

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Gwadar

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Bizenjo condemns firing incident in Kech: Nefarious designs of peace enemies to be foiled at every cost, asserts CM

Independent Report
QUETTA: While strongly condemning the incident of firing at the check post of security force in Sangwan area of Kech district on Thursday, the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has expressed deep grief and sorrow over martyrdom of two security personals in the attack.

In a condemnation statement issued here, the Chief Minister commended the response of security forces to the terrorist attack at the security force check post in Kech area saying that the personals countered the attack very courageously and bravely.

The nefarious designs of the peace enemies would also be foiled at every cost in future, adding the Chief Minister asserted.

Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo said that the sacrifices of the martyrs for the cause of peace would not go waste at all.

He also paid tributes to the martyrs and added that the whole nation is saluting

them. He prayed for the departed souls of the personals embraced martyrdom in the terrorist attack. He also prayed that may Alah Almighty give enough strength and patience to the bereaved families to bear the loss of their loved ones.

Meanwhile, the spokesperson of provincial government has also condemned the act of terrorism in Kech district.

The spokesperson for the Government of Balochistan, Farah Azeem Shah, strongly condemned the firing on the security forces' checkpoint in the Sangwan area. She denounced the act of terrorism as cowardly and highlighted the timely response and bravery of the security forces.

She assured that the sacrifices of the martyrs would not be in vain, emphasizing the nation's solidarity and tribute to the fallen heroes. She prayed for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks and urged patience and resilience among their bereaved families.



ISLAMABAD: Honourable Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Chief Justice of Pakistan administering the oath of office to Honourable Mr. Justice Iqbal Hameedur-Rehman, former Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, as Chief Justice of the Federal Shariat Court at Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Anti-corruption, Punjab police arrests Ch Prevaz Elahi

LAHORE (Online): Anti-Corruption Punjab and Punjab Police arrested Former chief minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervaz Elahi from his residence.

The arrest was made when he was going somewhere in his car.

Corruption cases are filed on Ch Pervaz Elahi in Mandi Bahaudin and Gujranwala.

Pervaz Elahi was not appearing in court after the cancellation of his bail.



Keep clear that anti-corruption court dismissed his interim bail. Heavy contingents reached to Elahi residence Gulberg. Anti Corruption team was also along with police however they fail to arrest him.

Once again taking action anti corruption and Punjab police arrested him from Zahoor Elahi Palace. Afterward Zahoor Elahi Palace was surrounded by police. On the other side Anti-corruption also recognized the arrest of Pervaz Elahi.

Punjab interim information minister Amir Mir said he was wanted to anti-corruption. They arrested him. We haven't arrested him. Action will be taken in accordance with crime.

He said see today resistance was made he was attempting to runaway in bulletproof vehicle. Police attempted to break glass then he gave arrest.

It is worth mentioning that Anti-corruption Punjab made many raids on house to arrest Elahi. Raids were made in Gujrat, Kunjah and Lahore residences.

BHC expresses displeasure over absence of MD SSGC

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan High Court on Thursday expressing its displeasure over absence of the Managing Director of the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) directed him to appear in next hearing.

Justice Kamran Mulakhail was hearing the case filed in connection with the low gas pressure and unknown additional charges added by the company in consumers utility bills for the month of March and April.

Annoyed by the unsatisfactory response from the gas company, the BHC issued another notice to the MD SSGC for appearing in next hearing.

"Despite the court order to eliminate illegal charges in gas bills, the

company is reluctant to do so," Justice Kamran Mulakhail said, urging SSGC to take note of the complaints of the people and allot them a serial number.

Expressing displeasure over non-compliance of the court order, he said on the next appearance, he would look at each complaint himself.

Strict action will be taken if a single meter is removed without informing the house owner within 24 hours, the court ordered.

The BHC also directed the SSGC consumers not to deposit additional amount of the bill and file a complaint in the complaint cell. The court adjourned the next hearing till June 19.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security, Tariq Bashir Cheema calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Justice Iqbal takes oath as CJ FSC FSC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Iqbal Hameedur Rehman has taken oath as Chief Justice Federal Shariat Court for a period of three years.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial administered oath to Iqbal Hameedur Rehman Chief Justice Federal Shariat Court Thursday.

The oath taking ceremony was attended by judges of Supreme Court (SC), attorney general and lawyers.

President Arif Alvi had accorded approval to appoint justice Iqbal Hameedur Rehman as chief justice Federal Shariat Court. Ministry of law and justice had issued formal notification in respect of his appointment.

Justice Iqbal Hameedur Rehman has remained chief justice of Islamabad High Court and judge of Supreme Court.

Iqbal Hameedur Rehman is son of former chief justice of Pakistan Hamood ur Rehman.

Rupee recovers sharply in open market trade against USD

KARACHI (Online): Pakistani currency made a remarkable recovery of almost 5.5%, or Rs16, in a single day to a one-week high at Rs295 against the US dollar in the open market at around midday on Thursday.

The currency had closed at Rs311 against the greenback on Wednesday, according to the Exchange Companies Association of Pakistan (ECAP).

Accordingly, the gap in the rupee-dollar exchange rate between interbank and open markets narrowed down to about Rs10 compared to around Rs27 a day ago.

In the interbank market, the currency has continued to stabilise around Rs285/\$ for the past couple of weeks.

The widening spread in the value of the rupee between the two markets had led International Monetary Fund (IMF) to recommend the government "focus on restoration of proper foreign exchange market functioning."

OGRA notifies Rs37/Kg cut in LPG price for June

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a notification issued by Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Thursday, the prices of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) have been reduced by Rs 37.13 per kilogram for the month of June.

According to the notification, the new price of LPG would be Rs 196.75 per kilogram. Similarly, the price of a standard domestic cylinder of 11.8 kilograms has fallen by Rs438.

The new price of the domestic cylinder would be Rs 2321.22 for the month of June which was set at Rs 2759.89 for the month of May.

PTI chief using all tactics to divert attention from May 9 incidents: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that Imran Niazi could go to any extreme to distract attention from his culpability in the tragic events of May 9.

"Make no mistake about the evil intent behind Imran Niazi's latest ploy to defame our law enforcement agencies and police. Yet again, he is making misleading and baseless allegations of the 'rights abuses' just to distract attention for his culpability in the tragic events of May 9," the prime minister said in a tweet.

"I am not surprised by his antics," Prime Minister Shehbaz said. He said that someone who could persistently use foul language against the state institutions, incite people to violence and attack the state symbols and military installations,

and bring down martyrs' monuments, was capable of going to any extreme.

The prime minister said that Imran Niazi presided over a disinformation apparatus that deployed fake news methodically to fool the people. "Everything about him is hate, division and lie," he remarked.

Meanwhile At the invitation of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will attend the inauguration ceremony of President Erdogan in Ankara on 3 June 2023.

