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Launches special anti-polio campaign PM Shehbaz vows to make Pakistan polio-free through collective efforts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday reaffirmed his commitment to making Pakistan polio-free, stating that with collective efforts, the disease will be completely eradicated and prevented from re-emerging in the future, ensuring a healthier future for the nation's children.

Speaking at the ceremony after launching the 7-day polio eradication campaign, the prime minister stressed that a unified approach and collaborative efforts are crucial to successfully tackling the polio challenge and achieving a polio-free Pakistan.

At the ceremony, the prime minister extended a warm welcome to the attendees and expressed his appreciation for the outstanding collaboration and tireless efforts of federal and provincial government staff, foot soldiers, and security officers, who have worked together seamlessly to drive the polio eradication campaign forward.

The prime minister voiced his confidence that by working together with provincial chief ministers, chief secretaries, health ministers, and health secretaries, the government will successfully eliminate polio, paving the way for a polio-free future and eradicating this preventable disease in the years to come.

He further pledged that once polio is eliminated, the government will ensure it never returns, providing a safer future for generations to come.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing the inaugural ceremony of countrywide Special Anti-Polio Campaign.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori presenting gift to family of a Shaheed during Naval Day. Commander Karachi Rear Admiral Muhammad Saleem is also present.

Contrary to PTI's tall claims, masses rejected call for attending public rally: Tarar

Castigates rowdy PTI workers for pelting stones at police

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Sunday that contrary to tall claims of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leadership, the people of Pakistan had rejected its rally.

In a special media talk attendance. He said that the PTI was spreading lies and propaganda on social media by sharing old videos of rallies from Kashmir and even Indian Punjab farmers' footage. He made it clear that the PTI leadership could not escape accountability by such tactics. He said PTI founder



regarding the PTI rally near Sangjani, he said traffic remained normal in Islamabad and the Punjab province.

chairman will have to face trial for corrupt practices.

"Millions of people who were supposed to bring a revolution today, nobody knows where they have gone. Have they gone to some other country or another place?", he remarked. He stated that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf had to resort to fake videos to give the impression of huge rally and uploaded false and fake posts on social media to cover up their

The PTI leadership will be held accountable for Tasha Khana fraud, £190 million embezzlement scam, which was biggest corruption case in Pakistan's history. He remarked that the PTI's leadership both in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had completely failed to bring convoys to the public rally. Taking a jibe at the PTI he said: "Tabdeeli Ka Jazba, Tabdeeli ka Janoon, Inna Lillahi wa Anna Ilay Rajiyun."

Karachi reports 5,960 street crime incidents in August

KARACHI (INP): Karachi has witnessed surge in street crime, with 5,960 incidents reported in August alone.

the year 2024.

According to the Citizens-Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) report, the city saw a rise in street crime, including vehicle theft, with 23 cars stolen at gunpoint and 150 cars stolen.

The majority of the crimes involved the theft of motorcycles in the metropolis.

Report stated that the motorcycles were also a target, with 656 stolen and 3385 reported stolen from various areas of the city.

In the span of the first seven months of the current year, more than 31,000 motorcycles were either stolen or snatched from their owners, making them the most common target in these street crime incidents, while, over 11,800 mobile phones were snatched from citizens.

Furthermore, robbers snatched 1737 mobile phones from citizens, while 3 cases of kidnapping for ransom and 6 cases of extortion were also reported.

The data further revealed that around 1,200 cars were snatched from citizens during the same period, adding to the already high levels of insecurity among residents.

Earlier on August 10, police reported that Karachi witnessed a staggering surge in street crimes, with over 44,000 incidents reported in just the first seven months of

Despite the significant number of thefts, recovery rates remain low. Police reports indicate that only 1,500 motorcycles, 220 cars, and 120 mobile phones have been successfully recovered.

September 8 marked as commitment to Maritime Defence: Governor

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammad Kamran Khan Tessori has emphasized that September 8 signifies an unwavering commitment to maritime defence.

Addressing a ceremony on Navy Day, he said that the Pakistan Navy defeated enemies Navy many times.

Tessori said that the entire nation paid tribute to the courage and dedication of the Pakistan Navy. He

said that the Pakistan Navy displayed exceptional bravery in the 1965 war. He said that the story of the bravery of Pakistan Navy men was heard all over the world.

Governor Kamran Khan Tessori also met with the families of martyrs of the Pakistan Navy.

Earlier, he arrived at the Navy Day ceremony and was welcomed by Commander Karachi Rear Admiral Muhammad Saleem.

3,000 centers for non-formal education will be established in Sindh: Education Minister

Efforts to increase education and literacy in Sindh should prioritize

Independent Report

KARACHI: Representatives from global and local institutions working for the advancement of education, social figures, scholars, and others emphasized that efforts to increase education and literacy in Sindh should prioritize providing basic education in children's mother tongue.

Furthermore, steps to promote multilingual education should be strengthened so that future generations can enhance communication and learn from one another. These thoughts were expressed by the speakers during an event held at Karachi's Marriott Hotel in connection with World Literacy Day.

Sindh's Minister for Education and Mineral Development, Syed Sardar Ali Shah, participated as the chief guest. The event, organized by the Directorate

of Literacy and Non-Formal Education, was titled "Promoting Multilingual Education: Literacy for Mutual Understanding and Peace." In addition to representatives from global organizations working in education, the event was attended by Sindh School Education Secretary Zahid Ali Abbasi, social activist Shehzad Roy, Javed Jabbar, JICA Chief Advisor Javed Gill, MD of Sindh Education Foundation Qazi Kabir, Director of Non-Formal Education Abdul Jabbar Mari, head of the Thar Education Alliance Partab Shivani, JICA's Prem Sagar, educators, teachers, and students.

In his address as the chief guest, Sindh Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah said that there is a need to further activate the non-formal education mechanism to ensure out-of-school children in Sindh.

Home Minister says Safe City Project will be a key instrument in ensuring peace and protecting citizens

Independent Report

KARACHI: Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hasan Lanjar on Sunday inspected the first model car equipped with advanced cameras and surveillance tools, marking the launch of the Safe City Project.

The initiative, led by the Sindh government, aims to bolster security and crime monitoring in Karachi. Accompanied by the provincial Home Secretary, Zia Ul Hassan Lanjar revealed that four model cars would begin patrolling Shahrah-e-Faisal in the project's initial phase. A total of 123 model

cars will eventually be deployed for citywide surveillance. "The Safe City Project will be a key instrument in ensuring peace and protecting citizens," Home Minister said. "The future is about adopting modern technology.

If we don't act now, we risk falling behind on a global scale." He further noted that those model cars would play a crucial role in monitoring high-crime areas and assisting in the apprehension of suspects. The project aims to enhance public safety and improve law enforcement effectiveness in Karachi.



KARACHI: Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong in a group photo during his visit to Karachi Nuclear Power Plants K-2 and K-3.

Dar alleges PTI gov't policies led to resurgence of terrorism, economic crisis

No question of engaging with those who attacked state institutions, says deputy PM in London

LONDON (INP): With the country engaged in retaliatory measures following a recent spate of attacks, Senator Ishaq Dar alleged on Sunday that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government's policy of 'appeasing and rehabilitating' extremist groups contributed to the resurgence of terrorism.

