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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 establish 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.

President Zardari signs off 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 implementation 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 Attaulah 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.

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.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Energy Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari, Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Tapas Adhikari, and others cutting the cake during National Day ceremony of Nepal at a local hotel.

President, PM laud security forces for anti-terror operations in Waziristan

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have paid tribute to the security forces for carrying out successful anti-terrorist operations in North and South Waziristan.

President Asif Ali Zardari paid tribute to the security forces for carrying out anti-terror operations in North and South Waziristan and eliminating Khawarij (terrorists).

The president reiterated the nation's resolve to purge the country of terrorists and paid tribute to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the operations.

"The sacrifices of soldiers for their homeland will never be squandered. The security forces will keep up fighting till the elimination of terrorism in toto. The whole nation stands by its security forces to curb this scourge," the president remarked.

He also expressed sympathies for the bereaved families and prayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of martyrs' ranks in paradise.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday paid tribute to the security forces for carrying out successful anti-terrorist operations in North and South Waziristan.

The prime minister lauded the gallantry of the soldiers in eliminating several terrorists in the operations and reiterated the nation's resolve and priority to eliminate terrorism from the country, according to a PM Office press release.

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 Shariqullah, 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.



LAHORE: The Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov, called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.



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

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.

The ECC, which met with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb in the chair, gave its consent for sugar's export on a summary of the Ministry of Industries and Production.

The committee, however, directed that after further discussions with the Tajik entity, the final form of the sale agreement be brought back to it for approval. The Industries Ministry, in conjunction with the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP), would lead the process, a news release said. The ECC also reviewed and approved another proposal from the Industries Ministry regarding the further export of 0.100 million metric tons of surplus sugar. The meeting was informed that the price of sugar as per the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) data had shown a downward trend since July while sufficient stocks of sugar were available to meet domestic requirements up to January next year.

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 Sunni 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 Sunni 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.



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

PM greets Rind on winning Karate Combat Championship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday congratulated Shahzaib Rind, the Pakistani mixed martial arts player from Balochistan, who won the Karate Combat Championship (KC-49) held in Singapore.

"You have brought fame to Pakistan through your sport and expertise. The whole nation feels proud of you," the prime minister said, according to a PM Office press release.

In the final contest held in Singapore, Shahzaib defeated Bruno Roberto De Assis.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presides over the special meeting about Health Department.

PTI allowed to hold rally in Lahore

LAHORE (INP) The district administration of Lahore has decided to permit Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to hold a rally in Lahore but with some caveats.

The decision includes strict adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure safety and order during the event, as confirmed by a spokesperson. Currently, officials are in discussions to finalise the venue for the rally.

Sources indicate that the Kahna Maweshi Mandi (Cattle Market) is being considered as a potential location. PTI had initially requested to hold the rally at Minar-e-Pakistan ground. However,

based on the District Intelligence Committee's report, alternative locations such as Kahna Cattle Market, Shahpur Kanjran, and Saggian Bridge are also under consideration.

The PTI rally in Lahore led to a deadlock between the opposition leader and the Deputy Commissioner regarding the end time of the rally. The district administration proposed that the rally should conclude by 7 PM, while PTI suggested an end time of 11 PM.

The opposition leader of the Punjab Assembly is currently consulting with his lawyers outside the Deputy Commissioner's office to resolve this issue.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presides over the special meeting about Health Department.

Ahsan stresses greater unity among Muslim Ummah to tackle confronted challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday stressed the urgent need for greater unity among the Ummah to effectively address the challenges faced, particularly the killings of innocent Muslims in Palestine, Gaza and other regions.

"The unity of the Ummah is the need of the hour, as two billion Muslims in the world seem helpless in front of a country of 10 million that is shedding the blood of innocent people in Gaza, Palestine and Lebanon," he said.

The minister was addressing the opening session of a three-day International Seerat Conference at the National Skills University.

He emphasized the significance of following the teachings of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) to succeed in this world and the Hereafter, urging a way out of the existing crisis of 'knowledge and practice.'

Unfortunately, he said: "We (Muslims) are limited to only lip-service and are far behind in the practical world. Today's Muslims are suffering from a crisis of both knowledge and practice." Ahsan Iqbal noted that Muslims were once ahead in multiple fields in Spain but now lagged behind, with no Muslim scientist close to winning a Nobel Prize.

