

# Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Gwadar

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## Approves Rs 2.709 trillion ADP for FY 2023-24 NEC approves Rs 248 billion development budget for Balochistan

PM says govt to bring about Green Revolution to achieve self-sufficiency in agriculture: Decides to shut markets across country by 8pm to conserve energy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the government was launching a Green Revolution 2.0 to make the country achieve self-sufficiency in the agriculture field. The prime minister, who chaired the meeting of the National Economic Council here, said the government was taking all-out

measures to innovate the agriculture sector to enhance the production and per acre yield. He said economic development topped the government's priorities for which it was investing in education, health, modern infrastructure, and technology sectors. The NEC approved a reviewed Public Sector De-

velopment Program 2022-23 and national development budget for fiscal 2023-24 with an outlay of Rs2709 billion. Under the development program, the center would spend Rs1150 billion including Rs200 through public-private partnership and Rs950 billion of PSDP. The total provincial development budget would

be Rs 1559 billion. This includes Rs 426 billion for Punjab and Rs 268 billion for KP, for a period of four months as both the provinces were awaiting general elections and being ruled by caretaker setups. The NEC approved Rs 617 billion development budget for Sindh and Rs 248 billion for Balochistan.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs meeting of the National Economic Council in Islamabad.



IRAQ: Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in a meeting with head of Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq Dr Sheikh Humam Hamoudi during his visit of Iraq for bilateral relations in various fields of cooperation.

### Pakistan, Iraq agree to strengthen ties in diverse fields

BAGHDAD (APP): Pakistan and Iraq have agreed to further strengthen their bilateral ties in diverse fields. The understanding was reached during meeting between Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and head of Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq Sheikh Dr Hamoudi in Baghdad today.

They discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in trade and investment and efforts for peace and stability of the region and beyond. Meanwhile Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Speaker of Iraq's Parliament Mohamed al-Haboubi on Tuesday discussed the bilateral ties between Pakistan and Iraq. During a meeting held in Baghdad, the two sides also noted that the cooperation between the parliaments would further

strengthen the brotherly relations between the two countries, said a press release issued here. The foreign minister said that the high level parliamentary exchanges between the two countries were significant which would be helpful in taking advantages of the each other's experiences. Separately, the foreign minister also held a meeting with Iraq's Hikmat Party President Ammar al-Hakeem.

They discussed the political ties between the two countries and other issues of mutual interest. The foreign minister termed the high-level political linkages between the two countries as highly important. For the promotion of public to public relations, the political contacts between the two countries were vital, he added.



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Mir Naseebullah Marri, Secretary Education Abdul Rauf Baloch and Deputy Commissioner Shehak Baloch holding talks with Central President Government Teachers Association Habibur Rehman Mardanzai

### US engages with Pakistan on all issues, desires to see it prosper: State Dept.

WASHINGTON (APP): The United States gets in touch with Pakistan directly on the issues that are of importance to Washington and also to broader regional security and stability, State Department Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel has said. The spokesperson was responding to a question about the recent political developments in Pakistan at his regular press briefing on Monday.

"We, of course, want to see a prosperous and stable Pakistan," Patel said, adding that was in the interest of US-Pakistan relations. The U.S., he said, was engaged with Pakistan directly on several issues. The spokesperson

was also asked about Dr Afia Siddiqui, the Pakistani neuroscientist who has been in US jail for over 20 years, and was recently allowed to meet her sister for the first time in over 20 years. He said he would refer the issue to relevant law enforcement authorities. "I don't have anything to offer from up here as it relates to that".

To another question, the spokesperson said that he would not "speculate or hypothesize" about Dr Shakeel Afridi, who allegedly helped US operators locate Osama bin Laden, and now serving a jail term in Pakistan. "I also am not going to get into the specifics of the case given privacy concerns," he added.

### Shah Mahmood Qureshi released from Adiala jail Senior lawyer gunned down by unknown armed men in Quetta city

RAWALPINDI (INP): Vice Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi was released from Adiala Jail Rawalpindi on Tuesday. Earlier, the Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi bench ordered the immediate release of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice Chairperson Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

High court judge Justice Chaudhry Abdul Aziz heard the case and declared the detention of PTI Vice Chairperson Shah Mahmood Qureshi as 'illegal'. The court ordered Qureshi to submit an affidavit to the Rawalpindi deputy commissioner within three days of his release.

CM, Home Minister slam killing, seek report: A senior lawyer of Supreme Court, Abdul Razzaq Shar was brutally shot dead by unknown armed men on the main Airport Road here on Tuesday morning. According to the police, Abdul Razzaq Shar was on his way by car to the courts from his residence located in Chiltan Scheme when he was approached by the armed men and opened indiscriminate fire on him. He sustained serious bullet wounds and died on the spot before he was taken to the hospital. However, his body was carried to the civil hospital for legal formalities and post-mortem.

Soon after the brutal killing, the area police and rescue teams reached the spot. While on the other hand, relatives and colleagues of the senior lawyer also reached the civil hospital, on hearing the tragic news of his murder. A senior police official informed that the cold-blooded murder of Abdul Razzaq Shar is being thoroughly investigated from different angles and aspects.

Meanwhile, the body of Abdul Razzaq Shar was moved to his residence from the civil hospital mortuary. The police surgeon told that Abdul Razzaq Shar was hit from two sides with 9MM pistol that resulted in his death. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo and provincial Minister Home, Mir Ziaullah Langau have strongly condemned the firing incident which claimed life of the lawyer.

### CJP is constitutional post: No one else can use charge of chief justice on basis of presumptions: CJP

Says Powers of chief justice or judge cannot be reduced as per requirement; Before confirming facts, can government officials accuse judges? Justice Akhtar: Is govt using resources to find out where, how audios being recorded? CJP asks.

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial has remarked Chief Justice of Pakistan is a constitutional post and no one else can use the charge of chief justice on the basis of presumptions. He further observed chief justice was available in this case who was not informed about the constitution of commission. It was not in the knowledge of CJP and commission was formed.

He further observed the Attorney General (AG) should first understand law before reading the references of courts decisions. AG should tell on what basis he presumed that there is conflict between three judges among us. The second important issue is independence of judiciary. Ascertain it if the twitter handle is operating from within or outside the country. Did the government ascertain by using its resources audio's recording is being made from where and how. Who is doing all this. The constitutional petitions against formation of

audio leaks inquiry commission came up for hearing before a five members bench of SC presided over by CJP Umar Ata Bandial here Tuesday. It was told by AG that verification whether these audios are false or true has yet to be made by federal government. The CJP remarked what a beautiful procedure it is and what justice has been done with the judiciary. First the judges were insulted on these audios and then said "we get do the verification of veracity of these videos now."



