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MAKKAH: The Khateeb of Arafah Sheikh Dr Yousuf bin Muhammad bin Saeed delivering Hajj sermon at Arafat

Sheikh Yusuf calls for Ummah's unity & cohesion in Hajj Sermon

Imam highlights the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH); Urges Muslims to observe Taqwa by obeying Allah's commands; Islam provides preventative measures to counter destructive intentions; Chanting "Labbaik Allahumma Labbaik, around three million Hujjaj performed Rukn-e-Azam of Hajj Waqoof-e-Arafah

ARAFAT (MAKKAH) (APP): Sheikh Yusuf bin Muhammad bin Saeed on Tuesday made a clarion call for the Muslim Ummah to forge unity and cohesion among their ranks to reap the benefits in this world and the Hereafter. It would surely lead to salvation of the Ummah in addition to averting any discords or divisions, he said while addressing a diverse and mammoth gathering of the Muslims from around the world. The Imam commenced the Hajj Sermon here at Arafat: "All praise belongs to Allah, the Almighty, the One who bestows abundantly. He made unity a cause for salvation, and division a cause for punishment. He, the Absolutely Perfect, commanded that our ranks be united, and our word be one, as a cohesive alliance, and made forbidden everything that leads to discords and divisions." Quoting the verses from the Holy Quran, he reaffirmed the main articles of faith - the Oneness of Allah and the Prophethood of Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). The Sermon highlighted the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), which emphasized unity, cooperation, and the prohibition of disputes and conflicts. It underscored the unifying role of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who was commanded to convey the message of Allah and bring unity among his followers. The Imam urged the Muslims to observe Taqwa (righteousness) by obeying Allah's commands and staying within the boundaries set by Him. The Sermon emphasized that diverting any aspect of worship to entities other than Allah was totally prohibited. It highlighted the significance of Taqwa (worshipping Allah alone) for guidance, salvation, and a praiseworthy end. The pillars of Islam, including the five daily prayers, obligatory Zakaat (charitable contribution), fasting during Ramadan, and performing Hajj, were emphasized as crucial aspects of worship. The Sermon cited the Quranic verses and the sayings of the Prophet (PBUH) to underscore their importance. Continued on page 2

Gwadar's development top priority, says CM: Governing body approves GDA's revised budget of current FY & proposed budget for next FY

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governing body of Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) approved the GDA's revised budget for the current financial year 2022-23 and proposed budget for the next financial year 2023-24. The meeting participated by Member Provincial Assembly and member of GDA's governing body, Mir Hamal Kalmati and other concerned quarters approved Rs. 33.8 million for feasibility of fishermen's residential colony besides directing the



Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo presiding over 26th meeting of Governing Body of Gwadar Development Authority through video link

Trial of civilians in military courts: How army authorities can arrest any person without charging him: CJP

AGP submits details of 102 arrested accused in SC ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial has raised question how the army authorities can arrest any person without charging him. The CJP further remarked lacuna lies in law. Leveling allegations against any one without evidence is futile and ridiculous. SC resolved in its 1975 decision that it will be decided on judicial side accused is who. The procedure on charging under army act is there in law. Still we are talking in air. What offences fall under 2D2. Assistance is required on it. It is interesting thing that what allegations have come to fore with regard to accused persons are not related to official secret act. It has been made clear in Liaqat Hussain case every case cannot be tried in military court. But relevance of case with army Continued on page 2

PM orders inquiry into recent Lahore flooding; calls for future preparedness

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday ordered an inquiry and fix the responsibility on the officials concerned over their failure to overcome the flooding situation caused by recent rains in Lahore. The prime minister, who chaired a meeting to review the preparedness ahead of predicted rains in North Punjab, particularly Lahore, expressed his annoyance over the failure to make timely arrangements to drain the rainwater. He instructed the provincial government and the district administration to fix the responsibility for poor water drainage, and immediately suspend the officials showing any negligence. He said the slackness of the relevant departments made the citizens suffer. The prime minister instructed to ensure full preparedness in the wake of rains predicted in the next few days. The administration should particularly remain alert during Eid-ul-Azha and formulate an emergency plan to deal with the possible situation caused by the rains, he added.



CM announces two months remission in sentence of prisoners

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has announced two months' remission of the prisoners imprisoned in the prisons and judicial lock ups of Balochistan. The announcement has been made by the Chief Minister on the festive occasion Eidul Azha. However, the remission would not be applicable to those prisoners implicated in different heinous crimes. In this regard, the written directives have been issued to the Home Department by the Chief Minister Balochistan.

Five permanent judges of Balochistan High Court take oath

Independent Report QUETTA: Five permanent judges of Balochistan High Court (BHC) took oath here on Tuesday. The Chief Justice BHC, Mr. Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan administered oath to the judges who made permanent recently. Those who took oath were included: Justice Muhammad Amir Nawaz, Justice Iqbal Kasi, Justice Shukat Rakhschani, Justice Gull Hassan Tareen and Justice Sardar Ahmad Halemi. The oath taking ceremony held at the auditorium of High Court was attended by the senior Judge of Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail as well as the judges of BHC, Mr. Justice Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Chief Justice Balochistan High Court Mr. Justice Naeem Afghan administering oath to newly regularized judges of BHC

Minister Home takes notice of Harnai - Mangi dam incident; seeks report

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has taken notice of the incident took place in Harnai-Mangi dam area. According to an official hand out issued here on Tuesday, the Minister Home also sought report of the incident from the concerned authorities within 24 hours. He directed the concerned authorities to update him about the progress made so far in the incident. Mir Ziaullah Langove asserted that legal action would be taken against those found negligent in the incident. He also ordered to form teams for arrest of the culprits involved in the incident and take them to task. In addition to this, the justice should be provided to the owners of transport on priority basis. In addition to this, the district administration should take stern action for prevention of such incidents in future, the Minister maintained.

Budget session ends: BA approves financial draft law 2023

Deputy Speaker gives ruling to start implementation on PSDP from July 1, fill all vacant posts at earliest

Independent Report QUETTA: The Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Sardar Babar Khan Musakhail has given ruling for commencing the implementation on Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) from July 1, 2023. He also asked the Chief Secretary to fill all the vacant posts in different departments at the earliest. Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Provincial General Secretary PML (N) Jamal Shah Kakar meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Governor strongly condemns Harnai-Mangi incident

Calls for taking stern action against criminals Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has strongly condemned the incident of torching coal laden trucks in Harnai-Mangi area. In a condemnation statement issued here on Tuesday, the Governor said attacking the vehicles and property is a very cowardly act. He said that it is responsibility of the government to protect life and property of the masses, and it is a very cowardly act. He regretfully pointed out that such untoward incidents have been reported in Harnai and Mangi areas for sometime, as such he sought report from the district administration and other concerned authorities. He also directed to take stern action against those involved in the incident and take the criminals to task. The Governor also stressed the need to deal with such elements with iron hands.

Six of a family killed as van falls into Bolan ditch

BOLAN (INP): Six members of a family, including women, were killed when a passenger van fell into a ditch in Bolan on Tuesday. The accident took place at Panjara bridge in Bolan where a van got out of control and fell into the ditch. The van left Quetta for Sibi. Two women were expired on the spot while five people including children were seriously injured after the accident. The Levies Force and the rescue team reached the site and shifted the bodies and injured to Civil Hospital Dhadar. Four more people succumbed to their injuries at the hospital, taking the toll to six. The deceased were said to be from the same family.

