

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vd XXVI No. 13, Safar 28, 1446 AH Tuesday September 03, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The core inflation measured by Consumer Price Index (CPI) decelerated further to 9.6 percent during August 2024 as compared to 11.1 percent recorded during July 2024, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported Monday.

According to PBS data, the CPI based inflation during the same month of last year (August 2023) was recorded at 27.4%.

On month-on-month basis, it increased to 0.4% in August 2024 as compared to an increase of 2.1% in the previous month and an increase of 1.7% in August 2023.

According to data, CPI

inflation Urban increased to 11.7% on year-on-year basis in August 2024 as compared to an increase of 13.2% in the previous month and 25.0% in August 2023. On month-on-month basis, it increased to 0.3% in August 2024 as compared to an increase of 2.0% in the previous month and an increase of 1.6% in August 2023.

CPI inflation Rural, increased to 6.7% on year-on-year (YoY) basis in August 2024 as compared to an increase of 8.1% in the previous month and 30.9% in August 2023. On month-on-month (MoM) basis, it increased to 0.6% in August 2024 as compared to an increase of 2.2% in the previ-

ous month and an increase of 1.9% in August 2023.

The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) inflation on YoY increased to 10.8% in August 2024 as compared to an increase of 15.7% a month earlier and 27.9% in August 2023. On MoM basis, it decreased to 0.3% in August 2024 as compared to an increase of 2.0% a month earlier and an increase of 4.1% in August 2023. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation on YoY basis increased to 6.3% in August 2024 as compared to an increase of 10.4% a month earlier and an increase of 24.3% in August 2023. On MoM

Continued on page 2



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

PM seeks enhanced collaboration with China in key sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that Pakistan aims to enhance its collaboration with China in areas such as information technology, artificial intelligence, modern agriculture, and other sectors.

In a conversation with Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, the prime minister remarked that the friendship between Pakistan and China has endured and remained strong throughout the years.

He stated that the friendship between Pakistan and China has with-

stood the test of time, with China providing unwavering support to Pakistan during every challenging period.

The prime minister praised the Chinese leadership's vision to consistently enhance Pakistan-China strategic relations and collaborate on upgrading the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He emphasized that the friendship between Pakistan and China is essential not only for both nations but also for regional and global peace and development.

Ahsan reviews ongoing PSDP projects in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal, also Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, on Monday presided over a meeting to review ongoing projects under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) in Balochistan.

During the briefing, the meeting was informed about the progress of PSDP projects in the province, a news release said.

The minister said all-out efforts were being made to ensure the provision of funds for Balochistan's projects.

He also stressed the need for measures to address the security situation in the province, suggesting that Frontier Corps (FC) services be entrusted to local people with necessary training.

The minister asked provinces to prepare action plans for PSDP projects according to their priorities, adding that projects with 70 percent completion would be prioritized for timely completion.

Fateha offered for those martyred in various terrorism incidents

Independent Report

QUETTA: Fateha was offered for the departed souls of those martyred in different incidents of terrorism occurred in different parts of Balochistan, here at the provincial assembly.

The Deputy Speaker, Ms. Ghazala Gola was in the chair.

The entire House of the provincial assembly offered fateha for the departed soul of Deputy Commissioner Panjgur, Zakir Ali and all others martyred in the recent incidents of terrorism in different parts of the province including Musakhail.



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

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

House pays homage to personnels of security forces and law enforcement agencies on martyrdom; expresses heartfelt empathy with bereaved families; demands of federal and provincial governments to take speedy practical measures for bringing anti-state elements and terrorists to court of justice

Independent Report

QUETTA: The joint condemnation resolution was tabled in Balochistan Assembly condemning the terrorists' attacks made in different areas of the province in the midnight of August 25 and 26, 2024.

The Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Mir Ali Madad Jatak tabled the joint condemnation resolution on behalf of the provincial Minister and parliamentary secretaries Wali Muhammad Noorzai, Mir Muhammad Asghar Rind, Barkat Ali Rind, Sanjay Kumar and Ms. Mina Majeed Baloch.

The Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Ms. Ghazala Gola was in the chair.

According to the content of the resolution, the cowardly and barbaric attacks were made in different areas by the anti-state terrorists in between

the nights of August 25 and 26.

These incidents included the gory incident of Musa khail which took place at Rad sham area in which 23 innocent and armless citizens were mercilessly martyred after offloading them from the passenger buses and trucks. Some 35 vehicles were also set ablaze by the terrorists.

In the resolution it was stated that these gory incidents are being condemned worldwide.

The resolution strongly condemned the cowardly, terrorism and barbaric acts of the terrorist organization and the Baloch Yakjehti Committee which blocked the roads in the whole province causing agony to the people of areas.

The House paid homage to personnels of security forces and law enforcement agencies on martyr-

dom and expressed heartfelt empathy with bereaved families.

The resolution demanded of the federal and provincial governments to take speedy practical measures for bringing anti-state elements and terrorists to court of justice.

Meanwhile, the chair mentioned that a similar condemnation resolution has also been tabled by the Opposition, so both the resolutions are being merged.

Speaking on the condemnation resolution, the Provincial Minister for Planning and Development, Mir Zahoor Buledi said that the Deputy Commissioner Panjgur, Zakir Ali was martyred by the terrorists in night of August 12 near Khad Kocha.

He said that there was extreme of barbarism on highways of the province in the midnight of August 25 and 26.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar apprised the National Assembly that approval has been given to set up new National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency in the country as FIA lacked cyber-crimes investigation capacity.

Responding to supplementary questions during the Question Hour, the minister said that hand-holding would continue till fully operationalization of new cyber crime investigation agency. It would also be examined which employees of FIA would be merged in the new cyber-crime investigation agency, he added.

He said that cyber crimes cases already with FIA would not be ended rather these would be transferred to the new agency.

The minister said that employees of abolished ministries would either be retained or be given golden handshake. After dissolu-

tion of Public Works Department (PWD), some of its employees would be retained while others would be given golden handshake, he added.

To a separate question, the minister said that the government has taken some new initiatives for skills development of youth in the country. National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC) was being revamped, he added.

Attaullah Tarar said local manpower would be trained as per market demand of other countries. The IT exports witnessed increased and was recorded as \$ 3.1 billion, he added.

To another question, he said that proper survey was being carried out before construction of any road adding that it was need of the hour to construct 10th Avenue. After traffic count, it was decided whether the road would be constructed or not, he added.

Election Tribunal dismisses petition against winning candidate in PB-34

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Election Tribunal 1, comprising Justice Abdullah Baloch of the Balochistan High Court, has dismissed the election petition filed by Muhammad Rahim Mengal of the Balochistan National Party (Mengal) against the winning candidate, Mir Ghulam Dastagir Badini of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, in the PB-34 constituency of Nushki.

The tribunal, after examining the evidence and records, found that the petition filed by Muhammad Rahim Mengal was not maintainable under Section 144(4) of the Election Act, 2017, and was dismissed due to various legal flaws.

Rahim Mengal was represented by his counsel, Jameel Ahmed Babai, Advocate, while Mir Ghulam Dastagir Badini was represented by Kamran Murtaza, Adnan Ejaz, and Khalil-ur-Rehman, Advocates. The Government of Balochistan was represented by Nusrat Baloch, Assistant Advocate General.

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

Independent Report

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

Besides, the Chief Minister briefed the Chair-

man PPP about the recent wave of terrorism and the steps being taken to overcome the same in the province.

Mir Sarfaraz Bugti also informed Bilawal Bhutto Zardari about the flashflood situation after the recent rains in the province.

He also briefed the Chairman PPP about the measures taken to tackle the situation emerged following the recent rains and flashflood in the province.

Baseless litigation causes increase in number of pending cases: CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa on Monday remarked that the baseless litigation used to waste the courts' time and lead to an increase in the number of pending cases.

He gave these remarks during a hearing of a case regarding the distribution of property. The CJP noted that litigations were done on a property dispute after the

death of 75-year-old owner.

He questioned that why a 75-year-old man would gift his land to people other than his two sons. Unfortunately, such baseless and fabricated cases are wasting courts' time and causing an increase in the number of pending cases.

The court dismissed an appeal regarding the dispute of the land.



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

CM awards certificate of appreciation to MD Trauma Center

Independent Report

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has awarded a certificate of appreciation to Managing Director Trauma Center Dr. Arbab Kamran Kasi for his outstanding performance.

The certificate was received by Dr. Arbab Kamran Kasi from the Chief Minister's Personal Secretary, Mr. Imran Zarkoon. This move by the Chief Minister is expected to bring further improve-

ment in the Trauma Emergency Services.

Secretary Health Mr. Saleh Muhammad Baloch congratulated Dr. Arbab Kamran Kasi on receiving the certificate of appreciation from the Chief Minister and said that Dr. Kasi deserves the certificate for his excellent emergency services.

Managing Director Trauma Dr. Arbab Kamran Kasi dedicated the certificate of appreciation to the entire Trauma team.

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

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Mir Ali Madad Jatak has stated that publicising all development projects completed during the financial year 2023-24 in the newspapers is a big achievement of the incumbent government. The credit of this goes to the Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, maintained by the Provincial Minister while speaking to different delegations who called on him here on Monday.

Jatak said that there's no such example in the history of the province even Pakistan that all the projects were publicised in the newspapers. The Minister said that this would not only help aware the general public about the projects, but it would also update them about the incomplete and substandard projects.

The people may register their complaints about the projects at the complaint cells of the Chief Minister's Secretariat and of the Commissioners of the concerned divisions.

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

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

Speaking to media in Islamabad, Tarar clarified

that during a recent meeting with Chief Justice Isa and the Attorney General, the chief justice made it clear that he had no interest in having an extension. Tarar emphasised that such discussions should not be entertained further.

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

RAWALPINDI (Online): PTI founder Imran Khan has said he is already for talks and has never refused to talk.

"We will talk to them who have decision power. If I am appointed chancellor of Oxford University then it will be matter of honor for Pakistan, he said this in an informal talk with the journalists in Adiala jail here Monday.

We have given mandate to Mehmood Khan Achakzai and if he brings some offer from them then the talks will go ahead. If

we talk to them it means we have accepted fraud election.

He held "they say us to talk. What talk we can go for with them who fear if election is opened then their politics will come to end. 2 records will be written in Guinness book of record. One this they gave respect to boot and second record will be recorded Nawaz Sharif sought support of 4 chiefs and even then he lost the election. Nawaz Sharif kept on saying vote ko izzat do for two and half years.