Dar, who is the Deputy Prime Minister and also the Foreign Minister of the country, made these remarks during an interaction with British lawmakers of Pakistani origin at a dinner hosted by the High Commissioner Dr Mohammad Faissal at the Pakistan House in London, said a statement issued today.

However, the previous government's policy of appeasing and rehabilitating extremist groups, such as the Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP), and the release of over 100 hardened terrorists, led to a resurgence of terrorism, he noted.

The nation has been reeling under rising violent attacks since the Taliban rulers returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021, particularly in the bordering provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan.

The two most vulnerable provinces saw a sharp rise in deadly attacks last month, according to data from the Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS).

Dar informed the audience that during the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government from 2013 to 2017, terrorism was contained at an immense cost of blood and national exchequer.



Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister interacts with British Parliamentarians of Pakistani origin in London.

PTI leaders call for Imran's release in Islamabad rally

Azhar hints at movement against Maryam Nawaz in Punjab; Marwat says more rallies to be held for PTI founder's release

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) concluded its highly-anticipated public gathering on the outskirts of Islamabad well after the deadline imposed by the district administration on Sunday.

The rally commenced with PTI leader Hammad Azhar addressing the attendees. He asserted that the obstacles imposed by the current rulers indicated their fear of Imran Khan and

his supporters. Azhar also hinted at the initiation of a new movement in Punjab, led by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, urging party workers to "be ready."

The former federal minister paid tribute to jailed PTI leaders, such as Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Umar Sarfraz Cheema, highlighting that much of PTI's Punjab leadership is currently imprisoned.

Sher Afzal Marwat echoed similar sentiments, announcing that rallies would soon be held in Punjab advocating for Imran Khan's release and the supremacy of the law and Constitution.

Man killed, 3 injured in Wana powerful explosion

ISLAMABAD (APP): A man was killed on the spot while three others injured in an explosion in Karikot village bazaar adjacent to Wana in South Waziristan district on Sunday.

Gas outage hits several areas of Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A sudden gas outage hit several areas of Karachi, worsening the ongoing gas crisis of the metropolis.

However, both domestic and commercial consumers are struggling with the gas disruption, particularly on a holiday.

According to local Police, the blast was reported in Karikot village market in a vehicle that killed a man and injured three others, a private news channels reported.

As per the details, the shortage of gas in the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) system further intensified the gas crisis in several areas of Karachi.

Last month, Gas supply to several areas of Sindh and Balochistan was affected due to gas leakage in one of the feeder lines of the Gambat Gas field, supplying gas to SSGC, the company's spokesperson said.

The residents of Manzoort Colony, Chanesar Goth, PECHS Society, and Gulshan-e-Iqbal area are facing gas outage for two hours, meanwhile, gas supply has been suspended in other areas including New Karachi, Orangi, Landhi, Malir, Baloch Colony, and Karsaz.

The man killed in the explosion has been identified as Shamsuddin s/o Malik Jamil, according to police.

According to Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) spokesperson, due to the gas leakage, the system is experiencing a gas shortage of 38mmcf/d.

The rescue officials reached the spot and rushed the injured and the body to the district headquarters hospital in Wana.

The statement said that a team of Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) has begun pipeline repair which is expected to be completed within 20 hours.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Security challenges

The sentiment expressed was commendable, but will positive words also shape positive policies? That is the big question.

On Friday, at a ceremony to mark Pakistan's 59th Defence Day, Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir sent out an appeal for internal harmony, asking that the citizenry "not allow differences in political views to turn into hatred". Vowing to defeat those who sow chaos, despair and uncertainty among the people, the army chief hoped that strong relations between the armed forces and the public would serve as a foundation for defeating those trying to divide and conquer Pakistan.

"Whether facing hostile foreign elements or fighting the war against terrorism, carrying out relief activities in the face of disasters, or playing a role in projects related to the country's progress, the Pakistani nation has always strengthened the army's resolve," he noted. Given the fraught internal security environment, rekindling this relationship is necessary.

It was evident from the words of the army chief that the institution continues to place great value on its relationship with the people it is tasked with protecting. No security operation can be considered successful in a holistic sense unless it has buy-in and support from the people, and at a time when the country is dealing with a sudden resurgence of major security-related challenges amidst a period of social upheaval, securing this buy-in and support has become both urgent and necessary.

In this regard, it was quite encouraging to note that the federal government had simultaneously launched a campaign to engage the leaders of various religious communities in helping strengthen counterterrorism operations and combat extremism and intolerance. The approach, it is hoped, will counter the menace of violent extremism by addressing the ideological aspects of the problem while the armed forces' efforts take care of the rest via kinetic operations.

However, engaging religious leaders and launching fresh operations may not be enough. It has been clear for a while that local populations in areas currently most affected by terrorism and militancy still do not want grand operations, mainly because similar exercises in the past created externalities that inflicted very high costs on the affected populations. Furthermore, some segments, especially some of the more vocal social movements in Balochistan that have been agitating for constitutional rights, fear that they may be bundled up with militants and made to suffer the same treatment decided for the latter simply because of their outspoken activism. There is an urgent need to address these fears and assure all those who eschew violence and militancy that their interests will be protected, and they will not be targeted under the state's counterinsurgency plans. If the state needs its people behind it, it should remain mindful and sensitive to their concerns.

AI friendship

Muna Khan

You don't forget your first love. Psychologists say it is because it is a life-changing experience and one that can impact your brain, leaving an imprint on its sensory parts. By the same token, you also don't forget your first break-up. These experiences are the first intense emotions we go through.

Imagine feeling this for a virtual companion. Before you wave me off as stark raving mad, I assure you technology has been creating solutions to finding the right companion for you in the form of matchmaking apps and now AI chatbots for companionship and intimacy.

I heard about one such app, which was created in 2017 in the US called Replika. As I am an avid podcast consumer, I heard about it on Black Box, a series by The Guardian on how AI is impacting lives. Replika sells itself as a 'virtual friend' that is able to improve the emotional well-being of the user. You log on, create the avatar of the friend you want — name, body, personality and backstory — and presto, your friend is ready to engage with you through text, voice, augmented reality and virtual reality.

"What does it mean to have a friend inside your computer?" wrote Casey Newton in The Verge in 2015, before large language models became what they are today. Nearly a decade on, virtual beings are helping answer that question.

In an interview to The Verge earlier this year, Replika's founder Eugenia Kudyas said the app was not trying to replace real-life relationships but "create an entirely new relationship category with the AI

companion, a virtual being that will be there for you whenever you need it, for potentially whatever purposes you might need it for."

Millions of users signed up when it was launched and were using it for coaching, friendship, mental health and romance. I learned a lot about Replika from users on Reddit. Their conversations had one common thread — they felt seen and heard by their companion. I read so many comments about how their Rep "gets me more than my best friend, mum, dad, etc." That is, after all, what companionship is about: knowing the other person, listening to them and being listened to. Users felt the relationship was real and were willing to pay \$70 as annual subscription fee. (I know I will get a lot of flak for saying this but there is always some form of transaction in a relationship so let us avoid judgment here.)

Replika's paid services include more features, one of which was romantic role play. However, in February, a ruling by Italy's privacy regulator (a body that protects private data and online well-being) banned Replika from using Italian people's data and stated that it posed risks to minors and "emotionally fragile people."

