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Father and son killed in Kalat firing

WHO to establish 26 labour rooms in flood-stricken areas of Balochistan

Met COAS: US Centcom Chief recognizes Pakistan's efforts against terrorism

Contempt case: ECP instructs Islamabad IG to arrest Imran, present him before commission Today

News Desk

General Michael Erik Kurilla, Commander United States (US) CENTCOM, called on General Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) on Monday morning.

Both reiterated the desire to further enhance bilateral relations

The visiting dignitary acknowledged and appreciated Pakistan Army's successes in the fight against terrorism and Pakistan's continued efforts for bringing peace and stability to the region.

Pakistan has been at the forefront of the menace of terrorism and extremism in the region. The country has faced the brunt of war on terror and thousands of soldiers laid down their lives against terrorists.

According to the Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR), Gen Kurilla called on Gen Munir in Rawalpindi today.



bringing peace and stability in the region," the statement said.

Pakistan's continued efforts for peace and stability in the region, Gen Munir

"During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, [the] regional security situation and defence cooperation were discussed," the

ISPR added. It stated that both sides reiterated the desire to further enhance bilateral relations in all fields.

The meeting comes days after both countries called on the interim Afghan government to prevent their soil from being used as a safe haven for terrorist attacks.

In a press briefing last week, US State Department's Spokesperson Matt Heuser Miller said the Afghan Taliban administration bore the responsibility to control terror activities origi-

nating from their territory.

"I will say we have made very clear that we believe the Taliban has the responsibility to prevent Afghanistan from being used as a safe haven for launching terrorist attacks," he said in response to a question.

The statement came after the Pakistan Army blamed Kabul for the uptick in militancy, saying that "safe havens and liberty of action," along with the latest weapons available to militants from Afghanistan enabled them to carry out attacks inside Pakistan.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) issued a contemptible arrest warrant for PTI Chairman Imran Khan on Monday, asking the Islamabad police chief to arrest and present him before it tomorrow (Tuesday) in a contempt case.

A four-member ECP bench headed by member Nisar Durani had ordered the release of a warrant for Imran's arrest on July 11, following his failure to appear before the commission.

The ECP had initiated contempt proceedings against the PTI chief, party leader Asim Umar and former information minister Fawad Chaudhry last year for allegedly using "intemperate" language against the election commissioner and the electoral watchdog.

The commission had asked them to appear in person or through their counsels before it to explain their position.

However, instead of appearing before the ECP, the three had challenged the ECP notices and contempt proceedings in various high courts on the grounds that Section 10 of the Elections Act 2017, which is the statutory provision regarding the commission's power to punish for contempt, was



against the Constitution.

The Election Act 2017, Section 10 titled "Power to punish for contempt" states that the "election commission may exercise the same power as the high court to punish any person for contempt of court and the Contempt of Court Ordinance, 2003 (V of 2003), or any other law pertaining to contempt of court shall have effect accordingly [...]"

The PTI leaders had also sought from the high courts a declaratory relief from the charges.

But in January, the Supreme Court had allowed the ECP to continue proceedings against the Imran, Chaudhry, and Umar, and on June 21, the

ECP had decided to frame charges against Imran, Fawad and Umar in July.

At the July 11 hearing, none of the three appeared before the commission despite being summoned, following which the ECP had issued arrest warrants for Fawad and Umar.

It had, however, accepted a plea by Umar's lawyer to allow him an exemption from the hearing.

The ECP issued a warrant for Imran's arrest today, stating that he was "required in the contempt of the commission's proceedings initiated in terms of Section 10 of the Elections Act, 2017." Web Desk

6 killed in rains related incidents in Balochistan

Manan Mandokhail, Syed Ali Shah Abdullah Lehari, Sardar Muhammad Khondai

QUETTA: At least six people were killed in rains-related incidents across Balochistan on Monday. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) declared an emergency in the rains and floods that hit areas of the province.

The monsoon rains have been ongoing in Balochistan for the past week, in which most of the rains were recorded in the districts of Sahabpur, Lasbela, Bolan, Harnai, Sorab, and Zhob district. The Pinjra bridge in the Bolan mountains was again collapsed in floods causing the suspension of traffic between Sindh and Balochistan.

A man and woman were swept away by merciless floods in Naseerabad



At least 2 people were swept away in the floodwaters in the district of Naseerabad. The rescue workers retrieved the dead bodies in the Harnai, Lasbela and Sobhat Pur districts of Balochistan. The PDMA has stepped up efforts to reach all the rains-affected people across the province.

Director PDMA, Faisal Panzezi informed that a letter was sent to the authorities to impose Section 144 on all picnic points in relation to the monsoon rains, and along with this, 300 people's food and necessary supplies have been delivered to the Deputy Commissioners of all districts.

Rains affected highways across Balochistan

Due to the rains and landslides in them, the national highway connecting Balochistan with Punjab, Fort Marmro, was also closed last night due to landslides, while the supply of vegetables and fruits inside Quetta has been closed for two days due to the Bolan Panjira Bridge road being washed away by water. It should be noted that during the monsoon rains last year, a large number of people especially children lost their lives in Balochistan.