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar being briefed during his visit to University Law College

### Kakar visits University Law College: Institutions can be strengthened further by pursuing merit: Governor

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Kakar has categorically stated that the institutions can be strengthened further by pursuing merit and transparency in them. The Governor was speaking on occasion of the visit of University Law College Quetta on Tuesday. He visited different parts of the University Law College and inspected its various sections. He also got briefing about the overall working of higher institution dealing in law education.

Also present on the occasion were the Vice Chancellor, University of Balochistan, Professor Dr. Shafiqur Rehman, Prov. Vice Chancellor, Dr. Aunuddin and Principal University Law College, Shamsullah. The Governor said that the recruitment of Principal Law College is being made purely on merit for the first time. He said that we are taking steps to develop the Law college as full-fledged university and thus providing all necessary facilities to it. He said that the conscious and sensitive people

prefer to lead life under a specific purpose instead of mere for salaries. He said that it is our responsibility to provide all necessary facilities to the future lawyers of the country and province. He also exhorted the young lawyers to benefit from the modern day technology and available resources in the present era. The Governor assured to provide necessary facilities including the transport, digital library, hostel, auditorium and mock court room in the University Law College.

### Balochistan budget likely to be presented on June 16

QUETTA: The next financial year budget of the Balochistan province is likely to be presented on June 16, 2023. According to the official sources, total volume of the next financial year budget of the province is expected to be upto Rs. 700 billion. The sources said that almost 5,000 new jobs would be created in the next financial year. The 20 percent raise is expected in the salaries of the government employees in the next financial year budget. The sources also told the short term development schemes are expected to be included in the budget.

### Three terrorists killed by CTD

SWAT (INP): Three terrorists were killed in retaliation after they attacked an investigation team of the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) and police in Swat district. According to the CTD spokesperson, terrorists opened fire at the investigation team in Banjot village of Swat district. Three terrorists were killed in retaliation by the CTD and police officials.

### Portfolio of Minister P&D withdrawn from Noor Muhammad Dumar

QUETTA: In an expected move, the portfolio of the Minister Planning and Development Department has been withdrawn from Noor Muhammad Dumar. The official sources said that the portfolio of the P&D was taken back from Mr. Dumar on his participation in the meeting of National Economic Council in Islamabad. While the Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo had clearly announced to boycott the NEC meeting on the "non cooperative" attitude of the federal government regarding the province. Despite this, the senior Provincial Minister went to Islamabad to participate in the NEC meeting.

### Sanaulah urges AJK people to vote for PML-N as 'future belongs to it'

BAGH (AJK) (APP): PML-N, and it would resume the journey towards development - which was halted in July 2017 with the "unjustified" ousting of Nawaz Sharif - shortly after securing a two-thirds majority in the general elections. Sanaulah, who is also the president of PML-N's Punjab chapter, claimed that whenever the country was in deep waters, PML-N came forward to steer it out of crises. Speaking at an election gathering of PML-N candidate Mushtaq Minhas, he said the changing circumstances were favourable for



BAGH: Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan addressing a public gathering.

### To stop supply of wheat and flour Section 144 imposed all over Balochistan

QUETTA: The section 144 has been imposed all over the Balochistan province especially in Naseerabad Division in order to stop the supply of wheat and flour from the province to other provinces. This was announced in an official handout issued here on Tuesday. According to the hand-



MOSCOW: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani held delegation level talks with Speaker of the Russian Federation Council LV Matvienko.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Populist budget?**

There couldn't have been more challenging times than the present ones for preparing the national budget. The uncertainties related to elections and foreign funding required to cover the massive external account financing gap of about \$25bn during the next financial year, amid deepening domestic political crises and unfavourable global economic circumstances, mean that our fiscal authorities would be budgeting this year on hope rather than tangles.

Add to that the strong compulsion the PML-N-led government must be feeling to appease voters as the monthly price inflation hits another record high of 38pc days before Budget 2024, and it becomes obvious that the present rulers really have their work cut out for them before the next general polls.

It will not be surprising if the Shehbaz Sharif dispensation decides to give a 'populist' budget, including a large fiscal stimulus in the shape of development allocations to recoup some of its lost political capital. But this will be disastrous for an economy on the brink of default.

The government has already choked the economy to avoid a default as foreign funding dries up thanks to slumping relations with the IMF.

A populist — or what Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has described as a "welfare-oriented, pro-investment and business-friendly" — budget will be fraught with the risk of Pakistan being pushed deeper into economic depression and away from multilateral and bilateral lenders.

With the country confronting stagflation — marked by flattening economic growth, soaring unemployment and spiking inflation — there has never been a more compelling case for a budget that focuses on fiscal, governance and structural reforms for longer-term economic recovery and sustainability.

Pakistan needs foreign financing, including loan rollovers, of more than \$77bn to meet its external debt payments over the next three years. That will not be possible without the IMF on board. A fiscally irresponsible budget can make a new deal with the Fund even more difficult.

Domestic revenue resources also remain scarce — they are insufficient to cover debt-servicing costs, let alone finance development, defence, salaries, pensions, etc.

The upcoming budget will be more a test of the government's resolve to stay the course and restructure the economy to steer it through uncertain conditions rather than provide temporary relief to people and businesses for short-term political gains.

Sadly, the indications so far are that the government is more likely to follow the fiscally imprudent path rather than follow through with the reforms it has promised its lenders to ensure longer-term economic stability.

**The next monsoon**



**Naseer Memon**

With the monsoons approaching, there is reason to feel concerned. Preoccupied with the political melodrama, few of us recall the plight of the millions of flood-affected. Their tribulations after last year's calamitous deluge, especially in Sindh, have not ended and the rainy season is once again looming. Although weather pundits expect a drier monsoon in southern Pakistan this year, climate change is all about extreme and unpredictable weather events.

Rescue and relief are the two most important pillars of any disaster-response strategy. Last year, both were lacklustre, and displayed four main gaps. There was no early warning and no transport arrangements to evacuate stranded families; pumping machines were mostly non-functional and unable to drain rainwater; and relief camps couldn't be mobilised fast enough to be able to provide for shelter, food, water and sanitation initially.

