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Gwadar

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Indian FM Jaishankar to visit Pakistan for SCO meeting

ISLAMABAD (INP) – Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar will visit Pakistan to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting scheduled in Islamabad on Oct 15-16.

According to the spokesperson for the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, India will participate in the SCO meeting in Pakistan.

The spokesperson stated that Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar will go to Pakistan to attend the SCO summit on October 15-16, marking his first visit to Pakistan.

The Indian ministry further mentioned that details regarding bilateral meetings in Pakistan will be shared in a few days.

Pakistan had sent an invitation to India to par-

ticipate in the SCO Heads of State Summit. However, India had decided not to send its delegation to Pakistan and said it would participate online.

The spokesperson for the Foreign Office had also mentioned that an invitation had been sent to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The federal government approved a comprehensive plan to ensure strict security for the upcoming gathering of regional leaders.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi stated during the meeting that additional personnel from the Pakistan Army, Rangers, Frontier Corps (FC), and Punjab police would be deployed for security duties at the SCO summit.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and a delegation of Jamat Islami led by Amir e Jamat Islami Haafiz Naeem ur Rehman call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Political parties decide to express solidarity with Gaza, Palestinians on national level

PM to host All Parties Conference on Palestine issue on Oct 7

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said an All Parties Conference (APC) would be held on October 7 to take a unified stance on Palestine issue.

The nationwide Day of Solidarity would also be observed on the day in order to show solidarity with the innocent Palestinian men, women and children facing the worst Israeli brutalities.

The prime minister

Govt. laid network of dev projects in province: Zahoore Buledi

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Planning and Development, Mir Zahoore Ahmed Buledi has stated that the present government has laid network of the development projects all over the province, and completion of these projects would start new era of progress in the province.

He said that the people can benefit from the fruits of development schemes with their early completion.

Mir Zahoore Buledi was speaking to people from different segments of the society at his residence, in Turbat on Friday.

The Deputy Chairman District Council Kech, Jamil Dashti, Chief Officer District Council Kech, Hamal Kashani, Assistant Bilal, Elahi Bakhsh, and others met the Provincial Minister for Planning and Development.

During the meeting, projects of different sectors including health, education, water supply, agriculture, water supply and social sector were discussed.

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has believed that our teachers can extend cooperation and assistance to materialize the dream of educated Balochistan just because they have backbone status in the education system and curriculum.

He said that the teachers are held in high esteem in the civilized world and the respect of a teacher can't be restricted to the religion, geography and colour.

This was stated by the Governor in his message

took the decision to the effect during his meeting with Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and the Jamaat-Islami delegation led by its Ameer Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman at the Prime Minister House. It was also decided in the meeting that on October 7, public gatherings and seminars would be held across the country to show solidarity with the Palestinian people and to

protest against the ongoing Israeli aggression.

A committee comprising Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Sherry Rehman, Khawaja Saad Rafique, and Nayyar Bukhari was formed for organizing the All Parties Conference, and supervise events marking the Day of Solidarity.

President Asif Ali Zardari will also attend the All Parties Conference.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, chairs a high-level review meeting to address the challenges hindering the development of Gwadar Port and the Free Zone.

Ahsan chairs meeting to review Gwadar Port development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Friday chaired a high-level review meeting to address the challenges hindering the development of Gwadar Port and the Free Zone.

Secretary Planning Awais Manzoor Sumra, along with senior officials from various provinces and ministries, attended the meeting, according to a press release issued by the ministry.

The meeting thor-

oughly discussed the key pending issues related to the Gwadar Free Zone's development, including water, electricity, gas and sewerage system, the Gwadar Port and the Free Zone and the Gwadar Safe City Project.

Ahsan Iqbal expressed strong displeasure over delays in the Gwadar Safe City project, reprimanding relevant authorities for the unacceptable pace, directing them to expedite the project's completion without further delay.

He noted with contentment that it is necessary to mention that female teachers are performing their duties honestly despite the lack of necessary facilities.

He appreciated the spirit of teachers for brightening the future of their students.

He said that the responsibilities of teachers increase manifold in perspective of the Balochistan province.

He said that the teachers create sense among the students from the beginning and they put them on the path of higher education.

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Army called in ahead of SCO summit in Islamabad

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to ensure law and order situation during the forthcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, the federal government approved the deployment of Pakistan Army's troops in Islamabad under Article 245 of the Constitution.

Islamabad is all set to host the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting on October 15 and 16 with major foreign leaders, including Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visiting the country.

According to the notification a "requisite strength" of the Pakistan Army, in aid of civil power, will be deployed from Oct 5 to 17 to maintain law and order situation with respect to SCO moot and visits of VIP delegations for the said meeting.

Rabi-us-Sani moon sighted

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony announced the sighting of moon of Rabi-us-Sani 1446 AH in pursuance of the decision of the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee's meeting on Friday.

According to an official notification, the first of Rabi-us-Sani would commence from Saturday, (October 5).

Israel can't even think of launching attack on Pakistan: Khawaja Asif

ISLAMABAD (INP) - Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said that Pakistan is an atomic power and therefore Israel can't even think of launching an attack on us. In a statement issued on Friday, he said that the PTI founder is fulfilling the agenda of Israel in Pakistan. "The PTI founder is working on the agenda of Jewish lobby," he said.

Khawaja Asif said that PTI had staged sit-in in Islamabad when Pakistan was signing the agreements related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in 2014.

"They have once again started protest when Pakistan is going to host the meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Islamabad," said the defence minister.

Fire erupted in forests of Musakhail controlled: GoB spokesman

Independent Report

QUETTA: The spokesman, Government of Balochistan, Shahid Rind has stated that the fire erupted in the forests in the area of Musakhail has been controlled.

According to the spokesman, the fire was overcome after struggle made for 24 hours.

The spokesman said that hardships were faced in the fire because of the stormy winds.

Malaysian PM praises Pak Armed Forces' role in regional peace, stability

RAWALPINDI (APP): Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim on Friday praised the Pakistani Armed Forces' role in regional peace and stability, acknowledging their professionalism and sacrifices in combating terrorism.

He was talking to Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir during a meeting here at the General Headquarters.

The two sides discussed bilateral strategic interests, regional security, and defence cooperation, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

Prime Minister Anwar

Ibrahim emphasized on the need for increasing bilateral ties, particularly military relations amongst the two brotherly countries and extended an invitation to the COAS to visit Malaysia in the same context.

The COAS thanked the prime minister for the invitation and appreciated his successful visit to Pakistan, which would help further improve the enduring and historic ties between the two countries and the militaries.

The Army Chief also attended the investiture ceremony and state banquet held in honour of the Malaysian prime minister at the Presidency.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir exchanges views with Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim during meeting held at General Headquarters in Rawalpindi.

