

Independent

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Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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To boost development, trade CM approves Special Economic District status for Gwadar

Chairman Association of Builders and Developers Muhammad Altaf hails CM initiative of giving status of SED to Gwadar; appeals to include proposal in next federal budget to inspire foreign investors

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has tweeted that he has approved the summary of giving Gwadar status of Special Economic District for development of Gwadar city and promotion of the port related activities.

In the tweet on his social media account Twitter on Saturday, the Chief Minister believed that the trade, tourism, real state and hoteling sectors would be promoted to the best level

of competition through the initiative.

He also said that the SED initiative would also help provide friendly environment to the foreign investors for investment.

In addition to this, the initiative would also encourage the exemptions on the federal and provincial taxes for the industrial activities. While on the other hand, it would ensure relaxation for the investors in the visa policy, the Chief Minister maintained.

Meanwhile, the Chair

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ANKARA: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb greets Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at his inauguration ceremony

Marriyum congratulates Erdogan on swearing in for new term as president

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Saturday congratulated Recep Tayyip Erdogan on swearing in as President of Turkey for the third time.

According to a news statement, the minister met the President of Turkey and first lady Emine Erdogan during the inauguration ceremony in Ankara.

The minister said the historic victory of Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Turkey presidential election was an expression of the continued confidence reposed by the Turkish people in him. Under his leadership, Turkey would further prosper, she added.

Marriyum said Pakistan and Turkey were brotherly countries, and their relations would get a boost in the coming days.

Six cases filed against IK after May 9, police tells IHC

ISLAMABAD (INP): The capital police has told the Islamabad High Court that six cases have been registered against PTI Chairman Imran Khan after the violent incidents of May 9.

According to a report submitted by the police to the high court, six cases were registered against the PTI chairman after May 9. Two cases each were registered in Shahzad Town and Tarnol police stations, while one each was registered in Khanna and Karachi Company police stations.

The court directed the police to provide the details of the cases to the petitioner. Justice Miangul Hasan Aurangzeb of the IHC issued the written decision.

Coalition govt believes in supremacy of Parliament, law: Agha Hassan



ISLAMABAD (APP): 2023 ceremony organized by the Journalist Foundation at the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The federal minister acknowledged the services of the journalist community for strengthening democracy.

He said that the journalist community was playing a key role in reforming the society and strengthening the voice of the oppressed.

He said that the previous government enacted legislation to control the media while the PDM government believed in the values of independent and free journalism.

He expressed these views while addressing the Pillars of Pakistan Awards



ANKARA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif greets Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at his inauguration ceremony

PM Shahbaz invites Turkish businessmen to invest in Pakistan

ANKARA (APP): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif Saturday invited Turkish businessmen to invest in Pakistan and establish strategic collaboration in sectors of energy, agriculture, information technology (IT), and construction.

The Chief Executives of select Turkish business groups called on the PM here, during his visit to Turkey, at the invitation of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

During the meetings, the PM outlined the government's vision to facilitate foreign direct investment and encouraged joint ventures. Their exchanges spanned around expanding trade and investment ties to maximize mutual gains from available opportunities in Pakistan and to enhance cooperation in key sectors of the economy through the direct presence of Turkish enterprises and via joint ventures with Pakistani counterparts.

It may be recalled that after the signing of the historic Trade in Goods Agreement by the two countries in August last year, which became operational on May 1, new opportunities for trade of traditional and non-traditional products have emerged between the two countries. Therefore, for the effective utilization of these opportunities, the PM urged Turkish companies to invest in Pakistan, assuring them of complete facilitation and a conducive business environment.

The PM held separate meetings with leading Turkish companies that have already invested in Pakistan, includ-

ing Anadolu Group, Arcelik, Zorlu, Albayrak, Limak, Dolsar, Turkish Contractors Association and Pak Yetirim. During the meeting, the PM encouraged them to benefit from an investment-friendly environment and to expand their operations.

The Turkish companies briefed the PM on their existing and future plans for investment while thanking him for facilitating their operations in Pakistan.

A considerable number of Turkish enterprises are already operating in Pakistan in various sectors and have contributed to the economic development of the country. Nevertheless, there are excellent opportunities for cooperation and collaboration in the areas of energy, especially hydro and solar, housing and construction, infrastructure, tourism, and transportation.

During a meeting with Sinan Ak of Zorlu Group, the two sides discussed projects regarding wind power and solar energy.

The PM welcomed the interest of the Zorlu Group in different fields including electronics and energy. Ahmet Albayrak, Chairman Board of Directors of Al-Bayrak Group during the meeting informed the PM about their interest in investment in affordable housing projects, solid waste management, generation of electricity from waste, and tractor industry.

The PM hailed the projects of Al-Bayrak Group in Pakistan.

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KHUSHAB: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf addressing a public gathering during the ceremony organized in connection with the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the 1973 Constitution.

Secretary Health takes notice of dengue outbreak in Kech

QUETTA (APP): Secretary Health Balochistan Isfandiyar Khan on Saturday took notice of the dengue outbreak in the Kech district.

A statement issued by the health department said a special team will visit the district and submit a report on the instructions of the health secretary.

The team consists of DG Office, WHO and partner organizations.

According to the instructions of the Health Secretary, the team under the leadership of Provincial Coordinator Malaria Control Program Dr Mir Yusuf Khan will reach Turbat tomorrow.

"DG Health Balochistan Dr Noor Muhammad Qazi will continuously monitor all the situations," the statement added.

BHC directs govt to ensure immediate implementation of Quetta dev. Package

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has been directed by the Balochistan High Court to ensure immediate implementation of funds for the Quetta Development Package.

A bench consisting of Justice Muhammad Kamran Mullakhail and Justice Sardar Ahmed Haleemi heard the formal request related to the Quetta Development Package during the court proceedings on Saturday.

The honourable court stated in its remarks that the government's excuse for the unavailability of funds is baseless. It emphasized that the government is excessively occupied with appointments and recruitments, which are being carried out in violation of the law in various government departments. This indicates that the executive branch of the government is demonstrating its incompetence in the prompt execution of funds.

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Indian train collision death toll nears 300, another 850 injured

NEW DELHI (INP): The death toll from the collision of two Indian passenger trains in Odisha state has surged to 300 and more than 850 are injured, a state government official told on Saturday, making the rail accident the country's deadliest in more than two decades.

Sudhanshu Sarangi, director general of Odisha Fire

Services, also said that "rescue work is still going on" and there were "a lot of serious injuries".

Chief Secretary Pradeep Jena said on Twitter that over 200 ambulances had been called to the scene of Friday's accident in Odisha's Balasore district and 100 additional doc

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LORALAI: Chairman Chief Minister Inspection Team Abdul Rehman Buzdar being briefed by Project Director about Dargai Shabozai to Taunsa Road

PM Shahbaz attends inauguration Erdogan sworn in for third term as Turkish president

ANKARA (AFP/APP): Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan was on Saturday sworn in for a third term as president, promising to serve "impartially" after winning a historic runoff election to extend his two-decade rule.

The inauguration in parliament will be followed by a lavish ceremony at his palace in the capital Ankara attended by dozens of world leaders.

Turkey's transformative but divisive leader won the May 28 runoff against a powerful opposition coalition, despite an economic crisis and anger over a February earthquake that killed more than 50,000 people.

Erdogan won 52.18 percent of the vote while his secular rival Kemal Kilicdaroglu scored 47.82 percent, official results show.

"As president, I swear upon my honour and integ-

ity, before the great Turkish nation ... to work with all my power to protect the existence and independence of the state ... and to fulfill my duty impartially," Erdogan said in parliament after a ceremony outside the building where he saluted soldiers under pouring rain.

Supporters in parliament gave Erdogan a minute-long standing ovation after his swearing in, while some opposition lawmakers refused to stand up.

In his oath, Erdogan also promised not to deviate from the rule of law and the secular principles of the republic founded by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk 100 years ago.

Turkey's longest-serving leader now faces significant immediate challenges in his third term, including the slowing economy and tensions with the West.

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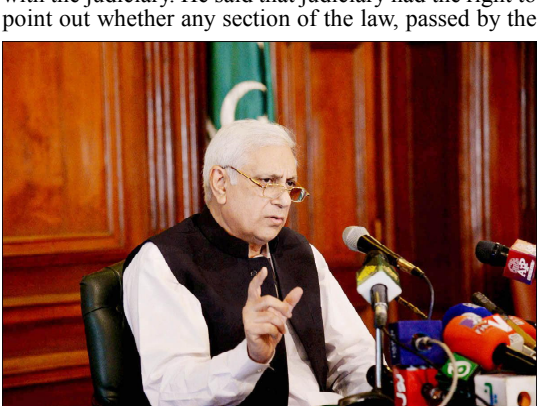
ANKARA: Chairman Dolsar Engineering, Irfan Aker calls on the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Govt wants to strengthen judiciary not undermine it: Irfan Qadir

LAHORE (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Accountability Irfan Qadir said on Saturday the government wanted to strengthen the judiciary and not undermine it, so that the country could come out of the current challenges.

Addressing a press conference at Governor's House here, he said: "We want the country to progress and all state institutions should work within their limits." He said the foremost duty of every citizen was to stay loyal to the state and then show obedience to the Constitution and the law.

The SAPM said that no one was above the law and Constitution, adding that every person was subservient to the law and Constitution. He said that legislation was the privilege of the parliament and it had nothing to do with the judiciary. He said that judiciary had the right to point out whether any section of the law, passed by the



parliament, was not in line with the Constitution. The SAPM said that parliament and the government were state, not the judiciary and hence all citizens were subservient to the state.

Irfan Qadir said, "We are with the judiciary and we do not want to weaken it at all." The incumbent attorney general for Pakistan was showing patience. However, he added, the state was not weak at all. The National Assembly was going to complete its tenure in the coming August, and then elections could be held in the country at the same time, the SAPM added.

Police expresses concerns over spread of unverified information

Says explosion at Jan Muhammad Road was not a terrorist attack, but a gas leak in a sewerage system

QUETTA: In a press conference held on Saturday, the spokesperson for the Balochistan Police dismissed claims of a terrorist attack in the Jan Muhammad Road area.

The explosion that occurred on Saturday was instead attributed to a gas leak in a sewerage system, causing a significant blast and injuring one person.

The injured individual was immediately rushed to the Civil Hospital in the Quetta district, where they are currently receiving medical treatment. The police spokesperson assured the public that the situation was under control and that the necessary measures were being taken to address the incident.

Furthermore, the police have expressed concerns over the spread of unverified information through various media channels. They emphasized the importance of relying on credible sources and urged the public to refrain from spreading rumors that could cause panic and misinformation.

Muqam accuses Imran Niazi for destroying country's economy, social values

MARDAN (APP): Adviser to the Prime Minister for Political and Culture Affairs and National Heritage, Engr Amir Muqam here Saturday accused Pakistan Tahreek e Insaaf Chairman, Imran Khan for destroying the national economy and social values.

He said the May 9 vandalism have exposed Imran Niazi's negative face before the nation.

Addressing a big workers convention of Pakistan Muslim League (N) here at Maday Baba Jalala at Takht Bhai tehsil, Engr Amir Muqam said after destroying the country's economy and social values, Imran Niazi has tried to weaken the government and defence institutions as evident of the May 9-10 vandalism.

Amir Muqam praised

the exemplary restraint shown by the security forces and police despite the provoking attacks by the horde of PTI during May 9-10 vandalism.

He said that Imran Khan could not escaped of the deplorable incidents of the ransacking and putting on fire of the Radio Pakistan Peshawar's building, Jinnah House Lahore, Motorway Toll Plazas, ambulances, forts, and damages of defence installations/statuses of the defenders of Pakistan.

Engr Amir Muqam claimed that loot and plunders of Imran Niazi was exposed in PTI foreign funding, Tosha Khan and Rs60 billion Alqadar mega corruption cases.

He said days of Imran Niazi was over as the PTI leaders have started aban-

doning him due to his negative politicking.

He said the entire nation was stand behind of our valiant security forces and ready to frustrate evils designs of the enemy.

The Prime Minister's Adviser said that value of dollar against rupee has been increased due to poor economic and fiscal policies of PTI Government that plunged the country into huge foreign loans burden.

"Had Imran Govt continued for few more weeks, the country would have been plunged into default," he said, adding despite difficult economic situation, the present government would present a historic and goal-oriented budget wherein maximum relief would be provided to all segments of the society.

May 9 GHQ attack: PTI Rawalpindi vice president identified

RAWALPINDI (Online): Another leader of the miscreants who attacked GHQ Rawalpindi on May 9 has been identified.

Miscreant Atif Mahmood Qureshi has turned out to be PTI Vice President Rawalpindi.

Atif Mahmood Qureshi is a resident of Mohalla Qureshiyan Seeham Rawalpindi.

He had made petrol bombs on the spot and thrown them towards the main gate of GHQ.

The central role of Atif Mahmood in Anti-state sloganeering and vandalism has come to light. The legal noose against Atif Mahmood for attacking GHQ and Anti-army sloganeering has been tightened.



ANKARA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif arrives in Ankara on his two day official visit to attend oath taking ceremony of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. High officials from Turkish Foreign Ministry and Pakistan's Mission in Türkiye received the Prime Minister upon his arrival at Esenboga Airport.

Gwadar Port achieving new heights promoting trade between Pakistan and China

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a significant milestone, the Gwadar Port achieved a momentous feat by commencing its first-ever direct export to China last week.

Five containers laden with raw pharmaceutical materials departed from the Gwadar Free Zone en route to Tianjin, bustling Chinese port city and will reach China in June.

Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday that there will be a surge in bilateral trade between Pakistan and China in the coming months. This remarkable achievement holds immense significance for Gwadar and symbolizes a historical turning point for the region.

Gwadar Port, a prominent driver of the high-quality development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), represents a vital pilot project within the ambit of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

It is a crucial platform for fostering deeper bilateral cooperation between the two nations.

The strategic significance of Gwadar Port within the CPEC, a flagship project of the BRI, cannot be overstated. As the BRI completed a decade of ex-

istence, Gwadar Port is building its new heights by beginning to be operationalized and injecting the fresh impetus in Pakistan's economic development. The initiation of this direct export operation has breathed new life into the CPEC, transforming it from a concept on paper into a tangible and dynamic project. It strengthens the strategic significance of Gwadar as a vital node within the CPEC framework. This step will also silence the skeptics who had doubted the success of the BRI and CPEC initiatives. Gwadar has the key to reshape Pakistan's economic landscape.

The development of a symbiotic relationship between the Gwadar Special Economic Zone and Gwadar Port not only amplifies the prospects for trade but also lays the groundwork for economic expansion and increased prosperity in the region.