The Prime Minister's visit will be a reaffirmation of the deep-rooted fraternal ties between Pakistan and Türkiye. The Prime Minister will convey warm felicitations on behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan to President Erdogan on his re-election as President of Türkiye on 28 May 2023.

Marriyum says: Interview with BBC, true reflection of Imran's duplicitous character

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb Thursday said that Imran Khan's interview with BBC correspondent was "a true reflection and mirror of the real face of a duplicitous and false character."

In a tweet while commenting on Imran's contradictory claims in the interview, she said in one sentence he said if he was jailed, there would be reaction while in the next sentence he blamed the party's workers and leaders for May 9 mayhem.

This was a lesson for all those who had fallen victim to the misguidance and deception of the misguided Imran Khan, she remarked.

Woman among five died, 10 injured in Mastung accident

QUETTA (APP): At least five people including a woman died and 10 other sustained injuries in a collision between passenger bus and wagon on National Highway near Jangal Cross area of Mastung district on Thursday.

According to Levies sources, a Khuzdar-bound wagon carrying commuters was on its way when a passenger bus hit it which was



She said Imran Khan himself always indulged in wrongdoings, but whenever he was caught, he blamed others. "From 'one page' to 'I was powerless', from 'United States brought down my government' to 'Mohsin Naqvi brought down my government', the liar has now finally put the debris of May 9 on his party workers and leaders.

coming from the opposite direction due to overspeeding. As a result, a woman among four died on the spot while 10 others sustained injuries. The bodies and the injured were shifted to Shaheed Nawab Ghaus Bakhsh Raisani Hospital where the injured victims' treatments were started. One injured succumbed to his injuries during treatment process.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Provincial Advisor for Information Mitha Khan Kakar meeting with Balochistan Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili

AGP tells Supreme Court Government decides to review legislation aimed at trimming CJ's powers

CJP Bandial welcomes govt decision says Government should consult with the SC when making laws related to the judiciary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP), Mansoor Usman Awan on Thursday said that the federal government had decided to reconsider the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Bill.

He expressed these views before eight-member larger bench of the Supreme court headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Sayyid Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Muhammad Ali

Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A Malik, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Shahid Waheed which heard the petitions challenging SC Practice and Procedure Bill. During the course of proceedings, the Attorney General said that this law also dealt with many other issues.

He said that there were two laws, one was the Supreme Court Review of Orders and Judgments Act and the other was the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act, both the

laws had similar provisions for review and hiring a lawyer. Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial said that it was good that the Parliament and the government were amending similar laws. The government should consult the Supreme Court regarding the legislation of the judiciary, he added.

The attorney general said that the Supreme Court (Practice & Procedure) Act, 2023 was more extensive and included provisions related to the internal affairs of the court.



QUETTA: A delegation led by head of IRC Nicolas Lambert meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Governor acknowledges int'l support for flood victims; urges action against gas theft

Governor Abdul Wali Khan Kakar highlights international cooperation in assisting natural disaster victims and stresses the need to curb gas theft

QUETTA: Governor of Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar, expressed gratitude to international organizations, particularly the International Red Cross (IRC), for their effective assistance in providing relief to those affected by recent natural disasters, especially the devastating floods, on Thursday.

He emphasized the critical role played by international institutions in aiding and rehabilitating individuals who have lost their lives or suffered injuries in natural calamities, considering Balochistan's status as an economically disadvantaged province.

Governor Kakar conveyed these sentiments during a meeting with IRC's Chief,

Nicholas Lambert, at the Governor House in Quetta. Representatives from the Balochistan Rural Support Program (BRSP) were also present on the occasion.

Governor Kakar underscored the prevalence of deadly diseases in Balochistan, emphasizing the challenges faced in coping with both fatal epidemics and the scarcity of resources at the local level.

PTI's Pervaz Khattak steps down from party position

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Pervaz Khattak announced stepping down as the party's Khayber Pakhtunkhwa chapter president late Thursday.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the PTI stalwart said it was difficult for him to continue serving as the party's KP chapter president amid the prevailing political crisis.

Khattak said he would announce the future course of action after consulting his friends and party colleagues.

The PTI leader further said that he had taken the decision to leave the party post after thorough consideration.

Six killed, three injured in house explosion

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): At least six people including two women and a minor were killed while another three persons sustained injuries as result of an explosion at a house in Daira Din Pannah on Thursday.

Police and rescue resources said that the explosion took place in the junkyard room of the house which caused in death and injuries.

They stated that the deceased belonged to a single family.

Two security personnel martyred in terrorist attack along Pakistan-Iran border

RAWALPINDI (APP): Two soldiers of the Pakistan Army on Thursday embraced martyrdom amid gallantly thwarting the terrorists' attack when a group of terrorists targeted a security forces' post through fire in Singwan Area District Kech of Balochistan along the Pakistan-Iran Border.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, a heavy fire exchange ensued since troops on the post

were already alert and responded gallantly with all available weapons.

The security forces pushed back the terrorists successfully however, during the intense fire exchange, two brave soldiers, Sepoy Hasnain Ishiaq (age 34 yrs resident of District Dera Ghazi Khan) and Sepoy Inayat Ullah (age 27 yrs resident of District Jhal Magsi) embraced Shahadat (martyrdom) while fighting bravely against the terrorists.



QUETTA: Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi meeting with representatives of Chamber of Commerce.

Report to be compiled on jail reforms on SC directives: Jails lacking amenities; steps are to be taken to resolve issues of prisoners, says Ejaz Qureshi

QUETTA: The Federal Ombudsman, Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi has pointed out that our jails are lacking desired amenities and as such the necessary steps are to be taken to resolve the issues being confronted by the jail inmates.

He said that the matters related to the jail reforms are continuously being monitored, and a report would be compiled on the jail reforms on directives of the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

He said that there is an improvement in the issue of keeping the over capacity of prisoners in the jails.

This and similar other views were expressed by the Federal Ombudsman while speaking to the media persons after interaction with the office bearers of Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) here at the Chamber on Thursday afternoon.

The Federal Ombudsman is on the three-day visit to the provincial metropolises.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Free, fair & timely

The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf has been made to suffer a steep price for the events of May 9. It appears deflated in the wake of a sweeping crack-down against its most ardent supporters and sympathisers, and has been depleted by the exodus of several key leaders from its ranks. However, it would be a mistake to write the party off just yet.

It may be diminished, but it is not defeated. Imran Khan enjoys remarkable public support for his cause. The PTI chairman recently told his supporters that, despite whatever they may be suffering today, they have already won the narrative war.

He believes his party's message has resonated so deeply with millions of Pakistanis that it will remain alive in the hearts of a vast cross-section of the citizenry. This majority may have been forced into silence, but they will not so easily forget this message. He may not be wrong.

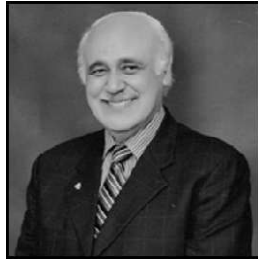
Mr Khan, his party and its supporters may have made some grievous missteps and mistakes in recent weeks. The right way to punish them would be to do so through the criminal justice system.