Imran Khan's sisters among at least 30 arrested as police fire tear gas to disperse PTI protesters in Islamabad

Section 144, peaceful assembly act enforced in Islamabad; Mobile service shut in twin cities due to PTI protest

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: At least 30 protesters have been arrested as police fire tear gas to disperse PTI protesters attempting to reach Islamabad's D-Chowk for a planned party rally.

Incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan earlier again called on his supporters to gather for a "peaceful protest" as his party amped up preparations for today's demonstration despite a ban on gatherings.

Another one is also scheduled for Lahore's Minar-i-Pakistan on Saturday.

The Islamabad Police on Friday arrested PTI founder Imran Khan's sisters Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan in D-Chowk.

According to details,

Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan were arrested in D-Chowk during the PTI protest call as Section 144 was already imposed in the federal capital.

Both the sisters of former prime minister were shifted to the police station.

The PTI has carried out multiple rallies across the country in recent weeks, protesting against the "illegal" imprisonment of its founder and the Election Commission of Pakistan's delay in implementing the reserved seats verdict, as well as to "save the Constitution".

Ahead of its rallies in Islamabad and Lahore earlier this month, the government had issued a set of strict guidelines.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar addressing a press conference.

Pakistan making landmark strides on foreign policy front under PM Shehbaz: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Friday that Pakistan under leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has been making landmark achievements on foreign policy front.

"Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's visit to Pakistan was highly successful and productive

as many agreements and MoUs were inked to increase cooperation and trade between the two brotherly countries," he said while addressing a press conference here.

He said Pakistan enjoyed brotherly and friendly relations with Malaysia and during his visit to Pakistan, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim took forward matters regarding trade and investment.



ISLAMABAD: Police personnel detain sister of PTI Founder Aleema Khan during a protest.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi talking to media persons at D Chowk.

PTI activists plan to attack Islamabad with arms: Naqvi

ISLAMABAD (INP): While leadership and activists of the Imran Khan-founded party heading towards the federal capital despite roadblocks, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said everyone has the right to hold protest demonstration but the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters are going to "attack Islamabad with weapons".

"This is not the right way and we will not allow this to happen," the security czar said while talking to journalists in Islamabad on Friday. With hoards of the PTI workers are travelling towards the federal capital amid visits of foreign dignitaries.

Naqvi said he had requested the PTI a day ago as well "not to hold rally for now". The minister added that he would not let anyone damage properties.

Russian general lauds professionalism of Pakistan armed forces

RAWALPINDI (APP): Deputy Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces of Russian Federation, Col General Sergey



Yuravich Istrakov who is on an official visit to Pakistan, Friday called on Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS), General Sahrir Shamshad Mirza at Joint Staff Headquarters.

During the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction on positive trajectory of bilateral defence cooperation and discussed the evolving security situation in the region with a view to promote regional peace and stability, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The visiting dignitary lauded the professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged the sacrifices rendered by Pakistan Armed Forces in the fight against terrorism.

Khetran stresses need on adopting realistic dev. strategy in view of present financial situation

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE), Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran has underlined the need for adopting realistic development strategy in view of the present financial situation of the province.

He directed to the concerned authorities to focus on the ongoing development projects of public welfare on priority basis.

He also directed to take steps for ensuring comple-

tion of these projects well within the stipulated time line.

Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran was speaking to the senior officers of the department in his office on Friday.

During the course, the development strategy of provincial government, ongoing important development schemes of different sectors and development goals of future were discussed on the occasion.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding provision of water to Pirkoh, Dera Bugti

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

High cost of living

Over the past few months, the rate at which the prices of goods and services in the country have risen has slowed significantly. Headline fell to a 44-month low of 6.9pc last month.

This decline, driven by a high-base effect from last year when annual inflation stood at 31.4pc, along with plunging global oil and commodity prices, a stable exchange rate, falling demand due to eroding real wages, and, last but not least, aggressive monetary tightening, exceeds the projections of the government and the market. Latest figures from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics show that both sticky core inflation and the three-month average inflation rates, although higher than CPI inflation, have also fallen to single digits, signalling a substantial easing of inflationary pressures. The narrowing gap between the CPI and core inflation — which excludes energy and food prices — suggests a slowdown in imported inflation.

The improvement in the inflation outlook has already seen the State Bank slash borrowing costs by 450bps to 17.5pc since June. The latest CPI reading has created further room for a cut in interest rates in November and December. The government's recent move to buy back its costly debt of Rs351bn maturing in December from the commercial banks at the much lower rate of 16pc compared to the 20pc-21pc at which it was originally sold, has deepened expectations of monetary easing earlier than anticipated. In fact, private businesses are already calling for an aggressive rate cut next month.

With inflation plunging below the target of 12pc for FY25, the next monetary policy session will test the State Bank's resolve of treading cautiously since risks remain elevated because of tensions in the Middle East and the fragile economic recovery at home.

No doubt, the recent decline in global energy and commodity prices has helped the government reduce domestic oil, transport and wheat rates. However, prices of goods and services consumed by the people continue to rise even as the inflation rate falls below 7pc.

In other words, the cost of living is increasing, though perhaps not as rapidly as earlier, showing that even when the inflation rate decreases, the prices do not. This means there will be no let-up in the pain of middle-class people when it comes to grocery expenses, school fees, and hospital bills. This will persist unless there is a sustainable economic turnaround and a much faster increase in real incomes that outpaces inflation.

With the government facing rising public discontent because of poor economic conditions, the big worry is that it might be tempted to go overboard to appease the voters and try to stimulate faster growth through inflationary measures. Although chances of such an eventuality are low with the IMF breathing down its neck, it cannot be ruled out.

Act of conscience

Zubeida Mustafa

"If the pain has often been unbearable and the revelations shocking to all of us, it is because they indeed bring us the beginnings of a common understanding of what happened and a steady restoration of the nation's humanity. The TRC [Truth and Reconciliation Commission] that is guiding us on this journey is the TRC of all of us" — Nelson Mandela

Coming from a leader who spent 27 years of his life in prison on Robben Island crushing stones, these words show sagacity and astuteness. They must be reflected on. Mandela, who led South Africa out of the black hole of apartheid, allowed his people to protest but prevented a bloodbath when the transition took place. Protest was the silent voice of the people's conscience. Hence it had to be peaceful. If it turned violent, then it was not protest but vendetta. And that can never be justified.

Mandela was a shrewd statesman. He understood how his people had been brutalised by their White Boer colonisers and how bitter they felt. Hence he convened a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to listen to the outpourings of people who had suffered all kinds of indignities and injustice. What was the outcome? Nothing in practical terms but it brought closure to the South Africans, enabling them to come to terms with their past and work for their future.

Protest is said to be a potent force for political change. Yet few in Pakistan organise themselves to protest against the injustices meted out to them in abundance by the powers that be. Why this apathy? We are such a divided society where

what is a bane for one is a boon for the other. People protest if they are directly affected. They turn a blind eye to the injustice that affects the weak and underprivileged classes, who lack the capacity to mobilise themselves and create awareness about the issue that is at the root of the problem.