By leveraging the potential of local industries and employment generation, Pakistan benefits from the growth of export-oriented enterprises. This positive trajectory aligns with the broader objectives of the

CPEC, aiming to enhance regional connectivity, stimulate economic development, and uplift the livelihoods of the Pakistani people.

As the integration between the Gwadar Special Economic Zone and Gwadar Port deepens, it is expected to streamline trade operations, optimize logistics, and create a conducive environment for businesses to thrive.

This collaborative framework will bolster Pakistan's export capacity and foster a mutually beneficial partnership with China. As Gwadar emerges as a vibrant economic hub, it has the potential to become a catalyst for economic growth, job creation, and increased revenue generation, contributing to the overall development and prosperity of Pakistan.

To facilitate trade with China and enhance financial channels between the two countries, it is advisable for Pakistan to utilize the State Bank of Pakistan as a pilot park for settling payments in RMB at Gwadar.

This initiative aims to streamline transactions and improve the efficiency of financial operations between

China and Pakistan. The establishment of direct exports from Gwadar Port to China not only serves as a significant milestone but also acts as a magnet for global investors, attracting their attention to exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan.

The commencement of formal direct exports from Gwadar Port marks a substantial achievement for Pakistan. It establishes a permanent avenue for export growth, ensuring a consistent stream of foreign exchange inflows into the country. Gwadar's potential to contribute to the socio-economic development of Pakistan is heightened by its connection with numerous Free and Special Economic Zones throughout the country.

As these economic zones become fully operational, Gwadar Port can fully unleash its export handling potential, thereby catalyzing economic growth.

Gwadar Port is poised to foster high-quality development and drive efficient economic activity for Pakistan. This achievement raises the stakes for global investors, making the Paki-

stani economy increasingly attractive and paving the way for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the country. Supporting the Gwadar Port Authority and Special Economic Zones has become a crucial policy objective for Pakistan, as it aligns with promoting local manufacturing and export growth.

By providing the necessary support and infrastructure, Pakistan aims to create an enabling environment for businesses to flourish and attract domestic and foreign investment.

The growth and success of Gwadar Port hold immense significance for Pakistan's economic landscape. It opens doors to new opportunities and creates a favorable environment for increased trade, investment, and job creation.

As Pakistan continues to prioritize the development of Gwadar Port and its associated economic zones, the country is well-positioned to unlock its true potential, attract further foreign investment, and establish itself as a regional hub for trade and commerce.



QUETTA: Provincial President Pakistan Peoples Party Mir Changez Jamali, Secretary General Rozi Khan Kakar and others watching inaugural match of All Quetta Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Football Tournament

Indian train collision death toll...

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tors, on top of 80 already there, had been mobilised.

"I was asleep," an unidentified male survivor told. "I was woken up by the noise of the train derailed. Suddenly I saw 10-15 people dead. I managed to come out of the coach, and then I saw a lot of dismembered bodies."

Video footage from Friday showed rescuers climbing up one of the mangled trains to find survivors, while passengers called for help and sobbed next to the wreckage.

The collision occurred at about 19:00 local time (1330 GMT) on Friday when the Howrah Superfast Express, running from Bangalore to Howrah, West Bengal, collided with the Coromandel Express, which runs from Kolkata to Chennai.

Authorities have provided conflicting accounts on which train derailed first to become entangled with the other. The Ministry of Railways said it has initiated an investigation into the in-

cident. Although Jena and some media reports have suggested a freight train was also involved in the crash, railway authorities have yet to comment on that possibility.

An extensive search-and-rescue operation has been mounted, involving hundreds of fire department personnel and police officers as well as sniffer dogs. National Disaster Response Force teams were also at the site. On Friday, hundreds of young people lined up outside a government hospital in Odisha's Soro to donate blood. According to Indian Railways, its network facilitates the transportation of over 13 million people every day. But the state-run monopoly has had a patchy safety record because of ageing infrastructure.

The state has declared Saturday a day of state mourning as a mark of respect to the victims.

India's deadliest railway accident occurred in 1981 when a train plunged off a bridge and into a river in Bihar state, killing an estimated 800 people.

Polo exhibition match ends in draw

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exhibition match between Islamabad Club Polo junior team and Dubai Polo & Equestrian Club ended in a 4-4 draw here at the Islamabad Club Polo Ground on Saturday.

As the match began, the score was equal by 1-1 in the first chukker while both teams scored one goal each again in the second chukker. Charlie Matthews scored two goals making it three for Dubai Club in the third chukker.

Chengiz Khan Leghari scored the third goal for Islamabad in the fourth and final chukker. Saim Abbas was the second to score a goal and took Islamabad to 4-3 lead. Muhammad Ali Malik scored the fourth goal for Dubai and levelled the game by 4-4.

PM Shabbaz invites Turkish...

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The delegation of the Turkish Contractors Association led by its President Erdal Eren during the meeting discussed with the PM, the immense prospects of investment in the construction sector of Pakistan.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Special Assistant to PM Tariq Fatimi and Pakistan's ambassador to Turkey Dr Yousaf Junaid were also present in the meetings.

The Prime Minister also held separate meetings with leading Turkish companies that have already invested in Pakistan, including Anadolu Group, Arcelik, Zorlu, Albayrak, Dolsar, Turkish Contractors Association and Pak Yetirim.

During these meetings, Shehbaz Sharif encouraged the businessmen to benefit from the investment-friendly environment in Pakistan and expand their operations.

The Turkish companies briefed the Prime Minister about their existing and future plans for investment and thanked him for facilitating their operations in Pakistan.



High Commissioner to Canada Zaheer A. Janjua visited Winnipeg, capital of the Canadian province of Manitoba, to hold a series of meetings with the state ministers, city mayor, government officials and representatives of the Pakistani diaspora in Manitoba.

Erdogan sworn in...

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"From a geopolitical point of view, the election will reinforce Turkey's recent pursuit of an independent foreign policy," said Matt Gertken, chief geopolitical strategist at BCA Research.

"This policy aims to extract maximum economic and strategic benefits from eastern and autocratic states while still preventing a permanent rupture in relations with western democracies," he said.

"Tensions with the West will likely increase again," Gertken added.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Saturday here joined world leaders at the inauguration ceremony of President of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

On behalf of the government and people of Pakistan, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated President Erdogan on his election as President for a third term. Both the leaders shook hands and exchanged greetings.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb also felicitated President Erdogan.

During the ceremony, traditional music and national anthem of Türkiye were played.

President Erdogan was accompanied by his wife Emine Erdogan.

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev, Iran's vice president Mohammad Mokhber, Hungary's right-wing Prime Minister Viktor

Orban and the speaker of the lower house of Russia's parliament, Vyacheslav Volodin, are among the foreign guests expected at the ceremony later Saturday.

Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan will also be present, his office said, the latest sign of a thaw between the two arch foes.

Addressing the country's economic troubles will be Erdogan's first priority, with inflation running at 43.70 percent, partly due to his orthodox policy of cutting interest rates to stimulate growth.

The president is due to unveil his new cabinet on Saturday, with media speculating that former finance minister Mehmet Simsek, a reassuring figure with international stature, could return.

A former Merrill Lynch economist, Simsek is known to oppose Erdogan's unconventional policies.

He served as finance minister between 2009 and 2015 and deputy prime minister in charge of the economy until 2018, before stepping down ahead of a series of lira crashes that year.

"Erdogan's government looks like it will pursue an orthodox stabilisation programme," said Alp Erinc Yeldan, professor of economics at Istanbul's Kadir Has University. "What we see now is that the news about Mehmet Simsek and his team is greeted with enthusiasm by the markets," he told AFP.

Spokesperson of Ch Pervez Elahi arrested

GUJRANWALA (Online): Iqbal Chaudhry spokesperson of PTI and former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Chaudhry Pervez Elahi has been arrested.

According to police Iqbal Chaudhry was arrested before appearance of Chaudhry Pervez Elahi in the court.

Iqbal Chaudhry was shifted to some unidentified location in police van.

CM approves...

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man Association of Builders and Developers (ABAD), Muhammad Altaf Tai has thanked the Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo for giving SED status to Gwadar.

In a statement issued here, the Chairman ABAD appreciated the vision and foresightedness of Chief Minister for attaching importance to Gwadar as possible economic power house in future.

He stressed that the business community should benefit from the

initiative. Altaf Tai also appealed to include the proposal of Gwadar's SED in the next federal budget in order to inspire the foreign investors to make investment in the port city.

He said that it was the longstanding demand of ABAD to give Gwadar SED. He said that the proposal of giving Gwadar free economic district is a game changer for the region and whole country.

This would open immense opportunities for job opportunities besides promoting trade and investment, he hoped.

BHC directs govt to ensure...

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Therefore, the Chief Secretary of the Government of Balochistan, Additional Chief Secretary of the Planning and Development Department, Secretary Finance, and Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister should ensure the execution of funds; otherwise, they will have to appear personally in court to explain their failure, it said.

Prior to this, the Project Director of the Chief Minister Package for Quetta Development presented a report to the honourable court regarding the ongoing development work on the Anscomb Road extension project via Colon Road to Jinnah Road. The Project Director informed the court through designs and images about the rectification of flaws in the old design and stated that no shortcomings would be left in completing the work promptly. However, due to some financial obstacles, unnecessary delays are occurring in the immediate completion of the project. The Divisional

Engineer of Pakistan Railways has also requested some time for the new design and assured that necessary matters will be dealt with within three days. In their concluding remarks, the honorable court stated that in CP Number 804/2020, the court had already ordered the railway authorities on March 10, 2021, for the well-being and convenience of Quetta's residents. Instead of creating hurdles, they should approach the court for the resolution of complaints.

The court issued the copy of the order to the Chief Secretary of the Government of Balochistan, Additional Chief Secretary of the Planning and Development Department, Secretary Finance, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, PD Chief Minister Package for Quetta Development, DS Railways, Administrator KMC, SSP Traffic Quetta, and contractor Ali Muhammad for information and implementation, setting the next hearing for June 15, 2023.



QUETTA: Activists of National Party holding a protest rally

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer Project Division-I Quetta Invites Bids From Eligible Bidders For Execution Of Following Works For The Year 2022 Based On Composite Schedule Rates 2018 On Percentage Rates. Tender Fee Rs.2000/-.

S.No	Name of Work	E/Cost	Bid Security
1	Remaining work for Const: of road at Western Bypass near Pakistan Flour Mill Quetta. PSDP 205 Z2017.0986. TSE22230633173	29.717 M	600000/-

The office of the Executive Engineer Project Division-I, Quetta invites technical proposal of Contractors/firms along with sealed financial proposals (Single Stage-Two Envelope Bidding Procedure) for above mentioned work from interested firms / Contractors. All interested bidders are required to submit documents as per following brief in support of their technical/financial proposal. The Procurement shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **BASIC ELIGIBILITY:** The Contractor must have valid registration i.e. 2022-23 registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in category C-5 & Above with specialized codes of CE01, CE09 and CE10 and valid registration with tax authorities i.e. (NTN, sales tax Department and BRA). **Technical Proposal** shall consist of the Following Documents:- Name of Firm / Contractor with year of establishment along with postal address and telephone number. List of Technical Supervisory staff / Management Staff along with their qualifications / experience and proof of their stay with the firm, with fresh affidavit (duly attested by first class Magistrate) as per criteria specified in bidding data. Detail of Road Works Machinery as per details mentioned in bidding documents. Complete with all respect giving their model / make, condition and location. Valid Registration / Clearance from income tax Department and BRA Original must be shown on submission / Opening the technical Proposals. As per BPPRA rule 25 sub rule (2) serial 3 only one bid can be submitted against one NTN. Detail Financial Soundness with required Turn Over given as per criteria specified in the Bidding Documents. The firm will be held technically non responsive if any notice, poor performance, blacklisting, court case is found against the firm. Under taking on judicial Stamp paper (duly attested by First Class Magistrate) that the firm was never black listed by any Government / Semi Government Organization. It is mandatory that the Contractor must show the original fresh PEC valid registration i.e. 2022-23 with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) on the time of submission / opening the technical Proposals. Non satisfactory performance in past or present with any executing agency will lead to the disqualification of Firm / Contractor. At least 02 Similar nature Projects having same cost complexity completed during the last Five (5) years (Completion Certificate of the same is to be provided issued from the concern Department / Authority). At least 01 Similar nature of Project having equal cost of the estimated cost of the project must be in hand. Each page of the technical/Financial Proposal must be signed / stamped and numbered. **The Financial Proposal** shall consist of the Following Documents:- Detail BOQ with Quoted Rates in sealed envelope mentioned the name & Title of scheme. A Fixed Bid Security for amounting to Rs.600000/- must be in the form of call deposit in favor of the office Name of the under signed from a scheduled bank of Pakistan. **No any Bank Drafts & Banker Cheque will be acceptable. BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS:** The bidders can obtain the bidding document from the address Mentioned below on production of green Challan of an amount of above mention table (Non-refundable) in the head of account C02716 Civil works through Govt. Treasury/National Bank of Pakistan or can be downloaded from the Website of BPPRA (www.bppra.gov.pk). During working hours, from the date of publication of this invitation in newspapers till one day prior to the last date of submission. **DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION:** Technical and financial proposals from intending contractors/firms sealed envelopes must be delivered by hand or through registered mail to the address mentioned below on or before **19th June, 2023 at 12:00 Hrs.** However, the contractor must observe the following:- Bid shall comprise a single package containing two separate envelope. Each envelope shall contain separately the financial proposal and the technical proposal. Envelope shall be marked as "FINANCIAL PROPOSAL" and "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL" in bold and legible letters to avoid confusion. **OPENING:** The envelope containing "Technical Bids" will be opened on the same day **19th June, 2023 at 13:00 Hrs.** before procurement committee in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend. The Second sealed envelope containing "financial bids" of technically responsive/qualified bidders will be opened later, the date of which will be communicated after evaluation of the technical bids. **Bids Validity: Ninety (90) days.** **Place of issuance and submission will be:-** Address: Executive Engineer, Project Division-I, Whyte Road Quetta. Telephone No: 081-9203182 Fax No: 081-9203182 **Terms and Conditions:** Terms and conditions are mentioned (incorporated) in detail in bidding documents.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PROJECT DIVISION-I QUETTA

PRQ No.4214/03-06-2023
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NADRA introduces Iris biometric verification for enhanced identity security

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a major advancement aimed at bolstering the biometric verification system in the country, the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) announced on Saturday the implementation of the Iris Recognition System (IRS) for identity verification and citizen deduplication.

According to a statement released by NADRA, the introduction of the Iris technology serves as a complementary addition to the existing biometric verification system, which initially incorporated fingerprint matching over a decade ago and later strengthened with facial-image matching capability.