We are living in an age of unprecedented hyperconnectivity, where every act of oppression and resistance gets documented, disseminated and archived for future reference. Excessive measures by the state will only turn them into bigger martyrs in the eyes of ordinary people.

One cannot put a lid on the brewing storm by rounding up a few thousand PTI supporters or arresting and re-arresting the party's leaders. With the challenges the country is facing, especially those arising from its fast-sinking economy, the situation represents a ticking bomb. Very soon, the hungry and the desperate will be joining the political workers on the streets.

Against this backdrop, the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency has offered the authorities sage advice. "Only a free and fair and timely election can bring back desperately-needed political stability in Pakistan," Pildat has said. It has asked for the prosecution of lawbreakers involved in the May 9 violence, but through civilian courts; urged the armed forces to steer clear of politics, reminding them it's not their place; and underlined the need for urgent political dialogue between the government and the PTI. Those words should be heeded. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif may not be interested in talking to the PTI, but he must for the sake of the country. The anger, resentment and frustration that are building up in the body politic can only be released safely through a fair fight at the polls. This is no time to repeat dangerous experiments that can only end in ignominy and regrets. The stakeholders need to take a step back and let democracy take its course. All of Pakistan should not suffer for their egos.

'Noli me tangere'



F.S. Aijazuddin

The term 'untouchable' has a different connotation in each culture and religion. To Christians, the words noli me tangere are attributed to Jesus Christ who, after his resurrection, deterred his follower Mary Magdalene from touching him.

In other cultures, untouchability, although officially discouraged, has been practised nevertheless — in China, against the Tanka people; in Europe, the Romani gypsies; in France, the Cagots; in Japan, the Burakumin; in Korea, the Baekjeong; in Nigeria, the Ohuhu and Osu, in Tibet, the Ragyappa; in Yemen, the Al-Akhdam; in South Africa, the Bantus (Blacks) and the Coloureds; and in the United States, the Blacks and Hispanics.

Discrimination abounds wherever humans are found. Man is an unsocial man. He creates distinctions from his fellow men, enforcing practices that are discriminatory, humiliating, exclusionary and exploitative.

In India, the world's largest functioning democracy, now the world's most populous nation, and soon to be the world's largest saffron theocracy, untouchability is the hate 'that dare not speak its name'. It had been abolished officially in the Indian constitution of 1950, because of the influence of its major author Dr B.R. Ambedkar, himself an untouchable Dalit.

Another Dalit to achieve a ministerial position in Indian politics was Jagjivan Ram. He served in the cabinets of both

Jawaharlal Nehru and his daughter Indira Gandhi. She gave Jagjivan Ram the ministries of defence (1970-74) and of agriculture and irrigation (1974-77), but while she was prepared to share a table with him in cabinet meetings, she preferred not to offer him a place at her dining table.

Today, Muslims in India are the new Dalits. They are beyond being untouchable. They are unwanted in their homeland.

In Pakistan, the word 'untouchable' is closer to the Cambridge Dictionary definition. Its entry reads: "...not able to be punished, criticised, or changed in any way".

Name one individual or institution in our society that does not regard itself if not at par, then above or beyond the law.

Parliament seeks to curtail the powers of the judiciary. The judiciary retaliates with a pre-emptive strike hamstringing the legislature. The law is above the law.

Political parties demand democracy in the country but eschew elections within their own parties. Benazir Bhutto handed the PPP to her widower Asif Zardari, who shares it with their son Bilawal. Nawaz Sharif yields the prime ministership to his you-n-ger brother Shehbaz Sharif and the PML-N party to his daughter Maryam Na-waz. Imran Khan nominates Shah Mah-mood Qureshi as his unelected successor. The Election Commission which has had five years to oil and service the electoral machinery tells the Supreme Court that it cannot hold the elections in May as demanded by law, but is happy to do so at some future unspecified date. It has flouted constitutional provisions and also evaded the dictates of the Supreme Court.

Once, an Indian parliamentarian was complimented on India's

success in holding general elections. He replied: 'Any fool can hold elections. The maturity of our democracy was when Mrs Gandhi lost the 1977 elections, she handed over power to the Janata Party. And when it lost the 1979 elections, it handed power back to her Congress party.'

Another lesson was provided by the Indian experience after Mrs Gandhi's declaration of a national emergency in 1975. It provoked such outrage that there were rumours of a military take-over by the field marshal, Sam Manekshaw. According to him, during their meeting, she questioned him about rumours circulating in Delhi of a military coup. He recalled later that he put his long nose near her long nose and from this unlikely proximity, reassured her that as long as he was chief, she had nothing to fear from him.

Each elected prime minister in Pakistan craves a similar reassurance from his uniformed subordinate. The present prime minister Shehbaz Sharif is unlikely to repeat the mistake made by his elder brother, when in 1998, emboldened by the ease with which he removed COAS Gen-eral Jehangir Karamat, Nawaz attempted to remove his successor General Pervez Musharraf. He paid for his purlance.

Faced with the prospect of stormy general elections whenever, Shehbaz Sharif must view his contemporaries with envy. N. Modi — PM since 2014 — is set for another five-year term. The Bangladeshi PM, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, has been in power since 2009. Turkish President Erdogan, after 20 years in the saddle, has just been re-elected to ride for a third term. President Xi Jinping and the de facto Saudi ruler Mohammed Bin Salman are secure for life. — Courtesy Dawn

34th National Games in Quetta: A path to peace



By Hamza Shahzad

Balochistan has confronted the security challenges over the years. Balochistan has struggled with security challenges posed by terrorism, insurgency, and religious violence. These disastrous incidents have had a damaging effect on the province's reputation and stalled its tourism potential. The unstable security condition in the past has discouraged tourists and damaged the province's image, leading to a weakening in tourism opportunities.

Despite the security challenges, Balochistan has shown extraordinary spirit and progress in fighting terrorism. The province has assumed substantial actions to improve security, reinforce law enforcement agencies, and restore peace. These efforts have brought about a significant reduction in security incidents, raising an environment favorable to tourism and investment.

In February 2023, After 7 years, a PSL exhibition match was played in Quetta which picked the interest of the people of Balochistan and they came from all over Balochistan just to show their love for peace and show their hospitality. But this was just a wind of

change. After 19 years of continuous hard work by Security forces, the government of Balochistan and the loving people of Balochistan, the 34th National Games were held from 22nd May to 30th May 2023, in Quetta. This represents an astounding journey of struggle for peace and unity in a province factually dogged by conflict and volatility.

The 34th National Games Quetta, arise as an inspiration of hopefulness in the province dealing with long-standing obstinacies. By organizing an inclusive sporting event, the Games challenge the usual narrative of war and separation. This Event provided a chance for athletes from various backgrounds and areas to come together and compete go beyond social, ethnic, and political dissimilarities. The Games sent a powerful message that peace and unity can triumph even in hardships.