But that does not mean we do not have protesters. To be a protester, one must be an activist and have a social conscience. These qualities are inborn and it is difficult to inculcate them in a person who inherently lacks empathy and a sense of justice.

The women's movement in Pakistan would not have considerably changed the status of women in the country had we not had women like Anis Haroon and Sheema Kermani and many others who lined sidewalks with banners in their hands. They created original slogans and managed to evoke passion and protest among like-minded men and women. The younger generation went further and the Aurat March was born.

Fearing resistance from civil society, autocratic governments have clamped down on protesters and in fact banned organisations that have organised protests, such as student bodies and labour unions.

That had an impact on the culture of protesting and made the youth apathetic.

Mercifully, we still have men of conscience who have not given up. Take Naeem Sadiq, doing a lot of time doing research to unearth facts and gets them from the horse's mouth so that he can convey the magnitude of the injustice being meted out to the powerless — be they sanitary workers or bodyguards employed

by banks and other organisations. Another demand he supports is a ban on guns.

Only recently I discovered another protester of a unique kind. He is Abdul Hamid Dagia, who has been protesting against the injustices done to Karachi since 2015. Eighty years of age, he has chalked up 1,440 one-man protests, which is a record of sorts. A chartered accountant by profession, Dagia held coveted jobs at the Ka--rachi Electric Supply Corporation and the stock exchange until the mid-1990s, when he gave up a stable career that he found dissatisfying because of the abundance of wealth surrounding him and the opportunities it offered for financial misappropriation. It was the inequality of the situation, leading to injustice, that touched his conscience.

What makes him unique is that he protests single-handedly. Thrice a week, he is out on the road — a quiet, aged figure holding his placard announcing the injustice that is bothering him. His causes are Karachi-centric. One banner says, 'Lawaris Karachi' (ownerless Karachi).

Another is 'Darakhton kee katai bund karo' (stop cutting trees), which earned him the wrath of the KMC's tree cutters who allegedly attacked him. Yet another says, 'Sindh budget dagna, Karachi ka hissa kahan?' ('Do people join you in your protest?') I asked him. He says that an odd passerby or two does come and stand with him for a moment or so. "Once a judge noticed me. He stopped his car and joined me in solidarity," Dagia sahib remarks. A judge with a conscience. We need more of them. — Courtesy Dawn

Loaded dice

Adeel Wahid

Heads I win, tails you lose. The amendments made to the Election Act, 2017, on the fly, to paper over the various discrepancies in the elections held on Feb 8, 2024, change the entire electoral dynamic ex post facto. After the elections, the purported 'winners' are being given a free pass to change the rules of the game, to maintain their claim of being the winners, upending the manner by which those seeking to question the winning status could have brought that challenge before neutral arbiters.

As in the case of many elections held before, the ones that were held earlier this year were tainted. Concocting numbers in the Forms-47 was the new modus operandi.

In the past, elections have been managed through other means as well. In recent memory, in the 2021 Daska by-elections, almost a couple of dozen presiding officers simply went missing, and remained so for an entire night. They emerged in the morning, to present figures to the Returning Officer that were entirely different from the ones they had before they went missing. At that time, the Election Commission of Pakistan had some teeth; and the top court upheld the ECP's directions for a re-poll in the entire constituency. The returned candidate after the re-poll was from the PML-N — and not a favoured horse then.

That was then, this is now. The intrusions of that time were not kosher, we are told. The intrusions of today, they say, are not only kosher, but are, in fact, necessary. It appears that if meddling took

place in the past, it gives a complete carte blanche for meddling in the present, and also probably in the future.

An election is a competition of sorts. And in any competition, changing the rules ex post facto, that is, after the fact, is considered to be completely out of bounds. In systems where fairness matters, the rules of the games are decided before the game is played. Fairness also dictates that the rules not be changed once the game has been played. In a race, the winner is to be determined in accordance with the rules that exist before the race begins, and in keeping with the manner prescribed by those rules.

But in our system, where fairness has limited value, the reality played out like this: a bunch of candidates were said to be elected. When those contesting against the deemed successful candidates challenged the 'win', the ECP members initially twiddled their thumbs, buying time so that the issue could be punted to the election tribunals.

According to the rules existing at the time, the election tribunals were to comprise the justices of the high courts. On seeing that some may not rubber-stamp the victory, the rules of the game were changed. Into the mix were introduced retired justices, who were previously out of a job but now had been bestowed with one. The dice were loaded.

But what about fairness? What about it, they say. The previous win of the now-out-of-favour horse was also achieved with the help of those who back horses. In the previous round, a horse, in fact, had to be taken out of the race altogether —

disqualified. One may bring up the saying that two wrongs do not make a right, but those who back horses know that one wrong may also mean — even when the wrong is of their own doing — that a strong justification now exists for another.

The Supreme Court in the 'Sunni Ittehad Council' case held, in so many words, that the reserved seats be allocated to a party that was hamstrung, and its members forcibly compelled to take a route that could then be made the reason for being deprived of reserved seats.

Granting those seats to other parties — the beneficiaries — just did not add up to fairness, no matter how the issue was sliced. The current members of the National Assembly, who stood to lose, already having blockaded efforts to check the veracity of the claims questioning their eligibility as members, swung into action again. More amendments followed. The rules of the game were changed some more. Conflict of interest? You bet. Fairness? You tell me.

When the Assembly members, changing all possible rules to remain in power, continued to act in their own interest, which among the institutions of the government, could and should have possibly raised a challenge? The judiciary, probably. And hence, the 26th amendment. The desire to win at all costs is a terrible thing. It makes one forget the basic norms, the ideas of fairness and truth that are necessary for any semblance of the game to remain relevant. But above all, it makes one forget that a win with a loaded dice is no win at all. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

FDI rises by 55%, remittances up by 44%: Dr. Musadik Malik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik said on Friday that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has increased by 55%, while remittances have seen a 44% rise.

Addressing a press conference, he highlighted the government's efforts to create an investor-friendly environment, which has contributed to this significant uptick in FDI.

He said that the increase in remittances showcases the trust and support of overseas Pakistanis in bolstering the national economy.

"These figures reflect a positive trajectory for Pakistan's economic stability and growth," Dr. Musadik Malik said, adding that the government remains committed to sustaining this momentum and expanding investment opportunities.

He said the country is

expecting around 3% GDP growth due to the policies of the government, led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The minister expressed optimism that with the increase in GDP, more job opportunities would emerge, improving the living standards of the common people.

Dr. Musadik Malik said that food inflation has decreased by 1.7%, from 48.1%, while overall inflation has dropped to 6.7% from 38%. Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves have also improved. Growth has been observed in the agriculture and large-scale manufacturing sectors, he added.

He highlighted the government's focus on the information technology sector, mentioning that a large IT delegation from Saudi Arabia is expected to visit Pakistan. The minister also

pointed out that the trade deficit has decreased and Pakistan's stock exchange is achieving new milestones, with the renowned financial journal Bloomberg recognizing it as the most emerging market in Asia.