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

Bill seeking increase in number of SC judges lands in Senate

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Seeking an amendment to the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1997, a bill was tabled in the Senate on Monday to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court to 20 — other than the chief justice — to "address the rising number of pending cases".

The bill titled "Supreme Court (Number of Judges) (Amendment) Act", 2024, was presented by an independent senator from Balochistan, Mohammad Abdul Qadir.

He sought the increase in the number of top court judges from 17 to 21 as "more than 53,000 cases" pending in the apex court.



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

DPM Dar highlights role of education in shaping country's future

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Monday highlighted the significance of education in a prosperous society and stressed upon making of strenuous efforts and investments in this sector for the bright future of coming generations.

Addressing a certificate awarding ceremony of Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA), the deputy prime minister said that the incumbent government was making substantial efforts in this regard and in the current fiscal budget, it had made significant allocation for the education sector because education would provide future dividends in the country.

He also referred to the emphasis laid down by Islam over the importance of gaining education.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister further underlined that other organizations and institutions devoted to humanitarian assistance and support should also focus on the financial, health and education issues faced by the people, adding that they were required to follow the precedents set by organizations like PFOWA.

Dar also commended PFOWA's contributions for the public welfare and said that he was pleased to learn that the Association had been serving as platform to support the needy and deserving people.

It had been supporting students to pursue their Masters degrees and PhDs besides, providing them scholarships, he mentioned and said that it was not only a kind gesture but also a real service to humanity with immense rewards in the world hereafter.

Expressing his satisfaction, he said that it pleased him immensely that such a thinking existed in the ministry which was like a family.

PFOWA had provided children with stationary and school bags, besides a number of scholarships and other financial support to the widows and minorities. It had also made contributions for the natural calamities hit areas.

The deputy prime minister informed that during 2020, he had founded two organizations for the support of orphans where about 100 children were getting education while the other entity was providing assistance in education and health sectors.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), met with a delegation from JazzCash led by Ibrar Khan, Vice President Corporate Affairs and Ali Naseer, Chief Strategic Officer at BISP Headquarters.

BISP, JazzCash team up for digital empowerment of its beneficiaries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) will collaborate with JazzCash for digital empowerment of its beneficiaries.

A meeting to discuss modalities of this joint venture was held between the Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid and a delegation from JazzCash, led by Ibrar Khan, Vice President Corporate Affairs, and Ali Naseer, Chief Strategic Officer.

The meeting focused on enhancing the financial and digital inclusion of BISP's women beneficiaries by providing them with smartphones.

Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized the directive from both the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan to ensure that BISP beneficiaries receive their payments with complete transparency and respect.

She highlighted that digital empowerment through smartphones is vital in bridging the communication gap between BISP and its beneficiaries, enabling them to be fully aware of their rights and reducing the risk of fraud.

The chairperson also stressed BISP's commitment to improving the lives of its beneficiaries by offering market-driven skill training that aligns with employment opportunities.

During the meeting, the JazzCash team presented potential initiatives for collaboration. Senator Rubina Khalid urged the team to develop a detailed implementation plan for the digital empowerment of BISP beneficiaries.

Sustainable relief provision to commoners is top priority. Ihsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister of Commerce and Industries Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan on Monday said that the government was making efforts to provide relief to the people in the energy sector.

Talking to a private news channel he said that a High Profile Committee was formulated to better tackle the issues of Independent Power Producers (IPPs). Rana said that whether it was the matter of debt profiling of Chinese IPPs or the audit of other IPPs, the committee was looking into it profoundly.

He said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) continued to sabotage the reputation of the country by doing international lobbying for personal interests.



ISLAMABAD: A CDA (Capital Development Authority) worker is busy installing umbrellas on a tree at the Kashmir Chowk for beautification of Federal Capital.

ILO launches training to strengthen evidence-based policymaking

ISLAMABAD (APP): In an era where policymaking is often swayed by opinions and political agendas, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has taken a crucial step to promote informed decision-making in Pakistan.

The ILO has initiated a five-day training program here on Monday aimed at equipping policymakers with the skills to base their decisions on solid evidence, ensuring effective and just policies for the workforce.

The ability to make informed policy decisions is becoming increasingly essential as misinformation and political biases permeate the decision-making process.

In response, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has launched a five-day training program in Islamabad, focusing on evidence-based policymaking.

The training, running from September 2-6, 2024, is designed to help key stakeholders in Pakistan develop the skills necessary to critically assess and utilize evidence when creating policies that promote decent work and social justice.

This initiative, titled "National Training on Evidence-Based Policymaking for Decent Work and Social Justice," brings together government officials, trade union representatives, and employer associations. The goal is to foster a more informed, transparent, and effective policymaking process in Pakistan, focusing on priority areas identified in the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) IV, which was agreed upon by tripartite constituents in May 2023. The training is a collaboration between the ILO's Research Department and its Country Office in Pakistan.

AIOU reaffirms commitment to transparency & merit

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Academic Staff Association (ASA) General Body Meeting was held at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), where Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood reiterated the university's strong commitment to transparency and merit-based practices.

He assured the faculty that all appointments and promotions would be conducted fairly, with strict adherence to established rules and no room for discrimination.

During the meeting, Dr. Nasir addressed various concerns raised by the faculty, including the need for increased medical subsidies and ODL allowances, promising to advocate for these in the university's Executive Council.

3 passengers killed in road accident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Three passengers were killed on Sunday when a car was overturned after hitting a trowler on CPEC Road in Isakhel.

According to a private news channel, after the accident, the car was set on fire, as a result, the ill-fated passengers were killed.

According to the police, the passengers were traveling to DI Khan.

Their bodies were shifted to the hospital.

IRSA releases 275,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 275,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 320,600 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1550.00 feet (maximum conservation level) and was 152.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet.

Education Information Fair kicks off in FDE educational institutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant effort to bridge the gap between aspiring students and prestigious higher education institutions, a groundbreaking Education Information Fair is being held from 2nd to 14th September for intermediate students of public sector educational institutions.

According to the Education Ministry, this event has been envisaged by Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Secretary MoFEPT has brought together Pakistan's most esteemed universities, and intermediate students from government colleges across the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) to provide vital guidance on university admissions eligibility criteria, scholarship opportunities, and tips on test preparation.

The fair, organized by Ministry of Federal Education and has been designed to offer students firsthand insights into the application processes, admission requirements, and unique opportunities available at top-tier universities. Participating institutions included NUST, FAST, IBA, ICMA, KIPS, GIKI, NCA, Pakistan Institute of Fashion Design (PIFD), LUMS, Comsat, SZABIST, PIEAS.



ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Yahya, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Pakistan called on Federal Minister of Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb at Finance Division.

Ministry chalked-out advisory regarding M.pox virus: Mukhtar Ahmed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmed on Monday said that an advisory will be issued soon to prevent the monkeypox virus.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that the Ministry of Health chalked out a complete plan of action to prevent M.pox. The advisory will be issued with the support and coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and the Ministry of Religious Affairs, he added.

Through these ministries, overseas Pakistanis and pilgrims will be informed about the complete guidelines of this virus, he further added.

He said that there is no evidence of local transmission of monkeypox. He said that the Ministry of Health had a complete tracking arrangement on airports for this deadly virus.

Approximately 10 thousand passengers have been screened by Border Health Services at various entry points in the last 20 days, he said adding that these screenings, 14 suspects of the M.pox virus have been identified.

He said that nine of these suspects travelled from Gulf countries, while the rest have come from other countries.

Out of all these suspected travellers, four cases have tested positive, and treatment is underway, he added.

He said that the Ministry of Health is diligently taking measures to limit the spread of this virus.

CDA chairman leads awareness walk to combat dengue fever in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Commissioner and Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, led an awareness walk on Monday to educate citizens on the prevention of dengue fever.

The event was organized in collaboration with the Mumkin Foundation and the District Health Office, with participants from civil society and various sectors.

Chairman Randhawa emphasized the importance of collective efforts in preventing dengue, stating, "All resources have been utilized to prevent dengue fever in Islamabad, and it is only possible to solve this issue by working together with civil society, youth, students, and different sectors of life."

He highlighted the need for preventive measures, including, installing screens on doors and windows, and maintaining cleanliness in homes and neighbourhoods.

He stressed for ensuring effective communication between institutions to prevent the spread of dengue fever.

The awareness walk aimed to educate citizens on the simple yet effective steps they can take against dengue.

Funeral prayer of Constable Umar Daraz offered

ISLAMABAD (APP): According to the details, the funeral prayer of Islamabad Police Constable Umar Daraz was offered at Police Lines Headquarters Islamabad. Senior police officers and a large number of police officers offered the funeral prayer. According to the details, the funeral prayer of Islamabad Police Constable Umar Daraz was offered at Police Lines Headquarters. A smartly turned-out contingent of the police personnel presented a guard of honour. Police officers shouldered the coffins and later the bodies were sent to his respective native town.

Finance Minister lauds UN cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Monday appreciated the cooperation provided by the United Nations (UN) and its agencies in sustainable development of Pakistan.

During a meeting with United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Pakistan, Muhammad Yahya, who called on him here, the minister shared the commitment of the government towards policy reforms and sustainable economic development.

He reiterated that climate finance and energy transition were essential areas for improving energy sector viability in the country and welcomed the cooperation with UNESCAP in this regard.

On the occasion, Muhammad Yahya briefed the Finance Minister on the work of UN and its agencies undertaking development and humanitarian assistance projects in Pakistan.

He also shared the success of UNESCAP and its work on debt consolidation in middle income countries. He noted that energy transition was an important area for possible cooperation with Pakistan.

The meeting concluded with both sides expressing their resolve to continue working closely to address Pakistan's development challenges and to implement sustainable solutions that benefit all segments of society.

Foolproof security arrangements being ensured in the high-security zone

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Police is constantly engaged to ensure effective security arrangements and deal with any untoward incidents in the High Security Zone.

Senior police officers issued instructions to the officers posted on duty and said that the protection of all public and private offices and embassies located in the high security zone is of utmost importance.

Islamabad Police is using all resources to maintain the law and order situation in the federal capital, ensuring the safety of lives and property of the citizens.

In this regard, the officers of the Islamabad Police are performing their duties effectively to ensure security arrangements and deal with any untoward incidents in the high security zone.



According to the details, the Islamabad Police is constantly engaged to maintain the law and order situation in the federal capital, ensuring the safety of lives and property of the citizens.

In this regard, the officers of the Islamabad Police are performing their duties effectively to ensure security arrangements and deal with any untoward incidents in the high security zone.

Protection of life and property of citizens is among the top priorities of the Islamabad Police.