The 34th National Games in Quetta stands as evidence of the flexibility and will-power of the people of Balochistan motivated for peace and unity. Beyond its significance as a sporting event, the National Games represent the spirit of endorsing coherence, and stirring social change.

By yoking the power of sports, the 34th National Games Quetta is creating a platform for negotiation, sympathy, and friendship, flagging the way for a positive and more peaceful future. As the event has been concluded, its impression on the region will help as an aide-memoire that a unified effort can turn the tide of terrorism into a journey of hope and progress.

Through healthy competition, the Games re-

National News

Govt striving for best medical facilities: CM

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday said that the government was striving to provide the best medical facilities to patients in public sector hospitals related to heart emergencies.

He was chairing a meeting at his office to review the progress of primary angiography in hospitals.

During the briefing, it was revealed that a total of 5,534 primary angiographies were performed in government hospitals of various districts in the past five months. As many as 3113 primary angiographies were performed in the morning shift of nine government hospitals and 1866 in the night shift,

ensuring a 67% increase in these hospitals on the instructions of Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

The meeting also reviewed the proposal to set the target of angiography/angioplasty in every government hospital to facilitate patients.

The meeting was attended by Provincial Minister Dr Javed Akram, President of the Pakistan Society of International Cardiology Dr Zaheer Akram, health secretary, Dr. Farqad Alamgir, DG Rescue 1122, and others.

Meanwhile, Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi chaired a meeting at his office to review the progress on Lahore's major development projects and

establish timelines for their timely completion.

Addressing the meeting, CM Mohsin Naqvi emphasized that development projects must adhere to the prescribed timelines. He instructed the officials to expedite the initiation of new projects, ensuring prompt decision-making regarding designs and other necessary matters. Any delay or negligence in public welfare development projects will not be tolerated, he warned.

To minimize inconvenience to citizens during the construction phase, the meeting emphasized the need for the best alternative traffic plans and suggested that alternative routes should be suggested for best managing traffic load.

CM condemns terrorist attack

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the security forces checkpoint near the Pakistan-Iran border and expressed deep admiration for the courage displayed by the security forces in thwarting the attack.

He paid tribute to the brave soldiers, Hasnain Ishtiaq and Inayatullah, who fearlessly defended against the terrorists at the cost of their own lives.

Their heroic sacrifice deserves the utmost respect and reverence, he said and added that the indomitable spirit of the martyred heroes has elevated their status to the highest level.

The nation will forever cherish and honor the everlasting sacrifices made by the martyrs, he emphasized.

The CM has extended unwavering solidarity and heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyrs.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali talking to a 30-member delegation of the Ittehad Malikan (Alliance of Maliks) which called on him here at the Governor's House.

Minister for early dredging, desilting of all nullahs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chatha, Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi, Hasan Waqar Cheema and heads of all the departments concerned participated in the meeting.

Later, addressing a press conference, the minister informed that on the special directives of the Punjab Chief Minister, the performance of the government departments was being reviewed.

"We are striving to improve individual performance of the government officials through effective monitoring."

Cases of perpetrators should be taken to logical end: Javed Latif

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif on Thursday said that the cases against the perpetrators of May 9 incidents should be taken to a logical end as it was utmost necessary to protect security and sanctity of the state. Sparing the elements involved in the planning of this terrorist incident may cause more such incidents in future, he said adding sufficient evidence of internal as well as external conspiracy in this incident was also available.

Addressing a press conference at Model Town, Javed Latif said that no state could compromise to ensure

strict punishment to the elements involved in such activities as it was a matter of national security.

He alleged that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was training its workers for a year to attack state properties and military installations in case of arrest of Imran Khan. Had the foreign funding case against the PTI been concluded, May 9 incident may have not occurred since there were evidences of funding from foreign countries to the PTI in the case as the May 9 incident was also a conspiracy against the country executed by the PTI.

Indonesian Embassy to organize "A Night at Lahore Museum" on June 17

LAHORE (APP): The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in collaboration with the Lahore Museum will organize a week-long photo exhibition titled "A Night at Lahore Museum: Tracing the Confluence of Civilizations Between Indonesia and Pakistan", on June 17 (Saturday) at Lahore Museum.

Talking to the officials of the Lahore Museum and journalists in Islamabad, the Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugjo warmly invited the Pakistani friends to the Exhibition and to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the two Muslim brotherly countries.

Transgender school opened in Sargodha

SARGODHA (Online): Education department has opened school for eunuchs in Sargodha under the directives of the government. Over 25 eunuchs have got admission in the school and started educational activities. It was told that not only books, uniform and free transport facility will be provided to eunuchs but also scholarship will be granted to them. Muhammad Ilyas Bajwa, spokesperson of education department has said transgenders have appreciated.

Governor says: Era of progress, development about to begin in merged districts

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali has said that the era of real development and prosperity in the merged districts is about to begin now, powers and funds will be transferred to the merged districts through the elected local government representatives very soon.

He was talking to a 30-member delegation of the Ittehad Malikan (Alliance of Maliks) which called on him here at the Governor's House on Thursday.

The delegation led by

Haji Lali Shah was comprising Muhammad Afzal Khan, Malik Ayaz, Malik Sultanzeb, Malik Hafizur Rahman, Haji Syed Ahmad Jan, Mufti Hanifullah, Malik Khanzeb Malik Faqir, Malik Faqir, Malik Wali, Malik Hasib, Malik Ehsanullah, Malik Fazl Rabi, Malik Shater, Malik Usman, Malik Muhammad Shah, Malik Wazir, Malik Shrim, Malik Mashuq, Malik Nawaz Khan, Malik Abdul Nasser, Malik Hazrat Noor, Malik Umar Wahid, Malik Muhammad Nasser, Malik Khanzada, Abu Bakr Shah and others.

He informed the caretaker minister about the modus operandi of inquiries and cases under KP Promotion, Protection and Enforcement Act 2014. He also highlighted the work of Media Research Wing, training courses, workshops and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with Islamia College and Benazir Women University. Speaking on the occasion, the caretaker minister was directed to compile a report of problems being faced by the directorate.

Caretaker minister visits HR Directorate, inquired about operational matters

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Law and Human Rights (HR) Justice (Retd) Irshad Qaisar here Thursday visited Directorate General Law and Human Rights and inquired about its working and operational matters.

Director General Human Rights Muhammad Idrees Khan briefed the minister about the working of the directorate and the status of human rights in the province.



LAHORE: Senator Chaudhry Jaffar Iqbal, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

Psychiatric training session for employees of PBC, APP held

PESHAWAR (APP): Psychiatric training session for the employees of Radio Pakistan and Associated Press of Pakistan Peshawar was held here Thursday after their offices were burnt down by the violent mob on May 10 last.

The trauma training session was organized by Iftikhar Psychiatric Hospital Peshawar at the premises of Radio Pakistan Peshawar building.

