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Gwadar

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meeting with the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong during his visit of the Chinese Embassy.

PM terms security of Chinese nationals as topmost priority

Visits Chinese embassy to condemn firing on Chinese nationals in Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday visited the Chinese Embassy to condemn the firing incident, in Karachi yesterday, in which Chinese nationals were injured and assured exemplary punishment to those involved in the incident.

Talking to Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, the prime minister said that he came to condemn the yesterday's attack on Chinese nationals and to inquire after the health of those injured in the incident.

The prime minister assured the Chinese ambassador that those respon-

sible in the incident would be apprehended soon and would be awarded exemplary punishment, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

He further informed the Chinese ambassador that he was personally supervised the process of arresting those involved in the incident and bringing them to justice.

Moreover, he had directed to provide the best medical facilities to the Chinese citizens injured in the incident, he said, adding that it was a matter of satisfaction that the health of the injured Chinese nationals was improving.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar,

Minister for Interior Mohsin Raza Naqvi and Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatemi accompanied the prime minister.

Prime Minister Sharif said that China was a long-standing friend of Pakistan and the attack on the Chinese nationals was a desperate attempt to damage Pakistan-China fraternal relations.

He reiterated that the security of Chinese nationals, working in Pakistan, was the top priority of the government.

The Chinese ambassador thanked the prime minister for his visit and hoped that he would play his role in bringing those responsible for the incident to justice soon.

Donald Trump elected 47th President of America in stunning comeback

Jubilant Trump pledges to heal America's wounds, end scourge of wars, says America has given us an unprecedented and powerful mandate

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump has been elected the 47th president of the United States capping a remarkable comeback four years after he was voted out of the White House and ushering in a new American leadership likely to test democratic institutions at home and relations abroad.

Trump, 78, recaptured the White House on Wednesday by securing more than the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the presidency, Edison Research projected, following a campaign of dark rhetoric that deepened the polarization in the country.

The former president's victory in the swing state of Wisconsin pushed him over the threshold.

"America has given us



an unprecedented and powerful mandate," Trump said early on Wednesday to a roaring crowd of supporters at the Palm Beach County Convention Center in Florida.

Trump's political career had appeared to be over after his false claims of election fraud led a mob of supporters to storm the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, in a failed bid to overturn his 2020 defeat.

But he swept away challengers inside his Republican Party and then beat Democratic candidate Kamala Harris by capitalizing on voter concerns about high prices and what Trump claimed, without evidence, was a rise in crime due to illegal immigration.

Harris did not speak to supporters who had gathered at her alma mater Howard University.

PM Shehbaz greets Trump on US election win

"I look forward to working closely with the incoming administration to broaden the Pak-US partnership," says PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday congratulated the president-elect of the United States of America Donald Trump on his "historic" victory for a second term.

"Congratulations to President-elect Donald Trump on his historic victory for a second term," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline. Prime Minister Shehbaz said that he looked forward to working closely with the incoming Administration to further strengthen and broaden the Pakistan-U.S. partnership.

Meanwhile, incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has also felicitated the Republican on his election win.

"The will of the American people held against all odds," he wrote on X. The former minister hoped that Trump would push for peace, human rights and democracy globally.

Two Pakistan-origin candidates win US elections

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Two Pakistani-American Democratic candidates, Salman Bhojani and Suleman Lalani, have made history by securing their second consecutive term in the Texas State House elections. Bhojani, who first entered the assembly in 2022, has focused on vital issues like healthcare, education, and business develop-

ment while advocating for immigrant rights.

His victory is seen as a key milestone in South Asian American political representation. Suleman Lalani successfully defended his seat in the Texas State Assembly, winning 56.1% of the vote with 32,141 votes against Republican Lee Simmons, who garnered 43.9% with 25,197 votes.

COAS, Saudi Crown Prince discuss bilateral cooperation



RAWALPINDI (APP): General Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) who is currently on an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, met Crown Prince and Prime Minister His Royal Highness Mohammed bin Salman.

The Crown Prince extended a warm welcome to General Asim Munir upon his arrival at the Royal Palace, said an Inter Services Public Relations news release issued here Wednesday.

The two dignitaries engaged in a comprehensive discussion on a range of issues of mutual interest, including regional peace, defence and security cooperation, and strategies for enhancing bilateral relations.

The COAS expressed his gratitude to His Royal

Highness for his steadfast support for Pakistan and acknowledged his significant role in fostering peace and stability across the region, it further said.

The COAS also separately met with Prince Khalid Bin Salman, Defence Minister of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Dignitaries vowed to further strengthen cooperation in the domain of defence and security.

Meetings were also held with Engineer Talal Abdullah Al-Otaibi, Assistant Minister of Defence; Air Chief Marshal Fayyadh Bin Hamed Bin Raqeeb' Al Ruwaili, Chief of General Staff of Royal Saudi Armed Forces and Lieutenant General Fahad bin Saud Al-Johani, Chief of Royal Saudi Land Forces.

Governor calls for taking concrete steps to give access to livestock breeders & farmers to national & international markets

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stressed the need to establish the veterinary hospitals in Musakhail and take concrete steps for giving access to the local livestock breeders and farmers to the national and international markets.

The Governor said that Balochistan is the land of high breed animals as well as the birds and grass fields. He said that the livestock and fisheries sectors can be put on modern lines and develop the same as profitable business.

He said that our only two districts can meet the needs of millions of sacrificial animals in Saudi Arabia

through their own resources.

The Governor was speaking to the delegation from Musakhail district who called on him here at the Governor House on Wednesday.

The leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, Nazeer Musakhail led the delegation.

The Governor said that Balochistan is a very fertile region with regard to cattle breeding, besides it has vast grazing fields and conducive climate.

This province can meet the requirements of meat and milk of the whole country, he mentioned adding that in this regard, District Musakhail is the very big center of livestock.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over review meeting regarding progress on development projects.

Youth ought to differentiate between wrong & right thru philosophy of selfhood: CM

Mir Sarfaraz Bugti says it has to be decided by Balochs and history as who is standing in the right direction and who is on the wrong side; exhorts students to give message to terrorists through social media that they are not afraid of terrorism; says Pakistan is our identity and first of all, we are Pakistani then Baloch, Pashtoon, Sindhi and Siraiki; we have lot of expectations with youth of Balochistan to play role for elimination of corruption in practical life

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has stated that Allama Muhammad Iqbal has introduced the concept of selfhood to the youth and as such they have to differentiate between the right and wrong through this concept while moving on the knowledge and research.

He said that if the youth may seek guidance from the ideology and philosophy of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, then they may rise as a fine example as nation and individually all over the world.

The Chief Minister was addressing as chief guest in the ceremony of

speech contest among students at the Taameer-e-Nau Public College here on Wednesday.