Elections in IIOJK – a facade of democracy behind a mask of military might

ISLAMABAD (APP): The upcoming so-called elections in Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir are nothing but a facade, aimed at projecting a false sense of normalcy in the territory.

According to a report with around one million occupation troops present and a ban on Hurriyat organizations, whose leadership, including All Parties Hurriyat Conference Chairman Masarrat Aalam Butt and other top leaders, are in New Delhi's Tihar jail, and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq is under house detention, it is questionable how these elections can be considered a true representation of people's aspirations and a manifestation of genuine democracy.

India's sole intention is to give legitimacy to its August 2019 illegal actions and fortify its illegal occupation by holding election dramas, misleading the world about the territory's real situation.

The report maintains that election candidates fail to reflect the true desires of the Kashmiri people, instead furthering Indian agendas.

In contrast, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference embodies the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, leading the effort to resolve the Kashmir dispute in line with UN resolutions.

OPF set up PGFRC to assist returned Overseas Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development has set up a Pakistani-German Facilitation & Reintegration Centre (PGFRC) in Lahore with an advisory desk at Overseas Pakistani Foundation (OPF) here at the head office. An official source told APP that the objective was to facilitate the return of overseas Pakistanis in terms of their skill development in Pakistan's social and economic fabric for gainful employment.

It is being implemented in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Overseas Pakistani Foundation, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development on technical assistance to the facilitation & reintegration centre for Pakistani workers has been signed.



ISLAMABAD: Employees of PWD burning their professional degrees during a sit-in protest (Dharna) in favor of their demands at Srinagar Highway in the Federal Capital.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
Tuesday September 03, 2024

Bad air

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

Though the report highlights an 18pc decline in air pollution in 2022, attributed largely to above-normal rainfall, it also underscores the grim reality that air pollution remains the most significant external threat to public health in the region — including Pakistan. It highlights that South Asia continues to grapple with dangerously high levels of air pollution and that, despite the recent decline, the region still accounts for a staggering 45pc of total life years lost due to pollution.

It paints a worrying picture: if the World Health Organisation's air quality guidelines were met, the average person in South Asia would gain 3.5 years in life expectancy.

In Pakistan, the situation is equally alarming. While the report notes a 10pc decline in particulate matter levels in 2022, the average resident's life expectancy is still reduced by 3.3 years due to air pollution. In cities like Peshawar and Lahore, where pollution levels are even higher, life expectancy is shortened by over five years.

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

This report should ring alarm bells for our leaders, but instead this subject is largely met with indifference. The increase in the number of vehicles and the reliance on fossil fuels for electricity generation have been major contributors to the country's pollution crisis. Since the early 2000s, the number of vehicles has quadrupled, while electricity generation from fossil fuels in Pakistan and neighbouring countries has tripled from 1998 to 2017. Without significant policy changes, the demand for energy and the corresponding pollution levels are likely to rise further, exacerbating the public health crisis. In the past, citizens' attempts to report high pollution with independent monitors have been met with criticism and denial.

The government must take stock of this report and make long-term policy decisions to protect the future of its citizens. In the landmark Shehla Zia case, the Supreme Court declared the right to a healthy environment to be part of the fundamental constitutional rights of all citizens.

While the state has taken initiatives like installing more pollution monitors and shutting down factories during high-pollution periods, they need to be part of a broader, more comprehensive strategy that includes promoting electric vehicles, transitioning to cleaner technologies in industries and enforcing stricter emissions standards.

Umair Javed

Pakistan is a one-sport nation, and has been for the better part of five decades. Given its sheer population, underachievement across all other sports is extremely stark. Hockey languishes outside of the Olympics.

The men's national team, with a decorated legacy, is currently ranked 16th in the world. Arshad Nadeem's monumental achievement aside, track and field probably had its last competitive moment in the mid-1960s. Boxing and weightlifting are frequent victims of petty organisational politics.

Sports journalists point out a number of factors for this multi-decade trough. Highest on the list is the shambolic use of sporting associations and federations as a source of patronage and graft. The bo—dies mandated to promote and preserve their sport remain at the mercy of political and military appointments, with sanctity of tenure entirely un—related to actual achievement. Exemplar cases include political appointments at the football

federation, and of course, the three-starred gentleman who sat at the helm of the country's national Olympic Association for two full decades and oversaw four Olympics with a return of precisely zero medals.

But outside of the world of institutional atrophy and decay, something interesting is happening. Societal interest in sports outside of cricket appears to be growing rapidly. Much of this appearance is gleaned from anecdotes. For example, there are YouTube and Facebook channels solely dedicated to broadcasting live volleyball matches — with considerable crowd turnouts — in rural areas in Pakistan. There are others that show football being played in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The most popular ones get views and engagements well into their thousands.

A few weeks ago, Arshad Nadeem's remarkable success at the Paris Olympics set off a wave of national jubilation. And almost immediately in its aftermath, it triggered an outpouring of social media videos of young men and

Sporting futures

women throwing a vast array of pointy, stick-shaped objects. It felt like the natural response after watching a rare moment of possibility; a moment when a truly world-class athlete achieves a world-beating feat, despite the burdens this country afflicts on the average household.

Here's a slightly more concrete measure of growing interest: June 6 is not a date one would willingly step out for outdoor activity in most parts of the country. Yet, on that date this year, 20,124 supporters of the Pakistan football team showed up to watch their match in Islamabad against Saudi Arabia. In November last year, in admittedly milder conditions, a similar number turned out to watch the hosts take on Tajikistan.

Pakistan lost both of these matches, but in the larger scheme of things, the result was less important. The team played in the preliminary group stages of World Cup qualification for the first time. The experience of playing against much better resourced opposition — including a country that had beaten Argentina in the last World

Cup — was likely valuable. Even more revelatory was the demonstration of crowd interest in the face of unkind weather conditions, midweek timings, and a half-completed stadium. People genuinely wanted the collective experience of watching their team live.

This interest owes at least some of its growth to the abject conditions of cricket over the last few years. It was only a matter of time that the institutional decay induced by the Pakistani state's anti-Midas touch would reach PCB as well. Whatever protection was historically offered by outsized fan interest, of being a one-sport nation, and loads of commercial investment by sponsors, is wearing off.

Politicisation of cricket's apex appointments and a rank culture of internal nepotism has hollowed out the sport from within. The pipeline for locating, cultivating, and managing talent looks irreparably broken. As a result, this is probably the only team in the world where players hit their playing peak when they're at their youngest. After that, it's mostly just

internal palace intrigue, slipping athletic standards and mediocre performances. No amount of sponsored social media content can paper over it.

This story of generational disillusionment with cricket isn't particularly new. Match-fixing scandals, erratic performances, and inexplicable losses contributed to interest attrition and cynicism since the 1990s. But the current wave of fan apathy and exasperation seems qualitatively different. As with the state and the economy, people are just fed up.

This current moment, amidst Arshad's achievement and cricket's decay, can act as an inflection point for other sports. Some of the ingredients for such a take-off are already present. There is growing mass interest, with young people starved of viable cultural entertainment. People want to be involved in something that's bigger than them, and their usual repository for national validation — cricket — is no longer fit for the purpose. Similarly, social media growth is operating as another catalyst. It offers a window into what others may be interested in and

Foreign policy adrift**Maleeha Lodhi**

Characterised by drift, Pakistan's foreign policy appears to be rudderless. It has neither clarity nor coherence to meet complex regional and international challenges or respond to fast-moving global developments.

Lacking any vision or strategic direction, the country's foreign policy consists of sporadic, ad hoc and reactive endeavours. Compounding the incoherence is the tendency to deal with individual issue areas in silos, overlooking their link with other areas, rather than evolve an integrated policy keeping in view the overall external environment.

This is mainly the consequence of the absence of an overarching policy framework with clearly spelt-out and prioritised goals. Rhetoric has often substituted for policy, while goals have outmatched diplomatic resources. The inability for many years to frame long-term policy objectives has often led to muddled goals reflecting tactical, short-term considerations.

Policymakers work with outdated paradigms

and mental maps of the past. They have not been replaced by a framework that is predicated on the country's present domestic strength and international relevance, while adapting that to new global realities. True, efforts at policy re-orientation have been stymied by domestic political instability and economic difficulties. But they have also been impeded by other factors, including lack of focus and imagination.

A new government is expected to take stock of the country's foreign relations, offer a foreign policy vision and spell out future priorities. Five months on, Shehbaz Sharif's government has done none of the above. A broad foreign policy review is essential, given the geopolitical changes sweeping the world. With power shifts and realignments taking place in an unsettled, multipolar world marked by mounting geopolitical tensions, this big picture has to be carefully assessed. This would help to adjust policy to these changes and reshape the country's strategy to more effectively pursue goals. A review would inject clarity both about goals and strategy and

encourage a proactive approach that leverages opportunities.

Despite these obvious benefits, the Sharif government has shown no interest in such a review. The prime minister and even foreign minister have given episodic attention to foreign policy, mistaking obligatory overseas visits for policy. No political direction has been provided to a ministry that today is institutionally at its weakest — and most demoralised — as a cumulative result of years of neglect and lack of resources. Moreover, having a foreign minister with additional responsibilities as deputy prime minister and chair of dozens of economic committees means his attention is divided, leaving the foreign ministry with a part-time head.

Above all, the government has decided, in the hybrid governing arrangement that prevails today, to cede more space on foreign policy to the military establishment, judging this as a 'safe' course to follow. This has resulted in fragmentation of the decision-making process, confusion about who is responsible for what, exclusion of the foreign ministry from key policy areas (including Afghanistan) and weak implementation of policy goals. The military has always had a key role in foreign policy, which has long been security-oriented. This is not unusual. But today, that role has become far more extensive.

Against this backdrop, what is the state of Pakistan's two key bilateral relationships?

Relations with strategic ally China are facing challenges. Several issues have emerged that require deft handling to keep ties on a positive trajectory and prevent backsliding. The most important is allaying Beijing's security concerns about Chinese personnel working in Pakistan. A spate of attacks and killings of Chinese workers this year have prompted China, Pakistan's biggest investor, to publicly urge Islamabad to guarantee the safety of thousands of its workers. During the visit of a senior Chinese official to Islamabad in June, Beijing's message was delivered publicly in an unusually sharp manner. He warned that security issues could threaten CPEC's future and said the deteriorating security situ-

ation was "shaking the confidence of Chinese investors". Privately, he politely reiterated Beijing's concern about the country's instability driven by unceasing political squabbles.

Adding to challenges is the high-profile manner in which the government recently asked China for loan rollovers and rescheduling of debt to independent power producers. Publicly making these requests put China in an awkward position, because this has implications for its lending to other countries. The prime minister himself went public saying he had written to the Chinese leadership requesting "debt reprofiling".

