





## Int'l Rahmatul lil Aalameen moot starts today as Ministry makes comprehensive arrangements

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MOFEPT) have finalized comprehensive arrangements for the 'International Rahmatul lil Aalameen WA Khatamun Nabiyyin Festival', which is scheduled to commence on Friday.

Mohyuddin Wani, along with National Rahmatul-lil-Aalameen Wa Khatamun Nabiyyin Authority (NRKNA) Chairman Khursheed Nadeem briefed the media about the arrangements and salient features of the conference and other activities on Wednesday.

This international festival, aimed at promoting Seerat-un-Nabi and its teachings, will be hosted by the National Rahmatul-lil-Aalameen Authority (NRKNA) at Skills University, Islamabad from September 20-22.

A wide array of programmes will be conducted during the three-day event, including the 'International Seerat Conference' and a 'Seerat Kitab Mela' (Book Fair), which will showcase a vast collection of Islamic literature, with a special focus on Seerat-un-Nabi and related themes.

Secretary FEPT Mohyuddin Wani, along with National Rahmatul-lil-Aalameen Wa Khatamun Nabiyyin Authority (NRKNA) Chairman Khursheed Nadeem briefed the media about the arrangements and salient features of the conference and other activities on Wednesday.

He noted that the event was an opportunity for the youth to engage with the rich legacy of Islamic thought and to cultivate an understanding of the Prophet's (PBUH) message of mercy and compassion.

The event will be open to the public, with attendees encouraged to participate in the diverse array of programmes planned.

With Seerat Book Fair, exhibitions, panel discussions, and academic sessions, the event promises to be an enriching experience for all.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Engr. Amir Muqam visiting different classrooms for Afghan Refugees at Urban Cohesion Hub Centre.

## ISSI hosted int'l conference on Pak Ancient Archaeological, Civilisational Heritage

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a one-day international conference titled "Celebrating Pakistan's Ancient Archaeological and Civilisational Heritage" on September 30, 2024.

The event aimed to highlight Pakistan's rich historical legacy and foster discussions on its preservation and promotion.

The conference brought together scholars, policymakers, and experts from Pakistan and abroad. They gathered to explore various aspects of Pakistan's ancient heritage, including the Indus Valley Civilization and the Buddhist Gandhara Civilization.

These civilizations, which spanned millennia, were among the central themes of the discussions. The Indus Valley Civilization, with its iconic cities of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa, was a focal point. This civilization, which existed alongside ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, left behind a significant archaeological record. The participants examined the history, culture, and contributions of this civilization to the world. The cities' urban planning, advanced water management, and extensive trade networks were discussed in detail.

The Buddhist Gandhara Civilization, with its distinct iconography, was another key topic.

## Islamabad Police recruits next of kin of martyrs, officers

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police has initiated the recruitment process of children of martyrs and officials who died during the service in the capital police department under the Prime Minister's assistance package.

The announcement was made following a special meeting of the recruitment board, held on the directives of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, led by DIG Headquarters Syed Mustafa Tanveer, a public relations officer said while talking to APP on Thursday.

The recruitment board convened to discuss and approve the inclusion of the children of martyrs and officials who died while in service while protecting the lives and property of citizens. Expressing his deep respect and admiration for the fallen heroes, IGP Nasir Rizvi said that, "The martyrs and officials who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty are invaluable assets of the police department."

He further said that, their dedication and selflessness serve as an inspiration to us all. Islamabad Police will forever cherish the memory of our heroes and ensure their families are cared for at every level."

According to a police public relations officer, under the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi the SP Industrial Area Zone Ali Raza paid a surprise visit to Industrial Area police station.



ISLAMABAD: Students and teachers pose for a group photo at annual Mehfil-e-Milad ceremony at IMCG (PG)G-10/4.

## EC adjourns hearing of contempt of EC case against Imran, Fawad

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has adjourned hearing of contempt of EC case against PTI founder Imran Khan and former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry till October 9.

A 4-member bench of EC presided over by member Sindh Nisar Durrani took up the case for hearing Thursday.

Faisal Chaudhry counsel for Imran Khan and Fawad Chaudhry appeared before EC.

During the hearing of the case counsel Faisal Chaudhry told the commission you had ordered for video link in case against

Imran Khan. Member commission remarked upon it that we had ordered attendance through video link from jail. Has it made any effect or otherwise and why Jail authorities have not given reply. Ask from them.

Member commission further said if they cannot provide facility of video link then we call the answerable from jail.

Fawad Chaudhry said every thing will become OK if you threaten to call Imran Khan from jail.

Member commission remarked if nothing is done then we move to jail for hearing.



ISLAMABAD: High level delegation from Russian Federation led by Andrey Korneev, State Secretary - Deputy Minister of Education of Russian Federation, and Konstantin Mogilevsky, Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education of Russian Federation visit the Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training.

## Transporters, consumers welcome petrol price reduction

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a welcome move, the government's decision to slash petroleum prices and introduce discounted fares of transports brought smiles to the faces of citizens nationwide on Thursday where mostly citizens called for the continuation of these measures to alleviate the financial burden on the general public.

The government's decision to reduce petrol prices has been widely welcomed by transporters and consumers across the country, a report aired by PTV news channel said.

Transporters have assured prompt implementation of reduced fares, while consumers are thrilled about the decreased financial burden, said a citizen.

Industry experts predict that the decision will stimulate economic growth, increase consumer spending and will benefit the transportation sector.

"This is a great decision by the government. We will immediately implement reduced fares to benefit commuters," Rahim Khan, President, Karachi Transport Association said.

"We appreciate the government's move to reduce petrol prices. This will help increase our profit margins," M. Iqbal, Transporter, Lahore added.

"The price slash will enable us to provide affordable transportation to citizens."

## NUST, PEF sign MoU to support financially challenged students

ISLAMABAD (APP): National University of Science and Technology (NUST) and the Professional Education Foundation (PEF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support financially challenged students enrolled at the university. The MoU was signed in a ceremony attended by the officials of NUST and PEF to collaborate for this joint initiative. Speaking on the occasion, Rector NUST, Engr Javed Mehmood Bukhari commended the collaborative efforts and emphasized, "The support of philanthropists is crucial for NUST's mission to become a need-blind institution, ensuring that no student is forced to leave their education due to financial constraints."

Chairman of PEF, Hafiz Ul Haq announced an expansion of support, including an increase in the number of scholarships, streamlined processes, and broader eligibility criteria to benefit a larger number of students.

The agreement was formally signed by Chairman PEF, Hafiz Ul Haq and Pro-Rector for Research, Innovation, and Commercialization, Dr Rizwan Riaz. Director of Advancement and Head of Global Engagements, Arooba Gillani and Resource Mobilization Officer, Saadia Sadat were also present at the ceremony.



Senator Jan Muhammad presiding over a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on poverty alleviation & social safety at the Headquarter of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Islamabad.

## SP pays surprise visit to PS Industrial Area

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police Superintendent of Police (SP) Industrial Area zone on Thursday pays a surprise visit to Industrial Area police station.

According to a police public relations officer, under the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi the SP Industrial Area Zone Ali Raza paid a surprise visit to Industrial Area Police station.

## Arrest of PTI MNA; Secretary NA others put on notice

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued notice to secretary National Assembly (NA) and others and sought reply within 10 days in connection with case pertaining to arrest of PTI MNA Zain Qureshi from Parliament House.

Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer Farooq heard the case against detention of Zain Qureshi Thursday.

The CJ IHC inquired this incident happened when. Counsel Taimore Malik said the members of parliament were arrested on September 9. The court remarked we obtain report from NA. The court while issuing notice to interior ministry, chief commissioner Islamabad.



Delegation of members of the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa visiting senate museum at Parliament House Islamabad

## Pakistan, Russia agree on enhancing educational ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Russia on Thursday agreed on enhancing educational ties, building on the positive momentum of their relationship over the past two decades.

The initiative was taken during the visit of a high level delegation of Russian Federation led by Andrey Korneev, State Secretary - Deputy Minister of Education of Russian Federation, and Konstantin Mogilevsky, Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education of Russian Federation, to the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MoFEPT).

