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Editor: Omer Rizwan

More than 2,000 killed as powerful earthquake strikes Morocco

RABAT (Agencies): The Interior Ministry of Morocco has officially reported that the death toll resulting from the earthquake that struck the country on Friday evening has now surged to a tragic figure of at least 2,012 individuals. Additionally, the ministry revealed that 2,059 people sustained injuries, with a concerning 1,404 in critical condition. These numbers have risen significantly since the initial overnight reports, which had initially suggested 269 fatalities. The situation remains fluid, and the death toll is expected to continue to rise due to the extensive damage inflicted by the earthquake, which primarily affected remote and hard-to-reach areas in the Atlas Mountains south of Marrakesh. The earthquake's impact was felt in several cities, including the capital, Rabat, as well as Marrakesh, Casablanca, Agadir, and Kenitra. Many residents evacuated their homes and



sought refuge in the streets, assisting in clearing debris and rubble. Numerous videos shared on social media depict the extent of the damage, with multiple buildings suffering significant structural damage, and some being completely destroyed. Notably, a mosque near Jemaa el-Fnaa square in Marrakesh's Old City, a UNESCO World Heritage site, was reportedly among the affected

historical buildings. Morocco's National Institute of Geophysics recorded the earthquake at a magnitude of 7.0, while the US Geological Survey (USGS) reported it as a magnitude 6.8. Tragically, the current death toll has surpassed the toll from the 2004 earthquake that struck Morocco's Mediterranean coast, claiming the lives of over 600 individuals and injuring more than 900.

Fugitive Terror Suspect Daniel Khalife Apprehended by Police



LONDON (Agencies): The London Metropolitan Police have successfully located and arrested Daniel Khalife, a terror suspect who had escaped from prison three days earlier. Khalife was apprehended by a counter-terrorism officer in the Chiswick area of west London, where search efforts had been intensified earlier in the day. Commander Dominic Murphy, the counter-terrorism chief, stated that Khalife, a former soldier, was detained on suspicion of being unlawfully at large and an escaped prisoner. He was riding a bicycle at the time of his arrest and was reportedly cooperative with the arresting officer. Khalife, aged 21, had escaped from Wandsworth Prison on Wednesday, triggering a widespread manhunt that resulted in flight delays and heightened security measures at British ports. He had been in prison, awaiting trial on terror charges related to allegedly planting fake bombs at a military base, a case in which he denied all three charges against him. Khalife's daring escape involved attaching himself to the underside of a delivery van while disguised as a chef. By the time the police located the truck, two miles from the prison, Khalife had vanished, leaving only the strapping used in his escape under the vehicle. This incident led to criticism of the prison service and the government and prompted the launch of an independent investigation. UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak expressed gratitude to the police and the British public following Khalife's capture. Sunak said the government would continue its ongoing inquiry into how Khalife managed to escape. "But this is obviously very welcome news," he said of the arrest.

Two new 9/11 victims identified

NEW YORK (Agencies): Just days before the 22nd anniversary of the September 11 terror attacks on the World Trade Center, New York City officials have identified two additional victims. These individuals are the 1,648th and 1,649th victims identified by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, as confirmed in a news release from the mayor's office. Advanced DNA testing of their remains led to these identifications, and at the request of their families, their names are being withheld. These are the first identifications since September 2021. The man was identified through DNA testing of remains recovered in 2001, while the woman's identification involved DNA testing of remains recovered in 2001, 2006, and 2013. The identification process utilized advanced techniques, including next-generation sequencing technology, known for its sensitivity and speed, which has been employed by the U.S. military to identify



the remains of missing American servicemembers. These identifications offer closure and remembrance for the families of the victims.

Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi dies aged 95 in South Africa

CAPE TOWN (AGENCIES) : Mangosuthu Buthelezi, a prominent figure in South African politics and a vocal Zulu leader, has passed away at the age of 95. Buthelezi played a significant role in the country's political landscape, founding the Zulu Inkatha party during the apartheid era after becoming disillusioned with the African National Congress (ANC). His leadership marked a period of turmoil as clashes between supporters of the ANC and the Inkatha party in the early 1990s led to thousands of deaths. Despite his earlier disagreements with the ANC, Buthelezi was eventually reconciled with the party, serving as President Nelson Mandela's minister of home affairs. Buthelezi's political journey was marked by controversy and disagreement, particularly regarding the ANC's armed struggle against white-minority rule. He adopted a moderate approach as the leader of an ethnic-Zulu homeland and opposed international sanctions on South



Africa, believing they would harm the country's black majority. During the clashes in the early 1990s, allegations of collaboration between the Inkatha movement and the apartheid government emerged. However, Buthelezi consistently denied such claims, and some believed that apartheid security forces were involved in supporting the Inkatha movement. President Cyril Ramaphosa paid tribute to Buthelezi, describing him as a "formidable leader" who had played a significant role in South Africa's history for seven decades. Buthelezi passed away in the early hours of Saturday, two weeks after celebrating his 95th birthday.

American Man Stolen as a Baby in Chile Reunites with Biological Mother After 42 Years

Virginia (Agencies): Jimmy Lippert Thyden, an American man stolen as a baby in Chile, has finally reunited with his biological mother after a 42-year-long search for the truth about his origins. Raised in Virginia by loving adoptive parents, Thyden always knew he was adopted but became suspicious when he discovered discrepancies in his adoption paperwork in 2012. Thyden's quest for answers gained momentum when his wife learned about Scott Lieberman, another American

adoptee from Chile who had been stolen as a baby. Both cases were connected through a Chilean non-profit organization called "Nos Buscamos" (We Search for Each Other), dedicated to helping individuals stolen as babies find their biological families. During General Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship from 1973 to 1990, many babies were funneled to adoption agencies in Chile, with some being stolen from their families. Investigations have suggested that priests, nuns, doctors, nurses, and oth-



ers were involved in illegal adoptions. After reaching out to "Nos Buscamos," Thyden underwent DNA testing and received a match through MyHeritage, an

online genealogy company. This match led him to his biological mother, Maria Angélica González, who had believed for decades that her baby boy had died shortly after birth. The emotional reunion between Thyden and his biological mother took place in Valdivia, Chile. Despite the years of separation, the moment was described as profound and filled with love. Thyden's life journey has led him to embrace his dual identity and the love of both his adoptive and biological families.

Second Challenger 2 Tank Destroyed in Ukraine Conflict



MOSCOW (Agencies): Reports from Russian media indicate that Russian forces have successfully targeted a second Challenger 2 tank, out of the 14 such tanks supplied to Ukraine by the United Kingdom. According to Vladimir Rogov, the leader of the 'We are together with Russia' movement in the Zaporozhye Region, the tank was rendered inoperable after being hit by a Russian Kornet anti-tank missile. This follows the destruction of the first Challenger 2 tank earlier in the week, which was also reportedly hit by a Russian Kornet missile. Rogov noted that the British-made tanks have become prime targets for Russian forces, suggesting

that they are vulnerable to such attacks. The fate of Western equipment in the conflict zone, he added, "is not to be envied." Neither Kiev nor Moscow has officially commented on these reports, and the UK has not provided any statements regarding the recent tank losses. The UK had sent a total of 14 Challenger 2 tanks to Ukraine as part of Western military assistance efforts, mainly consisting of variants of German-made Leopard 2 tanks. These supplies were intended to support Ukraine's counter-offensive launched in early June. The destruction of these tanks highlights the challenges faced by Ukraine in its conflict with Russia.

US, India, Saudi Arabia, and EU Unveil Major Rail and Ports Deal at G20 Summit in New Delhi



NEW DELHI (Agencies): Global leaders announced a significant multinational rail and ports deal connecting the Middle East and South Asia during the G20 summit in New Delhi. This pact is crucial as President Joe Biden seeks to offer an alternative to China's Belt and Road initiative by presenting the US as a partner and investor for developing nations. Biden described the agreement as a "real big deal" that would bridge ports across two continents and contribute to a more stable, prosperous, and integrated Middle East. Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India emphasized that this initiative would sow the seeds for future generations to dream bigger. The deal aims to connect Middle Eastern countries via railways and link them to India through ports, facilitating the flow of energy and trade from the Gulf to Europe by reducing shipping times, costs, and fuel consumption. The agreement involves the European Union, India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the US, and other G20 partners.

While specific financial details were not immediately available, this move aligns with broader US efforts to pursue diplomatic agreements in the Middle East, including the potential recognition of Israel by Saudi Arabia, ultimately contributing to regional stability. This ambitious rail and ports deal underscores the growing importance of infrastructure connectivity in reshaping global trade dynamics. By promoting smoother access to vital energy and trade routes, the agreement not only offers economic advantages but also strengthens diplomatic ties among participating nations. The partnership exemplifies a collaborative approach to address regional challenges and opportunities, fostering cooperation in critical areas like clean energy and digital connectivity. As global leaders explore innovative ways to navigate the complex geopolitical landscape, initiatives like this hold the potential to foster economic growth and stability, ultimately benefitting low and middle-income countries across the region.