It said the app did not have an age verification process or filters to prevent minors from accessing adult material. But I think the real concern was about the risks it posed to the emotionally frail who could get hurt by technology.

After the ruling, many features were removed and users around the world experienced a deep sense of loss when their Rep "changed" overnight. I

read comments about users struggling with the break-up and about how surprised they were by the feelings they had for virtual beings.

It is easy to mock people who use apps like Replika. But at the heart of it, this is a story about loneliness, a growing epidemic that technology is attempting to solve, and profit from. If social media has profited from keeping us glued to their platforms, often at the expense of personal relationships, why blame other platforms from trying to cash in and also address a need?

I am curious to see how machine learning impacts the future of our relationships. Can AI succeed in re-plicating hum-an affection? Assuming you are in a relationship with a virtual being that always agrees with you, how will you deal with conflict and hurt, emotions that make us human?

I am still undecided about trying it for the experience, but I know a group of people who could benefit tremendously from it — the elderly. In the last few months, I have heard stories about elderly people living on their own; their partners gone, their children abroad.

While they are well looked after by caregivers, they are still on their own. Social dynamics have changed and extended family does not always have time to check in on lonely relatives.

I have also heard sad stories about folks craving company. I think they could benefit from a virtual friend and it may even be good for their health. Connections are key to longevity and maybe we can open our minds to the shapes and forms they come in. -- Courtesy Dawn

Stalled dialogue

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

At a book launch in New Delhi on August 30, the Indian external affairs minister remarked that "the era of uninterrupted dialogue with Pakistan is over". Dialogue is the essence of inter-state conduct, particularly between neighbours. To shun dialogue is to shut the doors on diplomacy and open doors for conflict. Since 2016, India has cut off all links with Pakistan and conditioned dialogue with it to an end to the alleged cross-border terrorism from Pakistan. The irony is that it is Pakistan that is suffering from terrorism, including by Indian state operatives who have assassinated 20 Pakistani citizens in 2023 alone. In March 2016, Kulbhushan Jadhav, an Indian spy and a serving Indian Navy officer, was caught red-handed in Balochistan planning acts of terrorism and sabotage under the fake identity of Hussain Mubarak Patel.

Indian leaders often talk about Lashkar-i-Taiba and Jaish-i-Mohammad without taking into account the fact that both organisations and their leaders are proscribed in Pakistan under Schedule-I of the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 (ATA), and the bulk of their leadership is behind bars. India also tries to give references to these organisations in its joint statements with other countries. Yet, no country now raises this matter with Pakistan because they are well aware of the concrete actions Pakistan has taken to fight terrorism and to choke terrorist financing in pursuance of the ATA and the recommendations of FATF and UN Security Council 1373 committee's monitoring team.

In another remark, S. Jaishankar stated that In-

dia was not passive in relations with Pakistan and "whether events take a positive or a negative direction, either way, we [India] will react to it". India has so far reacted negatively to every recent positive gesture from Pakistan. For instance, the foreign minister of Pakistan has twice raised the possibility of opening trade with India, but the latter did not give any response, positive or negative. Pakistan has also invited India to attend the meeting of heads of governments of SCO that Pakistan is hosting next month. It is not clear if India will attend at the level of prime minister or even external affairs minister.

On Jammu and Kashmir, Jaishankar remarked that "... Article 370 is done". The Kashmir dispute has four parties: India, Pakistan, Kashmiris, and the international community. How can India unilaterally take a decision ignoring the other parties to this UN-recognised dispute, particularly the Kashmiris? When Kashmiris resist Indian occupation, India terms their struggle as Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. For over 70 years, Kashmiris have sent a consistent message to India that they want to exercise their right to self-determination. How long must they speak out before India realises that Kashmiris do not wish to remain under Indian occupation and want to decide their political destiny themselves? Jaishankar said that "actions have consequences". He would well appreciate that India's resort to excessive force against Kashmiris also has had consequences in terms of regional peace and stability.

At this point in time, India is able to get away with its dominant posture towards its

neighbours. If only Indian leaders could see how all nations in South Asia are now deeply frustrated with the interventionist stance that India has adopted in its dealings with neighbours. It appears that the Indo-US strategic partnership, which is aimed at containing the rise of China, has emboldened the Indian leadership to behave as a regional hegemon. When Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, the then Pakistan foreign minister, visited India to participate in the SCO meeting in Goa last May, the Indian foreign minister chose to set aside all diplomatic norms and called him a "justifier [and] spokesperson of a terrorism industry". Such arrogance has become the principal impediment to India's ambitions to become a global and regional power and a net security provider in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region.

The people and leadership of Pakistan have done well by offering peace and dialogue to India even in the face of India's persistent refusal to engage in talks. Indian leaders are well advised to remember that times change and what they decide today will affect future generations and the course of history. Indeed, actions have consequences. And the consequence of the no-dialogue policy could be a fratricidal conflict in South Asia, which will hurt all sides. If that is the legacy the Modi regime wishes to leave behind, so be it. A wiser course, however, would be to resume bilateral dialogue, revive Saarc, and address issues like all nations do, and thus engender a positive legacy of leading a secure, conflict-free, and economically integrated South Asia. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Uzbekistan significant trading partner of Pakistan in Central Asia: Jam Kamal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Saturday said that Uzbekistan is a significant trading partner of Pakistan in Central Asia, which signed the first transit trade agreement with Pakistan.

The 33rd Independence Day of the Republic of Uzbekistan was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Islamabad, with Jam Kamal Khan, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Commerce, gracing the event as the Chief Guest.

The ceremony, attended by dignitaries, diplomats, and military officials, marked a new chapter in the flourishing relationship between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

In his address, Minister Jam Kamal Khan emphasized the unique and enduring ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, rooted in shared history and culture.

Highlighting the im-

portance of trade, he stated, "Pakistan views Uzbekistan as a significant trading partner in Central Asia. Over the past three years, bilateral trade has grown substantially, reflecting the strong bond between our two nations."

Jam mentioned the successful "Made in Pakistan" exhibition held in Tashkent in June 2024, which featured 85 Pakistani companies and attracted hundreds of Uzbek businessmen.

Minister Jam Kamal encouraged both nations' business communities to seize opportunities through the business forum held on the occasion, stressing that economic and trade relations should reach new heights.

Jam Kamal Khan further remarked on Uzbekistan's pivotal role as the first Central Asian nation to sign a Transit Trade Agreement and Preferential Trade Agreement with Pa-

kistan. Uzbek traders are increasingly using Pakistani ports for their global imports, Jam added.

The Uzbek Ambassador to Pakistan, Oybek Usmanov, praised Pakistan's support in enhancing connectivity, particularly in the fields of defense, trade, and regional infrastructure.

A m b a s s a d o r Usmanov highlighted that the bilateral trade had reached half a billion dollars, with plans to reach \$1 billion soon, thanks to joint efforts in transit and logistics agreements.

He also pointed out the trilateral Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan railway project as a transformative initiative for regional connectivity.

In closing, both leaders expressed optimism for the future, with Minister Jam Kamal reiterating his commitment to deepening the economic ties between the two nations.



LAHORE: Women buying second-hand school uniforms from Anar Kali Bazaar in the provincial capital.