The delegation included the Consultant of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Russia, Associate Professor of Ural State Pedagogical University, and officials of the Russian Embassy in Pakistan.

Secretary FEPT Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani briefed the delegation about the achievements and challenges faced by Pakistan in the field of education.

During the discussions, the two sides reviewed the full spectrum of bilateral educational cooperation and explored ways to enhance it.

They affirmed their commitment to promoting cultural and educational exchanges.

The Pakistani side expressed a strong desire to increase collaboration between Pakistani and Russian universities, particularly in the fields of emerging technologies.

The Russian deputy minister emphasized initiatives to promote the Russian language in Pakistan and enhance educational links.

An agreement was reached to open a Russian Facilitation Center in Islamabad to assist students seeking admissions to Russian educational institutions.

## AIOU hosts int'l conference on endangered languages

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is organizing the 28th International Conference on Federation of Endangered Languages from September 25 to 27.

According to the AIOU, experts from 22 countries, including 15 foreign delegates, will participate in the conference. A total of 42 national and international scholars will present their research papers.

The Department of English, AIOU is organizing this 28th International Conference on Federation of Endangered Languages (FEL) in collaboration with the Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI).

Senator Irfan Siddiqui will be the chief guest at the inaugural session.

## PTA launches four-day training of trainers prog.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) launched a four-day 'Training of Trainers' (ToT) program for officers from PTA, UNICEF, Telenor Pakistan, the National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC), and the NCERT.

According to the news release, the initiative is part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with UNICEF Pakistan and reflects PTA's commitment to Child Online Protection.

The program aims to raise awareness about the online risks children face and equip officers with the tools to help parents effectively manage their safe children's digital activities.

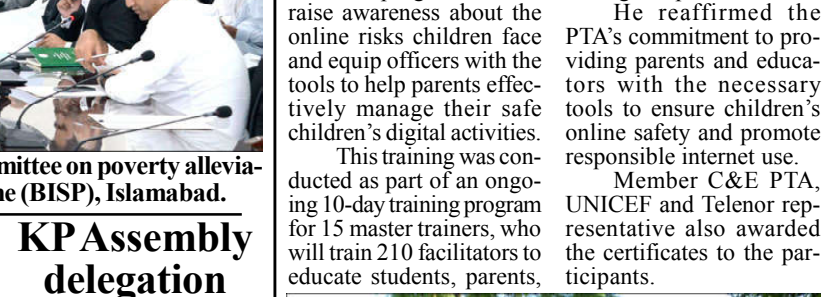
This training was conducted as part of an ongoing 10-day training program for 15 master trainers, who will train 210 facilitators to educate students, parents, and teachers, promoting digital literacy and online safety.

The training covered critical topics such as online safety, Dark Web threats, and responsible internet usage. Experts from TikTok and Tencent shared insights into safety tools and practices on their platforms.

Addressing the training session, Dr Khawar Siddique Khokhar, Member Compliance & Enforcement PTA, emphasized the importance of collective efforts to protect children in the digital space.

He reaffirmed the PTA's commitment to providing parents and educators with the necessary tools to ensure children's online safety and promote responsible internet use.

Member C&E PTA, UNICEF and Telenor representative also awarded the certificates to the participants.



ISLAMABAD: School children gather around street vendors to take their favorite junk food in the Federal Capital.

## DIG directs officer to combat crime efficiently

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Syed Ali Raza, on Thursday held an important meeting with rural zone police officers.

According to police spokesperson, the meeting was attended by SP Rural zone, SDPOs, SHOs, and crime control police teams.

During the meeting, DIG Islamabad reviewed the performance of all police officials in detail and issued a show cause notice on poor performance.

On this occasion, while issuing directions to the officers, Syed Ali Raza said that in the upcoming meeting, the performance of all the officers will be reviewed and there will be no compromise on the addition of crimes, he added.

During the meeting, DIG Islamabad issued directions to police officials, crime control teams to prevent incidents of robbery, dacoity, and theft, the spokesperson added.

He said under the supervision of the SHOs, these teams will work to arrest absconders, proclaimed offenders, target offenders, and other criminals.

The teams will also take effective action to prevent incidents of robbery, dacoity, and theft, he added.

He said that the progress of the crime control teams will be reviewed daily.

All police officers are expected to be more effective in combating criminal elements, he added.

The DIG further mentioned that police officers who perform effectively well will be commended, while those showing negligence or poor performance will face departmental action, he said.

## Hearing of bail plea of Imran in 6 cases, Bushra in one case adjourned

ISLAMABAD (Online): Hearing of bail plea of PTI founder Imran Khan has been adjourned in 6 cases and Bushra Bibi in one case till October 3. The bail plea of Imran Khan in 6 cases and Bushra Bibi in one case came up for hearing Thursday. Additional Sessions Judge Afzal Majoka heard the case. Khalid Yousuf Chaudhry counsel for PTI appeared in the court. Judge Afzal Majoka said arrangements for signing the roll by PTI founder through video link are complete.



# Murad, Mark Maloney discuss polio eradication drive in high risk UCs

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in his meeting with Rotary Foundation Chairman Mark Maloney emphasized the provincial government's unwavering commitment to eradicating polio.

"Despite our hectic efforts Sindh continues to detect polio cases due to frequent cross-border travel from neighbouring countries. We are confident that our initiatives will yield positive results," the CM said and added that his government had initiated vaccinations for all malnourished children to strengthen their immunity.

Murad thanked the Rotary Foundation for their support in Pakistan against polio. At this, Maloney said that the Rotary has established 23 permanent immunisation centres across Pakistan and is providing support in high-risk union councils (UCs) within Sindh.

The Rotary Foundation is facilitating social mobilization and fostering confidence-building among families who have previously refused vaccinations in high-risk areas," said Maloney.

Chief Minister Shah said that a recent special campaign in 85 high-risk union councils of Karachi has been initiated where a fractional injectable polio vaccine (IPV) was successfully administered with the full mobilisation of government officials. He lauded the active participation of deputy commissioners and assistant commissioners in converting refusal cases and supporting polio teams in their outreach.

Shah also lauded the role of over 5,000 police personnel who ensured a secure environment for frontline workers during the campaign.

The CM reaffirmed his government's commitment to making both Sindh and Pakistan polio-free. "The Chief Secretary, divisional commissioners, and more than 3,000 members from the revenue department, administration, and elected representatives for their dedicated field work also actively participated in making the polio campaign successful. Murad Shah said that with coordinated efforts, the health department successfully vaccinated children of over 5,000 previously resistant families, ensuring that no child was left behind in our fight against polio.

The meeting was attended by (from Rotary) Trustee Aziz Memon, Director Faiz Kidwai, Eric Schmeling, Rizwan Aadhia, and others.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Chairman of the Rotary Foundation, Mark Daniel Maloney during meeting held at CM House in Karachi. Sindh Health Minister, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Rotary Trustee Aziz Memon and other dignitaries seen attending the meeting.

## Punjab Governor says: Role of Christian community in development and stability of country is commendable

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has said that the role of the Christian community in the development and stability of the country is commendable. Pakistan belongs to all of us, everyone has to play a role for its improvement and lead towards improvement. He expressed these views here today at Governor House Lahore during a meeting with a delegation comprising bishops and pastors of churches under the leadership of Vice President Pakistan People's Party Punjab Minority Wing, Edwin Sahutra. In the delegation Pastor Irfan Shahzad, Pastor Ubaid Iqbal, Pastor Younis Javed, Bishop Wilson John, Bishop Dr. Junaid Javed, Bishop Afzal Masih, Bishop Akbar Khokhar, Pastor Captain Sabir Anees, Pastor Muswar Manoor, Pastor Parvez Nadeem and Pasar Irfan John were present.

Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider said that Islam teaches love, tolerance, peace and brotherhood. He said that minorities are living peacefully in Pakistan. Governor Punjab said that the Christian community is a patriotic Pakistani and has been playing a positive role in the development of the country since the establishment of Pakistan. He said that the doors of the Governor's House are open for everyone including the minorities. On this occasion, the delegation informed the Governor of Punjab about the various problems faced by them. Governor Punjab assured the solution of various problems related to the provision of funds for the churches of Sindh and Punjab.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Excise Taxation and Narcotics Control, Sharjeel Inam Memon addresses to media persons during press conference, held at Sindh Assembly building.