Advertisement for the Provincial Government of Balochistan. It features a large graphic with the text 'عوامی فلاح اور ترقی و خوشحالی کے عزم کی تکمیل' (Completion of the commitment for people's welfare and development and well-being) and '750 ارب روپے تخمینے کا تاریخ ساز بجٹ 2023-24' (750 billion rupees estimated budget 2023-24). Below this, there is a list of 20 key initiatives and their estimated costs in billions of rupees, such as 'سرکاری تنگوں میں 4389 نئی آسامیوں کی تحقیق' (Investigation of 4389 new samas in government lands) and '7421 جاری اسکیموں کیلئے 170.724 ارب روپے' (170.724 billion rupees for 7421 ongoing schemes). The ad also includes contact information for the Government of Balochistan and social media handles.

Pakistan to face India on Oct 15 as ICC unveils ODI World Cup schedule

DUBAI (INP): India will host Pakistan's cricket team for the first time in seven years for the 50-over World Cup, the International Cricket Council said on Tuesday. The tournament will begin on October 5 with holders England taking on New Zealand at the world's biggest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad, which will also host the final. The schedule was announced after weeks of delay due to Pakistan's refusal to travel to India, but a truce was called after Pakistan agreed to host the Asia Cup in September in a hybrid model. The most-awaited clash between rivals India and Pakistan will be played in Ahmedabad on October 15, after the hosts kick off their campaign against Aus-

tralia on October 8. "Each team plays the other nine in a round-robin format with the top four qualifying for the knockout stage and semi-finals," the ICC said in a statement 100 days before the tournament begins. India and Pakistan are bitter adversaries and only play cricket against each other in international tournaments, usually at neutral venues, due to longstanding political tensions, most recently during the T20 World Cup in Australia last year. Any match between the South Asian neighbours, therefore, becomes one of the most-watched events on the global sporting calendar, and any victory is used to promote nationalism at home. When they do play, cricket fans around the

world are glued to their TV screens in a multi-billion-dollar bonanza for broadcasters. The 2019 50-over World Cup clash between India and Pakistan drew 273 million viewers. India and Pakistan have not met on either side's soil in a bilateral series since 2012. They have also not played a Test against each other since 2007, instead meeting only in the shorter versions of the game. This year's World Cup will mark Pakistan's first cricket trip to India since the T20 World Cup in 2016. India last won the ODI World Cup on home soil in 2011. Since then, Australia and England have won the title in their own backyards in 2015 and 2019 respectively.



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta Shehak Baloch presiding over a meeting regarding safety measures and contingency plan in wake of expected heavy monsoon rains

Pak athletes return home with total 80 medals in Special Olympic World Games

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan squad returned home Tuesday after participating in the Special Olympic World Games held in Berlin, Germany from June 17 to 25, winning a total of 80 medals with 11 gold, 29 silver and 40 bronze. Upon their arrival at Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad airports, the officials of Special Olympics Pakistan and the relatives and fans of the athletes warmly welcomed them. The players and officials were garlanded and showered with rose petals. The gold medals winner athletes including Saifullah Solangi, Usman Qamar, Umair Kayani, Faiza Nasir, Naheen Khan, Muhammad Luqman, Zainab Ali Raza and national athlete Sana, the torchbearer of the opening ceremony of the World Games, said that they had gone to Berlin with the spirit of winning for Pakistan. Winning medals in Berlin is a great honour for us. Our hard work, training of coaches, patronage of Special Olympics Pakistan and the prayers of the whole nation we have achieved this success, they said. The Head of the Delegation of the national team

2nd Russian crude oil ship docks at Karachi Port

KARACHI (INP): Another Russian ship carrying thousands of metric tons of crude oil docked at the Karachi Port on Tuesday morning. The Russian ship, named Clyde Noble, for now docked within limits of the Karachi Port. Bringing the tanker to the oil pier will begin as soon as the berthing plan is finalized. For the moment, the Russian vessel is docked at the outer anchorage. The second Russian cargo ship is reported to be carrying 55,000 metric tons of crude oil. It was earlier reported that the second cargo, under the deal between Islamabad and Moscow, was slated to arrive on June 20; however, it was delayed by a week and the Karachi Port does not have the capacity to handle huge ships. A lack of space at the Pakistan Refinery Limited storage tanks was cited as another reason behind the delay. PRL is the first domestic refinery to obtain crude oil from Russia under the government-led deal. Pakistan received its first cargo of Russian crude oil on June 12 when a tanker carrying 45,000 tons of crude oil docked at the Karachi Port. The government had placed the first order of 100,000 tonnes of Russian crude oil in April this year after months-long parleys between the two countries over the terms and conditions of the deal.

PM Shehbaz hopeful of decision on IMF bailout package

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday held a telephonic conversation with Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva and discussed matters relating to the IMF programme with Pakistan. During the talk, the prime minister expressed the hope that the consensus between Pakistan and the IMF on various points would lead to the Fund's decision to resume the programme in a couple of days. In the context of her recent meeting with the prime minister in Paris, the IMF managing director acknowledged the efforts of the finance minister and his team for completing the programme. PM Shehbaz reiterated his resolve to meet the targets of improving the country's economic situation with joint efforts. Kristalina Georgieva praised PM Shehbaz's leadership role in his efforts with respect to the IMF programme. She said the IMF wanted an improved economic situation of Pakistan.

Some legal hurdles in prosecuting civilians in military courts: Asif

ISLAMABAD (INP): Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Tuesday noted that there were some legal hurdles in prosecuting civilians in military courts, but added that the government would be able to remove the same. Replying to various questions regarding the May 9 mayhem and its consequences during an interview to a private TV channel, the defence minister passed these remarks as he praised the military for moving ahead with the accountability process and taking actions against the responsible persons. Khawaja Asif also said that blocking social media platforms

DHO Lasbela provides hygienic equipment to laborers

INDEPENDENT REPORT UTHAL: On the suggestion of the female councillor of Municipal Committee Uthal, District Health Officer Lasbela framed the hygiene equipment. On which with the support of District Health Officer Lasbela Dr. Abdul Hameed Baloch, Chairman Municipal Committee Uthal Syed Somar Shah Kazmi, Vice Chairman Municipal Committee Uthal Waseem Ahmed Khaskheli, and Jam Group Leader Azizur Rehman Yousofzai, Municipal Committee Uthal Sanitary In-charge Sajid Ali Barah and Muhammad Anwar Khaskheli, handed over gloves, masks, and sanitizers for the labor of the municipal committee.

ATC extends interim bail of Imran Khan in May-9 vandalism cases

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday extended the interim bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in three different cases related to the May 9 riots, including Jinnah House attack case, till July 7. ATC Judge Ijaz Ahmad Buttar conducted the proceedings on the bail petitions of the PTI chairman. Imran Khan along with his counsel also appeared during the proceedings and got his attendance marked. The Sarwar Road police, Gulberg police and Shadman Town police had registered three different cases against PTI leaders and workers in connection with May 9 riots after the arrest of the party chairman. The cases had been registered under sections of Pakistan Penal Code and Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997. Meanwhile, the court also extended the interim bail of the PTI chairman till July 7 in another two cases lodged against the PTI leadership and workers for Zaman Park vandalism. Racecourse Police had registered the cases against the PTI chief and other party leaders and workers on charges of attacking the police teams and burning official property and vehicles outside his Zaman Park residence.