The prominent among those present on the occasion were Provincial Minister for Education, Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, Minister for Finance, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani, Minister for Revenue, Mir Asim Kurd, Minister for Agriculture, Mir Ali Madad Jaiak, Parliamentary Secretary, Mir Barkat Rind, Secretary Higher Education, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir, Secretary Taameer-e-Nau Trust, Naseem Lehri, Principal of the College, Abid Maqsood and other high ups besides the teachers and students. The Chief Minister

said that the younger generation should analyze the truth through research in order to save from any misunderstanding and wrongness in the present era of social media. He regretfully pointed out that the target of elements sitting abroad is our young generation, whose aim is to mislead them and make their mind against the state. He categorically stated that Pakistan is our identity and first of all, we are Pakistani, and then we are Baloch, Pashtoon, Sindhi and Siraiki. He said that Shaheen of Iqbal is the bright future of Pakistan and we would provide wholehearted opportunities of development to youth in all sectors of life.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Sadiq Umrani and MPA Nawabzada Zafarullah Zehri meeting with Provincial Minister Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran.

PML-N, leadership believes in supremacy of law, strengthening of democracy, says Khetran

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran has stated that the PML-N and its leadership believes in the supremacy of law, strengthening of democracy, promotion of justice and transparency. The Minister PHE said that we are desirous of such system in Balochistan in which there is rule of law and supremacy of constitution in real manners.

He said we would continue our struggle in accordance with our manifesto and ideology.

He also said that we want to form such system in which there is no injus-

tice with anyone and our future generations are safe.

Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran said that being Provincial Minister, he would raise voice for the rights of people of the province for they have given us mandate.

Speaking to the provincial ministers, Sardar Khetran said that it is top priority of the government to establish law and order in the province. Besides, ending poverty, promotion of livelihood, provision of facilities to the people, supremacy of law and justice, improvement of social services and rehabilitation of the infrastructure are also included in the priorities of government, he maintained.

Jan Muhammad Gohar appointed as Registrar BHC

Independent Report

QUETTA: The District and Sessions Judge, Mr. Jan Muhammad Gohar has been appointed as the Registrar Balochistan High Court with immediate effect. This was announced in an official notification issued here by the High Court here on Wednesday.

According to the notification, the appointment of new Registrar has been made on orders of Chief Justice High Court, which would take effect, immediately.



QUETTA: A delegation of Christian community led by Chairman Voice of Christian of Balochistan Chaudhry Zubair Jan meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

President-elect Trump unlikely to seek Imran's release: Defence Minister

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Wednesday said that the government believes Donald Trump, who won the US presidential election, will not call for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's release from prison after he takes the office.

Asif's comments came hours after Republican Trump won the race to the White House after beating Democrat Kamala Harris,

four years after he was voted out.

"We don't think Trump will call for PTI founder's release. Let's wait for 15 to 20 days and see what stand he takes," said the defence minister while speaking during Geo News special transmission on US election. Following Trump's victory, Khan congratulated the US president-elect, saying that he will be good for "Pak-US relations based on mutual respect for democracy and human rights".



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti distributing certificates among students during a ceremony held in connection with Iqbal Day at Tameer-e-Nau College Quetta.

Pakistan slams fake news drives by occupying States in Kashmir & Palestine, urges counter-measures

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has de-

plored the use of disinformation by occupying States to suppress the people's voices in Kashmir and Palestine, underscoring the need for stepped up efforts to combat that pervasive threat. The harmful impact of fake news and disinformation is magnified when states employ these tactics in situations of foreign occupation to suppress the voices of people, denied basic freedoms, including the UN-sanctioned right to self-determination," Pakistani delegate Amanat Ali told the UN General Assembly's Fourth Committee, which deals with

special political and decolonization matters.

Speaking in a debate on "Questions Relating to Indian Formation", he said that Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Occupied Palestinian Territory "are a case in point." "Central to this manipulation are internet blackouts, censorship, and restrictive media laws enforced by occupying authorities." Amanat Ali, press counsellor at the Pakistan Mission to the UN, the Pakistani delegate said, adding, "These actions are intended to delegitimize freedom movements and create an environment of fear, intimidation, and violence."

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Rushed legislation

The law minister and defence minister had noise-blocking headphones snapped on as they rushed through half a dozen pieces of important legislation on Monday evening.

It was a fitting metaphor for the manner in which the ruling parties have lately gone about conducting legislative business. Six bills were introduced in and passed by the National Assembly and Senate in record time to extend the tenure of the armed forces chiefs to five years, with the possibility of another five-year extension, and to increase the number of judges in the Islamabad High Court and Supreme Court.

It seems pointless to ask why the government saw it appropriate to bulldoze these bills: for all its stress on 'supremacy of parliament', the ruling coalition has, thus far, wasted no opportunity to reiterate where its allegiances truly lie. Perhaps if the opposition had been allowed to have its say, some respect for the legislature may have been salvaged.

The decision to extend the military chiefs' service tenure as well as the tenure of their extensions to five years came as a surprise. Though government representatives were later at great pains to explain, on national media, how wonderful the decision was for Pakistan as it would put to rest the frequent intrigues that chase the appointment of an army chief, one wonders why they did not say so in parliament when the legislation was tabled.

Indeed, the speed with which all legislative business was concluded — in 24 minutes in the National Assembly and 16 minutes in the Senate — suggested that the justifications may have been an afterthought. A five-year tenure for services chiefs may indeed create some positive externalities — especially in terms of stability and continuity of policy within the armed forces — but it is difficult to understand why service extensions, which are, in any case, supposed to be granted in special circumstances only, also needed to be extended for the length of another full tenure.

Lastly, it defies understanding why the government now wants to pack so many more judges into the higher courts, especially after the superior judiciary has been rendered nearly toothless after the 26th Amendment. It is a documented fact that the backlog of court cases, often cited by this government as the reason for its repeated interference in the judicial structure, is disproportionately higher at the lower levels of the judiciary.

Yet, no legislation has been brought to remedy this dysfunction, while the powers of superior courts continue to be diluted on the pretext. Indeed, the government's legislative agenda has so far seemed focused less on 'actual problems' and more on 'our problems'. When this will change, is anybody's guess. One hopes our lawmakers are now feeling more secure in their positions, and a redirection of priorities will come soon.

Type 2 eyewash

Naeem Sadiq

Eyewash arrangements are usually required at two locations: in industry, to provide emergency eye decontamination when a worker's eyes are exposed to harmful chemicals, dust or material; and in politics, to throw dust into the eyes of the people by repeatedly hurling misleading or illusive statements, plans or promises at them.

While the first is classified as a desirable 'emergency control', the second, or Type 2 eyewash is considered deceptive and detrimental. This article endeavours to explain how Type 2 eyewash has come to be accepted as a 'standard operating procedure' and how to treat this malaise.

