Inachentent

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Qatar pledges to invest \$3bn in Pakistan: **Atta Tarar**

Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Friday said Qatar would make an signing or investment of \$3 billion in diverse sectors which would have a significant \$2.2 billion investment, impact on the national during the successful visit economy and ultimately of a high-level Saudi delbenefit the masses.

A delegation from Oatar would soon visit Pakistan to materialize Faleh, a few weeks ago the investment pledge,

ISLAMABAD (APP): Shehbaz Sharif who Minister for Information, charted the country on path of economic

The minister recalled signing of 27 Memoranda Understanding (MoUs), amounting to egation, led by Minister for Investment Sheikh Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Al which included fruitful



said the minister while addressing a news conference which mainly highlighted the substantive economic gains, achieved by Pakistan with the recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to

Saudi Arabia and Qatar. He congratulated the whole nation on the foreign policy and economic achievements made by Pakistan under the leader- tive (FII) in Riyadh," Tarar ship of Prime Minister of noted.

government-to-government and business-to-business meetings

"In a follow-up of that visit, the prime minister has had very productive meetings in Saudi Arabia that also included his meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on the sidelines of the eighth session of the Future Investment Initia-



DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with a delegation of Qatar Busi-

PM invites Qatari businessmen to invest in Pakistan's energy, infrastructure

Sharif on Friday met a delegation of the Qatar Businessmen Association (QBA) where he highlighted numerous opportunities in Pakistan's energy, infrastructure, and finance sectors, presenting the country as an attractive investment destination.

The QBA delegation, led by Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al-Thani, comprised

DOHA (APP): Prime Min- leading Qatari business fig- nity, emphasizing shared Mohammed Jaidah; Chair ister Muhammad Shehbaz ures, each representing influential sectors within Qatar's economy. The meeting was held during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's two-day official visit to Qatar aimed at discussing deepening economic ties and exploring new avenues for collaboration.

The meeting brought together key representatives from Pakistan and in-

goals for strengthening trade, investment, and economic partnerships.

Notable QBA members present included Vice Chairman & CEO of Al Mana Group Saod Bin Omar Bin Hamad Al-Mana; Executive Director of Mannai Corporation Khalid Ahmed Al Mannai; Chairman MENA & Chief fluential members of Country Officer of ergy, technology, and in Qatar's business commu-Deutsche Bank Salah structure development.

man of Mansoor Jassim Al Thani Group Sheikh Mansoor bin Jassim Al Thani; CEO of Blue Salon Nabil Abu Issa; and Director of Sendian Group Yousuf Ebrahim Al-Mahmoud. Each of these delegates expressed interest in Pakistan's economic landscape, particularly in upcoming projects in energy, technology, and infra

Senate committee okays increase in SC judges to 25 amidst debate

ISLAMABAD (INP): gested focusing on the effion Law and Justice has approved a proposal to increase the number of Supreme Court judges from the current count to 25, including one Chief Justice and 24 judges.

The committee members debated on the rational to increase judges' number in the apex court as there treasury benches members advocated need for additional judges to manage the high case backlog in the Supreme Court.

Senator Hamid Khan and Senator Kamran Murtaza opposed the increase, with Senator Murtaza arguing that recent vacancies were strategic and that the Supreme Court should be consulted on the necessity of more judges.

Senator Hamid Khan raised concerns over financial constraints and sug-

Senate Standing Committee ciency of existing resources, particularly as Pakistan faces economic challenges.

On the other hand, Senator Shahadat Awan voiced strong support, noting that with an estimated 60,000 pending cases, at least 21 judges are essential.

Senator Abdul Qadir further argued that Pakistan's growing population and rising crime rates necessitate a larger judiciary, pointing out that the current number of judges remains unchanged since 1995. He highlighted that vacancies persist in the provincial high courts as well.

The 26th constitu-

tional amendment and international comparisons were also discussed, with committee members contrasting Pakistan's judicial system with those of countries like England, Bangladesh, India, and Indonesia



ISLAMABAD: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, called on Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Govt committed to provide more resources for Balochistan's development: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): the House that restructur-Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives. Ahsan Iabal Friday said that the Federal Government was committed to utilising all resources for the development of the

Balochistan province. Responding to a question during the ongoing 343rd session of the Upper House, he informed that a total of 200 PSDP projects were underway in Balochistan, with an estimated cost of 1429 billion rupees. He said an amount of 130 billion rupees had been earmarked for the PSDP in 2024-25 while more allocation of funds would be ensured for the uplift of the Balochistan projects.

However, he stressed the importance of improving the administrative capacity of provinces for better service delivery of by planning ministry. funds and resources after

allocations. Meanwhile, Minister for Industries and Produc-

replying to a question told

to make it more viable in terms of business and its day-to-day operations

The Minister said that during the restructuring the rights of the utility Stores' employees would be safeguarded. Ahsan Iqbal here on

Friday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress on the transfer of Pak Public Works Department (Pak PWD) projects to provincial governments under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

The meeting was briefed by the Additional Secretary of Housing and Works on the progress of the project transfer, according to press release issued

According to the update, all Pak PWD projects allocated to Punjab have been successfully handed tion, Rana Tanveer Hussain over to the provincial government.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development, Ahsan Iqbal chaired a meeting to review the progress on the transfer of Pak Public Works Department (Pak PWD) projects to provincial governments under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) in Islamabad.

ECC approves supplementary grant of Rs 1.8bn for overhaul of engines of 2 VVIP aircrafts

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Sena-Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC)

of the Cabinet on Friday. The meeting was attended by Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, Minister for Planning, Develop-ment & Special Initiatives Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Minis-

ter of State for Finance

and Revenue Mr. Ali

Pervaiz Malik, Governor

SBP (virtual) and Chair-

ISLAMABAD (INP): man SECP (virtual), along with Federal Secretaries and senior officers from the concerned Ministries and Divisions.

The ECC considered a proposal from the Ministry of National Food Security & Research for allocation of domestic and imported wheat stocks of PASSCO among wheatdeficient agencies/regions for Food Year 2024-25.

The ECC discussed the issue threadbare and decided that domestic and imported wheat would be allocated and released by PASSCO based on allocation ratio decided by ECC on 1st February 2024.

Single line in SC order can prolong cases for up to 18 years: CJP

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Yahya Afridi, has stated that even a single line in a Supreme Court order can sometimes result in cases being prolonged for up to 18 years. He assured that in his rulings, he would avoid any observations that might lead to the reopening of cases. Chief Justice Afridi's remarks came during a hearing of a land dispute case, presided over by a two-member bench he led.

During the session, the petitioner's lawyer requested a written directive from the court, suggesting that they be advised to approach the relevant forum.

In response, Chief Justice Afridi explained that while hearing an appeal against ctions raised by the Registrar's Office, he observed that a single st Supreme Court could result in cases extending unnecessarily.

He emphasised that no such observation would be made in his rulings that could lead to further litigation at lower levels.

Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan added that petitioners have the option to approach the relevant forum without a written directive from the court.

Following this, the court denied the request for an observation to approach an



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain chaired 22nd Board of Directors meeting of SMEDA.

cop among 9 martyred, 33 injured in Mastung blast CM pledges to take revenge of blood of innocent

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb,

chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) at the

Terrorists target innocent children in Mastung:

5 students & one police

children & persons, fight terrorism together

Independent Report QUETTA: As many as nine persons including five students and one police cop were killed while 33 others -mostly children-got injured in a remote control bomb explosion near a Girls

Finance Division in Islamabad.

city on Friday morning. The reports reaching here suggested that the remote control explosive de-

High school in Mastung

torcycle near the Girls High school which went off with

a big bang. As a result of the blast, five children, a police constable and a passerby were killed while 35 others mostly children -injured.