Renowned psychiatrist, Professor Dr

Iftikhar Hussain shared his experience and professional knowledge with the employees of both the organizations regarding combating trauma, anxiety and depression after such horrible incidents.

He said such trauma situation could be countered through shared will power, positivity and strength. He said such tragic and catastrophic situations come on nations and it could out of it through strong belief on their own abilities.

PM Shehbaz says: Pakistan considered Japan as vital partner for its progress & prosperity

Invites Japanese companies to invest in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday said Pakistan considered Japan as an important partner for its progress and prosperity and Japanese companies should avail the immense opportunities for investment in Pakistan.

The PM was speaking to President Toyota Asia Yoshiki Konishi and Chief Executive Officer of Indus Motors Ali Asghar Jamali who called on him here.

Japan's Ambassador to Pakistan Mitsuhiro Wada, Vice Chairman Toyota Indus Motors Shinji Yanagi, Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar, Minister for Industries and Production Makhdoom Murtza Mehmood, Advisor to PM Ahad Cheema, Special Assistants to PM Jehanzeb Khan and Tariq Bajwa and high ranking officials attended the meeting.

In a briefing, the prime minister was told that

Toyota Indus Motors for the first time established a unit for the production of hybrid vehicles in Pakistan with an investment of \$100 million.

PM Shehbaz Sharif welcomed the project of Toyota to produce hybrid vehicles in Pakistan.

The production of hybrid vehicles in Pakistan would decrease the import bill resulting in saving of precious foreign exchange, he said adding the government was providing

all available facilities to the industries for investment in modern technologies in the country.

The Japanese ambassador said leading Japanese companies were desirous of further investment in Pakistan.

During the briefing, it was told that in the current year from July, Toyota Indus Motors would start export of spare parts of vehicles and these exports would make Pakistan a part of the global supply chain.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Toyota Indus Motors led by President Toyota Asia Mr. Yoshiki Konishi and CEO Indus Motors Ali Asghar Jamali calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mitsuhiro Wada, Federal Ministers Ishaq Dar, Makhdoom Mutaza Mehmood, SAPMs Jehanzeb Khan and Tariq Bajwa were also present in the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a meeting with delegation of Islamabad Industrial Association on Budget 2023-24 proposals, at FBR.

Ambassador says: Establishment of Italian Trade Agency office to enhance bilateral trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): Italian Ambassador to Pakistan Andrea Ferrarese Thursday expressed hope that establishment of the Italian Trade Agency (ICE) office in Islamabad and assignment of the first Italian Trade Director to Pakistan would enhance trade cooperation between the two countries.

"I am pleased to share with you exciting news; that is the establishment of the Italian Trade Agency (ICE) office in Islamabad and the assignment of the first Italian Trade Director to Pakistan would be a major step towards

enhanced trade cooperation between the two countries", the ambassador said in his message on the upcoming celebration of 77th anniversary of the Republic Day, National Day of Italy.

He told the APP "We shall continue to explore the avenues with a focus on agriculture, renewable energy, textiles, construction and tourism. Collaboration in fields of textiles, agriculture, livestock, marble, pharmaceuticals, and mass manufacturing will help enhance Pakistan's industrial scope and

increase exports of value-added goods".

The ambassador further stated that the fifth Italy-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission (JEC) took place on May 29-30 in Rome, where the two sides agreed to establish a joint framework to deal with climate change and cooperation in water management.

He said both sides signed an important "Roadmap for Cooperation" which covered climate change, trade & investment, heritage & culture, agriculture.

FBR collects Rs 605b gross revenues in May

ISLAMABAD (APP): Despite challenges, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) with its tremendous effort collected gross revenues of Rs 605 billion during the month of May, the board said in a statement issued here Thursday. According to the statement, against a target of Rs 621 billion, FBR was able to collect Rs 572 billion net revenue, while refunds amounting to Rs 33 billion were issued during the month.

The board collected Rs 205 billion in May 2023 under the head of domestic income tax compared to Rs

131 billion in May 2022, thereby showing a growth of 57%. A healthy year-on-year growth of 28% was achieved in the domestic sales tax with collection of almost Rs 100 billion.

Around Rs 41 billion were collected as Federal Excise Duty (FED) showing a year-on-year increase of 32%.

A cumulative growth of almost 44% has been achieved in the collection of domestic taxes.

"This is despite the fact that the economy has slowed down and GDP growth rate has been revised downward.



SARGODHA: Student attends classes during Skill Summer Camp 2023 at Government College of Technology for Women.

US Deputy Chief of Mission engages stakeholders on trade, climate, green shipping

ISLAMABAD (APP): US Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Schofer participated in a stakeholder consultation on trade, climate, and green shipping in Pakistan organized by the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

During the discussion, policy makers and private-sector leaders identified existing issues and challenges related to climate change, with a specific focus on promoting green and sustainable shipping practices in Pakistan, said a news release.

The participants developed a c t i o n a b l e recommendations and a common vision for a path forward.

"Through the US-

Pakistan 'Green Alliance' framework, our two countries are jointly preparing to meet the environmental and economic challenges of the future, especially climate change, while spurring sustainable and inclusive economic growth," DCM Schofer said.

He said, "Through events like the one today, we are encouraging bilateral dialogue on climate action, and exploring innovative solutions to build Pakistan's climate resilience." In his keynote address, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari highlighted the importance of addressing climate change and promoting sustainable shipping practices in Pakistan.

FCCI Chief says: NASTP should establish Software Development House in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD (APP): National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP) should establish its next Software Development House (SDH) in Faisalabad to provide globally compliant IT eco-system and exploit its export potential and transform it into Cyberabad, said Dr. Khurram Tariq President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). Addressing an open house session of NASTP, he underlined the importance of Information Technology (IT) and

digitalization and said that an ecosystem compatible for the promotion of IT must be provided in Faisalabad on priority basis and NASTP must play its key role in this respect. He said that this innovative institution had been created in close collaboration of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) and Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) to cater to the national needs in this cutting-edge technology. He said that NASTP had already created its Software Development Houses (SDH) in Kamara.

EU Ambassador calls on Sadiq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to Pakistan, Dr. Riina Kionka Thursday called on the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and discussed agenda items, preparations and protocol of the upcoming 13th European Union (EU)-Pakistan Joint Commission, scheduled in Brussels later this month.

According to press statement issued by the Economic Affairs Division (EAD), the ambassador expressed her appreciation for the commendable execution of the recent meeting of the International Partners Support Group (IPSG).

Railways approach govt departments to pay outstanding dues

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Railways has expedited the efforts and approached the federal and provincial departments to recover outstanding billion of rupees dues on account of using its land and other services.

"Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique has asked the official concerned to approach the federal and provincial departments for recovering the outstanding amount as soon as possible," an

official in the Ministry told APP.

About the amount payable against the different departments, the official said that over Rs 8375million (over 8 billion) are payable by different departments on account of using its land and various services.