On May 8, 2024, the prime minister, in a state of excitement, launched a fiery Type 2 eyewash, saying, "Today, with iron conviction... we will handle the challenge of 26 million out-of-school children. I declare from this moment an Emergency in Education all over Pakistan". Four months later, on Sept 8, 2024, jolted by International Literacy Day (and having forgotten what he said earlier), he launched the same imaginary educational emergency. These outbursts weren't based on prior research, thought or planning. Such emotional eruptions are not known for improving school enrolment numbers.

Type 2 eyewashes are typically launched by announcing a 'week' or a 'drive' — for example, a 'cleanliness', 'anti-beggary', 'ban-the-plastic-bag' or 'austerity drive'. The 'austerity drives', however, get the prize for the best optical illusions. Consider, three austerity drives that were launched in the last 14 months, ie, the National Austerity Committee, a committee on the reduc-

tion of government expenditure, and the Committee on Rightsizing of the Federal Government. All they did was to recommend reducing government departments from 53 to 52.

Taking advantage of this smokescreen, the Punjab government decided to dent the exchequer by its wasteful expenditure of Rs617m — even before the arrival of IMF money — on the purchase of 79 new luxury vehicles. This uncontrolled binge came only after similar luxury vehicles worth Rs180m had already been purchased for the Punjab Assembly two months earlier.

Not to be left behind, the Sindh government, in September 2024, decided to spend Rs2 billion on buying luxury double-cabin 4x4 vehicles to cushion the tired haunches of its 138 assistant commissioners and commissioners. It appears as if 'austerity drives' are designed to accelerate official extravagance with renewed vengeance — akin to dropping a heavy cargo of luxury vehicles on a sinking ship.

What are some practical ways of reining in leaders' craving to deliver the next salvo of Type 2 eyewash? The first piece of advice for those seeking this treatment is to keep the upper and lower lip tightly glued together for as long as possible. Be brief and use facts, instead of emotions or potboilers.

Spend at least as much time on thinking, reading, planning and organising as on making a speech. Next, learn to differentiate between wishes, facts and hot air. Say only what you really mean, what you can actually do, and what you may have already done. Avoid platitudes like 'this will be the last IMF programme in Pakistan's history'. Even high school kids

can easily see through the cavity of this misused announcement.

The best way to avoid Type 2 eyewash is to be aware of what constitutes an eyewash. Invariably, it is composed of hollow slogans, rusted clichés, 'austerity drives', emotional waffle, false promises or a mixture of all these.

It is helpful to remember that these are negative motives, with chronic harmful effects in the long run.

They are used only to look good, to appease, to fool, and to buy time. A good strategy to avoid this eyewash is to frequently pa--use and reflect on the ratio of the wheat and chaff in one's statements and actions. Frequently stepping down from the Type 2 eyewash treadmill and going for a long walk can help restore one's perspective.

Besides its medical benefits, a long, solitary walk is an excellent opportunity to introspect on what one is trying to accomplish. One must constantly ask as to whether the unending, pretentious rhetoric is backed by facts or is mere eyewash. A simple litmus test for an 'austerity drive' is one's willingness to stop the purchase of all new luxury vehicles and withdraw all 150,000 or so already issued government vehicles, their 5m litres of free fuel per month, their 150,000 drivers and their misuse. If you are not willing, be sure, you are into big-time Type 2 eyewash.

If the answer is 'yes', you are an upright leader who will be remembered for recovering the pilfered funds and hopefully returning them to their rightful owners — the sanitation workers, security guards, coal miners and the railway coolies of Pakistan. -- Courtesy Dawn

True Brits

Mahir Ali

There are ways in which Kemi Badenoch's advent as Britain's opposition leader, at the helm of the Conservative Party, can be seen as a remarkable progression. A black Tory leader is decidedly an advance for a party that has long relied on anti-immigrant sentiment as a core value for its electoral support.

The Labour Party has consistently boasted more ethnically diverse MPs since 1987, and by 2019 more than half of its parliamentary representation consisted of women. But it has never had a female leader, and its front bench has been dominated by white men in both government and opposition. The Conservatives, by contrast, can lay claim to three female prime ministers, an Asian PM (via Kenya and Tanzania), and currently an opposition leader who was born in Wimbledon but grew up in Nigeria, and considers herself a first-generation immigrant.

As a student in England more than 40 years ago, I struggled to understand why any Briton from an ethnic background would be attracted to the Tories. The Labour alternative was problematic in many ways, but did it not point to a relatively brighter future for ethnic minorities and the working class? I was gobsmacked in the early 1980s when a purported Pakistani community leader in Oxford — a charming host, working class by profession — turned out to be a Tory by nature. I cannot certify whether the cause lay in his political ignorance or his illiteracy. After all, certain conservative social values were endemic among early immigrants from South Asia. But, after arriving in the promised land, how could they possibly be oblivious to

the race and class divide of the society in which they found themselves?

Many of the early Caribbean immigrants recognised soon that the imagined yellow brick road was just a dirt track. It took longer for the South Asians. Some of them were radicalised by the racist experience, while others fell in line with the established order of their former colonial masters. The latter tendency has been reflected among most of those who typified both the ethnic diversity and ideological perversity of recent Tory front benches.

That's no excuse for Labour skipping on the diversity while more or less matching the perversity of the Conservatives. This aspect has been particularly evident since Keir Starmer, under false pretences, acquired the Labour leadership and initially focused on expelling potential adversaries — mainly critics of Israel's inevitable descent into open genocide, including his predecessor Jeremy Corbyn. It's worth noting that Labour got fewer votes this year, when it won by a landslide, than it did in 2019, when it lost by a landslide. It suggests the British electorate is more attuned to the ideological ebbs and flows than one might assume.

Under Corbyn, Labour was for a while Europe's largest political party in terms of membership. In his leadership bid, Starmer vowed to adhere to the party's fairly popular manifesto, but steadily stepped away from potentially progressive leanings as opposition leader and PM, losing little time in expelling Corbyn and several of his anti-Zionist supporters from the party. Starmer's attachment to the Zionist Netanyahu regime and its genocidal inclinations is reflected in the

doubling of US special forces flights to Israel from a British base in Cyprus. What are the chances that any of the culprits on either side of the Atlantic will ever be prosecuted for war crimes? After it emerged that 100 or so Labour activists had volunteered in their spare time to door-knock for Kamala Harris and that Donald Trump was upset, Starmer was desperate to claim that it wouldn't affect his subservience to a future Trump administration.

Badenoch, for all her 'anti-woke' posturing and selective opposition to fellow immigrants who don't measure up to the atrocious 'values' she holds dear, is unlikely to ever replace Starmer, unpopular as he may be after a budget that sufficiently assuages the IMF's concerns with its trickle-down tendencies while pumping more resources into defence than healthcare, education or broader welfare. The tax raises won't trouble the very rich, including his hitherto ATM Lord Waleed Alli, but nor will they benefit the working-class victims of his neoliberal predilections.