US acknowledges Pakistan's counter terrorism measures: State Dept

WASHINGTON (Online): US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller has said we acknowledge Pakistan has taken many steps against terrorism but we want Pakistan to continue to take steps to permanently disband all terrorist groups. He said this while briefing the newsmen in Washington on Monday. He said that US will continue to work with Pakistan to counter mutual terrorist threats, as we discussed during our March 2023 counter terrorism dialogue. He said that the people of Pakistan have suffered tremendously from terrorist attacks over the years and added that US remains committed to working with Pakistan to address the shared threat posed by terrorist groups throughout the region. Matthew Miller said that the US recognizes that Pakistan has taken some important steps to counter terrorist groups in line with the completion of its Financial Action Task Force (FATF) actions plans. "We commend both Pakistan and India for continuing to uphold the ceasefire along the line of control (LoC)," he said. We want Pakistan to continue to take steps to permanently disband all terrorist groups and the US is in constant contact with the Pakistani authorities in this regard, he said. He said that US will continue to work with Pakistan to counter mutual terrorist threats, as we discussed during our March 2023 counter terrorism dialogue. Replying to a question regarding human rights and religious freedom violations in India, the State Department spokesperson said that we regularly raise concerns about human rights in our conversations with Indian officials and President Biden spoke about this issue in the joint press conference that he held with Indian PM Modi.



QUETTA: A view of rush in bazaar during Eid shopping

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How army authorities can...

Continued from page 1 act should be proved. He further remarked morale is most important thing for army. If morale is affected then enemy benefits from it. Lowering the morale of army officers is also offence. Army officers have spirit for rendering sacrifice for their country due to their high morale. He remarked it should be known to every one on Eid occasion about persons who are under arrest. All should be given opportunity to talk to their family members on the occasion of Eid. Arrange the talks of the accused persons with their family members today. We will now meet after Eid. The petitions against trial of civilians in military courts came up for hearing before a 6-member larger bench of SC presided over by CJP Tuesday. On questioning from CJP if there is any issue of death sentence in the present cases, Attorney General (AG) told death sentence can be awarded in the event of foreign contacts. No lawyer has been arrested so far. There is information about one journalist is missing. Imran Khan is not in our custody. All out efforts are being made for his recovery. No trial has been started so far. It takes time too. The accused will be given opportunity to hire services of the lawyers. On the onset of hearing President SC Bar Association told the court "I too want to give arguments for filing petition in this case. The CJP remarked it is matter of delight that SC bar too is becoming respondent in this case. You should make preparations now. Later we will hear you. The court adjourned the hearing of the case for indefinite period.

BA approves financial...

Continued from page 1 regarding budget. He said that it would be earnest endeavour of the government to hold elections in the province peacefully. Earlier, the Provincial Minister Home, Mir Ziaullah Langove, MPAs Sardar Yar Muhammad Rind, Sanaullah Baloch, Mir Zaid Ali Reki, Nasarullah Zairay and Akhtar Hussain Langove extended felicitation to the Minister Finance on presenting "good and balanced" budget for the next financial year. He said that no member of the assembly lodged protest against the budget which speaks about the budget. Earlier, winding up the debate on the budget, provincial Minister for Finance Engineer Zamarak Khan Achakzai said he is thankful to all the members for their support and help in preparation of budget. He said that it is his desire that work on the new PSDP may be started from July 1, 2024. He also expressed the desire that all posts laying vacant in different provincial government departments are filled by August this year. He said that it was his endeavour to do the best

Sheikh Yusuf calls for Ummah's...

Continued from page 1 forgiveness, and patience. The Imam urged the Muslims to strengthen social, familial, and spiritual bonds and to uphold ties of kinship. He emphasized kindness and goodness towards relatives, neighbours, and the needy, while promoting cooperation in righteousness and Taqwa. The Sermon also cautioned here that the parliamentary committee of judges' appointments consented for the approval of the permanent status of the judges. Acting president Sadiq Sanjrani had approved the appointments of five judges of Balochistan High Court on permanent basis on Monday last. With the appointment of permanent judges, the total strength of judges has reached 13 in the High Court.

Five permanent judges...

Continued from page 1 Hashim Khan Kakar and others. The ceremony was also attended by the senior lawyers as well as the office bearers of Balochistan High Court Bar Association, Balochistan Bar Association and other lawyers' organizations. It may be mentioned here that the parliamentary committee of judges' appointments consented for the approval of the permanent status of the judges. Acting president Sadiq Sanjrani had approved the appointments of five judges of Balochistan High Court on permanent basis on Monday last. With the appointment of permanent judges, the total strength of judges has reached 13 in the High Court.

Continued from page 1

Continued from page 1 tance in the lives of Muslims. It further stressed that linguistic, racial, and ethnic differences and divisions should not lead to any discord among the Muslims. Diversity in languages and colours was assign from Allah and an opportunity for knowledge, he added citing Quranic verses. The Sermon underscored that "Islam provides preventative measures and defensive strategies to counter destructive intentions and acts of sabotage, aimed at dividing communities." The importance of referring back to the Quran and the Sunnah during disputes was highlighted, along with the necessity of good conduct, compassion,



KARACHI: A view of the hustle and bustle of passengers at Cantt Railway Station as people are boarding into train for leaving to their native villages for celebrating Eid-ul-Adha with great Zeal.



QUETTA: Administrator Quetta Jabbar Baloch addressing employees of Metropolitan Corporation

Governing body...

Continued from page 1 concerned to send summary about creation of different vacancies in GDA. The meeting also approved to revise the pay scale of contract staff appointed in the GDA. In addition to this, the GDA's governing body decided to form technical committee regarding business plan. The meeting was also directed to send summary of the revised grant in aid of business plan besides approving the GDA service regulation 2023. Moreover, the meeting also approved the post facto amount of Rs. 21.90 million for GDA's participation in the international tourism conference to be held in Berlin. While on the other hand, the meeting approved beach front development for construction of the recreational places at the Gwadar marine drive. While speaking at the meeting, the Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo said that Gwadar is our important coastal city. He said that the provincial government has provided substantial funds for development of Gwadar. He said that the standard of life of the people of Gwadar is being improved through different development projects. No doubt, the development of Gwadar is included in priorities of the incumbent government, he maintained.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.

The Executive Engineer (Building), CW, PP&H Department, District Quetta invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2023 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates Tender Fee Rs. 1500/- and Bid Security 2%.