Moreover, public controversy, reflected in the media on the IPP issue, further disconcerted China, already frustrated over the non-repatriation of IPP dividends. Inconclusive discussions on IPP debt relief indicate the Chinese want to know what Pakistan's long-term plan is, for which they still await a response. The government has also failed to see that its constant requests for financing/rollovers are overburdening relations with its closest ally.

Pakistan's other criti-

cal bilateral relationship, with the US, has been at an inflection point since the American military withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021. This diminished Pakistan's importance and geopolitical relevance for Washington, while Islamabad's strategic ties with China placed obvious limits. The changed context needs an imaginative approach by Islamabad to engage Washington to reset ties, which currently have little substantive content. Any reset has to now wait for the outcome of the American presidential election. It is yet to be determined whether a government with no foreign policy vision will be able to find space between the Pakistan-China strategic relationship and US-India partnership to rebuild ties with Washington.

In the immediate neighbourhood, the foreign policy drift is reflected in the fact that Pakistan has troubled relations in varying degrees with all three neighbours. For decades, Pakistan's security and foreign policy aimed to prevent a two-front scenario of hot borders with neighbours.

Shahid Zaman Khan-promising squash player from Quetta-Pakistan all set to coach young lot in Boston**By Manzoor Magsi**

Shahid Zaman Khan son of legendary SQUASH coach Gul Bahadur Khan was born in Quetta Pakistan in 1982.

Shahid Zaman Khan has three brothers Ali Jan, Abdul Wahid, and Zahid Gul, they all great squash players now Zahid Gul work with Hamza Khan who won the World Jr squash championships in Melbourne Australia 2023 hamza Khan won the championship after 37 year long wait for Pakistan, Zahid Gul help him Achieve his goal and give respect to Pakistan, which they lose for many years their father produce great squash champions who played in top level professional squash including Zarak Jahan Khan Zubair, Jahan Khan and now I received a message from Shahid Zaman Khan telling me that he has accepted the role of Head Squash Coach at Boston University He is in fact the first "professional coach" hired by the prestigious institution. Earlier this year, he was signed up by the Harvard Business

School at their Squash Instructor. Shahid Zaman Khan working in many respectful institutions in Boston area he was head squash professional at The Tennis and Racket Club, the club is Boston oldest club and historical club Shahid Zaman Khan also work At equinox sports club Boston for two years, Shahid also work in many private schools Belmont Hill School Newton country school, Shahid Zaman Khan also help for children's and work with SQUASH busters Lawrence.

For those who don't know him, Shahid was once the brightest Pakistani squash player, having risen to a career-best No.14 in the international squash rankings. Shahid was Pakistan's top-ranked player in the world for quite a long time. He won several international laurels for Pakistan both at home and abroad but opportunities began to dry up and he moved to greener pastures in North America. It was in 2009 that he made the move, settling in Boston where his first job was

School at their Squash Instructor.

Shahid Zaman Khan working in many respectful institutions in Boston area he was head squash professional at The Tennis and Racket Club, the club is Boston oldest club and historical club Shahid Zaman Khan also work At equinox sports club Boston for two years, Shahid also work in many private schools Belmont Hill School Newton country school, Shahid Zaman Khan also help for children's and work with SQUASH busters Lawrence.

For those who don't know him, Shahid was once the brightest Pakistani squash player, having risen to a career-best No.14 in the international squash rankings. Shahid was Pakistan's top-ranked player in the world for quite a long time. He won several international laurels for Pakistan both at home and abroad but opportunities began to dry up and he moved to greener pastures in North America. It was in 2009 that he made the move, settling in Boston where his first job was



my nephew Hamza Khan, became the world champion, which makes us very proud because our family served the country for so many years. This is very inspiring for me and pushes me to keep working hard knowing my hard work is paying off. The fact that I am, in a small way, helping my country's name fly higher is also a great privilege and honour," he adds.

Despite being well-settled in the US, Shahid years to serve Pakistan squash. "I'm everything I am because of Pakistan," he says. "It is still my greatest desire to serve Pakistan squash in any capacity I can."

The fact that Shahid is based in the US as a prominent and respectable coach potentially makes him a great asset for Pakistan squash. Unlike the past when England was the power centre of international squash, it's the USA which is now the game's heartland. Squash has grown in North America in recent decades and is

win the World Junior Squash Championship title. Hamza, who has received a lot of guidance and training from Shahid, won the crown in Melbourne earlier this summer.

"I'm very happy and blessed to be where I am today, especially coming from a very humble background and now that I'm working with all these prestigious schools I don't have enough words of gratitude to everyone who has helped me on this journey. I first of all thank God and say Alhamdulillah for everything I have and after this all credit goes to my family. My father, my brothers Ali Jan, Wahid Gul, and Zahid Gul, who were always behind throughout the journey and never gave up on me," says Shahid.

"I would like to encourage all the youngsters who play squash, to keep working hard. If you work hard, you can achieve your goals in life. My heart always beats for my country, Pakistan, and I always try to serve it. Recently,

now flourishing there. Back in the past our legends like Jahangir Khan and Jansher Khan made their bones as world class players by playing and training in England. If our current generation of promising players want to follow in their footsteps then they should play and train in the US. Back in the past it was Rahmat Khan who helped groom Jahangir into a world champion and Moham-mad Yasin who played almost a similar role in shaping Jansher's

career. Now, it is Shahid who is perfectly placed to help players like Hamza to realise their true potential and become world beaters like Jahangir and Jansher. "I am always available to help and train our (Pakistani) youngsters," says Shahid. "It is my desire to see Pakistani players winning world titles like Jahangir and Jansher and if I can help in realising that dream then I'm always there."



CM Punjab reviews green transport system project



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

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

In a meeting with a Chinese delegation led by Liu Junhua, Chairman of Chinese vehicle company Chongqing CRR Hang Tong, here on Monday, the CM discussed the launch of a proposed Green Transport System Project in Punjab. The CM said, "We want a complete green transport system for the people of big cities. China is leading in every sphere

of life, we are eager to benefit from their cooperation and expertise" the CM said. She said that traffic jam is a big problem, environmental pollution is also increasing, adding that people are increasingly being attracted towards electric vehicles. "We are eager to benefit from China's skills in the transport sector" she pledged.

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

Murad decides to construct new expressway, maripur, forestation

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah presiding over the 45th meeting of the Public Private Partnership Policy Board (PPPP) decided to carry out afforestation along the River Indus in the districts of Jamshoro and Matiari, covering an area of 34,995 acres.

Additionally, reforestation activities will be undertaken over 88,022 hectares in the riverine areas of seven districts of the province through a Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. The CM also approved a proposal to construct an expressway starting from Karachi Port Terminal to Jam Sadiq Bridge where the Malir expressway starts.

The meeting was held at CM House and was

attended by provincial ministers, Dr Azra Pechuho, Nasir Shah, Saeed Ghani, Zial Lanjar, Advisor Livestock Najmi Alam, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Advocate General Hassan Akbar, PSCM Agha Wasif, VC NED Dr Sarosh Lodhi, Asif Brohi, provincial secretaries and other concerned.

At the outset of the meeting, the CM said that the World Wildlife Fund reported in 2017 that Pakistan was a forest-poor country, with less than six per cent (6pc) of its total area as opposed to a minimum of 25pc. He added that we were facing severe climatic conditions due to climate change. "The floods in 2022 are an example of the risks which it faces", he said, adding that enhancing forest cover

would improve the province's resilience in meeting such challenges.

The CM said that our Sindh Forest Department (SFD) has successfully undertaken Delta Blue Carbon projects, it improved mangrove cover and also brought in revenues through a carbon credit mechanism. He directed the forest dept to undertake ARR activities over 100,000 acres of identified forest land.

The Forest Department has informed the Chief Minister that it has identified 34,995 hectares in the Riverine area of Matiari and Jamshoro districts for various purposes. This includes reforestation on 2,674 hectares, an access road area of 694.63 hectares.

Salman Rafique chairs law and order meeting

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

Khawaja Salman Rafique emphasized that foolproof security measures will be implemented for the by-elections scheduled for September 12 in Rahim Yar Khan. "Approval has been granted to deploy three

companies of the Army and Rangers in the area. Additionally, extraordinary security preparations are in place for the cricket series with Bangladesh. Efforts will be relentless in maintaining peace and order in Punjab. Those disrupting public order will be dealt with firmly, and operations will persist until the last terrorist in the Kacha area is eliminated. The law and order situation is directly linked to Pakistan's economic stability, and no leniency will be shown to terrorists threatening peace", he added.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Home Punjab Noorul Amin Mengal, Special Secretary Interior Fazalur Rehman, Additional Secretary Internal Security Usman Khalid, Additional IG Chaudhry Sultan.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over 45th meeting of Public Private Partnership Policy Board, at CM House in Karachi.

Punjab government launches innovative 'Smart Classroom' project with Huawei

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has unveiled the Smart Classroom Project at the government Kinnaird Girls' High School, Empress Road.

This cutting-edge initiative, developed in collaboration with Huawei, represents a major leap forward in transforming education in Punjab by integrating advanced technology into the classroom said a news release issued by Huawei on Monday.

The Smart Classroom Project is a key component of the "Back to School" enrollment campaign. It introduces state-of-the-art technology, including

cameras that record lectures, allowing students to review and engage with lessons outside of class time. This initiative aims to enhance educational quality and make learning more interactive and accessible.

Huawei's support is remarkable for this project, highlighting its strong commitment to advancing educational innovation.

By integrating Huawei's advanced technology, Punjab sets a new benchmark for educational excellence and technological integration in schools.

Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz highlighted the significance

of the project, stating, "Incorporating Huawei's technology into our classrooms is a testament to our commitment to providing high-quality education to every student in Punjab. Our goal is to elevate every government school to the standards of the best private institutions."

The initiative is also a part of Punjab's broader strategy to boost its IT industry and establish itself as a hub for technological innovation.

The Smart Classroom Project aligns with the government's vision of nurturing talent and driving economic growth through technology.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan offering funeral prayers for mother in the law in his native village Malal, Fateh Jang. Former Federal Interior Minister, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan and other high ups are also present.

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

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq said on Monday that water supply and sewage projects had been started in 200 cities of 35 districts of Punjab.

A meeting was held at the office of Punjab Municipal Development Fund Company (PMDFC) with Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq in the chair. The ongoing and new projects for providing municipal services at small and big cities across the province were reviewed. Secretary Local Government Shakeel Ahmad Mian and Managing Director Punjab Municipal Development Fund Company Syed Zahid Aziz and other

officials attended the meeting.