Badenoch has revived Priti Patel's political prospects — and the likes of the even more vicious Suella Braverman, Sajid Javid and James Cleverly (who lost the leadership contest by relying too hard on the fellow idiots that populate his party) are waiting in the wings. It's unlikely, though, that anyone is betting much on her prospects of replacing Starmer as PM at the next election. As the sixth Tory leader in eight years, she might not last long enough. On the other hand, who knows what will ensue if Starmer proceeds with his self-immolation more rapidly than one expects. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

FM Aurangzeb highlights economic improvement, urges continued reforms

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, stated that Pakistan is experiencing macroeconomic improvements due to the government's policies. While addressing the 8th Edition of the Future Summit at a local hotel on Wednesday, he highlighted the Monetary Policy Committee's decision to reduce the interest rate by 2.5%, noting that the country is on track to meet its financial targets for the first four months of the fiscal year. The Karachi Interbank Offer Rate (KIBOR) stands at 13%, with food inflation decreasing significantly. The Minister

emphasized that Pakistan's fiscal deficit and current account have remained stable, while remittances have contributed to stabilizing the domestic currency. Additionally, foreign exchange reserves have improved, and inflation has declined. The State Bank of Pakistan has also cut its base interest rate, providing further support. "These are the foundations on which we can rebuild our economy," the Minister said, noting that Pakistan's credit rating has improved and is expected to see further gains this year. Muhammad Aurangzeb underscored the importance of reducing the KIBOR ahead of the policy rate cut, making it more affordable for the

private sector to access loans. He acknowledged challenges but reaffirmed the government's commitment to making difficult decisions, particularly regarding tax and energy reforms, and restructuring government institutions.

The Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue stressed the need to reform the pension system and highlighted the critical role of technology in governance to increase transparency, reduce corruption, and enhance service delivery. "If reforms were easy, they would have been done years ago," he said, urging the private sector to boost productivity and continue expanding their businesses.



FAISALABAD: Punjab Minister for Agriculture & Livestock Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani inspecting the new hybrid varieties of tunnel cultivated vegetables during his visit to Private Seed Company Model Farm.

PFC hosts reception for Sikh delegation

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) hosted a reception for a 50-member Sikh delegation from Jamrood Club Silicon Valley, California (US), here on Wednesday.

PFC Chief Executive Officer Main Kashif Ashfaq, speaking at the reception, said Pakistan could earn billions of dollars foreign exchange by promoting religious tourism. He said that being the birthplace of

Babba Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, Pakistan is home to several revered Sikh sites, including the famous Gurdwara Janam Asthan in Nankana Sahib, and the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur. These sites attract thousands of foreign and local pilgrims annually, especially after the opening of the Kartarpur Corridor in 2019, which allows Indian Sikh pilgrims to visit without a visa.

PSX witnesses bearish trend, loses 282 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bearish trend on Wednesday, losing 282.88 points, a negative change of 0.31 percent, closing at 92,021.44 points as compared to 92,304.32 points on the last trading day.

A total of 889,166,479 shares were traded during the day as compared to 752,664,527 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 30.474 billion against Rs. 32.27 billion on the last trading day. As many as 452 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 201 of them recorded gains and 200 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 51 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Bank of Punjab with 88,684,180 shares at Rs 6.21 per share, Energycio PK with 71,639,690 shares at Rs 4.11 per share and Power Cement with 39,151,188 shares at Rs.7.20 per share.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain is addressing an unveiling exhibition ceremony of models of electric bikes at Engineering Development Board.

Rana Tanveer says: Govt to setup 10,000 EV charging stations by 2030

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Wednesday unveiled the government plan to transform the transportation landscape by setting up 10,000 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations by 2030.

Addressing an "exhibition of electric bike models" organized by the Engineering Development Board (EDB), he emphasized the government's commitment to reducing fuel

dependency, cutting carbon emissions, and promoting cleaner, sustainable transportation.

With growing private sector interest and government-backed incentives, this push toward electric mobility is poised to significantly benefit both the economy and the environment.

The ministers said around 31 companies have expressed interest in investing in electric vehicles in Pakistan while 2 companies were granted

permission to manufacture electric vehicles.

He said "Pakistan is now in a position to export three-wheelers". The minister highlighted some key initiatives to promote electric vehicles across the country. He said that manufacturing activities will soon begin by private companies, boosting the industry. He said that the government would launch the second electric vehicle policy by November 30 to promote eco-friendly transportation.

\$10 Pak mangoes sold for \$120 in Dubai after repackaging

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: The UAE Consul General Bakht Atiq Al-Rumaiti has highlighted

Pakistan's potential to enhance the value and reach of its mango industry through value addition.

Speaking at the Future Summit in Karachi, Al-Rumaiti noted that investors from the UAE receive facilitation upon arrival, but Pakistani investors face challenges such as visa issues and additional expenses. He emphasized the

need to provide ease for investors wherever possible.

Al-Rumaiti remarked that Pakistan has an excellent mango crop, which is in high demand in Dubai. He pointed out that Pakistani mangoes are sold in Dubai for \$10 but, after repackaging, are sold at \$120. This underscores the need for value addition in Pakistan's agricultural sector, which requires collective effort from both government and stakeholders.

Gold prices decrease by Rs.1,000 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs.1,000 and was sold at Rs.242,200 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs.243,200 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.857 to Rs.2,41,941 from Rs.2,42,798 whereas the price of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.221,780 from Rs.222,565, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

Shaza Fatima says: IT, data role vital for sustainable development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Wednesday said that the Information Technology and data are transformative forces driving sustainable development and socio-economic growth. IT provides accurate, real-time data on water resources, climate patterns and agricultural needs, she said while addressing Parliamentary Dialogue Session on "Inclusive Policy Reforms for Improved Water and Food Security in a Changing Climate". She said data

empowers policymakers to make informed decisions that are responsive to real-time challenges. By leveraging IT, policymakers can create data-driven, inclusive policies that promote sustainable water and food security, she added. Shaza Fatima said that water security and its proper usage is being ensured through technology, adding that technology is also being used in agriculture sector today. She said the Ministry of IT & Telecom launched initiatives to enhance IT adoption, making data more open and accessible for improved public services.



FAISALABAD: Farmers use a thresher to harvest rice crops in the field, efficiently separating grain from the stalk in the field.

Eman Shah says: PM approves 100 MW solar power project to address electricity crisis in GB

GILGIT (APP): Special Assistant for Information of Gilgit-Baltistan Eman Shah has announced that the Prime Minister of

Pakistan has approved a 100 MW solar power project to help address the severe electricity crisis in Gilgit-Baltistan. The project is expected to be completed within a year with the Prime Minister scheduled to inaugurate it next year. Addressing a press conference during his visit to Gilgit-Baltistan on Wednesday, he said that the Prime Minister was briefed on various Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) projects and the challenges they face. "PM

directed Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal to visit Gilgit next week to assess the projects and resolve any obstacles, Eman Shah said.