Quetta and other parts of northern and central Balochistan also received rainfall on Monday evening. Rainfall was also reported from the green belt of Balochistan bordering Sindh province. Rainfall has however reduced the impact of heatwaves in the green belt and other parts of Balochistan.

WHO to establish 26 labour rooms in flood-stricken areas of Balochistan

Sheikh Razzak

Quetta: World Health Organization has launched a project to establish 26 labour rooms besides initiating the repair work of 100 calamity-hit health facilities in the flood-affected region of Balochistan.

A total of 26 new labour rooms will be established to provide quality and better maternity facilities to women in the province.

Parliamentary Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs Science and IT Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi expressed these views while talking to the provincial head of WHO Balochistan, Dr. Asfand Yar Shirani here on Monday.

She said that with the support of the World Health Organization, a project has been started for the construction and repair of one hundred flood-affected and old buildings in Balochistan.

Lauding the services of the World Health Organization, she said that WHO was striving hard to establish health units in the province that would yield positive results in the overall health care of the province.

WHO provincial chief while briefing the parliamentary secretary said that a dental unit has also been established at Osta Mohammad while warehouses have also



been set up each at DHO office Naseerabad and Jaffarabad districts respectively.

Earlier, the Parliamentary secretary appreciated the cooperation of the World Health Organization in the provision of medical services to the needy patients of Balochistan.

"The cooperation of the WHO will bring tangible changes in the provision of healthcare services mainly to the people of the far-flung areas of the province. The establishment of the labour rooms in remote areas of Balochistan will also help reduce the high mortality rate in the province, she further added.

Father and son killed in Kalat firing

Abdullah Lehari

KALAT: A father and son were killed in a firing incident in the Kalat district of Balochistan on Monday. Levis sources said the incident happened in the Khad Bashmi area of Kalat.

The attackers escaped unhurt from the spot. Levis personnel reached the spot as an investigation into the incident went underway.

The motive behind the attack couldn't be ascertained. The dead bodies were shifted to the district headquarters hospital Kalat.

2 levies men martyred in Chaman attack

Sardar Muhammad Khondai

CHAMAN: Two levies men were martyred in two different firing incidents in Chaman on Monday afternoon.

Police sources said armed accused opened fire and martyred a levies man. The attackers sped away on their motorcycle after the attack.

Levis and police personnel reached the spot and shifted the dead body of the levies man to the district headquarters hospital Chaman. The victim was identified as Rehmatullah, a resident of Chaman.

In another incident, an unknown accused opened fire and martyred another levies man. The victim was identified as Samiullah. Police sources reached the spot and started an investigation into the incident. Levis sources said the incidents seem to be acts of targeted killing in the city.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said it was really a great day "we are standing here as brothers from two brotherly countries Azerbaijan and Armenia."

He expressed wishes to the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev whom he met in Baku few weeks ago and thanked him for finalizing this agreement.

"We had extremely productive and very fruitful discussion over these as to how to promote economic relations between the two friendly countries," he said adding that immediately on his return to Pakistan, the Pakistan government extended approval to the Azerbaijan agency to land in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi. Web Desk

Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik, Governor Punjab Baleegh Ur Rehman, diplomats and government officials were also present on the occasion.

Under this framework agreement SOCAR Trading has offered LNG supply to Pakistan in the form of one cargo per month, on flexible terms and with the credit lines for 60 days after delivery of the cargo in one year contract which is extendable by another year.

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PM assures of no increase in power tariff for 63% domestic consumers

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday assured that no increase in power tariff for 60 percent domestic consumers, consuming upto 200 units monthly.

The prime minister further said that those 31 percent consumers of power tariff, consuming upto 300 units months would also be given a partial subsidy.

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Speaking after witnessing the signing of a framework agreement between State Oil company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) and Pakistan LNG Limited (PLL) here on Monday, he said "Due to the toughest conditions from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the government had to raise the electricity prices but I stressed that the burden should not be passed on to the protected segments of the society."



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AI and Climate Change completely missing in Balochistan budget

The future is all about the Artificial Intelligence (AI). The AI has the potential to significantly impact education and transform the learning experience for students across the globe.

AI-powered tutoring systems can provide interactive and adaptive support to students. These systems can assess students' knowledge, identify areas of weakness, and offer targeted guidance to help them improve.

Experts say the AI has so far taken more baby steps. Still a lot needs to be done. The AI is going to dominate education, politics, economy etc in the future.

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To word of AI in the Balochistan Budget

Despite its need and importance, the Balochistan government has not allocated a single penny for the AI in its financial budget for the year 2023-24. The provincial government allocated more than Rs.100 billions for primary, middle and higher education sector. The finance minister Balochistan, Zamarak Achakzai did not utter a single word about the AI.

Besides AI, the government has not focused on the looming threat of climate change. Balochistan, the country's arsewide largest province is prone to all natural disasters because of its vulnerability to the global warming and climate change.

Rs.71 crore allocated for Climate Change and more than Rs.73 billions for C&W department

The government allocated Rs.71 crore rupees to tackle the climate change, whereas, more than 73 billion rupees were allocated for the compensation and works department. The govt is known for chronic corruption and most of the amount is likely to go into some narrow pockets.