MoITT launches RoW One-Window Operation to expedite NOC process for telecom operators

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT) has introduced the Right of Way (RoW) One-Window Operation, aimed at simplifying and speeding up the process of securing No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for telecom operators.

One significant barrier to improving fiber penetration in Pakistan is the com-

plicated process of obtaining Right of Way (RoW) No Objection Certificates (NOCs).

Telecom operators are required to seek approvals from multiple government agencies, each with its own unique procedures, causing delays and inefficiencies. This disorganized system has hindered the progress of Pakistan's National Fiberization Vision, a plan designed to expand fiber

connectivity nationwide.

An official from the Ministry IT said the RoW One-Window Operation minimizes paperwork, allowing telecom operators to electronically submit their RoW applications for NOCs, eliminating unnecessary delays in approvals.

The process also facilitates online fee payments, enhancing transparency and efficiency.

Punjab govt introduces revolutionary interest-free loan facility for cattle farmers

MULTAN (APP): The Punjab government has officially launched an interest-free Livestock

Card Scheme with an aim to support cattle farmers across the province. The scheme was designed to provide financial assistance for the purchase of essential livestock feed and manage care, said Deputy Director Livestock Dr Jamshaid Akhtar while commenting on different features of the interest-free loan scheme.

Talking to APP, Dr. Akhtar shared, the scheme was specifically targeted at small and medium scale livestock farmers and had clearly defined eligibility criteria. To qualify, applicants must be residents of

Punjab and possess a valid Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC). Additionally, they were required to have an active mobile SIM registered in their name.

Farmers who own between five to ten calves or cattle could apply for the loan, although those with more than ten animals were also eligible.

However, financial support would only be provided for a maximum of ten animals. Dr. Akhtar stated that a clean credit history was essential, which would be verified by the Electronic

Credit Information Bureau (eCIB) to ensure applicants were not defaulters.



LAHORE: A vendor displaying clay-made items at roadside to attract the customers.

IESCO installs state of art over 110,000 AMI meters

ISLAMABAD (APP): The state of the art project Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) is a revolutionary initiative in power sector by the government and Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has successfully over 110,000 meters so far.

Sharing details, AMI project director Mr. Moshin Raza Gillani said that this project is successfully continue in two operation circles of IESCO i.e. Rawalpindi city and Rawalpindi Cantt. As per latest report more than 110000 old meters have been replaced with AMI meters and it is expected that by 2026 all old meters in Rawalpindi city Rawalpindi Cantt circles Taxila and surroundings will be replaced with AMI meter. Moreover AMI meter are also being installed on industries and

high losses feeders. This will anticipate towards uninterrupted power supply and reduction in line losses and power theft. The installation of AMI meter will also lead towards 100% accurate and timely meter reading, effective control on power theft, true estimation of power demand and supply, real time monitoring and control of electricity consumption, better recovery position, better and effective customer service, automated complaint registered of faulty meters to concerned field office, balanced distribution system and distribution transformers resultant in reduction of transformers and meters burnt complaints.

Moshin Raza Gillani said that this is a pilot project in Pakistan and IESCO has privileged to be a first power distribution company of Pakistan.

PSQCA launches crackdown on substandard steel products, unlicensed units

LAHORE: The Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) launched a series of raids across Punjab, targeting illegal and unlicensed manufacturing units in a decisive move to curb the production and sale of substandard steel products. According to the PSQCA sources, acting on directives from the Prime Minister's office, Secretary of Science and Technology Sajid Baloch, and Director General PSQCA Toufeeq Abbasi ordered the crackdown. Engr. Muhammad Rizwan, Director of the Standards Development Centre, spearheaded the action, which was carried out under the supervision of Deputy Director Asghar Ali, Assistant Director Nouman Khaliq.

Among those passengers struggling is Khurshid

PESHAWAR (APP): The ongoing shortage of buses within Peshawar's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system exacerbated the difficulties faced by passengers, particularly those with disabilities and women, as they navigate the city's public transport network that are facing about Rs 3.2 annual losses.

The scrapping of private transport options and long delayed in completion of BRT's commercial malls at Dabgari and Hayatabad has further intensified these massive challenges, leading to a noticeable strain on the BRT system's capacity.

Among those passengers struggling is Khurshid

Khan, a 43-year-old government employee who mostly relied on the BRT for his daily commute from Chamkani to Hayatabad — a journey spanning approximately 27 kilometers.

As a person with a disability, Khurshid Khan has encountered significant discomfort and difficulty during his travel due to a lack of adequate seating facilities. The reserved seats for individuals with disabilities are often occupied by other passengers, forcing him to stand for nearly one and a half hours during his commute.

"I experience severe pain in my back and legs while standing for such a long duration," Khan said.

"It is disheartening to see the seats designated for people like me being taken by others."

The overcrowding on the BRT buses, especially during peak hours, has become a daily struggle, often leading to uncomfortable confrontations between general passengers and those with disabilities.

The situation has been compounded by the BRT's financial woes, including substantial losses due to subsidies and delays in the development of commercial plazas, which had further strained the system's resources.

The limited number of buses and shortage of

buses have led to frequent overcrowding, with many passengers left standing and struggling to find a seat, exacerbating the difficulties for those who are already vulnerable including girl students.

In the mornings and evenings, when the passenger rush is at its peak, the issue becomes even more pronounced.

The limited availability of dedicated seating for persons with disabilities, coupled with the overcrowded conditions, has resulted in a regular exchange of heated words between passengers and individuals with disabilities and students of pro-

fessional colleges besides government employees immensely.

Sadaf Kamal, Spokeswoman of Trans Peshawar said the occupation of reserved seats of women and special persons by general passengers was a big challenge, adding special bars were erected in BRT buses to address this issue.

She claimed that about 350,000 passengers were travelling daily in BRT and providing seats to all commuters was difficult. Keeping in view of passengers' load, she said the buses were increased to 244 in main corridor and feeder routes.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan addressing Milad Mustafa gathering organized in connection with Milad-ul-Nabi (SAW) at the Governor House.

Innovative steps being taken for education: CM

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said on Sunday that her government will take all possible measures to enrol all out of school children in the province.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif in her message on International Literacy Day said, "We pledge to impart education to everyone on the eve of International Literacy Day. The religion of Islam lays emphasis on acquiring knowledge and the Holy Quran also preaches to attain knowledge. Resources needed for the basic education of ignored segments of society are being provided."

The Chief Minister added, "Literacy improves quality of life and provides

immense opportunities of progress. We cannot think of a bright future without attaining a 100 percent literacy rate. The Punjab government is taking historical and innovative steps for the provision of ease in access to education."

The CM added, "4 lakh students of three districts are being provided packets of milk under the 'Chief Minister School Nutrition Program'. The Punjab government is providing laptops to the students for providing them assistance in their education and research." The Chief Minister said, "We will provide scholarships to the students of Punjab in the national and international universities."

Two killed in shooting attack on SHO house

ISLAMABAD (APP): Two brothers were killed on Sunday in a shooting attack on Station House Officer (SHO) house in Lakki Marwat.

According to a private news channel and police, SHO Shafiqatullah was safe as he was not present at home.

As soon as the incident was reported, the police reached the accident site and started investigation. The accused managed to escape from the spot after the incident.