The Minister said: "PMU has created a complete database of 100 cities while maps of 75 cities are also ready. The master plan of 41 cities has also been completed under the project too". He further said that out of order water tube-wells, filtration plants and sewerage lines were being renovated in 80 cities. Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq expressed his determination that the project of providing unavailable facilities in cities and towns would be completed by next year. The World Bank would also be requested to extend the project to benefit more population, he added.

CM takes notice of acid throwing incident

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

Rescue 1122 shifted the victims to Rural Health Centre Rohealialwali.

On information, the police concerned rushed to the site and collected evidences.

PTI chief begging for talks with Nawaz Sharif: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that Imran Khan has been begging for negotiations with Nawaz Sharif for the past one and a half years but he does not even consider it appropriate to mention the PTI chief's name.

In her remarks in response to Barrister Saif's statement, she said Imran Khan is an ungrateful, backstabbing and opportunistic and no one is willing to sit with him. She said that Imran Khan is desperately seeking negotiations, but the PML-N has no interest. "PTI's political orphans are

creating imaginary scenarios on their own. One who refers their benefactors as Mir Jafar cannot be trusted," she added. Bokhari emphasized that Nawaz Sharif's politics, vision, and mission are solely focused on the development and prosperity of Pakistan. She criticized those who fail to understand the politics of Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif.

She also accused Murad Saeed of sitting abroad and making government decisions, such as determining who should be in the cabinet or who should be removed.

Three died, 1 injured due to rockfall in Kohistan

GILGIT (APP): A bus traveling from Rawalpindi to Gilgit was hit by a rockfall in the Kohistan area, as a result, three passengers were died and one injured.

The bus was operated by Northern Areas Transport Corporation (NATCO) Express company which offers daily services from Gilgit to Rawalpindi, Chilas, and Karachi. The deceased were from Gilgit, Ghizer, and Rawalpindi and the injured passenger is also a resident of Rawalpindi.

Police and Rescue officials have confirmed three deaths and one injury as a result of the tragic accident.

Floods damage various crops, cause Rs86.86bn loss to Sindh: Bux Mahar

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh government's Agriculture Department has released an initial report detailing the damage caused by crops by the recent heavy monsoon rains. The Agriculture Minister Sardar Muhammad Bux Mahar announced that the floods have devastated various crops across Sindh, resulting in an estimated loss of Rs86.86 billion to farmers, according to a communique on Monday.

The Minister Mahar provided a breakdown of the damages, stating that 541,351 acres of crops have been completely

destroyed. Specifically, 293,580 acres of cotton crops have been affected.

According to Mehar, rice crops have been fully destroyed on 35,271 acres and partially damaged on 269,016 acres. Similarly, date palms have suffered complete loss on 53,195 acres and partial loss on 32,849 acres.

The minister further noted that sugarcane crops have been fully destroyed on 26,382 acres and partially damaged on 69,689 acres. The unprecedented rains have led to a 21% loss in cotton and a 41% loss in date palms.



LAHORE: Members of Punjabi Panchar Organization are holding protest demonstration against target killing of Punjabis in Balochistan, at Lahore press club.

ACS for expansion of "Zero Out of School Children" across Layyah

MULTAN (APP): Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Fuad Hashim Rabbani directed the School Education Department to proceed with the second phase of "Zero Out of School Children" project.

The decision follows the successful completion of the project's pilot phase and aims to expand the initiative across all union councils of District Layyah. During a recent meeting with the CEO Education Layyah, Rabbani stressed the importance of the initiative. The project ensured that every child in the region had access to education.

Layyah was also instructed to collect comprehensive data on out-of-school children and nearby schools to facilitate the project's implementation.

Secretary Services South Punjab Engineer Amjad Shoaib Khan Tareen also attended the meeting, where it was highlighted that newly enrolled students under the campaign would receive free uniforms, shoes, stationery, and school bags.

This support will be provided with the help of local philanthropists. Rabbani further announced plans to invite Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif to Layyah.

Two killed over property issue in Nowshera

PESHAWAR (APP): At least two people were killed and as many injured during cross fire between the two groups over a property dispute in Nowshera district, police informed on Monday.

Police said the incident took place in Misri Banda of Akora Khattak tehsil in Nowshera district where two groups resorted to indiscriminate firing at each other over a property dispute.

As a result of firing two persons identified as Shah Wali (23) and Gohar Ali (45) were killed.

KP govt starts 2nd phase of enrollment drive, sets 0.3mln children's enrollment in schools

PESHAWAR (APP): The Elementary and Secondary Education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday formally launched the second phase of the school admission campaign 2024 across the province to enroll as many as 0.3 million out-of-school children.

According to Minister for Education Faisal Tarakai, the campaign had been started simultaneously in all districts of the province and would continue till September 30.

The admission campaign was initially launched in government schools across the

province, adding that during the first phase of the campaign, a record 119,900 children were enrolled while a target of 0.3 million children's enrollment had been set for the second phase.

He said that under the campaign an accumulative 1.5 million children would be enrolled in the government schools.

The Minister informed that currently 4.5 million children were out of schools in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and all the District Education Officers in the province had been directed to pursue the enrollment drive vigorously.

FIA put on notice on bail plea of Oriya Maqbool Jan

LAHORE (Online): Sessions court Lahore has issued notice to FIA on the bail plea of writer and anchorperson Oriya Maqbool Jan. Additional Sessions judge of Sessions court Lahore took up the bail plea for hearing Monday.

The petitioner took the plea FIA arrested him on baseless grounds. FIA registered case on the basis of tweet.



LAHORE: Professors and lecturers are protesting for their demands at Mall Road in the provincial capital.

Workshop held to discuss EPA role to protect environment

PESHAWAR (APP): Project Management Unit (PMU) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Integrated Tourism Development Project (KITE) arranged a one-day training workshop on Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) role to develop and enforces environmental regulations and to protect environment, EPA guidelines, WB safeguard documents compliance and KITE-GRM in Peshawar.

The workshop began with a warm welcome from Project Director KITE DoT Touseef Khalid, he explained the aim of today workshop is orienting development authorities and DoAM staff on the Environmental Protection

Agency's (EPA) role and requirements.

Dr. Habib Jan, Deputy Director of EPA, delivered an in-depth and comprehensive session, shedding light on the EPA's guidelines and the significance of the EPA Act of 2014.

Consultant Dr. Irfan elaborated on safeguarding documents, discussing PCRMP and ESMP, while Shafiqat Ali Khan explained the KITE-Grievance Redress Mechanism.

Attended by participants from Tourism department and its allied authorities including Galiyat Development Authority, Kaghan Development Authority, Upper Swat Development



HYDERABAD: Flood affected people of Golarchi area are living under the open sky at roadside makeshift houses as they are waiting for government relief after destruction due to flash flooded caused by recent heavy downpour of monsoon season, near Hyderabad.

Denmark wants to invest in Pakistan's mining industry

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

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

Kamal Khan, said a news release.

The Danish Ambassador to Pakistan, Jakob Linulf, was also in attendance.

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

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

Pakistan.

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

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



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



A delegation of the Utility Store Corporation meets with Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain in Islamabad.

Finance Minister holds review meeting with Pak, Kuwait Investment Company

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with the leadership of Pak-Kuwait Investment Company (PKIC) here on Monday to discuss the strategic initiatives and future directions of the joint venture in Pakistan.

According to press release issued by finance ministry, the attendees included Managing Director Pak-Kuwait Investment Company, Saad ur Rehman Khan, Finance Secretary and senior officials from the Finance

Division.

The finance minister commended Pak-Kuwait Investment Company for its strategic contributions to Pakistan's economy, especially in sectors vital to the nation's long-term development.

He specifically acknowledged PKIC's proactive approach to integrating Islamic finance into its operations, noting that this approach not only aligns with Pakistan's development priorities but also resonates with the broader goals of ethical and sustainable growth.

On the occasion, Saad

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

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

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

The committee which met with Shahadat Awan in the Chair was further told that as of now, there are six ongoing projects being financed by the Federal Government. These projects include Diamer Basha Dam, Mohmand Dam, Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme, Nai

Gaj Dam, Kachhi Canal Project, and Dasu Hydropower Project.

The installed capacity of Diamer Basha Dam is 4500 MW and it will be completed in December 2029, while the installed capacity of Mohmand Dam is 800 MW and it will be completed in December 2025. Briefing the Committee, Secretary for the Ministry of Water Resources, Syed Ali Murtaza said that the focus is on the development of the country's water resources and six entities were assigned to the

ministry, namely WAPDA, IRSA, Federal Flood Commission, Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), CEA, and Pakistan Commission for Indus Water (PCIW).

Moreover, the Committee was also briefed on the working strength of the ministry. In this regard, the Secretary for the Ministry of Water Resources highlighted that the total sanctioned posts of the ministry are around 135, which entail 38 posts of Grade 17-22 and 97 posts of Grade 01-16.

Rana Tanveer assures stable sugar prices amid surplus stock

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

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

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

ensuring a stable market price.

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

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

Punjab internship program launched for Agricultural graduates

SARGODHA (APP): In a significant move to enhance the agricultural sector in Punjab, the provincial government has initiated an Agriculture Transformation Program aimed at providing internships to young agricultural graduates.

As many as 41 selected candidates from the district received their one-year internship offer letters during a ceremony led by Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA) of Pakistan Muslim League-N Rana Munawar Ghous Khan and Assistant Commissioner Sargodha

Amina Ehsan Tatar on Monday.

The ceremony was attended by Agriculture department officials, including Director of Agriculture Shahid Hussain and Deputy Director Masood Saqib.

The PML-N MPA Rana Munawar Ghous congratulated the selected agricultural graduates while emphasizing the dual benefits of the program.

"This initiative will not only allow farmers to take advantage of modern technology but will also provide students with practical knowledge and experience," he stated.



PESHAWAR: Vendor selling and displaying power generators to attract the customers at Sadar Bazaar.

Public transport fares reduced by 2 percent

SARGODHA (APP): In a move to provide relief to the public following the government's decision to reduce the prices of petroleum products, the Secretary Regional Transport Authority (RTA), Malik Muhammad Tahir, held a meeting with public and goods transporters on Monday.

During the meeting, it was agreed to immediately reduce fares by two percent.

The Secretary of the RTA stated that since the government has reduced the rates of diesel and petrol, transporters should also reduce their fares accordingly.

Pakistan's regional exports increase 25.59% during July

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's exports to the seven regional countries increased 25.59 per cent in the first months of the current fiscal year (2024-25) compared to the corresponding month of last year.