Promotion of AI education provides an opportunity to our students to compete on national and international levels. Its promotion can open new vistas of opportunities for our students.

However, investment in the climate change department is extremely necessary in view of the province's vulnerability to the global warming. Devastating floods last year played havoc across Balochistan and life was completely paralyzed for a month.

The provincial government needs to change its priorities when it comes to AI and climate change since the former offers opportunities and the latter poses a serious threat to human life.

We live in an amazing world of discovery where truth gets revealed through the scientific process. Thanks to technological advancements, we do not need to search for plants to grow plants as plant tissue culture has transformed the way we grow plants as well as many types of plants may be grown.

Other inventions are even more incredible: the blind can have their eyesight partly restored through cochlear implants placed on their tongue. Objects can be made to disappear to the naked eye when cloaked with a special shade of metamaterials.

The ageing process can be slowed down, even reversed, using certain anti-ageing compounds such as resveratrol, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD+), curcumin and metformin. New animal and plant species can be created in the laboratory using gene editing technologies.

The advent of nanotechnology has created business in the realm of scientific discovery is indeed a constant source of awe and wonder, driving progress forward at an incredible pace. Some of the most exciting new developments hold the potential to revolutionize various aspects of our lives, from enhancing food production and sustainability to enabling breakthroughs in medicine, manufacturing, and energy.

McKinsey report forecasts a \$33 trillion impact of these new and emerging technologies with artificial intelligence alone having a \$15.6 trillion-dollar impact. It is in Pakistan can capture even 1.0 per cent of this potential, it can result in GDP enhancement of \$156 billion in our exports. It is for this reason that I am deeply involved in the establishment of centres of artificial intelligence across the country.

Three such centres have been established across the Pakistan. Austrian Fachhochschule in Harpur, Hazara, the Pakistan University of Engineering and Emerging Technologies at Sialkot, and the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences at the University of Karachi, Karachi.

These centres will focus on the myriad applications of artificial intelligence in agriculture and industry. The feasibility of another mega project of R&D, completed by the Ministry of Information Technology would be set up in Islamabad, and this should give a huge national boost to our nation.

By Atta-ur-Rahman

allows scientists to develop crops with enhanced traits such as increased yield, disease resistance and nutritional content. Biotechnological tools, such as CRISPR-Cas9, offer precise gene editing capabilities, thereby accelerating crop improvement efforts and reducing environmental impacts.

Gene editing technologies like CRISPR-Cas9 hold immense promise in agriculture and medicine for developing new high yielding crops as well as treating genetic disorders and diseases. Synthetic biology combines engineering principles with biological systems to create novel biological parts, devices, and systems for plant and animal life. The field of synthetic biology is paving the way for biofuels, bio-based materials and environmentally friendly manufacturing processes.

Let us now turn to new advances in material science. The field of nanotechnology possesses unique properties at the nanoscale (a billionth of a meter), enabling advancements in various fields including electronics, energy storage, and medicine. Applications range from lightweight and flexible electronics to targeted drug delivery systems and efficient solar cells. Graphene, a single layer of carbon atoms, is about 200 times stronger than steel.

Genetic engineering

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The fate of the pie paper? Pakistan's skills report card

By Kamila Hyat

after year and decade after decade. There is still too much movement in the global market chessboard to determine precisely what has to happen next and how. It is unlikely to play a major role in Pakistan's politics again. Already, people are criticizing how he put the lives of other people at risk while predicting his future.

How he asked his supporters to protect him in Zaman Park, allowing his supporters to gather, while he remained within his home protected by his army troops who had surrounded him on May 9 hundreds. These 'hundreds of people' will not be enough to bring Khan back to power. What more people did not come out shows that people are not following him wrong and know that what happened on that day is wrong and should have been avoided. This is something for which all political parties can learn and gain wisdom from. The MPP has lost their support. Perhaps should match that of men from outside Punjab such as Baba Jan and others who have been protesting for the rights of people in the region despite a long history of being treated as real heroes. We need to recognize them and put them in a formula - MPP can figure such as Mran and others like him who we have seen throughout our political history.

By Dr Ayesha Bazzaz

Dr Ayesha Bazzaz, neither in the business nor technology or data science skills categories in the report card. For its global analysis, the report rated skill levels of learning countries into one of four categories (quintiles) from the top down. They are: Category 1 (100-75 per cent), 'competitive' (75-50 per cent), 'near-competitive' (50-25 per cent), and 'lagging' (25-0 per cent). Countries placed in the top category are characterized by a high human capital index score of 52 per cent (against an average of 73 per cent in the cutting-edge category), average Internet access of 56 per cent, and a high percentage of working-age population registered on Coursera of 2.68 per cent (against 4.67 per cent in the cutting-edge category).

By Iftekhkar A Khan

crowds making citizens' lives more difficult, as pointed out in the article, the main reason for the PSM's failure in 2015 is the 'sadga' in the shape of meat leftovers the people throw away inside and outside their homes.