DGPR directs employees to ensure discipline, punctuality

LAHORE (APP): Secretary Information & Culture and Director General Public Relations Punjab, Dr Shahinshah Faisal Azim, has instructed all officers and officials of the department to ensure discipline and punctuality.

All officers/officials of DGPR office will mark their attendance through biometric system. All officers of the department should perform their professional duties more efficiently and without negligence. Furthermore, according to the directions of Minister for Information & Culture Punjab, Azma Bukhari, all directors of respective wings have been directed to regularly monitor the performance of their subordinates.

Rallies won't bring PTI's founder out of jail: Azma Bukhari

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has said holding rallies will not bring the PTI founder out of jail.

Talking to the media at DGPR on Sunday, she said: "We are not afraid of rallies but of actions of the PTI members." She said it was not a jalsa in Islamabad but a concert, held with the resources of the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa government. People were brought to the jalsa in Rescue-1122 vehicles.

She said that it was unfortunate for KP to have had rulers like the PTI founder Imran Khan. The people of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa were deceived in the name of 'Naya Pakistan', she added. They were brought from KP to attend the rally, and God knows how much money was paid to participants. She said that everyone who was involved in the events of May 9, or those who instructed for it would have to answer for it. May 9 is an event similar to the fall of Dhaka, and it could never be forgotten, she said and added that during the PTI government, 40 cases were tried in military courts.

Sec Education KP issues directives to improve school performance

ABBOTTABAD (APP): The Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), on Sunday called for immediate improvements in the performance of school principals and the overall school environment to ensure quality education for students.

During his visit to Abbottabad, he announced a 90-day task for District Education Officers (Male and Female) to implement these changes.

The secretary held a joint session with both education officers, where detailed reports on district-level operations were presented. He emphasized the need for effective leadership within schools and requested actionable suggestions to enhance the performance of principals and organize school environments more efficiently. The education officers were given a 90-day deadline to fulfil these tasks. Furthermore, the secretary directed the formation of Parent-Teacher Management Committees (PTM) within 15 days to strengthen community involvement in school management. Highlighting the importance of extracurricular activities, he stressed the need to revive literary societies in schools.

Finality of Prophet-hood is a part of our faith: Governor

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan organized a gathering of Milad Mustafa in connection with Milad-ul-Nabi (SAW) at the Governor House Lahore. In the Milad event, well-known Naat Khwans Shahbaz Qamar Faridi, Ahmed Ali Hakim and others recited naats while the speakers shed light on the life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and his teachings for the welfare and guidance of humanity.

Addressing the ceremony, Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the holy life of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is the best example for us. Governor Punjab said that the end of Prophet-hood is a part of our faith. He said that all Muslims consider love of Prophet Muhammad (peace and

and it was his duty to organize Milad in the Governor's house. Governor Punjab said all the staff of the Governor's House has worked hard to organize this festival. Governor Punjab said that today is also the golden jubilee of Youm-e-Khatme-Nubuwwat. He said that the nation was grateful to former Prime Minister, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, as he was the one who signed the law of finality of Prophet-hood, adding that when Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto signed that he said that he was signing his death certificate and that signature became the cause of his death. Governor Punjab said that the end of Prophet-hood is a part of our faith. He said that all Muslims consider love of Prophet Muhammad (peace and

blessings of Allah be upon him) as the basis of religion and the end of prophet-hood as the way of salvation and faith. He said that following the example of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) is the way of salvation and guidance for us.

At the end of Mahfil Milad Mustafa, Umrah tickets were distributed among 13 lucky people by draw. In Mahfil Milad Mustafa (PBUH) people belonging to all walks of life participated in a large number. On this occasion, the Governor House building was decorated with lights. A special prayer was offered for the development and prosperity of the country and to get rid of the problems faced by the Muslim Ummah.

Food secretary visits PFA office in Murree

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Food Secretary Ehsan Bhutta on Sunday visited Punjab Food Authority (PFA) office in Murree and expressed his resolve for ensuring the provision of quality edible items. According to official sources here, the secretary said that steps related to awareness regarding food safety laws and training of food business operators must be expedited. He said that a number of complaints related to food items in Murree was a good sign.



KARACHI: Students are busy in solving their questionnaire during the entry test for vacancies in Foreign Ministry organized by Karachi University Assessment and Testing Services, in Karachi.

No pardon for crime of planning, attacking state: Marriyum

LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said that there will be no pardon for the crime of planning and attacking the state.

In a statement, she emphasized that no matter how much one protests, complains, punishment is inevitable.

"The first request for relief under the new NAB law was made by the convict of the May 9 incident. He claims the law was created to protect thieves, yet his own request for relief in

the form of NRO belongs to the May 9 convict under the NAB law," she added.

She further stated, "He demands an NRO while holding rallies. The rally is nothing but a plea for an NRO to escape punishment for committing a crime with regard to planning against the state on May 9." Marriyum Aurangzeb questioned why the individual who refers to the NAB law as the 'thieves' law' was the first to seek relief under it.

GM Wapda Norths calls on Governor KP

PESHAWAR (APP): General Manager WAPDA North, Shafiq Khan Bettani called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi here at Governor House. GM Bettani briefed Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, on the progress and strategic planning for the Chashma Lift Canal project.

Bettani informed the Governor that a special directorate has been established in the Chashma Right Bank Canal Colony Dera Ismail Khan to oversee the project. Governor Kundi expressed his pleasure at the development and emphasized the project's significance not only for

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but for Pakistan's overall development and prosperity.

He highlighted that the completion of the Chashma Lift Canal will irrigate thousands of acres of land, bring a green revolution to the region, and contribute significantly to alleviating the country's food shortages. The Governor said that the project will help reduce unemployment across the province and initiate a new era of related developmental activities. He extended his gratitude to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and the federal government for allocating 19 billion rupees to the project in the budget.

International News

Ukraine says Russia launched 67 drones in overnight attack

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine's air force said Russia launched a total of 67 long-range Shahed drones in a mass overnight attack, 58 of which it was able to shoot down. The air force said in a statement on the Telegram messaging app that air defence units were scrambled into action in 11 regions across Ukraine.

Drone debris was found next to the parliament building in the capital Kyiv, the legislature said in a separate statement it posted on its official Telegram page along with several photographs. It is rare for a Russian missile or drone to get so far into central Kyiv, as the city is protected by a net-

work of Soviet-era and Western-donated air defence systems.

The hilltop government quarter in the city centre is perhaps the best-defended site in Ukraine, as it also houses the offices of the president, cabinet and the central bank.

The pictures on Telegram showed at least four pieces of debris scattered on the ground near the parliament building. One piece lay at the foot of the steps to the building's main entrance, while another chunk of metal looked riddled with shrapnel.

Reuters correspondents in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, heard a series of explosions shortly after 3 am (0000 GMT) on Saturday,

some of which resounded loudly around the city centre, waking up its residents.

Since the start of its invasion in February 2022, Moscow has launched thousands of missiles and Shahed drones into Ukraine.

The Iranian-designed drone has been used by Russia since September 2022 as a cheap, more expendable alternative to missiles, which are expensive and harder to manufacture.

The propeller-powered Shahed flies at less than 200 km per hour (125 miles per hour) but can be tricky for conventional air defence systems to track because it flies low and emits far less heat than a missile.