The country's exports to the regional countries including Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and the Maldives account for a small amount of \$339.880 million, which is 14.21 per cent of Pakistan's overall exports of \$2390.595

million during July (2024-25), State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

China tops the list of countries in terms of Pakistan's exports to its neighbouring, leaving behind other countries such as Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

Pakistan carried out its border trade with the farther neighbour Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and Maldives.

Pakistan's exports to China witnessed an increase of 4.13 per cent to \$160.100 million in July this year from \$153.745

RCCI organizes 'Hum Se Hai Pakistan'

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

According to the details, Beenish Fatima, Chief Traffic Officer of City Traffic Police, was the chief guest on the occasion. Several distinguished personalities, including Kanwal Cheema, Founder and CEO of My Impact Meter, Abida Malik, President of Behbud

Association and Awaiz Manzoor Tatar, Additional Director General RDA also attended the event.

These notable figures, along with other esteemed guests, were welcomed by RCCI President Saqib Raifi and Group Leader Sohail Altar.

The event marked the month of independence and celebrated the invaluable contributions of women across various sectors. The core focus of the event was women's empowerment. Success stories of women who have made significant strides in their respective fields were shared, serving as inspiration for all attendees.

Gold rates remain unchanged

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed no change on Monday and was traded at Rs.262,500, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of 10 gram 24 karat and 10 gram 22 karat gold also remained constant at Rs. 225,051 and Rs.206,297.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.2,950 and Rs.2,529.14, respectively.

The price of gold in the international market remained stagnant at \$2,503, the Association reported.



LARKANA: Farmers busy cleaning grain in their field in a traditional way near Larkana-Tando Masti Road.

New sewer line to be laid after approval of Rs.12 billion: DC

FAISALABAD (APP): Solid waste management system is being entrusted to the specialized firms while work to lay new sewer line would be started immediately after the approval of Rs.12 billion by P&D department under second phase of master plan prepared by JICA for 2038, said Captain (Retired) Nadeem Nasir Deputy Commissioner (DC) Faisalabad.

Addressing the business community in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said that Faisalabad is the second largest district after Lahore. Its problems are also proportionately most ticklish and complicated which need to be redressed in close collaboration between administration and private sector, he added.

He said that 25,000 tons of solid waste have

been lifted during the last ten days. "It was dumped in 190 plots in different localities where it was plaguing the city environment for the last many years", he said and added that it would take another 10-15 days to declare Faisalabad waste free. He said that agreements have been inked for the collection of solid waste from all Tehsils excluding Chak Jhumra and the mobilization work would be launched within the next 15 days.

About WASA, he said that the present trunk sewer line was laid in 1983 and it has completed its designed life span. He said that JICA has conducted a study and prepared a master plan for up to 2038.

He said that Rs.12 billion is expected to be approved by the P&D department paving way for laying new sewer lines in the city areas.

SNGPL cuts off 51 more connections for gas pilferage

LAHORE (APP): Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) cut off another 51 connections, during its on going crackdown against gas pilferers in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad and imposed Rs 0.7 million fine. According to SNGPL spokesman, in Sheikhupura, Rawalpindi and Faisalabad, the regional teams severed 7 connections of gas pilferers while 20 connections were disconnected in Bahawalpur and Multan.

In Lahore and Sahiwal, 20 connections were disconnected and 4 in Karak and Peshawar on the charge of direct use of gas and illegal use of gas with imposing heavy fines.

Experts highlight training value of apple chain in Balochistan

HYDERABAD (APP): A scholar of the department of Agricultural Education, extension and short courses at Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tandojam Syed Taimoor Shah presented his paper, highlighting the importance of training for apple commercialization in Balochistan.

The event was presided over by the Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Mari.

In his presentation, Syed Taimoor Shah described that 11 districts in Balochistan were major apple producers, and his research focused on 6 of these. His findings revealed that the best commercial apple varieties were grown in these areas, and if

farmers receive training in the fields of supply chain management, value chain, shelf life and export of high-quality varieties, both the farmers and the province could see significant development.

The Vice Chancellor Dr. Mari praised the scholar's research, stating that it identifies a critical gap in agricultural activities, specifically the training needs of individuals involved in the apple value chain. This work not only has the potential to improve apple production and marketing in Balochistan but also offers guidance on the possible opportunities for apple cultivation in Sindh, he said.

Kissan cards distribution centre set up in city

SIALKOT (APP): A center for the distribution of Punjab Kissan Card has been set up in tehsil Sialkot. Assistant Director Agriculture (Extension) Sialkot Jawahar Ali said the distribution center had been established in the office of Assistant Director Agriculture (Extension) Sialkot.

He said that farmers holding Kissan Card would be eligible to get benefit from Green Tractor Scheme and other subsidy schemes of the Punjab Government.

PSX witnesses bearish trend, loses 204 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Monday, losing 204.92 points, a negative change of 0.26 percent, closing at 78,283.30 points against 78,488.22 points on the last working day.

A total of 457,280,204 shares were traded during the day as compared to 680,810,524 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 15.874 billion against Rs 21.186 billion

on the last trading day.

As many as 447 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 107 of them recorded gains and 287 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 53 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Hascol Petrol with 46,430,036 shares at Rs 7.65 per share, Agha Steel Industries with 28,794,375 shares at Rs.13.68 per share and Secure Logistics Group with 21,545,106 shares at Rs 14.89 per share.

Punjab job center registers 800,000 job seekers, 86,000 employers

LAHORE (APP): More than 800,000 job seekers and over 86,000 employers have been registered under the Punjab Job Center, an initiative of the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) in collaboration with the Labor & Human Resource Department (L&HRD), since its launch in August 2022.

This emerged during a progress review meeting presided over by PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf here on Monday.

The online job portal, accessible at job

center.punjab.gov.pk, houses a comprehensive database encompassing a wide range of human capital from both public and private sectors.

This includes skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled individuals, creating a dynamic platform for potential job seekers and employers alike.

The portal is designed to bridge the gap between employment exchange agencies, promoters, workers, and job seekers catering to the diverse needs of the job market.



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

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

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russia launched an overnight barrage of drones and cruise and ballistic missiles at Kyiv, officials said Monday, as children prepared to return to school across Ukraine. Some pupils found classes canceled because of damage from the attack.

Several series of explosions rocked the Ukrainian capital in the early hours. Debris from intercepted missiles and drones fell in every district of Kyiv, wounding three people and damaging two kindergartens, Ukraine's Interior Ministry said. City authorities reported multiple fires.

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

Kursk region and the Russian army pushing deeper into the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine that is part of the industrial Donbas region.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday that Ukraine's Kursk assault won't prevent Russian forces from advancing in eastern Ukraine. Ukrainian forces haven't achieved their goal of diverting Russian troops from the fighting there, he said.

"The main task that the enemy set for themselves — to stop our offensive in Donbas — they haven't achieved it," Putin told school students during a trip to southern Siberia.

However, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said last month that the aim of the Kursk incursion is to create a buffer zone that might prevent further attacks by Moscow across the border. Putin predicted that

Ukraine's Kursk offensive, which began Aug. 6, will fail and that subsequently Kyiv officials will want "to move to peace talks."

Russia launched 35 missiles of various types and 26 Shahed drones at Ukraine overnight from Sunday to Monday, the Ukrainian air force said. Nine ballistic missiles, 13 cruise missiles and 20 drones were downed, it said.

Residents of the capital hurried into the city's bomb shelters.

Oksana Argunova, an 18-year-old student at a Kyiv high school, said that she was still shaking after the nighttime scare.

"I woke up, my neighbor was shouting: 'Let's go down (to the shelter), there are big explosions.' We all ran," Argunova told The Associated Press.

Monday was the first day back at school after the summer vacation.



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

Israel set for general strike after prisoners found dead

Monitoring Desk
GAZA STRIP: Israel's main union on Sunday ordered a nationwide general strike after soldiers recovered the bodies of six prisoners from the Gaza Strip.

The remains of the six were recovered on Saturday "from an underground tunnel in the Rafah area" in southern Gaza, the military said.

They were among 251 hostages seized during

Hamas's Oct 7 raid on Israel, 97 of whom remain captive, including 33 the army says are dead. Scores were released during a negotiated one-week truce in November, but relatives of those still held believe not enough is being done to free them.

Campaign group the Hostages and Missing Families Forum said a negotiated "deal for the return of the prisoners" was urgently needed.

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

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

China warns Japan of retaliation over potential new chip curbs

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

Azerbaijan's ruling party retains parliamentary majority after snap vote

Monitoring Desk
BAKU: Azerbaijan's ruling party retained its majority in snap parliamentary election, preliminary results showed, in the country's first vote since staging a lightning offensive a year ago to recapture the breakaway territory of Karabakh.

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), a rights watchdog, criticised the vote, saying it had fallen well short of democratic standards.

President Ilham Aliyev's party was on course to win 68 out of 125 seats in parliament, according to preliminary results

from the Central Election Commission reported by the TASS news agency. It had 69 seats in the outgoing parliament.

Just over 2 million people in the energy-rich nation cast their ballots, bringing the turnout at the time of the close of polling stations to 37.3%, said Central Election Commission chief Mazahir Panakhov.

Exit polls suggested dozens of other seats would go to candidates who are nominally independent of political parties but in practice back the government as well as to minor pro-government parties.



Palestinians gather for a polio vaccination campaign, at a United Nations healthcare center in Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip.

Over 60 dead as heavy rains batter parts of India, causing widespread flooding

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Indian officials reported on Monday that more than 60 people have died across three states due to severe flooding caused by heavy rains over the past several days.

The states affected include Gujarat in the west and Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in the south. Gujarat has reported the highest number of fatalities, with over 45 deaths. Telangana has seen nine deaths, while Andhra Pradesh has reported 10.

The Indian Army has been deployed in Gujarat, where floods have devastated large areas since August 27. Troops with specialised equipment are working around the clock to assist with rescue operations. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu vowed

Bad weather behind Raisi helicopter crash, probe report confirms

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran's final investigation into the May helicopter crash that killed president Ebrahim Raisi has found it was caused by bad weather, the body investigating the case said on Sunday.

The helicopter carrying 63-year-old Raisi and his entourage came down on a fog-shrouded mountainside in northern Iran, killing the president and seven others, and triggering snap elections.

The main cause of the helicopter crash was the "complex climatic and atmospheric conditions of the region in the spring", the special board investigating the dimensions and causes of the helicopter accident.

Taliban chief tells Afghan officials to enforce new morality law

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: Taliban supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada has ordered Afghan officials to enact a sweeping new morality law curtailing women's rights and enshrining an austere vision of Islamic society, Taliban authorities last month announced the law, which includes rules that women's faces, bodies and voices should be "covered" outside the home, among 35 articles dictating behaviour and lifestyle.