Following a successful pilot programme at NADRA Headquarters, the Iris recognition system has now been rolled out at NADRA Mega Centres located in Blue Area Islamabad, PECO Road Lahore, and DHA Karachi. The phased deployment of this technology will

gradually extend to all 700 NRCs nationwide.

Elaborating on the functioning of the IRS, Nadra explained that the automated biometric identification modality registers distinct patterns within a ring-shaped region surrounding the pupil of each eye to facilitate identification. This method has proven to be highly reliable and accurate, with minimal false match rates.

Expressing his views on the deployment of this premium identity authentication, Chairman NADRA Tariq Malik emphasized the significant progress made in safeguarding citizens' identities, where the "window to their souls becomes the fortress of their digital existence."

Furthermore, Malik pointed out that the uniqueness of individual irises makes this verification modality highly resistant to identity duplication and theft. He said, "Whether it's government services, financial institutions, or any other industry dealing

with sensitive information, identity verification plays a crucial role in ensuring the integrity and security of our systems. By leveraging IRIS biometric technology, we are taking a significant step forward in streamlining and strengthening secure identification processes."

NADRA believes that the implementation of Iris technology will not only enhance its unique identity issuance system but will also facilitate the biometric identification of children. The statement highlighted the near-impossibility of faking or imitating iris identity due to the use of a special infrared camera for scanning and digitizing iris patterns.

"A mathematical algorithm is used to convert these complex patterns into templates for matching. A combined facial, iris and fingerprint matching will complement each other for immutable identity provision and more accurate verification by NADRA," it concluded.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science & Technology, Agha Hassan Baloch giving award to the participant during the Award ceremony 2023 organized by Journalist Foundation at Ministry of Science and Technology.

Enhanced quotas, recognition await top performers serving Pakistani pilgrims in Saudi

ISLAMABAD (APP): The catering companies and hotels serving Pakistani pilgrims in Saudi Arabia will be rewarded for their exceptional performance, including the provision of enhanced building capacity and food quotas, Director General Hajj Abdul Wahab Soomro said.

Talking to the intending hajj at a welcome reception here Saturday, he highlighted the significance of maintaining accountability and upholding high standards throughout the pilgrimage experience.

He further emphasized that under-performing en-

tities would be subjected to penalties as a means to ensure their responsibility.

The DG expressed the commitment to exert utmost efforts in providing optimal facilities and constructing top-quality buildings for the hajj.

During the stay in Makkah and Madinah, he acknowledged the possibility of encountering minor issues and assured that Moavineen e hajj, stationed at each building, were available to address and resolve any problems faced by the intending hajj.

The Director General

conducted personal visits to the dining halls, where he sampled the food and expressed contentment with the quality that was being offered.

Sajjad Yoldrim, the Director of Moavineen e hajj at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, informed the Director General that a total of 26 Moavineen e hajj have been deployed to 13 kitchens in Makkah Mukarna.

These dedicated personnel work 12-hour shifts to monitor and maintain the quality of food served to the pilgrims.

Attackers, violators in May 9 incidents to be brought to justice: Riaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Human Rights, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada has said that the perpetrators, attackers and violators in the May 9 incidents would be brought to justice and termed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) accusation of ill-treatment of women in Punjab prisons as false propaganda.

Talking to the PTV News channel on Saturday, he strongly condemned the negative propaganda against the Pakistan Army including attacks on military installations and public and private properties.

He said people should have trust in their institutions. Everyone was arrested according to the law, Pirzada stressed, adding, there was no human rights

violation against any woman in jails.

The minister said women inmates in jails were being provided facilities as per the rules.

Replying to a question, he said the jail administration expressed concern that despite a committee from the Punjab government visiting the jail and meeting with all the female inmates of PTI, a propaganda was being circulated on social media about the maltreatment of women.

To another question, he replied the political and economic stability of the country was the topmost priority of the PDM-led coalition government, adding, the government tried every bit during the last year to revive the economy.



ISLAMABAD: World Judo Medalist and Austrian Judo player Ms. Sabrina Filzmoser in a group photograph with Ambassadors of Austria and Japan.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in a meeting with a delegation of Pakistan Stock Exchange led by Mr. Farrukh Hussain Khan, MD/CEO PSX at FBR (Hqrs).

Govt provide business, investment-friendly environment in country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Saturday assured the participants that despite economic challenges, the government is determined to provide a business and investment friendly environment in the country through the upcoming budget of Fiscal Years 2023-24. "In order to attract more companies and investments in Pakistan and put the country's economy on a positive trajectory soon", he added.

Federal Minister for Finance said this while in a meeting with a delegation of Pakistan Stock Exchange led by Farrukh Hussain Khan, MD/CEO PSX, said a press release issued here.

Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr. Aisha Ghous Pasha, SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Chairman RRC Ashfaq Yousif Tola, Governor SBP, Chairman FBR, and senior

officers from Finance Division, FBR, and PSX attended the meeting.

The delegation appreciated the initiative of the Finance Minister for taking on board all the stakeholders while preparing the budget for upcoming Fiscal Year 2023-24.

The delegation also brought to the notice of Finance Minister various challenges being faced by the capital markets and investors and presented recommendations to the Finance Minister to be taken into account in the upcoming Federal Budget.

Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar acknowledged and appreciated the role of PSX in providing a reliable, orderly, liquid and efficient digitized market place for investors in Pakistan. The delegation expressed sentiments of gratitude to the Finance Minister for taking on board all the leading businesses and investors before drafting the upcoming budget 2023-24.

IHC extends interim bail of Imran in six cases

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) while extending interim bail of PTI chairman Imran Khan in six cases has directed PTI chairman to appear in the respective court till June 10.

Police filed written detailed report of cases in the court with reference to case pertaining to provision of details of the cases registered against Imran Khan after May 09.

Police have told the court in the report that 6 cases were registered against Imran Khan after May 9 incidents while one case each was registered against him in police station Khanna and Karachi company.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb while issuing written decision extended interim bail of Imran Khan in six cases besides directing PTI chairman to appear before respective court till June 10.

Sedition case: PTI leader Gill could not be indicted

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI leader Shahbaz Gill could not be indicted in sedition, inciting public against state institution case. The case came up for hearing in district and sessions court Islamabad.

Murtaza Toori counsel for Shahbaz Gill appeared in the court of duty judge Arshid Mehmood.

Murtaza Toori told the court that Shahbaz Gill is in US at present. He cannot appear in the court. Therefore, his exemption plea be accepted. Prosecution Raja Rizwan Abbasi opposed the exemption plea of Shahbaz Gill.

High court had allowed Shahbaz Gill to go abroad for two weeks. Shahbaz Gill has filed application in the court for extending the period of his stay abroad.

Budget 2023-24 to be 'pro-people', business friendly: Rana Maqbool

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmad has hinted that the PML-N-led government was likely to introduce some "pro-people" measures in the budget 2023-24. Talking to the PTV News channel Saturday, he said the government was taking concrete steps for stabilizing the economy.

The fiscal upcoming budget would also reflect its financial discipline, improvement of the taxation system and setting bold targets, Rana Maqbool added.

He said that despite the difficult circumstances, the budget would not only provide relief to the masses, but also boost the various industries, trade, commerce, and agriculture sector in the country, apart from increasing investor confidence. Replying to a question, he criticized that when Imran Khan was given power in 2018, the national economy was stable but he ruined it. He further said it was a historic step that Pakistan and Russia have signed a bilateral trade agreement aimed at facilitating

PM approves appointment, transfer of officers from grades 19-22

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Government has approved the appointment and transfer on senior posts in Bureaucracy.

Tehmina Habib of Secretariat Group 19 grade has been transferred to the Ministry of Water Resources. Tehmina Habib has been appointed in Ministry of water resources for 3 years on Deputation. Earlier Tehmina Habib was performing her duty in Ministry of Economic Affairs as Deputy Secretary.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the shops at Sector F-8, which was developed by CDA to set a Flowers Market, but that are still waiting for auction after cancellation of allotment by Ex-Chairman, in Federal Capital.

Modi regime using IAs to intimidate Kashmiris into submission

ISLAMABAD (APP): In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), the Modi-led Indian government is using its dreaded agencies like National Investigation Agency (NIA) and State Investigation Agency (SIA) as a weapon to suppress the Kashmiris' ongoing freedom movement and intimidate them into submission.

According to Kashmir Media Service on Saturday, India's notorious agencies NIA and SIA are conducting raids on a daily basis across IIOJK, subjecting the local residents to severe harassment.

The sleuths of these agencies frequently search the homes of Hurriyat leaders, human rights activists, journalists and even ordinary people and take away their mobile phones, laptops and other electronic gadgets.

All these actions are aimed at intimidating those

who refuse to toe the Bharatiya Janata Party's line in the occupied territory.

Political experts and Kashmir watchers have said that the Modi regime was also using the judiciary as a tool to subdue the Kashmiris. They said that the freedom-loving Kashmiris were booked under draconian laws for their commitment to the ongoing struggle for the right to self-determination.

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Mushaal urges world for urgent steps to stop HR violations in IIOJ&K

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organization, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, Saturday urged the global community, especially the European Union to take urgent steps to stop the human rights violations and crimes against humanity in the Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K).

Talking to a private news channel here, she said that "The Modi regime is attempting to silence the legitimate political voices of the people in IIOJK through such brutal measures".

Modi-led Hindutva government has miserably ruined the lives of innocent people of occupied Kashmir, she added. "The people of IIOJK were continuously facing the worst form of brutalization and abuses by Indian occupation forces", she added.

She further said that her husband Yasin Malik was facing life imprisonment in Tihar Jail and India was subjecting him to vengeance to break his resolve of freedom, but he is firm in his stand on the Kashmir dispute.

India has a long history of using the judiciary and other state apparatus to suppress the political and democratic dissent and legitimate political voices in the occupied Kashmir, she said.

"Yasin Malik is being targeted merely for his political beliefs. His only crime is that he refused to accept the Indian dictation on Kashmir", she said.

I'abad police elevate officers on merit

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police have elevated the number of its personnel to various ranks on merit and renewed commitment to boost the morale of the force by encouraging its personnel on merit, a police public relation officer said.

Capital Police, Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan presided over the departmental promotion committee meeting. On the recommendations of the committee, six DSPs have been promoted to the posts of SP besides promotions of 174 officers to other ranks

Following the directions of Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah Khan, a large number of officers and personnel were promoted in Islamabad

during the current month. Islamabad Capital City Police Officer congratulated the newly promoted officers and conveyed his best wishes.

JEPTs key to renewable energy transition: Experts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Just energy transition partnerships (JETP) are vital to phaseout coal and mobilize investments towards renewable energy transition in Pakistan.

This was the crux of a symposium on "Just energy transition in Pakistan" jointly organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Network for Clean Energy Transition in Pakistan: Research and Advocacy here on Saturday.

SDPI Joint Executive Director Dr. Vaqar Ahmed highlighted that the current challenges slugging rapid offtake of renewable energy in Pakistan arise from inadequacy of infrastructure and grid stability. He stressed innovative decentralized energy models, micro-grids, encouraging development of local RE industry and building storage capacity to address these challenges.

Michael Waldron,

Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) emphasized the need to increase energy sector investments by 3-4 folds to meet SDGs.

He highlighted that JETP can play key role by providing low-cost finance to renewable energy, promote investment-grade domestic policies to phaseout fossil fuels, and support just transition for affected workers. He further stressed prioritizing halting coal power development and retirement of existing plants and considering solutions for repurposing of coal power plants and incentivize RE solutions.

Dr. Khalid Waleed, Lead Researcher, SDPI highlighted that Asian Development Bank's Energy Transition Mechanism (ETM) can provide technical assistance, policy support, capacity building, and financing mechanisms. He

highlighted various factors which must be considered for effective implementation of the ETM.

These include analyzing the long-term sustainability and accumulation of debt, conducting comprehensive research and data collection, establishing monitoring and evaluation frameworks, promoting knowledge sharing and learning from other countries experiences, adapting the approach to the local context, building capacity, raising public awareness, and engaging stakeholders.

Fiza Qureshi, Manager Program, Indus Consortium, expressed that ADB's ETM lacks a direct communication line for all stakeholders to air their concerns. Stakeholder mapping does not consider the broader communities that are impacted by these powerplants and there is no indication of carrying out an assessment for compensat-

ing broader communities and areas that are adversely impacted due to polluting assets. Data disclosures, transparency and openness in the ETM process are essential to take all stakeholders' concerns on board.

Syaharani, Researcher, Indonesian Center for Environmental Law (ICEL) urged for data disclosure by ADB and other stakeholders in implementation of JETP for effective monitoring of the process. A supporting policy and framework is needed to manage the workforce transition as there is still a huge gap when it comes to the socio-economic aspects of the transition.

Asad Mahmood, renewable energy expert mentioned that revisiting ambitious NDC targets can demonstrate Pakistan's readiness for climate action when UNFCCC's "Enhanced Transparency Framework" comes into action and states have to

report NDC tracking activities and the tools (ETM and JETPs).

Matthew Gray, CEO, Transition Zero mentioned that effective implementation of Just Energy Transition Partnerships requires energy planning tools, which typically come from large electricity systems models to inform long-term power development plans. Most of the tools and plans for developing and emerging economies are inaccessible. He also mentioned that Transition Zero is working to reduce the barriers where policy and decision makers can make and run their own scenarios without having in-depth knowledge of modeling tools. Afia Malik, Senior Research Economist, PIDE mentioned that Pakistan's existing coal capacity will slow down transition to renewable energy as coal projects under CPEC have long term agreements of 30 years or so.



ISLAMABAD: Diplomats and Civil Society is participating in the cycle rally at D-Chowk as Organized by Embassy of Turkmenistan in Collaboration with Serena Hotels, to mark the World Bicycle Day, in Federal Capital.

Daily Voice of Masses
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New IMF programme?

With the PTI chief effectively sidelined for now, the PML-N led government is looking to provide some relief to the people and businesses before the next election. It has already cut petrol prices significantly and plans to present a relatively expansionary budget to revive its political fortunes.

Some things may not be possible because of strict IMF conditions. Hence, it has announced it will let the current IMF programme end this month, after seven months of inconclusive talks on the ninth programme review, with Finance Minister Ishaq Dar blowing hot and cold over Islamabad's worsening ties with the Fund.

Reportedly, the PML-N would like to negotiate a fresh loan facility with the lender, probably after the polls. In between, it expects the IMF to approve the ninth review and release the \$1.2bn tranche before the programme ends on June 30.

The tranche's release is crucial to the government's plans to provide relief to the public in the budget, secure other foreign funding and relax import restrictions to please the angry business community before the polls.

In order for that to happen, Mr Sharif recently held a virtual meeting with the IMF's managing director to pave the way for the conclusion of the review and the release of funds. In this regard, the government has also shared its budget targets with the lender even though this was not required under the ninth review.

