

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Hub

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XVIII No. 175, Zee'qad 12, 1444 AH Friday June 02, 2023 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

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 Sayyad 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 legisla-

tion 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.

It was necessary to arrive at a solution regarding which of the two legislations could be relied upon, he stressed.

The chief justice said that the Parliament could be told to look into the harmonisation of both laws.

"We welcome your proposal," he added.

The AGP Awan said that the legislation done on the SC's administrative

matters did not take into account the judiciary's advice.

He said that the amendments to the law would now be made with the Supreme Court's consultation.

Other than the legislations, advice would also be sought on other matters, he added.

Advocate Imtiaz Siddiqui counsel for a petitioner said that the court had asked for the record of the parliamentary proceedings in its previous hearing.

The chief justice said that the court found out through newspaper that Parliament had declined to take the record.

All records were present on the Parliament's website and the court had taken the record from the Parliament's website, he added.

Justice Mazhar said that it was important to see if the issue of similar laws could be solved.

If the laws were similar, it would be a waste of time to hear petitions regarding full court, he added.

The attorney general said that the matter could be sent to the Parliament for discussion.

Subsequently, the court directed the AGP to seek instructions from the government and adjourned the hearing till next week.



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

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 divert 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 from 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 Turkey. 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.

The Prime Minister will also extend an invitation to President Erdogan to attend the 7th Meeting of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) in Islamabad, with a view to providing further momentum to the diverse and multifaceted strategic partnership between Pakistan and Türkiye.

Pakistan-Türkiye relationship is deeply embedded in commonalities of faith, culture and history, and strengthened by mutual trust and convergence of views on regional and global matters. Frequent leadership level exchanges are a defining feature of the eternal bonds of friendship between the two countries.

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 Zahoore Elahi Palace. Afterward Zahoore 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.

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.

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. She maintained that the PTI workers burnt Pakistan at the instigation of Imran Khan and damaged national dignity and desecrated martyrs' memorials.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said that Imran Khan had the habit of blaming others for his own faults.

She said he blamed the party's leaders for illegal foreign funding and failure to provide ten million jobs, failure in building 5 million houses, cipher issue and the unprecedented corruption committed during the PTI regime. She maintained that Imran Khan had crossed all limits of honesty, law and trust.

The minister opined that Imran was the reason behind May 9 tragedy as he had poisoned the minds of his party workers and leaders with hatred since fall of his government last year.

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."

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

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 Quddus 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 Quddus 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 martyr-

dom 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.

Amidst the mourning and resilience, Balochistan stands united against terrorism, determined to preserve national security and uphold peace in the region, she added.



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 a delegation led by IRC's Chief, Nicolas 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.

He expressed gratitude to the International Red Cross and the BRSP for their assistance in aiding the flood-affected individuals and urged the delegation to cooperate in the treatment and management of life-threatening diseases in this impoverished province. Furthermore, in a separate meeting with the Managing Director of Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), Imran Maniar, Governor Abdul Wali Khan Kakar called for decisive action to ensure uninterrupted supply of natural gas to the general public.

He emphasized the need to curb illegal gas connections and the installation of compressors that disrupt the gas supply.

Justice Iqbal takes oath as CJ 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.



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

PTI's Pervez Khattak steps down from party position

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Pervez Khattak announced stepping down as the party's Khyber 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.

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.

Earlier, he had meeting with the provincial heads of the federal government departments and institutions the other day.

While speaking to the media persons, the Federal Ombudsman maintained that there are small issues of the province, however, these are to be addressed.

He said that it happens to be his effort to listen to the issues while visiting the province personally and then resolve them.

Mr. Ejaz Qureshi mentioned that the federal om-

Woman among five died 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 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.



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.

Referring his visit to the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Federal Ombudsman maintained that the basic purpose behind his visit to the Chamber was to over-hear the issues of traders community.



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

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.

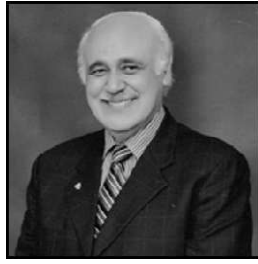
Mr Khan, his party and its supporters may have made some grievous missteps and mistakes in recent weeks. The right way to punish them would be to do so through the criminal justice system.