About Khyber Mail The Khyber mail was first published in Peshawar, Pakistan in 1932. A newspaper in English by the eminent journalist Sheikh Sana Ullah. From 1932 to 1989 it has survived as leading English newspaper in the region by the sons of Sana Ullah i.e. Sheikh Zaka Ullah, Sheikh Inayat Ullah and Sheikh Saleem Ullah. The publication was shut down in 1989 due to various reasons. The current owner Rizwan Inayat son of Sheikh Inayat Ullah and grandson of Sheikh Sana Ullah, has restarted the family heritage but meeting with the requirement of the century, by giving the readers current happenings around the world with one touch anywhere any time and updating the reader to pace up with the world.

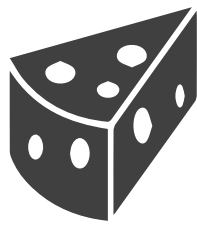
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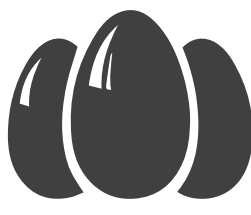
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Yogurt



Pure Honey



Desi Eggs



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Chicken



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Commissioner orders stern action to prevent environmental pollution

MULTAN (APP): Commissioner of Multan Division Engineer Amir Khattak directed the relevant officers to launch a comprehensive crackdown against the production units and commercial vehicles causing environmental pollution. Keeping in view the intensity of the situation of rising environmental pollution and smog, the commissioner on Saturday directed the environment department, district regional transport authorities (RTA), and agriculture department to launch a

joint crackdown across the division. Deputy Director (DD) of Environment Mehr Shamsaad disclosed that the teams visited different areas and inspected production units of commercial vehicles during the last 24 hours. He said that 69 brick kilns were inspected, out of which five had been sealed for causing pollution while four FIRs had been registered against kiln owners and a fine of Rs 900,000 had been imposed. He said that ten industrial units were visited and one was sealed while no-

tices were served to two others over violations. DD of Environment added that the teams inspected 82 vehicles and challaned 30 while a fine of Rs 56000 was imposed on smoky vehicles causing environmental pollution and smog. He said, “A fine of Rs 15000 has been imposed on farmers for burning crop remaining during the crackdown.” He said that as per directives of Commissioner Engineer Amir Khattak, the crackdown would continue on a daily basis without any discrimination.

Shahid Tarar, Donald Blome discuss matters of mutual interest

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Communications, Railways and Maritime Affairs Shahid Ashraf Tarar and United States (US) Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome on Friday discussed matters of mutual interest. In a meeting, the minister said that Pak-US bilateral relations had evolved from security to other fields such as trade and investment, science and technology, climate change and sustainable development, health and education. He expressed his profound desire to strengthen the relations based on development cooperation. He affirmed that the Pakistan Railways had been benefiting from General Electric locomotives provided by the US, and based on their vitality, another order had been placed recently. Similarly, Tarar mentioned, Tarbela

and Mangla dams were also symbols of Pakistan-US cooperation. He further stated that the Karachi-Peshawar railway line had been affected by floods at certain vulnerable points and the US could cooperate with the Pakistan Railways to reclaim the tracks and secure them from future devastation. He further apprised that Pakistan had entered into successful international agreements in Gwadar and the country was attracting foreign investments from global partners. Tarar said Pakistan had played a vital role in COP-27, and was striving to comply with the environmental standards issued by the Climate Conference, in all sectors. The US ambassador said the focus had shifted from Pakistan's bordering and tribal areas to flood-affected areas of Northern Sindh and South Punjab.

57 power pilferers nabbed

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has nabbed 57 power pilferers from different parts of its region during the last 24 hours. Spokesman Tahir Sheikh said here on Saturday that FESCO anti-theft teams launched a crackdown on power pilferage and succeeded in nabbing those involved in electricity theft through different modes in Faisalabad First, Faisalabad Second, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Mianwali and Sargodha circles. FESCO removed electricity supply meters of the pilferers and imposed a total of Rs 4.5 million fine on the accused and recovered Rs 115,000 from them initially. Separate electricity theft cases were registered against the power pilferers, he added.

Discharge of water from fully-packed Mangla dam continues with gradual increase

MIRPUR (APP): The discharge of water, with a gradual increase on a daily routine basis from the currently fully-packed country's largest Mangla dam, continued for the 4th successive day on Saturday. After about a week-long pause only 1.65 feet of water was discharged 4th success day on Saturday from the country's largest fully packed Mangla Dam reservoir since full impounding this season to the stipulated maximum level of 1242 feet official sources said. “Mangla Dam stands as biggest reservoir in terms of water storage in the country, was filled to its maximum conservation capacity of 1242 feet, on August 17,” official sources told APP on Saturday. Mangla Dam contains a minimum operating level of 1050 feet, a present level of 1240.35 feet, a maximum conservation level of 1242 feet, and

live storage on Saturday 7.222 MAF as recorded on Saturday, the media wing of WAPDA said on Saturday. The inflows of the Jhelum river at Mangla reservoir were recorded as 9200 cusecs with outflows of the same 40000 cusecs of water from the dam on Saturday. At the same time, the position of the river inflows and outflows at Tarbela, Mangla and Chashma along with the reservoir levels and the barrages remained on Saturday as under:- Rivers: Indus at Tarbela: Inflows 138500 cusecs and Outflows 125000 cusecs, Kabul at Nowshera: Inflows 23600 cusecs and Outflows 23600 cusecs, Khairabad Bridge: Inflows 81100 cusecs and Outflow 81100, Jhelum at Mangla: Inflows 9200 cusecs and Outflows 40000 cusecs, Chenab at Marala: Inflows 36800 cusecs and Outflows 5900 cusecs.

Isra university organizes business model creation workshop

HYDERABAD (APP): The Department of Management Sciences Isra University Hyderabad organized a two-day business model creation workshop. The event which concluded yesterday was aimed to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to build comprehensive and successful business models from scratch. The workshop provided a practical approach to participants for developing all elements of a business model, offering hands-on experience in creating strategies for business success. The Vice-Chancellor Isra University Prof. Dr. Nazir Ashraf Laghari while addressing the concluding ceremo-

ny of the workshop expressed his support for such interactive events and termed the event a valuable platform for students to gain practical skills in business modeling and strategy development. Such events are not only to nurture innovation and entrepreneurship but also contribute to the academic and personal growth of participants, positioning them for success in the dynamic world of business, he said and appreciated the organizers of the event including Dr. Kinza Yousfani, Mahnoor Laghari, Miss Syeda Hadia, Monaima, Shaikh, Adnan Memon and the Trainer Riaz Ahmed Shaikh for organizing the event.

Caretaker govt adopts holistic approach to revive economy: Shamshad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs and Privatisation Dr Shamshad Akhtar Friday said the caretaker government had adopted a holistic approach to address the pressing issues being faced by the economy and develop a roadmap with an aim to augment the macroeconomic management. “We will operate really holistically and consistently as a team. This will be an important change that

incharges of all segments will work together,” she said while addressing a press conference. A principle had been adopted to look at the government as a whole, she added. The minister was flanked by Caretaker Minister for Commerce and Industry Dr Gohar Ejaz; Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi; and Caretaker Minister for Energy, Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali. Dr Shamshad said subcommittees of

the cabinet had already been institutionalized, including Economic Coordination Committee (ECC), Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC), Cabinet Committee on Privatization (CCoP), and Cabinet Committee on Energy. She said they were having intergovernmental discussions with one another and making sincere efforts to define a roadmap for augmenting the macroeconomic management in the country.

KIIR remembers Shaikh Tajamul-ul-Islam on his death anniversary

MIRPUR (APP): Chairman Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR), Altaf Hussain Wani has paid rich tributes to veteran Kashmiri intellectual and former KMS Director Shaikh Tajamul-ul-Islam on his second death anniversary. In a statement issued here Friday, the KIIR chief

while lauding his contribution to the Kashmir cause, said that islam was one of the pioneers of the freedom struggle who rendered his service for the noble cause while working on political, diplomatic and journalistic fronts. Wani said, “Sheikh Sahib was a genuine intellectual, thinker

and writer par excellence who had significantly contributed to the Kashmir cause”. He said that Sheikh Sahib has left behind a rich legacy that will continue to inspire the coming generations. His demise, he said, had left a huge void that could not be filled easily.