TSE-222306341323

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL OF INVESTIGATION AT BALOCHISTAN POLICE TRAINING COLLEGE QUETTA	151,801,060

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 100,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-4 and above (Up to 200 million) in Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE09(i) (Sewerage Works), CE10(i) (General Civil Engineering Works), CE01-(i) (Road and Pavements Drainage & Retaining Structure). Rs.1500/- on green challan form (non-refundable) deposited in head of account C-02716 through Government Treasury/National Bank of Pakistan BID SECURITY 2% OF ESTIMATED COST IN FORM OF DEPOSIT AT CALL OR BANK GUARANTEE Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk. Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 13 July, 2023 till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System Address: XEN Buildings Quetta Phone no: 0819213555 Email: engr.abdulsalam70@gmail.com

Executive Engineer (Building), CW, PP&H Department, District Quetta

PRO No.4523/27-6-2023

Wednesday June 28, 2023

Checkmate?

Is it game over for Imran Khan and the PTI? That seems to have been the foremost question on most people's minds as the DG ISPR began addressing a sombre press conference late Monday afternoon.

Curiously, there was scant mention of Mr Khan and his party in the military spokesman's almost hour-and-a-half-long address, which was otherwise focused on the 'tragedy' of May 9. But while he may not have named names, there was little doubt whom the DG ISPR was addressing when he stated that the military believes that, currently, the 'single biggest threat' to Pakistan is from the "internal political instability" that has wracked the country over the past year or so.

He also described the events of May 9 as a planned conspiracy masterminded by people involved in "misleading the people for the past several months against the army and its leadership", making it clear whom the finger of blame is pointed at.

More concerning was his public acknowledgement that three army officers, including one lieutenant-general, had been stripped of their uniform over the events of May 9, and many more were facing accountability and/or disciplinary proceedings.

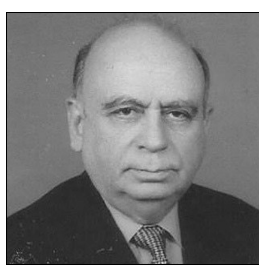
The DG went to great lengths to explain that the men were dismissed not because of their involvement or for being 'co-conspirators' in the events of May 9, but for procedural lapses and inadequacies of security arrangements in certain areas under their watch, which allowed vandals to run amok and damage military installations and properties on the day.

To some journalists, however, this seemed to conflict with the narrative that the armed forces had deliberately shown restraint that day by refusing to engage with the protesters.

The DG was repeatedly asked to clarify why three officers had to be let go for not engaging the protesters when the military itself wanted to show restraint, but his answer remained the same.

Importantly, by underlining that the military had penalised its own over the May 9 'tragedy', the DG ISPR seemed to make it clear that his institution believes it is time to make the civilian perpetrators pay. He defended suspects' trials by military courts, revealing that the court martial of 102 suspects was already underway.

"Those creating hurdles in the way of making this process reach its logical conclusion will be dealt with strictly," he warned. With the Supreme Court currently hearing a case challenging the legality of trying civilians under military courts, the implications of the warning seemed rather ominous. However, considering how many times the DG ISPR stressed the armed forces' deference to the Constitution and the state, it is hoped that the security establishment will take the legal challenges to military courts not as a provocation, but as a procedural hurdle that must be crossed.

**Afzal Ali Shigri**

Skardu, nestled in a beautiful corner of the country and surrounded by majestic mountains, has become a favoured destination of the rapidly growing tourism industry. The Pakistani government has projected Skardu as a paradise for tourists. However, the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic found people confined to their homes.

As restrictions eased, in 2021, local tourists began to flock to Skardu in unprecedented numbers. Encouraged by this surge in domestic tourism, the government proudly announced Skardu's airports as being ready to cater to international flights.

The once-dormant tourism industry, stifled by the pandemic, found renewed hope and the government's efforts to

promote this hidden gem as a sought-after destination seemed to be paying off. To accommodate the increasing numbers, flights from three major cities were added, leading to a surge in unplanned investment in the tourism industry. Skardu's fragile and old infrastructure crumbled under the strain.

But despite the inconveniences, the influx of visitors continued to escalate. Businesses flourished, fueling expectations that the trend would persist throughout the current year. However, both tourists and locals were in for a shock when the effects of climate change hit the region. The winter season was longer than usual, keeping the streams frozen. Skardu's divisional headquarters faced an unprecedented water shortage, severely impacting hydropower generation. Consequently, the distribution of drinking water had to be rationed for the first time. It became evident that the government had failed to recognise the apparent growth in seasonal demand, resulting in immense hardship for the locals and despair among the visitors.

The sight of cherry blossoms bursting in every village, accompanied by the emergence of vibrant green leaves under the radiant sunshine and the gushing of crystal-clear water, would normally be a delightful treat for the eyes. The receding cold, coupled with mornings filled with birdsong, would typically transform Skardu valley into a surreal world — a scene from paradise. However, this year's experience was hardly heavenly — in fact, it a journey through hell.

Four hundred years ago, in the absence of her warrior husband Ali Sher Khan Anchan, raja of Skardu, who was busy expanding his rule in a challenging terrain and in the face of formidable local fighters, the rani Gul Khatoon, a Mughal princess, demonstrated remarkable engineering prowess. Her visionary mind conceived an engineering marvel that was executed to transform the high-level desert of Skardu valley into a lush green paradise. Her most notable accomplishment was the planning and construction of the Sadpara Dam and the canal system, which not only provided essential water for domes-

tic use but also for irrigation. Gul Khatoon's remarkable achievements stand as a testament to her intelligence, leadership qualities, and, most importantly, genuine concern for the well-being of her subjects.

Gul Khatoon's commendable efforts in addressing what centuries later would prove to be Wapda's shortcomings underscore the incompetence of the present-day organisation. The unfortunate neglect of this remarkable region by Wapda's extensive engineering and bureaucratic machinery is a clear indictment of governance in the area, compounded by the indifference displayed by local political leaders, save for a few committed individuals.

In 2001, Wapda undertook the Sadpara Dam project with the aim of addressing the water supply issue in the region. The project encompassed four key elements: upgrading the existing dam, constructing power houses for energy generation, establishing an irrigation channel, and diverting the Shatung nullah to augment water supply. Descon Engineering was awarded the contract for the dam and powerhouse,

CCPG for the irrigation channel, and D-Baloch for the Shatung nullah diversion. During the project implementation, concerns were raised by IUCN and WWF regarding the potentially negative impact of the nullah diversion on the habitat of the brown bear population and the overall environment.

There have been unverified claims suggesting that the contractor in charge of the Shatung nullah project considered it financially unfeasible due to the limited working season. Surprisingly, the preservation of the habitat of a small population of brown bears took precedence over the well-being of the human inhabitants in Skardu.

Consequently, the project underwent secretive revisions, leading to the abandonment of the water supply diversion to the dam. This decision has left the local community with a dam that provides no additional energy or water supply, rendering the project futile. Billions of rupees have been wasted, exposing the valley to water scarcity and energy shortages. This situation is exacerbated by the increased frequency

of minor weather fluctuations caused by climate change.

Despite numerous applications, presentations and requests, the concerns of the locals have been ignored. The recent drought has led to widespread street protests. However, an imaginative local cleric Agha Baqir, inspired by the historical achievement of Gul Khatoon and the Baltis in constructing the Sadpara Dam with their bare hands, realised that the locals could also take matters into their own hands. Agha Baqir's rallying cry has resonated with the people, and many volunteers have decided to join him in the initiative to manually divert the water from the Shatung stream.