He added that the Prime Minister also announced that Gilgit-Baltistan would receive 40 percent of its federal budget allocation in July and the remaining 60 percent in January. He said in support of local educational institutions, the Prime Minister approved endowment funds of 500 million PKR each for Baltistan University and Karakoram International University to secure their financial stability.

Governor Kundi urges for opening seven western border points with Afghanistan

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday stressed the importance of opening the seven western border points crossings with Afghanistan in order to enhance regional trade and connectivity, particularly through the Central Asia Corridor.

He expressed these views during a meeting with delegates of National Defence University (NDU), the 26th National Security Workshop visited Governor House Peshawar, led by Major General Muhammad Raza Aizad, Director General of

the Institute of Strategic Studies and Research Analysis. The workshop, which brings together participants from various sectors, included members of parliament, academics, bureaucrats, business community leaders, and representatives from civil society.

Upon their arrival, the participants were welcomed by the Governor of KP, Faisal Karim Kundi. The Governor briefed the delegation about the constitutional responsibilities and historical significance of the Governor House.

During the meeting, the

participants raised various questions concerning the province, including the situation in the newly merged districts, issues related to higher education, natural resources, and other important matters.

In his remarks, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi highlighted the unique position of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to its geographical location, especially its proximity to the Afghanistan border.

"The province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is distinct from other provinces due to its location along the Afghan border," said Kundi.



GILGIT: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif unveils the plaques of groundbreakings and inaugurations of various development projects in Gilgit Baltistan.

CM KP launches 3rd phase of Drugs Free Peshawar program

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Wednesday launched the third phase of the "Drug-Free Peshawar" program, under which 2,000 drug-addicts would be rehabilitated.

The provincial government has released substantial funds of Rs. 320 million for this purpose. Under this program, individuals suffering from drug addiction will be shifted to rehabilitation centers, where they would

be provided with quality treatment and facilities. Additionally, an extensive awareness campaign has also been launched in educational institutions aimed at educating the young generation about the devastating consequences of drugs addiction. As part of this awareness campaign, a seminar and awareness walk were held on Wednesday at the University of Peshawar, led by the Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur himself.

KP Governor administers oath to Fakhar

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday administered oath to new cabinet member Syed Fakhar Jahan here at the governor house.

KP Chief Minister Ali Amin, members of the provincial cabinet, MPAs, Inspector General of Police, Commissioner Peshawar Division, heads of administrative departments and other political and social personalities attended the oath taking ceremony.

Later, Kundi congratulated Syed Fakhar Jahan as the provincial minister and expressed good wishes.

Punjab Governor says: Zardari, Bilawal have a key role in forming the coalition government

LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that increasing the term of the Army Chief from three years to five years was the need of the hour. Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto have a key role in forming the coalition government. He said this while talking to the media and attending a reception given by Pakistan Peoples' Party leader Malik Rashid in Lahore today. Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the functioning of a coalition government is necessary for

the development and stability of the country. He said that due to political stability in the country, there has been economic improvement, inflation has currently reached single digits, if this system runs for five years, the situation will improve further. Governor Punjab said that Bilawal Bhutto played an important role in the twenty-sixth constitutional amendment. He said that the increase in the number of judges will benefit the common man. It is very important to dispense justice to the people on time.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi administer oath to Syed Jahan as Provincial Minister in the Oath taking ceremony at Governor House. Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur also attended the ceremony.

Minister inaugurates EMIS for merged areas

PESHAWAR (APP): In a significant step towards the digitization of education in the merged areas, Provincial Minister for Education Faisal Khan Tarakai on Wednesday inaugurated the Education Management Information System (EMIS) at the Merged Areas Education Foundation (MAEF).

This system will fully digitize community schools, providing access to essential information such as school details, book demand, student and teacher attendance, and exam data.

Speaking at the event,

the Minister highlighted the importance of digitization in streamlining educational management and improving decision-making.

He noted that the EMIS would eventually be integrated with other management systems to help identify gaps and inform new educational initiatives tailored to the needs of students in the merged districts.

"The introduction of EMIS will allow us to monitor critical factors such as teacher requirements, student dropout rates, and school facilities more effectively."



LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said talking to the media and attending a reception given by Pakistan Peoples' Party leader Malik Rashid in Lahore.

CM visits Governor House, discusses provincial issues with Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, and Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, held a meeting on Wednesday at the Governor House to discuss the province's law and order situation, as well as several other key issues and rights of the province.

During the meeting, both leaders agreed that ensuring peace was crucial for the economic development of the province. They expressed their commitment to working together to address security concerns and

secure resources from the federal government to maintain peace. The discussion also touched on promoting tourism and other matters of public interest in the province. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi assured that he would engage with the federal government to resolve any issues related to the provincial government, acting as the province's representative. Earlier, Chief Minister Gandapur arrived at the Governor House to attend the oath-taking ceremony of a new provincial minister Syed Fakhar Jahan.

Cashier embezzled Rs 4.2 million

FAISALABAD (APP): A cashier at a private business embezzled Rs 4.2 million during cash handling in Rail Bazar police limits.

A police report said on Wednesday that Saqib reported to the police that Shafique, a cashier at his business point, had embezzled Rs 4.2 million from business. The police registered a case against the accused and started investigation. Separately, unidentified accused took away a laptop and cash from a shop of Ali in Bano Market in Kotwali police limits.

Meanwhile, robbers snatched cash, cell phone and other valuables from a woman, Huzafa in Sultani Chowk, Ghulam Muhammad Abad.

Separately, unidentified thieves took away a motorcycle of Arshad from the courtyard of the District Courts in Civil Lines police limits while thieves stormed into a house of Anwar in Mohala Usman Town in Ghulam Muhammad Abad and took away mobiles, cash and a water pump.

The police registered separate cases and started investigation.

KP initiates interest free Ehsas Loan Scheme

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has taken a public friendly step and completed all the action points to commence interest free Ehsas Loan Scheme.

A meeting regarding interest-free Ehsas loan scheme was held in the Civil Secretariat under the chairmanship of Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Finance Muzammil Aslam here on Wednesday.

Minister Housing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dr

Amjad Ali, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister for Technical Education and Vocational Training Tufail Anjum and Secretary Zakat Nazir Hussain Shah and relevant stakeholders participated in the meeting.

The meeting was informed that under the interest-free Ehsas loan scheme, loans will be provided for up to five years, while interest-free loans will be given for small business and house building purposes.

Governor KP flays attack on Chinese nationals

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Wednesday expressed deep concern and sorrow over the attack on Chinese nationals in Karachi, calling it a highly distressing incident. The Governor termed the attack on Chinese citizens as "extremely alarming" and emphasized that such acts of violence were part of a broader conspiracy by anti-Pakistan forces.

International News

Israel strikes on Lebanon kill 30 people around Baalbek, says governor

BEIRUT: Israeli strikes on Lebanon killed at least 30 people around the eastern city of Baalbek in the Bekaa Valley on Wednesday, according to the regional governor, and at dusk more strikes hit Beirut's southern suburbs.

Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah have exchanged fire for over a year in parallel with the Gaza war but fighting has dramatically escalated since late September, with Israeli troops intensifying bombing on swathes of Lebanon's south and east and making ground incursions into border villages.

Around 20 Israeli strikes on the Baalbek-Hermel governorate killed 30 people and wounded 35, governor Bachir Khodr said on X. The Israeli military did not immediately comment.

Israeli strikes have also battered Hezbollah strongholds in the southern

suburbs of the capital Beirut. At least four strikes targeted the area on Wednesday after the Israeli military ordered residents to evacuate from several locations.

There was no immediate report on casualties or details on what was hit. The attack happened shortly after Hezbollah secretary general Naim Qassem said he did not believe that "political action" would bring about an end to hostilities.

He said there could be a road to indirect negotiations if Israel stopped its attacks. "When the enemy decides to stop the aggression, there is a path for negotiations that we have clearly defined - indirect negotiations through the Lebanese state and Speaker (of parliament Nabih) Berrni," said Qassem.

More than 3,000 people have been killed in Israeli strikes on Lebanon over the last year, the vast majority in the past six

weeks.

Lebanese rescuers scoured a destroyed apartment building in the town of Barja south of Beirut for bodies or any survivors after an Israeli strike on Tuesday evening that killed 20 people there, Lebanon's health ministry said.

Moussa Zahran, who lived on one of the upper floors of the building, returned to sift through the ruins of his home. His burned feet were wrapped in gauze and his son and wife were in hospital after being wounded in the strike.

"These rocks that you see here weigh 100 kilos, they fell on a 13 kilo kid," he said, referring to his son and the apartment wall that had collapsed onto him during the strike.

It was not immediately clear if the strike targeted a member of Hezbollah. There was no evacuation warning ahead of the air raid.



Civil defense members work at a site damaged in the aftermath of an Israeli strike, amid the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, in Barja, Lebanon.

US will continue Taiwan-friendly approach after election, senior Taiwan official says

TAIPEI: The United States will continue its friendly approach towards Taiwan after the presidential election and Taiwan will work to prevent China "making trouble" during the transition, a senior Taiwanese security official said on Wednesday.

US President Donald Trump has made comments on the campaign trail that Taiwan should pay to be protected and also accused the island of stealing American semiconductor business.

Democratically-governed Taiwan, which China views as its own territory, has faced a sustained military pressure campaign from Beijing over the past five years, including four major rounds of war games

in the past two years.

Earlier, speaking to reporters in parliament, Taiwan National Security Bureau Director-General Tsai Ming-yen noted the election's outcome was still unknown.

"On relations across the Taiwan Strait we believe that the United States will continue its current approach of constraining China and being friendly to Taiwan," he said.

Taiwan will continue communication with the current administration focusing on key issues for cooperation "in the next phase" and work with international partners to exchange information on China's intentions and military movements during the transition, Tsai added.

Leaders from key countries to skip climate summit

BRUSSELS: World leaders from major economies including the United States, the European Union and Brazil are planning to skip this year's United Nations climate change summit, known as COP29, in Baku, Azerbaijan. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will not attend the COP29 climate summit because of political developments in Brussels, a Commission spokesperson said on Tuesday.

There, EU lawmakers are vetting the members of her new European Commission, who will lead EU policymaking for the next five years. "The Commission is in a transition phase and the president will therefore focus on her institutional duties," the spokesperson said.

China braces for continued superpower rivalry as Trump claims victory

BEIJING: China will work with the US on the basis of mutual respect, it said on Wednesday as Donald Trump closed in on victory in the presidential election, but strategists said Beijing was bracing for bitter superpower rivalry over trade, technology and security issues.

"Our policy towards the US is consistent," foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a regular press conference in Beijing, when asked how Trump returning to the Oval Office would affect US-China

relations.

"We will continue to view and handle China-US relations in accordance with the principles of mutual respect, peaceful co-existence and win-win cooperation," she added.

Chinese strategists however said they expected more fiery rhetoric and potentially crippling tariffs from Trump, although some said his isolationist foreign policy could give Beijing a vacuum to expand its global influence.

"Beijing anticipated a close race in the US election."

China warns soldiers against online dating

BEIJING: In an unusual warning, China's navy told young officers and personnel that they could get ensnared by online dating scams and virtual gambling if they let down their guard, exposing themselves to security risks and undermining the military.

Addressing those born from 1990 who are "becoming the core of the army", the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy said in a social media post that young soldiers.

Russia floats idea of 'reset' with United States after Trump declares victory

MOSCOW: New opportunities to reset relations between Moscow and Washington have opened up, the influential head of Russia's sovereign wealth fund said on Wednesday after Donald Trump declared victory in the US presidential election. Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 triggered the biggest confrontation between Moscow and the West since the 1962 Cuban missile crisis when the Soviet Union and the US came close to nuclear war.

Both Russian and US diplomats say relations between the world's two largest nuclear powers have

only been worse during the depths of the Cold War.

Kirill Dmitriev, CEO of Russia's sovereign wealth fund and a senior figure in Russia's political elite, said that Trump's team had won the presidency and the Senate "despite a large-scale disinformation campaign directed against them".

"Their convincing victory shows that ordinary Americans are tired of the unprecedented lies, incompetence, and malice of the Biden administration," said Dmitriev, a former Goldman Sachs banker who has previously had contacts with the Trump team.



Russian President Vladimir Putin delivers a speech during a ceremony to receive diplomatic credentials from newly appointed foreign ambassadors at the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow, Russia.

Iran's currency falls to an all-time low as Trump clinches the US presidency

TEHRAN: Iran's currency fell on Wednesday to an all-time low as Donald Trump clinched the U.S. presidency again, signaling new challenges ahead for Tehran as it remains locked in the wars raging in the Middle East.

The rial traded at 703,000 rials to the dollar, traders in Tehran said, breaking through the record before recovering slightly later in the day to 696,150 to \$1.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the rally but Iran's Central Bank has

in the past flooded the market with more hard currencies as an attempt to improve the rate.

The slide comes as the rial already faces considerable woes over its sharp slide in value — and as the mood on the streets of Tehran among some darkened.

"One-hundred percent he will intensify the sanctions," said Amir Aghaeian, a 22-year-old student. "Things that are not in our favor will be worse. Our economy and social situation will surely get worse."

Planning minister assures fast-track completion of Islamabad IT Park

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday said the government was determined to complete the establishment of Information Technology (IT) Park in the Federal Capital on a fast-track basis.

He expressed this resolve while chairing a progress-review meeting of the project, attended by Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Ambassador of Korea to Pakistan Park Kijun besides senior officials from the Ministries of Planning and IT, a news release said.

Ahsan Iqbal emphasized the Prime Minister's vision for the swift advancement of the project to transform Islamabad into a regional hub for IT innovation.