He said that due to the government's efforts, the confidence of the international community has improved.

He further shared that the Malaysian Prime Minister has completed his visit to Pakistan, while delegations from Saudi Arabia and other countries are expected to arrive for agreements.

He reiterated that the government's priority is to provide maximum facilities to the people. All economic indicators are positive, with exports increasing, the trade deficit decreasing, and inflation dropping to 6.9%, surpassing even expert projections.

Bilal Yaseen says: Action under way against fraud food business operators

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yaseen has said that strict action is being taken against all those involved in doing fraud in food business.

According to official sources here, the minister, along with Punjab Food Authority director general (DG), carried out an operation in the city area. Raids were conducted on four famous bakeries and 'Nimko' units. On violation,

one unit had been sealed while fine of Rs 0.8 million had been imposed on other three units. As much as 3,200 litres of used and substandard oil had been discarded besides 55-kg of 'Rang Kat' and banned food colours.

Bilal Yaseen said that action had been taken because substandard oil was being used for preparing 'Nimko'.

He further said that poor cleanliness arrangements had been witnessed in the processing area while there was no training or medical certificates of employees.

Bakery and confectionery items were being prepared in untidy area and there was a lot of foul smell as well, he said and added that rats and other insects were also seen in storage area.

Bilal said, "Use of substandard oil and prohibited items in food preparation process results in spreading diseases."

SBP injects Rs1,012 billion into market

KARACHI (APP): State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Friday, injected Rs1,012.3 billion in the market through reverse repo purchase Open Market Operation (OMO).

According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on October 4, 2024 for 7-day and 28-day tenders and accepted 11 bids totaling to Rs1,012.3 billion.

The central bank received 9 bids for 7-day tenor cumulatively offering an amount of Rs882.3 billion at the rate of return ranging between 17.56 to 17.65 percent while 2 bids amounting to Rs130 billion were received for the 28-day tenor at the rate of return ranging between 17.60 to 17.61%.



QUETTA: Anjuman-e-Tajran Balochistan Central President, Abdul Rahim Kakar along with others addressing to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club.

Azfar says: Pak success hinges on creating sustainable investment climate

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Board of Investment (BOI) chairman Azfar Ahsan on Friday emphasized that investment success in Pakistan hinged on supporting and facilitating existing investors which was a crucial step towards creating a sustainable investment climate.

He stressed the critical need for a comprehensive strategy to attract both local and foreign investors.

Azfar Ahsan was speaking as guest speaker at a special talk on

"Pakistan's Investment Landscape: Challenges, Opportunities and Way Forward" organised by the China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), a news release said.

He strongly advocated for a long-term national approach including framing of a "country strategy" to improve investor confidence and ensure economic stability. Ahsan highlighted the importance of foundational reforms across all sectors of the economy.

He argued that Pakistan must move away from reactive policies and focus on creating a business- and investment-friendly environment. "This requires consistent policy frameworks, regardless of political changes, as well as a commitment to improving infrastructure, governance, institutional capacity, and law and order." These efforts, he noted, would not only attract new foreign direct investment (FDI) but also strengthen relationships with existing investors, which was critically important.

KPCS directs authorities for full facilitation of gemstone businesses

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Afzal Chaudhry Friday directed the authorities for provision of comprehensive facilitation to investors, entrepreneurs and businessmen of the gemstone sector.

He issued these directives while presiding over a meeting of the representatives of the business community and authorities including

Secretary Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Secretary Sports and Director General (DG) Peshawar Development Authority (PDA). The Chief Secretary highlighted the immense untapped potential of the gemstone sector in the province. "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa holds a wealth of precious gemstones that, if fully capitalized, can significantly contribute to the province's economic growth.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships, Tubul, Khairpur and World Virtue carrying Container, Gasoline and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, FOTCO oil Terminal and Pakistan International Bulk Terminal respectively on Thursday. Meanwhile three more ships, Apex, Nord Taipei and Al-Deebel are also arrived at outer anchorage port during last 24 hours. Nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships.

Short term inflation goes up 0.44 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.44 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on October 03, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 319.17 points as compared to 317.76 points during the past week. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 13.18 per cent.

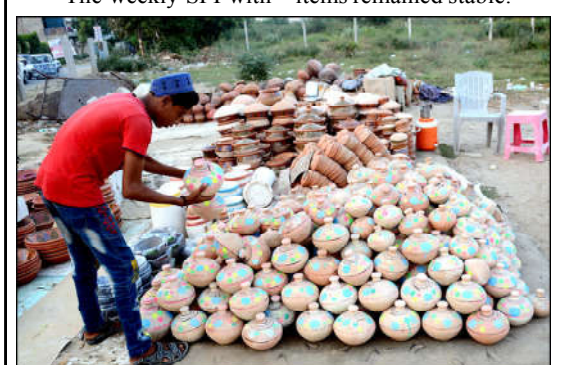
The weekly SPI with

the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

Likewise, SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732 witnessed increase of 0.68 per cent and went up to 313.20 points from last week's 311.09 points.

The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732 to 22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, increased by 0.63 percent, 0.53 percent, 0.49 percent and 0.36 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 21 (41.18%) items increased, 10 (19.61%) items decreased and 20 (39.21%) items remained stable.



LAHORE: Shopkeeper display pottery to attract customers at his roadside setups.

People throng UAF to attend Kisan Mela

FAISALABAD (APP): On the fourth day of Kisan Mela held at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), a large number of farmers thronged the university to enjoy various kinds of recreational and entertainment activities including tent pegging, farmers' convention, art & literature festival.

On Friday, a two-day regional tent-pegging championship concluded in addition to arrangement of a Farmer's Convention at Directorate of Farms in which scientists created awareness about the modern agricultural technology and suggestions

to ensure food security in order to develop agriculture on modern lines.

Moreover, photography and videography were organized in the art and literature festival organized by the Senior Tutor Office. UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan said that tent pegging connects us with the rural culture. The participants in this sport develop a sense of balance and consideration. He said that such competitions not only promote rural culture but also keep our young generation connected with rural traditions.

CM orders to stop illegal sale, purchase of land in RUDA area

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Friday approved the establishment of a special police force to prevent encroachment along the Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA) land. A special meeting related to RUDA was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, in which a detailed review of the completion of RUDA

projects and ongoing projects was conducted. CM Maryam Nawaz ordered to stop illegal sale and purchase of land in RUDA areas. In a meeting, it was also decided to cooperate with China and other international organisations for the completion of RUDA projects. Maryam Nawaz was briefed about the progress on increasing the forest area in RUDA

from 20 per cent to 35pc. Chief Executive Officer RUDA Imran Amin gave a detailed briefing about the project. Senator Pervez Rasheed, Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Azma Bokhari, Chief Secretary, Secretary Housing, CEO RUDA Imran Amin, Principal Secretary and other officials were also present.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif offering Dua after inaugurating first Autism School in Pakistan.