He warned that some elements just wanted to fan hatred in society by misleading the public, especially the youth, in the name of religion and Namooos-e-Risalat (SAW) to achieve their nefarious designs.

The minister mentioned that he was the son of a mother who first got the Namooos-e-Risalat (SAW) law approved in Parliament but was targeted by such elements.

He said Islam was a religion of peace, harmony and brotherhood that never allowed taking the lives of innocent people based on their faith, quoting examples from Islamic history.

Aleem Khan chairs meeting of NHA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Communications, Board of Investment and Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan Friday chaired a high-level meeting of the National Highway Authority (NHA).

He was briefed by Chairman NHA that by implementing his instructions, number of M Tag users has been increased to more than 92% while the revenue of the NHA has also been significantly improved during last six months.

The minister while expressing satisfaction over the betterment asked the NHA to adopt a Hi-Tech System and bring the entire working of National Highway Authority Online in the shortest possible time.

He observed that the implementation of the best tracking system on all highways should be ensured and any shortcoming will not be tolerated.

Constitutional amendments aimed at 'protecting' govt: Fazal

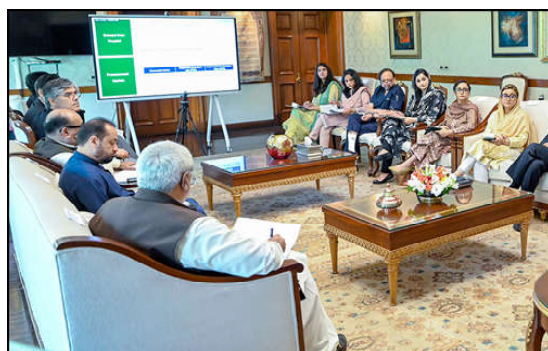
MULTAN (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief, Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said that the proposed constitutional amendments were aimed at 'protecting' the government.

Addressing a presser in Multan, Maulana Fazlur Rehman vowed to strive to prevent incorrect decisions or legislation in the parliament.

"The JUI-F will not allow any amendments that compromise human rights or undermine the judicial system," Fazlur Rehman said.

He said that protecting fundamental rights is crucial and parliament should be involved in this process. The JUI-F chief said that his party members did not agree with the government's proposed draft of the constitutional amendments.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman also expressed concerns over the establishment of a constitutional court, citing potential 'mala fide intentions'.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presides over the special meeting about Health Department.

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 hun-

dreds 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.

And the next victim will be the ordinary litigant: as the JUI-F's senator Kamran Murtaza has already revealed (and opposed), one late-night draft was all set to water down Article 8 — the protection of fundamental rights.

That this journey began with the trash-fire law that was the Practice and Procedure Act is now plain — those praising its case-fixation committee overlook the fact that the new method still results in mostly 'li-keminded' benches; that its appeals process has mainly managed freeing out the military trials case; and that it has opened the door to a rump Assembly mangling the Constitution to punish the judges.

But the road must end there: this amendment cannot stand. If the idea was to reduce backlog, all it does is throw up another needless forum. If the idea was to honour the Charter of Democracy, the same charter calls for FCC judges to be appointed by a judicial commission (and not the PM's speed dial). And if the idea was the chief justice's extension, that won't work either. On Oct 26, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah will be chief justice of Pakistan. Best to act accordingly. — Courtesy Dawn

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 of trainers 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."

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.

He made these remarks during a meeting with a business delegation led by Pakistan Development Foundation (PDF) Chairman Muhammad Bilal Sethi at the Indonesian Embassy.

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 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 growth should be equitably with marginalized and vulnerable including the populace living in peripheral areas.

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).

expressed concern over incorrect meter readings, stating that her family had to visit the office 28 times in three months, where they were met with misbehavior. Senator Palwasha condemned this conduct, labeling it as part of a mafia, and called for strict action. She suggested referring the matter to the FIA to dismantle this group and set an example.

She emphasized that if such treatment could happen to her family, the hardships faced by the common public would be unimaginable.