The federal departments had to pay an amount of Rs 709.084 million, provincial departments Rs1980.217 million and autonomous and private bodies Rs 5685.736 million.

Rupee gains 08 paisas against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee gained 08 paisas against the US Dollar (USD) in the interbank trading on Thursday as it closed at Rs285.38 against the previous day's closing of Rs285.46.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market stood at Rs 290 and Rs 293, respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 19 paisas to close at Rs 304.67 against the last day's closing of Rs304.48, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).



HYDERABAD: Farmers are engaged in harvesting peas in the field.

Meher Kashif says: Trade expansion between Pak, Kyrgyzstan possible

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Kyrgyzstan Trade House Meher Kashif Younis on Thursday said the trade relations between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan had the potential to grow and expand in various sectors. Talking to a delegation of industrialists led by Faran Shahid, he said, "While the current trade volume between the two countries is relatively modest, there are several areas where both nations can benefit from increased cooperation and trade," said a press release.

He said the bilateral trade between the two countries had historically been limited but has shown potential for growth, adding that in recent years, both countries had expressed their commitment to enhancing trade ties and serious endeavors for improving transportation links, simplifying customs

procedures, and strengthening trade facilitation measures, which can contribute to boosting trade volumes.

He said both countries could also explore opportunities for cooperation in the agricultural, education and pharmaceutical sectors.

Pakistan was known for its agricultural produce, including fruits, vegetables, rice, and textiles, Younis said, adding that Kyrgyzstan, on the other hand, had a rich agricultural base and was known for its exports of walnuts, dried fruits, and honey. "Collaboration in this sector can lead to the exchange of agricultural products and expertise," he emphasised. Meher Kashif Younis said Pakistan had a well-established textile industry, and Kyrgyzstan could benefit from sourcing textiles and apparel products.

World now acknowledging Pakistani youth expertise in IT: IT Minister

Amin inaugurates Pakistani pavilion at GITEK Global Exhibition

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque on Thursday said that World now acknowledging Pakistani youth expertise in Information Technology and Telecom sector.

"Pakistan's skilled IT experts, time zone, and fluent English speaking with excellent accents have unique importance in Digital World. The World is now openly acknowledging the expertise of Pakistani youth in information technology. The minister expressed these views during meetings with different International delegations on the sidelines of GITEK Africa Digital Summit, and the Global tech exhibition being held in Morocco from May 31 to June 2.

The meetings discussed global challenges including revolutionary initiatives in the IT &

Telecom sector by the Government of Pakistan said a news release received here.

The Minister also held an important meeting with Secretary General Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO), Ms. Deemah Al-Yahya. During the meeting, both sides discussed bilateral issues and measure to enhance digital cooperation between the member states of DCO.

Vice President of Dubai Chamber of Digital Economy, Saeed Al-Gerghavi also met with IT Minister Syed Amin Ul Haque and discussed investment opportunities in IT and telecom sector in Pakistan.

Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Governor of Lagos, Nigeria, also called on Federal Minister for IT Syed Amin Ul Haque.

Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecom Syed Amin Ul

Haque on Thursday inaugurated the Pakistani pavilion at the GITEK Global Exhibition summit in Morocco.

A three-member Pakistani delegation led by Minister IT Syed Amin Ul Haque comprising Member IT Syed Junaid Imam and Chairman PASHA Zohaib Khan is attending GITEK Africa Digital Summit, said a news release.

About 14 tech companies, 10 start-ups and more than 200 IT experts from Pakistan are participating in GITEK-23 Exhibition in Morocco for the first time.

Former Minister for IT and Transport of Morocco Rabbah Aziz, Huawei Africa President Colin Hu and many prominent personalities and Global tech leaders visited Pakistan's Pavilion and showed their great interest in the items displayed at the pavilion.



MOROCCO: Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque in a meeting with Secretary General Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) Ms. Deemah Al-Yahya on the Sidelines of GITEK Africa Digital Summit.

Acting Chinese envoy calls on Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Acting Charge'd Affairs, Embassy of the People's Republic of China Ms Bao Zhong Thursday called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and discussed matters of mutual interest.

The minister highlighted the deep-rooted, long-standing bilateral ties between Pakistan and China, and appreciated the Chinese support to Pakistan on multiple fronts, said a press release.

He also apprised the envoy of the economic situation of the country and the progress in the ongoing IMF programme.

Ms Bao Zhong reciprocated the sentiments about the strong bilateral ties between the two countries.

FTO disposes of 2,297 complaints in 4 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) disposed of around 2,297 tax-related complaints during January-April 2023, showing an increase of 64.42 per cent compared to the same period of last year (2022).

According to an official document available with APP, compared to the corresponding months of 2021 during which the FTO Secretariat disposed of 769 cases, the disposal rate witnessed a 198.6 per cent increase in 2023.

"A comparison of first four months (January to April) shows a remarkable upward trend visa-a-vis registration and disposal of complaints,"

says a quarterly report released here by the FTO.

According to the report, as many as 2,467 complaints were registered during 2023 compared to registration of 1,784 in 2022 and 903 in 2021, posting a considerable growth of 38.28 per cent and 173.2 per cent against 2022 and 2021, respectively.

Due to consistent efforts and effective coordination with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), implementation of FTO recommendations jumped to 1,513 in 2023, showing an upward trend of 172.6 per cent compared to 555 in 2022 and 179.6 per cent compared to 541 in 2021, the report says.

PSX loses 63 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) lost 63.79 points on Thursday, a slight negative change of 0.15 per cent, closing at 41,266.77 points against 41,330.56 points the previous day. A total of 99,950,613 shares were traded during the day as compared to 158,102,664 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.2,867 billion against Rs.6.167 billion on the last trading day. As many as 303 companies transacted their shares in the stock market.

Ufone 4G connects pilgrims through its industry-best Hajj Data Roaming Offer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani telecom operator, Ufone 4G is providing seamless data connectivity through its industry-best and most competitive 'Hajj Data Roaming Offer' to its prepaid customers travelling to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) for Hajj.

The exceptionally affordable offer comes with generous allocations of data volume and allows exclusive access to WhatsApp calls for unrestricted communication with friends and family back

home said a news release.

The offer has been designed to provide a worry-free user experience to Ufone 4G customers during the pilgrimage.

The large volume of data allows for easy exchange of photos, videos and video calls from the Holy land so the pilgrims can virtually include their friends and family in the blessed experience. Customers may choose from three data buckets of varying volume depending upon their budget and need. Each of these bundles has a validity of 30 days.



SIALKOT: Shoaib Sarwar Ambassador posted at the Embassy of Pakistan in Denmark in a group photograph with Muhammad Ejaz Ch, chairman PGMEA and Gloves exporters at PGMEA.



KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi and Begum Samina Arif Alvi posing for a group photo with delegation of Association of Retarded Children Karachi and special children at Governor House.