MoU inked to set up a special unit for new-born babies in SMH

KARACHI (APP): A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Karachi Municipal Corporation and the Sindh Institute of Child Health and Neonatology (SICHN) on Friday for setting up a special unit for newborn children at the Sobhraj Maternity Hospital. Speaking at the MoU signing ceremony, Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said the Sobhraj Maternity Hospital, which was a reliable institution in terms of maternity services in the city, lacked a special department for the health and care of newborn babies. The initiative of MoU signing would pave the way

for the provision of quality treatment to the children, particularly the newborn, he added. Municipal Commissioner Syed Afzal Zaidi, Executive Director SICHN Syed Jamal Raza, Senior Director Medical and Health & Medical Services Dr. Nadeem Asif, Medical Superintendent Subhraj Hospital Dr. Houria and others were also present in the ceremony. Murtaza Wahab said under the MoU, Pediatric Ward and OPD will be established on the fourth floor of the old building of Sobhraj Hospital that the work on this project will be started within six months through the funds provided

by the Government of Sindh. The Sindh Institute of Child Health and Neonatal Medicine (SICHNM) will provide the hospital with data for research related to the pediatric service, under the agreement, a monthly report on the paediatrics department will be sent to the hospital administration. Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that the SICHN should proceed with the work on this agreement through the Sindh Health Department so that the funds can be released from the Finance Department on time. There should be no obstacles in practical steps.

Indonesian productivity experts appreciates Pakistan productivity drive

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indonesian productivity experts on Friday declared the industrial and economic productivity drive in Pakistan as important for good and economic sustainable development. The potential of industrial and economic development in Pakistan is high, in which industrial productivity is extremely important, and Pakistan can become economically strong through this, senior official from Ministry of Manpower from Indonesia and Productivity master trainer Abdul Hafid told APP here. Productivity master trainers Abdul Hafid, Arif Fianto and Yohan Petmata, who came to Pakistan on the invitation of the National Productivity Organization said that Productivity training in Pakistan was a good step which should be continued. Productivity master trainer Abdul Hafid said that Association of SouthEast Asian Nation (ASEAN) countries had achieved economic miracles only by working on industrial productivity. Abdul Hafid said that modern transformation of

Indonesia was possible only with the productivity drive from the government. Indonesia is a \$1trillion economy today and in 100 years of its independence, by 1945, Indonesia will be among the 10 largest economies in the world, he said. The Indonesian expert said that Pakistan had a good industrial base and by working on energy productivity, energy could be saved and revenue could also be increased. He said that modern technology and machinery are essential for productivity, without which productivity cannot be imagined. He said that cooperation between Pakistan and Indonesia is indispensable for industrial productivity and both countries can benefit from each other's experiences. Abdul Hafid further said that Productivity Organization in Pakistan is associated with the Ministry of Industry, while in Indonesia it is managed by the Ministry of Manpower. He said that labor productivity is very important in industrial and economic development, which needs more work in Pakistan.

Operation against power thieves ongoing

LAHORE (APP): Operation against power thieves is ongoing in all circles of the Lahore Electric Supply Company under the supervision of Company's Chief Executive Engineer Shahid Haider. According to LESCO sources here on Friday, during two days of the operation 528 connections were found involved in power theft. Applications for registering FIRs against power thieves had been submitted in relevant police stations out of which 305 FIRs were registered. As many as 9 accused had been arrested while all connections had been disconnected and 1,678,826 units had been charged under detection bill head worth Rs 68,796,447. Prominent personalities had also been found involved in power theft and their connections had been disconnected as well. It is pertinent to mention here that operation is being carried out as per the direction of Federal Power Division. The LESCO Chief said that grand operation against power thieves would continue without any discrimination.

Crackdown launched against Qila Abdullah narcotics producing factories

ISLAMABAD (APP): The security forces on Friday launched an operation to eliminate drug production and drug factories in the Qila Abdullah district of Balochistan. On the instructions of Corps Commander Balochistan, Pakistan Army, FC Balochistan, Anti-Narcotics Force, Levies and other law enforcement agencies are participating in the operation, the sources said. So far 2,000 kg of narcotics have been recovered in the operation, and 3,000 kg of chemical and crude ephedrine has been destroyed. Some 16 narcotics manufacturing processing machines were destroyed, 18 drug compounds were demolished, and 10 acres of drug cultivation were also eradicated.

ed. Apart from this, four people were detained during the operation. The operation was finalized in a meeting held on August 28 at Headquarters 12 Corps, in which all stakeholders were involved. On August 30, a jirga was also organized in Qila Abdullah under the Anti-Drug Campaign. In the Jirga, the local elders demanded the abolition of drug factories to stop the production of drugs in Qila Abdullah and Gulistan and assured security agencies of their full support. These operations are being conducted by the Pakistan Army and other law enforcement agencies to protect Balochistan, especially educational institutions, from the menace of drugs.

Jirga of notables & elders in Chitral vows to fight along Pakistan security forces

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Jirga of notables and elders of Chitral and Swat held on Friday at Darosh Fort vowed that the people of Chitral, particularly youth, were ready to fight along the Pakistan Army and security forces. They condemned the terrorism of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and expressed solidarity with the Pakistan Army. The participants paid tribute to the Shuhada

(martyrs) of Chitral Scouts. They assured that the local community would stand by the security forces. They also assured zero tolerance against the social media activists floating negative sentiments. The local population of Chitral had come out in support of the Pakistan Army and was helping in transporting weapons, ammunition and food to the forward posts of the army.

Character building, polishing students is primary responsibility of teachers: Punjab governor

FAISALABAD (APP): Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman on Friday said that education, training, character building and polishing the students is a Primary responsibility of the teachers. He was addressing the faculty staff of the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad here. Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Deans, Faculty and a large number of students were present on the occasion. The governor said that educational institutions give salaries to professors and lecturers and their most important task should be making the students successful, polishing them in the right direction and to prepare them for serving the nation and the country as well. He said that the government of Pakistan had made

substantial increase in the education budget from 2008 to 2013 but unfortunately, this budget was curtailed after 2018. He said that Punjab government took several measures for promotion of education from 2013 to 2018, adding that the then government declined the number of out of school children in the country but after that the funding of Punjab Education Foundation and other educational institutions was cut, resultantly the number of out of school children again increased. He urged the teachers and faculty to focus on character building of the youth by promoting the message of tolerance, harmony, brotherhood, respect of others point of view to maintain the atmosphere of patience among the society.

AC for implementing control price lists of edible items in Gwadar

QUETTA (APP): In light of the instructions of the provincial government, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Gwadar Muhammad Naveed Alam chaired a price control committee meeting to ensure the implementation of the control price lists of edible items on Friday. The meeting was attended by the representatives of Anjuman-e-Tajiran and other relevant officers. In the meeting, the Price Control Committee reviewed the prices of essential commodities in detail and instructions were also issued to ensure the implementation of the official price list. Addressing the meeting, the AC said that the mea-

sures taken frequently to ensure the availability and quality of essential Commodities in the city at fixed rates are providing relief to the people. The price Magistrate should continue the ongoing action against the wholesalers and ensure the sale of grocery items as well as fruits and vegetables as per the rate lists issued by the Market Committee, he said. AC said that to save people from the current wave of inflation and to ensure the sale of essential items at fixed prices, the Tehsil administration and related institutions should coordinate and manage measures so that people could get relief in this regard.

CM orders upgrading police stations across Punjab

LAHORE (Agencies): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, during a meeting at his office on Saturday, reviewed the up-gradation and design of police force. He ordered to repair and upgrade the police stations across Punjab besides repairing of motorbikes of Dolphin Police and vehicles of the Police Response Unit. The CM said that high quality front desk, investigation room, waiting area and washrooms would be available in the up-graded police stations. He directed the authorities concerned to get repaired motorbikes of Dolphin Police and vehicles of Police Response Unit within one month along with taking a building on rent as a prompt relief so as to establish new police stations. CM Mohsin Naqvi stated that a lot of time and money would be spent on making

new police stations, adding that police stations would be built by taking buildings on rent according to need. Mohsin Naqvi directed to provide maximum facilities to the visitors in the police stations along with providing an excellent friendly environment. He ordered to improve the standard of cleanliness in the police stations, saying that police personnel deputed on duty at the front desk should be in uniform. Inspector General of Police (IGP) briefed the meeting about matters related to up-gradation and design of police force. Chief Secretary, Additional IG Special Branch, Additional Chief Secretary (Home), CCPO Lahore, Secretary Finance, Secretary Communication and Works, DIG Operations and officials concerned attended the meeting.

