on electricity bills. The IMF specifically raised concerns over the Punjab government's recent subsidy initiative, which provided a significant relief of PKR 14 per unit for consumers using between 200 to 500 units of electricity.

The IMF has emphasized that subsidies in the energy sector, including electricity and gas, are not permissible under the current agreement with Pakistan. The financial institution has demanded that all such subsidies be withdrawn by September.

### Use of social media without permission by govt employees banned

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal government has imposed ban on government employees for using social media without permission.

It has been said in a circular issued by establishment division that government employees cannot use social media platform without permission.

According to memorandum this decision has been taken for preventing official information and documents from becoming leaked. The government employees therein have been directed to uphold government servants (conduct) rules 1964.

It has been said in the memorandum government employee cannot express views or give statement on social media without permission. Government employee cannot share documents or information with irrelevant persons.

### SC issued judgment for removal of restaurants to protect environment: CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Tuesday remarked that the top court has issued judgment for removal of restaurants from Margalla Hills National Park to protect the natural environment.

The court reserved its verdict on the review petition against the verdict for removal of restaurants including Monal from national park.

A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa

heard the review petition against the verdict for removal of restaurants. Lawyer Naeem Bukhari appeared before the court on behalf of the petitioner.

The CJP remarked that the country was destroyed by climate change, but the goal here is to just make money. If permission was given to build a small hut, big palaces were built.

He said that if restaurants are built everywhere in the National Park area, then Islamabad may be affected by landslides.

### Bill moved in NA seeking ban on dual nationality of judges, bureaucrats

ISLAMABAD (INP): An amendment bill to impose a ban on the dual nationality of judges and bureaucrats has been laid in the National Assembly on Tuesday.

According to media reports, the bill was moved by the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl group (JUI-F) parliamentarian Noor Alam Khan in the assembly.

Noor Alam Khan argued in the house that dual citizenship for judges of the

Supreme Court and High Court, as well as for bureaucrats, should be terminated to uphold the integrity and impartiality of these key public service roles.

The JUI-F parliamentarian highlighted that a similar ban is already in place for the President, Prime Minister, and members of Parliament. The bill has been referred to the Standing Committee by the Chair, where it will undergo review.

### History made as Bangladesh whitewash Pakistan in Test series

RAWALPINDI (INP): Bangladesh beat Pakistan by six wickets in the second test to complete a 2-0 series sweep in Rawalpindi on Tuesday.

Zakir Hasan (40), Najmul Hossain Shanto (38) and Mominul Haq (34) chipped in with useful cameos as Bangladesh chased down the 185-run victory target with more than a session left in the game.

At the start of play on the fifth and final day of the match, Bangladesh resumed their innings at 42-0 in pursuit of their 185-run target. Pakistan got the first



breakthrough after 16 runs were added when Mir Hamza bowled Hasan with a delivery that moved away.

Fellow pace bowler Khurram Shahzad got in on the act when Shadman Islam miscued a drive, chipping to Shan at mid-off.



ISLAMABAD: The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) has approved 8 development projects worth of Rs. 144.3 billion during its meeting chaired by Minister PDSI & Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Ahsan Iqbal.

### CDWP okays eight development projects worth Rs144.3 bln

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (PDSI) & Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) that approved eight development projects worth of Rs144.3 billion.

"Out of these, five projects worth Rs15.35 bil-

lion have been approved by the CDWP forum, while it recommended three projects of Rs129 billion to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for its consideration," a news release said. The meeting was attended among others by Secretary Planning Awais Manzoor Sumra, Additional Secretary Planning, Members of the Planning

Commission, JCE (Ops), JCE (Ep), as well as respective federal secretaries, heads of provincial departments and representatives from federal ministries and provincial governments.

During the meeting, Ahsan Iqbal expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the prime minister for entrusting him with the position of Deputy Chairman for the fourth time.

### IHC summons party leaders for non-compliance with 5% women's quota

ISLAMABAD: According to sources from the Islamabad High Court and the Election Commission of Pakistan, the court has summoned the leaders of several political parties, including Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Ameer Hafiz Naeemur Rehman, Awami National Party (ANP) Chief Asfandyar Wali Khan, and others, for non-compliance with the 5% women's quota in the allocation of party tickets.

The Election Commission has issued notices to 10 political parties, including JI, ANP, Balochistan National Party (BNP), and Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), for failing to allocate 5% of their party tickets to women.