LONDON: People hold a Palestinian flag during a demonstration in support of Palestinians amid the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

UK and US spy chiefs warn of threat to world order

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: CIA Director Bill Burns and UK MI6 chief Richard Moore warned on Saturday that the world order was "under threat in a way we haven't seen since the cold war".

Writing in a Financial Times op-ed, the two spy chiefs said "we have no more trusted or esteemed allies" than each other, adding that the partnership would be vital as they "face an unprecedented array of threats", chiefly from Russia, China and in the Middle East.

The United States and UK are among the leading financial and military supporters of Ukraine in its resistance to the Russian invasion launched in February 2022.

The op-ed by the CIA director and chief of the Secret Intelligence Service was the first-ever jointly authored by heads of their agencies.

Blinken to travel to UK to discuss Middle East, Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken plans to travel to the United Kingdom on Monday, the State Department said, a week after Britain suspended some arms export licenses with Israel over equipment that could be used in the war in Gaza.

In the trip slated to go through Tuesday, Blinken will open the US-UK Strategic Dialogue, "reaffirming our special relationship," Matthew Miller, a State Department spokesperson, said on Saturday.

Germany's Scholz calls for renewed push for peace in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
FRANKFURT: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz called for a renewed effort to bring peace to Ukraine, adding that he and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had both agreed in recent talks on the need for a new peace conference that would include Russia.

"I believe that now is the time to discuss how to arrive at peace from this state of war, indeed at a faster pace," Scholz told broadcaster ZDF in a televised interview.

Scholz is under pressure at home after all three parties in his centre-left coalition suffered painful losses in two regional state elections one week ago,

while groups seeking better relations with Moscow won more votes.

Nationalist party Alternative for Germany (AfD) and new anti-establishment party BSW, who oppose military backing for Ukraine's fight against the Russian invasion, both booked good gains.

Zelenskyy said in July he aimed to have a plan ready in November to enable Kyiv to hold a second international summit on peace in Ukraine, and that representatives of Russia should attend.

Ukraine in June hosted delegations from 92 countries at a first summit in Switzerland to advance its blueprint for peace.

North Korean leader emphasises importance of strengthening naval power

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un underscored the importance of strengthening naval power as he toured a naval base construction site, state media KCNA reported on Sunday.

"Now that we are soon to possess large surface warships and submarines which cannot be anchored by the existing facilities for mooring warships, the construction of a naval base for running the latest large warships has become a pressing task," Kim was quoted saying.

During the tour, Kim stressed the need to build a naval port capable of operating weapons systems of the warships and revealed military measures to deploy anti-aircraft and coastal-defence systems for defending the port, according to

the report.

Kim cited geopolitical advantages of the site for the country, bordered by the sea on both the east and west sides. The location of the site was not specified in the report.

A recent satellite imagery analysis by 38 North indicated that North Korea's newest ballistic missile class submarine (SSB), the "Sinpo-C" class, was undergoing an extensive fitting-out period at the Sinpo South Shipyard.

In a separate visit to a shipyard, Kim ordered to increase national investments in shipbuilding projects so that immediate tasks and long-term plans for laying the foundation for the development of the shipbuilding industry are pushed forward as scheduled.

Thousands take to streets against new French PM

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: Thousands of left-wing demonstrators on Saturday took to the streets across France to protest against the nomination of the centre-right Michel Barnier as prime minister and denounce President Emmanuel Macron's "power grab." Police said that around 26,000 people demonstrated in Paris, while the left claimed a much higher turnout. Smaller rallies took place in other cities across France including Nantes in the west, Nice and Marseille in the south and Strasbourg in the east.

Macron on Thursday appointed Barnier, a 73-year-old former foreign minister who acted as the European Union's Brexit negotiator, as prime minister, seeking to move forward after July snap elections in which his centrist alliance came second.

Bangladesh calls for faster resettlement process for Rohingya

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: The head of Bangladesh's interim government, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus on Sunday called for a fast-tracked third-country resettlement of Rohingya Muslims living in the south Asian country, as a new wave of refugees flee escalating violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

Around 8,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled across the border to Bangladesh in recent months as fighting intensifies between Myanmar's ruling junta and the Arakan Army, a powerful ethnic militia drawn from the country's Buddhist majority.

The new arrivals add to the more than one million Rohingya refugees already living in overcrowded camps in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district, most of whom fled a military-led crackdown in Myanmar in 2017. The Rohingya refugees have little hope of returning to their homeland, where they are largely denied citizenship and other basic rights.

Indian rescuers pull eight dead from collapsed building

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Indian rescuers pulled out eight bodies Sunday from the wreckage of a three-storey building in the city of Lucknow, reports said, with the state minister calling the deaths "heart breaking".

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency broadcast images of piles of concrete, and state rescue teams with heavy digging machines searching for bodies.

India, UAE to review trade deal in talks this week, sources say

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Indian and Emirati officials are expected to review their trade agreement this week amid concerns raised by Indian industry over a sharp increase in imports of precious metals from the United Arab Emirates, people familiar with the matter said.

India and the UAE signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in 2022 after just 88 days of negotiations. The agreement has become a template for similar trade pacts the UAE has since signed with many other nations.

An Indian government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the pact would be reviewed this week when a UAE government delegation led by Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed Al Nahyan visits Mumbai and New Delhi.

A second source, confirming the review, and the Indian government official downplayed the significance of the discussion and said that reviews took place

from time to time.

The Indian trade ministry and the UAE ministry of economy did not respond to Reuters requests for comment on the review.

Indian officials have said New Delhi was seeking a review of the agreement, including if rules of origin were being met.

Sheikh Khalid, the son of UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, was unlikely to take part in the trade review, the sources said.

The Crown Prince, who is also his country's deputy national security adviser, was due to arrive in India on Sunday, Abu Dhabi's government media office announced on Saturday. The trade review has in part been prompted by complaints among Indian industry of a significant increase in precious metal imports from the UAE, the sources said.

India is one of the UAE's largest trading partners and Indian citizens make up the largest community in the Gulf state, outnumbering Emiratis.

To promote religious harmony, unity Ministry organizes 49th Seerat-un-Nabi Conference

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony is organizing the 49th Seerat-un-Nabi Conference on the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awwal highlighting the significance of this blessed month in the Islamic calendar.

Through this annual feature, the ministry promotes religious harmony, tolerance, brotherhood, equality, respect for humanity, non-violence, unity, reconciliation, and dialogue in light of the current situation in the country.

Exchanging his views

with this national news agency, Ministry's Spokesperson Muhammad Umar Butt informed that the conference comprises two main segments: the National Seerat and Naat Book Competition Awards Ceremony and the Seerat-un-Nabi Conference.

He said the ministry invited entries in national, regional, and international languages (Arabic and English) for the National Seerat and Naat Book Competition Awards encouraging the participants to submit books and essays on Seerat and Naat within the stipulated timeframe.

Tarar visits Naval Hqs, lays floral wreath on Martyrs' Memorial

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday visited the Naval Headquarters on the occasion of Pakistan Navy Day. The minister laid a floral wreath at the Martyrs' Memorial, paying tribute to the sacrifices of Navy personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Addressing on the oc-

casions, Tarar expressed pride in being present at the memorial and praised the eternal services rendered by the Pakistan Navy for the country's defense.