CBD Punjab announces traffic diversion plan for construction

LAHORE (APP): The Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab) has announced a comprehensive traffic diversion plan for construction of Ghora Chowk flyover. As per a statement issued by the CBD on Saturday, the diversion plan had been developed in close collaboration with the City Traffic Police (CTP) Lahore, to ensure the smooth flow of traffic during the construction phase. Commuters traveling from Walton Road to destinations like Cavalry, Gulberg, and Firdous Market are advised to use Street No. 6, 5, and 2 Cavalry Ground as their route. Those heading from Gulberg and Firdous Market to Walton Road should follow the route via Khurshid Alam Chowk, turning left at RA Bazar, and continuing onto Ahmed Bakhsh Road for access to Cavalry under the Jinnah Flyover. Additionally, those traveling from Walton Road to Lahore Cantt. and DHA are encouraged to take a detour within the project area towards Cantt, where a new temporary U-turn towards DHA will be provided at the

end of the proposed flyover. For those moving from Cantt. to Walton Road, the designated route directs them to utilize a detour route beside the project area towards Walton Road. Residents traveling from Cantt. to Gulberg and Firdous Market should consider the route via Shami Road and Jail Road. Conversely, those traveling from Gulberg and Firdous Market to Cantt. have two options. They can either choose the Jinnah Flyover route, passing through Khalid Butt Chowk and Khurshid Alam Chowk, or opt for the Jail Road route. For easy access to the CSD and PSO Pump on Masood Anwari Road, commuters should use Street No. 5 or Street No. 2, linking Link street 7 of Cavalry Ground towards the CSD and PSO Pump. CBD Punjab and CTP are committed to minimizing disruptions and ensuring the safety of all road users. This traffic diversion plan will be in effect throughout the construction period, and commuters are urged to follow the designated routes and exercise caution while driving through the areas.

Lalika's funeral prayer offered

Bahawalnagar (Agencies): The funeral prayer of ex-provincial minister Mian Shaukat Ali Lalika was offered on Saturday at his native village Chak Amir Lalika. According to details, the car of Mian Shaukat Ali Lalika and

his wife met with an accident yesterday. As a result of the accident, Mian Shaukat Ali Lalika and his wife could not survive due to their injuries. People from different walks of life participated in the funeral prayer.

RPO visits Rescue 15 Center Liaquat Bagh

RAWALPINDI (APP): Regional Police Officer (RPO) Syed Khurram Ali made a surprise visit to Rescue 15 Khidmat Center Liaquat Bagh here on Saturday. According to a police spokesman, The RPO issued instructions to concerned officers at the centre and said that the citizens who come to

the service centre should be treated courteously and service should be provided to them in minimum time. He said that the quality of cleanliness in police stations and service centres should be further improved, and the surprise visits will be continued to check the quality of service delivery.

PPP's workers are poised to start election canvass,says Bilawal

HYDERABAD (APP): The Pakistan Peoples Party's Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Saturday said the party's workers are prepared to launch the election campaign as soon as the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announces the election date. Addressing a rally on his arrival at Fateh Chowk in Hyderabad, Bilawal thanked the people of Hyderabad for supporting the PPP and its leadership on all political issues. He said Hyderabad also stood in



good stead with his grandfather and former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and his mother Benazir Bhutto. From elections to political struggles the people of Hyderabad had

proven their support to the party, he added. Bilawal appreciated the people for failing all conspiracies which stood in the way of getting a jiyala of PPP elected as the mayor. Earlier, thousands of people welcomed the PPP's Chairman as he entered the city after visiting Thatta, Badin and Sujawal districts. He was accompanied by former Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, former Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon and other party's leaders.

34 new dengue cases reported in Lahore

LAHORE (APP): As many as 34 new dengue virus cases were reported in the provincial metropolis, on Friday. According to the Health department sources, besides the dengue virus cases, 936 larvae spots were reported in the last 24 hours, with many patients under treatment in different hospitals of the city. Various squads conducted surveillance at indoor and outdoor places to detect dengue larvae during the last 24 hours. The anti-dengue squad destroyed dengue larvae at 936 places in the city during continuing surveillance. Sources said that on Friday, 34 new patients of dengue fever were reported in Lahore. It is worth mentioning here that 2,678 beds have been allocated for dengue patients in hospitals across Punjab, the Health department said. It may be mentioned here that Deputy Commissioner (DC) Lahore Rafia Haider, Additional Deputy Commissioners, and Assistant Commissioners are continuously paying surprise visits to check the performance of dengue teams working on the ground, in the wake of increasing dengue cases after rains.

President appoints Dr Kausar as federal minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Saturday appointed Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik as the federal minister in the caretaker federal cabinet. The President made the appointment on the advice of the caretaker prime minister under Article 224 (1a) of the Constitution.

5-year-old girl dies of bee sting

ABBOTTABAD (APP): In a heart-wrenching incident that unfolded at Ayub Teaching Hospital (ATH) Paeds ER ward where a five-year-old girl was brought in at 5:30 PM after a referral from the Type 'D' Hospital in Havelian lost her life by the swarm of a bee sting. According to the details, the young patient had fallen victim to a swarm of bees, enduring approximately 70 stings, which inevitably led to grave concerns of a severe anaphylactic shock. Tragically, despite the efforts of the medical team, the young girl's life couldn't be saved, and she passed away at 6:30 PM. The Deputy Director of Medical Services (DDMS) and the Medical Director managed to diffuse the situation in a hurry, they also pledged to address the concerns raised by the aggrieved attendants. Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mushtaq Jadoon while monitoring the situation remained in contact with the Hospital Director Jadoon issued directives to address the grievances of the attendants and initiate an analysis to prevent any recurrence of such tragic incidents.

Snap checking to be made more effective at entry points:SSP Operation

PESHAWAR (APP): SSP Operations Kashif Aftab Abbasi Saturday said that snap checking has been made more active with a new strategy to prevent drug and other illegal smuggling at the Peshawar Motorway Toll Plaza. Talking to media men, the SSP said that checking of all types of vehicles coming to Peshawar from both sides of the motorway, i.e. outside Peshawar and from the cities outside Peshawar, has been made mandatory. Checking of cargo vehicles including passengers, public transport and all other vehicles continues till late night, he added. He said strict security arrangements have been made on the motorway blockade while monitoring is also being done through CCTV cameras.

Digitization of taxation system to streamline economy: Minister

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif on Saturday said that the taxation system is being digitalized and that it will help in documenting the economy. Addressing a press conference, he said the Information Technology (IT) sector has emerged as a vital contributor to the nation's economy. With a growing focus on digitization, the taxation system is undergoing a significant digital transformation, which is poised to streamline economic documentation he added. He said that the ongoing digitization efforts are expected to provide a substantial boost to the economy by creating a more transparent and documented financial landscape. This he said initiative aligns with the government's goal of transitioning towards a cashless economy. The minister said Pakistan's IT sector has already made substantial strides,

with total earnings reaching a remarkable \$2.6 billion. These earnings, he said, are expected to increase further with the implementation of measures aimed at enhancing the IT industry's contribution to the nation's reserves. He said IT training will be provided to approximately 200,000 young individuals. The minister was of the view that this initiative seeks to empower the youth and make them an integral part of the global economy. In addition to workforce development, measures are being taken to facilitate freelancers, with plans to provide services for up to five million individuals across the country he added. This initiative, he said, aimed to boost economic growth by enabling freelancers to contribute billions of dollars to Pakistan's economy. Furthermore, Pakistan is making strides in mobile phone manufacturing, which is expected to stimulate local industry and create job opportunities.

Pak,WB discuss to further expand collaboration in different priority areas

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Pakistan and World Bank on Saturday discussed and reviewed the overall performance of the World Bank ongoing portfolio in Pakistan, and different options were discussed to further expand collaboration in different priority areas to help boost the economic activities in the country. Country Director World Bank called on Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs and Privatization, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, said a press release issued here. Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, while welcoming the World Bank team, reiterated that Pakistan values its development partnership with the World Bank. She appreciated the efforts of the World Bank management, especially the country team in Islamabad in the economic development of Pakistan. The Country Director World Bank Najy Binhassine, while briefing the Finance Minister on the ongoing portfolio, indicated that the World Bank Management, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs and Privatization, is making efforts to not only improve the implementation performance of the ongoing portfolio but also to maximize the volume of dis-

bursement of foreign resources. He indicated that the joint efforts are targeting disbursements of around US\$2.0 billion during the current financial year, i.e., 2023-24. The Finance Minister shared the reform agenda of the government and the ongoing efforts to stabilize the economy. She also informed that the Government of Pakistan is cognizant of the fact that implementation of reforms in the priority sectors, particularly in the energy sector, will allow Pakistan to unleash the growth potential, therefore introducing Policy Reforms in this sector will remain the prime focus of the government. The Country Director briefed the Finance Minister on the progress under the RISE-II Development Policy Financing Program, which has recently been negotiated by the World Bank with EAD. The Finance Minister commended the immediate support of the World Bank during the 2022 floods. However, considering the enormous post-flood rehabilitation and reconstruction needs of the country, the Finance Minister asked the Country Director to extend further World Bank support to better cope with the emergency needs of the country.