Ahsan emphasizes portraying positive image of country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal Thursday emphasized portraying a positive image of the country.

The minister advised the youth to keep their self-esteem high adding that the rhetoric of portraying the Pakistani nation as corrupt must be discouraged as it has damaged the self-esteem of people of Pakistan.

"Pakistanis are not a corrupt nation, our leaders must portray a positive image of the country", he said during an inauguration ceremony of the academic blocks in the male and female campuses of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIU).

These blocks are part of PC-I "Expansion and Up-gradation of International Islamic University, Islamabad" worth Rs. 2.5 Billion.

The PC-I addresses

the need to strengthen and upgrade the University's academic infrastructure and establishment/ up-gradation of Labs to meet the ever-growing student strength in almost all programs offered at undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels.

The new block at male campus will accommodate around 2000 students per shift of the civil engineering and Faculty of Social Sciences, while the second block in the female campus will accommodate around 3000 students per shift of the Faculty of Management Sciences and Social Sciences.

Under this PSDP project, in addition to these inaugurated blocks, there are four more under construction buildings including Shared Academic block, Library building, Shariah hostel, medical center.

There is also provision of lab equipment, furniture and transport. The Campus Management Sys-

tem and IT infrastructure provision is also part of the PC-I. Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Ahsan Iqbal called upon the Muslim youth and universities to follow the great legacy of Muslims history.

He said in Islamic teachings and especially in the Holy book there is a great emphasis on education and exploration of the universe.

He said the government, since the previous tenure of 2013, under vision 2025 has established a network of universities across the country.

He said under the vision, modern needs were addressed by establishing centres for Artificial Intelligence, genetics, digital revolutionary reforms and projects of technology.

He said hatred, extremism and intolerance are major obstacles in the way of peace, national unity and sustainable economic development in the country.

Pak, UAE discuss ways to strengthen economic cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al-Zaabi Thursday called on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

During the meeting, they conversed about the deep rooted brotherly ties and discussed various areas of common interest for further strengthening the trade and economic ties between the two countries, said a press statement issued by finance ministry.

BHC announces summer vacation for Sibi and Makran benches

QUETTA: According to an official statement from the Balochistan High Court, the Sibi and Makran Benches will observe summer vacations for a period of two months, specifically from June 5, 2023, to August 4, 2023. During this time, all routine judicial proceedings will be suspended.

As per the statement, the working hours of the Sibi and Makran Benches' offices will be from Monday to Thursday and Saturday, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM and from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, respectively. On Fridays, the courts will remain closed.

The Sibi Bench will follow this schedule according to the roster, while the working hours of the Makran Bench will be from Monday to Thursday and Saturday, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, and on Fridays from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

The court vacation period allows esteemed judges to conduct hearings on essential cases during these vacations at the Principal Seat in Quetta.

Police recovers stolen vehicle in 24 hours

QUETTA (APP): Shalkot police Thursday recovered a stolen vehicle within 24 hours snatched from the driver by unknown thieves near the Hazarganji area of the district.

According to police sources, the victim had lodged a complaint with Shalkot Police Station that unknown robbers snatched his Suzuki Pickup after tying him with rope in the Saadat Market area of Hazarganji and fled away.

The police team cordoned off the entire area and recovered the stolen pickup after conducting a search operation. Further investigation was underway.

Calls on Air Chief Uzbek Envoy lauds professionalism of PAF personnel

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Aybek Arif Usmanov called on Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu and lauded the professionalism of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) personnel here on Thursday.

The meeting was focused on areas of mutual interest and regional developments, a PAF news release said.

During the meeting, the Chief of the Air Staff shared his pragmatic policy decisions aimed at modernizing Pakistan Air Force through the smart acquisition of niche technologies, upgradation of infrastructure and revitalization of operational and training

domains. The Air Chief emphasized the longstanding religious, cultural and historical bond between Pakistan and Uzbekistan which was exemplified through robust bilateral relations.

He also reiterated his unwavering commitment to enhancing the existing ties in realms of military-to-military cooperation and training.

Highlighting the bond of brotherhood between the two nations, the Air Chief said, "Pakistan values its strong diplomatic, economic and defence relationship with Uzbekistan which is based on convergence on all important issues relating to regional peace, security and stability."

NA passes the Pakistan Ruet e Hilal Bill 2022

ISLAMABAD (Online): The National Assembly has passed the Pakistan Ruet-e-Hilal Bill 2022.

Rs 50000 fine and 3 years imprisonment will be imposed on those making false evidence of moon sighting.

Now Deputy Commissioner will be able to sight moon in addition to Central and Zonal Ruet-e-Hilal Committee.

Any private Ruet-e-Hilal Committee will not be considered. The tenure of

central, provincial and zonal committee will be of 3 years. New Ruet-e-Hilal bill has been passed in National Assembly.

National Assembly has approved bill of Pakistan Ruet-e-Hilal bill 2022. 15-member Ruet-e-Hilal committee will be formed.

Shahadat al-Alamiya degree or MA in Islamiyat with 15 years of experience has been made compulsory for the head of the committee.

Siachen glacier world's highest battlefield melting faster: Sherry Rehman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Thursday said Siachen was the highest battlefield in the world, and the Siachen glacier was melting very fast which was directly jeopardising the local communities facing severe glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs).

She was addressing the concluding session of the second day of the Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit titled "Changing Narratives".

Senator Rehman said when glacial lakes erupt, they wash away bridges and small dams. The government was informing the local communities on im-

pending risk of GLOF through an early warning system being put in place that indicated expected GLOF event.

She added that water scarcity would not happen now, but there was a need to control the use of this water.

"Pakistan is facing serious environmental challenges and is not ready for future in terms climate and environment. It has suffered heavy losses," Sherry Rehman said.

She queried, "Are developed countries doing anything for climate financing?" However, a conference on climate financing in France would be held in June, she added.



RAWALPINDI: Secretary Defence, Lt Gen (Retd) Hamood Uz Zaman Khan presenting a gift to General Sir Patrick Nicholas, British Army chief of the General Staff, in Ministry of Defence.

MCKRU computer science degree to get NCEAC accreditation soon

QUETTA (APP): The Computer Science program of Mir Chakar Khan Rind University (MCKRU) will soon get registration of National Computing Education Accreditation Council (NCEAC).

It was disclosed by Dr. Bakhtiar Khan Kanshi a professor of Balochistan University of Information Technology Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) during his visit to MCKRU along with NCEAC officials, a press release Thursday said.

He interacted with the

students to inquire about issues faced by them in education, saying it is the need of the hour to acquaint students with modern technical enabling them self-sufficient in society.

Kanshi said there was no lack of talent among our students but many times success has come to our students in the competitions of other provinces.

Earlier, MCKRU Registrar Dr. Mir Humayun Yousaf Shahwani briefed the NCEAC about the provision of education facilities and other matters of the varsity.