This is a legal requirement, and parties that fail to comply cannot be allocated an election symbol and cannot contest the election as a political party.

The notices summon the party leaders to appear before the ECP on September 4.

### Akhtar Mengal resigns from NA over Balochistan crises



ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief of Balochistan National Party (BNP) Sardar Akhtar Mengal has announced to resign from National Assembly (NA) seat.

Talking to media men with Mehmood Khan Achakzai after NA session he said whosoever he is Pushto speaking, Balochi speaking, Urdu speaking or any one else has been killed, the courts are killers of them which don't administer justice.

He went on to say the key murderers are politicians who used politics for business. There was a

meeting in PM House on July 23, 2023 wherein I said if you don't need my politics then I abandon politics. No one will be responsible for my workers who go where and join what party.

It is better to run shop of pikoras than this politics, he held. Who has advised me has passed away and I have come here leaving his burial.

I came here to talk but I was not heard. Today I announce to resign from assembly. If this assembly does not hear our voice then there is no use of sitting in this assembly.



## NA told Plan devised to bring barren land for cultivation under Green Pakistan Initiative

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Water Resources Dr Musadik Masood Malik on Tuesday informed the National Assembly that under Green Pakistan Initiative, a plan has been devised to bring barren land in the country under cultivation and enhanced per acre crops productivity through employing various modern techniques.

Responding to a calling attention notice raised by Syed Naveed Qamar and others regarding the news in the media of 4.8 million acres of land being given for corporate farming resulting in diversion of water, he said 812,000 acres of land has been acquired so far to bring barren land under cultivation.

He said it would be a joint venture and so far

Punjab and Sindh have transferred land. However, other provinces and Gilgit-Baltistan have not yet transferred land.

The minister said a company has also been registered under green initiatives. Under the plan, 40 per cent revenue each would be given to the respective province and investors while remaining 20 per cent revenue would be purely specified for research and development (R&D) in this sector.

He said required irrigation water for the scheme would be provided from share of the respective province. Around 400,000 acres command area would come under the Cholistan scheme in Punjab, he said.

He said the project would cost Rs 211 billion under which 296 kilometer long canal would be constructed. It would

consist of 176 km long Cholistan Canal and 120 km Marur Canal, he added.

He categorically said that water distribution in the said canals would be purely met through the share of respective provinces and Indus River System Authority (IRSA) would issue proper certificate in this regard.

The Cholistan Canal would get water for four months from share of Punjab province while for 2 months it would feed through flood water, he said.

Responding to a point raised by Syed Naveed Qamar, the minister said the federal government could not ask from the provinces about their water share distribution in their respective provinces after the 18<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting today with Mikko Keto, the Global CEO of FLSmidth, a leading global provider of engineering and equipment for the mining and cement industries.

## PBC launched in Sharjah to enhance Pak-UAE economic, investment cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) has officially launched the Pakistan Business Council in Sharjah, aimed at expanding economic cooperation between the business communities of the Emirates and Pakistan.

This initiative aims to boost trade and investment exchanges, capitalize on available opportunities for mutual benefit, and contribute to the growth of the private sector while enhancing its role in comprehensive economic development, according to a press release received here Tuesday.

Held at SCCI's headquarters, the inauguration ceremony was attended by Abdallah Sultan Al Owais, Chairman of the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce, and Industry; Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Ambassador of Pakistan in the UAE, and Waleed Abdul Rahman Bukhatir, Second Vice Chairman of the Sharjah Chamber, Hussain Muhammad, Consul General Pakistan along with key members of the Chamber's Board of Directors.

Also present were Mohammad Ahmed Amin Al Awadi, Director-General of SCCI; Abdulaziz Al Shamsi, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Business Sector at SCCI; Fatema Khalifa Al Muqarrab, Director of International Relations Department at SCCI, and Syed Muhammad Tahir, Chairman of the Founding Committee of Pakistan Business Council, as well as representatives of the Pakistani business community in Sharjah.

In his remarks, Abdallah Sultan Al Owais affirmed that launching the Pakistan Business Council in Sharjah marked a significant new addition to the network of business councils operating under the umbrella of the Sharjah Chamber.

These councils offer ideal platforms for companies to connect, collaborate, and form win-win partnerships that benefit everyone involved, he added.