The Lahore Canal Bank road is notorious for its traffic jams. It is seen swooping down to get their share of meat that passes by feed them. Some back my cousin Mansoor Khan who's a kind-hearted but a bit naive person. He is surprised, the windshield broke in pieces but he didn't notice. Students are admitted in every government that comes to power by winning the election, from the wretched living from hand to mouth that their pathetic living conditions will improve, and they will get health and education.

By Sarmad Khawaja

And whether, as the Commission says on its website, they burden the national budget, and the poor people, so that selling them "salvages the government's budget by reducing state subsidies?"

Now, the truth is that the country's economic policy is a burden on the budget. It is completely false. But it has settled in the people's minds abetted by a complex media. That's why it's a problem why a loss-making state company, PIA, makes up the losses by selling profitable companies like Oil and Gas Development Corporation (OGDC) and Pak Petroleum (PP) are sacrificed on the altar of a false narrative. Commission's altar without anyone noticing the difference. To illustrate this point, that there is a huge gap between what we think about the performance of state companies is that it is poor - and the reality is that the performance from the latest PP and OGDC annual reports is that you see that we, the people of Pakistan, own about 70 per cent of these companies. But the especially notable aspect is their enormous profit last year was Rs54 billion and it put Rs2 billion in tax alone. In the past six years its cumulative profits were Rs227

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Financial inequality breeds contempt The false narrative around SOEs

By Sarmad Khawaja

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Nine die, 8 injured in rain-related incidents in KP: PDMA

PESHAWAR: At least nine people were dead and eight others injured as heavy rains continued to lash Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a report issued by Provincial Disaster Management...

PDMA, Rescue 1122, Civil Defence, and related institutions are on alert, a spokesman of the Relief Department said...

Relief materials were provided to the affected regions of Chitral, Upper and a detailed assessment of the damage will be done as soon as the flood waters recede in Lower Chitral...



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif unveiling the plaque of the groundbreaking of Ombre Special Economic Zone, in Provincial Capital.

Jabbar Baloch conducted inspection to Maintaining cleanliness in occasion of Muharram-ul-Haram

QUETTA: Administrator Quetta, Jabbar Baloch, conducted a comprehensive inspection of various areas within the city to assess the state of cleanliness and preparedness ahead of the significant occasion of Muharram-ul-Haram...

emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness and hygiene on all the major routes designated for the Muharram processions. He issued clear directives to the concerned officers to pay special attention to these routes...

crucial during the Muharram processions, as many of the activities take place during the evening and night. Ensuring well-lit streets enhances safety and facilitates smooth movement during the processions...

Iranian Envoy calls on Finance Minister

Islamabad: Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan Reza Amir Maseghani called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mehdiyar Ishak Dar at Finance Division, today.

Finance Minister Senator Ishak Dar warmly welcomed the Ambassador and extended felicitations on assuming the charge of Ambassador in Pakistan.

The Finance Minister extended blessings to the Iranian leadership and people on the start of new Islamic year. The Finance Minister highlighted deep rooted historical relations between Pakistan and Iran based on age old commonalities.

He appreciated the cooperation and support of the present government in enhancing the bilateral relations in trade and economic fields. The Finance Minister extended blessings to the Iranian leadership and people on the start of new Islamic year.

The Finance Minister highlighted deep rooted historical relations between Pakistan and Iran based on age old commonalities.

Two sides discussed in detail various fields for mutual cooperation including trade, investment and migration between the two countries. They discussed enhancing trade relations by activating the recently inaugurated border markets and opening of three more border markets...

between the two countries in order to achieve the optimal trade volume through the border trade mechanism and removing technical hurdles in enhancing trade relations between the two countries INP.

US dollar declines slightly against PKR in currency market

ISLAMABAD: The value of the US dollar experienced a slight dip against the Pakistani rupee at the start of the business week.

Current dealers reported a depreciation of 20 paise in the value of the dollar in the inter-bank market, settling at Rs265.52.

Throughout the last week, businesses and traders closely monitored the fluctuations in the currency market, and many were concerned about the impact on imports and the overall economy INP.

CPEC an opportunity for Pakistan to upgrade outdated grid system: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Talking to WealthPK, Mustafa Hyder Syed, Executive Director of Pakistan-China Institute, said. The prevailing financial crisis in Pakistan does not allow the government to invest a huge capital for grid modernization.

"The country's weak transmission grid remains a serious hurdle for the renewable energy initiatives. Every year, hundreds of renewable energy projects halt in the advanced planning phases due to the transmission line upgrade delays and associated costs. As a result, the grid experiences congestion, voltage instability, and reliability issues due to the poor technical condition of the system," he said.

Conservation Act (EECA) was also introduced, but there are many challenges which hinder their implementation, he said.

Moreover, the approved energy sector budget of the CPEC provides Pakistan with a golden opportunity to opt for grid modernization and dissemination of renewable sources for power generation due to the allocation of sufficient funds.

"Since the renewable energy projects are typically located far from major cities, transmission lines upgrade delays are a problematic issue. Modernization of power grid through realization of smart grid technologies is much needed to meet the ever-increasing energy demand," he said.