Two of the injured succumbed to serious wounds in the hospitals. Soon after the blast, the

vice was planted in a mo-police, local administration and rescue teams reached the spot of explosion and started rescue operation The bodies of deceased children and others and injured persons were shifted to the local hospitals of Mastung including District Headquarter Hospital and Nawab Ghous Bakhsh Me-

SC (Practice **Amendment** Ordinance,

morial Hospital for treat-

laid in Senate ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2024 (Ordinance No, VIII of 2024) was laid in the Senate on Friday. Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar laid before the Senate the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2024 (Ordinance No. VIII of 2024), as required by clause (2) of Article 89 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic

& Procedure)

of Pakistan. The Deputy Chairman Senate referred the bill to the concerned stand-

anti-Terrorism Act ISLAMABAD (INP): The current laws do not adfederal government has approved amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997, to address escalating security threats in Balochistan.

Govt approves

amendments to

Sources confirm that the Ministry of Interior presented the proposal during a recent federal cabinet meeting, emphasizing the need for enhanced legal measures in light of the province's security challenges. The Ministry of Interior briefed the cabinet on the evolving security landscape in Balochistan, pointing out that insurgent and terrorist networks have become increasingly coordinated.

The cabinet was informed of the recent violent incidents across the region. which have resulted in the loss of lives and damage to critical infrastructure. Ministry sources stressed that

equately address these integrated threats, necessitating stronger legal tools to enable a more effective response. The approved amendments grant expanded authority to the Pakistan Army, Civil Armed Forces, and law enforcement agencies, allowing them to detain individuals suspected of terrorist activities proactively.

These amendments also include changes to Section 111EEE of the Anti-Terrorism Act, which will provide security forces with legal protection for preemptive action against potential threats.

Additionally, the amendments will allow for the formation of Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) composed of intelligence and law enforcement agencies.

PM expresses gratitude to Amir of Qatar for warm hospitality

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani for his warm hospi tality during his two-day visit to Qatar.

"My sincere gratitude to Your Highness for your exceptionally warm hospi tality!," he wrote on X in response to post written by Amir of Qatar. "Pakistan deeply cher-

ishes and values its special friendship with Qatar," he added. In his post, Amir Tamim Bin Hamad emphasized the growing relationship, stating, "Today, I discussed with PM Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif the prospects for expanding bilateral coopera tion in various fields

Opposition slams govt for increasing petrol, diesel prices \$67 barrel internationally

QUETTA: A view of damage vehicle at blast site

near a school in Mastung district.

ISLAMABAD (INP): Opposition parties including the Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) and Jamaate-Islami have strongly criticised the government for increasing the price of petroleum commodities, stating that it would further increase the burden on the already inflation-hit masses. Hours after surge in the petroleum prices, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman on Friday demanded cut in the petroleum products

In a statement, the JI emir said the petrol price on the people," he rehad been reduced below

while stressing that the government should also lower the petrol by Rs30. He criticised the government for imposing petroleum levy of Rs60 by saying that it was unfair that the people had to pay extra money for the purchase of oil. He claimed that eco-

nomic activity would be generated once the petroleum levy would be lifted.

"The government had failed to privatise the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) that's why it was venting its frustration



Senator Umer Farooq, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum presiding over a meeting of the Committee at Parliament House.

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

Seeking investment

Saudi Arabia has agreed to increase its promised investment in Pakistan by another \$600m to \$2.8bn, with Riyadh signing seven more MoUs during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's just-concluded visit to

A Saudi delegation, led by the Saudi investment minister, had concluded 27 MoUs worth \$2.2bn in Islamabad last month. The decision to boost the volume of Saudi investment in Pakistan was made after Mr Sharif's "very productive" meetings in Riyadh. According to the Saudis, some of the MoUs have resulted in exports from Pakistan in agriculture and other sectors. After his Saudi visit, the premier reached Doha to woo Qatari investors to Pakistan. For over a year, Pakistan has been chasing official and private investments in state-owned enterprises, agriculture, oil and gas exploration, the aviation industry, mining and other sectors of the economy. Initially, we were told that three friendly Gulf nations — Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar had pledged to invest \$25bn each in Pakistan over the next five years. The previous Shehbaz Sharif government also set up the military-backed Special Investment Facilitation Council to provide 'prospective' Gulf investors some comfort on policy consis-

As time passed, Islamabad continued to adjust its Gulf investment expectations downward to more realistic levels. Even then, only a fraction of what was promised has actually flowed into Pakistan: a small Emirati investment in Karachi's port infrastructure and the Saudi acquisition of shareholding in a Pakistani oil marketing company. Contrary to officials' claims, no Qatari or other investors from these countries have shown an interest in PIA or Islamabad airport, which the government is struggling to disinvest. In fact, the Saudi announcement to increase its promised investment in Pakistan coincided with all but one bidder pulling back from the process of the airline's sale. Potential Chinese investment under CPEC's second phase also appears a distant possibility because of security concerns. China is upset not only over the terrorist attacks against its nationals working in Pakistan but also the narrative built around the power plants set up under the CPEC plan. The one-sided revisions in their contracts being imposed on private power producers and their vilification is not helping investor confidence either. With our investment climate deteriorating amid a worsening balance-of-payments crisis and political instability, we have seen several foreign companies exit the Pakistani market in recent years. We can appreciate the PM touring one country after another to sell Pakistan's 'unrealised economic potential' to bring in the foreign investment needed to shore up our shaky international reserves and accelerate economic growth. But these efforts will be fruitless unless he first focuses on crucial structural and policy reforms in areas that directly affect investors. Indeed, policy consistency and sanctity of contracts top the list of these reforms

Language tyranny

Zubeida Mustafa

Since an education emergency was declared in discourse with a bang. Seminars are being held frequently while the media has been addressing language policy that is in the issue much more place. than before. But nothing is changing on the

ground. In this bleak scenario, comes a heartwarming announcement.

Baela Raza Jamil, the dynamic CEO of Idara-i-Taaleem-o-Agahi (ITA) has been awarded the Global Education Medal is one of the rare ones in the education sector in Pakistan who has walked the talk and her undertakings have had an impact on millions.

She launched the Pakistan Learning Festival that has been an informal learning experience for thousands of children since 2011. She set up ASER (Pakistan) in 2008 to test children's learning outcome all over the country. Of late, she has made her debut as a publisher of children's books. What is important is her inclusive approach vis-à-vis the indigenous languages in her scheme of

It is unfortunate that Baela's recommendations on various educational problems have failed to move our policymakers with whom she has constantly engaged. An issue that has bothered me for decades now — Baela understands my concern — is that of the language of education. It appears that government, socieducationists, school managers and even parents have joined hands to 'tyrannise' the joys of childhood at the

'altar of the English lan-

demics now discreetly concede that an overwhelming majority of Pakistan — for the sec- teachers are not profiond time - education cient in English and that has entered the public affects their pedagogic performance. Yet no initiative has been taken to change the ambivalent

> Neither is there any advocacy campaign to create awareness of the stupidity of imposing the English language on young children in the initial phase of their school-

ing. Not being familiar

with it they are overawed by it. If the mother for the Asian region. It is tongue or the language to Baela's credit that she of the environment is used in early childhood and a few years of primary education, children will find school to be a friendly and welcoming place. The transition to another language will be painless when the change-over is gradual and takes place at an appropriate stage when the student is psychologi-

cally and mentally ready

There is something seriously wrong with the hybrid pedagogy which allows the teacher to speak in Urdu, while the books are in English, and the students are expected to speak, read and write in English. This pattern will continue until the language factor is taken into account. It may be added that the child will be dumbed and will rote learn and never

be able to think critically. The fact is that we are regressing. Until last year, Sindh had, relatively speaking, a sane language in education

the medium of instruction in all public sector schools was Sindhi and Urdu in areas inhabited by Sindhi and Urdu speakers respecchild and sacrifice the tively. Each community learned the other's language as a compulsory ge'. second language. The language policy in Some government private schools, how-vogue. -- Courtesy Dawn

functionaries and aca- ever, were inadvisably left to their own devices.