The number of displaced people mounted every day and the administration was unable to cope. Local philanthropists, relatives, friends and a few patches of dry elevated road and dykes were the last resort for the uprooted. It was only belatedly that government departments, international NGOs, religious charities and some compassionate elected representatives acted. The towns of Johi, Mehar, Dadu, Bhan Syc-d-a-bad, Jhudo, Dighri and Umerkot in Sindh were saved through coordinated efforts led by local communities with the

assistance of elected representatives and the irrigation department. Still, over 10m end-usered a nightmarish situation. Sindh lost more than 1,000 people, around 2m houses, 450,000 cattle heads and 3.7m acres of crop land. The Post Disaster Needs Assessment report revealed that poverty in Sindh would increase by between 8.9 and 9.7 percentage points. Of the total loss and damage sustained, Sindh bore the brunt (72 per cent).

The Sindh government, with meagre federal support and international aid, is undertaking reconstruction and rehabilitation in the affected areas. Major breaches and relief cuts in the flood protection network and roads have been plugged and dykes improvised. However, communities in Mehar taluka (Dadu) are anxious about the unrepaired breaches of the Suprio bund. Parts of Thari Mirwah in Khairpur Nathan Shah, Odero Lal in Matiari and some other areas are suffering from protracted inundation.

Enhancing the drainage capacity of the Manchar lake from 10,000 to 52,000 cusecs through the under-construction Aral head regulator and the reinforcement of the Manchar Containing Bund are significant initiatives of the World Bank-financed Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project of the provincial government. The reconstruction of houses and livelihood restoration projects are at an early stage. But, if properly implemented, these projects can generate climate-resilient infrastructure in rural areas, where over half the katcha houses and a rickety community infrastructure are victims of climate shocks.

Before the onset of the next monsoon, district-level flood contingency plans must be developed and implemented through meaningful engagement with local stakeholders. The plan should include preparedness for emergency evacuation, well-equipped relief camps, food and medicine stockpiles, unobstructed municipal and irrigation drains, functional pumping stations with power back-up, and arrangements for people needing special focus, such as pregnant and lactating women, newborns and toddlers, the elderly, the disabled and socially ostracised segments. These short-term measures can help if disaster returns, although sustainable solutions need long-term measures.

Sindh is a vast sink for upst-ream flows. Because of its flat topography, it needs a storm-water drain network on both sides of the Indus. This is a complex task, as major irrigation effluent drains like the LBOD and RBOD have not delivered. Torrential flows from the catchment area of the Kirthar hills in Sindh and Balochistan need a multi-dimensional flood management plan that includes small reservoirs, relief channels connected to the Indus and the safe diversion of floodwaters to the river via Manchar. As a first step, the capacity and geographic coverage of these drains should be increased.

Blocked natural waterways are another menace. Canals, roads, villages, cropland and encroachments have clogged natural flow paths. While everyone wants these cleared, the road to remove these obstructions is itself stymied. Strong political will is required to dilate the waterways. Most importantly, new public and private infrastructure should have resilience parameters. Settlements, houses, schools, dykes, roads, hospitals, etc, need climate-resilient engineering and sociology. Finally, local bodies have to be empowered to act as first responders to disaster. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Malnutrition woes**



**Navaira Ali Bangash**

Malnutrition, or poor nutrition, emerges when one's diet does not contain the right amount of nutrients. Poor nutrition can be broadly categorised as 'undernutrition' and 'over-nutrition'. In most developing countries, like Pakistan, malnutrition usually exists as an inability to meet standard nutritional targets due to the scarcity of food generally available in the country.

Young children and pregnant or breastfeeding women are the main category of people prone to malnutrition in most of South Asia. The deficiency of micronutrients leads to complications during pregnancy, and later, malnourished newborns. Increased iron needs during these periods and decreased iron intake and absorption appear to be the most significant causes.

According to the National Nutrition Survey 2018 (NNS2018), 40.2 per cent of children under five years of age in the country are stunted, while 17.7pc are wasted. Other effects of malnutrition are poor physical and cognitive development, impaired growth, frequent illnesses, fatigue, shortness of breath, poor school performance and reduced capacity to work even later in life. Malnutrition is thus one of our most pressing challenges. Disasters compound the problem of malnutrition, as seen in the aftermath of last year's floods.

Moreover, according to the Pakistan Nutrition Humanitarian Overview 2022, the country has a global acute malnutrition

rate of 17.7pc, exceeding the emergency threshold. Conditions such as drought and famine affect five million people in Sindh and Balochistan.

The most common deficiencies are those of iron, protein, vitamin A, vitamin D, zinc and folic acid. Iron deficiency affects children the most in the first two years of life. Among its many consequences are anaemia, low birthweight and poor weight gain.

The NNS 2018 also confirms that micronutrient deficiencies are rampant in Pakistani children. Iron deficiency anaemia was, according to the survey, most common in children between six to 59 months. Overall, 49.1pc of children in the country are iron deficient.

Malnutrition and food insecurity have become a crippling challenge despite multiple national interventions over the years. What starts out as a seemingly less serious condition in children, turns out to be one of the most serious health conditions among adults in underdeveloped nations. No doubt iron deficiency in children deserves far more attention than it currently garners. One way to raise awareness of the consequences of malnutrition, including iron deficiency, is to highlight the economic losses incurred. The country pays heavily for a condition that, through active policymaking and changes to existing plans, can be tackled in the earlier stages of life, and at least stem the speed of a nosediving GDP.

In a report — a collaboration between the nutrition section of the Ministry of Planning and the UN's World Food Programme — WFP consultant Jack Bagriansky has shared some perturbing facts. The cost of the lost future workforce in Pakistan due to underweight children, wasting and micronutrient deficiency is

estimated at \$2.24 billion per year. Cognitive deficits derived from childhood stunting, anaemia and iodine deficiency disorders will also result in reduced future adult productivity, which is valued at a Net Present Value of \$3.7bn per year.

Pakistan's economy relies heavily on agriculture as well as manual labour. The report indicates that anaemia in men and women who are engaged in agriculture and manual labour will lower their economic output by \$657 million per year.

Pakistan is unfortunately going through extremely tough times, with a nightmarish scenario looming on the horizon. The economic repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic, the des-t-ru-ction of the recent floods and an uncertain political climate make the situation worse. Tough decisions, farsighted po-l-i-c-y-making and reforms in the existing strategies are the need of the hour.