## Minister assures prompt solution to problems of hospital's House Officers

KOHAT (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Aflab Alam Afridi Advocate on Thursday assured the House Officers of District Headquarters Hospital Kohat that their problems will be solved on priority basis.

He gave this assurance while talking to the representative delegation of House Officers of District Headquarters Hospital Kohat led by the Chairman Insaaf Doctors Forum Kohat Dr. Nizam Ali at his residence.

Other members of the delegation included President Insaaf Doctors Forum Kohat Dr. Hamza Shehzad and Secretary General Insaaf Doctors Forum Dr. Haris Waheed.

Members of the delegation had a detailed discussion with the provincial minister about the problems of House Officers. The law minister took personal interest in solving the problems of House Officers and called in the MS DHQ Hospital Kohat Dr. Tahir Ali Shah and on the spot held a special meeting with him in this regard in presence of the delegation and discussed the issues of House Officers in detail.

On this occasion, Aflab Alam also contacted the high-ups of the Finance Department to solve the problems of the House Officers of the DHQ Hospital as soon as possible.

## 57 new cases of Dengue recorded in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI (APP): The 57 new cases were recorded in Rawalpindi during past 24 hours, increasing the number of patients under treatment in allied hospitals to 100.

According to the latest report released by the District Health Authority, this year's total positive cases reached 501. Pothohar Town remains the top contributing and the most affected area.

27 patients from Pothohar Town were reported alone during the last 24 hours. Rawalpindi Cantonment Board areas also reported 9 dengue patients in one day. The district administration along with allied departments had directed strict actions against violation of dengue SOP.

## Importance of clean environment highlighted

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Mayor Sukkur Dr Arshad Mughal on Thursday conducted a comprehensive review of sanitation in the Sukkur city.

The Deputy Mayor visited different markets, Minara Road, Clock Tower and issued directives to enhance cleanliness arrangements.

He instructed the immediate removal of waste in the market and emphasized improving sanitation measures for better consumer convenience. He also stressed the need to eliminate encroachments on roads leading to the vegetable and fruit market.

## ANF foils attempt to smuggle drugs, weapons

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting a raid in Karachi foiled an attempt to smuggle drugs and weapons and recovered 1200 grams charras, seven pistols and ammunition, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He informed that ANF conducted a raid at a courier office near Nursery Stop in Karachi and recovered 1200 grams hashish and weapons, concealed in electronic goods sent from Peshawar.

The recovered weapons included five 9 mm pistols, two 30 bore pistols and 17 magazines with 55 rounds.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presides over the reviewing meeting in Planning and Development Board.

## Governor lauds establishment of technical training lab at Gomal University

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday lauded the establishment of a Technical Training Lab at Gomal University with the collaboration of China.

Initial work has begun on the establishment of a Technical Training Lab, with the special interest of Governor Faisal Karim Kundi and directives from the Chairperson of the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC) Gulmina Bilal. A meeting on the directives of Governor Faisal Karim Kundi who is Chancellor of the University was convened at Gomal University to discuss the project, attended by key figures including Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Shakeebullah, Registrar Zahir Shah Marwat, and representatives from the Chinese organization UNI International Zargham Abbas, and Ghufuran Malook, PRO to Governor and Incharge PID Regional Office Dera Muhammad Fazlur Rehman and others.

The meeting highlighted the Governor's priority to provide economic opportunities for the youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Under the Youth Engagement and Women Empowerment Agenda, the Chairperson of NAVTC, Gulmina Bilal, has directed UNI International to provide local students with modern facilities for online marketing and trading.

Registrar Zahir Shah Marwat said that Gomal University holds a unique position at the confluence of three provinces, benefiting students from these regions.

## IRSA Act not to be amended after Sindh PA resolution: Nisar Khuhro

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan People's Party Sindh President Nisar Khuhro on Thursday claimed that after passage of the resolution by Sindh Assembly, there was no chance of amendments in Indus River System Authority Act.

Speaking to the media persons, Nisar Khuhro said as per universal laws, tail end areas have the first right over the water and Sindh province lies at the tail of the River Indus.

He said by passage of the resolution in Sindh Assembly, people of the province had clearly given decision regarding reported amendments in the Act.

Commenting on the GDA's protest, Nisar Khuhro said after Sindh Assembly's resolution, such protest was beyond the comprehension. Responding to a question regarding proposed Constitutional amendment.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with delegation comprising bishops and pastors of churches under the leadership of Vice President Pakistan People's Party Punjab Minority Wing, Edwin Sahutra.

## Advisor Health briefed on the Sehat Card Program

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on Health, Advocate Ihtisham Ali was briefed on the Sehat Card Program by Chief Executive Officer Dr Riaz Tanoli.

The briefing was attended by Special Secretary Health Habibullah, CEO Sehat Card Dr Riaz Tanoli, and other relevant officials.

During the briefing, the Health Advisor was informed about the treatment packages offered under the Sehat Card Program.

The Secondary Care Package provides Rs 40,000 per person and Rs 200,000 per family, while the Tertiary Care Package offers free treatment up to Rs 400,000.

The Advisor was also briefed that Rs10.5 million families in KP were receiving free treatment at 753 public and private hospitals under the Sehat Card Program.

So far, Rs. 88 billion had been spent on the free treatment of 3,529,487 individuals.

It was further highlighted that the provincial government was bearing monthly expenses of Rs. 2.5 billion and annual costs of Rs 30 billion for free treatment under the program. Currently, Rs 19 billion was outstanding in dues for the program.

There were 118 empaneled hospitals under the Sehat Card in KP.



KARACHI: Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) Spokesman, Sardar Abdul Rahim along with others addresses to protesters during GDA and allied parties protest demonstration against building new canals to draw additional water from the Indus River, anti-people policies decisions and amending the Irsa Act, held at Karachi press club.

## Mariyam discusses health, education, climate change with US Consul General

LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Mariyium Aurangzeb Thursday met U.S. Consul General Kristin K Hawkins to discuss various issues including health, education, economic growth, climate change, solid waste management, agricultural programs, law & order, price control management and protection of minorities. She highlighted that CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif was the first chief minister who personally monitors governance of the province. She begins each day by overseeing public welfare matters. Following the directives of the chief minister, all provincial ministers are actively engaged in the field to monitor the prices of essential commodities. Significant progress is being made in several areas such as field hospitals, hospitals-on-wheels, demand and supply management, scholarships, road up-gradation and women's economic development programmes, she added.

Mariyium Aurangzeb mentioned that 1,000 super seeders and approximately 9,500 eco-friendly tractors have been provided to the farmers.

## Kurram police foil bid to smuggle narcotics, nab eight peddlers

PESHAWAR (APP): The district Kurram police on Thursday foiled an attempt to smuggle drugs worth millions of rupees and arrested eight smugglers. According to the spokesperson of Kurram Police, SP Operation Lower Karam Jahanzeb Khan SHO Ahmadi police station Shamyar Muhammad Bamaa police acting on a tip of installed a blockade near Kamar Mela Pahar and arrested drug smugglers Zainullah resident of Qamber Khel, Rizwanullah, Abdul Samad, Hazrat Umar, Nisar Ahmed, Noor Wahid, Jan Muhammad and Amin Akbar.



LAHORE: U.S. Consul General in Lahore Kristin K. Hawkins meeting with Senior Minister Punjab Mariyium Aurangzeb.

## French envoy meets Nasir, investment opportunities in Sindh discussed

KARACHI (APP): French Ambassador to Pakistan Nicolas Gale along with members of diplomatic team called on Sindh Minister for Energy Syed Nasir Shah here at Energy department office on Thursday.

They discussed matters of mutual interests including investment opportunities in Sindh province.

Secretary Energy Mossadegh Ahmed Khan and senior officers were also present on the occasion.

Syed Nasir Hussain Shah and Secretary briefed the delegation about various alternative energy projects on this occasion.