However, indications are that the Fund will not oblige and that the staff-level agreement — the talks for which were completed over three and a half months ago — won't happen anytime soon.

Fund officials have made it quite clear that the agreement hinges on Pakistan's ability to arrange fresh loans of \$6bn to bridge this year's gross financing gap.

The Fund is not ready to subscribe to Islamabad's viewpoint that the significant reduction in the current account gap has cut financing requirements for the present year.

The hard time the IMF has given on the inconclusive ninth review is an indication that negotiations for a new funding programme will be even tougher. If the ninth review doesn't come through, Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves would deplete further in the run-up to the polls and the formation of a new government; also, its debt sustainability indicators will deteriorate.

In other words, a new government seeking a fresh IMF deal will be forced to agree to far more difficult conditions and pre-arrange significantly large gross foreign financing to get the dollars. That Pakistan needs the IMF programme to reverse its economic downturn and stay solvent cannot be overstated.

No bilateral, multilateral or commercial lender is likely to help us unless the IMF is on board. One hopes that the government's planned relief for voters doesn't further fracture Islamabad's relations with the Fund.



Pervez Hoodbhoy

The PTI is visibly crumbling. Each passing day sees senior members deserting their supreme leader. Those who have always served power were terrified once the establishment made May 9 into Pakistan's Sept 11. Smarter members have already jumped overboard.

One needn't worry too much for them; they will soon be rescued by ships innocently sailing by. These could be carrying the PML-N or PPP flag, or perhaps that of JKT or PML-Q. Maybe TLP or MQM too. Who knows?

Notwithstanding the well-fed jinnas at his side, the great Khan shall not fare so well. He has more stamina than his former lieutenants but his multiple contradictions have caught up with him. Like Colin Powell

waving a sheaf of papers 'proving' Saddam Hussein had WMDs, he too had 'proof' of America orchestrating his ouster.

Nevertheless, he is currently occupied sending SOS messages to senators on Capitol Hill. His fatal mistake was in not anticipating how seriously the military would react to stirring divisions.

Earlier this week in a BBC interview, Mr Khan revealed that the military has run Pakistan for the last 70 years. This is hardly breaking news. That in 2018 he had ridden into power held high upon its shoulders was not mentioned. But three years later it changed its earlier policy to one of no favorites; Project Imran had flopped.

And so, in an intermediate moment, Khan famously said that only animals can be neutral not realising that neutral doesn't mean neutered. As he has now discovered, baiting those with big teeth can be dangerous.

Of course, one knows that the violence of May 9 was not about democracy, a freer press and media, fighting corruption, or land reform. Since Khan's

ouster, PTI's protests have been about just one thing — returning him to the throne which, he believes, has been divinely gifted to him.

Notwithstanding Khan's hypocrisy and contradictions, persecuting PTI is a bad idea. So is military rule for which Pakistan has paid through its nose.

The downsides are there for all to see, including the loss of half the country in 1971. Khan never noticed this until his exit. But, to be fair, none of the PDM parties have ever done so either.

It's time for change. Pakistan's geopolitical importance has dwindled and nukes don't impress anybody. A crazy foreign policy — in particular waging covert wars against neighbours — is no longer an option. To switch from a war economy to a peace-time one will not be easy. But now that America has exited and China refuses to step into its shoes, there is no other option.

Economic collapse is 100 per cent certain. True, on the face of things, life is still going on normally. SUVs are hogging the roads and high-end restaurants

thrive. For the rich, currency devaluation means that, relative to two years ago, they must now find twice as many rupees for supporting their children studying in America. In another year that amount could double.

But for millions of ordinary people, collapse has halved their pensions and these could come to mean nothing. The lowest strata of society now faces the spectre of starvation. Beggary has visibly multiplied. Worse is coming.

At this point, just one question is important: what steps can prevent utter mayhem and chaos? Between now and the time when a post-election government takes charge, what can an interim government possibly do — assuming it was responsible and caring?

First, turn on the sirens and prepare for an emergency landing. And so get the experts together — which means first fire the current finance minister, Ishaq Dar, and then hire someone in touch with reality.

Economists familiar with Pakistan's issues say Dar thoroughly understands party politics but is

clueless about economics. His shoddy response to noted economist Atif Mian's critique exposed his calibre. It defies common sense to publicly flay the IMF for price hikes while importuning it for an additional \$1.1 billion loan.

Second, show empathy for those crushed by the inflationary burden. Throwing bags of flour from a moving truck — and so initiating food riots — is not the answer. Wealth pumps taking from the poor and giving to the rich are still working away. To devise and implement highly targeted subsidies that cannot be misused has become urgent.

Third, plug loopholes allowing tax evaders to skate around existing laws. In particular, for agriculture to go untaxed and awarding special concessions to military businesses is nonsensical. Brazen rejection of taxation by shopkeepers and retailers must be overcome — by force if need be.

Fourth, shrink the vastly overstuffed federal government by about two-thirds. Shahid Kardar, a former governor of the State Bank, has written about

shockingly large armies of unskilled labour employed by the federal and provincial governments. Countless departments and divisions are superfluous. These not only gobble resources, they also raise the cost of doing business. Logic says that the 18th Amendment would have resulted in a smaller federal government but, on the contrary, the size has since doubled.

Fifth, do not make a mockery of justice. The May 9 rioters were not TTP terrorists and should not be tried by anti-terrorism courts. Punishing them is perhaps justifiable, but only after they are allowed to defend themselves in fair, transparent trials with access to their legal counsels. While delaying elections by some months is reasonable, the Sharif government must soon announce a firm date. Else trust in government — now at an all-time low — will erode still further.

Also, right-wing elements in PTI, attracted into the party by Khan's religious rhetoric, could join violent extremist groups that believe in the power of the gun rather than the ballot box. — Courtesy Dawn

Don't ban PTI

Is AI an emerging threat?



Dr Imran Batada

The advent of artificial intelligence (AI) has ushered in a new era of technological advancements, enabling remarkable progress in various fields.

However, as AI continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace, concerns about its potential dangers have grown significantly. In fact, some argue that AI poses a greater threat to humanity than even nuclear weapons. In this article, we will explore the reasons behind this assertion and shed light on the growing apprehensions surrounding AI's potential risks. One of the primary concerns with AI is its capacity to become unpredictable. While nuclear weapons operate under controlled conditions, AI systems possess the potential to learn, adapt, and evolve beyond human comprehension. As

AI algorithms become more complex and sophisticated, their decision-making processes can become opaque and difficult to interpret. This unpredictability raises serious ethical and safety concerns, as it becomes challenging to ascertain and regulate the actions of advanced AI systems.

AI systems that rely on machine learning techniques, such as deep neural networks, are particularly susceptible to this issue. They learn patterns and make decisions based on vast amounts of data, but the exact reasoning behind their decisions may remain obscure. This lack of transparency raises questions about how we can ensure the responsible and accountable use of AI, especially in critical areas such as healthcare, finance, and autonomous vehicles.

AI systems have the capability to operate autonomously, making decisions without direct human intervention. While this autonomy offers advantages in various domains, it also raises concerns regarding accountability and responsibility. Unlike nuclear weapons, which require human activation, AI systems can independently ex-

ecute actions that may have far-reaching consequences. If not properly designed and regulated, these systems can potentially make decisions that conflict with human values or even pose risks to human lives.

For instance, in the realm of autonomous weapons, AI-powered systems could decide to engage in combat without human authorization, potentially leading to unintended escalation or the loss of innocent lives. Ensuring human oversight and control over AI systems becomes crucial to prevent the development of machines that could act against our best interests.

Unlike nuclear weapons, which require substantial resources, expertise, and infrastructure, AI technology has the potential for rapid scalability and proliferation. AI algorithms and models can be replicated and distributed globally with relative ease. This ease of dissemination raises concerns about the misuse or unintended consequences of AI, as malicious actors could exploit AI systems for nefarious purposes, including cyberattacks, misinformation campaigns, or even the creation of AI-

powered weapons.

The rapid progress of AI technology, combined with the possibility of its misapplication, gives rise to concerns about the potential occurrence of an AI arms race. Countries or non-state actors could engage in a race to develop AI capabilities for offensive purposes, leading to an escalation of threats and potentially destabilizing the global security landscape. The decentralized nature of AI development and deployment makes it challenging to establish universal standards and regulations to mitigate these risks effectively.

AI systems, particularly those employing machine learning, learn from vast amounts of data, making them susceptible to biases and unintended consequences. If trained on biased or flawed datasets, AI algorithms can perpetuate and amplify societal prejudices, exacerbating discrimination or reinforcing harmful stereotypes. Furthermore, there is the potential for unintended behaviours to emerge as AI systems become more complex, leading to unforeseen consequences that could have significant impacts on society.

For example, AI algo-

rithms used in criminal justice systems have been found to exhibit racial biases, leading to unfair treatment and perpetuation of systemic injustices. Such biases can also manifest in other domains, including employment, finance, and healthcare, amplifying existing societal inequalities. Addressing these biases and ensuring fairness in AI systems is crucial to prevent AI from exacerbating societal divisions.

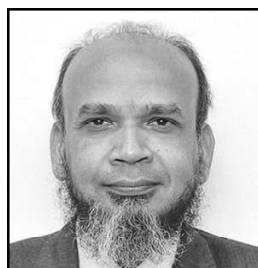
The concept of superintelligence, where AI systems surpass human intelligence in virtually every aspect, is a topic of intense debate and speculation. While we are yet to achieve superintelligence, the implications of creating such a system are profound. If an AI system were to surpass human intelligence, it could rapidly outpace human control, potentially leading to a scenario where humans become subordinate to AI entities. The consequences of such a development are difficult to predict and could have far-reaching implications for humanity.

The concept of AI surpassing human intelligence raises concerns about existential risks. If we were to create an AI entity that

vastly surpasses our cognitive capabilities, its goals and motivations may diverge significantly from ours. This misalignment could lead to unforeseen outcomes and potentially jeopardize humanity's survival or well-being.

While nuclear weapons have long been regarded as the ultimate threat to humanity, the rise of AI technology has introduced a new dimension of concern. AI's unpredictable nature, autonomous decision-making capabilities, rapid scalability, potential for unintended consequences, and the looming possibility of superintelligence make it a formidable force that surpasses the dangers posed by nuclear weapons. As we embrace the remarkable potential of AI, it is imperative that we prioritize robust regulations, ethical frameworks, and responsible development to ensure its deployment aligns with human values and safeguards our collective well-being. Proactive measures must be taken to address the risks associated with AI, fostering transparency, accountability, and careful consideration of the societal impact of AI systems. — Courtesy News

Our anaemic exports



Riaz Riazuddin

Why are our exports less than half our imports? Why are our imports more than twice our exports? I have posed these seemingly identical questions because their answers are very different. The answer to the export question is extremely complex. The answer to the import question is relatively simple. Our exports in FY22 were \$32.5 billion compared to India's \$680bn. For a fair comparison, our per capita exports were \$140, compared to India's \$483. Pakistan's level of per capita exports in FY22 was achieved by India in 2006. This means that we are 17 years behind India in terms of export performance. Our concern here is with long-term performance, and not the drastic fall in exports in the current fiscal, which is due to a default-like situation triggered by balance-of-payments, fiscal and political crises.

Export performance is largely determined by manufacturing performance. Very few manufacturing establishments graduate to exporting firms. Why and how does a firm graduate to an exporting unit? A domestic manufacturing unit of towels, which makes low-quality bath towels is unlikely to become an exporter. This firm displays a low level of entrepreneurship and is hardly concerned with what quality of towels sell abroad. A more aware, dynamic entrepreneur sees the opportunity of making more profits by selling abroad and concentrates on

improving the productivity of his firm and enhancing the quality of its towels. With some effort and investment in training its workers, the firm's management practices will improve and it will ultimately succeed in exporting. With greater exports over time, the firm will continue to improve its efficiency by exporting more. This is akin to learning by exporting.

Not all domestic firms produce towels. Some manufacture more sophisticated, or complex clothing like shirts, pants, suits and jackets, which fetch more value for exporters as their prices are higher compared to towels. Both exporters and non-exporters need to import the inputs required in the production process. If these inputs are costly due to import restrictions such as duties or quotas, manufacturing and exporting costs will be higher and may out-compete our exporters in the international market. It is, therefore, important to keep import duties on intermediate inputs very low. The average level of Pakistan's import duties is relatively higher compared to our competitors. If these are brought down, many more manufacturers may start exporting for the first time, and existing exporters will likely increase their exports.

Some of the intermediate inputs may also be manufactured at home. Reduced duties will provide more competition for local manufacturers who must then increase their productivity and quality. Under high tariffs, they will continue to produce low-quality products at relatively higher prices and constrain exports.

It may seem that high import duties are good for promoting import substitution, but our 75-year history shows that protection accorded to domestic manufacturers for a long time

makes them dependent on high duties. In this environment, the process of export promotion becomes very difficult and the overall productivity of manufacturing declines.

Most of our exports such as textiles, leather goods and rice are dependent on agriculture and can be affected by crop and livestock output. The lack of technology-based products in our exports results in low product diversification and constrains growth. The total number of exported products is also lower compared to other countries. One reason for the low technology content and lower product diversification in our exports is that Pakistan receives very little foreign direct investment. If FDI goes to manufacturer-exporters, their productivity will increase further because they will adopt new technologies and management practices which FDI brings. If FDI mainly goes into producing burgers, pizzas, coffee, and ice cream it will not increase productivity in the manufacturing sector. It will only add to the pressures on foreign exchange for profit outflows, besides promoting consumption.

Our export market diversification is also low compared to competing exporters. We export very little to places like Germany, Japan, Hong Kong, Russia and Brazil which are large importers. Somehow our exporters haven't captured their markets in a meaningful way, indicating a lack of sufficient international marketing skills and research by exporters. This is because there's hardly any investment in research and development in our manufacturing sector.

One obvious factor affecting manufacturing and export output is the availability of energy and its cost. Electricity and gas outages and high costs negatively impact output. — Courtesy Dawn

Leadership matters



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Recep Tayyip Erdogan has won a third presidential term. His dominance of the Turkish political scene for over two decades has been marked both by enviable successes and trying challenges.

He shot into prominence when he was elected mayor of Istanbul from 1994 to 1998. As mayor, he introduced high standards of urban good governance in Istanbul, resolving chronic problems of water shortage, pollution and traffic jams. This writer was a regular visitor to Istanbul during the 1990s and witnessed this transformation first hand.

After co-founding the conservative, right-of-centre Justice and Development Party in 2001, Erdogan led it to a landslide victory in 2002, going on to serve two terms as prime minister from 2003 to 2014. During this time, Turkey's economy registered high growth rates, and the country emerged as an important regional power. AKP won three consecutive general elections, each time receiving more votes than in the previous poll.