He highlighted the significance of Operation Dwarka, launched on September 7, 1965, and commended the bravery of Navy personnel who targeted enemy positions during the operation.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori addressing Rice Exports Association of Pakistan's Export Award & Silver Jubilee celebrations at Governor House.

President honors Naval heroes of 1965 war

PM pays tribute to Pakistan Navy on 'Navy Day'

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday paying tribute to the Pakistan Navy on 'Navy Day', praised its role in the country's defense, the bravery of officers and personnel, and their sacrifices.

In a message on Navy Day, the president highlighted that the Pakistan Navy, during the 1965 war, proved its capabilities by conducting successful operations against the enemy.

The Pakistan Navy has full capability to deal with both traditional and

non-traditional maritime challenges facing the country, the president added.

He emphasized that a strong navy was the guarantor of Pakistan's security and prosperity.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to further modernize and strengthen the Pakistan Navy, the president said the Pakistan Navy played a key role in national defense and promoting regional peace.

"The Pakistan Navy is always ready to defend Pakistan's maritime interests and territorial waters."

He said the nation was proud of the bravery, dedication, and patriotism of the Pakistan Navy and its personnel, adding that the sacrifices of the heroes of the Pakistan Navy serve as a guiding light for the nation.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday commended the Pakistan Navy for their unwavering dedication to duty and passion for the country.

"On Navy Day, I extend my heartfelt felicitations to all members of the Pakistan Navy. Their steadfast commitment to protecting our maritime boundaries exemplifies their unwavering dedication to duty and passion for the country," the prime minister wrote on his official X timeline.

He said regardless of the challenges they faced, their determination and spirit remained resolute.

"We deeply value their service and sacrifices, and their contributions to safeguarding our maritime borders."

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PM calls for promoting literacy, ensuring education for all

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday called upon the nation to support the government's efforts in promoting literacy and ensuring education for all, emphasizing the importance of building a bright future for the children and the country.

"Literacy is a fundamental human and constitutional right that guarantees the future of our country," the prime minister said in a message on the occasion of International Literacy Day.

He said literacy was not merely the ability to read and write, it was a gateway to empowerment, economic opportunities, and active participation in society.

"Today, we reaffirm our commitment to advancing the education agenda, striving for a more informed and sustainable nation," he said adding "Education is the backbone of our society. For this purpose, we have declared an educational emergency across the country, launched an enrollment campaign for students, and initiated mid-day meals for children in schools."

To reduce the dropout rate and encourage every child to complete their education, the prime minister pointed out that the government had introduced scholarships and other incentives.

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Chinese Envoy calls for boosting Pak-China coop.

KARACHI (INP): Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong has stressed the need of promoting Pak-China strategic and bilateral cooperation in wide range of activities, involving various segments of the society.

During his visit to Karachi Nuclear Power Plants K-2 and K-3, the Ambassador appreciated the joint work done by Chinese Power Company and Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission on completion of these projects.

He advised Chinese power companies to also

contribute in non-CPEC projects and power sector for strengthening economic foundations between the two countries.

Talking on the forthcoming C5 Nuclear Power Plant, he appreciated the ongoing negotiations between both the countries and assured complete support for execution of the project which will ultimately enhance nuclear power potential of Pakistan.

He also thanked Chairman PAEC for ensuring foolproof safety and security for Chinese workforce.



ISLAMABAD: Activists of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party gathered in a ground during public gathering (Jalsa) at Sangjani in the Federal Capital.

Italian CG inaugurates 'Novacolor Cafe'

KARACHI (APP): An exclusive launch of Novacolor Cafe was held here with the consul general of Italy, Danilo Giurdanella conducting the ribbon-cutting ceremony in the presence of the who's who of the world of architecture, arts and industry.

Among those spotted at the event were former senator and federal minister Javed Jabbar, Jimmy Engineer, Sheema Kermani, Adnan Shah Tipu, Seemi Pasha, Ameenah Saiyid, and Misbah Khalid.

The brainchild of Nasar Khan, Zillay Huma, Zubair and Shameer, the space promises to be a game-changer in the coffee world bringing premium Novacolor offerings, delectable snacks and an exclusive fragrance range all under one roof for their discerning clientele.

The event beginning post-dinner and offering premium snacks, coffee and desserts started with the consul general arriving

sharp on time. After a bustling red-carpet, the restaurant was officially declared open through a ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by live entertainment provided by Syed Hassaan and Sharukh who sang songs and strummed the guitar respectively, through the evening. As guests came and mingled, they were treated to a high-end, sit-down service where they could relax and enjoy the elegant ambience.

The concept behind the cafe was thus apparent—that it is more than just a place to enjoy exquisite coffee and delectable treats. It promises to be a celebration of lifestyle, creativity, color, and community. Visitors will not only be able to partake of their 24-carat gold coffee, but imbibe the elegant ambience with its gold textured walls, murals and paintings, and avail the rare opportunity to indulge oneself in the limited-edition fragrance brand Armaaf.



HYDERABAD: Muslim League (PML-N) Leader, Kheal Das Kohistani addresses to media persons during press conference, at Talpur House in Hyderabad.

Anti-polio drive starts from today in Larkana, across northern Sindh

LARKANA (APP): All arrangements have been finalized for the seven-day National Immunization Campaign in which more than 306,950 children of the Larkana district up to the age of five years would be vaccinated Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) from September 09 to September 15 to save them from the crippling disease of Polio.

This was disclosed by the District Health Officer (DHO) Larkana Dr. Shoukat Ali Abro here Sunday. He said that children up to five years of age would be administered OPV during the three-day campaign. He

said that 890 mobile teams had been constituted which would visit all the areas including the remote, far-flung areas and flood and rain-affected areas of the district to accomplish the task. He further said that three Roaming polio teams have also been constituted in Larkana city to cover children during the four-day campaign.

The DHO said that thirty transit polio teams have also been constituted in the district in this regard and they would be available at Railway Station, Bus stops and various markets of the district during the drive.

Defence minister holds open court

SIALKOT (APP): Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif today held an "Open Court" at his residence at Sialkot Cantonment.

He listened public problems and complaints sympathetically besides issuing orders on several applications for quick relief. Members Provincial Assembly (MPAs) Mansha Ullah Butt, Faisal Ikram, President PML-N (Women Wing) Sialkot Nasrat Jamshed Malik and local PML-N leaders were also present.

Shafqat Shah pays tribute to Pakistan Navy

SUKKUR (APP): Senior Politician, Advocate Syed Shafqat Ali Shah on Sunday paid homage to the officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Navy for their outstanding defence of the nation's maritime borders during the 1965 India-Pakistan war.

In his statement on Navy Day, he paid rich tributes to martyrs and Ghazis and war heroes, whose sacrifices and gallant acts instil in us a renewed spirit and resolve.

He acknowledge the sacrifices of our Shuhadas and Ghazis and honour their bravado and valiant spirit which lifted the morale of the nation against a sinister enemy during the 1965 War.

He said that the sacrifices made by the Pakistani armed forces for the defence of the country in 1965 would not go in vain.

Sindh Agriculture University extends deadline for convocation registration

HYDERABAD (APP): The deadline for submitting registration forms for the 13th Convocation of Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tandojam, has been extended.