Today, under the unwritten orders of a district education officer, English is the medium of instruction in specified public sector schools in District South of Karachi. We shall never know about the disastrous impact of this policy because the ever-obliging examination board is infamous for producing desired results that are not a valid assessment candidates

As a consequence,

education has lost all credibility. The focus is now on qua-ntity. The 26 million out-of-school child-ren in Pakistan have become a scourge for the country. Pa--radoxically in this dismal scenario, language — the divider between the rich and the poor — finds no mention. And it will not. Our neoliberals and their backers know very well that the fast-growing inequity in our society has been spawned by our market-driven education system in which the rich attend upscale elite schools while the poor go to the tottering public sector and low-fee private institutions which cannot teach English. Who benefits from this class-ridden system? Of course the neo-liberals, who thrive in the globalised world of today. We cannot say we have not been warned. One has to read Robert Phillipson (Linguistic Imperialism), Paulo Freire (Pedagogy of the Op-Antonio pressed), Gramsci's views on language and education, and of course, Dr Maria Montessori (The Absor-

bent Mind). Those in a position of power have also managed to create a paradoxical condition of coercion and consent that ensures that there is no public resistance to the

Anti-polio efforts in Gaza

Muhammad Moazzam Tauheed

Polio remains endemic in only two countries: Pakistan and Afghanistan. Despite global efforts, nations still struggle with transmission, driven by misinformation, rumours, and conspiracy theories. Claims that the polio vaccine causes infertility or is part of foreign plots have fuelled vaccine hesitancy, preventing parents from vaccinating their children and delaying eradication. Antivaccine narratives, often spread by groups with local influence, lead many to refuse vaccinations, putting entire complications.

communities at risk. In contrast, regions that have successfully eradicated polio, such as Africa, Europe, and the Americas, do not experience the health crises predicted by conspiracy theorists. Instead, these countries benefit from healthier populations, free from the dangers of polio-induced paralysis.

Despite ongoing conflict, public health efforts in Gaza have managed to overcome vaccine opposition. In July, after reports emerged of polio strains found in Gaza due to damage to infrastructure and the to this preventable disdestructive effects of ease. war, the Israeli army began vaccinating soldiers in Gaza to prevent the spread of polio. Meanwhile, Palestinian officials, organisations, and resistance factions envaccinate and reject conspiracy theories. Palestinians, despite longstanding oppression and political challenges, have prioritised public health initiatives. health by supporting vaccinations.

Reports from independent sources, such as the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights

importance of polio pre- spectively.

This raises a critical question: if Palestinians facing severe challenges can overcome scepticism and embrace polio vaccination, why does hesitancy persist in Pakistan and Afghanistan? Global eradication efforts have demonstrated the power of vaccination, reducing polio cases by over 99 per cent worldwide. Both the inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) and the oral polio su--pported and particivaccine (OPV) are proven safe and effective, with extremely rare

face the health crises feared by anti-vaccine groups. Instead, they reap the benefits of a pounvaccinated communities continue to suffer from polio's devastating impact. Given these ask: if polio-free regions thrive without the feared complications, what continues to fuel vaccine hesitancy in Pakistan and Afghanistan? Vaccine resistance remains a

The presence of polio in these countries unmation and prioritise the people's well-being. Addeep-seated mistrust outcomes. and educational gaps.

significant barrier, leav-

Education is critical in forming a foundation for accepting public

Despite facing occupation, an environment of apartheid, and conflict, the Palestinian territories maintain a high literacy rate of Monitor, indicate that nearly 97 per cent, com-Israeli actions have hin- parable to developed dered vaccination efforts countries. In contrast,

in Gaza. Nevertheless, literacy rates in Afboth Palestinians and ghanistan and Pakistan Israelis acknowledge the are 37pc and 62pc, re-

Gender disparity in education is minimal in the Palestinian territories, where education for girls is robust, and female literacy nearly equals male literacy. However, in Pakistan and Afghanistan, particularly in the rural areas, significant gender gaps persist. This educational disparity also affects public health.

Palestinian fa--milies actively pated in the polio vaccin-ation campaign, with the World Health Organisation noting Nations that have that Gaza's polio vaccieradicated polio do not nations exceeded targets. In contrast, efforts in both Pakistan and Afghanistan encounter numerous challenges, lio-free population, while which include misinformation and logistical issues. Beyond delivering vaccines, it is crucial to improve sanitation, acfacts, it is essential to cess to clean water, and nutrition to bolster immunity and reduce vulnerability to polio.

Combating vaccine hesitancy demands dismantling myths and conspiracy theories. In Pakistan, the governing children vulnerable ment enforces strict tax policies, penalising non-filers and even blocking phone SIM cards. However, similar derscores the urgent measures are not apneed to combat misinfor- plied to polio campaigns. Incentivising families who vaccinate dressing vaccine hesi- and penalising refusals couraged the public to tancy requires tackling may improve campaign

Public health campaigns can succeed even in conflict zones when focused on protecting the population. By following Gaza's example, Pakistan and Afghanistan strengthen their efforts, dispel misinformation, and ultimately join the

ranks of nations that

have eradicated polio.

- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

5 key MoUs with Saudi Arabia now concrete contracts, create jobs: Dr Musadik Malik

Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik Memorandum Understanding (MOUs) signed with Saudi Arabia, predicting significant outcomes where around five of these MOUs have evolved into concrete contracts and transactions, which will likely boost

investment opportunities. In an exclusive interview with a private news channel, he said Pakistan's economy has received a significant boost of \$2.2 billion thanks to five Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) signed with Saudi Arabia, that this time would be events, he added.

employment

which have now become different. concrete contracts.

This development is substantial investments and create new job opportunities in various sectors, including industry, agriculture, IT, education, health, petroleum, mining,

further stated that some employment opponent had previously mocked the signing of Memorandum suggesting it was merely a tangible However, he emphasized

that these are not just optimistic about the expected to bring in MOUs on paper but actual transactions investments materializing,' Dr. Malik asserted.