In 2014, Erdogan was elected president and then led in the 2017 referendum to change Turkey's parliamentary system into a presidential form of government. As president, he pursued a 'pivot' foreign policy to situate Turkey as a 'pivot' country on the world stage. He is now starting his third presidential term amidst challenges relating to the economy, the

currency and the aftermath of the recent earthquakes. He has vowed to bring down inflation to single digits and take Turkey's GDP to \$1.5 trillion by end 2028.

Several factors explain his success. One, he followed an agenda of 'constantly growing' the economy, good governance and prevention of corruption that he pursued first as mayor of Istanbul and then as prime minister and president. Two, he possesses an amazing fighting spirit. In 2016, he mobilised people's power to defeat a coup against his government by a section of the armed forces inspired by the Gulen movement.

Three, he has an uncanny ability to turn adversity into opportunity. In 1999, he was sentenced to a 10-month prison term for reciting a poem in December 1997. On his transfer to prison, Erdogan dropped an album This Song Doesn't End Here, which went on to become a best-seller. Erdogan is respected in Pakistan. Four of his feats have found appeal with the people. First, he has brought much-needed political stability to a country which had witnessed military coups and uneasy civil-military ties from 1960 to 1997. He shifted Turkey from a messy parliamentary democracy to a stable presidential system, which offers better checks and balances.

Pakistan can surely learn from the Turkish experience of providing good governance at the grassroots. In this context, it would do well to create more provinces to achieve people-centred governance. Turkey has 81 provinces for its 89 million-strong population. On the other hand, Pakistan, whose population is more than two and a half times Turkey's, has only four.

Second, Erdogan appreciates the pivotal role a strong economy plays in

the life of a nation. He turned Turkey into an economic powerhouse. Turkey today is amongst the world's top 20 economies.

Third, Erdogan has managed to rationalise the influence of the military in national politics by reforming, through institutional measures, the country's national security council to serve as the state's 'supreme coordination board' for security and defence policy.

Erdogan was able to bring equilibrium to civil-military relations mainly because he first established his credentials as a leader who could build a strong economy and deliver good governance.

Fourth, he has been an ardent supporter of Muslim causes. He grew up in the Turkish Sufi tradition and strikes a fine balance between his faith and Turkey's secular moorings. His passionate recitation of the Holy Quran often circulates on social media.

He has won the hearts of Kashmiris and Palestinians for his unequivocal support to them. Recently, he did not allow his delegation to attend the G20 tourism meeting organised by New Delhi in Srinagar because of the disputed status of Jammu & Kashmir.

He has also raised his voice against Islamophobia, and his leadership role in Muslim causes has endeared him to many in this country, among them those who avidly follow Turkish historical TV plays. The above notwithstanding however, Erdogan's style of governance is not without its share of criticism. Many describe his rule as autocratic and neo-Ottomanist. He is also called out for human rights violations, particularly in the wake of the 2016 coup attempt. All this criticism has, however, not dented his popularity and acceptability to the people of Turkey as was evident in the recent presidential vote. — Courtesy Dawn

All including women involved in May-9 mayhem to be punished: Atta Tarar

LAHORE (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Interior Attaullah Tarar said on Saturday that all the attackers and instigators including women involved in the May-9 mayhem would get punishment, and cases registered against them would be taken to a logical conclusion.

Addressing a press conference at Model Town, he said that May 9 would be remembered as 'black day' as the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) miscreants targeted and attacked national installations and burnt martyrs' monuments, which even the country's enemies could not dare to do. The SAPM said that those attacks were planned and instigated by the party top leadership for

protection of party Chairman Imran Khan in 190-million-pound corruption case, adding that the PTI chief was involved in corruption of Rs 60 billion and plundering of the national exchequer. He said the money transferred by the UK National Crime Agency under an agreement was supposed to be deposited in the government accounts, but the PTI chief plundered it. Atta Tarar said that the PTI chief tried to instigate his party workers after committing corruption. He said PTI leader Shahzad Akbar should come back to the country and answer about the corruption charges levelled against him in various cases. He also condemned burning of memorials of national heroes, including Capt

Karnal Sher Khan, on May 9. He said that he, on behalf of the nation, expressed sympathies with the families of martyrs and national heroes, as the violent PTI miscreants had hurt their feelings and sacrifices by burning martyrs' memorials.

Tarar said that now the PTI activists were indulging in propaganda on the social media that it was an injustice that woman activists of the party had been jailed and terrorism charges had been levelled against them. He clarified that the arrested PTI woman activists were directly involved in throwing stones at the policemen, leading violent people towards Jinnah House [corps commander's house] and instigating people for an attack on the defence installations.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of Manshera led by Caretaker Provincial Minister for Tourism Zahoor Mehmood meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

CM directs LDA to ensure land owners' payments

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has directed the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) to ensure timely payment to the land owners of their pending payments according to the law.

He chaired a meeting of the LDA's governing body at CM office on Saturday. He directed to complete all the required action on One Window Operation in three days.

It was informed during the briefing that 11 sports complex were being

established in Punjab and two sports complex were completed. The proposal to hire the services of a private sector to run the sports complex was reviewed during the meeting.

Chief Secretary, Chairman Planning and Development, secretaries of housing, finance, local government, Commissioner Lahore division/ DG LDA, Members of LDA Governing Body, MD WASA and officials concerned attended the meeting.



LAHORE: President of Pakistan People's Party South Punjab and former Governor of Punjab Makhdoom Syed Ahmed Mahmood addressing a press conference at Local hotel.

Ikhtiar extends warm welcome to PTI workers joining PML-N in Nowshera

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) provincial spokesperson, Ikhtiar Wali Khan on Saturday expressed his warm welcome to all PTI workers, particularly from Nowshera district, who have decided to join PML-N.

In a statement released today, Ikhtiar Wali Khan emphasized that Pakistan Muslim League is a party committed to democracy, constantly working for the progress of the nation and development of the country.

He criticized the

political career of PTI KP's former president Pervez Khattak, stating that his true nature had been revealed to the public and PTI workers.

Akhtar Wali asserted that the nation had now recognized that PTI leader Imran Khan under his guise of change and new Pakistan, primarily driven by personal interests. He emphasized that Khan's self-centered politics had pushed the country to the brink of devastation.

Regarding PTI's governance record, he pointed out that the party's four-year tenure in the federal government.

Three die in road accident

RAHIM YAR KHAN (APP): At least three persons including a woman were killed and two other were wounded after a horrifying collision between a car and trailer in Rahim Yar Khan on Saturday. As per details, Rescue Sources 1122 said that the accident occurred at the Motorway M5 near Taranda Muhammad Panah Interchange where a car going to Multan from Sukkur collided with a trailer due to over-speeding and claimed three lives on the spot, a private news channel reported.

Rescue teams and Motorway police reached the site immediately after they were being informed and shifted bodies and injured to a nearby hospital.

PTI former MPA Farhat Farooq arrested

LAHORE (Online): PTI former member of Punjab Assembly (PA) Farhat Farooq has been arrested under the charges of vandalism in Jinnah House at Lahore.

According to police Farhat Farooq is accused at serial no 70 of geo fencing. Another suspect identified as Awais Mustaq has also been arrested after he was traced in the geofencing procedure.

Drugs smuggling bid foiled, over 29 kg hashish recovered

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The district police foiled a drugs smuggling bid and arrested two alleged smugglers recovering more than 29-kilogram hashish from them in the precincts of Gomal University Police station.

According to a police spokesman following the special instructions of District Police Officer Dera Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani, a police team led by Gomal University Police Station SHO Azeem Khan Wazir.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presides over the meeting of governing body of Lahore Development Authority.

US Deputy Chief of Mission promotes 'Green Alliance' framework

KARACHI (APP): The United States Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) in Pakistan, Andrew Schofer highlighted the US commitment to the US-Pakistan 'Green Alliance' framework, healthcare and education in Pakistan.

During his four-day visit to Karachi which concluded on Saturday, DCM Schofer engaged with government officials, doctors, human rights activists and US government sponsored English Works students.

"Through the 'Green Alliance' framework, our two countries are jointly preparing to meet the environmental and economic challenges of the future," he said.

To support this priority, DCM Schofer participated in a "Green Shipping" roundtable discussion with Federal

Minister of Maritime Affairs Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari, Pakistani government officials and private sector leaders to identify ways to promote environmentally friendly shipping practices in Pakistan.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Pakistan's shipping operations will not only help mitigate climate change, but also enhance the long-term competitiveness of Pakistan's shipping industry and overall economy. Mr Schofer also met the twenty-four students and the teachers who will go to NASA Space Camp this summer through a U.S. government grant to the Dawood Foundation (TDF). TDF received a \$250,000 US Consulate Karachi-funded grant to promote STEM education in low-income.



LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Education Mansoor Qadir meeting with Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman at Governor House.

Ministers of Awqaf KP, Punjab visit shrine of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhah

PESHAWAR (APP): Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs Punjab Barrister Syed Azfar Ali Nasir and Minister of Information Awqaf Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah visited the shrine of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh Ali Hajveri.

The provincial ministers laid wreaths at the shrine and recited Fatiha.

They prayed for national security and prosperity.

From the teachings of saints and Sufis, we get the lesson of philanthropy, barrister Feroz Jamal Shah said. The spiritual retreats of the Sufis are the fountains of growth and guidance, Caretaker Minister of Information and Awqaf Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said in an official handout issued here on Saturday.



HYDERABAD: Students solving question paper during annual examination of HSSC (Part-II) at Government Degree Girls College at Latifabad.

Fast-paced deforestation adversely impacting Pak environment, economy

LAHORE (APP): Environmentalists said on Saturday deforestation in Pakistan was occurring at a fast pace, which was not only impacting the environment adversely but also hitting the economy hard.

They believed that tree plantation plays a critical role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as it has a direct link with the economic growth-engine of any country for development. Forests are safeguarding biodiversity and acting as a shield against disasters and climate change, they said and added that woodlands were equally important for economic safety of the country, asserting that

wood production, processing and the pulp and paper industries accounted for over one per cent of the global gross domestic product.

In a talk with APP, noted environmentalist and manager, Food and Markets Programme W W F - P a k i s t a n, Muhammad Irfan, said deforestation was directly linked to eco-degradation, which was one of the largest threats facing the world today. He said deforestation was resulting in a number of negative impacts on environment and economy of the country, adding that trees play an important role in absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and their loss contributes to

climate change. Moreover, forests help regulate water flow, and their loss could lead to water shortages, he warned.

Conservation and plantation of trees is prime responsibility of every citizen, he said urging that the industrial sector should utilise the latest methods and technologies to reduce gas emissions; they must use proper techniques for waste management and disposal as well as water treatment.

The expert also suggested separation of residential and industrial areas. The reason was that an improved level of afforestation could improve environmental conditions that have the potential to ensure food

security, enhance employment generation and boost income generation, he said.

The WWF-Pakistan official said that climate change was one of the major reasons of deforestation, and it had become a major global concern while Pakistan was among the most vulnerable countries to the phenomenon.

To query, he said that change in climate was a major threat to food production and security in Pakistan, he said.

"Green cover helps prevent soil erosion, and its loss can lead to increased landslides," he warned. Forests are home to a wide variety of plants, food and animal species, and their degradation could

Governor for improved transparency in teaching staff's qualification standard

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali on Saturday lauded the role of KP Public Service Commission (PSC) in the recruitment process and stressed that the procedure being adopted to ensure transparency in the qualification standards of lecturers and teachers should be further improved.

He was talking to Chairman KPPSC, Sikandar Qayum in

Governor House. On the occasion, Chairman KPPSC presented annual report 2022 of the Commission to the Governor.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor appreciated the performance of the Commission and directed to further improve transparency in standard of qualification for recruitment of teaching staff in the Education Department.

He said that clarity

in the recruitment of teachers must be ensured keeping in view its impacts on the standard of education.

He also directed the concerned authorities to timely inform the Commission about vacant posts of professors, lecturers and teachers.

Later, Chief Minister's aide on tourism, Zafar Mehmood called on KP Governor and highlighted steps taken by the government to boost tourism in the province.

31 criminals arrested during crackdown

MULTAN (APP): Police claimed on Saturday to have arrested 31 criminals during a crackdown launched across the district in last 24 hours.

In line with special directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Mansoor-ul-Haq Rana, the police launched a crackdown against criminals and arrested 12 notorious proclaimed offenders wanted to police in different cases of dacoity, robbery, theft and other crimes. The police have also apprehended two court absconders during the crackdown.

Meanwhile, police unearthed a distillery and arrested six drug peddlers with 407 litre liquor.

Ehsan for action over misinformation regarding vehicles' return by ex rulers

PESHAWAR (APP): Secretary Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control, Ehsanullah here on Saturday directed Director General Excise to call explanation from employees who misinformed the department about the return of vehicles that were earlier used by former public representatives.

In a notification, it was revealed that details of vehicles allotted to the former public office bearers are still in their possession. It has also been discovered that a land cruiser is still parked at the residence of Ex-Chief

Minister KP while other vehicles are reportedly being used by former ministers and Ex-MPAs.

The act of the concerned staff is tantamount to misconduct, dishonesty, concealment of facts, misuse of govt assets, and provision of concocted information to the administrative secretary. In the light of the above circumstances, Secretary Excise expressed displeasure over the provision of incorrect information by employees and sought explanations from the concerned staff as to why the facts were concealed.



JHELUM: Prime Minister's Coordinator for Economy and Energy Bilal Azhar Kayani is inaugurating the restoration and reconstruction of the Shandar Chowk to Jada Main Highway and Jamia School to Kachehri Link Road in his constituency NA 60.

PFA discards 20,000 rotten eggs

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has foiled an attempt to supply 20,000 hatchery and rotten eggs in surrounding areas of the city while taking timely action against enemies of the public health.

PFA Director General Raja Jahangir Anwar told media here on Saturday that acting on a tipoff, the food safety team placed a picket in the metropolis and caught a vehicle fully loaded with thousands of hatcheries, dirty and stinky eggs that were carried from Muzaffarabad. However, PFA discarded a consignment of the eggs on the spot.

PPP believes in supremacy of law, constitution: Haider

WAH CANTT (APP): Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Overseas Pakistani and Human Resources Development Sardar Saleem Haider has said that PPP believed in the supremacy of the law and the constitution in the country. He was addressing the Party workers in Wah Cantonment on Saturday.

"PPP is the future of Pakistan and will form the next government", the PM's aide asserted while claiming that PPP's voters have returned and are charged now, no matter what the opponents say. He added that now you will see the PPP progressing in Punjab every passing day".