He stressed the importance of parallel development strategies to ensure the project's accelerated

progress, setting the foundation for a sustainable digital economy in Pakistan.

IT Park Islamabad is being developed in Islamabad, covering a substantial area of 66,893 square meters with two basements, a ground floor, and nine additional floors.

It is being financed through a partnership between the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) of the Korean EXIM Bank and the Government of Pakistan's Public Sector Development Program (PSDP). The project, valued at \$88.384 million, includes \$76.310 million from the Korean EXIM Bank as a loan, with the remaining \$12.476 million funded through the PSDP.

This state-of-the-art facility will support IT companies and start-ups comprehensively, driving innovation and enabling Pakistan to compete in the global IT sector. Key features of the IT Park Islamabad include:



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor University of Meqran Panjgur Dr. Abdul Malik Tareen meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Resolving issues of people important mission of life: Jatak

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Ali Madad Jatak has stated that it is mission of his life to resolve the issues of common men for practical steps are being taken.

The Provincial Minister was addressing the open kachehri at his residence here on Wednesday.

The elders of the area, workers of Pakistan Peoples Party and general public participated in the kachehri.

Mir Ali Madad Jatak said that he is determined to provide basic facilities to the people at their doorstep.

He said that the basic objective behind holding open kachehri is to get acquainted about the prob-

lems of people of his constituency and then take steps for their solution on priority basis.

He said that it is aim of the party to serve the masses without any discrimination. For the purpose, practical steps are being taken, he maintained.

The Minister said that different development projects of important nature have been started in the area and surely there would be revolution once these projects are completed in due course of time.

He said that we would bring remarkable change in Sariab area. Meanwhile, the participants of open kachehri thanked Ali Madad Jatak for having interaction and pay heed to their issues.

Rubina inaugurates BISP Tehsil office in L. Tanawal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Division Malik Muhammad Farooq, said a news release.

Rubina Khalid also inaugurated the Begum Nurat Bhutto Shaheed Road in Sherwan, Lower Tanawal.

Addressing a public gathering on this occasion, Senator Rubina Khalid credited former President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, for making housewives in eligible families to qualify for assistance under the Benazir Income Support Program.

Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid on Wednesday inaugurated the BISP Tehsil Office in Lower Tanawal, Abbottabad.

She visited the Pakistan Peoples Party Secretariat in Abbottabad on the invitation of Pakistan Peoples Party district Abbottabad President Syed Saleem Shah and Divisional President Pakistan Peoples Party Hazara



QUETTA: Former Provincial Minister Malik Anayat Kasi Advocate giving sweet to newly elected President of Supreme Court Bar Association Rauf Ata.

190 million pounds reference Defence counsels complete cross questioning of 35 witnesses

RAWALPINDI (Online): Defence counsels have completed cross examination of 35 witnesses in 190 million pounds reference.

190 million pounds reference came up for hearing in Accountability Court (AC) led by judge Nasir Javed Rana Wednesday.

PTI founder was presented in court room.

Bushra Bibi came in jail in connection with hearing of the case. 190 million pounds reference has entered its final stage.

Zahir Abbas counsel for PTI founder and Usman Gul counsel for Bushra Bibi cross questioned the witnesses. NAB prosecutor said they don't want to present any more evidence

in 190 million pounds reference. The court fixed November 8 in connection with statement of PTI founder and Bushra Bibi under 342.

The court will provide questionnaire to PTI founder and Bushra Bibi regarding statement under 342. The court adjourned hearing of 190 million pounds reference till November 8.

Cross questioning in regard to statement of last witness of reference investigating officer Mian Umar Nadim continued for three months.

The defence counsel succeeded in completing cross questioning on 37th hearing.



GILGIT: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a special meeting of the Gilgit Baltistan Cabinet.

Qaiser says: Maritime sector facilitates imports of 430,000 metric tons used clothing in FY 2023-2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, said more than 430,000 metric tons of used clothing arrived in Pakistan in FY2023-24 with the support of our port and shipping infrastructure.

Addressing a conference 'National Policy Dialogue on Circularity and Used Textile Trade in Pakistan' acknowledged the support of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the European Union (EU) for their collaboration in the Circularity and Used Textiles Trade Project.

The Minister emphasized the vital role of Pakistan's maritime infrastructure in facilitating the import of second-hand textiles. He added that he recognizes that the efficient

handling of these imports is essential for supporting local economies, job creation, and textile recycling efforts.

The Federal Minister further said that the ministry is focused on improving port efficiency and container management to streamline the processing of these goods, ensuring that shipments are processed in a timely and cost-effective manner.

The minister also outlined its ongoing efforts to develop waste sorting hubs for textile recycling, a key step in managing textile waste and reducing the environmental impact of global textile trade.

Additionally, he said that we are committed to implementing regulations that will limit pollutants from textile shipments, particularly harmful chemicals, to protect marine ecosystems and ensure sustainable shipping practices.

Number of cellular subscribers reaches 193m

ISLAMABAD (APP): The number of cellular subscribers in Pakistan reached 193 million, with a mobile teledensity of 79.40 percent, by the end of September 2024, according to data from the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA). The data also revealed that mobile broadband subscribers have grown to 139 million, achieving a mobile penetration rate of 56.96 percent.

Kakar vows to improve basic infrastructure in Balochistan health sector

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister Health, Bakht Muhammad Kakar has expressed the government's resolve to bring improvement in the basic infrastructure of healthcare sector in the province.

The Provincial Minister was chairing a meeting about the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for health sector here on Wednesday.



QUETTA: A delegation of lawyer community meeting with Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar.

Indian troops martyr another Kashmiri youth in Kupwara

SRINAGAR (Online): Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred another Kashmiri youth in Kupwara district of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday.

According to media reports, the youth was killed by troops in a fake encounter during a cordon and search operation in the lolab area of the district.

The operation continued till last reports came in.

Earlier, on Tuesday, the troops martyred a youth in their fresh act.

IIOJK assembly passes bill seeking restoration Article 370

SRINAGAR (INP): In a significant political move, the occupied Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, led by puppet Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, passed a bill seeking the restoration of Article 370, aiming to reinstate the territory's special status that was revoked by the Indian government in August 2019.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the bill was tabled by the ruling National Conference (NC) on Wednesday, in line with the party's commitment to its manifesto promise of fighting for the restoration of the territory's special status. The proposal was introduced by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Singh Choudhary, who called for the restoration of occupied Jammu and Kashmir's special provisions, which were unilaterally abrogated by the Indian government during a controversial move on August 5, 2019.

Quetta Administration to revamp Cafe Baldiya, addition to Quetta's social and cultural landscape

QUETTA (APP): Quetta administration has decided to revamp Cafe Baldiya, a lease property of the Metropolitan Corporation Quetta to make a significant enhancement in both its financial value and design.

Administrator Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat said that the rent of Cafe Baldiya has not been paid since last six years which was Rs6000 per month and the lease agreement has been also expired.