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

Bank Al Habib Ltd Abbottabad Road Manshehra Branch (Plaintiff)

Versus
(1) M/S Suzuki Karakoram Motors having its office at Ghazi Kot Karakoram Highway Tehsi I& District Manshehra (2) Malik Muhammad Waheed S/o Muhammad Akram Khan R/o Ghazi Kot Manshehra (3) Mst. Sidra Waheed D/o Muhammad Jan W/o Malik Waheed R/o Ghazi Kot Manshehra (4) Malik Muhammad Zafar S/o Muhammad Akram Khan R/o Ghazi Kot Manshehra (Defendant)

Whereas the Bank Al Habib Ltd Abbottabad Road Manshehra Branch has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 26119000/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (27-08-2024). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a decree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 02-10-2024.

(sd/)
JUDGE
Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.

Punjab Governor says:

Pakistan, Azerbaijan enjoy long standing brotherly ties

Independent Report
LAHORE: The Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan and 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.

He said that the relations between the two countries are based on common religion, culture and mutual support. He stressed the need for exchange of trade delegations between the two countries. The Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov said that Pakistan stood with Azerbaijan in difficult times. He expressed determination to enhance trade relations between the countries. He said that plan for preferential trade facilities for Pakistani businessmen was on the cards. He said that there are vast opportunities for cooperation in infrastructure and energy sectors between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. He reaffirmed his commitment to foster economic relations with Pakistan.



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.

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." The three-day entrepreneurship conference, organized by the Young Leaders Parliament in collaboration with the Directorate of Youth Affairs, saw participation from over 70 young leaders across

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The event featured extensive sessions on entrepreneurship, e-commerce, technical education, and online businesses.

Dr. Saif praised the efforts of the young leaders involved in organizing such activities, stating that these initiatives are crucial for preparing the youth to take on the responsibilities of tomorrow. He encouraged the youth to learn from the experiences of their elders, understand modern-day requirements, and plan effectively for the future.

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.

Alongside, several development projects at the adjacent Jinnah College for Women have been completed, 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.

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. Furthermore, the renovation and restoration of the historic Government Hussain Sharif Higher Secondary School No. 1 in Peshawar City.



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.

During the proceedings, Punjab Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Inspector General of Police Dr. Usman Anwar, and other relevant officers appeared before the bench.

A provincial law officer, representing the Punjab government, opposed the petition, claiming the petitioners had not approached the relevant forum for permission to hold the rally and rejected allegations of harassment.

The bench instructed the PTI to submit an official request for the rally and emphasized the need to find a permanent solution by designating rally sites across Punjab.

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.

Furthermore, the analysis showed those 790 drivers, 54 underage drivers, 193 pedestrians, and 514 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 270 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 288 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by Faisalabad 100 in with 100 victims and at third Multan with 77 RTCs and 102 victims. The details further reveal that 1497 victims were affected by road traffic crashes including 1205 males & 292 females, while the age group of the victims shows that 242 were under 18 years of age.

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.

The committee decided to organize community awareness sessions in collaboration with Population Welfare, NRPS, TRDP, Sindh Community Foundation and Shifa Foundation, to promote nutrition and health education among the community.

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.

In view of the previous meeting's decision, the department of social protection sent a letter for a mobile registration van to facilitate CNIC registration for pregnant women. The van will visit village Allah Dino Sand, Bau Khan Pathan and Khandu.

According to a hand-out issued here on Friday,

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. Naat-Khwani competition for the blind people was held in connection with Eid Milad-ul-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him) celebrations.

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.

Centre (WMC) Pakistan in collaboration with Washington based National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

The speakers were highlighting their views in a one day conference themed "Social Media Influencers, ethics of authenticity and production of content" organized by Women Media

Influencers should maintain responsible behaviour towards society as due to heavy flow of the information, social media influencers were spreading disinformation, speaker said.

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.

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.

The Israeli military reported warning sirens sounded in northern Israel following the Beirut strike. Israeli media reported heavy rocket fire in northern Israel. Hezbollah said it had fired Katyusha rockets at what it described as the main intelligence headquarters in northern Israel "which is responsible for assassinations". White House spokesman John Kirby said he was not aware of any Israeli notification to the United States before the Beirut strike, adding that Americans were strongly urged not to travel to Lebanon, or to leave if they are already there.



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

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.

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.

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

Palestinian health officials said shelling by Israeli tanks killed eight people and wounded several others in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central area of Gaza, and six others were killed in an airstrike on a house in Gaza City.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

dom 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.