Nasir Shah said province is rich in natural sources of alternative energy and there were immense opportunities for domestic as well as foreign investors. There are largest coal reserves in Thar desert area which were declared as high quality by foreign experts which would be utilized for gasification, Shah added.

The French envoy was briefed about Sindh Transmission and Dispatch Company and Sindh Solar Energy Project.

Nasir Shah said Sindh was generating electricity from renewable sources such as coal, solar and wind and there were immense opportunities for investment in these sectors.

Shah informed the French Ambassador about havoc made by 2022 floods in which 2.1 millions houses were destroyed and left 8 million people homeless. He informed that projects were underway to rehabilitate flood affected people.

Nasir Shah expressed gratitude to the French government for its generous assistance to the flood affected people of Pakistan.



KARACHI: Sarah Mooney, Deputy High Commissioner of the British High Commission, receives a memento during the World Maritime Day seminar organized by DEMP and MTI at a local hotel.

## Child protection unit inaugurated in Mardan

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Child Protection and Welfare Commission (KPCPWC), in collaboration with UNICEF, achieved a significant milestone with the inauguration of the Child Protection Unit in Mardan. The inauguration ceremony brought together key stakeholders, senior government officials, representatives from civil society, academia, adolescents, and children from District Mardan to mark this momentous occasion on Thursday.

District Officer Social Welfare, Special Education and Women Empowerment Mardan Jamal Shah highlighted the significance of the Child Protection Unit and its role in safeguarding the rights and welfare of children in the region. Program Manager UNICEF Peshawar Wisam Hazem thanked the KP government for taking the initiative to inaugurate the Child Protection Unit in Mardan district and congratulated the district administration and KP Child Protection and Welfare Commission for their leadership in establishing the unit. He said it would contribute to strengthening the child protection system in the district. Hazem reaffirmed UNICEF's continued commitment to supporting these efforts. Sohail Ahmad, Child Protection specialist from the UNICEF Peshawar emphasized that creating a safe, nurturing environment for children requires sustained and collective action by the community, government.

## Rana Ihsan says: National economy inching towards 'growth' from stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Industry Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan Thursday said the national economy had begun to show steady progress due to the prudent policies introduced by the incumbent government, marking a shift from stability to 'growth'.  
"All economic indicators are moving in the right direction," he said while addressing a news conference after the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) 100 Index gained over 1,500 points, surging to 81,900, which he called a 'superb performance' and

a 'big achievement.' He noted that the stock exchange's positive trajectory reflected market-based sentiments and the confidence of investors and entrepreneurs in government policies.  
"This indicates that the agreement with the IMF will be achieved successfully, hopefully by September 25, and the national economy will continue on its growth trajectory," he expressed confidence.  
The coordinator added that Pakistan's shift from 'stability' to 'positive' regarding its debt liability and external

challenges was also being acknowledged by the world's top credit agencies like Fitch and Moody's.  
Sharing some official statistics, Ihsan Afzal said during the first two months of the current fiscal year, the country's export sector witnessed a remarkable increase, with textile and clothing exports rising by 13 percent year on year basis, IT services by 27 percent, and overall exports by 7.2 percent during July and August.  
During the same period, he said the country's remittances increased by 44 percent, reaching \$5.9 billion, which

he termed a 'massive surge' reflecting the confidence of overseas Pakistanis in government policies. Similarly, he mentioned that the current account deficit declined remarkably, standing at \$0.2 billion, while the exchange rate against the dollar remained stable and fluctuated according to market trends. Additionally, 14 sectors in the Large Scale Manufacturing (LSM) area showed positive growth, surging by almost 2.38 percent year on year, he added. The coordinator also highlighted the reduced inflation rate of 9.6 percent.



ISLAMABAD: Russian Deputy Minister of energy and Deputy Minister Economic development held a meeting with Pakistani delegation led by Dr. Musadik Malik.



AJMAN: Hussain Muhammed, Consul General met Salem Al Suwaidi, Director General of the Ajman Chamber at the Chamber's headquarters. Ali Rashid Al Kaitoob, Executive Director of the Studies and Investment Development Sector at the Ajman Chamber and Ali Zeeb Khan, Trade and Investment Counsellor Pakistan Consulate were also present during the meeting.

## KP govt making efforts for all possible facilitation of industrialists: CM aide

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to KP CM on Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Abdul Karim Khan Tordher on Thursday said that the provincial government was making all out efforts for the provision of all possible facilities to industrialists.  
He was talking to a delegation consisted of the presidents of Small Industrial Estates here in his office at Civil Secretariat. Those who called on the Special Assistant were included Hazi Iftikhar Ahmad (Abbottabad), Waheed Arif (Peshawar), Sajjad Khan (Mardan), Abdul Malik Khan (Mansehra), Younas Khattak (Kohat) and representatives of others

industrial estates. The members of the delegation presented their demands before the Special Assistant and requested him to play his due role in the resolution of their problems.  
The CM aide said, beside granting relief to industrialists the provincial government is also making efforts for provision of conducive and better environment for promotion of industrialization in the province.  
He said that he is fully aware of the energy related problems and other challenges faced by the industrialists, that is the reason for their efforts to provide cheap electricity to industries.

## Huawei, NIBFP sign MoU for capability enhancement

ISLAMABAD (APP): Huawei Technologies Pakistan and the National Institute of Banking, Finance Pakistan (NIBFP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to digitally empower the Human Resources employed. As per the MoU this alliance is set to mark a significant step in the digitalization of the banking sector of Pakistan as well as improve the overall capability and will be a stepping stone towards a better connected and intelligent banking

infrastructure said a news release. Riaz Nazari Chunar, CEO, of NIBAF Pakistan, and Ahmed Bilal Masud, Deputy CEO of Huawei Technologies Pakistan, signed the MoU in the presence of delegation from NIBAF Pakistan and Huawei. "We are thrilled to embark on this meaningful collaboration, and hope that the signing of this MoU is a testament to the strategic partnership between both organizations for many years to come" said Riaz Nazari Chunar.

## Pakistan Post launches UMS Plus service in South Punjab

MULTAN (APP): Pakistan Post introduced an urgent mail service plus (UMS Plus) with a commitment to public service in south Punjab on Thursday.  
The inauguration ceremony took place at Multan GPO and Postmaster General Central Punjab Circle Lahore Malik Anwar Ahmed presided the event. The UMS Plus service guarantees next-day delivery of articles. It is available in Multan, Muzaffargarh, Dera Ghazi Khan, Sahiwal, Rahim Yar Khan, Layyah, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Vehari, Khanewal, Rajanpur, Lodhran, and Pakpattan, along with other post offices at the tehsil level.  
Postmaster General South Punjab Circle Zaheer Ullah Khattak and Malik Anwar Ahmed addressed the gathering. They maintained that the postal department was being modernized.



KARACHI: All Pakistan Organization of Small Trades and Industry official Rizwan Irfan addressing a press conference at the Press Club.

## Envoy says: Enhancing Pak-Swiss trade ties top priority

ISLAMABAD (APP): Swiss Ambassador to Pakistan George Steiner on Thursday stressed that strengthening bilateral trade relations and economic cooperation was his top priority.  
Efforts to the effect would ultimately benefit the people of both nations, he said addressing the launching ceremony of Swiss homeopathic medicines in Pakistan, according to a press release.  
Ambassador Steiner highlighted the vast opportunities for collaboration in sectors such as tourism, medicine, and agriculture.  
He praised the successful partnership

between Pakistani and Swiss companies, and expressed the hope for increased collaboration and investment from Swiss companies, leveraging Pakistan's 25 million population and diverse industries.  
He said that Switzerland was the third largest direct investor in Pakistan, and had close trade ties and encouraged further expansion of bilateral trade and investment.  
Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Ahsan Bakhtawari welcomed Swiss investment, calling Pakistan an attractive destination for global investors.