This grassroots movement symbolises the determination and resilience of the people of Skardu. They have become determined to take charge of their own destiny and address the water supply issue. Through their collective efforts, they aim to dig channels and redirect the flow of water themselves, echoing the spirit of Gul Khatoon and the Baltis. -- Courtesy Dawn

Women, words and the constitution**Mehnaz Akber Aziz**

One of the landmark moments during the golden jubilee celebrations of the constitution of Pakistan was the realization that the time had come to foster inclusivity in its language. This idea took shape on the floor of the National Assembly, where I had the privilege of highlighting the presence of gender non-inclusive language in a draft legislation. The honourable speaker of the National Assembly, invoking Article 263 of the constitution, ruled that "words implying the masculine gender in the constitution shall be interpreted to encompass females as well."

Covering behind the argument that traditional language has long been employed in constitutional and legal texts may seem convenient, but it is hardly compatible with evolving gender roles and the fundamental concept of gender equality. Across numerous countries, a growing consciousness is emerging, advocating for the use of either gender-neutral or gender-inclusive language. This heightened awareness stems from the increased representation of women in democratic institutions and their presence at crucial decision-making tables within the realm of governance.

Owing to the contributions of feminist movements worldwide, tangible progress has been achieved in certain jurisdictions such as Sweden, Canada, Finland, and New Zealand, where legal texts are being authored in a different manner. In the United Kingdom and the European Parliament, the adoption of gender-inclusive language in laws, debates, and discussions has been duly recognized. Debates and discussions on this issue are expanding in many countries, reflecting a global shift towards greater inclusivity.

In Pakistan, in the third decade of the 21st century, we embarked on a historic initiative to reinterpret the constitution through women's perspective. The Federal Ministry of Law

and Justice joined forces with the Women Parliamentary Caucus, and two days of vigorous deliberations took place at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services. Meticulous background research conducted for this initiative revealed that, while the constitution of Pakistan acknowledges "We the people" in its preamble, its extensive text, spanning over 280 articles, schedules, and oaths, recognizes individuals and groups in various ways.

Chairing the session on 'Language of the Constitution', I spoke with esteemed experts including veteran politicians and expert drafters on how masculinity in legal drafting of the constitution has curbed women's empowerment and the importance of gender neutrality whilst promulgating law.

Mr Farhatullah Babar elaborated on the importance of a word 'itself' — as it forms the basis of love, hate, war and peace. Therefore, discounting the significance of a word in defining circumstances, especially in terms of constitutional provisions, is not ideal for gender equality. It was described how the use of masculine language in a society

where patriarchy is deeply entrenched has inevitable and detrimental effects on the legal and social status of a Pakistani woman. As he aptly noted, removing masculine language has been a strenuous task and the exception provided in the General Clauses Act seems to be outdated in a time where the use of language is of utmost significance towards gender-based sensitivities.

The purpose of positive discrimination and affirmative action which is encompassed in Article 25 of the constitution as well, highlights the need for special efforts made by the state to equate women with men, as women have been at the receiving end of discrimination and have been back benched since the inception of gender itself.

As chair of the session, I emphasized the importance of women's representation in the Bar — as the nurseries of the legal fraternity — and imposing the policies of positive discrimination in an efficacious manner to achieve the desired result of gender equality. The session was successfully concluded upon resolution by Mr Jam Aslam, senior drafter, who

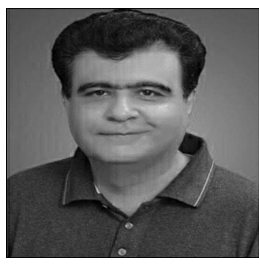
urged the parliamentarians in attendance to propose before the House for the use of only gender-neutral language. He further added that he too will only use gender-neutral terms in future drafting of legislation and the constitution.

At present, the constitution employs the term 'people' 30 times and 'peoples' once, 'citizen' 27 times, 'citizens' 15 times, 'person' 236 times, 'human' three times, 'humane' once, 'family' 9 times, and 'individual' 10 times. It uses 'man' 14 times, 'men' zero times, 'woman' three times, 'women' 21 times, 'female' once, 'male' zero times, 'mother' 35 times, 'daughter' and 'son' two times each, 'widow' six times, 'spouse' three times, 'child' seven times, and 'children' five times. It employs 'he' 40+ times, 'his' 157 times, 'him' 44 times, and 'himself' seven times. 'She' and 'her' appear twice each, and 'herself' does not appear at all. 'Ombudsman' is mentioned once in the Federal Legislative List-1, 'chairman' 66 times, 'deputy chairman' 14 times, 'Qaumi Razakar' and 'lumberdar' once each.

What can be done to address this? Global best

practices guide us to either repeatedly mention the noun or, where unavoidable, use plural pronouns. If we choose to make this change in pursuit of gender parity and inclusivity, it will be necessary to amend the constitution. Until that historic moment arrives, the parliament may consider adopting a resolution to encourage the use of gender-inclusive language in future legal texts. In this regard, the General Clauses Act-1897 should be amended to incorporate gender-inclusive terminology.

The significance of adopting gender-inclusive language in the constitution and legal texts cannot be overstated, as language profoundly shapes our interpretations, aids in negotiating the meanings of governance, and helps us make sense of institutional frameworks. The terms we choose to use have a direct impact on how we think, perceive, and behave. Our communication and writing reflect our underlying assumptions about the world, including gender roles and relationships. Even the order in which words are placed in legal texts conveys our priorities. -- Courtesy TheNews

The next monarch**Dr Niaz Murtaza**

The PTI is dead but its spirit will live long as the PPP and PML-N copy and often even exceed its autocratic ways. If the PTI's constitutional violation of a no-trust move lasted a week, PDM's on the KP polls is months old now.

I have long said they were the lesser evil vis-à-vis the PTI. But with the PTI dead, and given their current ways, they are now regarded as the main evil — on the civilian side of course. Yet, even many good anchors still focus daily on Imran Khan, as if he is our main evil.

Only an unlikely and undesirable mutiny by pro-Khan guys can resurrect the former prime minister soon. And May 9 was no mutiny; just a spoilt kid acting out against his leashing by parents who had adopted and spoilt a political orphan no end.

Fear of Khan keeps the establishment, the PPP and PML-N united. So strong is the concern, they are ready to eliminate him using any trick: fake terrorism cases in non-civilian courts, media gags and reverse engineering of PTI. That will end the fear but also the unity. What shape will politics take once these elements start dog-fights?

Will the establishment ditch the PPP and PML-N after using them to nix Khan and instal long-term interim set-up, pulling the same trick the two played on PTI on provincial polls? It would be poetic justice. Dreamy analysts think a group of able angels is on stand-by to save

us in a technocratic set-up. But there is none.

The economic wizards being touted contributed to our mess via loose fiscal and monetary policies earlier. Democrats always prefer polls over such set-ups — but fair polls, and not the rigged ones we will have (much more than the 2018 ones) with the PTI decimated wrongly. So, do polls matter? One still wants polls, hoping the rigging ploys fail. Even the establishment may think twice about bringing in a technocratic set-up, as it will have to give it the same kind support it lent to the PTI.