Ayesha Zehri inspects under-construction mosque in Nasirabad

NASIRABAD: Deputy Commissioner Ayesha Zehri visited the Chakhdara neighborhood to assess the progress of the construction work on an under-construction mosque, on Thursday.

Following a court case related to the mosque's renovation, the Deputy Commissioner granted approval for the mosque's architectural plans. Tehsildar Majeedur Rehman, esteemed religious scholars, and community members were also present during the occasion.

During discussions, Deputy Commissioner Ayesha Zehri emphasized that no encroachments on the mosque's land would be tolerated. The land has been dedicated for the mosque as an endowment (waqf). This mosque holds historical significance as one of the ancient mosques of Dera Murad Jamali. Therefore, the local community has initiated reconstruction efforts to restore the mosque's glory. The district administration of Nasirabad is committed to ensuring the mosque's land remains free from any unauthorized occupation.

President Alvi for boosting cooperation to synergise efforts for differently abled children

KARACHI (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi, on Thursday, stressed upon coordination and cooperation among all stakeholder and organisations working for differently abled children to synergise their efforts so that rehabilitation of special children could be carried out in a holistic and inclusive manner.

The president expressed these views in a meeting with representatives of Association of Retarded Children Karachi (ARCK) here at Sindh Governor House.

First Lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi was also present in the meeting.

Dr. Arif Alvi noted that government as well as charitable organisations had taken a range of measures for rehabilitation, education and vocational training of

special children and their financial empowerment and integration in the society.

He said that differently-abled children above the age of 9 years could be registered with NADRA with special status that enabled their access to special facilities being offered by the government.

Awareness about the special children and their specific needs had raised in previous years but considering the number of such children in the country more initiatives and interventions were required, he maintained.

The president appreciated ARCK for its contributions for the cause of education, training and rehabilitation of retarded children for more than 50 years and encouraged the association to look into possibility of

joining other organisations working for the same cause to strengthen their efforts and outreach.

Begum Samina Arif Alvi, at the occasion, also emphasized the need of coordination among all relevant associations and organisations to reinforce the efforts aimed at rehabilitation of special children through education and vocational training.

The ARCK delegation briefed the president about performance of the association, facilities available at their school and issues being faced.

Later, President Dr. Arif Alvi, along with Begum Samina Arif Alvi, also observed handicrafts and artefacts prepared by special children of ARCK and appreciated their hard work and artistic beauty.



QUETTA: A delegation led by MD Sui Southern Gas Company Inran Maniyar meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Pak Navy Ship conducts rescue operation in Arabian Sea

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) SAIF while carrying out routine patrolling in the Arabian Sea, expeditiously responded to a distress call by a stranded Fishing Vessel AL ZUBAIR and saved the valuable lives of six fishermen.

The fishing vessel had suffered engine failure and subsequent flooding due to rough sea conditions, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

PNS SAIF swiftly responded to the distress call at night and safely recovered six stranded fishermen.

Medical assistance was provided onboard and the fishermen were subsequently shifted to Gwadar. The fishermen's community has lauded the efforts of the Pakistan Navy in saving precious lives at sea.

Gwadar connected to national grid

GWADAR (INP): The isolated Makran division grid has been connected to the national grid, providing another 100 megawatts electricity to Gwadar.

This was disclosed by Jawwad Akhtar Khokhar, Advisor Maritime Affairs at the Planning Commission of Pakistan, while talking to Gwadar Pro.

Khokhar said that the 286-kilometre long, 132kV dual-circuit transmission line through Naal-Basima-Naag-Panjgur was energised on May 30. Gwadar now receives a total of 300MW of electricity through three transmission lines, two from Iran and the new one from the national grid, he said.

In addition, the official said that the 1.2 million gallons per day water desalination plant being completed with the Chinese grant of Rs2 billion will be inaugurated on June 30.

PML-Q requests SC to reject petitions filed against SCPPA

ISLAMABAD (Online): PML-Q has requested the Supreme Court (SC) to reject the petitions filed against Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act (SCPPA).

In its 12-page reply filed through advocate Zahid F Ibrahim, PML-Q has taken plea that the act will enhance the independence of judiciary rather than curtailing it. Earlier the opportunity for reforms was lost after lawyers movement in the country.

Section 4 of act broadens the jurisdiction of SC. Section 3 of the act does not belittle use of powers under section 184 (3) by judiciary.

Former chief justices Iftekhar Chaudhry, Gulzar Ahmad and Saqib Nisar used powers mercilessly.

Pak deeply concerned over India's latest move seeking death penalty for Yasin: FO

ISLAMABAD (Online): We are deeply concerned over India's latest move seeking death penalty for prominent Kashmiri leader, Yasin Malik.

This was said by Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch in weekly press briefing here Thursday.

She held last year, Yasin Malik was awarded life sentence in a contrived case, marked by fabricated charges and denial of fair trial. He is being held in inhumane conditions in the notorious Thirar jail despite his deteriorating health. Mr. Malik is being denied access to family members, privileged access to lawyers and quality health treatment.

India's latest move is another instance of political vendetta aimed at silencing the Kashmiri leadership

and intimidating the Kashmiri people. It is a manifestation of India's unending and pervasive oppression in IIOJK where political leaders and human rights defenders are routinely incarcerated on trumped up and baseless charges. She remarked we urge the Indian authorities to bring an end to this farce of a trial of Mr. Yasin Malik.

He must be provided quality health treatment and allowed to live freely among his people and family. India must also immediately and unconditionally release the Kashmiri leadership and human rights defenders who are being unjustly held in prisons in IIOJK and across India, she held at the invitation of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will attend the inauguration ceremony.



ISLAMABAD: Chakridar Krachaiwong, Ambassador of Thailand to Pakistan called on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House.

Nazar Baloch says Institute of Ombudsman operates independently to facilitate the masses

QUETTA: Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar addressed a one-day seminar titled "The Role of Ombudsman in Safeguarding Public Rights and Good Governance" organized by the Accountability Institution, Thursday.

The special guest at the seminar was the President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi. The event was attended by Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar, Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Qureshi, Members of the Assembly, former judges, lawyers, representatives from civil society, students, and officers from the Accountability Institution.

During his speech at the seminar, Advocate Nazar Mohammad Baloch explained the purpose of establishing the Ombudsman institution, highlighting the difficulties faced by the people in remote areas of Balochistan in accessing justice. He emphasized that the establishment of the Ombudsman institution was aimed at addressing these challenges so that individuals who fear bias in official proceedings or encounter legal complexities and financial constraints in pursuing their cases could have immediate and free access to justice in their own districts.

Governor Balochistan stated that the institution of Ombudsman operates independently, receiving complaints and initiating investigative actions. The responsible officers and representatives of relevant institutions are called for questioning regarding the complaints, and after a thorough process, decisions based on justice and the law are made.



KARACHI: Pakistan Navy Ship SAIF conducts rescue operation and safely recover stranded crew of fishing vessel in Arabian Sea, in Karachi.