LG department decides to implement new model of waste collection

LAHORE (APP): The Local Government & Community Development (LG&CD) Department developed a comprehensive plan to implement a new waste collection model across the province. Under this plan, solid waste collected door-to-door will be directly transported to the dumping site. The first phase of implementation will focus on housing schemes managed by the Lahore Development Authority (LDA).

This was disclosed in a meeting chaired by Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq at Civil Secretariat here on Friday. Secretary LG&CD Shakeel Ahmed Mian and Additional Secretary Maria Tariq were also present. During the meeting, the Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz "Suthra Punjab" program was reviewed in detail and various suggestions were discussed for the implementation of the new model of sanitation in the provincial capital. Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq said that garbage will be collected from every house under the supervision of Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC).

Lahore police conduct 3,243 search operations

LAHORE (APP): In connection with the Jummah prayers security, the Lahore police carried out 3,243 search-and-combing operations in various areas of the city. A police spokesman said in a statement on Friday that over 94,000 houses, more than 57,000 tenants, and over 216,000 individuals were checked during operations. More than 338,000 individuals were cleared after verification. Legal action was taken against 1,586 people for violations.

PHC approves transit bail of CM KP till Oct 25 in two cases PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar High Court (PHC) has approved transit bail of Chief Minister (CM) KP Ali Amin Gandapur in two cases till October 25. Transit bail plea of KP CM came up for hearing before Chief Justice (CJ) PHC Ishtiaq Ibrahim Friday. Alam Khan advocate counsel for the petitioner said CM KP Ali Amin Gandapur has filed petition for transit bail in high court.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over the high level meeting to review anti-polio campaign.

Revolutionary changes underway in Punjab's health sector: Khawaja

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Khawaja Imran Nazir said on Friday revolutionary changes were being implemented in the health sector under the Punjab chief minister's vision. He made this statement during a meeting with a delegation from the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI). Secretary of Health Nadia Saqib was also present, where the GAVI delegation was briefed on the Expanded

Programme on Immunization (EPI), polio campaign goals, results, child vaccinations, and other related matters by Dr. Mukhtar Awan, Director of EPI. Khawaja Imran shared that the vaccination rate for children under five years old was expected to exceed 92 per cent by the end of October. He highlighted that children aged two to five years, who missed earlier vaccinations, are now being immunized against 12 different diseases.

NIH issues dengue advisory

LAHORE (APP): The National Institute of Health (NIH) issued a dengue advisory here on Friday, in the wake of increasing dengue cases in the country. So far this year, 8,909 cases of dengue had been reported in the country, the advisory reads.

The purpose of the advisory is to inform the health related institutions about the prevention of dengue. Over 100 countries including Pakistan are suffering from dengue epidemic.

10 killed, 1417 injured in 1371 RTCs in Punjab LAHORE (APP): At least ten persons were killed and 1417 injured in 1371 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 579 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 803 victims were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals. Furthermore, the analysis showed that 739 drivers, 52 underage drivers, 177 pedestrians, and 476 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes.

Kurram tribes assure implementation on ceasefire agreement

KOHAT (APP): In order to maintain law and order and ensure lasting peace in the Tribal District Kurram, a Grand Tribal Jirga was held with Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah in the chair at the Jirga Hall of District Headquarters Orakzai the other day. The grand tribal Jirga beside the Regional Police Officer Kohat Sher Akbar Khan, Deputy Commissioner Kurram Javedullah Mehsud and Deputy Commissioner Orakzai Muhammad Irfanuddin, was also

participated by the authorities concerned of respective departments and institutions. Law Enforcement Agencies, leaders of all tribes of district Kurram, members of Kurram Aman Jirga and Divisional Grand Jirga and Tribal Elders. On this occasion, all the tribes reiterated their cooperation in maintaining peace in the district and full implementation on government writ in future. They also assured to fully abide by the law and avoid any kind of provocation.

Minister inaugurates Pakistan's largest students' financial aid scheme

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Higher Education Rana Sikandar Hayat Khan inaugurated Pakistan's largest scholarship programme for the financial assistance of talented students in Punjab. In this regard, a launching ceremony was organised at Punjab University in which PU Vice Chancellor Dr Muhammad Ali, Secretary Higher Education Dr Farrukh Naveed, Punjab Higher Education Commission Chief Operating Officer Dr Mansoor Ahmed Baloch, faculty members and a number of students were present. Addressing the ceremony, Minister Hayat said Honhaar Undergraduate Scholarship

Programme was the largest scholarship programme in the history of Pakistan under which the fee of 30,000 intelligent students of public and private universities would benefit. The minister said that the fee of the four-year BS degree programme of the intelligent students would be paid every year on behalf of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and every year new students would also be included in the scholarship scheme. He said that the eligibility criteria regarding family income range had been set with the monthly income of Rs300,000 to support upper middle class families in the scholarship programme.



LAHORE: A teacher performing her duty at a local school as world celebrates the World teacher's Day, also known as International Teachers Day.

Minister Arora visits Parliamentary Secretary for HR&MA office

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minorities Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora visited the office of Parliamentary Secretary for Human Rights and Minority Affairs (HR&MA) Sonia Asher in Gulberg here on Friday. He held a meeting with the parliamentary secretary and discussed the issues, being faced by religious minorities and their solutions. Arora emphasized the need to ensure

protection of rights of religious minorities and the necessity of adopting a joint action plan to address their issues on a priority basis. Sonia Asher also reiterated the commitment to remain united in safeguarding the rights of religious minorities. Coordinator Anil Sahotra, Focal Person Punjab Dawood Sharif Sahotra, former MPA Tariq Masih Gul, Kamran Bhatti and Akab Alam were also present on that occasion.

International News

Dozens more killed as Israel continues attacks on Lebanon

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Israel's military said it had hit Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters in the Lebanese capital, as troops battled the group's fighters near the border and warplanes bombed their strongholds around the country, killing dozens of people over the past 24 hours. The Israeli army's death toll from fighting in southern Lebanon also rose to nine. "Captain Ben Zion Falach, aged 21... fell yesterday (Wednesday), during combat in southern Lebanon," the army said in a statement. Hezbollah also carried out new strikes, targeting what it called Israel's "Sakhnin base" for military industries in Haifa Bay on the Mediterranean coast of northern Israel with a salvo of rockets.

Israel announced this week that its troops had started "ground raids" into parts of southern Lebanon, a stronghold of Hezbollah, after days of heavy bombardment of areas across the country where the group holds sway. The bombing has killed more than 1,000 people, according to Lebanon's health ministry, and forced hundreds of thousands to flee their homes in a country already mired in economic and political crisis. Israel, which has been launching attacks in Gaza since last year after the Oct 7 attack, says it shifted its focus to secure its northern border and ensure the safe return of more than 60,000 people displaced by Hezbollah attacks over the past year. Hezbollah says it has

repelled several land operations by Israeli troops, including with ambushes and in direct clashes. Lebanese security sources say Israeli troops have entered Lebanese territory and been pushed back several times in recent days, without setting up a permanent presence. Rocket sirens wailed constantly in northern Israeli towns, sending residents running for shelter, as Hezbollah kept up its cross-border fire. The Israeli military said it hit "targets belonging to Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters in Beirut", Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported three air strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs, with a source close to Hezbollah telling AFP the target was an evacuated building that housed the group's media relations office.