Large-scale food fortification as well as fortification of widely consumed food is considered a medium- to long-term helpful strategy in increasing regular consumption of essential nutrients. Programmes like the Food Fortification Programme are playing a critical role in supporting industry to adequately fortify wheat flour and edible oil and ghee in Pakistan. We are fortunate enough to witness the breakthrough referred to as 'iron-plus', the improved iron source that enhances the absorption of iron thrice as compared to normal iron sources. It is a precious opportunity for underdeveloped countries like Pakistan to eradicate malnutrition in the country. This venture will require a joint effort by the government, the food industry and, last but not least, informed masses to cultivate hope for future generations. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**PM for inclusion of mega incentives for IT sector in fiscal budget**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed relevant authorities to include mega incentives for the Information Technology sector in the fiscal budget 2023-24 to boost country's IT export. Chairing a high-level meeting on promotion of the IT sector, he directed to prepare a big package for the sector in the upcoming fiscal budget. The prime minister decided to introduce fixed tax regime for the sector in

the budget and also constituted a committee on it, besides directing the body to submit its recommendations immediately, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The meeting also accorded approval in principle for providing special incentives to new business start-ups in the sector.

He said that the government would spend huge amount on the training of youth in the sector. Special concessions for promotion of business and trade through modern technology were also approved. During the meeting, it was also decided to take the initiatives that were crucial to encourage youth for starting their own businesses. The prime minister approved a major decision of creating special training IT zones for promoting entrepreneurship.

He said that the government would spend huge amount on the training of youth in the sector. Currently, a total of 45,000 young people across the country were being trained in the sector, he added. The prime minister further said that in the upcoming fiscal budget, the government would distribute 1,00,000 laptops among the youth on merit basis. During the previous tenure of the PML-N government, they had distributed laptops among the country's youth and by utilizing this facility, the young people brought foreign reserves during the Covid pandemic, he observed.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on budget proposals regarding IT and Telecom Sector.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali handing over cheque of Rs. 100 million to FPCCI Peshawar Branch. Caretaker Provincial Ministers and representatives of business community are also present

**Khurram Dastagir says: Power sector being made consumer friendly through implementation of AMI**

FAISALABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Energy Engineer Khurram Dastagir Khan on Tuesday inaugurated Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) cell at computer centre of the Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (Fesco) headquarters and termed it a revolutionary step to enable the company as well as consumers simultaneously for accessing to real-time monitoring of meter data. According to a press release issued by the Fesco, the minister said that the power sector was being made consumer-friendly through implementation of the state-of-the-art technology of the AMI. He said the AMI

would not only help to control electricity theft and technical losses, but would also play a pivotal role in eliminating over-billing. The AMI would also be helpful in fault tracing and immediate restoration of power supply in case of power failure, he added. During the briefing, Chief Executive Officer Fesco Engr Bashir Ahmed & DG (IT) Abdul Hayee said that due to real-time provision of complete information regarding the usage of electricity on smart mobiles and computers of the consumer, there would be an end to wastage of electricity due to effective control of the consumer's electricity usage times and bills. They said the Fesco was

replacing all industrial and agricultural electricity meters with its own resources under a phase manner to provide better service to its consumers and more than 6,000 consumers had been shifted to this technology so far. The Fesco chief said that the establishment of AMI section would escalate and improve performance of the project and all functions related to the AMI would be possible under one roof. Meanwhile, the CEO briefed the federal minister about performance of the company and said that there was no single power transformer overload of the Fesco jurisdiction.

**Naveed shares Pakistan's investment potential with leading firms**

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Naveed Qamar held a meeting with the leading investment firms in London and shared with them the investment potential of Pakistan in various fields of the economy. High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan and Commerce Additional Secretary, Ahsan Ali Mangi accompanied the minister in the meeting, according to a press statement issued by the commerce ministry here Tuesday. The investment firms deal primarily in equity

financing, fintech, startup and venture capital funds, it added. The Minister highlighted the significant economic reforms undertaken by the government to enhance the ease of doing business and ensure a secure and profitable environment for investors. Minister Qamar provided a comprehensive overview of Pakistan's key investment sectors, including energy, infrastructure development, manufacturing, agriculture, information technology, and financial services.

**NPO to assist industries' ministry to improve productivity**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Industries and Production has launched a development project to improve the productivity of the industrial, manufacturing, services and education sectors through the assistance of the National Productivity Organization (NPO), its, Chief Executive Officer, Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry said on Tuesday. The NPO would train the stakeholders to increase productivity and make them productivity specialists in their sectors concerned as it had been accredited the status of certification body by the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Japan first time for the period of four years, the NAP CEO told a press conference.

**China to work with Pakistan to boost bilateral trade through land transportation: Wenbin**

BEIJING (APP): China on Tuesday welcomed quality agricultural products from Pakistan to enter its market and stands ready to continue to work with Pakistan to boost bilateral trade through land transportation. As all-weather strategic cooperative partners, China and Pakistan have engaged in close cooperation in trade and other fields, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang

Wenbin said in response to a question raised by APP about import of seafood through land route. Last week, Pakistan first-ever seafood cargo container arrived in Kashgar city of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region through Karakoram Highway. This is the first time that seafood containers from Pakistan have been transported by road from Karachi to Kashgar city along the China-Pakistan

Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). "We welcome quality agricultural products from Pakistan to enter China's market and stand ready to continue to work with Pakistan to boost our trade through land transportation, achieve sustainable growth, bilateral trade and deliver more benefits to our two peoples," he added.

**Gold prices decline by Rs.2,300**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs2,300 and was sold at Rs228,100 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs230,400 the previous day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs1,972 to Rs195,559 from Rs197,531 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs179,262 from Rs181,070. All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola silver decreased by Rs100 to close at Rs2,650 and ten gram silver also decreased by Rs85.74 to close at Rs2,271.94 respectively.

**PAJCCI terms Barter Trade approval b/w Pak, Afghanistan, Iran & Russia as dream come true**

PESHAWAR (Online): Chairman Pakistan Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Zubair Motiwalla while welcoming Pakistan's government decision of initiating Barter Trade with Afghanistan, Iran and Russia has termed the development as 'dream come true'. In a press statement issued here on Tuesday, Chairman PAJCCI stated that fruitful conclusion of a series of meetings, since 2021 by

PAJCCI has started bartering fruits. PAJCCI had been recommending several measures to facilitate economic activity with Afghanistan including waiver of E-Form & EIF requirement for extended period till finalization of alternate mechanism, opening up of new border crossings, increase in timings at existing border crossings, reducing multiple and manual checks.

## Governor says: Federal govt to present people friendly budget

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here on Tuesday hinted at more relief for the masses in the upcoming federal government budget saying it would meet the people's expectations.

Talking to media persons here at Governor House, the governor said that he has held important meetings with Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and informed him about the financial issues of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa. The governor said that funds for BRT would be released soon.

Due to the government's successful policies, he said the significant decrease in prices of daily commodities including ghee has been witnessed in the open market.

The governor said that the business community was supporting the government's austerity

measures and economic policies and wanted to end unnecessary expenditures of government organizations for the stability of the economy.