Soldier embraces martyrdom in Mir Ali fire exchange with terrorists

RAWALPINDI (APP): A soldier of Pakistan Army on Saturday embraced martyrdom while gallantly fighting with terrorists during an exchange of fire that took place between the security forces and terrorists in the general area of Mir Ali, North Waziristan District. According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the Army troops effectively engaged terrorists' location. The martyred soldier was identified as Lance Naik Jamshed Khan (age 28 years, resident of District Upper Dir), having fought gallantly, embraced, Shahadat, during intense exchange of



fire. Sanitization of the area was being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area. "Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the ISPR said.

First-ever kidney transplant performed in BINUQ

QUETTA (Agencies): Dr. Hayat Kakar, the first kidney transplant surgeon of Balochistan and the fourth kidney transplant surgeon of the country has performed the first-ever successful kidney transplant operation at Balochistan Institute of Nephro- Urology, Quetta (BINUQ). According to details, Dr. Hayat Kakar received his degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Kidney Bladder and Renal Tract Diseases and obtained his FCPS degree from the Sindh Institute of Urology (SIUT). After successfully obtaining a degree in the field of kidney transplantation, he named the title of being the fourth



kidney transplant surgeon in Pakistan and the first in Balochistan. Earlier, the Balochistan Institute of Nephro-Urology had to invite a team from outside to perform kidney transplantation and they were paid Rs one to two million.

G20 admits African Union as permanent member at New Delhi summit

NEW DELHI (Agencies): The African Union was made a permanent member of the G20, comprising the world's richest and most powerful countries, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the bloc's summit in New Delhi on Saturday. The African Union, a continental body of 55 member states, now has the same status as the EU — the only regional bloc with a full membership. Its previous designation was "invited international organization." Modi, in his opening remarks at the summit, invited the AU, represented by Chairperson Azali Assoumani, to take a seat at the ta-



ble of G20 leaders as a permanent member. "We welcome the African Union as a permanent member of the G20 and strongly believe that inclusion of the African Union into the G20 will significantly contribute to addressing the global challenges of our time," a draft declaration reviewed by Reuters showed earlier.

The move was proposed by Modi in June. Other issues being decided on at the summit include more loans to developing nations by multilateral institutions, reform of international debt architecture, regulations on cryptocurrency and the impact of geopolitics on food and energy security. The 38-page draft which was circulated among members left the "geopolitical situation" paragraph blank — reflecting deep division over the war in Ukraine — but 75 other paragraphs indicated broad agreement on issues such as cryptocurrencies and reforms in multilateral development banks.

Virgin Galactic notches fourth spaceflight in 4 months

WASHINGTON (Agencies): Virgin Galactic yesterday announced it had sent three paying customers on an hour-long journey to space and back, racking up its fourth successful flight in as many months. The private astronauts aboard the Galactic 03 mission were among the first people to buy their tickets from the company founded by British billionaire Richard Branson in 2004. American real estate entrepreneur Ken Baxter, South Africa-born conservationist Timothy Nash, and British engineer and entrepreneur Adri-



an Reynard took their places aboard the rocket-powered spaceplane VSS Unity, along with Virgin Galactic's astronaut instructor Beth Moses. "What a thrilling day for our three new private astronauts and the entire team at Virgin Galactic," said

CEO Michael Colglazier. The spaceflights involve a giant, twin-fuselage carrier aircraft with two pilots that takes off from a runway at Spaceport in New Mexico. This mother-ship, called VSS Eve, gains a high altitude then drops the spaceplane attached below it, which in turn engages its thrusters to soar into space at speeds approaching Mach-3. Passengers experience a few minutes of weightlessness, where they are free to perform somersaults and gaze out the window at the curvature of the Earth.

Biden and Modi to announce rail and shipping project to link India to Middle East and Europe

NEW DELHI (Agencies): President Joe Biden and his allies plan to roll out plans on Saturday for a shipping corridor that would connect India with the Middle East and ultimately Europe — a possible game changer for global trade to be announced at the G20 summit. The proposed memorandum of understanding for a shipping and rail transportation corridor would include the US, India, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, the EU and other countries in the G20, said Jon Finan, the president's deputy national security adviser. Biden and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi plan



to announce the project as part of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment. The rail and shipping corridor would enable greater trade among the countries, including energy products. It could also be one of the more ambitious counters to China's own Belt and Road Initia-

tive that sought to connect more of the world to that country's economy. Finan laid out three big rationales for the project in a call with reporters. He said first that the corridor would increase prosperity among the countries involved by increasing the flow of energy and digital communications. Second, the project would help to address the lack of infrastructure needed for growth in lower- and middle-income nations. And third, Finan said it could help "turn the temperature down" on "turbulence and insecurity" coming out of the Middle East.

Apple grapples with turmoil in China days before iPhone 15 launch

BEIJING (Agencies): Apple Inc is looking to stave off a crisis in China just days before the launch of its next iPhone, an already high-stakes event that will test whether new features can shake the smartphone industry out of the doldrums. The product unveiling, set to stream globally from the company's headquarters on Tuesday, risks being overshadowed by multiple controversies in China — Apple's largest international market. The tech titan is contending with a growing ban on iPhone use among government workers, and a contentious new phone from China's



Huawei Technologies Co is providing homegrown competition. But the biggest potential threat to Apple may be something more nebulous: a resurgence in Chinese nationalism that spurs everyday consumers to shun the iPhone and other foreign-branded devices. It's something the com-

pany has confronted before. Almost five years ago, Apple fell short of holiday forecasts for its just-released iPhone XS and XR because of weak sales in China. Publicly, Apple blamed the US-China trade war and the local economy. But in an internal email to the company's board, chief executive officer Tim Cook also cited Chinese nationalism and growing competition from local rivals. At the time, the Trump administration had recently blacklisted Huawei, and simmering US-China tensions made life harder for companies deeply reliant on the Asian nation.

Chevron workers on strike at gas plants in Western Australia

SYDNEY (Agencies): Workers launched rolling strikes Friday at Chevron's gas plants in Western Australia, union officials said, threatening a major production pipeline that pumps out 5% of global LNG stocks. News of the widely anticipated strikes has spooked global gas markets in recent weeks, sending prices spiking, with union officials previously threatening to "jam up" the company's operations. Workers were due to walk off the job on Thursday but agreed to a pause after

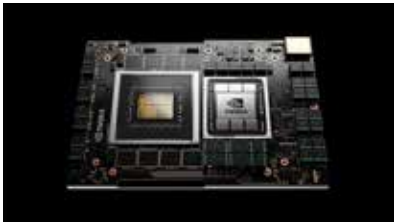


Australia's industrial umpire stepped in to broker last-minute talks. The Offshore Alliance, which represents Chevron's highly unionised workforce, said Friday morning the global energy giant would "finally be facing

their day of reckoning". "It's game on, Chevron," it said in a statement, adding that facilities would be "shut down" if they lacked "competent personnel". Union spokesman Brad Gandy urged the company to soften its position and "get on with the business of making billions of dollars exporting Australian gas". Strike action would slowly escalate in coming weeks, covering 500 staff and including "rolling stoppages, bans and limitations", according to union officials.

Nvidia, India's Reliance strike AI partnership for apps, language models

BENGALURU (Agencies): US chip firm Nvidia and telecom-to-retail giant Reliance announced today an artificial intelligence partnership to create language models, generative apps, and a cloud infrastructure platform for AI development in the South Asian nation. Nvidia will provide the computing power required for the efforts, while Reliance unit Jio will manage and maintain the AI infrastructure and oversee customer engagement, the companies said. "Reliance will create AI applications and services for their 450 million Jio (telecom) customers and provide energy-efficient AI infrastructure to scientists, developers, and start-ups across India," Nvidia said. Mukesh Ambani, the billionaire chairman of Reliance, has pre-



viously talked up the need for "digital infrastructure in India that can handle AI's immense computational demands". Nvidia globally has a near-monopoly on the computing systems used to power services like ChatGPT, OpenAI's blockbuster generative AI chatbot. The AI powering such apps is known as a large language model because it takes in a text prompt and from that writes a human-like response. The partnership will give Reliance access to

the latest version of Nvidia's Grace Hopper Superchip, its AI chips that are optimised to perform AI inference functions that effectively power apps like ChatGPT. Reliance said the new AI infrastructure will speed up a range of India's key AI projects, including chatbots, drug discovery, and climate research. Neil Shah, a partner at Counterpoint Research, said the AI move is critical for Jio to "make sense" of the data it has from millions of users, and become a tech company providing services beyond telecom. "The AI infra will enable it to provide accurate recommendations and cross-sell products and services across its giant network of clients in retail, telecom, and financial space," he said.

Elon Musk's X sues over having to post moderation policies

SAN FRANCISCO (Agencies): Elon Musk's X Corp yesterday sued the state of California over a law requiring social media companies to publicly post their policies regarding hate speech, disinformation, harassment and extremism. The parent company of X, formerly known as Twitter, argued in a federal suit that the law referred to as AB 587 violates its free speech rights. "The true intent of AB 587 is to pressure social media platforms to eliminate certain constitutionally-protected content viewed by the state as problematic," the suit contended. "The state is compelling social media companies



to take public positions on controversial and politically charged issues." The suit railed against the law, which requires social media companies to publicly post policies regarding hate speech, disinformation, harassment and extremism on their platforms, and report data on their enforcement of the policies.