He highlighted that around five of the MOUs have already translated energy and food, he into concrete contracts and transactions, paving the Dr. Musadik Malik way

investment opportunities in Pakistan. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have a long-Understanding (MOUs) standing "brotherly with Saudi Arabia, relationship, sharing common interests, values routine practice with little and a shared foreign policy outcome, outlook, particularly in regional and international

Shipping activity at

KARACHI (APP): Six Tucapel, PH Giang Minh, KS Camellia, Ginga Hawk and Sevilla Knutsen scheduled to load/offload Containers, Rice, Steel Coil, Chemicals, and NG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Grain Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Engro Vopak Terminal and Engro Elengy Terminal respectively on

more ships, Singapore Bulker, Hafnia Topaz, and MT Bolan scheduled to load/offload Rice and Gas oil are also arrived at outer anchorage during

during the last 24 hours. out of them five ships GFS Ruby, Tucapel, KS Camellia, Zarrar Hanif, and Arkas are expected to sail on Friday. Cargo volume of 189,543 tonnes, comprising 151,032 tonnes import cargo and 38,511 tonnes of export cargo carried in 3,237 Containers (1,600 TEUs Imports & 1,637

RIYADH: PAk Saudi Minister for investment Sh. Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz and Abdul Aleem Khan held meeting Musadaq Malik & senior officials joined. **Rana Tanveer says:** EV's policy to be announced on Nov 30

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of Food Security, Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Friday told the Senate that the Electric Vehicle (EV) policy would be announced on November 30 to promote

manufacturing of EVs and ensure a sustainable transport system.

Replying to the question of Senator Żeeshan Khanzada in the 343rd session of the Upper House, the minister informed that the Engineering Development Board mandated for issuance of vehicles

manufacturing certificates had issued 51 certificates to produce two and threewheeler EVs (motorcycles

He added that for the manufacturing of EV 4wheeler, licences had been issued to two companies including Eco Green Motors Pvt Ltd and Regal Automobile Pvt Ltd.

minister informed that 40 sites had been selected for setting up the Charging stations on the Motorway and a viable and acceptable electricity tariff had been fixed on which work would be

New policy being devised to boost local mobile phone exports, NA told

question from MQM's Aminul Parliamentary Secretary of Parliament that 93

He noted that almost all major brands have set local assembly operations, which has contributed to the industry's growth. During the question

Parliamentary hour, Secretary for Railways Muhammad Usman Awaisi informed the House that 820 new high-capacity wagons are being introduced to enhance the freight-carrying capacity

of Pakistan Railways. He also mentioned the Thar-Coal connectivity project is in progress and will greatly benefit the railway freight

Ali Pervaiz Malik says: Govt initiatives restore confidence of industrialists

Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Power Ali Pervaiz Malik has said that the government's measures restored confidence industrialists.

Responding to the calling attention notice of Senator Zeeshan Khanzada in the upper house meeting on Friday, he said, due to the policies of the government, the kibor rate has fallen to 13.5 percent

PSX turns

bullish, gains

1,893 points

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The 100-Index of the

Pakistan Stock Exchange

(PSX) turned around to

bullish trend on Friday,

gaining 1,893.08 points, a

positive change of 2.13

percent, closing at 90,859.85 points as compared to 88,966.77

points on last trading day.

A total of 465,865,841

is also decreasing. Earlier, Senator Zeeshan Khanzada termed Senator the recent reduction in the interest rate by the State Bank as insufficient and

decreasing, the interest rate

submitted a notice to draw the government's attention to this matter. dollar rate increases, foreign investment, local

ISLAMABAD (APP): and as the inflation is and raw materials and reduce interest rates. We have to adopt long-term policies. A tariff policy will also have to be made", he

> The government, Khanzada aid, should prepare an electric vehicle policy, adding, measures should be taken to support He said that when the the industries. Along with everything becomes industrialists should also expensive. "We should give be encouraged and interest concessions to our rate should be reduced, he industries on electricity suggested.

Atif Ikram says: Industries struggling to maintain their competitive edge in global markets

ISLAMABAD: Atif Ikram Sheikh, Chambers of Commerce

Independent Report

and Industry (FPCCI), Friday urged the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to reduce interest rates by at least 500 basis points in its upcoming meeting on November 4, 2024. "With inflation easing

to 6.9% in September and expected to remain between 6.0% and 7.0% for October, Pakistan's inflation is now at favourable levels.

This has created an unreasonably high real interest rate of 10.5% against the current 17.5% policy rate," he said.

"Industries are struggling maintain President competitive edge in global Federation of Pakistan markets, threatening export revenue and millions of livelihoods," he

According to him, global oil prices have plummeted to record lows, with Brent at around \$72 per barrel, significantly reducing Pakistan's import bill burden.

He believes this unique opportunity must be leveraged to benefit the industrial sector.

He further urged the government to restore the Freight Subsidy at a higher rate to meet GOP target prorata, i.e., 1.5 to 2% instead of 1%

QUETTA: Chairperson Balochistan Revenue

Authority Noor-ul-Haq Baloch meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail. SECP alerts public to surge

in number of fraudulent

trading platforms ISLAMABAD (APP): false The Securities and Exchange Commission of minimal risk, offering so-Pakistan (SECP) warns the called "insider tips" in public regarding a surge in exchange for membership fraudulent investment fees or investment via the schemes being promoted advertised platforms. To on social media platforms,

including Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp. These schemes are falsely presented as business professionals, legitimate investment advisory services or training courses with the intent to deceive people into investing their money in these fraudulent to caution the public against schemes, said a press

release issued on Friday. lure individuals by making deployed on the SECP's.

extraordinary profits with appear credible, the fraudsters frequently misuse the names, images, and logos of well-known reputable companies, SECP, and the Pakistan Stock Exchange. Since August 2024, the SECP has been issuing public warnings these fraudulent schemes. Additionally, a pop-up These scams often warning message has been

promises

Port Qasim

Friday.

Meanwhile, three

Singapore last 24 hours.

Eleven ships were engaged at PQA berths TEUs Export).

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly was informed on Friday that a new policy for Mobile Device Manufacturing and Export is being devised to boost the exports of locally manufactured mobile

In response to a Haq,

for Industries and Production Shahid Usman informed the lower house percent of mobile handsets are assembled locally, highlighting the country's substantial domestic production capacity

shares were traded during the day as compared to 546,274,609 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 23.089 billion against Rs.24.117 billion on the last trading day. As many as 430

companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 220 of them recorded gains and 156 sustained losses. whereas the share price of 54 companies remained unchanged.

KP Governor says: KP govt's focuses on Politics not governance

ISLAMABAD (APP): addressing the province's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said on Friday that the KP government has prioritized political activities over addressing the province's pressing issues.

In an interview with a private news channel, he highlighted the province's growing instability and the government's inadequate would be at continued risk.

provincial government has failed to ensure peace in the region," Governor Kundi stated.

Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur was solely engaged in political gatherings and protests,

core issues, he added.

Governor Kundi said that the federal government prioritize should establishing peace, as the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have made immense sacrifices for stability. He said that without immediate intervention, peace and stability in the province

He further said that sustainable peace would enable significant growth development opportunities within the

When asked about the potential for the governor's rule in KP, he dismissed showing little interest in any such possibilities.

LHC indicates for 2 days home work from home, closure of schools for 2-day

(Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has given indication for two days work from home in offices, closure of schools for two days and suspension of all commercial activities on Sunday in a week in view of smog.

Justice Shahid Karim remarked we had acted upon this policy in previous year. Environmental commission previous should decide to hold meeting. He gave these remarks during hearing of petition with reference to eradication of smog here

filed reports during the hearing of the case. Justice Shahid Karim remarked crack down be launched on the smoke emitting heavy vehicles in adjoining areas of Lahore. The buses stationing in terminals be checked. Motorway police should check the fitness of vehicles too. Justice Shahid Karim said in remarks need is there to formulate policy about ching chi rickshaws. Motorcycles too are care of underpasses to playing a major role in prevent theft so that it spreading pollution. does not recur.