But then, who will the monarch-makers crown from among the many feuding princes and princesses? With Shehbaz Sharif saying he will make way for Nawaz Sharif, will Noon still be OK for them? Thus, there is buzz about Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari being crowned soon. But his would be a crown of thorns, for the economic, political and external challenges after the polls will be too big for his raw hands to handle, just as his young mother couldn't handle the big mess from Zia's era right after his birth.

Thus, if Asif Zardari is astute, he should keep his son away from the throne for now to not burn his career so early.

Even the elder Zardari, Sharifs or Khan will do poorly given their ideas on display. Zardari says he read economics in jail and can take reserves to \$100 billion. Khan says this time his expatriate lovers will surely send the \$200bn they forgot last time.

The Sharifs and the establishment are selling another fake dream after CPEC — the Special Investment Facilitation Council. The idea is decades old: clientage of unsavoury states such as the US, China or Saudi Arabia, instead of attract-

ing private capital like Bangladesh or India.

They too short-change the poor but are at least not near default. While these Shaikh Chilli dreams cook in Islamabad, the reality in Pindi is clear — the brief pretence of eschewing politics is long gone.

The earnest 'duty' of fixing our huge woes will only deepen them. We are marching firmly on a circular bridge to nowhere as we have since 1947, except for a brief period from 2008 to 2018.

The PDM blew the chance to resume on that path by deferring polls after the no-trust move. Even now, fair polls are the way forward. Even if PTI wins, it would have to tackle the same huge issues and may do worse than the PDM is doing now, given its bad ties with Pindi and externally with all main allies and its infighting. Thus, it may not last long and get thrown out politically, perhaps for good.

But with Khan now made a hero by the crack-down and the stagnation, if pro-Khan officers (reputedly there are many just a few rungs down the ladder) become dominant in a few years, they may bring him back. Age is not on Khan's side. But Zimbabwe's mad Mugabe ruled in his 90s. Khan is much fitter physically, but perhaps not when it comes to clear thinking.

The only small chance lies in the Zardaris and Sharifs putting their respective egos aside and sticking to running their parties, while appointing a competent cabinet as the Gandhis have done in Congress since Rajiv Gandhi's death to usher in India's path to progress. But pettiness and selfishness reign supreme in both houses, madness on top of those in Bangala and worse traits in Pindi. So, the chances of wisdom prevailing in any quarter are small. Thus are our chances of progress. -- Courtesy Dawn

Something in the air**Jamil Ahmad**

Worldwide, millions of people are losing their health and lives by breathing polluted air. Toxic emissions from industry, transport and power generation (from fossil fuels and agriculture) are contaminating the environment, particularly in the developing countries.

Air pollution is the world's largest environmental health threat. A mixture of carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide carrying tiny droplets are major contributors of outdoor air pollution. Invisible to the naked eye, these tiny particles, commonly known as particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5) are 30 times thinner than human hair and highly toxic. Methane emissions from solid waste, agricultural processes, cattle and other ruminants like sheep, horses and goats add to the lethal mix that causes severe health issues.

Lung cancer, cardiovascular diseases, asthma, and other chronic respiratory problems are often caused by polluted air. A recent study by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health revealed that exposure to fine particulate air pollutants may also increase the risk of developing dementia.

The air so essential for our life is now making us sick. Being a transboundary issue, there is no escape from bad air quality.

Globally, polluted air is responsible for 7m premature deaths, with 90 per cent of them occurring in low- and middle-income

countries according to the WHO. The heavy burden of disease and job loss is severely impacting the economies of and societies in developing countries, impeding growth and destroying homes.

In addition to human-induced pollution, gases and ash from volcanic eruptions and smoke from wildfires also contribute to air pollution.

When smoke from wildfires in Canada engulfed parts of the US East Coast earlier this month, Manhattan's iconic skyline nearly faded in a smoky haze, and the authorities advised citizens to stay indoors to avoid health risks. Soon after, London's mayor imposed a two-day "high pollution alert" as winds blew "existing pollutants from the continent towards London". These were short-lived aberrations in the otherwise clean air and blue skies of these two cities. Efforts by the city authorities to reduce pollution in most parts of the developed world are succeeding through policies and regulations on health and environmental standards, and are raising public awareness about the benefits of a clean environment.

In contrast, people living in cities across the Global South are forced to breathe poisonous air on a daily basis for long periods. Nearly 90pc of the Asia-Pacific region's 4.3bn people regularly inhale air considered unsafe by the WHO. Two-thirds of the 7m premature deaths attributed to air pollution occur in this region.

Economic losses attributed to air pollution are inflicting heavy costs on healthcare and development. In 2021, air pollution in South Asia was responsible for healthcare costs equivalent to 10.3pc of its GDP compared to 6.1pc of healthcare costs to global GDP, according to the World Bank.

Urban air pollution is

the worst in South Asia, home to a quarter of the world's population. Unsustainable urban sprawl, often at the expense of green cover, deprive the cities of natural air filters. The air in many cities in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh is counted among the world's most polluted. Vulnerable and marginalised communities often face higher exposure and are affected disproportionately.

Pakistan's urban air pollution is the most severe in the world. With the highest rate of urbanisation in the region, almost half of Pakistan's population is expected to live in cities by 2025. If air pollution is not controlled, it will expose more than 120m people to polluted air and impose heavy economic and social costs on the country.

Air pollution is not a stand-alone issue. It is intrinsically linked to climate change, biodiversity loss and other forms of pollution. One cannot be resolved without addressing the other.

Band-aid measures will only complicate the problem. A combination of cross-sectoral actions will be required to control air pollution especially in energy, transport and urban areas. Such targeted action must be supported by enabling policy frameworks and regulatory set-ups to monitor air quality in a systematic manner by involving the local authorities and civil society. To support policymaking, UNEP has compiled actions that governments can take on air quality and identified implementation and policy gaps. Pakistan has announced its first National Clean Air Policy which should be linked to time-bound targets of renewable energy, energy efficiency in industry, transport and infrastructure. For effective environmental action, it will also be desirable to design and implement provincial clean air strategies. -- Courtesy Dawn

Punjab Governor says: Economic stability is vital to development of the country

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended the first Achievement Award Ceremony of Rahim Yar Khan Chamber of Commerce and Industry here today at Governor House Lahore as Chief Guest. Provincial Minister for Industry and Commerce, SM Tanveer was also present in the ceremony.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that economic stability is vital to the development of the country.

He said that the incumbent government is utilizing all its resources to boost and revive the economy of the country.

Governor Punjab said that the people associated with the commerce and industry are playing an important role in the economic development of the country. Governor Punjab said that the federal government has given relief

to all sections of the society including the business community in the recent budget.

He said that the promotion of technical and professional education is very important for the development of the country. Governor Punjab further said that as chancellor he has formed a consortium to strengthen the links between academia and industry in universities. He said that the government has increased the pace of work on CPEC projects, adding that CPEC project is creating employment opportunities for the local population.

Provincial Minister of Industry and Commerce SM Tanveer while speaking on the occasion said that holding the first achievement award of Rahim Yar Khan Chamber is a good initiative for the entrepreneurs.

He said that the role of business community in the economic development of the country is very

important. President Rahim Yar Khan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Muhammad Iqbal Hafeez said that we have gathered here today to appreciate the services of those entrepreneurs who have played a significant role in the country's economy in various sectors.