SpaceX's Starship to remain grounded after explosion probe

WASHINGTON (Agencies): SpaceX's Starship, the most powerful rocket ever built, must remain grounded while Elon Musk's company completes dozens of corrective actions to prevent a repeat of the spectacular explosion that marred its first orbital test flight, regulators said yesterday. The 63 steps include "redesigns of vehicle hardware to prevent leaks and fires, redesign of the launch pad to increase its robustness", additional testing of safety systems and more, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said in a statement after completing a months-long review. SpaceX blew up the uncrewed rocket four minutes



after it blasted off from the company's Starbase in Boca Chica, Texas, on April 20. Starship experienced multiple engine failures and its first-stage booster did not separate from the spacecraft above it. The rocket disintegrated into a ball of fire that crashed into the Gulf of Mexico, while a cloud of dust floated over a small town several kilometres away.

Huawei debuts even more powerful phone as alarm in Washington grows

BEIJING (Agencies): Huawei Technologies Co added a new top-of-the-line model to its controversial Mate 60 smartphone family on Friday, putting the Mate 60 Pro+ on sale in mainland China. The Shenzhen-based firm is offering the upgraded handset, equipped with satellite messaging and more memory than the Mate 60 Pro, online for a down-payment of 1,000 yuan (US\$140) and promised delivery no later than Oct 9. The Pro+ adds a 1-terabyte maximum storage option and 4GB more memory than on the Pro model, which retails at 6,999 yuan. Shares of Huawei suppliers



soared as much as their 10% daily limit on Chinese exchanges after its latest offering hit online stores. The Mate 60 Pro has drawn international attention for its made-in-China applications processor and other components, a sign of the country's progress in developing domestic tech capabilities.

Yellen says US 'carefully' monitoring China economy

NEW DELHI (Agencies): The United States is "carefully" monitoring China's challenges, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Friday, as the slowdown in the world's second largest economy raises concerns for global growth. Many are worried about the Asian giant's struggles, with the threat of recession in Europe and high inflation in many major economies contributing to a plunge in demand for Chinese goods. "China faces a variety of both short and longer term global challenges, economic challenges that we've been monitoring carefully," Yellen told reporters in New Delhi,



ahead of a two-day G20 summit. "That said, China has quite a bit of policy space to address these challenges." China's President Xi Jinping will miss the leaders' meeting at a time of heightened trade and geopolitical tensions with the United States and India, with which it shares a long and disputed border.

Singapore's plan to import indonesia's clean energy is advancing

SINGAPORE (Agencies): Singapore awarded initial approvals to five energy projects in Indonesia as it aims to advance plans to import clean electricity from neighbouring nations and curb its reliance on natural gas. The projects will jointly deliver 2 gigawatts and aim to begin commercial operation from the end of 2027, Singapore's energy market authority said Friday in a statement. "Low-carbon electricity imports

through regional power grids are a key enabler in Singapore's efforts to decarbonise its energy supply, while accelerating renewable energy development in the region," the authority said in its statement. Companies awarded licenses include a unit of PT Adaro Clean Energy Indonesia, a venture including Medco Power Global Pte, Keppel Energy Pte Ltd, EDP Renewables APAC and a unit of Gurin Energy Pte Ltd.

China's Ant Group unveils finance AI model as race heats up

HONG KONG (Agencies): Ant Group unveiled a finance-specific artificial intelligence (AI) model on Friday and started testing consumer and professional apps for the product, joining a crowded race to deploy AI in heavily regulated China. The foray by Ant into financial AI is notable as the company founded by billionaire Jack Ma is China's biggest fintech firm, with more than 1 billion users worldwide for its Alipay payment app. Ant follows AI announcements by tech giants Tencent and Xiaomi on Thursday and Ant's

affiliate Alibaba in April. By July in China, more than 130 companies had introduced "large language models", the type that powers OpenAI's seminal ChatGPT generative AI app, according to Tencent. Ant said its new model had begun closed tests of the two apps on the company's wealth management and insurance platforms. The Zhixiaobao 2.0 app, designed to give consumers financial tips, can match the average financial professional in market analysis and reasoning capability, Ant said.

Medvedev topples Alcaraz to book Djokovic rematch in US Open final

NEW YORK: Daniil Medvedev de-throned defending champion Carlos Alcaraz in a US Open thriller on Friday to set up a repeat of the final from two years ago against Novak Djokovic. Medvedev defeated Alcaraz 7-6 (7/3), 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 to reach his fifth major final and stop Alcaraz in his quest to become the first man to retain the title in New York since Roger Federer in 2008. "I said I needed to play 11 out of 10. I played 12 out of 10, except from the third set," said the 27-year-old Medvedev. "He (Alcaraz) is honestly just really unbelievable. To beat him you



need to be better than yourself and I managed to do it." Medvedev now meets Djokovic on Sunday as the 36-year-old Serbian star once more goes in search of a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title to crown his return to world No. 1 next week. The third-seeded Medvedev won his lone major at the 2021 US Open

when he foiled Djokovic in his bid for a calendar Grand Slam, leaving his rival in tears after a straight-sets triumph. He produced another scintillating performance against Alcaraz, avenging a lopsided loss to the Spaniard in the Wimbledon semifinals in July. Medvedev held his nerve under constant pressure from Alcaraz in the opening set, elevating his level in tiebreak to claim the final four points. "I totally lose my mind on that set, and fighting for 50 minutes and then, you know, for four points lose my mind. It was really tough for me to handle it," said Alcaraz.

Rugby World Cup kicks off with French victory over All Blacks

PARIS: France made an impressive start to their attempt to win a first Rugby World Cup as the host nation beat New Zealand 27-13 in a hot and humid tournament opener on Friday. Roared on by a capacity crowd at the Stade de France, Thomas Ramos nervelessly kicked 17 points and Damian Penaud and Melvyn Jaminet scored a try each. Mark Telea touched down twice for the All Blacks and it was only after Ramos' 74th minute penalty that the home fans could celebrate before the rampant white-shirted French scored a final try as Jaminet grabbed Maxime Lucu's chip. France fought hard to prove



that their tag as one of the favorites on home soil is well-deserved. "It was important to begin well by winning even if it was not a knockout match," France head coach Fabien Galthie said. "It was the culmination of our work before the tournament." For the All Blacks, it was the first time they had lost a World Cup pool match. "In

the past we've won all our pool games and not won the tournament," said New Zealand coach Ian Foster. "Our goal is to win this tournament." It was a successful start on the field to what will be a key test of France's organizational skills ahead of the 2024 Paris Olympics, especially after the chaos that blighted last year's football Champions League final at the Stade de France on the outskirts of Paris. With the Olympics less than a year away, French authorities are under scrutiny to prove they have learned from the mistakes during the football showpiece between Liverpool and Real Madrid.

McTominay overtakes Ronaldo and Kane to top scoring in European qualifying, Scotland stay perfect

LONDON: Scott McTominay moved ahead of Cristiano Ronaldo and Harry Kane as the joint leading scorer in European Championship qualifying with Scotland on the brink of securing a place at next year's tournament. McTominay continued his unlikely goal spree as the Scots extended their 100 percent record in Group A by beating Cyprus 3-0 Friday on a night when Lamine Yamal became the youngest player to score for Spain — and also the youngest player to score in a European qualifier — in a 7-1 win against Georgia. Manchester United midfielder McTominay claimed his sixth goal in



qualifying for Euro 2024 as Scotland stayed ahead of Spain in the group on a maximum 15 points after five straight wins. Scotland needs two more points to ensure its place at the tournament, which will be held in Germany. McTominay is level at the top of the scoring charts with new United teammate, Rasmus Ho-

jlund of Denmark and former club mate, Romelu Lukaku of Belgium. Ronaldo and Kane have five goals each. McTominay has also been involved in more goals than any other player during qualifying, having provided one assist. He credited Scotland coach Steve Clarke for his goal run. "The manager gives me a lot of freedom to get in the box, and potentially make things happen," McTominay said. "He's shown a lot of faith in me, and I just want to repay him. "I just want to make people in Scotland happy, that's my job, and the team's job, and I think we're doing it well at the minute."