"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 king-

As recently as earlier this month, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken had been holding out the prospect of the swift establishment of ties with the Gulf Arab oil kingdom as a potential dividend for Israel.

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.

development Board (BPDB) told Reuters on Friday. Of the more than \$1bn owed to India's power companies, some \$800 million is to Adani Power, he added. Adani Power did not respond to a request for comment.

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.

PTC India and SEIL Energy India Ltd have written to the BPDB to recover about \$80m and \$190m respectively in payment for the power they provided to Bangladesh, documents reviewed by Reuters show.

Bangladesh is urgently seeking \$5bn 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.

"PTC has a long term business relation of supplying power to BPDB since 2013 and the power supply under [the] current contract is from 2022," a PTC India spokesperson said. A SEIL spokesperson said it had informed the Bangladesh authorities about what it called an "unsustainable situation". Bangladesh, which imports nearly 20 per cent of its power from its neighbour India, has not paid for the electricity for the last eight to nine months, a source told Reuters.

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.

decisions from the plan depended specifically on him (Biden). On other allies too, but there are certain points which depend on the goodwill and support of the United States," Zelenskiy said.

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. "Most of the deci-

Zelenskiy has provided regular updates on the plan's preparation but has given few clues to the contents, indicating only that it aims to create terms acceptable to Ukraine after more than 2-1/2 years of war following Russia's full-scale invasion.

"The entire plan is predicated upon quick decisions from our partners. The plan is predicated upon decisions which should take place from October to December, and not delaying these processes," he told the press conference alongside von der Leyen.

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. Her release followed a ruling by an appeals court, as confirmed by her lawyer, Mohammad Hossein Aghassi. Faezeh was arrested in September 2022 during nationwide protests sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini. Mahsa's passing while in police custody for allegedly violating Iran's strict dress code ignited widespread demonstrations demanding change.

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.

The prime minister chairing a meeting to review the matters related to the FBR, directed the authorities concerned to formulate a comprehensive strategy to improve FBR's enforcement, according to a PM Office press release.

Calling the FBR the backbone of the national economy and appreciating its transformation plan, he said enhanced tax receipts would upgrade service delivery and the social sector.

He called for consulting the prominent taxpayers and all stakeholders on the FBR transformation plan and seeking approval of amendments in coordination with the relevant government departments

for their effective implementation.

The prime minister said the promotion of the private sector was among government priorities calling it inevitable for a strong economy.

He instructed the third-party audit of FBR's projects and expedited efforts to curb smuggling.

During the briefing, Prime Minister Shehbaz was told that the FBR transformation plan featured effective utilisation of technology, awarding efficient officers to improve tax receipts, and improving enforcement of taxation laws.

Formulated by FBR officers and experts within the last 40 days, the program would ensure tax collection without impeding economic development besides facilitating the honest taxpayers.

It also provides for strict action or restrictions on transactions against those failing to pay full tax

on time or those involved in fraud, to prevent tax evasion.

It was told that such measures would be enforced after consultation with the good taxpayers.

The meeting approved the FBR's Home Grown Transformation Plan which has been formulated on the prime minister's directives in consultation with economic and technological experts after analysing the tax receipts during the last 25 years.

In the first phase, the efficient and competent officers would be posted in Karachi, the large taxpayer unit contributing 32% of receipts, who would be assisted by the auditors and experts.

The plan also features the reward for best-performing officers, and a mandatory professional degree from the best universities for the officers, after their common and specialised training programs.



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.

In his message, Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that the role of diplomacy is pivotal for maintaining peace. He also added "Nations and leaders must prioritize dialogue and understanding over conflict. Peace cannot be achieved through violence; it can only be sustained through mutual respect, cooperation, and a commitment to justice."

He also urged the international community to uphold human rights and promote equality, as these principles are key to building a peaceful world. He said, "Peace is more than the absence of war. It is the presence of harmony, justice, and respect for diversity." "Only by embracing these values can we hope to create a world where future generations can thrive in peace and security," he added.

Sardar Ayaz while underscoring Pakistan's steadfast commitment to advocating for the rights of oppressed people of Palestine & Kashmir stated that Pakistan is consistently calling for an end to the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories and is advocating for the Kashmiris who

are facing decades of human rights violations & have been stripped off their unique & geographical identity.