Government has given subsidy on super seeds. There is need to give

subsidy on

transport. The court expressed reservation on green lockdown policy remarking pollution of one area will be shifted to other area due to green lockdown policy. Perhaps this may not

prove more effective. The court remarked we had ordered two days work from home.

closure of schools on Friday and Saturday besides changing time schedule of markets. We had shut commercial Different departments activities on Sunday. We will have to go to such steps again. Environmental commission should hold meeting and decide about it.

Counsel for LDA said in report inquiry report has been completed in respect of 19 underpasses and filed. LEDs lights have stolen from been underpasses. Responsibility has been assigned to PHA for taking



PESHAWAR: A delegation of social activists of Christian Community meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi.

KP govt signs agreement for independent power transmission line

dept's performance

Chief

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has signed an agreement with a private company to lay down its own power transmission line.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, Pakhtunkhwa has become the first province in the country to undertake this initiative.

The signing ceremony took place at the Chief Minister's House in Peshawar, where officials from Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) and the private

ANF seizes

45 kg drugs in

nine operations

RAWALPINDI (APP):

Anti-Narcotics Force

(ANF) while conducting

nine operations recovered

over 45 kg drugs worth Rs

4.5 million and arrested

nine accused, said an ANF

Headquarters spokesman

on Friday. He said 100

grams hashish, 40 grams ice

and 30 grams intoxicated

tablets were recovered

from an accused arrested

near Jadon Hotel in

Mansehra. The arrested

accused confessed to

selling drugs to the

students of educational

institutions. 670 grams

heroin-filled capsules were

recovered from a passenger

going to Sharjah at Lahore

the agreement in the presence of Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur. In the first phase, a

be laid from Matiltan to Madian. This project, estimated to cost 8 billion rupees, is expected to be completed within a year

and a half.

40-kilometer-long 132/220

kV transmission line will

The transmission line will deliver electricity generated from the 84 MW Matiltan Hydropower Project and other provincial projects in Swat

LAHORE (APP): Special

Minister (SACM) Punjab

for Zakat and Ushr Rashid

Iqbal Nasrullah visited

Administrator Zakat

Punjab office and reviewed

the performance of the

department, here on Friday. Rashid Nasrullah

met the officers and

discussed departmental

matters. Administrator

Aslam Ramey gave a

detailed briefing to the

Special Assistant about

the working of the

Assistant reviewed the

performance of various

projects of the Zakat and

Ushr department in detail.

Special

department.

The

Assistant to

company NetRecon inked to the national grid, or at discounted rates to local industries. Upon completion of

the first phase, the provincial government is projected to earn an annual revenue of 7 billion rupees.

In the second phase of Swat Corridor Transmission Line project, an additional 80-kilometer line will be extended from Madian to Chakdara. Currently, numerous highcapacity hydropower projects are underway under the provincial government in Swat.

Ali Amin Gandapur **SACM reviews Zakat**

that the Zakat amount

should be provided to the

beneficiaries timely and

without any delay. A

briefing on digitization of

data and professional

training was also given by

impartiality are the top

priorities of the Punjab

philanthropists should

also be encouraged to give

actively participates in

welfare works. All

resources will be provided

for the improvement of the

Rashid Nasrullah

Through the media,

Pakistani nation

that

said

the department.

transparency

government.

further

line project is crucial for the sustainable development of the province. He labeled it as one of

provincial government's flagship projects and a significant achievement. The project is expected to transformative changes in the energy and industrial sectors in KP. Through this transmission line, the provincial government will able to supply electricity at lower rates to local industries, thereby attracting more investors to the province.

CM greets Hindu community on Diwali

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has extended heartfelt greetings to the Hindu community on the occasion of Diwali. In her message, she remarked, "The lamp of Diwali awakens love", expressing her joy in interacting with Hindu families during the special Diwali celebrations. The CM announced the launch of a Special Minority Card for minority communities on December 20 and the establishment of a "Minority Virtual Police Station" under the Mahfooz Punjab Vision initiative, aimed at enhancing support

and security for minorities.

Nawaz Sharif's Green Tractor Scheme re-launched after 12 years: CM Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Punjab review its features. Chief Minister Maryam Maryam Nawaz Sharif launched Green Tractor Program by conducting digital balloting, here on Friday.

Rs 10 lakh subsidy will be given on each tractor to 9,500 farmers under the scheme. "We want to enter a modern era of mechanisation of agriculture in Punjab,' Marvam Nawaz Sharif observed. The CM termed the Green Tractor Program as relaunch of Nawaz Sharif's green tractor scheme for farmers in Punjab, after a lapse of 12 years. She inspected four types of green tractors to be given to the farmers, and will get green tractors also rode a tractor to under the scheme.

described tractor driving as a pleasant experience. She was apprised by the authorities concerned after the balloting,"Mohammad Yasin, son of Mohammad Ashraf of Okara, is the first farmer to get a green tractor. Talib Hussain, son

of Muhammad Hussain of

Chakwal, is the second

farmer, while Ghulam

Akbar son of Haji Ghulam

Hussain of Dera Ghazi Khan is the third farmer to get a green tractor." She was further briefed that 339 farmers in Okara, 111 in Chakwal and 276 farmers in DG Khan



LARKANA: Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA), Sohail Anwar Khan Siyal is listening the problems of citizens during open court program held at Siyal House in Larkana.

Health minister says: Shift public hospitals to solar energy on the cards

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique announced on Friday that the government was planning to shift all public hospitals in the province to solar energy.

Presiding over the 16th syndicate meeting of Rawalpindi University, he highlighted government's commitment to promoting high-quality research in medical universities and ensuring transparency in financial operations. He

government is dedicated to providing quality education in government iversities

At the meeting, officials presented the agenda, which included approval for building upgrades and medical equipment for Holy Family Hospital. Rawalpindi Teaching Hospital received authorization to make payments to the National Institute of Health, while Benazir Bhutto Hospita in Rawalpindi was permitted to acquire new anesthesia highlighted that the Punjab workstations.

International News

Rashid Nasrullah said department, he added.

At least 46 Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes, hospital hit, says Gaza ministry

Monitoring Desk

CAIRO: At least 46 Palestinians were killed in Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Štrip mostly in the north where one attack hit a hospital, torching medical supplies and disrupting operations, the enclave's health officials said.

Israel's military has accused the Palestinian militant group Hamas of using Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya for military purposes and said "dozens of terrorists" have been hiding there. Health officials and Hamas deny the charge.

Later on Thursday, an Israeli airstrike on two houses in the Nuseirat camp in central Gaza killed at least 16 Palestinians, medics at Al-Awda Hospital in the camp told Reuters. The dead included a paramedic and two local journalists, they added.

dismantled Hamas' command structure, is currently the main focus of the military's assault in the enclave. Earlier this month it sent tanks into Jabalia, Beit Hanoun, and Beit Lahiya to flush out militants it said had regrouped in the area.

Eid Sabbah, director of nursing at Kamal Adwan - which is in Beit Lahiya told Reuters some staff had suffered minor burns after the Israeli strike hit the third floor of the hospital.

There were no reports of any casualties at the hospital, which Israeli forces stormed and briefly occupied last week. Israel said it had captured around 100 still stationed nearby.

the Hamas-run Gaza Strip Northern Gaza, where bodies "to protect hospi-

Israel said in January it had tals and medical staff from the brutality of the (Israeli) occupation"

The Israeli military has said its forces are operating in the hospital area based on intelligence about the presence of terrorists and terror infrastructure in ne vicinity.