He further noted that the new council was a key part of SCCI's strategy to expand the number of business councils and capitalize on their role in enhancing economic collaboration, fostering cross-border partnerships among entrepreneurs and investors, and strengthening investment

## Finance Minister discusses investment opportunities with FLSmidth's Global CEO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Tuesday held a meeting with Mikko Keto, Global Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of FLSmidth, a leading global provider of engineering and equipment for the mining and cement industries.

The meeting was also attended by Ambassador of Denmark, Jakob Linulf, senior officials from FLSmidth and the Finance Division, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

The Finance Minister

emphasized Pakistan's strategic shift towards an export-led growth model aimed at ensuring sustainable economic development across various sectors.

He also highlighted the government's ongoing efforts in the form of comprehensive reforms in the energy and power sectors, privatization of state-owned enterprises, and restructuring of the tax system and public expenditure.

The minister underscored the government's commitment to facilitating private sector-led growth, with the

state focusing on creating a business-friendly environment.

"We are determined to pursue our change agenda despite resistance from those favoring the status quo. The private sector must lead the way, and our role is to ensure maximum facilitation," he added. The minister assured the delegation of Pakistan's dedication to providing a favorable and conducive investment climate for foreign investors. On the occasion, Mikko Keto expressed his appreciation for the support provided by the government of Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja chairs the 50th Universal Service Fund (USF) Policy Committee meeting.

## Jazz, Mobilink bank forge strategic alliance to strengthen digital financial inclusion

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator, and Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited (MMBL), the country's leading digital microfinance bank, have combined their strengths to advance financial inclusion and empowerment throughout Pakistan.

This partnership marks a significant milestone in the digital transformation of the nation's financial services, with the dual objectives of substantially enhancing customer engagement, and expanding digital literacy and inclusion, said a news release.

By synergizing their unique capabilities, this partnership will spearhead a women's entrepreneurship initiative dedicated to empowering female customers by providing them with essential digital assets.

As part of this initiative, female lenders will be provided with complementary smartphones equipped with Jazz SIMs, which will come with 12 months of free data and preloaded applications to improve data accessibility and

ensure smooth access to essential financial services.

In addition, the collaboration introduces an innovative RRBT (Reverse Ring Back Tone) loan recovery campaign, which will deliver personalized MMBL messages to customers during their calls, thereby fostering more effective engagement.

This RRBT service, while serving as a tool for payment reminders, also presents an opportunity to showcase MMBL's new products and services, cultivating a more informed and engaged customer base.

Kazim Mujtaba, President Consumer Division at Jazz, commented, "This partnership with Mobilink Bank underscores our commitment to innovation and customer-centric solutions. By drawing on each other's strengths, we are leveraging digital technology to not only enhance customer communication but also advance women's empowerment through digital inclusion and entrepreneurship. This initiative aligns with our new ServiceCo model and our broader vision of a digitally inclusive Pakistan."

## PSX gains 73 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) gained 73.02 points on Tuesday, showing a positive change of 0.09 percent, closing at 78,356.32 points against 78,283.30 points on the last working day. A total of 436,672,976 shares were traded during the day as compared to 457,280,204 shares the previous day.



PESHAWAR: A representative delegation of Clearing Agent Association led by Ziaulla Afridi called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor House.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where two ships, Meratus Jayawijaya and DSI Pyxis carrying Container and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal and Pakistan Bulk Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile four more ships, Ph Minh Giang, CP Shenzhen, New Levant and Clipper Kythira scheduled to load/offload River Sand, Cement, Peas and Coal are arrived at outer anchorage port during last 24 hours.

A total of nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, Lusail.

## Pak-US trade witnesses over 9% surplus in July

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's goods and services trade with the United States (US) witnessed a surplus of 9.62 per cent during the first month of the current fiscal year (2024-25) compared to the corresponding month of last year.

Trade surplus during the month under review was recorded at \$290.962 million against \$265.411 million last year showing 9.62 per cent growth, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to US were recorded at US \$476.017 million during July (2024-25) against exports of US \$439.892 million during July (2023-24), showing an increase of

5.16 per cent.

Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to US rose by 7.26 per cent during July 2024 compared to the exports of \$443.789 million in June 2024, the SBP data revealed.