He said Pakistan has all resources and we need to work hard tirelessly in our respective professions to make it economically developed and prosperous. He said elections would be definitely held and people would know once its date was announced.

## Health facilities under Sehat card to continue: Riaz Anwar

PESHAWAR (Online): Advisor to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister for Health Riaz Anwar on Tuesday said that despite financial crunch in the province the health facilities under Sehat Card would continue for the people of the province.

Talking to media here after release of a survey report on Sehat Card, he said that payments are being made to the insurance company under the head of different treatments while an inquiry into alleged corruption was

also in process. Earlier, a survey report on Sehat Card released by Agha Khan University revealed that 63 percent people of KP got treatment from private hospitals under the facility while only 37 percent patients went to the government hospitals.

It said that 10 percent of the population of KP was still deprived of the facility due to domicile or other technical issues, adding that an average Rs 31,395 expenses incurred on a patient's treatment.

## Caretaker cabinet meeting on June 8

PESHAWAR (APP): The sixth meeting of the caretaker cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be held on June 8.

Caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan will preside over the meeting which would consider a 12-point agenda said an official letter from the Establishment Department here on Tuesday. The agenda items include framing of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Probation and Parole Rules 2022, appointment as administrative judges of anti-terrorism courts and regularization of contract employees of the Health Department.



LAHORE: Senior Lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan addresses to media persons during press conference held at his residency in Lahore.

## 50,000 more families in DI Khan registered with BISP during last year

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): As many as 50,000 more families from Dera Ismail Khan have been registered with the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) during the last year.

According to a press release issued here, the number of beneficiary families in Dera Ismail Khan has increased from 135,000 to 185,000 due to the special efforts of the Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi.

## 13 dead, 1,181 injured in 1,142 accidents in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least 13 people were killed and 1,181 injured in 1,142 accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. According to the Rescue 1122, 573 drivers, 52 underage drivers, 142 pedestrians, and 479 passengers were among the victims of the road traffic crashes. The statistics showed that 271 accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 268 people placing the provincial capital at top of the list followed by 95 in Faisalabad with 94 victims and at third Multan 68 with 61 victims.

## Climate change poses negative impacts on seasonal fruits

PESHAWAR (APP): Highly vulnerable to climate change, Pakistan witnessed excessive rainfalls last month, which caused negative impacts on the overall production of seasonal fruits orchards and vegetables besides adversely affecting farmers' income.

Breaking the past 63 years' rainfall record, the May 2023 excessive torrential rains coupled with hailstorms have negatively impacted the production of summer fruits including watermelon, melon, banana and mangoes besides tomato and other seasonal vegetables in the country including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

## KP govt to ensure people friendly reforms, good governance: Afridi

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Excise and Narcotics Control, Haji Manzoor Khan Afridi has welcomed the reforms and modernization of his department and made it clear that apart from ensuring good governance. The provincial government was also trying its level best to align all its departments with contemporary requirements and make them more people-friendly, wherein the cooperation of the international community has also been commendable.

He was talking to the Sub National Governance

(SNG) team of the foreign-funded reform organization from Islamabad that called on the provincial minister with the team leader and former Secretary Excise Raheel Siddiqui at his office, Civil Secretariat Peshawar on Tuesday. The team apprised him of the progress made so far in the reforms and legislation side.

Haji Manzoor Afridi praised the performance of the team for supporting reforms and drafting valuable legislation in 2020 in four important KP departments including Excise, Local Government, Finance, Revenue and Planning & Development.



PESHAWAR: Residents of Upper Dir District are holding protest demonstration against missing of Raees Ahmed and demanding for his recovery, held at Peshawar Press Club.



KARACHI: Visitors showing their keen interest in handicrafts during 13th Sartyoon Sang Crafts Exhibition organized by the Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) in collaboration with the Sindh Government to facilitate better incomes for the women artisans of rural Sindh.

## Climate change poses negative impacts on seasonal fruits

The Met Office spokesman told APP on Tuesday that the national rainfall recorded last month was excessively high and above average i.e. plus 127pc and stands second wettest rainfall in May during the past 63 years as 34.30 mm of rainfall was recorded in 1987.

Agriculture Department official told APP on Tuesday that the record-breaking rainfall and hailstorms have badly affected the production of watermelon and melon in Charsadda, Nowshera, Swabi, Mardan and DI Khan districts.

He said that the standing rains water in low lying areas has slowed down the pace of growth of watermelon and melon in agriculture fields and started dying forcing affected farmers to premature cultivation to avoid huge financial losses.

In the Chamkani fruit market, one kilogram of mango was being sold at Rs150 to Rs200, watermelon at Rs50-70 and melon at Rs80-100 per KG.

Malayar Khan, a progressive farmer of Mohib Banda Nowshera said that he had cultivated melon and watermelon on five acres of land that were badly affected by the last month's torrential rains.

He said that farmers of watermelon and other seasonal vegetables and fruits received huge losses and demanded compensation.

Dr Muhammad Naem, Assistant Professor of Economics and Agriculture, University of Swabi said that watermelon, mangoes, banana and melon orchards were highly vulnerable to climate change. He said that fluctuations in rainfalls, glacial retreats, floods, higher average temperature and frequency of droughts were causing negative effects on agriculture and fruit productivity in the country.

He feared that crop yields were likely to decrease in the upcoming years not only because of flooding and torrential rainfalls but also due to a rise in temperatures and deforestation that would cause rapid melting of glaciers in high all pasture zones besides dropping off the water table.

He said about 55.87% of watermelon was produced in Punjab, 21.29% in Baluchistan, 10.29% in Sindh and 11.84% in KP and its production was on the decline side due to climate change and fluctuation in weather patterns.

He said fertile land was mostly required for watermelon and melons having 1200 variants growing in more than 96 countries including Pakistan and in case of excessive rainfalls and glacier outburst its production were affected.

## International News

## Iran presents its first hypersonic ballistic missile: state media

TEHRAN: Iran presented what officials described as its first domestically-made hypersonic ballistic missile on Tuesday, the official IRNA news agency reported, an announcement likely to heighten Western concerns about Tehran's missile capabilities.

Iranian state media published pictures of the missile named Fatah at a ceremony attended by President Ebrahim Rahisi and commanders of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards Corps.

"The precision-guided Fatah hypersonic missile has a range of 1,400

kilometres and it is capable of penetrating all defence shields," Amirali Hajzadeh, the head of the Guards' aerospace force, was quoted as saying by Iranian state media.

Hypersonic missiles can fly at least five times faster than the speed of sound and on a complex trajectory, which makes them difficult to intercept. Last year, the Islamic Republic said it had built a hypersonic ballistic missile which can manoeuvre in and out of the atmosphere.