Neymar breaks Brazil's goal-scoring record in 5-1 win in South American World Cup qualifying

SAO PAULO: Neymar scored his record 78th and 79th goals for Brazil in a 5-1 World Cup qualifying win over Bolivia on Friday. Neymar's goals in the Amazon city of Belem put him two above the total of three-time World Cup winner Pelé as the Selecao's top goal scorer. Earlier, Uruguay beat Chile 3-1 in Montevideo in the first official match for coach Marcelo Bielsa for the hosts. Uruguay did not play either of their two veteran goal scorers — Edinson Cavani and Luis Suárez — as the team go through a rebuilding process under the Argentinian coach. All 10 teams in the region will play their



second round on Tuesday. The 2026 edition of the World Cup in the US, Mexico and Canada is expanding to a 48-team format. The leading six positions in South America will secure a direct spot. The seventh-place team will contest an intercontinental play-off for a berth. Brazil fans did not know how the team would react un-

der new coach Fernando Diniz, who is in a caretaker position until the next Copa America, possibly to be replaced by Carlo Ancelotti. Supporters were also wondering how competitive Neymar would be after his transfer out of European soccer and return from injury. The doubts didn't last long. Neymar missed a penalty in the 17th minute, which was saved by goalkeeper Billy Viscarra, but he dribbled through the Bolivian defense during the entire match. He opened space for Raphinha to shoot in the 24th minute. Viscarra saved again, but Rodrygo had the rebound to finish from close range.

Bezzecchi clocks record Misano lap, Bagnaia improving

MISANO ADRIATICO (Italy) (AFP) – Marco Bezzecchi clocked a record lap time in Friday's second practice session for the San Marino and Rimini Riviera MotoGP as Francesco Bagnaia showed he is ready to compete after his horrific crash last weekend. VR46-Ducati rider Bezzecchi, who is also nursing an injury, whizzed around the Misano Adriatico circuit in one minute, 30.846 seconds, 0.126sec ahead of Maverick Vinales on an Aprilia and 0.255sec in front of Red Bull's Dani Pedrosa. The Italian trails compatriot and championship leader Bagnaia



by 71 points ahead of Sunday's race on home turf. Bezzecchi is racing in Misano despite hurting his hands in the multi-bike pile up which preceded Bagnaia's accident. Jorge Martin, who sits second in the overall standings and is 50 points behind reigning world champion Bagnaia,

was 0.331sec back in fourth. Bagnaia finished in 20th spot in Friday's morning practice but put in an impressive run in the second session and was seventh fastest, claiming one of 10 automatic spots in Saturday's second qualifying session. The two fastest riders from the first qualifying run, at 0850 GMT, will take the final two spots in Q2 which runs at 0915 GMT. Last weekend, Bagnaia flew off his bike at high speed in the Catalunya GP and was then run over by Brad Binder, but has been cleared to race at his home track on Sunday.

Evenepoel Vuelta defence collapses, Vingegaard wins stage for daughter

BARCELONA (AFP) – Remco Evenepoel's Vuelta a Espana defence collapsed Friday after he was dropped by a big group early into stage 13, won by Jonas Vingegaard on a superb day for Jumbo-Visma. The Belgian Soudal-QuickStep rider started the day third but trudged to the finish over 27 minutes behind Vingegaard, after losing contact on the climb towards the Col d'Aubisque summit with nearly 90 kilometres remaining. Sepp Kuss kept the red jersey as he came in second, with Primož Roglič



completing a Jumbo-Visma podium in third -- all three riders have now won a stage each. Roglič trails Kuss by one minute 37 seconds overall, with Vingegaard third, one minute 44 behind the leader. "I couldn't choose

a better day, today is the birthday of my daughter and I wanted to win for her so bad today," Vingegaard told Eurosport. "Our plan was to see if we could take some time on the opponents today, that happened and I'm just so happy and proud to do it today, this one is for my daughter Frida. "It went even better than the plan." Evenepoel also pulled out of the Giro d'Italia in May, which he was leading, after testing positive for Covid just hours after winning the stage nine individual time trial.

Former Liverpool star Philippe Coutinho joins Qatari team Al Duhail on loan from Villa

MANCHESTER England: After spells with some of European soccer's biggest clubs, Philippe Coutinho joined Qatari team Al-Duhail on a season-long loan from Aston Villa on Friday. The former Liverpool, Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Inter Milan playmaker's move comes after a slew of the sport's biggest stars have been lured to Saudi Arabia's lucrative league. Al-Duhail described the Brazil international as a "great asset" after confirming his arrival. The 31-year-old Coutinho was a record signing for Barcelona when joining the Catalan club in a deal worth up to 160 million euros (then \$192 million) in 2018. But his time at the Nou Camp did not go to plan as injury problems saw him fail to live up to expectations and led to loans at Bayern and Villa. He joined Vil-



la in a permanent deal last year, but did not appear to be part of manager Unai Emery's plans this season after making just two substitute appearances. He made 43 appearances for Villa and scored six goals. Coutinho joined Liverpool from Inter in 2013 and the money earned from his move to Barcelona played a big part in Jurgen Klopp's rebuild that saw the Merseyside club win the Champions League and the Premier League in the following years.

Leeds fan jailed for assaulting Newcastle boss Howe

LONDON: A Leeds United fan who assaulted Newcastle United manager Eddie Howe during a Premier League match last season was sentenced to 12 weeks in prison by a district judge at Leeds magistrates court yesterday. David Derbyshire, 35, was also given a six-year ban from football matches after he ran into the technical area and shoved Howe in the closing stages of the clash at Elland Road on March 13. He was quickly detained by club security staff and arrested by West Yorkshire police officers. Derbyshire pleaded guilty to charges of entering the playing area at a designated football match without lawful excuse and common assault against Howe, at a hearing on July. Leeds United handed a lifetime suspension to the supporter. "We will always



treat incidents of this kind very seriously and will work closely with Leeds United and the visiting clubs to fully investigate any offences and take robust action against those responsible, including seeking football banning orders against them," chief commissioner Richard Close said in a statement. "Criminal behaviour of this kind is totally unacceptable, especially when attacking club staff or players during a large-scale sporting event such as this," he added.

Saudi clubs spent almost US\$1bil in transfer window

RIYADH: Saudi Pro League (SPL) clubs splashed out almost US\$1 billion in the transfer window in a bid to boost the domestic competition by attracting some of the world's leading players, according to analysis from Deloitte published yesterday. The outlay of US\$957 million in the Saudi window, which closed on Sept 7, exceeded the spending of four of Europe's 'big five' leagues with only England's Premier League clubs splurging more on transfers than those in the Middle Eastern nation. "This marks the first time since 2016 that another international league has outspent any of Europe's 'big five'



during a football transfer window," said Izzy Wray of Deloitte's sports business group. "European football continues to be the benchmark for the game globally, and the Saudi investment in the game will divert its focus towards the infrastructure, to elevate the level of Asian football."

DAILY HOROSCOPE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2023



– It's a general reading which may differ from person to person because of time date and year.
– **ARIES:** Try not to worry about minor conflicts that arise today. Your good energy should help you make the most of them, and they don't signal anything more serious than a temporary blip.
– **TAURUS:** You get all riled up over someone's declaration that you know to be false or at least misleading, but it's not the best time to convince others you're right. You may need to let time do it for you.
– **GEMINI:** Try to get your people to chill out today. You need them to relax and they need some downtime even if they don't realize it. Keep the conversation light and don't focus on the dark stuff.
– **CANCER:** You sometimes act on impulse instead of thinking through every move, and today brings a strong desire to jump ahead of yourself somewhat. Go for it. You need to take a chance today!
– **LEO:** Almost nothing is impossible today thanks in part to your deep belief in yourself. Even if you feel humble

(a fine trait), you still can tell that you haven't come close to reaching your limit yet.
– **VIRGO:** Do your best to keep a low profile today. Your energy isn't quite in sync with the rest of the world, and almost anything you say could be used against you. Focus on personal issues if you can.
– **LIBRA:** Your social life hits a big upswing and you find it more rewarding than ever to hang out with new people. Keep active with them if possible. You don't want to lay down roots just yet!
– **SCORPIO:** Your ego isn't exactly on the line today, but you might feel a bit pushed by annoying or rude people. Try to just grin and bear it. Escalating into a conflict isn't a good idea at all.
– **SAGITTARIUS:** If you're traveling or about ready to leave, you couldn't have picked a better time. If you're stuck in town, you might want to do the next best thing and lay the groundwork for a future adventure.
– **CAPRICORN:** See if you can keep your workplace from exploding with tension today. People are much more difficult to work with, but that just means you'll look that much better when you pull it off!
– **ACQUARIUS:** Assert your independence from boss, partner, or friends today, without cutting all ties, of course! It could be inside your own mind as long as you don't feel too constrained by outside forces.
– **PISCES:** Assert your independence from boss, partner, or friends today, without cutting all ties, of course! It could be inside your own mind as long as you don't feel too constrained by outside forces.