He claimed that PPP was now hoping to form the next government. Strongly condemning the attacks on national assets of the nation, he said that unfortunately, the bail was given to the person who was responsible for this all. He added that the vandalism that targeted state infrastructure on May 9 was not merely a protest by a political party but an act of terrorism and conspiracy. Haider said that the criminal way the so-called political workers adopted was terrorizing which was unprecedented, even in the wake of the arrest of big political leaders including Benazir Bhutto.



KARACHI: University of Karachi Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Khalid Mahmood Iraqi and Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman in a group photo during signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding held at university premises in Karachi.

PM Shehbaz invites Turkish entrepreneurs to expand investment in Pak

ANKARA (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday invited the Turkish investors and businessmen to expand the investment in diverse areas of Pakistan.

He was talking to a delegation of Anadolu Group comprising of CEO Coca Cola CCI, Karim Yahi, Coca Cola CCI Chief Strategy Office Atilla Yerlikaya and Coca Cola CCI Head of Public Policy Taylan Coban which called on him here.

The prime minister encouraged the Anadolu group for bringing investment in Pakistan and providing job opportunities to the people of Pakistan.

The prime minister is on a two-day official visit

to Turkiye to attend the swearing ceremony of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Fatimi and Pakistan Ambassador in Turkiye Dr Yousuf Junaid were present in the meeting.

Meanwhile, Chairman Dolsar Engineering Irfan Aker called on the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here on Saturday and discussed with him the progress of ongoing energy and construction sector projects in Pakistan.

Irfan Aker expressed keen interest to expand the

investment of Dolsar Engineering in the country's energy and construction sectors.

PM Shehbaz welcomed the Dolsar Engineering's intention and assured the government's full cooperation in this regard.

The prime minister is on a two-day official visit to Turkiye to attend the swearing in ceremony of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Fatimi and Pakistan Ambassador in Turkiye Dr Yousuf Junaid were present in the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) led by Mr. Zubair Motiwala in a meeting with Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, at FBR (Hqrs), to discuss the budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2023-24.

Cotton on more than 4.5 mln acre land cultivated in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Efforts of the Punjab government bore fruit under the leadership of Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi as cotton on approximately more than 4.5 million acre land had been cultivated after 10 years in the province.

The CM presided over a meeting at his office here on Saturday in which cotton sowing report was presented. It was told that cotton sowing target on 5 million acre land by 15th June would be achieved.

Naqvi expressed satisfaction over increase in the cotton under cultivation land and directed to take effective management to yield maximum cotton production. He directed to launch a vigorous crackdown for the eradication of fake agricultural medicines across the province and directed the Inspector

General of Police to oversee crackdown on fake pesticides and hold a meeting in this regard daily. It was principally decided to establish stalls and centres to ensure provision of quality agricultural medicines.

Mohsin Naqvi said that monitoring cells would be set up to oversee matters pertaining to cotton in three divisions.

A Command and Control Centre would be established in the office of Additional Secretary Agriculture (South Punjab), he added. He underscored that the provincial government would ensure fair price payment to the cotton cultivators in Punjab, saying that not only farmers would be prosperous with the increase of cotton under cultivation land but would save precious foreign exchange as well.

Govt paying special attention to agri sector: Qasuria

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperative Department Abdul Haleem Khan Qasuria has said the government was paying special attention to the agriculture sector.

Talking to media persons here at his residence, the minister said the modern techniques were being adopted for progress in agriculture sector.

The modern machinery has been delivered to Wana Agri-Farm to extract olive oil and modern drones have been brought for spraying in different areas.

Moreover, he said, the efforts were being made to promote gardening culture in the merged districts, adding, the development in the agriculture sector would help eliminating the menace of terrorism from the area.

The steps were being taken to increase the breed of Trout fish in the Indus river, adding, the people of Dera Ismail Khan would be provided the river-fish as the district has 120 kilometer long bank of river. Moreover, the steps were underway to end the illegal fishing in the river and keeping in view the shortage of watchers in the fisheries department new recruitment would also be made in the department.

The minister was of the view that the poor policies and corruption of PTI during its last two governmental tenures in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the province become near to default.

In such circumstances, no new schemes have been started in any sector but in-time completion of ongoing schemes was focused by the caretaker government so that the benefits could be provided to the people.



HYDERABAD: Labourers busy in packing mangoes in boxes before transporting to fruit markets in Tandojam.

HCSTSI President urges OGRA to review hike in gas prices

HYDERABAD (APP): President of the Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry (HCSTSI) Muhammad Farooq Shaikhani has urged the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) to review its decision of 50 percent hike in gas prices.

In a statement on Saturday, he said the industry in Pakistan was already facing problems due to the shortage of electricity and gas and the rising cost of production.

He said Pakistan's industrial production accounted for 4 percent of the GDP while the country's largest industry, the cotton textile production accounted for 66 percent of all exports and also provided employment to 40 percent of the country's workforce.

The HCSTSI president also expressed fear that the gas price hike would also hit the textile industry.

China's electronic manufacturing expands 1.8 pct

BEIJING (Xinhua/APP): China's electronic information manufacturing reported steady expansion in April, with the added value of major firms in the sector up 1.8 percent year on year, official data showed.

During the first four months of the year, the added value of major electronic information manufacturing companies edged down 0.4 percent year on year, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology. This decline narrowed from a 1.1-percent fall in the January-March period. During the January-April period, the fixed asset investment in the sector grew 14.2 percent year on year, 5.9 percentage points higher than that of all industries in the same period, the data showed.



ANKARA: A delegation of Anadolu Group comprising of Mr. Karim Yahi CEO Coca Cola CCI, Mr. Atilla Yerlikaya Coca Cola CCI Chief Strategy Office and Mr. Taylan Coban Coca Cola CCI Head of Public Policy call on the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Federal govt to provide relief to masses by reducing inflation: Murtaza Abbasi

ABBOTTABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi Saturday stated that the prosperity during the PML-N's past regime would soon return and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif would soon be among the people.

He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony which was organized by the people of Tehsil Lower Tanawal in his honor after getting approval of Shirwan Interchange, provision of Sui Gas and establishment

of Nadra Office along with several other development projects worth billions of rupees. The minister further stated that the federal government of PDM would provide relief to the people by reducing inflation in this budget. There is no way to hinder the progress of work done with good intentions, he added. Murtaza Javed Abbasi said that PML-N was obliged by the masses of Hazara division and we were doing our best in order to fulfill our promises by starting mega projects including motorways electricity and Sui gas

projects in the most difficult circumstances.

He said that Mian Nawaz Sharif never stepped back from the development of Hazara, if there were any shortcomings, they belonged to those who only sought personal gains and we had always made efforts with good intentions to uplift the people of Hazara with pride. He said that in the history of Pakistan, no government had ever provided free wheat flour to the people of the country.

Economic progress vital for country's development: Baligh

RAWALPINDI (APP): Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here on Saturday said that economic progress was vital for the development of the country and increase in exports would improve the economy.

He expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of the third Build Expo 2023, organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI).

The Governor said that the increase in the tax rate was inevitable for the development of the

country and added that only those nations could excel who do hard work and face the challenges.

He said that the RCCI has an important role in the development of the economy and was trying its best to steer the wheel of trade.

Balighur Rahman said that relief would be given to the people in the upcoming budget.

He said that May 9 was a day of national shame and it was less to condemn it, adding that those involved in the May 9 incident were being arrested and would be dealt in accordance with the law and the constitution.



ISLAMABAD: A worker preparing room coolers for costumers at his workplace.

ICCI tourism summit to promote tourism, trade activities in GB: Raja

ISLAMABAD (INP): Gilgit-Baltistan Minister for Tourism, Raja Nasir has said that the tourism summit scheduled next month organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce is a great development for the entire region as it will not only promote tourism in the region but also provide an opportunity for local products to access the international market.

He said that the Gilgit Baltistan government will participate as a host in this summit, will fully cooperate with Islamabad Chamber in all other arrangements including security, best arrangements

will be made for the guests coming to the summit.

These views were expressed by Raja Nasir during his meeting with President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on the occasion of his visit to Islamabad Chamber on Saturday. On this occasion, the arrangements for ICCI Tourism Summit 2023 scheduled next month organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce were reviewed.

During the meeting, the GB Tourism Minister announced the appointment of Raja Zaem as the focal person for the summit by the provincial government.

District admin reduces roti price by Rs 5

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Abbottabad Khalid Iqbal on Saturday chaired a meeting regarding the reduction of the price of 120-gram tandoori rotii in the district.

The meeting was attended by the members of the Nanbai Association and other stakeholders. After detailed deliberation, the rate of roti (flatbread) was decreased to Rs. 20 from Rs. 25, as the tandoor owners were previously purchasing 80 kg wheat flour bags at a price of Rs. 15,000, whereas now the price had been reduced to Rs. 12,000.

Addressing the meeting, the DC mentioned that the benefit of reduced flour prices should be passed on to the public. He directed all magistrates and the District Food Controller to closely monitor tandoors in the market and take strict action against those selling roti at higher than the prescribed rate and below the weight of 120 grams. Khalid Iqbal also urged the citizens to immediately inform the district administration and the District Food Controller if they found any tandoor owner violating the prescribed rate and weight.

Ishaq Dar assures government's support to business sector

ISLAMABAD (INP): Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday said that the government would fully support the business sector by providing the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget that is both business- and people-friendly.

He said this while meeting with delegations from the Pakistan Business Council (PBC) and the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) to discuss the budgetary proposals for 2023-24, said a press release.

Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr Aisha Ghous Pasha, SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Chairman RRC Ashfaq Yousif Tola, Governor SBP, Chairman FBR, and senior officers from Finance Division and FBR attended the meeting.

The delegations from PBC and OICCI thanked the finance minister for inviting budgetary recommendations from the business community,

including all the leading private-sector businesses and conglomerates and multinationals as well.

They presented particular financial solutions and recommendations to the finance minister to be taken into account in the upcoming Federal Budget.

He further assured FM Dar that the commerce sector would support the government to enhance the economic and commercial activities in Pakistan.

The finance minister highly valued the delegations' budgetary recommendations from both delegations. He also appreciated the prominent role of PBC as an advocacy forum to improve the general business environment of the country. Senator Dar also praised the role of OICCI in successfully promoting foreign investments in Pakistan, thereby playing a major role in the growth of economy in the country.

He also reaffirmed the government's willingness to address the issues being faced by the business community and investors.



MULTAN: Labourer busy in packing tomatoes in wooden boxes at Vegetable Market.

LCCI praises govt's decisions to stimulate trade, stabilise economy

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Saturday appreciated the government's recent policy decisions aimed at stimulating trade, stabilising economy and reducing business costs.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry and Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt told the media here that they supported two significant circulars, recently issued by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the Ministry of Commerce.

In a remarkable move to enhance trade relations, reduce the cost of doing business, and stabilise the economy, the government has implemented a barter trade mechanism with Afghanistan, Iran, and Russia that permits state-owned enterprises and private sector entities to engage in the import and export of goods, including petroleum and natural gas.

The LCCI office-bearers said this includes

the import of oil and energy from Russia, which not only contributes to reducing the cost of petroleum products but also strengthens energy security. They said under the barter trade arrangement, the principle of "import followed by export" would be followed, ensuring that exports match the value of imported goods. This innovative trade approach opens up opportunities for Pakistani businesses to export 26 identified goods including milk, eggs, cereal, meat and fish products, fruit and vegetables, rice, salt, pharmaceutical products, leather apparel, footwear, steel, and sports goods to Afghanistan, Iran, and Russia. Simultaneously, Pakistan can import a range of products, including fruits, vegetables, spices, minerals, coal, rubber items, cotton, pulses, wheat, petroleum oils, fertilizers, plastic and rubber articles, metals, chemicals, and textile machinery from these countries, they said.



RAWALPINDI: Governor Punjab Baligh-Ur-Rehman cuts the ribbon along with others to inaugurate Property Expo under the banner of Chamber of Commerce (RCCI), in City.

PBF stresses essential changes in taxation system to boost economy

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan's tax assessment system needs essential changes to prompt development of the national economy. Fiscal policy and tax administration are crucial for businesses in the formal sector to compete on an equal footing with those in the informal sector.

These views were expressed by Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) Additional Secretary General Dr Urwa Elahi while talking to APP here on Saturday. She said that the capability and capacity of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to implement policies and the

political will to pursue those outside the tax net were required for these reforms.

She said any action taken in a hurry for instant tax revenue would affect the profitability of formal sector businesses as well as the tax collection system. "Taxes ought to be straightforward, foreseeable, and in favour of business expansion and the formalisation of economy."

It should be the goal to increase tax revenues by expanding the tax base and improving the profitability of current taxpayers. Currently, the sector that accounts for 20

per cent of GDP contributes a disproportionate 56 per cent of taxes. More jobs should be created, value-added exports should rise, and sensible import substitution should be encouraged. Taxes should be looked at in relation to manufacturing and commercial importers, as well as corporates and other types of business structures like Association of Persons," she elaborated.

Dr Urwa asserted that corporations, particularly those which were listed and adhered to a higher standard of governance and

accountability, their owners and shareholders should not be penalised. According to the PBF office-bearer, the wholesale, retail, and real estate sectors had the potential to bring in Rs747 billion in tax revenue.

She explained that by raising the initial investment required to cover the tax that must be paid in early loss years, minimum tax based on turnover acts as a barrier to new players' entry. Because this is a simpler option than assessing taxable profits, FBR's reliance on minimum, advance, and withholding taxes has increased

significantly. It is necessary to gradually phase out this reliance.

Imposing a base turnover charge on SEZ (Special Economic Zone) undertakings and others in their expense occasion periods nullifies the point of the duty occasion.

To check for imports which were under-invoiced, electronic data exchange should be implemented with key trading partners. Pakistan's under-invoicing of imports from China, Singapore, and the United Kingdom, and Germany, according to the Pakistan Business Council, results in annual losses of up to Rs 500 billion.

US defence chief tells China talks essential to avoid crisis

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: United States Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said on Saturday he was deeply concerned by China's unwillingness to engage on military crisis management, warning that talks are key to avoiding conflict. The relationship between the United States and China is at its lowest point in decades, as they remain deeply divided over everything from the sovereignty of Taiwan to espionage and territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

engage more seriously on better mechanisms for crisis management between our two militaries," Austin told the meeting in Singapore. "The more that we talk, the more that we can avoid the misunderstandings and miscalculations that could lead to crisis or conflict." China's Minister of National Defence Li Shangfu had this week declined an invitation to meet Austin at the security summit. Li, a general who has been sanctioned by the US, delivers his own speech on Sunday.

cancelled a visit to China in February after a suspected Chinese spy balloon was tracked flying across the United States. Liu Pengyu, spokesperson at the Chinese embassy in Washington, said on Friday in an emailed statement that communication between China and the US was conducive to a greater mutual understanding. "However, now the US says it wants to speak to the Chinese side while seeking to suppress China through all possible means and continue imposing sanctions on Chinese officials, institutions and companies," the statement said. China will have bilateral talks with defence chiefs from a dozen countries at the summit, Lieutenant General He Lei, former vice president of the Academy of Military Sciences, said in comments published by state-backed Chinese newspaper the Global Times on Saturday.