While many of the measures have been informally enforced since the Taliban's takeover in 2021, their formal codification sparked an outcry from the international community and rights groups. Akhundzada told civil and military officials "they should implement ... the law of promoting virtue in society", a statement by the Information and Culture Department of Faryab province said.



Teachers, students and their parents celebrate the beginning of a school year at an underground school located at a metro, amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict, in Kharkiv, Ukraine.

Myanmar junta announces census for promised 2025 election

Monitoring Desk
MYANMAR: Myanmar's military government will conduct a nationwide population and household census in October, state media said on Monday, paving the way for a promised election next year amid raging conflict across swathes of the country.

The census data collected between Oct 1-15 will be used to hold a general election next year, junta chief Min Aung Hlaing told a meeting on Sunday, state

Ethnic Greek local politician released from Albanian jail

Monitoring Desk
PRISTINA: An ethnic Greek politician in Albania who also has Greek citizenship was released from jail on Monday in a case that has sparked tensions between Albania and neighbouring Greece.

Fredis Beleris was arrested in May 2023 during a mayoral election campaign in his Albanian hometown of Himare, which has an active ethnic Greek community. He won the vote while in detention but was never sworn in, and was convicted last March of election fraud through vote-buying.

Amazon river levels fall due to lack of rain, hurting navigation

Monitoring Desk
BRASILIA: Last year's record drought in the Amazon and less than usual rainfall since caused river water levels to drop rapidly, hindering navigation by barges carrying grains for export and cutting off communities that depend on river transport.

The Brazilian Geological Service (SGB) has warned that water levels have been falling since June and all rivers in the Amazon basin are expected to drop below their historical levels.

In Manaus, the Rio Negro river is 21 meters deep, down from 24 meters at the same time in 2023, which is beginning to worry

Africa faces steep costs as temperatures soar, says WMO

Monitoring Desk
SOMALIA: Africa faces an increasingly heavy toll from climate change with many countries having to spend up to 9% of their budgets battling climate extremes, a World Meteorological Organization (WMO) report said on Monday. Despite producing far lower greenhouse gas emissions than other continents, Africa's temperatures have risen more rapidly than the global average. African countries are now losing on average 2%-5% of gross domestic product responding to deadly heatwaves, heavy rains, floods, cyclones.

Six killed, 13 wounded in Kabul suicide bombing: police

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

Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadran said "a person wearing explosives on his body detonated", and one woman was among the fatalities. "The injured

were transferred to hospitals on time and investigations are ongoing," he posted on social media platform X. Afghanistan's Taliban authorities have declared security their highest priority since surging back to power following the chaotic withdrawal of foreign forces three years ago.

While their sweeping security operations have led to a decline in militants challenging their rule, according to analysts, they also downplay or delay confirmation of attacks. The last suicide attack in Afghanistan was claimed by the regional chapter of Islamic State in the southern city of Kandahar — the Taliban's historic stronghold.

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

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Monday that young members of his family speak fluent Mandarin, though he told school children they should not forget the importance of English too despite the growing popularity of Chinese.

Putin has two daughters with his ex-wife Lyudmila and they speak Russian, English, German, and French. Putin, who divorced his wife in 2014, rarely speaks about his family but has at least three grandchildren, according to Russian media.

"Some of my family members, the little ones, speak Chinese too - they speak it fluently," Putin told pupils of Secondary School No. 20 in Kyzyl, Tuva, about 4,500 km (2,800 miles) east of Moscow. Amid a growing partnership

between China and Russia, Mandarin has been growing in popularity across Russia as a foreign language of choice, a trend Putin said was due to developing contacts across economics, politics and society.

Putin, who speaks fluent German but has also taken lessons to improve his English, said that pupils should not forget the importance of English.

"English is a great language, it has given humanity a great deal in terms of combining knowledge and uniting people in the field of culture, and so on," Putin said. Russian, English, Tatar, German and Chechen are the most widely spoken languages in Russia, according to the 2022 census. While Mandarin is spoken far less, it has been growing swiftly in popularity in recent years as a foreign language.

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

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: A storm set off landslides and unleashed pounding rains that flooded many northern Philippine areas overnight on Monday, leaving at least 14 people dead and prompting authorities to suspend school classes and government work in the densely populated capital region.

Tropical Storm Yagi slammed into Casiguran town in the northeastern province of Aurora Monday afternoon and gained strength with sustained winds of 85 kilometers (53 miles) per hour and gusts of 105 kph (65 mph), according to the weather bureau.

The storm, locally called Enteng, gained speed and was moving north-westward at 20 kph (12 mph) toward the country's northernmost provinces. It was forecast to strengthen further, possibly becoming a typhoon, before blowing away toward southern China in the next two days, the weather bureau said.

At least 14 people died, mostly due to landslides and drownings, officials said.

A landslide hit two small shanties on a hillside in Antipolo city on Monday in Rizal province just to the west of the capital, killing at least three people, including a pregnant woman. Four other villagers drowned in swollen creeks, Antipolo's disaster mitigation officer Enrilito Bernardo Jr. told The Associated Press by telephone.

"The creeks overflowed and a part of the hillside gave in because of the heavy rains," Bernardo said.

Four residents died in separate landslides in central Cebu city and Northern Samar province. Three others died in the eastern city of Naga — two by drowning and one due to electrocution, officials said. Storm warnings were raised in a large swath of Luzon, the country's most populous region, including in metropolitan Manila, where schools at all levels and most government work were suspended due to the storm.

AI chatbots must learn to say 'help!' says Microsoft executive

Monitoring Desk
SAN FRANCISCO: Generative AI tools will save companies lots of time and money, promises Vik Singh, a Microsoft vice president, even if the models must learn to admit when they just don't know what to do.

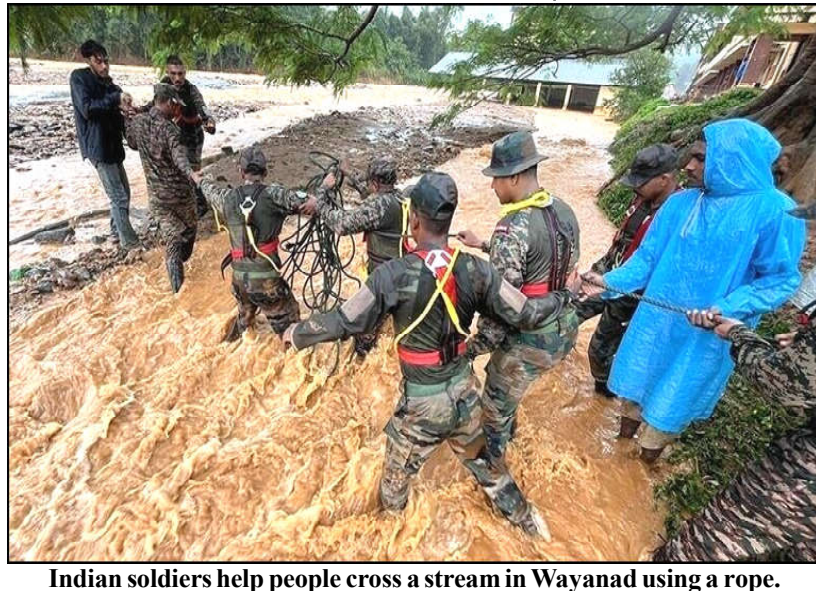
"Just to be really frank, the thing that's really missing today is that a model doesn't raise its hands and say 'Hey, I'm not sure, I need help,'" Singh said in an interview.

Since last year, Microsoft, Google and their competitors have been rapidly deploying generative AI applications like ChatGPT, which produce all kinds of content on demand and give users the illusion of omniscience. But despite progress, they still "hallucinate," or invent answers. This is an important problem for the Copilot executive to solve: Singh's corporate customers can't afford for their AI systems to go off the rails, even occasionally.

Marc Benioff, CEO of Salesforce, this week said he saw many of his customers increasingly frustrated with the meanderings of Microsoft's Copilot. Singh insisted that "really smart

people" were trying to find ways for a chatbot to admit "when it doesn't know the right answer and to ask for help." "A more humble model would be no less useful, in Singh's opinion. Even if the model has to turn to a human in 50 per cent of cases, that still saves "tons of money." At one Microsoft client, "every time a new request comes in, they spend \$8 to have a customer service rep answer it, so there are real savings to be had, and it's also a better experience for the customer because they get a faster response." Singh arrived at Microsoft in January and this summer took over as head of the teams developing "Copilot," Microsoft's AI assistant that specializes in sales, accounting and online services.

These applications have the gargantuan task of bringing in revenue and justifying the massive investments in generative AI. At the height of the AI frenzy, start-ups driving the technology were promising systems so advanced that they would "uplift humanity," in the words of Sam Altman, head of OpenAI, which is mainly funded by Microsoft.



Indian soldiers help people cross a stream in Wayanad using a rope.

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

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly session commenced with the Deputy Speaker, Ms. Ghazala Gola in the chair here on Monday.
 The member of Provincial Assembly belonging to Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), Mir Zabid Ali Reki tabled a call attention notice in the House.
 In his call attention notice, Mir Zabid Ali Reki diverted the attention of Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) towards the heavy financial and human losses caused due to the rains, flashfloods and hailstorm in the province especially Washuk district.
 He said that the cattle, house, orchards and crops have been perished due to the situation. He said that due to the devastations, it has become very difficult for the people to make their

both ends meet. Moreover, as the people of province live in the mud houses, so the rains and flashfloods have also caused damages to their house.
 He inquired the government about the measures taken for rehabilitation of the people affected in the districts especially Washuk as a result of the torrential monsoon rains.
 Th Provincial Minister Revenue, Mir Asim Kurd said that we want that the losses caused to the people during rains and flashfloods may be compensated. He said that assistance has been provided to the people where there it has had access.
 The Minister Communication and Works Saleem Khosa said that PDMA has made better arrangements this year than before. However, some amount should also be given to the affectees for repair of their houses along with