State TV said Iran's Fatah missile can target "the enemy's advanced

anti-missile systems and is a big generational leap in the field of missiles."

"It can bypass the most advanced anti-ballistic missile systems of the United States and the Zionist regime, including Israel's Iron Dome," Iran's state TV said. Fatah's top speed reached mach 14 levels (15,000km/h), it added. Despite US and European opposition, the Islamic Republic has said it will further develop its defensive missile programme. However, Western military analysts say Iran sometimes exaggerates its missile capabilities.



A man casts his vote for National Assembly elections at a religious school in Sabahiya district, Kuwait.

## US slaps sanctions on Iranian, Chinese targets over Tehran's missile, military programs

WASHINGTON: The United States on Tuesday imposed sanctions on over a dozen people and entities in Iran, China and Hong Kong, including Iran's defense attaché in Beijing, accusing them of furnishing a procurement network for Iran's missile and military programs.

An U.S. Treasury Department statement said the network conducted transactions and enabled the procurement of sensitive and critical parts and technology for key actors in Iran's ballistic missile development, including Iran's defense ministry and Armed Forces

Logistics (MODAFL) agency, which is under U.S. sanctions.

Among those hit with sanctions in the action, which comes as Washington ramps up pressure on Tehran, was Iran's defense attaché in Beijing, Davoud Damghani, whom the Treasury accused of coordinating military-related procurements from China for Iranian end-users, including MODAFL subsidiaries.

"The United States will continue to target illicit transnational procurement networks that covertly support Iran's ballistic missile production and other

military programs," Treasury's Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, Brian Nelson, said in the statement.

Iran's mission to the United Nations in New York and China's embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

China and Iran in March 2021 signed a 25-year cooperation agreement to strengthen their long-standing economic and political alliance. China has been a major buyer of Iranian oil despite U.S. sanctions designed to choke off these exports.

## Situation at nuclear plant under control after dam blast: Ukraine atomic agency

KYIV: The destruction of the Kakhovka dam in southern Ukraine poses a threat to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, but the situation at the facility is under control, Ukraine's state atomic power agency said on Tuesday.

The U.N. nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, said on Twitter it was closely monitoring the situation but that there

was "no immediate nuclear safety risk at (the) plant" which is also in southern Ukraine.

Explosions at the Soviet-era Kakhovka dam in Russian-occupied territory on Tuesday unleashed floodwater across an area that is now a war zone, according to both Ukrainian and Russian forces who blamed each other for the destruction.

Energatom said the Russian invaders had blown up the dam.

## Sixty Afghan girls hospitalised after school poisoning

KABUL: Around 60 Afghan girls were hospitalised after being poisoned at their school in northern Afghanistan, police said on Monday.

The poisoning, which targeted a girls' school in the Afghan province of Sare Pol, comes after intense scrutiny of girls' education in the war-torn nation since the Taliban took over and barred most teenage female students.

## At least 42 dead in Haiti floods, landslides

PORT-AU-PRINCE: At least 42 people were dead and 11 missing in Haiti after heavy rains at the weekend triggered flooding and landslides, civil protection officials said on Monday.

The bad weather hit seven of the 10 departments in the country which is already plunged into a protracted humanitarian crisis fueled by gang violence, political collapse and economic stagnation.

According to the UN, the severe rains affected

37,000 people and displaced 13,400.

The town of Leogane, located 40 kilometers (25 miles) southwest of the capital Port-au-Prince, was particularly badly hit, with damage caused by three flooded rivers. At least 20 people died there, according to Haitian officials.

"The residents are desperate. They have lost everything. The waters have ravaged their fields, washed away their livestock," Leogane Mayor Ernsou Henry told AFP.

## Finland says to expel nine Russian diplomats

OSLO: Finland will expel nine diplomats working at the Russian embassy in Helsinki, accusing them of working on intelligence missions, the Finnish president's office said on Tuesday.

"Their actions are contrary to the Vienna convention on diplomatic relations," the president's office said in a statement, adding that it would inform the Russian ambassador of the expulsions.

## Philippines, Japan, US hold first trilateral coast guard manoeuvres

Monitoring Desk  
OFF BATAAN PROVINCE: Small boats of armed men in grey camouflage fatigues and balacavans speed towards a Philippine ship before climbing aboard and scanning the deck with small rifles at the ready.

Moments later, its crew are marched away with their hands on their heads, concluding a simulation of a counter-terrorism operation in the South China Sea between the coast guards of the Philippines and allies the United States and Japan.

Tuesday's manoeuvre is part of an inaugural trilateral coast guard exercise involving more than 500 coast guard personnel and also include search and rescue and counter-piracy scenarios.

The drill was a mock interception of a vessel carrying weapons of mass destruction, where Philippines coast guard personnel encounter armed resistance while boarding the vessel and are tasked with bringing the situation under control.

"All the exercises we do, we help one another to prepare for anything that may possibly happen in the future," said John Ybanez, a spokesman for the Philippine coast guard. "We do get our assets and training from these two countries, so what they want is, they want to see how much we've improved." The exercises in waters off Bataan province involve more than 500 coast guard personnel and also include search and rescue and counter-piracy scenarios.

## OpenAI CEO suggests international agency like UN's nuclear watchdog could oversee AI

Monitoring Desk  
ABU DHABI: Artificial intelligence poses an "existential risk" to humanity, a key innovator warned during a visit to the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday, suggesting an international agency like the International Atomic Energy Agency oversee the groundbreaking technology.

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman is on a global tour to discuss artificial intelligence. "The challenge that the world has is how we're going to manage those risks and make sure we still get to enjoy those tremendous benefits," said Altman, 38. "No one wants to destroy the world."

OpenAI's ChatGPT, a popular chatbot, has grabbed the world's attention as it offers essay-like answers to prompts from users. Microsoft has invested some \$1 billion in OpenAI.

ChatGPT's success, offering a glimpse into the way that artificial intelli-

gence could change the way that humans work and learn, has sparked concerns as well. Hundreds of industry leaders, including Altman, have signed a letter in May that warns "mitigating the risk of extinction from AI should be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks such as pandemics and nuclear war."

Altman made a point to reference the IAEA, the United Nations nuclear watchdog, as an example of how the world came together to oversee nuclear power. That agency was created in the years after the U.S. dropping atom bombs on Japan at the end of World War II.

"Let's make sure we come together as a globe — and I hope this place can play a real role in this," Altman said. "We talk about the IAEA as a model where the world has said 'OK, very dangerous technology, let's all put some guard rails.'"