"As an energy-developing country, Pakistan recently introduced several new policies such as the National Energy Import Policy (NEIP), Energy Wheeling Policy (EWP), and Net Metering (NDM) to manage the electricity demand effectively.

SVed Mujahid Shah, senior electrical engineer at the National Engineering Services Pakistan (NESPAK), told WealthPK that Pakistan's outdated transmission and distribution (T&D) infrastructure needs an upgrade for reliable and efficient supply of electricity.

Work on this technology has been going on since 2017 but it is still in the early stages of development."

Work on this technology has been going on since 2017 but it is still in the early stages of development. Work on this technology has been going on since 2017 but it is still in the early stages of development."



PESHAWAR: Mourners beating themselves during procession at Imam Bargah Dhakki.

Pakistan to develop green hydrogen in collaboration with China

Islamabad: There are good prospects for Pakistan to develop green hydrogen in collaboration with China.

The concept of green hydrogen is still new to Pakistan. As we have very good ties with China, which is now the world's top user and producer of hydrogen, China can be a good option for Pakistan to cooperate with in green hydrogen," said Najma Meemon said.

Hydrogen is a clean fuel which doesn't emit carbon and cause environmental pollution. The advantage of green hydrogen is that the sources of energy used to produce it are renewable, such as solar and wind. The whole world is moving towards green energy. A lot of research is being done on this. Najma Meemon added.

Rights now, on the side of Jamshir, the Sindh government has set up a project with China in which they are producing hydrogen, but it has not yet reached a mature level that we can use in the whole of Pakistan as a fuel.

Pakistan has taken the initiative, this is a good thing and, in fact, they will be able to do good things in green hydrogen technologies, according to Najma Meemon, Professor at NCE in Analytical Chemistry, University of Sindh.

Hydrogen is a clean fuel which doesn't emit carbon and cause environmental pollution. The advantage of green hydrogen is that the sources of energy used to produce it are renewable, such as solar and wind. The whole world is moving towards green energy. A lot of research is being done on this. Najma Meemon added.

Citi Pharma's income, profit dwindle in 3QFY23: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Citi Pharma Limited showed impressive performance during the first two quarters of the outgoing fiscal year 2022-23, but the revenues (income) and profitability dwindled during the third quarter.

In the third quarter (Jan-March), the company posted income of Rs2.68 billion, gross profit of Rs350 million and net profit of Rs27 million. Performance in FY22, the company's sales increased 69% to Rs9.7 billion from Rs5.7 billion in the previous year.

The company's profit-after-tax also jumped to Rs1.03 billion in FY22 from Rs75 million in the previous year's Rs570 million. The company's profit-before-tax jumped 107% to Rs1.03 billion in FY22 from Rs50 million in the previous year's Rs459 million.

In the first quarter (April-June) of FY23, Citi Pharma posted income of Rs3.1 billion, gross profit of Rs370 million and net profit of Rs145 million. The company posted income of Rs3.05 billion, gross profit of Rs345 million and net profit of Rs294 million in the second quarter (Oct-Dec).

The operating profit also increased to Rs982 million, up 72% from the previous year's Rs570 million. Earnings per share (EPS) for the company in 2019, the company recorded an EPS of Rs6.18, which leapt to Rs13.87 in 2022, demonstrating an outstanding growth of 415%, but the EPS plunged to Rs3.64 in 2021. The company's EPS will strategise and navigate through these challenges in the coming years.

The net profit margin stood at 1.07% in 2019, and increased to 4.07% in 2022, 6.07% in 2021. INP

Steel prices reach unmatched all-time high

ISLAMABAD: The construction industry in Pakistan is facing an uphill battle as the price of steel, the primary raw material for construction, surges to an all-time high level.

Leading steel rebars producers on Monday announced an increase of \$3,000 per metric ton, indicating a shortage of raw materials and a significant hike in the basic power tariff.

The rising cost of steel, which now stands at a staggering \$260,000 per metric ton, has raised eyebrows and left industry players grappling with mounting challenges.

Additionally, the recent increase in electricity tariffs has further exacerbated the situation, putting immense pressure on steel manufacturers to cope with rising production costs.

As steel prices soar to unprecedented levels, the construction industry is feeling the strain on multiple fronts INP.

Four carriages of freight train derail in Bahawalpur

BAHAWALPUR: A freight train coming from Karachi derailed due to high speed near Kalanchwala in Bahawalpur on Monday.

Four of the carriages of the freight train which was loaded with fertilizers were derailed in the incident. According to railway officials, the accident occurred when the driver applied brakes while the freight car was chugging at high speed.

Due to sudden braking, the high-speed freight train on the sand loop line. Four carriages of the train were derailed and its engine was damaged partially.

Officials said that they were trying to clear the rail track. A freight train coming from Karachi derailed due to high speed near Kalanchwala in Bahawalpur on Monday.

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ISLAMABAD: Azam Nazeer Tarar Federal Minister for Law and Justice called on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf.

Billions of rupees new cars to Punjab officials challenged in LHC

LAHORE: Punjab government's order to provide new vehicles to additional commissioners and other revenue officers has been challenged in Lahore High Court on Monday.