"During the operation, it was found that dozens of terrorists were hiding in the hospital, with some even posing as hospital staff,' said the military in a statement following Thursday's

Medical charity Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said on Thursday that one of its doctors at the hospital, Mohammed suspected Hamas militants in that raid. Israeli tanks are last Saturday by Israeli forces. It called for the pro-The health ministry in tection of him and all medical staff who "are facing called for all international horrific violence as they try to provide care'

about women

surrogates.

women of our country. mala Harris.

The Democratic vice president called the statement "very offensive to women", just days before an election that experts say could shake out more than ever before along gender lines.



Israeli strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs, amid the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, Lebanon.

New Hezbollah leader says will accept ceasefire with Israel if terms 'suitable'

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Hezbollah's new leader Naim Qassem on Wednesday said the group would agree to a ceasefire with Israel under acceptable terms, but added that a viable deal has yet to be pre-

sented. Qassem, who was named Hezbollah secretary-general on Tuesday, did not explicitly link a Lebanon ceasefire to an end to fighting in Gaza, a position previously held by the

Iran-backed group.
"If the Israelis decide that they want to stop the aggression, we say we ac-

Qassem said in a pre-recorded speech, his first since he was named the group's new leader.

But Hezbollah "will not beg for a ceasefire", he added, noting that political efforts to secure a deal have yet to yield results.

'No project has been proposed that Israel agrees to and that we can discuss,' Qassem replaces

Hassan Nasrallah who was assassinated by Israel on September 27 after more than 30 years at

cept, but under the condi- the helm. Lebanon PM says hopes for ceasefire with Israel in 'coming hours or days'

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Lebanon's prime minister said US envoy Amos Hochstein had signalled during a phone call Wednesday that a ceasefire in the Israel-Hezbollah war was possible before US elections are held

on November 5. 'The call today with Hochstein suggested to me that perhaps we could reach a ceasefire in the coming days, before the fifth" of November, Najib Mikati said in a tele-

vised interview with Lebanese broadcaster Al-Jadeed. Hochstein was heading to Israel on Wednesday to discuss conditions for a ceasefire with Hezbollah, State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters. Hezbollah's new leader Naim Qassem on Wednesday said the group would agree to a ceasefire with Israel under acceptable terms, but added that a viable deal has yet to be presented.

North Korea's Choe accuses US and South Korea of plotting a nuclear strike against her country

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui, in a Moscow meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, accused the United States and South Korea of plotting a nuclear strike against her country.

She did not provide evidence to back her assertion, but spoke of regular consultations between Washington and Seoul at which she alleged such plotting took place.

Brazil federal police concludes probe into **Braskem salt** mining disaster

Monitoring Desk SAO PAULO: Brazil's federal police said on Friday that 20 people have been formally accused following an investigation into a sinking ground disaster related to salt mining activities in Maceio, where petrochemicals firm Braskem has been active for decades.

The police did not name the company, or those who were formally accused after concluding its investigation.

North Korea will back Russia until victory in Ukraine, foreign minister says

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: North Korea will back Russia until it achieves victory in the Ukraine war, Foreign Minster Choe Son Hui said on Friday at talks in Moscow with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

"Our traditional, historically friendly relations, which have travelled the tested path of history, today ... are rising to a new level of relations of invincible military comradeship," she told Lavrov, praising the role played in this by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

She said Pyongyang had no doubt that under Putin's "wise leadership" the Russian army and people would "achieve a great victory in their sacred struggle to protect the sovereign rights and security Russia in August.

interests of their state."

'And we also assure that until the day of victory we will firmly stand alongside our Russian comrades, she said. Greeting her, Lavrov spoke of the "very close ties" between the two countries' militaries and said this enabled them to solve important security tasks together.

Neither referred to statements by the United States, NATO, South Korea and Ukraine this week that North Korea has sent some 10,000 troops to Russia. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said separately on Friday that he had "nothing to add to what has already been said" about such statements. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Thursday that 8,000 of these were in the Kursk region, where Ukrainian troops

broke across the border into

Russia fines Google more than all money in the world

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia has

fined Google an eye-popping 20 undecillion rubles (\$2.5 decillion) for removing Russian state-run and government YouTube channels in the wake of the country's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

In other words, Google faces a \$2.5 trillion trillion trillion bill from the country. Typed out in full, that figure is \$250,000,000,000,000,000

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that the huge sum, which he said he couldn't pronounce, was symbolic. Russian news agency TASS reported that Google owes Russia a 36figure sum for violating the country's administrative offences code by banning YouTube channels.

The report added that if Google fails to pay the fine within nine months, it will double every day thereafter, with no upper limit to the final figure. Google

will be locked out of Russia until it pays the fine.

The Kremlin said on Thursday that Russia's huge fines imposed on Google were largely symbolic and designed to spur the internet giant into lifting restrictions on Russian YouTube chan-

The total sum of legal claims against Google in Russia has reached two undecillion rubles, according to the Russian news outlet RBK, a figure higher than all the money in the world combined.

"I can't even pronounce this number, but it is more likely imbued with symbolism," Kremlin Dmitry spokesman Peskov told Russian news agencies. "Google should not restrict the actions of our broadcasters, but it

This should be a reason for Google's management to pay attention to this and correct the situation." he added.

Americans helping Ukraine's war efforts say the US hasn't done enough after meeting a father who survived a bombing that **Monitoring Desk**

KHARKIV: Each time U.S. philanthropist Amed Khan returns to Ukraine, he begins by offering condolences for those killed in the war since his last trip. Over the past two and a half years, his group has provided over \$50 million in aid to civilians and soldiers fighting to survive Russia's invasion.

For Khan, a U.S. government official turned philanthropist, those he supports are like family. He travels to meet them on the front lines and in war-torn cities. His closeness to

those enduring the war

pain and loss they experience first-hand. 'When you're involved with people di- strategy is not for Ukraine

killed his son.

Khan and many other Americans across the U.S. political spectrum who support Ukraine's war effort, either through financial aid or voluntary combat, say the U.S. -Ukraine's main ally hasn't done enough to help Ukraine defeat Russia. They doubt Tuesday's U.S. elections will change that.

Since the war began, the United States did manage to rally the allies to support Ukraine, but not in the way it should," said Khan, who was a camalso exposes him to the paigner for then-Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton in 1992. "So my belief is that their rectly, you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war, "he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war, "he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war, "he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war, "he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war, "he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war, "he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war, "he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war, "he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war, "he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war, "he says, moments rectly you feel the pain of war," he was a second you feel the pain of war, "he was a second you feel the pain of war," he was a second you feel the pain of war, "he was a second you feel the pain of war," he was a second you feel the pain of war, "he was a second you feel the pain of war," he was a second you feel the pain of war, "he was a second you feel the pain of war," he was a second you feel the pain of war, "he was a second you feel the pain of war," he was a second you feel the pain of war, "he was a second you feel the pain of war," he was a second you feel the pain of war, "he was a second you feel the pain of war," he was a second you feel the war, which was a second you feel the war, "he was a second you feel the war, "he was a second you feel th

Trump's remarks kick up firestorm Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Donald Trump found himself at the

centre of a firestorm on Thursday over sexist comments he made at a campaign rally — the latest in a string of lewd and contemptuous comments about women from the former president and his

"I want to protect the whether the women like it or not," Trump said on Wednesday, recalling his stand on abortion. The remarks drew condemnation from women across the political spectrum led by his White House rival Ka-

Major interchange projects set to launch in Capital

the special instructions of Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi two mega projects will be launched to solve the long-standing traffic problems in Islamabad, providing great convenience to the citizens of Islamabad and other cities.