the relief goods.
 Meanwhile, the questions about Home department and PDMA were deferred because of the absence of respective provincial ministers.
 In the meantime, the members of opposition also staged token out from the House after they were not allowed to speak about PDMA.
 However, the members joined the session after sometime ending their token walk out.
 Earlier, on a point of order, the Member of Provincial Assembly and former Chief Minister, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch said that some 3,000 people of the province have been included in the fourth schedule list.
 Those who were included in the fourth schedule list are: former Deputy Speaker, politicians, media persons besides others.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Monday highlighted the key role of science and technology (S&T) and engineers in the economic development of the country.
 Accordingly, he suggested convening an international S&T Summit to invite the world's top scientists and researchers, aiming to find ways to establish a strong link between the science and technology sector and national economic development.
 Addressing a symposium, the minister said today the country has thousands of Ph.Ds in the S&T and engineering sectors due to the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) initiative, the "Teachers Researchers Overseas Scholarship Scheme," which was initiated in 1998 under Vision-2010. At that time, the number of S&T Ph.D holders stood at

around 350.
 He explained that under the scheme, the government had offered 5,000 overseas and indigenous scholarships to brilliant students, resulting in a significant increase in human resource development, particularly in the S&T and engineering sectors.
 "There is a need for effective utilization of their capabilities to find solutions to our issues, engaging them in university laboratories," he said, citing examples of developed nations, including America and European countries, that relied on solving issues—whether related to the corporate sector or national level—through laboratories under professors.
 "Unfortunately, Pakistan is totally disconnected in this area despite repeated attempts and having internationally acknowledged human resources," he observed.
 Ahsan Iqbal mentioned that the country

faced numerous challenges related to agriculture, health and climate change; and there should be regular ideas from university labs to address these issues effectively.
 "We are all aware of our national problems," the minister said, adding that the government's 5Es framework focused on environment and climate change, food and water security.
 He said the government has established a unit in the Ministry of Planning to monitor and evaluate ministries' Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) regularly, under the 5Es framework (Export, Energy, Equity, E-Pakistan, and Environment).
 He stressed the need for peace, political stability, consistent policies and an uninterrupted reform process to achieve national goals of progress and prosperity.

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

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Leader of Opposition in Balochistan Assembly, Mir Younas Aziz Zehri has expressed satisfaction over the measures taken by Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) for tackling the emergent situation and natural disaster in the province.
 He said that the measures taken by PDMA for tackling the emergent situation following the natural calamities are satisfactory.
 He said that the remarkable improvement has been witnessed in the service delivery and capacity of PDMA with increase in the modern machinery for the operational activities.
 The Leader of Opposition was speaking on oc-

casions of his visit to the PDMA office here on Monday.
 The members of provincial assembly Mir Zabid Reki and Fazal Qadir were also accompanied the Leader of Opposition.
 The Director General of PDMA, Jehanzaib Khan briefed the Leader of Opposition and members of assembly about the operational activities and preparedness by PDMA to tackle the emergent situation following the natural disasters. While Mir Younas Zehri expressed satisfaction over the measures for tackling any emergent situation in case of the natural calamities, the members of assembly also appreciated the effective system of monitoring.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) while rejecting plea of Additional Attorney General (AAG) Munawar Iqbal Dogal for giving 5 weeks more time in Dr Aafia Siddiqui case who is imprisoned in US jail has remarked "consider it this is case of extension in army chief service."
 The court remarked Clive Smith made efforts in the case. He went to Afghanistan. There is no one among government officials who can say he stands with Smith. Justice Sardar Ejaz Khan remarked I cannot understand government fears of this case free, these remarks were given by Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan during the hearing of petition related to release and return of Dr Aafia Siddiqui to Pakistan.

Monday
 Imran Shafiq counsel for petitioner Fouzia Siddiqui and amicus curiae Zainab Janjua appeared in the court as well.
 Clive Smith who is counsel for Fouzia Siddiqui in US appeared in the court through video link.
 The court remarked Clive Smith made efforts in the case. He went to Afghanistan. There is no one among government officials who can say he stands with Smith. Justice Sardar Ejaz Khan remarked I cannot understand government fears of this case free, these remarks were given by Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan during the hearing of petition related to release and return of Dr Aafia Siddiqui to Pakistan.



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

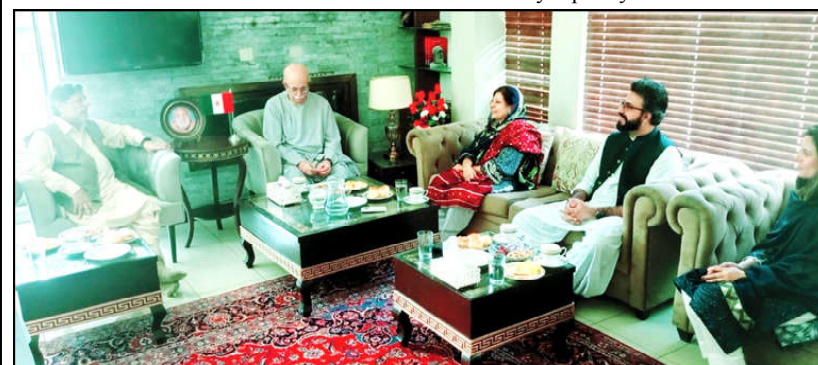
CCoSOEs deliberates on management, strategic direction of key SOEs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday presided over a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs) that focused on various critical issues related to the management and strategic direction of key SOEs. The meeting was attended among others by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Minister for Housing & Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahmad Khan Cheema, Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, SBP

Governor, SECP Chairman, TCP Chairman, PQA Chairman, federal secretaries, and other senior officers from the relevant ministries and divisions, a news release said.
 The committee discussed a summary of the Ministry of Commerce regarding the plan to reinvigorate the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP).
 It was decided that given the peculiar nature of the entity, TCP may be categorized as an essential SOE under the SOEs Policy, 2023. It was further decided that a detailed financial plan of the entity should be prepared, which should address the question of settlement of its liabilities.

PTA starts banning of mobile sims on expired ID cards

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has started the second phase of banning of mobile SIMs to prevent their illegal use.
 According to the spokesperson of PTA, in the second phase, the identity cards of the current mobile sims are overdue. He says citizens should renew their ID cards to avoid being banned.
 According to the spokesperson, in the first stage, fake SIMs and expired ID cards were being blocked, 16 fake SIMs and invalid ID cards were blocked in the first phase while more than 69 thousand illegal sims were blocked.
 He said, based on the data obtained from NADRA, illegal sims were being blocked, in the third stage, sims registered in the names of deceased people will be blocked. Likewise, before the mobile blockage, a notification messages will be sent to the users.
 The PTA spokesperson further said that fake sims are being used in various illegal activities, tax fraud and other activities.



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

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

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Minister for Livestock and Dairy Development Bakht Muhammad Kakar on Monday said that for the first time in the history of the province, the youth policy was being introduced by the provincial government to provide new employment opportunities for them.
 He expressed these views while talking to various delegations of his constituency called on him at his office.
 The Minister said that public service was considered worship, the aim of our struggle was to work for the

development and prosperity of the people of our constituency and we would not disappoint our people in any way.
 Bakht Muhammad Kakar said that his priorities included basic facilities of life such as education, health, water, electricity and employment opportunities so that people could benefit from these facilities.
 He said that people were cheated in the name of PSDP in the past, people's representatives keep flourishing through bogus and inefficient schemes, but the people were standing still.

Sui Rifles 130 wing provides aid to flood-affected families

Independent Report
SUI: Sui Rifles 130 Wing organized a ceremony to distribute tents, rations, and essential items to families affected by recent torrential rains in the outskirts of Sui, specifically in the Sinhari Matt area.
 Commander 130 Wing, Lieutenant Colonel Asadur Rehman, distributed tents, rations, and daily household essentials to the affected families. While interacting with the victims, Lieutenant Colonel Asadur Rehman said, "We stand with our brothers in this difficult time."
 The affected families expressed gratitude to Lieutenant Colonel Asadur Rehman, saying, "We are thankful to Sui Rifles for helping us in this challenging time."
 This initiative by Sui Rifles 130 Wing



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

Senior MBR visits Hub, presides over meeting on settlement affairs

Independent Report
QUETTA: The senior Member Board of Revenue, Qambar Dashti visited Hub on Monday.
 During the visit, the senior MBR monitored the settlement matters in Hub.
 He also visited the Lasbela Industrial Estate Authority along with the Advisor to Chief Minister for Commerce, Mir Ali Hassan Zehri.
 They were welcomed by the Commissioner Kalat, Muhammad Naem

Bazai on their arrival in LIEDA.
 Also present on the occasion were Deputy Commissioner Hub, Rohana Gul Kakar, Assistant Commissioner Hub, Ali Durrani and the Revenue officials.
 The senior MBR presided over the meeting on the settlement affairs.
 Certain important decisions were made about implementation on the settlement manual and revenue affairs.



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

Chinese companies held job fair for Gwadar youth

GWADAR (INP): Chinese companies held a job fair for Gwadar youth in collaboration with the Gwadar Port Authority (GPA).
 It was held at Gwadar University Pak-China Vocational and Technical Training Institute (PCV&TTI).
 More than 250 graduates participated in the job fair, where five companies

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

Young Pakistani wins fourth place in Intl Quran recitation competition

ISLAMABAD (APP): A ten-year-old boy from Swat, Pakistan, has made his country proud by securing fourth place in an international Quran recitation competition held in Algeria.
 His achievement highlighted the strong cultural and spiritual ties between Pakistan and Algeria.
 Muhammad Bashir, a ten-year-old from Swat, Pakistan, recently participated in the International Quran Recitation Competition, "Mazamir Dawood," held in Algeria, which was organized by the private media channel "Echorouk". The competition took place from August 18 to 31, featuring participants from over 15 countries. Muhammad Bashir secured the fourth position, earning a prize of \$1,500.
 The Echorouk channel hosts this competition annually.



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

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

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), NADRA Technologies Limited (NTCL), and Pakistan Computer Emergency Response Team (PkCERT) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen their cyber security measures and share information about potential threats. The signing ceremony took place at NADRA Headquarters in

Islamabad, attended by the Chairman of NADRA. Under the agreement, NADRA, NTCL, and PkCERT will share sensitive information related to cyber security threats and incidents and will collaborate to respond to events that may affect Pakistan's digital assets. The partnership will also involve joint investigations into cyber security incidents and research and development projects to improve cyber security technologies and strategies.

Free mobile veterinary campuses set up in Jhal Magsi

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

Provincial Ombudsman directs irrigation dept to give appointment orders to petitioner

QUETTA (APP): Provincial Ombudsman of Balochistan, Nazir Muhammad Baloch issued directives to Irrigation Department to give an appointment order for applicant after taking action on receiving complaint of petitioner.
 Petitioner Najma Khan had submitted a case against the Irrigation De-

partment in the Provincial Ombudsman's office a few days ago in which petitioner said that the appointment order issued by Irrigation Department was not being implemented.
 The provincial ombudsman sent the case to the relevant investigation officer Jameel Kakar for further inquiry.



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