## Russian Deputy PM's visit to boost trade : PFC CEO

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq Thursday said that Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexey Overchuk's visit will further promote trade ties between the two countries with a special focus on energy sector and infrastructure, paving the way for closer economic collaboration in the future.  
Commenting here on the visit, he said Overchuk's visit comes at a crucial time when both countries were looking to deepen economic cooperation in key areas, including energy, transportation, and logistics. He said Russia, as one of the world's largest energy producers, was keen to expand its energy exports, while Pakistan was looking to secure reliable energy sources for its growing industrial needs. This collaboration could lead to the signing of new energy agreements and projects that could benefit both nations economically and strategically, he added.  
He said improving connectivity, particularly in terms of transportation infrastructure and digital links, were vital area for enhanced connectivity to boost trade flows.



ISLAMABAD: Member (SSRM & Focal Person on Data Fest, Mohammad Sarwar Gondal (Satara Imtiaz), briefing the media at the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics office in the federal capital.

## Food imports decline by 18.15% in first two months FY 2024-25

ISLAMABAD (APP): Food group imports into the country experienced a significant decline of 18.15% during the first two months of the current financial year as compared to the imports of the corresponding period of the last year.  
From July to August 2024, Pakistan imported various food commodities valued at \$1.066 billion, down from \$1.303 billion during the same of last year, according to data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.  
During the period under review, the commodities observed a negative trend in their respective imports including tea by 11.07 percent as it was recorded at \$97.956 million as compared to the imports of \$110.155 million in the same period of the last year. Meanwhile, the imports of edible oil like soyabean and palm into the country decreased by 52.20 percent and 10.23 percent respectively as soyabean oil valued at \$22.241 million and palm oil 495.874 million were

imported as compared to the imports of \$552.404 million and \$46.820 million.  
In the first two months, the sugar imports into the country also decreased by 10.01 percent and it was recorded at \$0.710 million against the imports of \$0.789 million in the same period of last year.  
However, the imports of commodities including dry fruits and nuts grew by 88.24 percent as dry fruits and nuts costing \$13.378 million were imported in the last two months as compared to the imports of 7.1017 million of the same period of the last year.  
The import of spices also increased by 59.05 percent as spices worth \$39.384 million were imported as compared to the imports of \$24.762 million in the same period of last year. It is worth mentioning here that food group exports from the country during the first two months of the current financial year grew by 42.39 percent as compared to the exports of the corresponding period.

## Jam, US trade representative discuss bilateral trade expansion

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Thursday held a virtual meeting with United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai to strengthen bilateral trade relations between both countries.  
The minister highlighted that the US is Pakistan's leading trade destination and expressed desire to further expand this partnership, said a news release.  
He underscored the country's agricultural strengths particularly in mangoes and dates, and noted the potential for growth in value-added agro-services.  
Katherine Tai acknowledged Pakistan's contributions, particularly its agricultural exports, and praised the quality of Pakistani mangoes.  
She also mentioned the potential for US beef exports to Pakistan, given the large demand in the market.  
Both sides discussed issues of mutual interest, agreeing to further strengthen their trade relations.  
During the meeting, it was confirmed that the

next Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) meeting would be scheduled soon, along with discussions on agriculture, textiles, women's empowerment, IT and E-commerce.  
Minister Jam Kamal invited Katherine Tai to attend Pakistan's TEXPO in October.  
She was grateful for inviting her to attend TEXPO and expressed her interest in visiting the country. In return, she invited Jam Kamal to visit Washington to further explore trade opportunities.

## Gold rates up by Rs.800 per tola to Rs.268,500

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs. 800 and was sold at Rs. 268,500 on Thursday compared to its sale at Rs. 267,700 on the last trading day.  
The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs. 685 to Rs. 230,195 from Rs. 229,510 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs. 211,012 from Rs. 210,384, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.  
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 increased by \$8 to \$2,577 from \$2,569, the Association reported.



ISLAMABAD: Traders casting their votes during ICCI Elections for the year 2024-26 in the Federal Capital.

## PBS capacity building, data digitization vital for service delivery

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to the Chief Minister on Finance, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dr. Muzammil Aslam has underscored the need for enhancing the capacity of the provincial bureau of statistics and leveraging data and digitalization to improve service delivery for citizens and businesses.  
The CM's Advisor emphasized the urgent need for evidence-based solutions to drive policy-making and implementation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Highlighting the province's goals of increasing tax and non-tax revenues, Dr. Aslam reiterated the commitment of the economic team to bolster provincial resources, particularly towards education and health sectors.  
He expressed these remarks during the inaugural meeting of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) led National Network of Economic Thinktanks (NNETT) Advisory Committee for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chapter.  
Dr. Aslam commended SDPI's NNETT for their efforts in promoting evidence-backed policy making. He stressed the importance of this inclusive network as a government watchdog and an accountability mechanism at the local level. Addressing the power sector challenges faced by the private sector, Dr. Aslam highlighted the government's focus on public-private partnership-based solutions to support the sector.



SINGAPORE: High Commissioner Rabia Shafiq met with Tony Kettinger, COO, Golden Agri-Resources, a global seed to shelf agribusiness, headquartered in Singapore and discussed trade & investment prospects in Pakistan especially in food & corporate farm.

## SCCI demands resumption of Peshawar-Karachi PIA flight operation

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) has expressed concern over closure of PIA flight operation from Peshawar to Karachi and demanded for its immediate resumption.  
Fuad Ishaq, president of the SCCI, in a statement issued here on Thursday, said PIA was operating only one flight from Peshawar to Karachi within a week and this service was availed by business community and people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.  
He, however, said PIA has halted Peshawar to Karachi operation for the last several months, due to which the business community has not only faced difficulties but also inflicted huge revenue loss to the national carrier PIA.  
The SCCI president said the PIA move to halt flight operations from Peshawar to Karachi has created great unrest among the business community and people of the province.  
He demanded the government and higher management of PIA to immediately resume.

## Putin says Russia is ramping up drone production tenfold

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that Russia was ramping up drone production by around ten times to nearly 1.4 million this year in a bid to ensure the Russian armed forces win in Ukraine.

Since Russia sent tens of thousands of soldiers into Ukraine in February 2022, the war has largely been a story of grinding artillery and drone strikes along a heavily fortified 1,000-km (620-mile) front involving hundreds of thousands of soldiers.

The conflict has been a crucible for drone development - and an illustration of the importance of drones to modern warfare, from terrorising infantry and collecting intelligence to sabotaging infrastructure and attacking arsenals.

"In total, about 140,000 unmanned aerial vehicles of various types were delivered to the armed forces in 2023," Putin said. "This year, the production of drones is planned to increase significantly. Well, to be more precise, almost 10 times."

"Whoever reacts faster to these demands on the battlefield wins," Putin said at a meeting in St Petersburg about drone production.

Both Russia and Ukraine have bought drones abroad and ramped up their own production while drone videos have illustrated the horror of the battlefield, showing deadly strikes on infantry, artillery and tanks.

Inexpensive first-person view (FPV) drones - originally developed for civilian racers - are controlled by pilots on the ground and often crash into targets, laden with explosives.

For just a few hundred dollars, soldiers on both sides can inflict vast damage on the other side. A large-scale Ukrainian drone attack on Russia triggered an earthquake-sized blast at a major arsenal in the Tver region on Wednesday.

Putin said that Russia was making almost weekly advances in drone technology and needed to also develop its drone defences, essentially technology which senses, confuses and then shoots down the attacking drones.

"The key task is to produce a wide range of aerial unmanned vehicles, to establish serial production as quickly as possible," Putin said.

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A supporter of National People's Power (NPP) presidential candidate Anura Kumara Dissanayake, holds the party symbol during a rally ahead of the upcoming presidential elections in Colombo.

## Biden to discuss Gaza, Sudan, AI with UAE president on Monday, spokesperson says

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden will welcome United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to the White House on Monday for talks on issues ranging from the war in Gaza, Sudan and responsible artificial intelligence development.

White House spokesperson John Kirby said the visit would be the first-ever by a president of the Gulf Arab country to Washington, adding that Vice President Kamala Harris would meet separately with the UAE leader.

The United States has been increasingly concerned about the UAE and other Middle Eastern countries becoming a conduit for advanced US AI technology reaching China, which it fears could use the technology to bolster its military.