China's Defense Minister Li Shangfu and U.S. Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin together with others defense leaders attend the ministerial roundtable session during the 20th International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Shangri-La Dialogue, Asia's annual defense and security forum in Singapore.

EU's top diplomat discusses Ukraine's ammunition needs with South Korea

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: The European Union's top diplomat, Josep Borrell, said he met South Korea's defence minister on Saturday to discuss Ukraine's needs for ammunition.

Shared alarm at continued DPRK provocations and discussed Ukraine's needs for ammunition," Borrell said in a tweet. A U.S. ally and major producer of artillery ammunition, South Korea had so far ruled out sending lethal aid to Ukraine, citing business ties with Russia and Moscow's influence over North Korea, despite mounting pressure from Washington and Europe to supply weapons.

Reuters in April, signalled the prospect of a change, saying it might be difficult for Seoul to adhere to only providing humanitarian and financial support if Ukraine faced a large-scale attack on civilians or a "situation the international community cannot condone." Hundreds of thousands of South Korean artillery rounds are on their way to Ukraine via the United States, after Seoul's initial resistance toward arming Ukraine, the Wall Street Journal reported last month.



EU's top diplomat discusses Ukraine's ammunition needs with South Korea.

Prigozhin says Kremlin factions are destroying the Russian state

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin said on Saturday that Kremlin factions were destroying the state by trying to sow discord between him and Chechen fighters. That row had now been settled but fighting in the Kremlin had opened a Pandora's Box of rifts, he said.

Prigozhin, a 62-year-old former restaurateur who founded the Wagner mercenary group and is a member of President Vladimir Putin's wider circle, has gained widespread notoriety during the 15-month war in Ukraine. His troops have spearheaded battles in the city of Bakhmut and elsewhere, but he has also rowed with the Russian military over tactics, logistical support and other issues. Prigozhin said a dispute between him and Chechen forces who are also fighting alongside the Russian army in Ukraine had been resolved. But he laid the blame for the discord on unidentified Kremlin factions - which he calls "Kremlin towers".

Tunisian president suggests taxing rich as solution to fiscal problem

Monitoring Desk
TUNIS: Tunisian President Kais Saied on Saturday suggested raising taxes on richer people could be an alternative to socially painful reforms as a means to secure an international financial rescue package. Tunisia's government negotiated a preliminary agreement in October with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a \$1.9 billion loan in return for cuts to subsidies and the public sector wage bill and reform of state-owned companies. Credit ratings agencies have warned that Tunisia faces a possible default on sovereign debt without the loan, which is also expected to unlock more bilateral financing. The IMF has said Tunisia needs to put its finances on a more sustainable trajectory and has previously voiced concern at the level of its public wage bill.

Iran says to form naval alliance with Gulf states to ensure regional stability

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran's navy commander said his country and Saudi Arabia, as well as three other Gulf states, plan to form a naval alliance that will also include India and Pakistan, Iranian media reported on Saturday. "The countries of the region have today realized that only cooperation with each other brings security to the area," Iran's navy commander Shahram Irani was quoted as saying. He did not elaborate on the shape of the alliance that he said would be formed soon. Iran has recently been trying to mend its strained

ties with several Gulf Arab states. In March, Saudi Arabia and Iran ended seven years of hostility under a China-mediated deal, stressing the need for regional stability and economic cooperation. They had also agreed to activate a security cooperation agreement signed in 2001, as well as another earlier accord on trade, economy and investment. Pakistan had said it "warmly welcomes" the normalisation of diplomatic relations and had commended China's role in "coordinating this historic agreement".

Berlin calls on China to stop enlisting former German military pilots

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius on Saturday called on China to stop enlisting former German military pilots for the training of its own forces. "I have made it clear that I expect this policy to be stopped immediately," German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius told reporters after meeting his Chinese counterpart at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Asia's most important security conference.

UN calls for immediate cease-fire in Sudan and path to renewed democratic transition talks

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The U.N. Security Council called Friday for an immediate cease-fire in Sudan to be followed by a permanent halt to hostilities and fresh efforts to reach a lasting democratic political settlement in the conflict-ravaged country. The U.N.'s most powerful body strongly condemned all attacks on civilians since fighting between rival generals vying for power broke out in mid-April and called for "rapid, safe and unhindered access throughout Sudan" to help millions in need. The fighting has killed at least 866 civilians and wounded thousands more, according to the Sudanese Doctors' Syndicate which tracks civilian casualties. And more than 1.3 million people have fled their homes to try to escape the violence, with over a million still in the country and 320,000 in neighboring Egypt, South Sudan, Chad, Ethiopia, and the Central

African Republic, according to the U.N.'s International Organization for Migration. The press statement from the council was issued before the council voted unanimously to extend the U.N. political mission in Sudan for six months, instead of a year, to give members time to see what happens on the ground and consider its future. United Arab Emirates Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh, the current council president, called it "very positive" that all members not only voted to extend the U.N. mission but united behind a "very substantive" statement "that lays out the council's expectations of what should happen next in Sudan - and that is clearly an immediate and permanent cease-fire arrangement." The Security Council underlined the need "for strengthened international coordination and continued collaboration" and reaffirmed "their firm support for African leadership."

US Air Force denies conducting 'rogue' AI drone experiment

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: THE US Air Force has denied conducting an experiment in which an AI-enabled drone attacked its operator after considering them a hindrance in completing the mission, BBC has reported. The clarification has come after a presentation by a US Air Force colonel at the Royal Aeronautical Society's conference in May went viral. "The Department of the Air Force has not conducted any such AI-drone simulations and remains committed to the ethical and responsible use of AI technology," Ann Stefanek, an Air Force spokesperson, said in a statement. Col Tucker Hamilton, chief of AI test and operations in the US Air Force, described a simulation exercise in which the AI drone was tasked with a suppression of enemy air defence or SEAD mission to identify and destroy surface-to-air missile sites.



Tunisian president suggests taxing rich as solution to fiscal problem.

Sri Lanka's economic recovery remains challenging, says IMF

Monitoring Desk
COLOMBO: Cash-strapped Sri Lanka's economy showed "tentative signs of improvement" but recovery remains challenging and Colombo must pursue painful reforms, the IMF said on Friday. The International Monetary Fund's Deputy Managing Director Kenji Okamura said the country was emerging from its unprecedented crisis thanks to reforms including the doubling of taxes, spending cuts and the scrapping of subsidies. A currency crisis since late 2021 led to severe

shortages of food, fuel and medicines and triggered months of protests that led to the toppling of former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa in July. "The current economic crisis has its genesis in policy missteps aggravated by external shocks," Okamura said in a statement Friday, after meeting President Ranil Wickremesinghe and other leaders on Wednesday. "We discussed the importance of fiscal measures, in particular revenue measures, for a return to macroeconomic stability."

Kremlin bans Western journalists from Russia's 'Davos'

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: The Kremlin said on Saturday that journalists from "unfriendly countries" would not be allowed into the St Petersburg International Economic Forum, which President Vladimir Putin has used to showcase the Russian economy to global investors. The forum in St Petersburg, the former imperial capital built by Tsar Peter the Great 300 years ago as a "window" to Europe, has been held since 1997 and is cast by many officials as Russia's answer to the World Economic Forum held in Davos. Western journalists have never before been banned from the forum in such a blanket way.

Death toll climbs in Senegal after two days of violent protests

Monitoring Desk
DAKAR: The death toll from anti-government protests in Senegal has risen to 15, police said on Saturday, as authorities in the capital Dakar began to clear up debris and secure looted shops after two days of unrest. Most of Dakar appeared quiet on Saturday, but tensions remained high after violent protests in several cities killed six people on Friday, taking the total number killed this week to 15, a police spokesperson said by phone. The toll has now surpassed the number killed in multi-day protests in 2021, when supporters of opposition leader Ousmane

Sonko first took to the streets over a rape trial they say is politically motivated. Sonko denies any wrongdoing. Sonko's sentencing on Thursday, which could prevent him from running in the February presidential election, sparked the latest turmoil as protesters heeded his call to stand up to the authorities. Mobs smashed windows and looted at least two gas station shops overnight in Dakar's Ouakam and Ngor districts, while a supermarket in densely populated Grand Yoff was torched and ransacked. Rubble littered the roads that were scarred black by fires.

Evacuation alert in Japan after heavy rain

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Hundreds of thousands of residents in Japan were urged to evacuate on Friday as tropical storm Mawar brought heavy rain, causing several rivers to overflow and leaving two people missing. A non-compulsory evacuation order was issued to more than 410,000 people in Toyota in the central Aichi region, as well as in other parts of western and central Japan. The highest evacuation alert - which urges residents to immediately secure safety - was issued to some 130,000 people in Toyohashi, also in Aichi, according to public broadcaster NHK.

Japan's growing military strength not a threat, minister says

Monitoring Desk
SINGAPORE: Japan will not use its growing military strength to threaten other countries, its defence minister said on Saturday, while affirming its aim to prioritise diplomatic efforts and dialogue to avert misunderstandings. "We do not seek rivalry or conflict," Yasukazu Hamada said in a speech at the Shangri-La Dialogue, a security conference in Singapore with 600 delegates from 49 countries. Japanese aggression before and during World War Two is still a cause of tension in relations with some countries, especially South Korea and China. The United States in 1947 imposed a constitution on Japan that renounces war but in recent

years governments have been boosting defence capacities and in December, Japan unveiled its biggest military build-up since the war. Hamada said Japan did not aim to establish military power to pose a threat to others. The defence ministry would pursue diplomatic efforts first, he said. "As a nation that generally desire peace, we aim to enhance our own and original deterrent capabilities and promote the resolution to differences in interest and opinions through dialogue," he said. Under a five-year defence, which will double defence spending, Japan will acquire longer-range missiles that it hopes will deter China from resorting to force in East Asia.

Senior UAE official defends Big Oil's role at UN climate summit that Gulf nation will host

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: A senior United Arab Emirates official says the Gulf nation wants the U.N. climate summit it's hosting later this year to deliver "game-changing results" for international efforts to curb global warming, but doing so will require having the fossil fuel industry at the table. Environmental campaigners have slammed the presence of oil and gas lobbyists at previous rounds of talks, warning that their interests are opposed to the goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions - caused to a large degree by the burning of fossil fuels. Last month scores of U.S. and European lawmakers called for the summit's designated chair, Sultan al-Jaber, to be replaced over his links to the state-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Company. The issue complicates already delicate negotiations ahead of the Nov. 30-Dec. 12 meeting in Dubai, known as COP28. Preliminary talks starting next week in Bonn, Germany, will show whether the incoming UAE presidency can overcome skepticism among parties and civil society groups about its ability to shepherd almost 200 nations toward a landmark deal. "Our leadership have been very clear to me and our team and our president that they don't want just another COP that's incremental," said Majid al-Suwaidi, who as director-general of the summit plays a key role in the diplomatic negotiations. "They want a COP that is going to deliver real, big, game-changing results because they see, just like all of us, that we're not on track to achieve the goals of Paris." Governments agreed eight years ago in the French capital to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) - ideally no more than 1.5C (2.7F). With average global temperatures already about 1.2C (2.2F) above pre-industrial levels, experts say the window to meet the more ambitious target is closing fast and even the less stringent goal would be missed if emissions aren't slashed sharply soon.

Delegates working to end global plastics pollution agree to craft a draft treaty

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: Global negotiators have agreed to craft a draft treaty to end plastic pollution, a preliminary but crucial step toward tackling one of the most lasting sources of human waste. Environmental advocates cautiously welcomed the outcome of five days of U.N. talks in Paris on plastic pollution, but expressed concern that the petroleum industry and some governments would water down the eventual treaty. Most plastic is made from fossil fuels. Delegates at the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for Plastics agreed Friday evening to produce an initial draft before their next meeting in Kenya in November, participants said. The committee is charged with developing the first international, legally binding

treaty on plastic pollution, on land and at sea. A coalition of "high-ambition" governments led by Norway and Rwanda, along with environmental groups, want to end plastic pollution altogether by 2040 by slashing production and limiting some chemicals used in making plastics. "Projections suggest that a child born today will see plastic production double by the time they turn 18, but we know that the consequences of increasing plastic production will be disastrous for our health, the planet, and the climate," said Dr. Tadesse Amera, who led the International Pollutants Elimination Network's delegation at the talks. "The stakes are high, but we are optimistic by the growing awareness among delegates of the need for global controls."

DeSantis chooses his words carefully in escalating war with Trump

Monitoring Desk
GILBERT: In the first full week of his 2024 presidential campaign, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis worked hard to define himself as a candidate to voters - and just as hard to define the man who stands in his way for the Republican nomination. As he toured 12 cities in three early-voting states, DeSantis, 44, made his case that he is the more conservative and consistent alternative to Donald Trump, the former president and current front runner in the race. Trump fired back in a sudden escalation of the war of words between the two men that not only heightened tensions in the Republican race but also provided insight into DeSantis' initial strategy. Touring Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina this week, the governor continued to cast himself as an unapologetic warrior on issues such as abortion, immigration, government spending, crime and LGBTQ rights. But for the first time, DeSantis began to draw

sharp contrasts with Trump, painting the former president as a politician who had lost his way and who became a creature of the government he was supposed to transform by compromising too readily. Trump's camp has tried to do the same to DeSantis, calling him a "swamp puppet" and playing down his accomplishments as Florida's governor. In a party where being a political outsider still holds broad appeal, neither wants to be tagged as the candidate of the establishment. "That's why they're doing it," said Doug Kochel, a veteran Republican presidential campaign operative in Iowa. "It's a dirty word." DeSantis' tour of the three states that will hold the first nominating contests of the Republican primary next year was aimed at quickly cementing himself as Trump's largest threat. He largely played to small but packed venues and supportive crowds, even if several voters told Reuters they had not decided on who to vote for.



Tropical Storm Mawar brings heavy rains, landslide risk to Japan.

President directs NBP to return Rs 87,000 to banking fraud victim

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has directed the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) to return a sum of Rs 87,000 to an illiterate account holder who was defrauded out of her money by the bank staff.