The foundation stone of Serena Chowk Interchange and F-8 Exchange Interchange projects will be laid on November 5. Serena Chowk Interchange will be completed in just 3 months instead of 10 months, with two underpasses and connecting roads. F-8 Exchange Chowk Interchange will be completed in just 4 months instead of 12 months, with one flyover, one underpass, and connecting roads.

Γhe Interior Minister has directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to complete the projects within the stipulated time frame. The CDA had earlier set a deadline of 10 months for Serena Chowk Interchange and 12 months for F-8 Exchange Chowk Interchange.

Mohsin Naqvi has

ing at the CDA, where the layout plans of Serena Chowk and F-8 Exchange Chowk Interchanges were

Interior Minister directed that the relocation of various service lines from the interchange site be completed as soon as possible, and the projects be completed within the stipulated time frame by working 24/7. He emphasized the need for the best traffic management to maintain traffic flow, and a special unit has been formed for duty on the

He said that the special unit's personnel will be deployed 24/7 around the projects to maintain traffic flow. Mohsin Naqvi also

directed comprehensive planning to improve traffic flow at Faizabad Interchange. He was given a detailed briefing on the construction of Serena Chowk and F-8 Interchanges, and Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad Sarfraz Virk briefed him on the traffic plan during approved the alternative the construction work.

e Glorious



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the participants of the 36th Senior Management Course (SMC) from the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA), Karachi called on the Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Acting President for adopting international best practices to improve governance

Calls for digital governance, data-driven decision-making for better service-delivery

Senator Irfan says:

Govt on right track,

won't be derailed by

PTI's conspiracies

ISLAMABAD (Online): Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani has called for adopting international best practices, focusing on innovation, and using the latest technology to improve governance in Pakistan. He underscored the need for embracing digital governance, data-driven decision-making, and using artificial intelligence to improve service delivery.

The Acting President

expressed these views while talking to the participants of the 36th Senior Management Course of the National Institute of Management, Karachi, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Friday.

Addressing the participants, the Acting President highlighted that Pakistan faced multiple challenges, including economic issues, high inflation, rising population, unemployment, climate

(SLAMABAD (APP): Par-

liamentary leader of Pa-

kistan Muslim League-

Nawaz (PML-N) Senator

Irfan Siddiqui Friday slamming the PTI's his-

tory of failed attempts to draw large crowds in Islamabad, said that

government's progress

can not be derailed by

their conspiracy-driven

talk with a private news channel, he

pointed out that PTI

has a history of using

propaganda and con-

In an exclusive

attempts

current

change, and social injustice. He said that bureaucracy needed to play a proactive and constructive role to help address various challenges faced by the country. He emphasised the need to position Pakistan internationally as a competitive and forward-thinking nation, while also ensuring that every citizen benefitted from the fruits of our policies.

Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said that bureau-

Siddiqui empha-

sized that the law will

be equally applied to all

prisoners, making no

exceptions. He also refer-

enced the May 9 incident and said that

politicians should not create instability in

the country, specifically pointing out PTI's

role in doing so.
Senator further

emphasized the impor-

tance of impartial

courts, urging them to

make decisions based

solely on constitutional

laws, without bias to-

wards individuals or in-

cracy should build strong networks, both within the government and with external stakeholders, to find sustainable solutions to Pakistan's socio-economic problems. He stated that civil servants were required to be problem solvers, innovators, and leaders who could help the governments steer the country out of its present socio-economic and governance

challenges. IRSA releases 117,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP) Indus River System Au thority (IRSA) on Friday released 117,500 cusecs water from var ous rim stations with inflow of 63,900 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1528.30 feet and was 130.30 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 33,500 cusecs and 55,000 cusecs respec tively. The water level in Řiver Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1186.60 feet, which was 136.60 feet higher

Accused

involved in

rape case

arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Islamabad Capital Territory

(ICT) Police have successfully apprehended an ac-

cused involved in a case of

sexual abuse and obtained

his remand from the rel-

evant court for further in-

vestigation. A public rela-

tions officer told APP that,

on 24 October 2024, the

Bhara Kahu police team re-

ceived a report from a

victim's father who stated

that his son was sexually

assaulted by an accused.

Upon receiving the infor-

mation, the Bhara Kahu

police team registered case

took immediate notice of

the sexual abuse case and

directed the officers to ap-

prehend the culprits on a

priority basis, he said adding that a specialized

police team was formed

under the supervision of

the SSP Investigation, he

added. He said that the spe-

cial sexual offences investi-

gation unit (SSOIU) and

Bhara Kahu police teams

utilized all scientific and

technical resources

Senior police officers

No.581/24, he said.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi chairing a meeting in CDA Headquarters Islamabad.

GB stands with Kashmiri people in freedom struggle: spokesperson

Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) government spokesperson Faizullah Firaq on Friday said that GB people always stood with their Kashmiri people in their just freedom

struggle. Addressing a press conference here at National Press Club, he stated that GB ahead of all regions of Pakistan in the field of education as currently two universities were operational with hundreds of campuses

across the region. Firaq said, Gilgit-Baltistan has huge potential for tourism as it attracts hundreds of thousands of

ISLAMABAD (APP): to explore the scenic beauty and culture.

"Today the Independence Day of Gilgit-Baltistan is being celebrated in Islamabad, for which we are very happy" he remarked, noting that the people of GB are very hospitable. He urged the federal government to bring GB at par with other provinces for the welfare of the

He said the people of Gilgit-Baltistan need to be represented in the National Assembly and the Senate so that the problems and rights of the people can be resolved in a more amicable

IG Rizvi holds meetings to enhance security of Capital

Independent Report

Capital Territory (ICT) Police, under the chairmanship of Inspector General of Police (ÎGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, convened a late-night meeting attended by senior command officials to assess the security situation and crime dynamics in the city.

During the meeting, IG Rizvi directed an intensified crackdown on criminal elements across the city, a police spokesperson told

IG Rizvi instructed the Dolphin and Ababeel squads to increase patrolling in targeted areas of Islamabad. In addition, he ordered that security checks be strengthened at all entry and exit points of the city to effectively moni-Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi

emphasized that all offic-

any suspicious individuals, vehicles, and motorcycles within their jurisdictions. son told APP that IG Rizvi issued a severe warning that any major crime incident within an area will re-

sult in accountability measures against responsible IG Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi also instructed senior officers to meet regularly with their subordinates to

and offer support.

He highlighted the importance of maintaining morale among officers and personnel to foster dedi-

cation in fulfilling their

PIPS, UNDP host digital democracy workshop for MPs of KPAssembly

ISLAMABAD (APP): (PIPS), in partnership with the United Nations Devel-Programme UNDP), successfully organized a "Digital Democracy" workshop at Serena Hotel, Peshawar, aimed at empowering parliamentarians from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly.