Last year, the Biden administration imposed sweeping new curbs on AI chip exports in a bid to cut off more avenues for China to obtain them, slapping a licensing requirement on their shipment to the UAE and other Middle Eastern countries.

But Microsoft's \$1.5 billion investment, announced in April, in UAE-based artificial intelligence firm G42 has fueled concerns among China hardliners in Congress as to whether those controls go far enough. Republican lawmakers asked the Biden administration for an intelligence assessment of the deal over concerns the US company planned to export the otherwise severely restricted AI semiconductor chips to train models as well as AI model weights.

## Taliban in control of 39 Afghan embassies globally

**Monitoring Desk**  
KABUL: The Taliban administration is in control of 39 Afghan embassies and consulates globally three years after it took over Afghanistan and the previous Western-backed government collapsed, the acting foreign ministry said on Thursday. No international government has formally recognised the Taliban administration, though China and the United Arab Emirates have officially accepted its ambassadors in their capitals.

Many governments, especially Western nations including the United States, have said the path to any formal recognition of the Taliban will be stuck until they change course on women's rights and re-open high schools and universities to girls and women and allow their full freedom of movement. The Taliban say they respect rights in accordance with their interpretation of Islamic law and that restrictions on its banking sector and a lack of recognition are hindering its economy.

## New French PM nearing deal on cabinet, BFM TV says

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: French Prime Minister Michel Barnier, who met with several party leaders on Thursday, could be nearing a deal on a cabinet, French media said, two weeks after President Emmanuel Macron named him to the post.

Barnier, the European Union's former Brexit negotiator, has struggled to name a new government, underlining the complicated topography of France's political landscape after Macron's ill-fated decision to call a snap legislative election this summer.

The vote delivered an unruly hung parliament that has left political unity hard to come by.



Russia's President Vladimir Putin visits a drone production facility of the Special Technology Centre in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

## Lebanon's Hezbollah reeling after 37 killed in two days of device blasts

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Israel said on Thursday it bombed Hezbollah sites in Lebanon, piling pressure on the armed group already reeling after a series of deadly explosions targeting its communications systems that it blamed on Israel.

Those coordinated blasts killed 37 people across two days, including two children, and wounded more than 2,900 others, according to Lebanon's health minister, heightening fears of another full-blown war in the region.

The latest batch of device explosions killed 25 people and wounded more than 450 others on Wednesday, officials said.

The blasts came a day after the simultaneous detonation of pagers used by Hezbollah killed 12 people, including two children, and wounded up to 2,800 others across Lebanon, in an unprecedented attack blamed on Israel.

## Turkey accuses Israel of expanding Gaza war to Lebanon

**Monitoring Desk**  
ISTANBUL: Turkey on Thursday accused Israel of seeking to expand the war in Gaza to Lebanon with the "alarming" wave of deadly explosions that swept through Hezbollah strongholds. "The escalation in the region is alarming," Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said on state-run TRT television. "We see Israel mounting its attacks towards Lebanon step by step."

The blasts have killed 32 people in two days, including two children, wounding more than 3,000 others, according to Lebanese health ministry figures.

Israel has not commented on the unprecedented operation in which Hezbollah operatives' walkie-talkies and pagers exploded in supermarkets, at funerals and on streets.

But its defence minister Yoav Gallant, referring to Israel's border with Lebanon, said Wednesday: "The centre of gravity is moving northward." "Turkey blamed Israel for the blasts. 'We have come to a point where these operations carried out by Israel have become increasingly provocative, and in return, Iran, Hezbollah and elements close to them have no choice but respond,'" Fidan said.



Flood victims stand beside their belongings offloaded from the canoe that helped them to move to safety in Maiduguri, Nigeria.

## Sri Lanka to vote on Saturday in first poll since economic collapse

**Monitoring Desk**  
COLOMBO: Cash-strapped Sri Lanka will vote for its next president on Saturday in an effective referendum on an unpopular International Monetary Fund (IMF) austerity plan enacted after the island nation's unprecedented financial crisis.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe urged voters to give him a fresh mandate to continue with austerity measures he says stabilised the economy and ended months of food, fuel and medicine shortages.

"We must continue with reforms to end bankruptcy," Wickremesinghe, 75, said at his final rally in Colombo on Wednesday night. "We must build a new economy." He has restored calm to the streets after civil unrest spurred by the downturn in 2022 saw thousands storm the compound of his predecessor, who promptly fled the country. "Decide if you want to go back to the period of terror, or progress," he added.

## Americans can now renew passports online and bypass cumbersome paper applications

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: Americans can now renew their passports online, bypassing a cumbersome mail-in paper application process that often caused delays.

The State Department announced Wednesday that its online renewal system is now fully operational, after testing in pilot programs, and available to adult passport holders whose passport has expired within the past five years or will expire in the coming year. It is not available for the renewal of children's passports, for first-time passport applicants for renewal applicants who live outside the United States or for expedited applications.

"By offering this online alternative to the traditional paper application process, the Department is embracing digital transformation to offer the most efficient and convenient passport renewal experience possible," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement. The department said it estimated that about 5 million Americans would be able to use this service a year. In 2023, it processed 24 million passports, about 40% of which were renewals. After staffing shortages caused mainly by the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in lengthy passport processing delays.

## Japan firm says no longer makes radio reportedly used in Lebanon blasts

**Monitoring Desk**  
TOKYO: Japanese firm Icom said on Thursday that it had stopped producing the model of radios reportedly used in recent blasts in Lebanon around 10 years ago. "The IC-V82 is a handheld radio that was produced and exported, including to the Middle East, from 2004 to October 2014. It was discontinued about 10 years ago, and since then, it has not been shipped from our company."

## US not involved in device explosions in Lebanon: White House

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: White House national security spokesperson John Kirby on Wednesday denied any involvement of the United States in the device explosions in Lebanon.

During media briefing here, he said the US did not want the conflict to escalate in the Middle East.

"I want to tell you that we are not involved in the incidents yesterday and today in any way. We want to see war end and everything we have been doing since the beginning has been designed is to prevent the conflict from escalating."

## Vietnam's top leader Lam to visit US, Cuba next week

**Monitoring Desk**  
HANOI: Vietnam's president and ruling Communist Party chief To Lam will pay an official visit to Cuba, Vietnam's long-term communist partner.

Lam's visit will take place from Sept 21 to Sept 27, a spokesperson for the foreign ministry said, without giving a specific timeframe for Lam's visits to each country.

## 10-year-old Japanese schoolboy in China dies after stabbing

**Monitoring Desk**  
SHENZHEN: A child enrolled in a Japanese school in the Chinese city of Shenzhen has died after being stabbed on Wednesday, officials confirmed on Thursday, the second such attack near Japanese educational centres in China in recent months.

Chinese authorities said the 10-year-old boy was a Japanese national born to a Japanese father and a Chinese mother, and he had been stabbed on his way to school at about 8

## Israel's defense minister announces a "new phase" of war

**Monitoring Desk**  
JERUSALEM: With Israel's defense minister announcing a "new phase" of the war and an apparent Israeli attack setting off explosions in electronic devices in Lebanon, the specter of all-out combat between Israel and Hezbollah seems closer than ever before.

Hopes for a diplomatic solution to the conflict appear to be fading quickly as Israel signals a desire to change the status quo in the country's north, where it has exchanged cross-border fire with Hezbollah since the Lebanese militant group began attacking on Oct. 8, a day after the war's opening salvo by Hamas.

In recent days, Israel has moved a powerful fighting force up to the northern border, officials have escalated their rhetoric, and the country's security Cabinet has designated the return of tens of thousands of displaced residents to their homes in northern Israel an official war goal.

Here's a look at how Israel is preparing for a war with Lebanon: While the daily fighting between Israel and Hezbollah has escalated on several occasions, the bitter enemies have been careful to avoid an all-out war. That appears to be changing — especially after pagers, walkie-talkies and other devices exploded in Lebanon.