On the directives of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Hamza Shafiqat, the monthly rent for the Cafe Baldiya has been increased from Rs6000 to 300000, reflecting its prime location and its worth.

Under the plan, the cafe is set to undergo a complete redesign, aligning with contemporary standards to provide a modern and appealing venue for the residents of Quetta city.

He said that the transformation is the part of a broader initiative to evaluate the city's infrastructure and amenities and it promises to offer a fresh and exciting experience to the community.

The revamped Cafe Baldiya will soon serve as a vibrant addition to

Quetta's social and cultural landscape, showcasing a blend of modern elegance and enhanced functionality, he added.

In a bid to hamper the government positive endeavors aimed at improve the civic conditions of the dwellers of Quetta city, the mafia with their vested interest has launched a campaign to malign the uplift schemes.

Taking up the glows, the district administration has started revising the century-old agreements of the Metropolitan Corporation properties and buildings illegally occupied by the land mafia.



KHUZDAR: Vice Chancellor Balochistan University of Engineering and Technology Khuzdar Dr. Maqsood Ahmed and Regional Head ANF Adnan addressing anti-narcotics seminar jointly organized by BUETK and ANF.

PM Shehbaz announces 100MW power supply for GB, Rs1bln endowment fund

GILGIT (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday announced the immediate power supply of 100 megawatts for Gilgit Baltistan and a Rs1 billion endowment fund for the universities students.

The prime minister, who chaired the special meeting of the GB cabinet during his daylong visit here, expressed satisfaction and pleasure over the timely completion of Bubar Model Village, which he earlier inaugurated, to provide housing facility to the people affected by flood in 2022.

He instructed the GB administration to establish educational institutions, playgrounds, power transmission and other facilities in Ghizer district.

Besides announcing an immediate power supply of 100 megawatts to GB, the prime minister announced Rs 1 billion merit-based endowment fund for the students of Balistan University and Karakorum University.

Prime Minister Shehbaz told the GB cabinet members that the federal government would establish Daanish Schools in GB, on the pattern of Punjab province.

He said that his government was actively working for the uplift and welfare of the GB people.

He recalled that while being Punjab chief minister, his government had given a Rs1 billion gift to uplift GB's education sector.

He said that the provincial governments' cooperation with the federal government for the economic stability was significant.

The prime minister told the participants that stock exchange has crossed

the 92,000 mark and the increase in remittances, tax return filers and reduction in inflation were pleasant developments for national economy.

He lauded the role of all provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and GB in the national development and highlighted his government's special focus on the uplift of GB, merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. The prime minister said that the federal government was taking measures to promote tourism in GB as Qatari government had also expressed interest to invest in tourism there. Federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Attaullah Tarar, Amir Muqam and Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, members of the GB cabinet and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh chairing a session of Sustainable Development Conference.

CM directs to speed up implementation on development projects, complete all within stipulated timeframe

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has directed to the concerned high ups to speed up implementation on the development projects and complete the same within stipulated time anyway.

The Chief Minister was presiding over the meeting held to review the progress of different ongoing development projects in the province, here on Wednesday.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary Communications and Works, Lal Jan Jaffar, Secretary Finance, Babar

Khan, Secretary Schools, Saleh Muhammad Nasar, Secretary Services and General Administration Department, Agha Faisal, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Imran Zarkoon as well as representatives of the Planning and Development and Irrigation departments.

The meeting was briefed about establishment of Danish schools in different districts of the province on pattern of Punjab. In addition to this, the meeting was also briefed about the progress on ongoing water supply schemes in Sui, construction of Sui Ring

road, and Sui-Kashmor road. The Secretary Communication and Works also informed the meeting about ongoing and new schemes in road and building sectors.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister directed to complete the development projects of Sui Girls College, Kohlu Girls College and Baikor Boys College within six months.

He said that government wants to get the benefits of projects to the common men and it believes in such viable projects which may directly benefit them.

Govt launches anti-narcotics operation in Loralai

Independent Report
LORALAI: Deputy Commissioner Loralai Miran Baloch led a major operation against cannabis cultivation under the vision of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti to make Balochistan narcotics-free.

The operation, supervised by DC Loralai, involved Assistant Commissioner Loralai, police, and levies personnel. In today's crackdown, 10 acres of cannabis crop were destroyed in the Mekhtar area. The operation will continue daily.

Dar chairs preparatory meeting for UAE Ports delegation's visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday chaired a high-level Inter-Ministerial preparatory meeting in connection with the forthcoming visit of the delegation of Abu Dhabi Ports, United Arab Emirates.

During the meeting held at PM's House, the deputy prime minister/foreign minister highlighted the importance of the visit which showed keenness of the Government of UAE for enhancing investment in

Pakistan. He underscored that the Government was keen for the economic growth of the country and such investments would play a crucial role boosting Pakistan's economy, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

The proposed MOUs relating to ministries of maritime, aviation, railways, Board of Investment (BOI) and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) were also presented in the meeting. Secretaries of each ministry gave presentation on the proposed MOUs.



GWADAR: Director General Gwadar Development Authority Shafqat Anwar Shahwani addressing Explore & Uplift Gwadar Conference.

EC gives one more chance to political parties to file annual statement of assets

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) while giving one more opportunity to political parties to file annual statement of assets which have not filed the same so far has adjourned hearing of the case till November 21.

Heads of 48 political parties were summoned for not filing annual statement of assets.

A two members bench of EC led by Member Sindh Nisar Durrani heard the notices issued to 48 political parties which are registered with EC and have not filed annual statement of assets.

Istehkam Pakistan Party, PTI Nazriati, MWM, Balochistan Awami party and several other parties did not appear before EC during the hearing of notices Wednesday.

For physical & mental growth Imran emphasizes upon participation of students in sports, extra curricular activities

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Secretary Information Department, Imran Khan Afridi has emphasized upon the importance of participation of students in sports competitions and other extra-curricular activities for their physical and mental growth.

However, adding he stressed to maintain balance in educational and sports activities.

Imran Khan was addressing the 24th Mini Olympic Games' All Quetta Inter-Schools Girls Throw Ball and Catch Ball final match ceremony, here on Wednesday.

Imran Khan Afridi, Secretary Information and Chairman Throw Ball Association, praised Balochistan girls' enthusiasm for throw ball, a relatively new game. He expressed hope that these girls will excel in sports and bring glory to the nation.

Hazara Town Girls School won the throw ball final against Kili Ibrahimzai Girls School, while Hazara Town Girls School also secured the championship in catch ball, defeating Postal Colony Girls School.

As the guest of honor, Provincial Secretary Information Imran Khan distributed certificates, trophies, and medals to the winning and runner-up teams. He encouraged all participating students and assured his support.

At the ceremony's conclusion, Atta Muhammad Kakar, known as the "Father of Sports Balochistan," presented Secretary Information Imran Khan with a commemorative shield.