This workshop, part of an ongoing series, focused on equipping lawmakers with strategies to counter misinformation, understand digital trends, and enhance social media engagement for fostering informed public discourse, said a press release on Fri-

Director General (PDP&C) at PIPS, Samer Awais in her opening remarks highlighted the growing challenge of misinformation and disinformation, noting how emerging AI technologies are being used to spread inaccuracies that influence public opinion,

especially among youth. "This series is a critical step to ensure parliamentarians are equipped to address digital misinformation effectively. By collaborating with UNDP, we're fostering a parliamentary response that keeps up with the pace of digital evolution," she remarked. The workshop fea

tured in-depth sessions led by digital experts, including Usman Zafar, Digital Specialist at UNDP, and Fakhar Kakakhel, Senior Journalist and Digital Media Trainer. Zafar introduced the

arliamentarians to the fundamentals of social media and its influence on information integrity.

Kakakhel further expanded on the complexities of online information disorder, discussing verification techniques and conducting practical exercises on fact-checking to empower participants to identify and respond to false information confidently.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Kashmir Affairs Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON, Engineer Amir Muqam exchanging views with Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhary, President of Azad Jammu Kashmir during meeting held at Kashmir House.

Senate celebrates Diwali with cake-cutting ceremony hosted by Acting Chairman

SLAMABAD (APP): Acting Chairman Syedaal Khan hosted a Diwali cakecutting ceremony on Friday to extend congratulations to Senator Danesh Kumar.

The event was attended by a diverse group of parliamentarians, including Senator Danesh Kumar, PML-N Parliamentary Party's Senator Irfan ul Haq Siddiqui, and other senior

In his address, the Acting Chairman said that Pakistan's respect for all faiths, communities, and wishes to Senator Kumar across Pakistan.

and acknowledging the significance of Diwali for the Hindu community.

Senator umar expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Acting Chairman and his colleagues, thanking them for their gesture of support and appreciation for his com-

Senator Kumar praised Punjab's Chief Minister for her presence at a Diwali function, encouraging other provinces to follow this example to promote unity, sects, expressing warm love, and brotherhood

Federal employees' children New degree courses to be included in fee reimbursement scheme

State Minister for Finance Ali Pervaiz Malik informed the National Assembly on Friday that recently introduced degree programs, such as Business Data Analysis, will be incorporated into the fee reimbursement scheme for children of federal government employees under the Benevo-

lent Fund. In response to a callattention notice from MNA Sabheen Ghoury,

ISLAMABAD (APP): under its own trust and legal framework.

Following the request to include new courses, the fund has submitted a proposal to the Higher Education Commission (HEC) for consideration. He further assured that the government is actively pursuing the matter with HEC to expedite the inclusion of these courses. Addressing concerns

regarding delays in reimbursements, he emphasized that steps would be taken Malik explained that the to resolve payment issues Benevolent Fund operates promptly.

IHC removes objections on PTI founder bail plea in Toshakhana-2 case

(IHC) has removed objections from bail plea of PTI founder Imran Khan in Toshakhana-2 case besides directing registrar office to fix the plea for hearing again.

The objections were raised by registrar office. Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked law will be implemented. The case of Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi is similar on law. Bushra Bibi has been bailed out.

during hearing of the petition on Friday.

ISLAMABAD (Online): Hassan Aurangzeb re-Islamabad High Court marked there are objections from registrar office on your petition. The counsel for the

petitioner said bail was granted to Bushra Bibi in this case. The same allegation rests with PTI founder.

Miangul Justice Hassan Aurangzeb inquired she was woman and he is man. How can there be rule of consistency.

Registrar office has He gave these remarks objection that the matter relates to September. But power of attorney relates Miangul to the month of July.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan witnessed the letter of intent signing ceremony between Prime Minister's Youth Programme and Social Innovation Academy.

geria at a local hotel in the Federal Capital. CDA chairman for Muqam inquires about AJK coordinated efforts to resolve water challenges ISLAMABAD (APP): after the recent approval

Capital Development Au- from the cabinet. Muhammad Randhawa on Friday emphasized the urgency of coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to resolve the critical water chal-

lenges facing the city.
The CDA chairman convened a meeting to address the pressing issues surrounding water resource management in Islamabad.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from CDA and representatives from WASA Rawalpindi, WAPDA, Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB), and other relevant departments.

Chairman CDA, Muhammad Ali Randhawa stated that this meeting marked the road map for the established "Islamabad Water" agency

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecom

Shaza Fatima, Ambassador of Algeria Dr. Brahim ROMANI, Senator

Mushahid Hussain Syed and others cutting a cake on the occasion of the 70th

Anniversary of the National Day of the People's Democratic Republic of Al-

Management (Water Wing), CDA presented a comprehensive administrative and financial overview of the city's water resources and outlined the

existing shortfall. He highlighted the disparity in water distribution from Khanpur Dam and urged to undertake corrective measures to ensure equitable distri-

The Chairman, CDA directed to carry out a joint survey by KPK and Punjab irrigation departments. RCB, WASA Rawalpindi and CDA of the 18 km distribution canal from the Khanpur Dam to address water leakage, water theft, and overuse of the share while WAPDA would lead the survey.



SLAMABAD: Volunteers distribute free food among poor people and daily wage laborers at Ghouri

Tarar congratulates newly elected office bearers of PBA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar has felicitated the newly elected office bearers of the Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), stressing that the free and active media is indispensable for strengthening the democracy.

The minister, in a news release, specifically congratulated PBA Chair-Mian Chairman Salman Iqbal, and Vice Chairman Mir Ibrahim Rehman.

cluding Secretary General

Shakeel Masood, Joint

Secretary Ahmed Zuberi,

and Finance Secretary

Mahmood, Senior Vice He also extended felicitation to other newly elected office bearers in-

media is a crucial pillar of the state, expressing the hope that the newly elected officials would play their due role for uplift of the media industry

ment would continue its efforts for the freedom, development and promotion of the media institutions in the country.

and Broadcasting Ambreen Jan and Principal Information Officer Mubashir Hasan also extended heartnewly elected office bearwishes for them.

The Federal Secretary acknowledged the critical role of the PBA in provision of a correct information to the masses.

Tarar noted that the

He said the govern-Syed Nasir Shah, DG Quality Assurance Agency,

Meanwhile, Federal Secretary for Information felt congratulations to the ers and expressed the best

president's health, wishes swift recovery

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam, visited AJK President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry at Kashmir House on Friday to inquire about his health and wished him a speedy recovery with

a bouquet of flowers. Muqam assured that the federal government, under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, will continue its efforts to promote development and address issues in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Amir Muqam reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast support for the Kashmiris fight for freedom. He committed to elevating the voices of the courageous Kashmiris on all platforms.

ATC sends Azam Swati to jail on judicial remand

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) has sent PTI leader Azam Swati to jail on judicial remand in the light of high court orders.

Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra of ATC sent Azam Swati to jail on 14 days judicial remand.

Islamabad High Court (IHC) had nullified the physical remand of Azam

AIOU inaugurates first "Literary Society"

SLAMABAD (APP) The Inauguration ceremony of "Literary Society" with a first session held on Friday at Allama Iqbal Open University(AIOÛ).

HEC was the Chief Guest while Professor Dr. Muhammad Khalid, Principal, Post Graduate H8 College Islamabad presided over the event. Guest speaker of the first session Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir, Dean, Social Sciences and Humanities, AIOU, said in his address that when the British came to the subcontinent, they first captured literature and culture. The literature of the free nations remain alive and the nations that are slaves have

no aesthetics.

ers must be physically

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad

tor movement.

present in their respective areas to ensure close monitoring of security duties. He directed officers to conduct thorough checks on A police spokesper-

understand their challenges