## Ammunition from India enters Ukraine, raising Russian ire

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: Artillery shells sold by Indian arms makers have been diverted by European customers to Ukraine and New Delhi has not intervened to stop the trade despite protests from Moscow, according to eleven Indian and European government and defence industry officials, as well as a Reuters analysis of commercially available customs data.

The transfer of munitions to support Ukraine's defence against Russia has occurred for more than a year, according to the sources and the customs data. Indian arms export regulations limit the use of weaponry to the declared purchaser, who risks future sales being terminated if unauthorised transfers occur.

The Kremlin has raised the issue on at least two occasions, including during a July meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and his Indian counterpart, three Indian officials said.

Details of the ammunition transfers are reported by Reuters for the first time.

The foreign and defence ministries of Russia and India did not respond to questions. In January, Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told a news conference that India had not sent or sold artillery shells to Ukraine.

Two Indian government and two defence industry sources told Reuters that Delhi produced only a very small amount of the ammunition being used by Ukraine, with one official estimating that it was under 1% of the total arms imported by Kyiv since the war.

## Spain denies 'complicity' in Venezuela's Gonzalez signing letter accepting Maduro victory

**Monitoring Desk**  
MADRID: Spain has denied involvement in negotiations between Venezuelan opposition leader Edmundo Gonzalez and President Nicolas Maduro's government for his flight to Spain, before which he signed a letter saying he accepted Maduro's victory in the country's July election.

The letter included an undertaking to limit political activity once in Spain, said in a video message released on Wednesday the letter was signed under "coercion, blackmail and pressure".

In a news conference on Wednesday, the head of Venezuela's National Assembly, Jorge Rodriguez, held up printed photographs of what he said was the moment the document was signed in his presence as well as that of his sister, Vice President Delcy Rodriguez, and Spain's ambassador to Venezuela, Ramon Santos.

However, Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares told reporters in Brussels.

Gonzalez, who was granted political asylum in Spain earlier this month, said in a video message released on Wednesday the letter was signed under "coercion, blackmail and pressure".

On Thursday, a senior figure in Spain's opposition People's Party (PP) said Madrid had been complicit in removing Gonzalez from Venezuela, thereby ensuring Maduro would stay in power.

"Beyond watching someone being blackmailed live, it's clear that Spain is involved in perpetuating Maduro as a dictator," PP Vice Secretary Esteban Gonzalez Pons said in a radio interview.

## Trudeau set to survive confidence vote next week with opposition support

**Monitoring Desk**  
OTTAWA: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau looks set to survive a confidence vote next week after a rival party said on Wednesday it would not back an attempt to defeat his minority Liberal government.

The official opposition Conservatives, who have a commanding lead in the polls, said they would try to topple Trudeau next Wednesday on the grounds that Canadians cannot afford the promised increase in an existing federal carbon tax.

Trudeau will need support from other legislators to survive a confidence vote in the House of Commons and quickly found it from Yves-Francois Blanchet, leader of the separatist Bloc Quebecois, which seeks independence for the province of Quebec.

"The Bloc Quebecois serves the people of Quebec. It does not serve the Conservatives," Blanchet told reporters, saying replacing Trudeau with Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre would suit Quebec's interests.

The Bloc, which like the Liberals are a center-left party, could well insist on pro-Quebec concessions in return for keeping Trudeau in power.

Trudeau, who first took office in November 2015, faces increasing unhappiness from voters over rising prices and a nationwide housing crisis.

The confidence vote will be his first real test since the smaller New Democratic Party this month tore up a 2022 deal to keep the Liberals in office until an election that must be held by end-October 2025.

Trudeau will have to survive a series of other confidence votes to make it that far.

While working formally with separatists is generally seen as politically toxic in Canada, federal parties have in the past struck one-off deals to gain Bloc support.

In 2009, the Bloc backed the then minority Conservative government on a confidence vote.



People stand near sandbags protecting the Wroclaw Zoo against flooding, in Wroclaw, Poland.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister of Russian Federation witness signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Pakistan and Russia to increase cooperation in different fields.

## Pakistan, Russia for enhanced trade, economic cooperation, regional connectivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Russia on Thursday reiterated their commitment to expanding trade and economic ties, besides enhancing regional connectivity to strengthen bilateral relations. In a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and visiting Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk, who along with members of his delegation called on the president, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, both sides underscored the importance of fostering mutually beneficial cooperation in key sectors such as agriculture, food security, business, education, railways, science and technology, besides promoting stronger people-to-people connections, according to a President House press release.

Welcoming the Russian deputy prime minister, the president stressed the importance of exploring possibilities for barter trade, in addition to improving connectivity to strengthen economic relations between the two nations.

He called for easing visa regulations and increasing connectivity through railways and direct flights to facilitate and enhance people-to-people and business-to-business contacts.

During the meeting, it was highlighted that there was great scope to increase bilateral cooperation in the agriculture sector.

It was emphasised that there was enormous potential to undertake joint ventures in the agricultural sector for the mutual benefit of the two countries. It was also informed that a 75-member business delegation from Pakistan would visit Russia in October to explore avenues for business and economic cooperation.

Alexei Overchuk said that Russia was looking forward to improving cooperation with Pakistan in food security, science and technology, education, connect-

## Pakistan's blue economy could generate over \$100bn in revenue: British Deputy HC

KARACHI (APP): The British Deputy High Commissioner in Karachi Sarah Mooney said that incorporating blue economy in the national economy is of utmost importance for a country like Pakistan.

She stated this while addressing as a chief guest at a World Maritime Day 2024 seminar organized by the Directorate of Electronic Media and Publication (DEMP) in collaboration with Maritime Training Institute at a local hotel on Thursday.

Sarah Mooney said that Pakistan has a coastline of 1001 km, which is home to many different species of marine animals, plants and mineral resources.

She said the blue economy industry had not been used up to its full potential, while it has the po-

tential to generate a revenue of more than \$100bn.

Director General Press Information Department PID Erum Tanveer said that Pakistan's unique geographic position-bridging the East and West, with warm, deep-water ports and a 1,000 km-long coastline-places us at the center of global maritime affairs. It also makes us acutely aware of the challenges we face in today's rapidly changing climate.

She said Climate change is a global challenge with profound implications for our oceans, coastlines, and communities. As a responsible member of the international community, Pakistan has introduced several national policies like Blue economy initiatives including sustainable fisheries, marine renewable en-

## Ameer Maqam says Proposed constitutional amendments to be tabled after achieving consensus

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for States, Frontier Regions, Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Engineer Ameer Maqam, Thursday, said that proposed constitutional amendments will be tabled in the house after due consultations and achieving consensus of all the political parties and other stakeholders.

While addressing to elders of Afghan Refugees and later talking to media during visit of Urban Cohesion Hub Karachi here, he said that negotiations were under way with the political parties and consultation process was continue in connection with the proposed amendments aimed at introducing reforms in judicial system and ensuring swift justice to the people of the country.

The government has initiated the process of constitutional amendment in the best interest of the people of Pakistan and there were no personal motives involved in it, he said and urged all the political leadership to join the hands of government for betterment of the country and the nation.

## Pak Ambassador presents credentials to US President Joe Biden

WASHINGTON (APP): Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh Wednesday presented his Letter of Credence to President Joe Biden as the 30th envoy of Pakistan to the United States.

At a ceremony, held at the Blair House, the President welcomed Ambassador Sheikh, saying the United States will continue to stand with Pakistan in dealing with key global and regional challenges.

The ceremony was attended by members of the diplomatic community and senior officials of the U.S. administration, according to a press release of the Pakistan embassy.

In his remarks, Ambassador Sheikh conveyed greetings from the President, Prime Minister and the people of Pakistan to the leadership and people of the United States, saying the two countries have a rich legacy of cooperative relations and have laid enduring foundations to strengthen bilateral ties.

Recalling U.S. assistance to Pakistan, especially during its nascent phase of statehood, the Ambassador observed that the two countries continue to invest in their relationship and are stepping up cooperation in climate change, energy, health, trade, and investment.



LAHORE: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman and former President and PTI Senior Leader Dr. Arif Alvi talking to media persons.