Overall Pakistan's exports to all other countries increased by 12.84 per cent in the first month, from US \$ 2.118 billion to US \$ 2.390 billion, the SBP data revealed. On the other hand, the imports from US into the country during the month under review was recorded at US \$ 185.055 million against US \$174.481 million last year, showing growth of 6.06 per cent in July (2024-25).

## LESCO chief holds meeting on net metering

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Engineer Shahid Haider chaired a meeting to make the net metering process more transparent and easy here at LESCO Head Office on Tuesday.

The CEO directed the officers concerned to put in place more effective measures to prevent corruption in the net metering process, adding that zero tolerance policy should be adopted to prevent corruption so as to provide complete facilities to customers regarding net metering.

Superintending Engineers (SEs), Executive Engineers (E-Xns) and SDOs (Sub-Division Officers), Director (HR) Zameer Hussain Kolachi,

## Pakistan's meat exports to China surpass \$2.6 mln

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan's meat exports to China have surpassed the US\$2.6 million mark from January to July 2024, according to data released by the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC). This notable achievement underscores the growing demand for Pakistani meat products in the Chinese market, further solidifying Pakistan's position as a key exporter of quality meat.

Owais Mir, Chairman of the DEA Group and a leading meat exporter, highlighted that boiled beef

Saffron and other crops and increase the production.

He directed that a committee should be formed to ensure the use of the funds allocated by the government for various agricultural projects promptly and in the best interest of the landowners.

The meeting attended by Secretary Agriculture Atta-ul-Rehman, DGs of all wings, and other relevant officials gave a detailed briefing to the provincial minister and told that agricultural projects in the province include 21 ADP schemes.



QUETTA: WAPDA Hydro Union Central Joint President and Provincial Chairman, Muhammad Ramzan Achakzai, along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club.

## Milk Business: A key to alleviating poverty in rural areas of Pakistan

PESHAWAR (APP): Amidst the ongoing struggle to combat poverty in rural Pakistan, the story of Fawad Khan from Nowshera district stands out as a beacon of hope and resilience for many unemployed youth.

At just 28-year-old, Fawad's journey from unemployment to becoming a successful milk seller highlights how a simple business could transform the lives of youth of Pakistan. After completing his matriculation, Fawad faced the harsh reality of unemployment, a challenge that many in rural areas of Pakistan are grappling with.

Determined to provide a better life for his

family, he ventured into the milk business, a decision that has since proven to be life-changing. "Initially, I struggled with unemployment after completion of my matriculation," Fawad recounted in an interview with APP. "But diving into the milk business was a turning point for me. It allowed me to earn a decent livelihood and support my family besides fulfilling the education and other essential expenses of my relatives."

Fawad's daily routine begins before dawn as he travels to various villages, including Mohib Banda, Amankot, and Dheri Mian Ishaq for collection of milk from local livestock owners. The collected milk

is then sold throughout the day, often extending into the night. His dedication and hard work have paid off, allowing him to earn a reasonable income.

Describing the milk business as highly profitable, Fawad said that he collects about 20 kilograms of milk daily, purchasing it at Rs200 per kilogram and selling it for Rs240 per kilogram meaning by earning Rs40 per kilogram.

The success of his venture has not only improved his financial situation but has also enabled him to secure a visa for his brother, Akhtar Ali, to work in Dubai. Encouraged by his achievements, Fawad is now planning to further

expand his business. He intends to open a new shop in the main bazaar of Pabbi, which he hopes will boost his income and create additional opportunities.

Fawad Khan's story exemplifies how small-scale businesses like milk selling can play a crucial role in alleviating poverty in rural regions. His success underscores the potential of local enterprises to drive economic development and improve the quality of life in underserved areas.

To promote livestock and dairy development in KP, the then Govt had launched three mega projects worth Rs3,214 million under 'National Agriculture Development Program' worth over Rs309.7 billion, which

played key role in alleviation of poverty, increase meat and milk production in the province.

These gigantic projects include 'Poverty Alleviation Through Development of Rural Poultry' amounting to Rs.834 million, 'Save the Calf' worth Rs1,554 million and 'Feedlot Fattening Programme of Rs826 million, which provided much-needed relief to price-hike stricken people, women, persons with disabilities and underprivileged segments of society.

Gul Bibi, a poor housewife and mother of nine children at village Chamkani, Peshawar is among thousands of poor people and women.