A view of damaged buildings and debris in the aftermath of a strike amid ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, in Beirut's southern suburbs, Lebanon.

Russia decides 'at highest level' to remove Afghan Taliban from terrorist list

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia's foreign ministry said on Friday that a decision to remove the Afghan Taliban from a list of terrorist organisations had been "taken at the highest level", the state TASS news agency reported. The decision needs to be followed up with various legal procedures in order to make it a reality, President Vladimir Putin's special representative on Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov, was quoted as saying. Putin said in July that Russia "considers Afghanistan's Taliban movement an ally in the fight against terrorism."

Russia has been slowly building ties with the Taliban since it seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021 as US-led forces withdrew after 20 years, but the movement is still officially outlawed in Russia. No country has formally recognised the Taliban as the country's legitimate leadership, although China and the UAE have accepted its ambassadors. Russia added the Taliban to its list of terrorist organisations in 2003. Removing it would be an important step by Moscow towards normalising relations with Afghanistan.

Putin said in July that Russia "considers Afghanistan's Taliban movement an ally in the fight against terrorism."

Putin said in July that Russia "considers Afghanistan's Taliban movement an ally in the fight against terrorism."

Supreme Court will weigh Mexico's \$10 billion lawsuit against U.S. gun makers

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The Supreme Court said Friday it will decide whether to block a \$10 billion lawsuit Mexico filed against leading U.S. gun manufacturers over allegations their commercial practices have helped caused much bloodshed there. The gun makers asked the justices to undo an appeals court ruling that allowed the lawsuit to go forward despite broad legal protections for the firearm industry. A federal judge has since tossed out the bulk of the lawsuit on other legal grounds, but Mexico could appeal that dismissal. Mexico argues the companies knew weapons were being sold to traffickers who smuggled them into Mexico and decided to cash in on that market. The government estimates 70% of the weapons trafficked into Mexico come from the United States. The defendants include big-name manufacturers such as Smith & Wesson, Beretta, Colt and

Glock. They say Mexico has not shown the industry has purposely done anything to allow the weapons to be used by cartels and is trying to "bully" gunmakers into adopting gun-control measures. Originally filed in 2021, the lawsuit was initially tossed out by a district court who cited legal protections for gun makers from damages resulting from criminal use of firearms. Mexico's Sheinbaum keeps doing morning briefings, though her style is unlike her predecessor's. But the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals revived the case under an exception to that law. The gunmakers appealed that ruling to the Supreme Court, arguing they have followed lawful practices and the case has no business in American courts. U.S. District Judge F. Dennis Saylor in Boston again dismissed the case against six of the eight companies in August.

US discusses strikes on Iran oil sites as Israel presses Lebanon offensive

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: The United States is discussing strikes on Iran's oil facilities as retaliation for Tehran's missile attack on Israel, President Joe Biden said on Thursday (Oct 3), while Israel's military pressed ahead with its campaign against Iran-backed armed group Hezbollah in Lebanon. As Israel weighs its options after its arch-foe Iran launched its largest-ever assault on Tuesday, Biden was asked whether he would support Israel striking Iran's oil facilities. "We're discussing that," Biden told reporters. His comments contributed to a surge in global oil prices, and rising Middle East tensions have made traders worry about potential supply disruptions.

"There is nothing going to happen today," Biden said. On Wednesday, the president said he would not support any Israeli strike on Iran's nuclear sites. Israel's United Nations Ambassador Danny Danon told CNN on Thursday his country has "a lot of options" for retaliation and would show Tehran its strength "soon". A US official said Washington does not believe Israel has decided yet how to respond to Iran. Beirut's southern suburb of Dahiyeh, a stronghold of the Iran-backed armed group Hezbollah, came under renewed strikes near midnight on Thursday after Israel ordered people to leave their homes in parts of the district, residents and security sources said.

French 'Golden Owl' treasure hunt ends after 31 years

Monitoring Desk PARIS: A mass treasure hunt launched in France in 1993 appeared to have been solved on Thursday, with the guardian of the elusive "Golden Owl" prize saying someone had finally found it. The find marks the end of a three-decade search across France and a string of legal and financial battles over the Owl, which has inspired thousands of people to test their grey matter against riddles set by a long-dead man. "We confirm that the replica of the Golden Owl was dug up overnight," Michel Becker wrote on a Discord forum used by would-be sleuths to collaborate on the puzzle. The forum has more than 7,000 participants. "Don't go digging", he urged others who might think they had also worked out the answer.

North Korea's Kim threatens to use nukes if attacked

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his country would use nuclear weapons "without hesitation" if attacked by the South and ally the United States, state media reported on Friday. Relations between the two Koreas are at one of their lowest points in decades, with Seoul this week staging a military parade where it showcased its bunker-busting "monster" missile and President Yoon Suk Yeol warned Kim that using

nukes would mean the end of his regime. Pyongyang has also been bombarding the South with balloons carrying bags of trash, and a fresh flurry was seen floating over Seoul early on Friday by AFP reporters. Seoul's military confirmed it had detected the balloons launches overnight. If an enemy's forces were "encroaching upon the sovereignty" of the North, Pyongyang would "use without hesitation all the offensive forces it has possessed, including nuclear weapons."

Hundreds of Americans leave Lebanon on US contract flights

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: The U.S. State Department says some 350 American citizens, green card holders and family members have now left Lebanon on US-organized contract flights this week. The department announced the new number — up by about 100 since Thursday — after another flight from Beirut landed early Friday in Frankfurt, Germany. The flight had the capacity to carry 300 passengers but only 97 people were aboard, it said.

Iran's Foreign Minister warns his country will retaliate harshly if Israel carries out an attack on

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: Iran's Foreign Minister warns his country will retaliate harshly if Israel carries out an attack on Iran. Iran's Foreign Minister is warning Israel that if it carries out an attack on Iran, Tehran will retaliate harshly. "If the Israeli entity takes any step or measure against us, our retaliation will be stronger than the previous one," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said, referring to this week's attack on Israel with 180 missiles. Araghchi made the

comments Friday after meeting Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Nabih Berrri in Beirut. The minister said that Iran's attack on Israel was in "legitimate self defense" after its attacks on Iran and the Iranian consulate in Syria in April. He said Iran backs any step that leads to a cease-fire between Israel and Hezbollah but added this will only happen when a cease-fire in Gaza goes into effect. He said Iran backs any cease-fire on the condition that it "preserves the right of the Lebanese people.