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 Nawaz. 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 Quetta served as a platform for endorsing inter-provincial harmony and nurturing a sense of national integration. 7000 Athletes and officials participated in various sports disciplines, on behalf of their respective provinces and departments. The event created an atmosphere of friendship and harmony, where athletes had the opportunity to connect, learn from one another, and build lasting interactions. Through healthy competition, the Games re-

inforced the shared uniqueness of being Pakistani, endorsing unity. The journey towards organizing the 34th National Games in Balochistan contains substantial public engagement and empowerment. Local authorities i.e. Quetta Metropolitan Corporation, District administration, community leaders, and volunteers have worked together to ensure the success of the event. This event also provided platform for showcasing the talents of local players, fostering their potential and reassuring sports contribution at the grassroots level. This enablement will contribute to the growth of an optimistic and wide-ranging community spirit, and the development of a sense of pride and belonging among inhabitants.

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.

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 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.

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.

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.



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 Murtaza 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.



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 acknowledges 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 64.4 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.

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.

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 Zaeer 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 expressed his admiration for the exceptional progress made by Pakistan Air Force, particularly in the area of indigenization.



RAWALPINDI: Secretary of 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.

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.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman addressing the concluding session of the second day of the Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit.

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 technology enabling them self-sufficiency 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

Independent Report 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 Majeed 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.



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

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 economics between the two countries, said a press statement issued by finance ministry



ISLAMABAD: H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al-Zaabi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates called on Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

BPPRA officially launches its e-procurement software in Morocco

Independent Report QUETTA: The Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (BPPRA) achieved a significant milestone on the global stage as it officially launched its e-procurement software, branded as "Tender Expert," at the JETIX Africa Digital Summit in Morocco.

The e-procurement software, introduced by BPPRA, is a comprehensive procurement solution tailored for suppliers, procurement agencies, and regulators.

It serves as a unique tool for governments to ensure transparency, economic growth, fair competition, and value for money.

More than 15 compa-

nies and startups from Pakistan are actively participating in the digital summit. The Balochistan delegation was welcomed at the Pakistan Pavilion by Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Syed Amin ul Haque.

The delegation from Balochistan, led by Minister for Finance, Engineer Zamarak Khan Achakzai, is participating in the JETIX Africa Digital Summit.

Earlier, Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Syed Amin ul Haque, inaugurated the Pakistani Pavilion at the JETIX Global Exhibition Summit in Morocco on Thursday.



HUB: View of damaged bus after traffic accident due to over speeding and break failed located on Karachi Quetta Highway in Hub.

15 lives lost in 767 traffic accidents reported on N-25 in May: MERC

Independent Report QUETTA: The goddess of death continues to march on Balochistan's blood-soaked highways due to the absence of dual carriageways, claiming countless valuable lives every year.

According to the monthly report released by the Medical Emergency Response Center, Rescue 1122 Balochistan, in the month of May, a series of traffic accidents occurred on Balochistan's national blood highways, resulting in 767 incidents. Tragically, these accidents claimed the lives of 15 individuals, while leaving 1,104 injured.

As per the monthly operational report of the Medical Emergency Response Center, Rescue 1122 Balochistan, the highest number of accidents

were reported on the N-25 near the Winder-Lasbela junction. The report reveals that a total of 158 incidents involving various traffic accidents occurred at the Winder and Lasbela Tire junctions. Among these incidents, three individuals lost their lives, and 197 individuals sustained injuries, who were promptly rescued and provided with first aid by the Medical Emergency Response Center, Rescue 1122 at Winder and Tire Junction centers.

The monthly operational report released by the Medical Emergency Response Center, Rescue 1122 Balochistan, sheds light on the performance and statistics of Balochistan's national highways, including N-25, N-50, N-85, N-65, and N-70.

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 Imran Maniyan meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Pak Navy Ship conducts rescue operation in Arabian Sea

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) SAIIF 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 SAIIF 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 Iftikhar 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 Tihar 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: Chakkrilal 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

Independent Report 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, representatives from civil society, students, and officers of 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 SAIIF conducts rescue operation and safely recover stranded crew of fishing vessel in Arabian Sea, in Karachi.