## TTP emerging as umbrella body for other terrorist groups posing worldwide threat: Pakistan

UNITED NATIONS (APP): A top Pakistani diplomat Wednesday told the U.N. Security Council that the Tehrik-e-Taliban (TTP), which has Afghan rulers' protection, was emerging as an umbrella organization for other terrorist groups, whose objectives, he said, were the destabilization of Afghanistan's neighbours.

"While some of our friends may believe that they are only threatened by Daesh, they should also be concerned by the threat they could confront from a strengthened TTP in the not too distant future," Ambassador Munir Akram warned the 15-member Council during its debate in the situation in Afghanistan. Pakistan, he said, will take national action, cooperating with regional and international organizations to eliminate TTP's threat.

"The TTP (which we in Pakistan call Fitna Al Khawari) is an organization of special concern to Pakistan and should be of concern to the entire region and the world," the Pakistani envoy said, while giving details of its deadly cross-border attacks that resulted in the deaths of hundreds of civilians and soldiers. Even three years after the Taliban assumed the reins of power in Afghanistan, the situation continues to be dire and deeply concerning, Ambassador Akram said. There will be no normalization "until the fundamental issues that trouble Afghanistan are addressed — terrorism."



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with the visiting Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, Alexei Overchuk, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Sardar Khetran says: All resources being mobilized to provide facilities to people

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE), Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran has stated that all resources are being mobilized for provision of facilities to the people.

He said it is included in his priorities to work for development of his district.

He said that provision of healthcare facilities is also priority of the government so that the people may not go in big cities for treatment.

Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran was speaking on occasion of the open katchehry at his residence in Haji Kot, Barkhan on Thursday.

The Minister heard problems of the people approached him there.

He said that public exchequer is being spent on their welfare.

He urged the people to take responsibility of the development projects and identify any negligence and carelessness in these projects. He said that the government is taking steps for increasing its revenue.

## Dr. Ihab Abdelhamid, Ambassador of Egypt, called on Minister for Defence

ISLAMABAD (Online): Dr. Ihab Abdelhamid Hassan, Ambassador of Egypt, called on Minister for Defence, Defence Production and Aviation, Khawaja Muhammad Asif in Islamabad Thursday.

Defence Minister exclaimed that Pakistan and Egypt enjoy cordial historical ties. There exists a greater confidence and mutual trust in their bilateral relations.

In addition to this, Defence Minister also expressed that Egypt is an important country in the region and its stability and progress is vital for peace and prosperity in the Middle Eastern region.

## 324 police officials, civilians martyred in 2024: CTD

PESHAWAR (APP): A report from the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) on Thursday reported that 324 people including police officials, officers and civilians have been martyred in terror incidents in restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) since the start of this year.

Moreover, it said 616 others including civilians have been injured due to attacks by anti-state elements.

In Peshawar alone, 103 police officials have been martyred, with 154 others injured in terrorism-related incidents. The report also noted that 103 civilians have died, and 159 have sustained injuries.

Dera Ismail Khan has reported the deaths of 63 security personnel, including 49 from the Frontier Corps, and 124 injuries. Furthermore, 8 law enforcement officials were martyred, with 4 others wounded.



QUETTA: Chairman Public Accounts Committee Asghar Ai Tareen and former Chairman Senate & MPA Sadiq Sanjrani and former Home Minister Balochistan Mir Ziaullah Lango during a meeting.

## Quetta administration continues crackdown against profiteering

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Quetta district administration continued crackdown against the profiteering and encroachments in different parts of the metropolitan and its adjoining areas.

According to the official sources, crackdown was conducted on Toghri road, Kasi road, Baleli, Nawar Killi, Mano Jan road, Almo chowk, Kuchlak bazaar and other areas of the city.

During the crackdown, more than 140 shops were visited by the administrative teams including the Assistant Commissioners, Magistrates and other law enforcers and inspected the rates there.

In the meantime, 11 shopkeepers were arrested while six shops were sealed by the raiding teams on the charges of non-implementation on the official rate list. Similarly, 16 shopkeepers were charged fine and 19 others were issued stern warning.

It was warned to the shopkeepers to strictly follow the official price list, otherwise stern action would be taken against them.

During the crackdown, the encroachments established in different areas were also removed.

## DC directs to deduct salary of 63 teachers on absence of duties in Kohlu

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kohlu Aqeel Ahmed Baloch on Thursday directed to deduct the salary of 63 teachers on absence of their duties in the light of the reports of the officers of the Education Department while 6 teachers were dismissed for long absence. He expressed these views while addressing the meeting of District Education Group. The meeting was attended by concerned officials and others.

In the meeting, the officers of the education department gave a detailed briefing to the Deputy Commissioner regarding their visits this month in which the absent teachers were identified. Addressing at the meeting, the DC said that the challenges of the modern era could be met only with better and quality education. He said that the district administration has taken coordinated steps with the officers of the education department to provide facilities and attendance of teaching staff in educational institutions.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for PHE Sardar Abdul Reman Khetran shaking hands with resident of the area during arrival at his native village.

## Stakeholders highlight strategic path forward for MHM in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): A high-level stakeholders' deliberation on "Provincial Inroads to Improve MHM & Way Forward" was organized in Quetta on Thursday by the Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management Working Group (MHMWG) Secretariat Balochistan in collaboration with Water Aid Pakistan. The event brought together key policymakers, experts, advocates, and stakeholders to discuss the progress of MHM initiatives in the province and to develop an actionable plan for 2025.

Director General Health Dr. Amin Mandokhel delivered an insightful keynote address, praising Balochistan for its leadership in tackling menstrual health issues.

She stressed the importance of collective efforts in promoting MHM and creating a supportive environment where menstrual hygiene products are accessible to all women and girls. She also encouraged the media to continue playing a pivotal role in raising awareness and reducing stigma. Earlier, the conference opened with a welcome speech by Dr. Tahira Kamal Baloch, Chairperson of MHMWG, Balochistan, who highlighted the significance of addressing MHM challenges in the province and called for sustained collaboration among stakeholders to achieve meaningful progress.

She noted that the strategic discussions at this event would help shape a more inclusive and sustainable future for MHM in Balochistan.

The Chairperson of Balochistan Commission on the Status of Women (BCSW) assured the participants that BCSW would lend its every possible support to stakeholders to promote MHM in the province.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal with writer Ammar Masood and researcher Khalid Fared on the occasion of launching of book "Mir Hazar Khan Marri: Muzahimat se Mufahimat Tak" by Sang-e-meel Publications.

## Bakht Kakar says: Health facilities in Balochistan's remote areas to be ensured

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan's new Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar on Thursday said that provision of health care facilities in remote areas would be ensured under the vision of Balochistan Chief Minister.

Talking to APP here, he said that we would work together with all stakeholders for the improvement of health sector by addressing problems of people related health department including medical staff.

It should be noted that Provincial Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar had given the portfolio of Livestock and Water Development Department and handed over the portfolio of Health Department to him after changing the portfolio of Livestock and Water Development Department.

Bakht Muhammad Kakar also thanked Paki-

## Russian Dy PM departs after two-day Pakistan visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Alexei Overchuk on Thursday departed from here after the culmination of his official visit to Pakistan.

Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe) Shafiq Ali Khan and Pakistan's Ambassador to the Russian Federation Muhammad Khalid Jamali saw off the Russian deputy prime minister at the Islamabad airport.

During the visit, Overchuk, who was accompanied by a high-level delegation, held talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar.

## Goodly initiative of Chaman administration: Chaman Educated Youth Database set up as per vision of Chief Minister

Independent Report

QUETTA: In line with the initiative of the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, the Chaman Educated Youth Database has been set up thanks to the district administration of Chaman.

It may be mentioned here that the Chaman Educated Youth Database has been established in the history of Balochistan for the first time because of the special interest and assistance of the Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai. According to the Deputy Commissioner Chaman, Athar Abbas Raja, the detailed particulars of all the educated youth of Chaman would be made available in the database. The Deputy Commissioner told that the data bank would prove to be helpful for the human resource to be required by the government institutions and non-governmental organizations.



QUETTA: DG Health Balochistan Amin Khan Mandokhel addressing on seminar on Woman Health.