On this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman distributed awards to the owners of the seed companies in recognition of their outstanding contribution in the entire Punjab Province. In the ceremony, Senior Vice President of Rahim Yar Khan Chamber of Commerce, Muhammad Ashfaq, Group Leader and former President Rahim Yar Khan Chamber, Abdul Rauf Mukhtar, Executive members, Muhammad Hafeez, Adil Sohail, Abdul Majeed Khan Korai, Mian Asif Mahmood, Mahmood Ahmad Chaudhry, Abdul Samad, former executive members Shafiq Hussain, Riyaz ur Rehman.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of Community Welfare Society led by Dr. Ghulam Rasool meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

Faisal Kundi grieved over Bannu Seminary roof collapse incident

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the sad incident of roof collapse in a seminary in Bannu.

In a statement, he said the people of the southern districts were saddened due to the incident of the roof collapse of a seminary that took place earlier today in Bannu.

Faisal Kundi said that he shared equal pain with the parents of the martyred students and the seminary administration at this testing moment.

He asked the Bannu administration to pay full attention to the treatment of the injured students in the incident.

He prayed to the Almighty to rest the departed souls in peace and

grant courage to the bereaved families to bear this loss with fortitude.

It is worth mentioning here that three students of a seminary died and two others got injured when a roof of a seminary collapsed in the Bannu district, one of the southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to rescue officials, the roof of the seminary located near Nala Kashupul in Bannu caved in, leaving students and teachers trapped under the debris. After being informed about the incident, rescue teams and residents rushed to the site and started the rescue operation. The officials said they have pulled out the bodies of three students and two injured. The deceased and injured have been shifted to a nearby medical facility.

Jinnah House attack: ATC sends Sarfraz's wife to jail on judicial remand

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday sent the wife of former governor Punjab Omar Sarfraz Cheema to jail on 14-day judicial remand in the Jinnah House attack case.

Earlier, the police produced Omar's wife Rabia Sultan and another accused, Fozia Malik, before ATC Judge Abher Gul Khan, amid strict security.

The investigation officer submitted an identification report and apprised the court that both accused had been identified. He submitted that the accused were involved in vandalism and pleaded with the court to grant their physical remand for investigation.

However, the defence counsel opposed the remand plea.

The court, after hearing detailed arguments of the parties, turned down the request for physical remand and sent both accused to jail on 14-day judicial remand.

Meanwhile, ATC Judge Ijaz Ahmad Buttar issued notices to police authorities on a post-arrest bail petition filed by Rabia Sultan and sought a reply by July 4.

The counsel for Rabia Sultan had moved the bail petition after the court sent his client to jail on judicial remand.

The Sarwar Road police had registered a case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders.

'Govt striving hard for country's development'

SARGODHA (APP): The federal government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is striving hard for the country's development and people's welfare.

This was stated by Senior Vice President of PML (N) Sillanwali Makhdoom Shah Kameer while talking to APP here on Tuesday.

He said the Pakistan Muslim League-N always did politics of public service and strengthen the economy by creating business-friendly environment.

Shah Kameer said a mini motorway was being constructed in the district from Kot Momin passing through Sillanwali, Shaheenabad and other surrounding areas which would be linked to Shorkot motorway which would provide travel facility to people.

In tehsil Sillanwali, PML-N MNA Dr Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti took remarkable steps for welfare of people and constructed carpet roads, establishment of girls colleges, provision of sui gas, water and sanitation facilities to the masses, he added.

ATC Judge grants bail to PTI leader

PESHAWAR (APP): A Judge of the Anti-Corruption Court on Tuesday granted bail to PTI leader Ali Muhammad Khan and former KP minister Shakeel Ahmed in corruption cases.

Ali Muhammad Khan was arrested for illegal recruitment in the Mardan Fisheries Department while the former provincial Minister Shakeel Ahmed was accused of illegal recruitment in DHQ Hospital Malakand.

The court accepted the bail applications of both leaders and ordered their release.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman addressing the first Achievement Award Ceremony of Rahim Yar Khan Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Governor House.

KP CM says: Targeting innocent minorities highly regrettable, condemnable

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of Peshawar based Sikh community called on the caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan here on Tuesday.

Headed by Sikh Community leader, Gopal Singh, the delegation comprised of the family members of the slain Sikh citizen Man Mohan Singh and the injured Sikh citizen Tarlok Singh who were targeted in Peshawar the other day.

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information & Minority Affairs Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel, Principal Secretary to CM Amjad Ali Khan, Secretary Auqaf and Minority Affairs Dr. Asad Ali and other relevant authorities were also

present on the occasion.

Talking to the delegation, the Chief Minister strongly condemned the killing of Man Mohan Singh, and expressed sympathies with the bereaved family and the Sikh community.

He said that targeting the innocent minorities was highly regrettable and condemnable adding that people of Sikh community are patriotic and peaceful citizens; and have long been contributing to national development.

The Chief Minister remarked that targeting the innocent minorities was aimed at spoiling the religious harmony and destabilizing the country; and elements behind such activities will never succeed in their nefarious designs. Azam Khan said

that the caretaker provincial government was taking all possible step to ensure the security of minority communities, and will continue to do so.

The Chief Minister directed the Inspector General of Police to sit with Sikh community leaders in order to get their inputs for devising an improved security plan for the community. He further directed the concerned authorities for necessary steps to install CCTV Cameras in the residential areas and business points of Sikh Community.

The delegation thanked the Chief Minister for issuing necessary directives to the concerned authorities to ensure their security and extending all possible support to the Sikh community.

KNP, KVO launch cleaning campaign in Khunjarab

GILGIT (APP): Khunjarab National Park (KNP) administration in collaboration with local rural organization KVO has launched a cleaning campaign in Khunjarab top area.

This step was taken as part of the ongoing efforts of the administration to maintain the cleanliness and beauty of the park.

The cleanliness campaign was formally launched in the park. It should be noted that the national park area has a very unique place due to the local fauna, flora

diversity and its beauty.

The park administration ensured that the park should not only be kept beautiful and clean for the tourists but also provide a safe environment for the local people and the animals in the park. At the start of the campaign, a Suzuki vehicle has been specially allocated in the park to pick up the garbage and waste inside the park for safe disposal. The park administration said that the role of local community organization KVO and other stakeholders in this cleaning campaign was very important.

Walk held to mark 'Int'l Day against Drug Abuse'

FAISALABAD (APP): The district administration held a walk to mark 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' here on Tuesday.

A spokesperson for the district administration said Additional Deputy Commissioner (general) Ahmed Saeed Manj led the walk which was participated by Assistant Director Anti-Narcotics Force Salman Hundal, General Secretary Anjuman Anti-Narcotics Anwar Khan, Clinical Psychologist DHQ Dr Ghulam Mustafa Niazi and others.



LAHORE: A view of the hustle and bustle of passengers at Railway Station as people are boarding into train for leaving to their native villages for celebrating Eid-ul-Adha with great Zeal.

Gomal University's faculty, students visit PBC building condemn Radio Pak vandalism

PESHAWAR (APP): Faculty members and students from various departments, including Mass Communication and Media Studies Gomal University Dera Ismail Khan visited Radio Pakistan building here on Tuesday and condemned attack on PBC and Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) offices.