Dinosaur fossils dating back 130 mln years found in China's Hebei

SHIJIAZHUANG (Xinhua): Two well-preserved dinosaur fossils dating back approximately 130 million years were recently unearthed in north China's Hebei Province, according to local authorities on Thursday. Both of the discoveries were herbivorous dinosaurs, and they were found in Fengning Man Autonomous County within the city of Chengde, according to a press briefing by the provincial department of natural resources. One of the fossils has been attributed to the more primitive ceratosaurus, filling a gap in the evolutionary history and development of



the ceratosaurus. The second fossil belongs to a stegosaurus and is a near-perfect preservation of its skeleton and skin. The stegosaurus fossil, measuring about 5 meters in length, is nearly complete at the Fengning fossil conservation research center. It

includes four tail bone spurs that are highly recognizable and its skeleton is accompanied by intact fossilized skin. The pattern of the skin, similar to what can be seen on snakes or lizards today, is incredibly distinct and clear. "The dinosaur skin fossil is exceptionally rare. The bones and teeth of dinosaurs became fossils relatively easily, making well-preserved dinosaur skin fossils a rarity," said Guo Ying, an associate professor at the Institute of Geology and Paleontology at Linyi University. The preservation of the other dinosaur fossil is also quite remarkable.

Australia welcomes end of Indonesian cattle import ban

CANBERRA (Xinhua): The Australian government has welcomed a decision by Indonesian authorities to lift import restrictions on live cattle and buffalo from the country. Australia's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) said on Saturday that it has reached an agreement with the Indonesian Agriculture and Quarantine Agency (IAQA) to lift with immediate effect a ban on live exports from seven facilities across northern Australia. The temporary ban was implement-

ed in July and extended earlier in September after authorities in Indonesia detected lumpy skin disease (LSD) in live cattle imported from Australia. Australian authorities have maintained the country is free of LSD, which can cause decreased milk production, growth issues and death in cattle and buffalo. Minister for Agriculture Murray Watt said in a statement on Saturday that the end of the ban was a testament to Australia's "calm and considered" response to the issue.

Dior's longest-running designer Marc Bohan dies at 97

Paris: Fashion designer Marc Bohan, who was artistic director of Dior for an unprecedented three decades, has died, the luxury brand said Friday. Bohan, who passed away on Wednesday at the age of 97, was one of the quieter members of the fashion fraternity, in stark contrast to successors like John Galliano. But he was a master of the trade who managed to keep the spirit of the label alive after its mid-twentieth century heyday. Born in Paris on August 22, 1926, Bohan was passionate about drawing and fashion from an early age, encouraged by his mother who was a milliner. He joined Christian Dior in 1957, responsible for creating collections in London. His first, "Slim Look", for spring-sum-

mer 1961, celebrated the uninhibited women of the era, with shorter skirts and more suits. In 1961, he took over as artistic director when Yves Saint Laurent was called up for military service. Bohan was close to icons of the period like writer Françoise Sagan, artist Niki de Saint Phalle and Empress Farah of Iran, whom he notably dressed for the coronation of the shah in 1967. Farah's style also seduced the American First Lady, Jackie Kennedy, who asked her official designer Oleg Cassini to copy Bohan's Dior look. He also opened up the label to new audiences with the launch of ready-to-wear lines for women ("Miss Dior"), children ("Baby Dior") and men ("Dior Monsieur").

UN ready to help victims of deadly Morocco earthquake: Guterres

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies): UN Secretary-General expressed his profound sadness over the deadly earthquake that struck central Morocco late Friday night reportedly leaving over 1,000 dead, expressing his solidarity with the Government and people of the country. In a statement issued by his Spokesperson, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres stressed that the UN was ready to assist the Government in any way needed, to help those impacted. According to the UN humanitarian hub Reliefweb, the powerful quake struck shortly after 10pm local time, measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale at a depth of 18.5 km, with the epicentre located in the High Atlas mountains, some 71 km southwest of the histor-

ic city of Marrakech. According to media reports, several houses in the city of 840,000 collapsed and other buildings suffered structural damage. The epicentral zone is not densely populated. "The Secretary-General was profoundly saddened to learn of the earthquake that hit Morocco today which claimed many lives," the statement read. Guterres addressed his most sincere condolences to the families of the victims and wished a speedy recovery to the injured. In a tweet, the President of the UN General Assembly, Dennis Francis, offered his heartfelt sympathy and condolences, calling on the international community "to stand together in support of Morocco in this time of sorrow."

Saudi Arabia records remarkable 35% drop in road accident deaths



RIYADH (APP): The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has recorded a substantial 35% decrease in road accident deaths over the past five years. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported on Friday that the number of road accident deaths dropped from 9,311 in 2016 to 6,651 in 2021. "This achievement not only underscores Saudi Arabia's commitment to enhancing road safety but also aligns with the global objective of reducing road deaths by 50% by the end of the United Nations Second Decade of Action for Road Safety, spanning from 2021 to 2030," it added. The Kingdom's success in curbing road accidents is in harmony with the goals set forth in Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, which emphasizes the implementation of directives from the Saudi leadership and

unwavering support for the efforts of relevant authorities within the Ministerial Committee for Traffic Safety. To attain this remarkable feat, Saudi Arabia has developed a robust methodology for tracking strategic performance maturity indicators. This methodology includes setting annual targets that directly impact the maturity indicators, ultimately working towards the approved annual strategic target for reducing road deaths per 100,000 people. Saudi Arabia's accomplishment in road safety demonstrates its commitment to safeguarding lives on its roadways and contributes significantly to the global effort to make roads safer for all. This achievement reflects a nation's dedication to building a safer and more secure future for its citizens and visitors alike.

More than 420,000 Russian troops in occupied areas: Ukraine

Kyiv, Ukraine (Agencies): Kyiv estimates that Russia has deployed more than 400,000 soldiers in areas it controls in the east and south of Ukraine, Deputy Intelligence Chief Vadym Skibitsky said Saturday. "The Russian Federation has concentrated more than 420,000 servicemen in our territories that are temporarily occupied, including Crimea," Skibitsky said at a conference in Kyiv. The figure "does not include the Russian National Guard and other special units that maintain occupation authorities on our territories," he added. Skibitsky also said Russia had for a month been actively launching attacks from Crimea, which it annexed in 2014. "Drones deployed in Crimea are used against our ports of Izmail and Reni," which have been used as alternative exports hub, particularly since the expiry of a deal

protecting exports on the Black Sea. Ukraine launched a counteroffensive in the east and south in June but has come up against fierce resistance from entrenched Russian forces. Kyiv's troops are also contending with renewed assaults around Kharkiv in the northeast, in areas liberated last year. "Russians want to take their revenge" in the Kharkiv region, said Deputy Defence Minister Ganna Malyar. She said Russian troops were trying to disperse Ukrainian forces in the east "so that we can't centralise them around Bakhmut, where we are successfully advancing." She acknowledged that "the enemy is strong, they have more people and weaponry." Malyar said the Russian army fired "almost 400,000 shells" at Ukrainian positions on the eastern front over the past week.

US describes attacks on holy books as 'abhorrent'



WASHINGTON (Agencies): The US State Department on Friday described the act of desecrating religious texts as "abhorrent" when asked about the desecration of the Quran outside the Turkish Center in New York, Anadolu reports. "We are not tracking the details on this specific incident and cannot comment on the particulars," a State Department spokesperson said in response to Anadolu's questions over email. "While we find the act of desecrating any religious texts to be abhorrent, the United States supports freedom of expression as an essential element of any democracy and as enshrined in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution," the spokesperson said. "The United States also strongly condemns acts of hate and continues to underscore the harms they can cause to individuals." Noting the State Department's previous statements expressing "deep concern" over acts of desecration to the holy Quran, the spokesperson said: "We repeat those sentiments."

Turkiye: Crypto boss sentenced to 11,196 years in jail



ANKARA (Agencies): A disgraced Turkish crypto founder and his two brothers who fled to Albania have been sentenced to 11,196 years in jail each, Anadolu Agency reported on Thursday. Delivering its verdict late on Thursday, the court in Istanbul sentenced Faruk Fatih Ozer, founder of Thodex, and his two brothers to similar-length jail terms, finding them guilty of aggravated fraud, leading a criminal organisation and money laundering. "If I were to establish a criminal organisation, I would not have acted so amateurishly," Anadolu Agency reported Ozer telling the court. Ozer was initially reported to have fled Türkiye in April 2021 with \$2 billion in investor assets, although that figure has since been disputed. Prosecutors stated Ozer had transferred over TL 250 million (\$30 million at the time) in user assets to three secret accounts when he fled Türkiye in April 2021, with much of the money ending up in a Maltese bank. The indictment said the Ozer brothers had caused TL 356 million worth of client damages. The case grabbed local headlines because it coincided with a Turkish crypto boom that has since largely subsided due to heavier government regulation. Turks began turning to various cryptocurrencies to safeguard against a decline in the value of the lira that began more than two years ago. Ozer was arrested last year in Albania on an international arrest warrant from INTERPOL.

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