HYDERABAD: Members of All Pakistan Marble Association block road as they are holding protest demonstration against prolong electricity load shedding and change the electric transformer in their area, at Maki Shah road in Hyderabad.

## PMYP provides platform to empower Youth: Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Program (PMYP) Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan on Tuesday said that PMYP was taking various initiatives to highlight the potential and provide more employment opportunities, resources and support to the youth.

Addressing the awards ceremony of the "China Scholarship for Youth Skill Development" held in collaboration with China TANG International and the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), he said that youth is the future of Pakistan and equipping young individuals with both high-tech and conventional skills was the priority of the government.

The Chairman PMYP congratulated the selected students on merit for the Chinese Scholarship programme and said that Pakistan has a talented youth and has a central role

in progressing the country towards fast-paced development.

"Our goal is to ensure that every young Pakistani has the skills necessary to succeed in today's competitive landscape. By focusing on both high-tech and traditional skill development, we aim to enhance employment prospects and foster economic growth", he remarked.

Calling Youth the "Ambassadors of Pakistan," he urged them to work hard honestly and glorify the name of Pakistan.

Rana also acknowledged the strong bond between Pakistan and China and gratitude for China's support in poverty alleviation, youth employment and development.

He informed that China had offered to provide training to around 200,000 youngsters in various fields during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China while during

the tenure of the former PM Nawaz Sharif in 2013-18 students were sent to China on scholarships. He added that as many as 7000 to 10,000 students were getting an education in Chinese universities and making their future prosperous.

On the occasion, he also asked the management of NAVTTTC to increase the number of females in the fields of technical education and for scholarships abroad as Malaysia's development of its GDP increased up to 2 to 3 per cent after the inclusion of skilled women.

The chairman said that Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif and Punjab Education Minister Rana Sikandar were also launching new initiatives to empower youth.

Commenting NAVTTTC's, TEVTA and TANG's ongoing efforts in cultivating a skilled workforce, he emphasized the pivotal role of skill education in national development.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid chairs a meeting with delegation from the Pakistan People's Party Minority Wing, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, at BISP headquarters.

## MQM delegation meets PM; lauds pro-business, export growth policies

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Pakistan on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and appreciated his economic policies which led to the reduction in the inflation rate to a single-digit.

The MQM delegation, which was headed by party chairman and Minister for Science and Technology, Federal Education and Professional Training Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and comprised MNAs Dr Farooq Sattar, Mustafa Kamal and Syed Aminul

Haq, also lauded the prime minister's business-friendly policies and measures to boost country's exports, according to a PM Office press release.

The delegation members put forward their proposals for economic development and uplift of the people of the country's economic hubs, particularly those of Karachi.

Calling the MQM a key coalition partner, the prime minister said that the work on national development initiatives was at a swift pace in coordination with the coalition parties.

## Gilani emphasizes comprehensive efforts to ensure human dev., address climate crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Tuesday emphasized the need for concerted and comprehensive endeavors to effectively prioritize focus on human development, invest in human capital, and address the challenges of climate change.

In this regard, he called for forging robust partnerships between government institutions, UN agencies, and civil society organizations to ensure a cohesive and effective humanitarian response. The Chairman Senate was addressing the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF) annual report launch event to acknowledge INGOs' contributions to Pakistan. He acknowledged

PHF and its member organizations for consistently providing much-needed relief and assistance to the deserving and the affected during challenging circumstances over the years. He said that the true strength of a nation lies in its ability to empower marginalized and vulnerable communities. "Coming from South Punjab, I can personally relate to the struggles and aspirations of communities seeking opportunities and support to not only uplift their lot but also fuel national progress", the Chairman Senate remarked in his address.

He observed that inclusive development is not just a moral imperative but it is essential for the progress

and prosperity of the country.

"This belief is deeply rooted in the political ideology that has guided me throughout my career. An ideology that prioritized humanitarian values and betterment of deprived communities", he said, adding that former Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto championed this ideology.

He lauded PHF for playing a crucial role in building a more inclusive and resilient Pakistan. While referring to the report, the Chairman Senate stated that the achievements highlighted in the Annual Report 2023 are a testament to their dedication and unwavering humanitarian zeal.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Disaster Management Authority Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik presenting souvenirs to Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan during his visit to NDMA Headquarters.