Philippines, Japan, US hold first trilateral coast guard manoeuvres.

## Redefined priorities, swift decision-making inevitable for development: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has said that the redefined priorities and swift decision-making were inevitable to make Pakistan join the bandwagon of the fast-developing world.

The president, addressing the 3rd LCCI IT Excellence Recognition Ceremony in Islamabad on Tuesday said that the creation of talent and investment in human capital was the fastest route to achieve progress. It was organised by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industries, which marked the distribution of awards among the excellent IT startups and companies.

The president, impressed by the remarkable progress of artificial intelligence, also shared with the audience a comprehensive presentation on exponential growth in AI prepared by ChatGPT within just six minutes which otherwise could take days or even weeks. He said information technology was the only sector in which Pakistan could achieve excellence by investing in human capital as in the modern era, the human intellect was far more important than natural resources. He said the establishment of IT industry took considerably lesser time than establishing a brick-and-mortar industrial unit.

Exemplifying the process of genome sequencing, the president said IT sector provided exponential growth, thus creating numerous opportunities to excel.

He said, on the one hand, the world felt scared of tremendous progress made AI and was thinking to decelerate its pace, but on the other hand, Pakistan has not yet joined that bandwagon which needed to be given serious thought.

President Alvi said that based on the fast pace of AI, one could predict that the AI would write software by itself and also achieve the capability to read human minds within the next 10 years.

Recalling his efforts to promote artificial intelligence and quantum computing in Pakistan, the president said the country needed more inspiration and creating talent.

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President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the 3rd Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) IT Excellence Recognition ceremony, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

## Azam Tarar says: Educating young lawyers indispensable for improving standards of legal profession

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday said educating the young lawyers was the real task and indispensable for further improving the standards of legal profession.

Addressing the opening ceremony of Islamic Law orientation course for the lawyers of Islamabad organized by the Federal Shariat Academy in collaboration with the Islamabad Bar Association, he shared his views regarding the importance and role of legal education and training in

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## CM grieved over death of Abdul Wahid Bandeeg

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has expressed deep grief and sorrow over death of prominent Balochi language literary person and former Chairman Balochi Academy, Abdul Wahid Bandeeg.

In a condolence statement issued here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister paid tributes to late Abdul Wahid Bandeeg saying that the late performed valuable services for the Balochi language and literature.

Mr. Bizenjo said that his (Abdul Wahid Bandeeg) death has created a vacuum in the Balochi language literature.

## 12 MW approved for new Gwadar Int'l Airport

QUETTA (INP): In a groundbreaking development, approximately "12 MW" of electricity has been approved for New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) to fulfill all its electricity needs for 24 hours without any interruption. On special directives of the Ministry of Planning, Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO), National Power Distribution Company that deals with the power supply system in Baluchistan, has formally sanctioned 12 MW to energize New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) and has commenced full-scale execution by deputing its special teams on the site.

QESCO official told

Gwadar Pro that tenting and commissioning process is likely to be completed within 10 days as all required paraphernalia like poles, transmission lines, and electrical input and output circuits have already been aligned with the installed power system.

To keep power supply smooth and free from power breakdown, 12 MW will remain available to NGIA round the clock as three power transmission lines will be feeding NGIA.

"It means if one goes out of function then the second will be automatically connected and if the second goes haywire then the third will be present in the system as a backup arrangement," he added.

## Malaysian tourists rally reach Quetta from Iran; proceeds for Multan

QUETTA: A rally of the heavy motorbikes and four wheelers comprising a group of 35 Malaysian tourists reached Quetta from Iran via Taftan on Tuesday morning.

The rally named after EUROASIA consisted of seven heavy bikes and 10 vehicles had started from France on May 1, 2023.

It took around 36 days to reach Taftan, the border town at Pak-Iran border on Monday covering some 16 countries. From where the tourists, part of the rally, moved towards Quetta and reached the metropolis on Tuesday.

Later, the participants of rally proceeded for next destination Multan via Quetta, Killa Saifullah, Loralai, Fort Manro and DG Khan.

The rally would also visit Lahore and the northern areas of Pakistan on way to India.

The rally is scheduled to enter India via Wahga border on June 12, 2023 and they would reach its final destination Malaysian capital on July 4 after covering around 19 countries.

According to the participants of the rally, they have enjoyed their voyage so far. They particularly referred to the marvelous hospitality and traditional food enjoyed on way to Quetta from Taftan.

## Bilawal for exploring huge trade, investment potential between Pakistan, Iraq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday said the current bilateral trade was not commensurate with the huge potential with Iraq which needed to be explored to expand bilateral trade volume.

Addressing the Pakistan-Iraq Business Council in Baghdad, he said Pakistan's Single Country Exhibition held in March 2022 in Baghdad saw deals worth of US\$ 20 million which showed the great business potential, between the countries.

He expressed the confidence that this Pakistan-Iraq Business Forum would ensure a similar opportunity for government to government (G2G) linkages and business networking amongst potential investors and trade partners from both sides.

Bilawal stressed for enhancing collaboration and mutual investment in five prioritized fields including IT, food security, energy, construction and medicine. During the event, an MoU was also signed between Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce (FPCCI) and their Iraqi counterpart.

The foreign minister said the establishment of Pakistan-Iraq Business Council comprising chambers of commerce and key business representative entities from both the countries would help expanding the bilateral economic ties.

"Through this entity, we can follow-up on programs, policy suggestions, roadmap, and special initiatives for enhancing trade and investment between the two countries," he said.

The foreign minister

also assured the government's full cooperation to the work of this proposed Business Council.

He said economic diplomacy was at the heart of the Pakistan's foreign policy. "We want to build mutually beneficial economic ties. Let our partnership be led by the burgeoning and vibrant business community from both sides, paving the way for prosperity and progress of both the countries."

Bilawal said during his interaction with President, Prime Minister and his Iraqi counterpart, he discussed expanding cooperation in diverse areas including enhancing bilateral trade and investment, collaborating with Iraq in rebuilding and re-construction of their infrastructure and sharing of expertise in water management and agriculture.

## Contempt of ECP case EC issues show cause notice to Fawad

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has issued show cause notice to Fawad Chaudhry in contempt of election commission case.

The contempt of EC case against former PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry came up for hearing before EC Tuesday.

A 5-member commission under Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) took up the case for hearing.

Faisal Chaudhry counsel for Fawad Chaudhry did not appear in EC.