The Speaker while emphasizing the urgent need for global attention towards the injustice and struggles of the Palestinian and Kashmiri people stated that their quest for self-determination is a matter of basic human rights, and it is incumbent upon the international community to support their aspirations for freedom and dignity.

He urged all nations to unite in the pursuit of peace and justice. The Speaker stated, "On this International Peace Day, let us renew our commitment to ending conflicts, upholding human rights, and supporting those who strive for freedom."

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.

In his opening remarks at the sidelines of the 8th Silk Road International Expo at Xi'an Shaanxi Province, China he said "Top companies from Pakistan specializing in upstream, mid-stream and downstream petroleum and coal companies were looking to work with Shaanxi Companies to

bolster infrastructure and energy production, areas crucial for the country's socioeconomic development.

He underscored efforts to deepen provincial-level cooperation, focusing on enhancing B2B linkages across sectors such as mining, petroleum and energy, and technology.

The Minister said that the 8th Silk Road International Expo was not just a celebration of trade and investment; it was a celebration of the spirit of cooperation that defines the relationship between Pakistan and China.

The minister noted



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

that the Belt and Road Initiative and its flagship project, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, were not only infrastructure projects but platforms for peace, prosperity and development for the entire world.

NA body directs for steps to revive PTV's past glory & grandeur

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting Friday directed for taking extensive steps to revive the past glory and grandeur of Pakistan Television (PTV).

The committee, which was presided over by Wajid Ali Wajid, suggested for optimum utilization of the PTV's present infrastructure and human resource for making it a profitable entity.

It was of the view that the revival of PTV's glory was need of the hour without losing its status of a family channel and conforming it with the present trends.

The committee said that the PTV had an immense human resource potential and state of the art infrastructure which could be utilized to regain its former status.

The panel also suggested for a dedicated educational channel as the experiment of imparting education through the PTV during COVID-19 pandemic had proved to be successful. The committee directed the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) and the Press Information Department (PID) to aggressively pursue the issue of payment of salaries/outstanding dues to the media workers.

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.

A grand Jirga of tribal elders and scholars was organized by Frontier Corps South in Wana, South Waziristan wherein the participants reiterated their commitment to stand by Pakistan Army in the ongoing war against Khawarij. The participants also endorsed one point agenda of the Government against the terrorists and militants and called it the right step and need of the hour.



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

IG Islamabad holds briefing for officials Beat officers deployed alongside dolphin squad to ensure effective patrolling

ISLAMABAD: The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Raza, conducted a briefing for officers of all police stations, Dolphin Squad, Ababeel Squad, City Watchers, and Night Patrol Unit. On the occasion, DIG Islamabad Syed

protect the lives and property of the citizens.

You are part of a department where the best way to please Allah is to create ease for his servants. Our duty is to ensure the safety of citizens' lives and property and to enhance the reputation of our department", he

spond promptly to every call.

Additionally, individual performance reports of all officers will be compiled daily. Officers stationed at checkpoints will ensure effective monitoring of criminal elements.

Each officer will be held accountable for their individual performance as well as the crimes occurring in their areas. Corruption and negligence in duties will not be tolerated, he added.

DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza further said that, the welfare of all officers is my top priority. You must conduct effective crackdowns on criminal elements. All police officers are urged to enhance patrols in the federal capital to prevent crime, ensure immediate response to emergency calls to the helpline Pucar-15, and serve citizens promptly. Protecting the lives and property of citizens is our foremost responsibility, he maintained.

Ali Raza, senior police officials, and a large number of police officers were also present, a public relations officer said.

During the briefing, the IG Islamabad emphasized the importance of meeting with the officers, stating, "It is my duty, given to me by Allah, to work with you all to pro-

Moreover, DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza mentioned that special beat officers will be deployed alongside the Dolphin Squad to make patrolling more effective in the federal capital. These beat officers will remain in their designated areas 24/7 and will re-

Twin cities admin unite to combat dengue surge: over 900 cases reported

ISLAMABAD (APP): The district administrations of Islamabad and Rawalpindi were taking coordinated prevention and enforcement actions to tackle the dengue outbreak.

Amid the alarming rise in dengue cases in the twin cities, a joint meeting of officials from both administrations outlined the next steps in controlling the spread of dengue.