## PDI takes serious steps to curtail intestinal worms in children: Zoraiz Riaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Asst. Chief Health Ministry of Planning & Development, Zoraiz Riaz, said on Tuesday that the children in Pakistan are suffering from intestinal worms due to poor sanitation and hygiene.

Talking to a private news channel, he described that the worms are parasites, which live in human intestines for food and survival.

They consume nutrients meant for the human body and cause blood loss, poor nutrition, and stunted growth, he added.

He said that the gov-

ernment, with support from the World Health Organization (WHO), is working to solve this problem across the country.

The Pakistan Deworming Initiative (PDI) is led by the Ministries of Planning, Education, and Health in collaboration with provincial health and education departments, he added.

A 2016-2017 survey found that around 17 million school-aged children in 47 districts of Pakistan are at risk of intestinal worm infections and need annual treatment, he further included.

## PAL bids farewell to retired colleagues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) on Tuesday organized a ceremony to honour its retired colleagues who completed their tenure.

The ceremony was attended by President PAL Dr Najeeba Arif, Director General Sultan Nasir and other colleagues.

Dr. Najiba Arif praised the retirees for their dedication and hard work, saying, "You have given the best years of your life to the Academy." She emphasized the importance of institutions over individuals, stating, "Our aim should be the empowerment of institutions for social and national purposes."

Sultan Nasir paid tribute to the outgoing officials, especially Malik Mehr Ali, for their services.

## Rashidi visits National Book Foundation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Member National Assembly (MNA) Mehtab Akbar Rashidi visited the National Book Foundation (NBF) on Tuesday.

She was received by Murad Ali Mohmand, Managing Director of the NBF, along with other officials including Naeem Khan, Nazia Rehman, Asad Rasool Nagra, and Aftab Ahmed.

During her visit, Ali Mohmand briefed Rashidi on the aims and objectives of the NBF, highlighting the institution's academic and literary activities, including textbook development and publication. MNA Rashidi appreciated the efforts to promote book culture and praised the work done by the NBF.

She also toured the National Book Museum, Wall of Honors, Indonesian Corner, and Bookshop, and recorded her comments in the visitor's book at the Book Museum.

## Pakistan Navy to observe two newly built warships induction in national fleet on Defence Day

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Pakistan Navy is going to observe induction of two newly built warships in the national fleet amid a massive increase in naval defence capabilities; on the occasion of Defence Day.

Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) Babar and PNS Hunain will join the fleet of Pakistan Navy simultaneously, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

PNS Babar, the first Miljumb/Babar class ship being built in Turkey, will officially become part of the Pakistan Navy.

PNS Hunain, the third offshore patrol vessel built in Romania, will also join the Pakistan Navy fleet.

The construction of PNS Babar started on 4th June 2020. PNS Babar was launched on 15th August 2021 while commissioning took place on 23rd September 2023.

Four Babar class ships equipped with vertical launching system are being inducted into Pakistan Navy.

Under the Pak-Turkiye agreement, two ships are being built in Istanbul and two in Karachi.

Three other Babar class ships PNS Badr, Tariq and Khyber are currently in various stages of preparation. The Babar class ship is capable of fighting on surface, underwater and air simultaneously.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Commissioner Islamabad and Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhwa presiding over the meeting regarding measures taken for the prevention of Dengue.

## Senate Committee body on Parliamentary Affairs convenes

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs convened today under the chairmanship of Senator Dr. Mohammad Humayun Mohmand. The meeting primarily focused on reviewing the total expenses incurred by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for the financial year 2024-25, including salaries and other expenditures.

During the proceedings, Senator Ali Zafar expressed strong concerns, stating, "This is our insult. The Election Commission did not come here. The Chief Election Commissioner and the members are under parliamentary supervision. If we cannot ask them questions, then which committee is responsible?" Senator Humayun Mohmand voiced his frustration, noting, "The Election Commission has already informed the committees. We allocate 50 billion rupees to the ECP, and yet we are unable to question them about their expenditures."

## Interactive sessions held on 2nd day of Education Information Fair

ISLAMABAD (APP): The representatives from the renowned universities conducted an interactive session with the students during the second day of the Education Information Fair.

These sessions covered a range of topics, including the application process, admission criteria, scholarships financial aid. The event was met with enthusiastic participation from students who had the opportunity to interact directly with university representatives, ask questions and gain valuable advice.