Malaysia PM to visit Bangladesh, focus on labour issues

Monitoring Desk DHAKA: Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim is set to arrive in Bangladesh on Friday for talks primarily focused on labour issues, according to Dhaka officials. This will mark the first high-level visit by a foreign head of government since the interim administration, led by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus, assumed office following the resignation of Sheikh Hasina's government in August.

Govt working on digitalization of revenue record for establishing good governance: Asim Kurd

says no injustice would be done with stakeholders

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Revenue, Mir Muhammad Asim Kurd has stated that the provincial government is working on digitalization of the revenue record of land for establishing good governance in the department.

He announced that the process of settlement of land would be started in Hub soon.

Mir Muhammad Asim Kurd was speaking to the media persons during his visit to Hub the other day.

The Provincial Minister Revenue said that the basic objective of his visit is to review the public complaints about board of revenue and settlement in the area.

He on the occasion said that the process of settlement would be completed in Hub district in

transparent manner.

He said that the necessary directives have been issued to the revenue officers according to the settlement manual. During the process, no injustice would be made with any stakeholder during the settlement, the Minister Revenue assured.

He said that the credit of digitalization of the revenue record goes to the incumbent government.

He said that it is our firm resolve to remove the public complaints regarding board of revenue. In this regard, open courts would be conducted to resolve the issues and thus ensure good governance, he added.

Meanwhile, the Minister inspected the record room of settlements and got briefing from the concerned officials. He directed to the concerned to ensure preservation of the land record.



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani distributing shields among participants during concluding ceremony of Community Mobilization Strategy training organized by Dara ul Amal Welfare Organization

ECP appoints DRO, RO, ARO for re-polling in 15 Polling Stations of PB-45, Quetta-III

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has appointed District Returning Officer, Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer for conducting re-polling in 15 polling stations of PB-45, Quetta-VIII.

According to the notification of ECP issued the other day, the Additional Commissioner Quetta, Soban Saleem Dashti has been appointed as the DRO while Additional Deputy Commissioner Quetta (General), Muhammad Anwar Khan Kakar and

Tehsilidar Quetta Sadar, Abdul Karim have been appointed as Returning Officer and Returning Officer respectively.

It may be mentioned here that the re-polling in 15 polling stations of the PB-45, Quetta-VIII is scheduled to be conducted on October 17, 2024.

The ECP has already issued schedule for conducting repolling in the polling stations of the constituency. The Election Tribunal comprising Mr. Justice Abdullah Baloch had ordered to conduct re-polling in 15 polling station.

Awareness drive to be launched for prevention of narcotics in educational institutions

Independent Report
QUETTA: The district administration has decided to launch awareness campaign for prevention of the use of narcotics in educational institutions of Quetta.

The religious leaders would be engaged in the awareness campaign to be launched in schools, colleges, universities and madaris.

The decision to this effect was made in a meeting chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), Muhammad Anwar here the other day.

In the meeting, teams were formed in all subdivisions of Quetta. These teams included: Assistant

Commissioner of the respective areas, main Khateeb as well as the representatives of Police and Anti-Narcotics Force.

The teams would run the awareness campaign together with the religious scholars in educational institutions, it was decided.

Addressing the meeting, Additional Deputy Commissioner Quetta said that the role of religious scholars is important for prevention of narcotics.

He said that religious scholars would also highlight the issue in their speeches and sermons against use of narcotics in the mosques.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for PHE Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran listening problems of medical students

All Parties announce protest against gas suspension in Chiltan Town

Independent Report
QUETTA: Leaders of various political parties, including Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, National Party, Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, and Balochistan Awami Party, have jointly condemned the suspension of gas supply to Chiltan Town, Hazarganji, Quetta.

In a press conference at Jamiat House, they threatened to stage an indefinite protest on Western Bypass if the gas supply is not restored within a week.

The leaders, including

Maulana Muhammad Tahir Tahidi, Abdul Aleem Kebzal, Hamid Khan, and Dr. Zafarullah Jatak, termed the suspension as "inhumane" and "discriminatory" against 400-plus bill-paying consumers.

They demanded immediate restoration of gas supply with pressure, action against gas thieves, not paying consumers, resolution of Chiltan Town's basic issues.

The parties will launch a door-to-door contact campaign from Sunday and prepare for the protest.



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif bidding farewell to Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim before his departure at PAF Nur Khan Air Base in Rawalpindi.

Malaysian PM calls for exploring untapped trade potential with Pakistan

I S L A M A B A D (APP): Prime Minister of Malaysia Anwar Ibrahim has stressed the need to utilize the untapped potential of trade and economic collaboration with Pakistan in diverse areas including minerals, new energy resources, food, industry, and information technology.

The Malaysian PM, in an interview with PTV on Friday, expressed optimism about the future of Pakistan-Malaysia relations. "The time is ripe. I had a detailed discussion with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to pursue collaboration in all these fields."

He said there was enormous untapped potential in trade in which bilateral collaboration could help develop the respective economies.

He specifically praised Pakistan's rich history in education, research and nuclear development,

especially during 1970s.

Reflecting on Malaysia's progress in the region, particularly in the semiconductor industry and digital transformation, the prime minister said that his country was ahead in the semiconductor industry in the region from which Pakistan could also take benefit.

PM Anwar Ibrahim, expressing his personal interest in Pakistan, said, "I chose Pakistan and engaged with its prime minister closely because we both see enormous untapped potential. We can learn from each other and collaborate for mutual benefit."

To a question, he emphasized the importance of collaboration within the ASEAN region and beyond. "ASEAN is fortunate to be considered an economically vibrant region, and the potential is enormous."

However, he stressed



LASBELLA: Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism and Culture Nawabzada Zareen Magsi addressing khuli kutchery in Circuit House Uthal

Irfan Siddiqui calls on PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Muslim League-N Parliamentary Leader in the Senate Senator Irfan Siddiqui on Friday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here and discussed the matters related to the parliamentary party in Senate and the country's overall political situation.

Senator Irfan Siddiqui briefed the prime minister about the performance of the PML-N's parliamentary party in the Senate, according to a PM Office press release.

Discussing the political matters, he apprised the prime minister of the details of his recent meeting with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

Counters being set up in hospitals on health card panel for patients: CEO

QUETTA (APP): Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Health Card Balochistan Dr. Samiullah Kakar on Friday said that counters were being set up in the hospitals on the health card panel for the convenience of the patients and the public.

He expressed these views while talking on the occasion of his visit to Balochistan Institute of Nephro-Urology.

The CEO said that the transparency of all administrative and financial affairs of Health Card should be prioritized in any case and any illegal action would not be acceptable.

Dr. Samiullah Kakar also inspected the list of admitted patients at the counter of Balochistan Health Card established in Balochistan Institute of Nephro-Urology.

Dr. Samiullah Kakar, CEO of Balochistan Institute of Nephrology Hospital, Prof. Dr. Syed Liaquat Agha and Dr. Faisal discussed in detail the important issues related to health card system and kidney transplant in Kidney Hospital.