The supporting counsel told the EC that Faisal Chaudhry is engaged in sessions court.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Women Development Mahjabeen Shiran inaugurating Women Expo 2023-06-06

## Hamzazai urges govt to establish veterinary university in Loralai

QUETTA (APP): Provincial Leader of Pakistan People's Party Shams Hamzazai urged the Balochistan government to build veterinary university in Loralai district to boost livestock sector in the province.

The local leader asked the provincial government to include the project in the next Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

He said lack of proper knowledge of livestock and dairy development was the main issue, and for this purpose, the government should approve the project to establish the livestock university in the province.

Shams Hamzazai said that the objective of the establishment of the university was to provide better opportunities of education and research in the livestock sector to the students, adding that it would help promote the sector on modern lines.

Expressing best wishes for the livestock sector, he said that the province has the potential to

export domestic animals to gulf countries and earn precious foreign exchange.

Replying to a question, he said Balochistan was environmentally different from other provinces of the country and businessmen were being encouraged to promote livestock farming in the province.

He said the government should formulate long term policies to increase dairy and meat production. The department has unable to provide proper treatment to the animals by ensuring vaccination.

The livestock of Balochistan province comprised of one of the unique cattle species and required urgent attention of authorities concerned to promote livestock activities in the province having around 34 million hectares range land.

He said it was revealed by a recent census conducted by statistics division of Pakistan that over 70 percent of the locals in Balochistan directly and indirectly rely on livestock.



QUETTA: Coordinator of Chief Minister Balochistan Bilal Kakar meeting with DG PDMA Jahanzeb Pathan

## Ghee price decreases across the country: USC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Utility Store Corporation USC has reduced the prices of subsidized ghee provided under the Prime Minister's Relief Package by Rs 80 per kg across the country.

According to USC Spokesperson, the subsidized ghee, which was earlier being sold at Rs 490 per kg, would now be available at Rs 410 per kg, said a press release issued here on Tuesday.

He said that ghee would be provided at Rs 300 per kg for the registered users under Benazir Income Support Program (BISP).

It should be noted that USC is providing special subsidies on basic commodities (flour, sugar, ghee, rice, pulses) under the Prime Minister's Relief Package.

## Pak, China sign MoU for Dev. of water resources, environmental protection

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan and China on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding for bilateral cooperation in the utilization and sustainable development of water resources and environmental protection. The MoU between Chang Jiang Water Resources Commission (CWRC) and Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) was signed in a ceremony held at the embassy.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin Ul Haque and Vice Commissioner of CWRC, Wu Daoxi signed the agreement. The MoU covers wide areas of cooperation including water conservation, watershed planning, flood control and drought relief, development of water resources, management and operation of water projects, ecological protection along the rivers.

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NASEERABAD: Residents of Dera Murad Jamali are holding protest demonstration against shortage of drinking water during summer season.

## PAC directs to arrest real culprits of May 9 incident

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to arrest the miscreants, who incited public to take to streets on May 9 tragic incidents and attack the national institutions.

Chairing the PAC meeting, Chairman Noor Alam Khan questioned the relevant authorities that why elements involved in May 9 attacks were being released.

He further directed that innocent people should not be harassed.

The committee took notice of the arrest of senior politician Afzal Khan and sought a detail report from the Federal Interior Secretary and the Chief Secretary Punjab in that regard.

In the meeting, the audit objections of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of 2018-19 and 2019-20 were reviewed.

The PAC urged the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to conduct the Departmental Accounts Committee (DAC) immediately to ensure transparency in the system.

## Flood victim heir gets Rs 1mln relief cheque

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Jhal Magsi Muhammad Ramzan Pula on Tuesday gave an Rs one million relief cheque to the heir of a flood victim Shehzadi Bibi's Rastum Khan on behalf of the Balochistan government on Tuesday.

The victim Shehzadi Bibi was martyred last year due to the worst floods in history and heavy monsoon rains in the Qazi Ismail area of Jhal Magsi.

The DC expressed his grief and condolence to the heirs of the girl on the occasion.

## Council of Islamic Ideology convenes two-day meeting to address pressing issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Council of Islamic Ideology on Tuesday commenced a crucial two-day meeting to deliberate on a wide range of topics, encompassing the May 9 incidents of mob violence, and the recent verdict of the Federal Shariat Court regarding the Transgender Act.

Led by Chairman Dr. Qibla Ayaz, the council aims to address these pressing matters and devise potential solutions. During the meeting, a comprehensive 26-point agenda will be thoroughly discussed, reflecting the council's commitment to addressing critical issues affecting society.

The session commenced with a solemn moment of prayer to honor the martyrs who have sacrificed their lives.

Prominent figures attending the meeting include Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, Syed Ziaullah Shah Bukhari, Justice Zafar Iqbal, Justice Altaf, Dr. Umair Mahmood Siddiqui, Allama Hussain Akbar, Pir Syed Muhammad Habib Irfani, Dr. Abul Hasan Shah, Habibzade Hasan Haseebur Rehman, and Advocate Muhammad Jalaluddin.

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## Court issues non-bailable arrest warrants against Shahbaz Gill

ISLAMABAD (APP): A local court here on Tuesday issued non-bailable arrest warrants against PTI's leader Shahbaz Gill in a case pertaining inciting people against the institutions.

Additional Session Judge Tahir Abbas Sapra heard the case against Shahbaz Gill.

During the course of proceeding, the court inquired about the attendance of the accused at which the lawyer said that appearance of Shahbaz Gill was not possible so far as his wife went through a surgery.

The lawyer also filed a request seeking one-time exemption from appearance to the accused.



QUETTA: Provincial President PPP Mir Chagaz Khan Jamali meeting with Chief Executive Officer QESCO Engr. Abdul Karim Jamali

## BNP striving to provide facilities to people at their doorstep

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan National Party (BNP) Loralai leaders on Tuesday said that BNP was taking all possible measures to provide basic facilities to people at their doorstep in the province.

These views were expressed by Haji Khairjan Bangulzai, Malik Bashir Ahmad Shahwani, Chairman Mohammad Karim Mohammad Hassani, Agashkil Shah Sheikh Hussaini, Obaidullah Muhammad Hassani, Comrade Atta Mohammad Bangulzai in their joint statement issued here.

They also thanked Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA) Malik Naseer Ahmed Shahwani for starting development projects including blacktop roads and drains in Killi Lalaabad Muhammad Hassani and other areas of his constituency.

The completion of ongoing development projects would provide maximum amenities to people in the area, they said adding that for the last several decades, Killi Lalaabad and other areas were neglected in terms of development works and the people of the area were deprived of basic facilities even in the 21st century.

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QUETTA: Chairman Voice for Baloch Missing Persons Nasrullah Baloch, Mama Qadeer Baloch and others addressing a Press conference