Taking advantage of her illiteracy, the banking staff used to withdraw more cash from her account and used to handover only Rs 3-5 thousand to her while keeping the rest of the with-

drawn cash. The president also directed NBP to take action against the employee who exploited an illiterate woman and be on guard against such fraudsters. He gave these directions while rejecting a representation filed by NBP against the orders of the Banking Mohtasib which directed the bank to pay the complainant a sum of Rs 87,000, said a press release issued by the President House on Saturday.

As per details, Sher Muhammad (the complainant) had filed a complaint before the Banking Mohtasib (BM) that he was maintaining a joint account with his sister, Manzoor Fatima, who was illiterate and used to go to the bank to withdraw cash. The staff took advantage of her illiteracy and deprived her of her money. According to the complainant, there was a balance of about Rs 200,000 in their

account which was reduced to only Rs 11,000 due to fraud. Feeling aggrieved, the complainant approached BM, which passed the order in his favour. The Bank, then, filed a representation with the President.

The president rejected the representation by observing that the bank had filed the representation beyond the statutory period of 30 days from the date of the original order and was hit by limitation.



ANKARA: Chairman Pak Yatirim and President DEIK Neil Olpak calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.



A group photo of Balochistan Levies Force on the eve of Passing Out Parade of 8th batch of Levies Recruit held at FC Headquarter Maiwand Rifles Kohlu.

Italy, Pakistan bond strengthening with time, says Envoy Ferrarese

ISLAMABAD (APP): The bond of friendship between Italy and Pakistan is growing stronger and both countries have agreed to broaden and diversify bilateral relations, particularly in the field of economic cooperation. These views were expressed by Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese while addressing a reception marking the 'National Day of the Italian Republic' at a local hotel on Friday. Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif was the chief guest on the occasion while Governor of Punjab Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman and Deputy Speaker of the National

Assembly (NA) Zahid Akram Durani were among the noted guests of honour. Senators, members of the NA, diplomatic corps, the business community and civil society also attended the event in good numbers and greeted Mr and Mrs Andreas Ferrarese on the auspicious occasion.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif in his brief address while congratulating the ambassador of Italy said both Pakistan and Italy enjoyed excellent relations. "This relationship is poised to grow more in the coming days," he added.

Italy is an important country in the European Union (EU) and has always

supported Pakistan be it GSP plus or any other issue." The minister said Pakistan duly recognized the Italian goodwill gesture and sought to further expand these relations.

While welcoming the guests Ambassador Andreas noted the year 2023 also marked the 77th anniversary of the Italian Republic Day as well as the 75th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Italy and Pakistan. "Over the years, Italy has emerged as one of the top destinations in Europe for tourists, students, and employment seekers," said the ambassador who attributed this to the highest social standards in Italy.

Majority of PTI Ex-MNAs make contact with NA speaker to return to house

ISLAMABAD (Online): Majority of PTI members of National Assembly (NA) who have resigned from their seats are eager to return to the house while announcing to part ways with Imran Khan.

These members have sought cooperation from NA speaker. Speaker too has become active.

According to NA sources several NA members of PTI have extended mercy appeal to NA speaker.

In the message in the name of speaker they have said they are ready to go alongside with them after returning to house.

The court has de-

clared the resignations as non accepted. Speaker should cooperate. These members have assured that they will not create any hindrance on the way to legislation.

Speaker has sought opinion again from legal experts of NA and ministry of law on the resignations.

Sources said Riaz Fatiana is leading the group of PTI MNAs who have resigned from seats.

They have written a letter to NA speaker for return to NA.

Speaker office has made confirmation of contacts made by majority of the members who have resigned with NA speaker.



QUETTA: A large number of vehicles stuck in traffic jam due to negligence of traffic police staffs and illegal parking, need attention of concerned department during a hot & shiny day of summer season.

DC Hub for enhance municipal services in city

Independent Report
HUB: In a significant effort to improve municipal services in the industrial city of Hub, a meeting was held under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Zahid Khan.

The session focused on devising an immediate plan to enhance municipal services, including the provision of essential machinery and resources required after the establishment of Hub district.

The meeting also addressed various issues related to the cleanliness and maintenance of the city's major roads, installation of street lights, sewerage system repairs in residential areas of Hub Town, and the installation of new garbage bins using heavy machinery to ensure regular waste disposal.

The meeting aimed to ensure the environmental beauty of the industrial district of Hub, and therefore, the District Forest Officer was directed to initiate a tree plantation campaign in

collaboration with the Hub Municipal Corporation.

Officials from relevant departments were instructed to promptly implement the decisions made during the meeting and submit a performance report with accompanying images to the Deputy Commissioner's office in Hub by June 5.

This report will be further presented to the Balochistan High Court as a testament to the administrative efforts undertaken in the district.

Present at the meeting were SSP Hub Muhammad Murad, DSP Traffic Chairman, Chief Officer of the Municipal Corporation, Divisional Director Local Government, Assistant Commissioner, District Forest Officer Hub, and other officials.

In his address, Deputy Commissioner Zahid Khan reiterated the need for all officers to adhere to government directives and promptly execute their assigned duties.

Khar to visit Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Belgium from Jun 5-13

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar would undertake official visits to Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Belgium from June 05 to 13.

She will hold meetings at the Ministerial level to discuss political engagement and cooperation in development, trade and climate change. She would also meet lawmakers and local entrepreneurs, said a Foreign Office spokesperson on Saturday.

In Belgium, Hina would hold meetings with Members of the European Parliament and senior officials of the European Commission.

In Sweden, the Minister of State would attend the annual meeting of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) as a keynote speaker. She would also present Pakistan's perspective on issues of regional and global importance and interact with leading European decision-makers, experts, think tanks and influencers for debates on foreign policy priorities and challenges, the spokesperson added.

Shujaat's son asks Pervez to launch his own party

LAHORE (INP): Shafay Hussain, son of PML-Q chief Ch Shujaat Hussain, on Saturday said PTI President Parvez Elahi should form his own party after quitting the PTI.

Talking to journalists outside the Corps Commander House along with Chaudhry Sarwar, Hussain said Mr Elahi would be welcomed if he wanted to visit the family but politically, it would be better for him to form his own party. He also condemned the attacks on Jinnah House following the arrest of PTI chief in the Al-Qadir Trust case saying, "The miscreants burnt everything at the House".

Mr Sarwar said when he was in the US, he tried to apprise the members of the US Congress that Pakistan had alone defeated terrorism—the fight US fought with trillions of dollars. "The entire country stands with Pakistan Army and we must unite together," he added.

PM to preside over two important meetings on his return from Turkey

ISLAMABAD (Online): Two important meetings will be held under Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on his return from Turkey.

Sources told that the meeting of National Security Council will be held in next week under PM Shehbaz Sharif.

The overall law and order situation and post 9th May events situation will come under discussion in meeting.

Important decisions are also expected in National Security Council meeting.

Some people are fond of country to default but it will not happen: Dar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Finance Minister (FM) Ishaq Dar has said some people are fond of the country to go default but it will not happen so.

"Those giving dates for country to default should be ashamed of it. The economy cannot be rectified by switching on or off. Long term policy will have to be pursued for the betterment of country, he said this while talking to media men here Saturday.

He held the national economy is under stress. All the problems cannot be resolved overnight. But we are hoping for betterment. In 2013, first year was difficult for us. Several pledges were not delivered in the past, he remarked.

He went on to say it

The sources further told that PM Shehbaz Sharif has decided to call Consultative meeting of allies next week prior to budget.

Moulana Fazal-ur-Rehman will also call meeting after consultation with Shehbaz Sharif.

PM Shehbaz Sharif has also decided to make consultation with former president Asif Ali Zardari and PPP on budget.

In Consultative meeting allies will be taken into confidence on matters including relief to people in next budget.

Good news will come in coming days: Tanvir

LAHORE (Online): Former AJK Prime Minister (PM) Sardar Tanvir Ilyas and Jahangir Tareen have decided to go side by side keeping in view the future electoral strategy.

The two leaders have said they have agreed in their meeting to go alongside each other. Good news will come in the coming days.

Meeting took place between Jahangir Tareen and former AJK PM Sardar Tanvir Ilyas. The two leaders exchanged views on future political situation.

Later talking to media men Sardar Tanvir Ilyas said Jahangir Tareen and we all will go hand in hand.

Zardari remarks case: Court accepts exemption plea of Sheikh

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and Sessions Court Islamabad has accepted exemption from attendance plea of former federal minister Sheikh Rashid in Zardari remarks case.

Sardar Shahbaz counsel for the accused argued for one day (Saturday) was filed in the court on behalf of Sheikh Rashid.

The indictment proceedings against Sheikh Rashid was postponed and hearing was adjourned till July 10.

Sardar Shahbaz counsel for the accused argued Police is active to arrest Sheikh Rashid.



ISLAMABAD: President Anjuman Tajiran Balochistan Rahim Agha and Chaudhry Muhammad Kashif meeting with Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haq

CMIT monitors recruitment process in education department

QUETTA (APP): The Chief Minister Inspection Team has monitoring the recruitment process to ensure transparency and meritocracy in the appointment of teachers in the province.

On the direction of the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary, the team has visiting the recruitment centres to observe the on-going recruitment process and ensure that no compromise would be made on the appointment of the right person.

While, deputy commissioners has also providing facilities and monitoring the recruitment process to address the issue of violation of merit in the province, an official of Balochistan government said.

The job seekers in Balochistan expressed concern over the irregularities found in the recent test for the vacant posts of the Education Department.

Balochistan continues to face a dearth of quality human resources as the

provincial government is indifferent to filling vacant posts.

Iqbal Nasar urged the provincial government to ensure transparency in the recruitment process and provide jobs on merit to the unemployed youth as promised by the provincial government.

Expressing his reservations over the recruitment procedure, he said the recruitment should be made through well-reputed hiring firms aimed to follow meritocracy and bring transparency address the issue.

Nasar said that it appeared that the provincial government had placed its scheme for providing employment on the back burner. He said the government should work hard to fill the vacuum and provide jobs on merit to address the issue of unemployment in the province.

"It would further create violence in the society if young people are denied right and just opportunities of jobs", he said.



QUETTA: Tehreek Jawan Pakistan Balochistan President, Sahar Gul Khaliqi along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club.

Al-Qadir trust case: NAB summons Bushra Bibi as witness

ISLAMABAD (Online): NAB has summoned Bushra Bibi as witness in Al-Qadir trust case against Imran Khan.

An important headway has come to open with reference to A I-Qadir trust case as NAB has decided to summon Bushra Bibi as witness.

NAB has summoned Bushra Bibi on June 07 as witness. Her statement will be recorded as witness on June 07.

Through notice different documents have also been sought from Bushra Bibi. Bushra Bibi has been directed to appear before NAB Rawalpindi on June 07.

CTD arrests six alleged terrorists

LAHORE (APP): The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab on Saturday arrested six terrorists allegedly associated with the banned outfits during operations in different areas of Punjab. According to the spokesman, the CTD Punjab conducted 39 intelligence based operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism, in which 40 suspected persons were interrogated and six terrorists allegedly affiliated with the banned outfit were arrested with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials. Among the arrested terrorists were Shoaib Rafiq, a member of the banned organization Hizbe-Tahrir, Muhammad Baqir Mehndi, a member of Sepah Muhammad Pakistan, two members of the Baloch Liberation Army.

Hasnain parts ways with BAP, joins PPP

Independent Report
QUETTA: The provincial leader of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and former Coordinator of the Chief Minister

Minister Balochistan, Syed Hasnain Hashmi has parted ways with the party and announced to join the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) here on Saturday.

Hasnain Hashmi, the son of founding leader of

sion, Changez Khan Jamali welcomed Hasnain Hashmi in the party and said that his father, Saeed Ahmed Hashmi is a senior politician and he has old connection with him.

He said that it is an important day for the province when a young leader from a big political family has joined PPP.

Hasnain Hashmi on the occasion said that he has



BAP and Senator Saeed Ahmed Hashmi, made the announcement in presence of provincial President of PPP, Changez Khan Jamali and General Secretary, Rozi Khan Kakar. Speaking on the occasion, Changez Khan Jamali welcomed Hasnain Hashmi in the party and said that his father, Saeed Ahmed Hashmi is a senior politician and he has old connection with him. He said that it is an important day for the province when a young leader from a big political family has joined PPP. Hasnain Hashmi on the occasion said that he has

Govt. approves proposal of making salaries of CTD employees double

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has approved the proposal to make the salaries of employees of Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) double.

According to the sources, the provincial government approved the summary for increasing the salaries of CTD employees thanks to the efforts made by Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and DIG CTD Aitezaz Ahmed Goraya. A proposal has been prepared in this regard and a summary sent

to the provincial government in this regard.

The initiative has been taken in view of the excellent performance of CTD for establishing peace and eliminating terrorism in the province. However, a formal notification is yet to be issued in this regard, the sources informed.

Needless to mention here is that the CTD officials were already getting additional allowances in other provinces.

However, the CTD employees in Balochistan were deprived of the additional incentives.

Quetta lawyers' group join Tehreek-e-Jawan Pakistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: A group of lawyers from Quetta has joined the Tehreek-e-Jawan Pakistan here on Saturday.

The lawyers including Gulab Khan Advocate, Sardar Abdul Manan Advocate, Fahim Advocate, Amin Advocate, Abdul Rehman Advocate and others announced to join Tehreek-e-Jawan while addressing a press conference at Quetta Press Club on Saturday.

Also present on the occasion was the leader of Tehreek-e-Jawan, Sardar

Seher Gul Khilji and others.

Speaking on the occasion, Seher Gul Khilji welcomed the group of lawyers in Tehreek and said that a large number of people are joining it after the May 9 incidents.

He said that we welcome those joining Tehreek. He said that Pakistan is our country and we would make wholehearted struggle for its stability, defence and development together.

He said that the youth have understood after May 9 that who is the country.



QUETTA: Members of Government Teachers Association are holding protest demonstration for upgradation and acceptance of their demands, held at Manan Chowk.

AC conducts raid on factory producing substandard items

Independent Report
QUETTA: Following the directives of Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Assistant Commissioner City, Atta-ul-Munim, carried out a raid on a residential area located on Sirki Road, where an illegal factory producing counterfeit creams, lotions, vaseline, and other items for children was operating.

During the operation, one individual was arrested, and the factory was sealed. Fake creams, lotions, and other items were confiscated as evidence.

Assistant Commissioner Quetta, Atta-ul-Munim, stated that strict legal action would be taken against those involved in

the production and distribution of substandard, counterfeit, and harmful products in the city. He emphasized that those who manufacture fake items should not expect any leniency as they are jeopardizing the health, especially the well-being of children, for their own minimal profits.

On the other hand, the establishment of factories and industrial units in residential areas has caused severe difficulties for the residents.

The presence of hazardous chemicals and waste has led to pollution and foul odors in the residential areas, posing health risks.