Mudassar Chaudhry Advocate has filed petition challenging the government's decision on behalf of petitioner Sheeraz Altaf.

Caretaker Punjab government and other concerned have been made party in the petition.

Petitioner pleaded that the public money should be used for public welfare as the country is passing through a critical economic situation. "These privileges should be offered after stability in the economy is achieved," petitioner said.

The caretaker government could only run daily routine affairs and have no public mandate to utilize public funds," according to petitioner.

The court is being requested to declare the notification for procurement of new vehicles for officers as void.

A government letter, Dated July 20, 2023, to the deputy secretary, asked approval of Rs 2337.747 million for purchase of vehicles for 1998 Suzuki Porohar / 1981 Land Cruiser / 1987 Suzuki Porohar / 1987 Land Cruiser / 1987 Suzuki Porohar / 1987 Land Cruiser.

Additional Deputy Commissioners INP.

According to an official notification, the board demanded new cars for additional commissioners of each division, additional deputy commissioners in each district, and assistant commissioners in each Tehsil of Punjab.

Table with 3 columns: Year, Car Model, Quantity. Rows include 1998 Suzuki Machine (1), 1981 Mitsubishi Tracker (1), 1987 Tadanro Crane (2).

C Naqvi reviews security arrangements for month of Muharram

LAHORE: Punjab caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Monday arrived at Lahore's Civil Secretariat where he visited the central control room of the Home Department for monitoring security arrangements across the province during the month of Muharram.

Mohsin Naqvi reviewed the security arrangements for the processions and Majlis of Muharram across the province from the central control room.

He closely and in detail observed the monitoring arrangements in the central control room. "Geo-tagging of Majlis and processions have been carried out across Punjab," he said.

"As many as 502 places in Punjab have been declared sensitive. A code of conduct has been issued, and legal action will be taken on violation of the code," he added.

The assistance of the Pakistan Army has also been sought in security arrangements. Majlis and processions are being monitored through CCTV cameras," he stated.

The law enforcement agencies should be vigilant. The security should be on high alert till the end of Muharram," he added.

"All resources should be utilised to ensure peace in the province. The provincial ministers will also be engaged

assigned the responsibility of monitoring the law and order situation," he averred.

"Every possible measure is being taken to promote brotherhood and religious harmony among the people during Muharram," he maintained.

The chief minister was briefed by the additional chief secretary (home) about the security arrangements.

It was told that special arrangements had been made for CCTV coverage, dashboard and media monitoring in the central control room.

He was also told that the central control room had been linked to the divisional and district control rooms.

"Restrictions on the movement of persons included in the Fourth Schedule and intelligence-based operations are being conducted across the province," the chief minister was briefed.

More than 100,000 policemen have been deployed for the security of 37,000 congregations throughout Punjab during the first 10 days of Muharram. 70,000 police volunteers have also been deployed for security. The additional police force has been deployed at mosques, Imamabars and other places of religious gatherings," the chief minister was briefed further. The Punjab chief secretary, Lahore capital city police officer (CCPO) and other police officers concerned were present on the occasion INP.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif attended the signing ceremony of the agreement between Pakistan LNG Ltd and SOCAR of Azerbaijan.

Pakistani pink salt witnesses growing popularity in Chinese market

SHANGHAI—"In recent years, the popularity of Pakistani Himalayan pink salt products, including salt lamps and bath salt, has been growing in China."

Pakistan can further expand its export to China by enhancing its marketing and packaging," said Hussain Haider, Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai, Guangdong province on Monday.

According to General Administration of Customs of China, Pakistani Himalayan pink salt to China reached \$4,968,223 in 2021 and \$5,747,492 in 2022, a year-on-year increase of 13 percent, which shows a growing awareness among Chinese consumers about the health benefits of pink salt, marketing campaigns, and the establishment of strong trade partnerships between Pakistani exporters and Chinese importers. The rise in pink salt exports to China has not only boosted the Pakistani salt industry but also provided a much-needed economic boost to the country. Increased demand has created new jobs in the mining and processing sectors, contributing to the overall growth of the local economy. Ismail Suttar, chairman of Salt Manufacturers Association of Pakistan (SNAP) and president of Employers Federation of Pakistan, pointed out at a webinar on the promotion of Pakistani pink salt jointly organized by the Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan last week that as the popularity of pink salt continues to

grow, the Pakistani government, in collaboration with industry stakeholders, is actively exploring ways to expand production capacity and improve infrastructure. These efforts are aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the salt industry and maximizing its potential in meeting rising demand from China and other international markets. Zhang Zhen, Honorable Pakistan Investment Counsellor in China, highlighted at the webinar that pink salt lamp, a major product of Pakistan's export of pink salt to China, works like an air purifier, killing bacteria and removing dust, allergens, smoke, odors and mold spores. It can also be used as decoration and a night light to create a tranquil atmosphere, which is popular among Chinese consumers. He added that besides lamps, BBO salt, bath salt, and decorative salt are Pakistan's advantageous products which have huge potential in the Chinese market. In the first half of this year, Pakistani Himalayan pink salt to China reached \$2,694,493, a slight decrease of 5% compared with \$2,839,582 during the same period of last year. To make up for the decline, about 30 companies from China and Pakistan further shared their views at the webinar to promote Pakistani pink salt export to China. They agreed that to cater to the Chinese market, Pakistani salt exporters should take steps to ensure the quality and authenticity of their products, extensive quality control measures need to be implemented to maintain the high standards that Chinese consumers expect. In addition, efforts should be made to promote INP.