Many students expressed their gratitude for the comprehensive support and clarity provided during the fair.

## Motorway Police hands over lost money to truck driver

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Highway and Motorway Police (NHMP) officials found and handed over a lost amount of Rs 50,000 to a truck driver. According to details, a truck driver approached NHMP and said that while changing the truck tyre near Colonel Sher Khan's interchange, he left the site and after some while realized that an amount of Rs 50,000 had dropped from him during his stay.

Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhwa directed to enhance surveillance through the entomologists in the twin cities.

The meeting also considered acquiring the services of the additional entomologists to further strengthen Islamabad's capacity for surveillance if



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani offering Fataha on the sad demise of brother of the senior journalist Mohsin Baig at his residence in Federal Capital.

## CDA chairman for strict monitoring of dengue breeding spots

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhwa on Tuesday emphasized the need for thorough monitoring of potential breeding spots for dengue.

Chairing a meeting on dengue prevention measures in the twin cities, he directed that fumigation and spraying at these identified spots must be ensured.

It was highlighted in the briefing that the total number of reported cases this year is lower as compared to the same period last year.

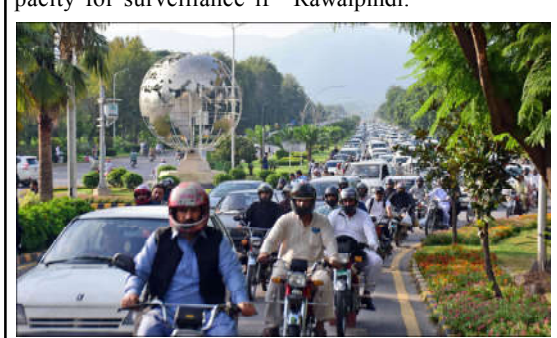
Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhwa directed to enhance surveillance through the entomologists in the twin cities.

The meeting also considered acquiring the services of the additional entomologists to further strengthen Islamabad's capacity for surveillance if

there is increase in the number of dengue cases in the coming days.

He further stressed the importance of coordination between the administrations of Rawalpindi and Islamabad in tackling dengue, especially in the boundary areas of the twin cities. Chairman Randhwa urged that all available resources be utilized for dengue prevention and called for a robust awareness campaign to educate the public on preventive measures. He highlighted that along with preventive actions, it is essential to maintain effective communication between the administrations of Rawalpindi and Islamabad to ensure the success of dengue control efforts.

The meeting was attended by the senior officers from the district administrations of Islamabad and Rawalpindi.



ISLAMABAD: A view of traffic jam at Constitution Avenue due to VVIP movement in the Federal Capital.

## PIDE's 4th RASTA conference sparks innovative solutions for Pakistan's bright future

ISLAMABAD: A two-day Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) conference, organized by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) started here on Tuesday to showcase pivotal research findings in critical sectors like education, healthcare, exports and investment.

Attended by policymakers, academics, and industry leaders, the conference underscored the importance of research-driven strategies in shaping Pakistan's future.

Project Director Dr Faheem Jehangir presented a detailed RASTA Progress Report, highlighting that the conference would feature five technical sessions and two showcase sessions, covering topics such

as food and agriculture, fiscal management, and more.

These sessions brought together 17 research teams to present their findings, fostering an extensive knowledge network and promoting high-quality, evidence-based policy research. Dr Nadeem Ul Haque, Chairman of RASTA and Vice-Chancellor of PIDE, emphasized the essential role of research in policy development. He noted that the conference featured presentations of cutting-edge research, including studies on the mental health and well-being of healthcare professionals, the potential of Pakistan's IT industry for software export growth, and the impact of government policies on olive production.

In addition to the technical sessions, the conference included showcase sessions highlighting significant projects, such as improvements in Pakistan's electricity billing system and findings from the 2024 round of the Pakistan Panel Household Survey (PPHS). Dr Haque elaborated on RASTA's mission, describing it as Pakistan's largest and most comprehensive social sciences research network, dedicated to bridging the gap between research and policy to enhance public policy and guide government decision-making. The first session of the conference, titled "Education and Healthcare," featured an array of critical insights into the challenges and opportunities within pharmaceutical.



ISLAMABAD: Policemen arresting protesters during PWD employees protest in favor of their demands at Srinagar Highway in the Federal Capital.