QUETTA: Chief of UNHCR Quetta meeting with Inspector General of Police Moazzam Jah Ansari

Big catch-up vaccination campaign launched to boost immunization coverage across Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The big catch-up campaign was launched by the Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) here on Friday.

The bit catch-up drive launched with support of the UNICEF and WHO is aimed at boosting immunization coverage across the province, particularly for children who have missed routine vaccinations.

The provincial launching ceremony of the campaign was held at the Basic Health Unit (BHU), Wahdat Colony here.

The Director General of Health, Dr. Amin Khan Mandokhail, Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Saad Bin Asad, Provincial Coordinator of EPI, Dr. Kamalan Gichki, and other concerned officials of Health department, district administration and representatives of the UNICEF and WHO were present at the launching ceremony.

Addressing the launching ceremony, the Deputy Commissioner Quetta said that the vaccination of left over children would be done during the big catch-up drive.

He said that the basic aim of the campaign is to save the children from measles, polio and other diseases. In first phase of the big catch-up drive, some 44,000 children below five years of age would be vaccinated, the Deputy Commissioner added.

Director General Health, Dr. Amin Khan Mandokhail expressed deep concern over increasing cases of poliovirus in Balochistan. He said that reemergence of polio cases in Balochistan is matter of great concern.

The Director General Health said that the parents refusing to the vaccination poses threat to the whole society regarding polio disease.

At UN Pakistan reaffirms pledge to crush Indian-sponsored terrorism, sparking clash

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan, despite being a terrorism victim, has the will, determination and capability to defeat externally-sponsored scourge, "ironically" aided and financed by India, a senior Pakistani diplomat has told a UN panel on Thursday.

"We have led the fight against terrorism over the last two decades," Ambassador Usman Jadoon, acting permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, said during a debate in the General Assembly's Legal (sixth) Committee on "Measures to eliminate International Terrorism".

Noting that this menace continues to mutate into various new forms, he underscored the need for UN's counter-terrorism architecture to incorporate

the new types and cyber-tools of terrorism, including cryptocurrencies and online terrorism recruitment.

Ambassador Jadoon also called for addressing the unresolved conflicts, foreign occupation and denial of right to self-determination, especially in Kashmir and Palestine, in order to completely wipe out terrorism that has spread across the world.

Ambassador Jadoon's pointed words on Indian-sponsored terrorism and occupation of Kashmir drew a response from a delegate of India, asserting well-known claims on disputed territory that a Pakistani delegate rejected in his right to reply.

At the outset of his speech, Ambassador



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong meets with Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal ahead of the upcoming historic visit of Chinese Premier, Li Qiang.

Ahsan Iqbal, Chinese envoy discuss strategic initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong on Friday discussed key strategic initiatives between the two countries, with a focus on the upcoming visit of the Chinese premier.

The discussion was held during a call on meeting of the ambassador with the minister ahead of the upcoming historic visit of Chinese Premier Li Qiang, marking a significant milestone in China-Pakistan relations after 11 years.

Both the dignitaries emphasized that the visit presented a strategic opportunity to further deepen bilateral cooperation and achieve meaningful outcomes. To ensure the success of the visit, they agreed to establish a dedicated working group that would focus specifically on aligning and maximizing the outcomes of Premier Li's visit.

During the discussion, Minister Ahsan Iqbal praised China's unwavering support in Pakistan's development journey, particularly in infrastructure, energy, and industrialization. He highlighted the strategic importance of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for Pakistan's economic revival and regional connectivity.

The minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to providing all necessary facilitation to ensure the smooth execution of ongoing projects.

He also stressed that Pakistan remained focused on overcoming economic

challenges through long-term partnerships that promote inclusive growth.

He assured the ambassador that any obstacles impeding the progress of critical projects would be addressed on a priority basis to ensure their timely completion.

Ambassador Jiang Zaidong expressed his satisfaction with Pakistan's economic growth, policy continuity, business environment, and security.

He praised the progress made under the current government. "Pakistan's GDP grew from 0.9% last fiscal year to 2.8% this year, and we foresee it reaching 3.2% in the upcoming fiscal year."

"The improvement in foreign exchange reserves is also a positive sign for Pakistan's economy."

Health dept foils attempt to embezzle Rs. 220million

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Balochistan Health Department has thwarted an attempt by Taha Traders, a pharmaceutical company, to embezzle 220 million rupees through fake bills.

An inquiry committee, established by the Secretary Health Balochistan, discovered that Taha Traders had submitted bogus bills for 22 crore 12 lakh 72 thousand 800 rupees, despite being contracted to supply medicines worth only 63 lakh 65 thousand 840 rupees in 2019.

The inquiry committee, comprising Additional Secretary Development Health Department Arif Achakzai, Logistic Officer Dr. Ghulam Mustafa, and Additional Director MSD Dr. Ismail Mirovani, found that Taha Traders had falsified records and obtained fake signatures from officials.

Taha Traders submitted bills for 220 million rupees, exceeding the contracted amount by 219 million rupees.



KHUZDAR: Provincial Minister Mir Sadiq Umrani meeting with former Chief Minister Balochistan, MPA Nawab Sanaullah Zehri

UoG to host 1st Int'l conference on Gwadar's significance as regional, commercial hub

QUETTA (APP): The CPEC Study Center at the University of Gwadar (UoG) is set to organize a prestigious two-day 1st international conference on the theme "Significance of Gwadar as a Regional and Commercial Hub: History, Challenges, Opportunities, and the Way Forward."

The conference, expected to attract scholars, policymakers, business leaders, and experts from around the world, will take place on November 5th-6th, 2024, at the University of Gwadar.

The primary objective of the conference is to delve into the strategic importance of Gwadar, a key city in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), in shaping the economic landscape of the region and beyond, the event will feature a range of sessions that explore Gwadar's historical

context, the challenges it faces, the opportunities available, and strategies for ensuring its sustainable growth as a commercial hub.

The conference will host renowned national and international experts, including academicians, policy analysts, diplomats, business representatives, and industry leaders. Their diverse perspectives will contribute to insightful discussions on how Gwadar can maximize its potential and overcome the challenges it faces.

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Gwadar, Prof. Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir, along with the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Manzoor, emphasized the importance of this conference in fostering meaningful dialogue about Gwadar's future as a strategic and economic hub.

Man gunned down in Kalat

QUETTA (APP): Unknown armed men shot dead a man near Narmuk area of Kalat district on Friday.

According to Levies sources, the victim was on way to some where when armed assailants opened fire at him and fled from the scene.

As a result, a man named Jan Muhammad died on the spot after receiving bullet wounds.

The body of deceased was handed over to the heirs after completion of medico legal formalities.

The motive behind the killing could not be ascertained so far.



QUETTA: Director General Health Amin Mandokhail and Deputy Commissioner Quetta Lt (Retd) Saad bin Asad addressing a Press conference