FIA arrests man for harassing woman in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Cyber Crime Division arrested a man for harassing a woman.

According to the FIA, Ghaffar Ali was blacklisted by the Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan last week that as the popularity of pink salt continues to

Relocation of people from flood risk, affected areas directed

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has directed the authorities concerned to make all necessary arrangements to relocate the people from flood risk and risk areas to safer locations.

There is risk of floods in the low-lying areas near Nowshera due to rapid discharge of water at river Kabul, said that authority on Monday.

According to NDMA, heavy rains are expected to continue throughout the country during next two days, there is risk of land sliding and flash flooding in Gilgit-Baltistan, Chitral, FATA, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, hill torrents are expected in Dera Ishtiaq Khan and Rajanpur districts of south Punjab and Makran and Dera Bugti hills areas of Balochistan. Authorities are issued a red alert of flooding in Loralai, Kalat, Naserabad, Sibi and Makran. The NDMA also directed relevant authorities to issue advance warnings and safety measures for people. Meanwhile, in the upper catchment areas of the Indus river, low-lying areas such as which are highly vulnerable to rains. Moderate flooding is expected in the Kabul River which may accelerate while discharge of water in other rivers is normal INP.

Matiullah takes oath as KP caretaker minister

PESHAWAR: Advisor to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Minister Matiullah Khan took oath as caretaker minister on Monday.

The oath taking ceremony was held at Governor House Peshawar and attended by caretaker provincial ministers and administrative officials of government departments.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali administer oath to caretaker minister Matiullah Khan. Matiullah has replaced Adnan Jamil and he was nominated by Awami National Party (ANP) INP.

Indian troops martyred 10 Kashmiris, arrested over hundred in two weeks

SRINAGAR: Indian forces continued state terrorism and gross human rights violations during the so-called cordon and search operations in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

A report released by Kashmir Media Service maintained that the Indian troops, paramilitary and police personnel martyred 10 Kashmiris and arrested over a hundred people including Hurriyat activists in last two weeks in different districts of the territory.

"Gross and systematic human rights violations are being perpetrated by Indian troops on daily basis in IIOJK. Modi should know that no amount of Indian brutalization will be able to subjugate the Kashmiris. World history is witness to the fact that freedom movements can never be suppressed through oppression," it said.

The report said the people of IIOJK have rejected Indian military and right is might policy and they firmly stand with the freedom struggle of right to self-determination. India can't break the Kashmiris will for their righteous demand of plebiscite by resorting to wanton killing and arresting in IIOJK, it added.

The report added that people will never forget human rights violations, unconstitutional, undemocratic decision of 5th August 2019 by BJP government.

The report said Narendra Modi and his henchmen must be held responsible for their crimes. The world is watching. IIOJK Indian deficit is writing on the wall. Kashmiris are destined to win freedom, it further added INP.

KP transport minister steps down after ECP seeks his dismissal

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa caretaker Transport Minister Shahid Khattak on Monday stepped down from his position after the Election Commission of Pakistan sought his dismissal!

Shahid Khattak sent his resignation to interim KP Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan. He also faxed his resignation to the provincial chief secretary. He cited personal reasons behind his decision to step down.

In his resignation note, he wrote: "It is stated that I am unable to continue as caretaker provincial minister due to some personal commitments. Therefore, I would like to tender resignation from my portfolio with immediate effect henceforth."

He said that he would contest election against deserter Pervaiz Khattak. He was hopeful to defeat the former defence minister.

Shahid Khattak said that he tendered his resignation before his public meeting at his Hujra (guest room). He said that the people of Nowshera were with him and he resigned on their wish.

A day ago, the Election Commission of Pakistan sought the removal of caretaker provincial minister Shahid Khattak amid reports of his addressing a public meeting of the Awami National Party.

The ECP demanded his resignation after receiving a report from the provincial election commissioner of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa INP.

SC bars authorities from arresting PTI chairman in lawyer murder case till Aug 9

The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday barred authorities from arresting PTI Chairman Imran Khan till August 9 in a case pertaining to the murder of lawyer Abdul Razaq Sharif in Quetta.

A three-member bench led by Justice Yahya Afridi and comprising Justice Sayeed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naveed and Justice Musarrat Hilaqi issued the directives while hearing Khan's plea seeking to quash the case.

On June 6, Sharif was fatally shot by unidentified assailants near Alamo Chowk on Airport Road. According to the police, the attack occurred while he was en route to the Balochistan High Court (BHC), targeted by unknown individuals wielding automatic weapons.