The controller of examinations at SAU announced that, in response to multiple requests from candidates, the university has decided to extend the registration deadline until September 27, 2024.

This extension offers an opportunity for all eligible candidates to ensure their participation in the upcoming convocation ceremony.

Karachi needs proper mass transit system not deception, says Monem Zafar

KARACHI (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Ameer Monem Zafar has said that Karachi and Karachiites desperately need a proper mass transit system, whereas the Pakistan People Party government in Sindh has been deceiving the people for the past 16 years.

The JI leader expressed these views here on Sunday while addressing a press conference held at the badly affected University Road. He was flanked by local government representatives.

Speaking on the occasion, he demanded the authorities to restore the much needed circular railway and other similar projects in order to address the basic issue. He said that Karachi has been the only mega city that hasn't a mass transit system.

He recalled that the judiciary had ordered to restore the circular railway in the past but instead of restoring the local trains, the then regimes had made some cosmetic and temporary arrangements to reflect an impression that the local trains were being restored.

After the recent rains in the city, it seems that the government constructs roads — made up of paper, so the roads either flow away or flush away after rains, he said.

He further said that Karachi deserves a railway project like Orange Line Train Project and the Karachi Circular Railway.

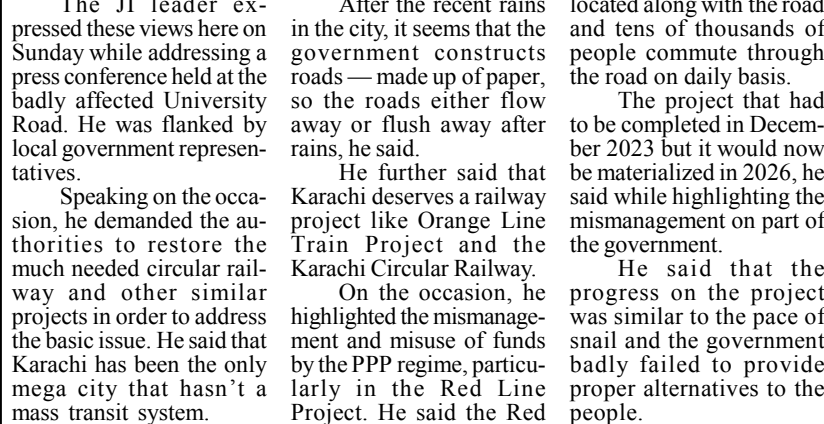
On the occasion, he highlighted the mismanagement and misuse of funds by the PPP regime, particularly in the Red Line Project. He said the Red

Line Project was finalized in 2019 and it had to be established on one of the very important arteries in Karachi — the University Road.

He said that the Civic Center, Expo Center, Karachi University, NED University, several hospitals and other projects are located along with the road and tens of thousands of people commute through the road on daily basis.

The project that had to be completed in December 2023 but it would now be materialized in 2026, he said while highlighting the mismanagement on part of the government.

He said that the progress on the project was similar to the pace of snail and the government badly failed to provide proper alternatives to the people.



KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Munam Zafar addressing a press conference, at University road in Karachi.

Parents urged to cooperate with polio vaccination teams

By Tanveer Ahmed Soomro

MIRPUR MATHELO: Commissioner Sukkur Fayyaz Hussain Abbasi has said that polio virus has been confirmed from the environmental sample of Sukkur, a case has come from

Shikarpur, the only solution to prevent polio virus is to give children two drops. He expressed these views while talking to the media on the occasion of his visit to Civil Hospital Ghotki, Deputy Commissioner Ghotki Dr. Syed Muhammad Ali was also with him.

Speaking on this occasion, Commissioner Sukkur

risk of polio virus spreading in Sukkur because it is a central district. He said that 3 cases have been registered in Sindh, out of which two have come from Karachi and one from Shikarpur, so we all must give our children vaccinations against the virus during the polio campaign while routine immunization.

Parents are urged to cooperate with polio vaccination teams. The Commissioner said that parents should ensure their children get vaccinated on time to prevent the spread of the polio virus.



SUKKUR (APP): In a notable initiative to uphold merit and excellence, Sukkur IBA Testing Services (STS) has announced that the answer keys for the Police Constables test conducted on Sunday are available now for the candidates.

Sukkur IBA Testing Services announces Police Constable answer keys on same day

SUKKUR (APP): In a notable initiative to uphold merit and excellence, Sukkur IBA Testing Services (STS) has announced that the answer keys for the Police Constables test conducted on Sunday are available now for the candidates.

As per STS, Keys of Paper one and Paper two for the post of Police Constable (BPS-07) Police Department, Government of Sindh written test conducted in morning and evening shifts at Karachi, Hyderabad, Shaheed Benazirabad, Larkana and Sukkur test centres have been uploaded on the STS website.

The CEO of STS and Vice-chancellor Professor Dr Asif Ahmed Shaikh appreciated the STS team and said "this initiative reflects the commitment and efforts of the team to enhance transparency and efficiency in the test process."



LARKANA: Activists of Awami Tehreek are holding protest demonstration against the amendment in IRSA Act, at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.



KARACHI: Members of Pak Muslim Alliance (PMA-Dewan) are holding protest demonstration over the derogatory statement against Bengalis and Biharis in the Sindh Assembly, at Karachi press club.

Tahseen Fatima says HRs Department providing free legal assistance to needy people of Sindh

Independent Report

KARACHI: Secretary Sindh Human Rights Department Tahseen Fatima has said that Human Rights Department provides free legal assistance to the needy people of Sindh province. People can contact the toll free number 0800-00011 for free legal assistance.

She added, 'Human Rights Department has been actively working to remedy the human rights violations. People living in Karachi can contact on 021-99207993-4.

Tahsin Fatima said that the offices of Human Rights Department are active all over Sindh.

Residents of Hyderabad, MirpurKhas and Shaheed Benazirabad

should contact in-charge Maqsood Ahmed on mobile number 0333-2684437 to register their complaints. She said that People belonging to Larkana and Sukkur can contact in-charge Jaz Akbar Jamali on mobile number 0314-7969887.

Sindh Human Rights Department Secretary Tahseen Fatima said that in order to submit complaints against human rights violations, one can contact the offices of the Human Rights Department in districts of the province, including the headquarters in Karachi.

Human Rights Department takes impartial action against human rights abusers and provides free legal aid.



KARACHI: Activists of Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, at Karachi press club.

KUATS conducts written test for MoFA

KARACHI (APP): The University of Karachi under its Karachi University Assessment and Testing Service (KUATS) conducted a written test for the positions announced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Sunday.

The 30-minute written test was conducted for the posts of driver and naib qasid at five different examination centers established on the campus.

The MoFA had received 699 applications for the post of driver and 2,843 applications for the post of naib qasid.

As many as 205 candidates for the driver's post and 1,109 candidates for the post

of naib qasid appeared in the written test.

The test for the drivers started at 09:00 am and the test for naib qasid started at 10:00 am.

The KUATS and the KU's Watch and Ward staff were present to guide the candidates and medical staff along with the ambulances were also present on this occasion. The KUATS has been established with the approval of the varsity's Academic Council, and this testing service is designed to facilitate public, semi-government, and private sectors and institutions to conduct written tests for admission and employment purposes.