The meeting co-chaired by the Commissioners of both cities while the Deputy Commissioners of Islamabad and Rawalpindi were also in attendance to discuss strategies aimed at curbing the dengue outbreak. The numbers are concerning: so far, 537 dengue cases have been reported in Rawalpindi and 389 in Islamabad.

In Islamabad alone, 41 patients have been admitted to various hospitals. The data also revealed that most of the cases (74%) occurred among men, while

26% were women. The majority of the affected persons were from particularly between the ages of 20 and 39.

In the last 24 hours, 48 new cases of dengue have emerged. Over the past week, 1,646 positive larvae cases were found across both cities. During the meeting, a briefing was given on the ongoing anti-dengue operations, especially at the borders between Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Joint efforts have identified several larvae breeding grounds, which the authorities were targeting for further action.

The administrations stressed the need to use all available resources to prevent the growth of dengue larvae. Officials also highlighted the importance of launching a public awareness campaign to inform citizens about dengue prevention and the standard operating procedures (SOPs) they should follow.

DIG emphasizes zero tolerance for corruption & bribery

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Syed Ali Raza on Friday emphasized upon zero-tolerance policy towards corruption and bribery, stressing that the protection of life, property, and citizens' dignity was of a paramount importance.

According to police spokesperson, under the special directives of the Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the DIG Syed Ali Raza said that the Islamabad Police is committed to resolve public issues on priority.

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 Rafiq 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.

Khawaja Saad Rafiq expressed his condolences on the death of Syedaal Khan's mother in law at his residence here on Friday and prayed for the departed soul. Deputy Chairman Senate welcomed the senior PML-N leader and former Federal Minister Khawaja Saad Rafiq and had a detailed discussion on the

overall political and economic situation of the country, a news release said.

Saad Rafiq said that measures were being taken to improve the economic and political affairs of the country. "PML-N is the largest political party in the country. All the political parties of the country should support the present government for the better interest of the country". He appreciated the services of Deputy Chairman Syedaal Khan in the Upper House and paid tribute to his services. He said that the current government's effort was to implement such legislation that was beneficial to solve the economic, social and political problems of the country.

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. Pakistan was elected by consensus at the 68th Session of the IAEA's General Conference in Vienna, from the Middle East and South Asia region, for the term beginning this month.

This is Pakistan's 21st term on the IAEA's BOG. Pakistan's election is recognition of its long-standing commitment to the aims and objectives of the IAEA in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy as well as its positive contribution.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme, Senator Rubina Khalid, calls on the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, Jameel Ahmed. Secretary Benazir Income Support Programme, Amer Ali Ahmad, are also present.

Gul Asghar prioritizes implementation of axle load for safeguarding lives and highways

ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary Secretary for Communications Gul Asghar Khan Baghoor on Friday emphasized that the implementation of axle load will be his top priority to protect national highways and safeguard precious human lives.

He expressed these views while talking to NH&MP officials during his visit to the National Highways and Motorway Police (NH&MP) headquarters.

Inspector General (IG) NH&MP Salman Chaudhry warmly welcomed the Secretary on arrival at NH&MP headquarters.

On this occasion, the Parliamentary Secretary was briefed in detail about the strategy, axle load control regime and other challenges of Motorway Police.

Inspector General Salman Chaudhry, Additional Inspector General of Police, DIGs and other senior officers were also present.

The Parliamentary Secretary assured that the implementation of Axle Load will be my first priority to save national highways and precious human lives.

Gul Asghar Khan Baghoor said the development of any country requires a lot of work in the field of communications, telecommunications and energy. Because these are the means by which nations develop, he added.

Gul Asghar Khan said there is an urgent need to solve the shortage of manpower in the Motorway Police on an urgent basis.



Fighting fake news is crucial as disinformation can distort reality, leading to poor decisions on critical issues like health, safety, and voting.

False health advice endangers lives, while misleading political information skews public opinion and undermines trust in institutions. Beyond personal harm, fake news fuels societal division by exploiting emotions and reinforcing biases.

To combat this, promoting media literacy and critical thinking is essential. Supporting reputable news sources and encouraging skepticism ensures the information shaping our lives is accurate, balanced, and reliable.

Most People Won't Get it

25th NATIONAL NEWSPAPER READERSHIP DAY

#StopFakeNews #PromoteAuthenticity