The government and the PTI had traded blame over the incident, with both sides accusing the other of having a role in the killing. Prime Minister's aide Attaulah Tarar had alleged that the lawyer was killed at the behest of Imran to allegedly evade accountability in a treason case while PTI spokesperson Razaq Hassan had accused Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Interior Minister Rana Khan of being behind the murder.

It may be recalled that Sharif had filed a constitutional petition against the PTI chief in the Balochistan High Court, seeking proceedings against the ex-premier under Article 62 that pertained to high treason.

Subsequently, a first information report (FIR) was registered on the complaint of Sharif's son, Advocate Siraj Ahmed, at Quetta's Shaheed Jamil police station against Imran. An anti-terrorism court (ATC) had subsequently INP.

Rivers swell as monsoon rains continue to lash cities across Pakistan

LAHORE: Torrential rains in different parts of Punjab and the release of water by India into rivers have wreaked havoc in several parts of the province.

The situation in River Sutlej at Arifwala deteriorated on Monday after water burst its banks and spilled over into dozens of surrounding villages due to which people's homes, cattle and crops were all washed away.

Rescue 1122 personnel, on the other hand, evacuated people from the areas and shifted them to safer places.

River Indus in medium flood at Daira Din Panah.

On the other hand, River Indus at Daira Din Panah was in medium flood after water level in the river increased by 91,000 cusecs during the last 24 hours to reach 370,000 cusecs.

The water entered surrounding villages, inundating crops in the process.

River Ravi destroys rice crop at Jasar.

Rice crop sown over hundreds of acres of land was inundated after water from River Ravi entered surrounding villages at Jasar.

The water level in the river at that place was recorded at over-47,000.

On the other hand, there is a deluge at Kachu following heavy monsoon showers over the Keerthar mountains of Dadu in Sindh. INP.

More rain forecast, as powerful monsoon system lashes country

KARACHI: Sindh received maximum rainfall in last 24 hours and water will spill continuing in the country, Met Office on Monday.

According to the weather report, Padidan received 120mm rainfall, Dadu 75mm, Mirpur Khos 72mm, Surjan Town in Karachi 20mm rainfall.

Moreover, Murree received 45mm rainfall, Khanpur 42mm, Katchery in Rawalpindi 20mm, Bhakhal 22mm, Bokra in Islamabad 24mm, Zero Point 21mm and Astore in Gilgit-Baltistan received 38mm rainfall during last 24 hours.

Monsoon currents continuously penetrating in Sindh and eastern parts of the country.

Dust-fall/hurricane/rain with few heavy falls likely in Jamshoro, Dadu, Qambar-Shahdadkot, Nohalhro Feroze, Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Larkana and Kashmir districts till July 25 night.

Isolated heavy falls likely in Karachi division, Sukkur, TharParker, Umerkot, Mirpur Mathania, Thatta, Sujawal, Shaheed Benazirabad, Matari, Hyderabad, Tando Allahyar, Tando Muhammad Khan, Sanghar, Khairpur and Ghokhi districts till early morning 26 July with occasional gales, the Pakistan meteorological INP.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador designate to Federal Democratic Republic Ethiopia Main Atif Sharif called on President Dr Arif Alvi.

First monsoon showers at Obaro, Sindh

OBARO: Rain, accompanied by strong winds, considerably brought down the temperatures due to which the people were relieved.

However, the downpour also caused a loss to mango, and date orchards besides severing power supply to different parts of the district.

Rain in Kandhkot, Sindh. Heavy rain also lashed Kandhkot and its outskirts due to which heat-broken people of the city heaved a sigh of relief.

However, it also brought with it lot of inconvenience as electricity supply to the city was disconnected.

There were also reports of monsoon rains from other parts of Sindh.

PDMA issues rain alert.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) on Monday said that different parts of Punjab would continue to receive monsoon rains between July 24 and July 30.

Chinese company awarded for remarkable achievement in Rashakai SEZ

Islamabad Century Steel, a Chinese state company engaged in iron and steel investment and operations, received an award for establishing a remarkable steel mill in the Rashakai Special Economic Zone in Pakistan.

The Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province thanked the government of China, the companies involved, and public sector entities for their unflinching support of the project, according to report carried by Cswar Pro.

Earlier, the caretaker Chief Minister of KPK, Muhammad Azam Khan, inaugurated Phase 1 of the Rashakai Special Economic Zone near Nowshera.

While addressing the inaugural ceremony, the caretaker Chief Minister apprised the exceptional efforts and unwavering commitment of China Road and Bridge Corporation and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company for successfully completing Phase 1 of the project six months ahead of schedule.

The steel plant company, located on 20 acres of land in the Rashakai Special Economic Zone, is a China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. It will produce steel.

According to company sources, the first phase consists of producing construction steel, mainly rebar. The second phase involves making wire rod, including iron wire, nails, screws, welded mesh, and round bars.

The third phase will produce profile steel, including I-beams, L-beams, and channel steel.

"With all three phases completed, will provide Pakistan with an annual output of 1,500,000 tons of steel, create at least 1,000 local jobs, and generate great economic and social benefits," the sources added INP.



LAHORE: Former MPA Rana Mashood along with delegation calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.