The delegation led by the university's Provost Dr. Samiullah Khan, and Head of the Media Studies Department, Dr. Imran Khan, Director Student Affairs Dr Nafaid Khan, Dr. Memoona Gul, Ata-ur-Rehman, Sajid Qayyum, Maryam Sadiq, and male and female students visited Radio Pakistan Peshawar station and APP to express unity and condemn the heinous attack that took place on May 9, 10.

The faculty members and students of Gomal University expressed their grief and sorrow upon witnessing the damaged sections of Radio Pakistan Peshawar station and APP.

During the visit to Radio Pakistan Peshawar station and APP Office, Dr.

Imran Khan said that Radio Pakistan is the strong and powerful voice of the state, and the attack on it is equivalent to an attack on Pakistan. Causing harm to national institutions in the guise of protest and destruction is not permissible under any law in the world, he said.

Radio Pakistan is our national asset and heritage, and those who set it ablaze have no right to any leniency, said Dr Imran.

Provost Dr. Samiullah Khan mentioned that the purpose of visiting the buildings of Radio Pakistan was to show solidarity with our national institutions. He said that the destruction caused by the miscreants on May 9, 10 to Radio Pakistan and APP, which are national and historical institutions, is completely unacceptable. Director of Student Affairs Dr Nafaid Khan mentioned that although the condition of this national asset was witnessed on television screens and social media, coming here made it evident that the destruction.

Rickshaw driver killed on road

FAISALABAD (APP): A rickshaw driver was killed in a road accident near here on Tuesday.

According to Rescue 1122, a rickshaw was hit by a truck near Rafhan mills, Niamoana, Samundri road. As a result, the rickshaw driver, Shah Nawaz, suffered head injuries and died on the spot.

Missing youth found dead in canal

FAISALABAD (APP): A mutilated body of a missing teenager was found in Gugera Branch Canal, in the limits of City Jaranwala police station. Police said on Tuesday that 19-year-old Waseem, resident of Jaranwala went missing three days ago. His relative searched him here and there but in vain and reported the matter to the area police. On Monday night, some passers by spotted the body in Gugera Branch Canal near Rescue-1122 Station Jaranwala Road and informed the rescuers.

The divers of Rescue-1122 fished out the body which was later on identified as Waseem.

Mayor Karachi for paying full attention to cleaning operation on Eid-ul-Azha

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that he wants to work together to provide relief to the people of Karachi and for now, we have to pay full attention to the Eid-ul-Azha operation to ensure cleanliness in the city on this important occasion.

He said this on the occasion of the coordination meeting held at Sindh Solid Waste Management office with town chairmen and vice-chairmen regarding Eid-ul-Azha arrangements.

Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Managing Director Sindh Solid Waste Management Board Syed Intiaz Shah, Parliamentary Leader in City Council Najmi Alam, General Secretary of People's Party South District Karamullah Waqasi, Deputy Commissioner West Ali Zulfiqar Memon, Deputy Commissioner East Tabraiz Murry and other officers and elected representatives were also present.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab assured the town chairmen that all possible support will be provided

for the early resolution of the problems that have been identified by chairmen of different areas, for the betterment of the city. We want to work together, that's why we are coordinating with all the elected local representatives.

After Eid-ul-Azha, the Town Chairman's offices and other needs will be fulfilled. Apart from the designated collection points, the points proposed by the town chairmen will also be considered in connection with the arrangements for Eid-ul-Azha.

He said excavation work at landfill sites to safely bury the offals has now completed. A total of 18 trenches have been dug to bury the waste and offals, while 93 collection points will be created to collect the offals, and 6802 vehicles and 24,366 manpower will be used in the operation of collecting the offals, Mayor Karachi said complaints centers will be functional in every district and complaints can be registered on SSWMB's helpline number 1128, which will be dealt with promptly.



LAHORE: Caretaker Punjab Information Minister of Punjab Amir Mir addressing press conference at Waste Management Company along with Muhammad Ali Randhawa regarding the cleanliness measurements on Eid-ul-Adha.

Five dacoits killed; says SSP Ghotki

SUKKUR (APP): Ghotki Police has claimed to kill a dacoit and injured three of his accomplices in an encounter, while separately four other dacoits, including one carrying Rs0.5 million head money, were killed in an attack by a rival gang on Monday.

SSP Ghotki, Tanveer Hussain Tunio said the police and criminals had an encounter in village Rehmat Jagirani in the Katcha area of Katcha Bindhi Police Station in Ghotki district, in which dacoit Mukhtiar son of Abdul Aziz Jagirani was killed, while his three accomplices Golo son of Walidad Jagirani, Nizamuddin son of Abdul Ghafoor Jagirani and Mashgool son of Anwar Jagirani were injured.

He said the deceased

dacoit Mukhtiar Jagirani was wanted to police in multiple cases of murder, highway robberies, kidnapping for ransom and others. The SSP further said that in a separate incident, the gang of Qutab Jagirani attacked the gang of Mukhtiar Jagirani, in which four dacoits, including Vengus son of Qabil Jagirani, a notified criminal carrying head money of Rs0.5 million, were killed.

The other three dacoits were identified as Jam Sadiq Jagirani, Alam Jagirani and Nadir son of Qutubuddin Jagirani, said SSP Ghotki.

Meanwhile, the video of three employees of a private company, kidnapped by the dacoits a month ago surfaced on the social media, in which the hostages could be seen begging for their release.

ANF seizes 679.645 kg drugs; arrests 50 accused in 45 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan seized 679.645 kg drugs and 4,800 kg suspected drugs worth US\$ 17.189 million internationally, arrested 50 accused including four women, and a foreigner and impounded 15 vehicles while conducting 45 counter-narcotics operations throughout the country last week.

According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, the seized drugs comprised 218.360 kg opium, 27.047 kg hero in, 405.289 kg hashish, 260 grams cocaine, 28.204 kg methamphetamine (Ice), 60 grams ecstasy tabs (140 Tabs) and 425 grams ketamine.

ANF Balochistan recovered 44,160 kg of drugs and 4,800 kg of suspected drugs in four operations while arresting

four accused involved in drug smuggling. The seized drugs comprised 1.160 kg opium and 43 kg Hashish. ANF Punjab recovered 176.299 kg of Drugs in 10 operations, arrested 13 accused including two women and impounded three vehicles.

The seized drugs comprised 105,600 kg opium, 20,517 kg heroin, 49,313 kg hashish, 260 grams cocaine and 609 grams Methamphetamine (Ice).

ANF KPK recovered 31,732 kg of drugs in 12 operations, arrested four accused including a foreigner and impounded a vehicle. The seized drugs comprised 5,376 kg hashish and 26,356 kg Methamphetamine (Ice).

The spokesman informed that ANF Sindh recovered 229,964 kg of drugs in 11 operations.



SIALKOT: Deputy Commissioner Malik Adnan Mahmood Awan distributing plastic bags by Sialkot Waste Management Company to public for disposal of the offal of sacrificial animals on Eidul Azha.



FAISALABAD: A large number of people arrives at General Bus Stand to leave for hometowns to celebrate Eidul Azha with their loved ones.

Murtaza Mehmood says: Pakistan's development hinges on promotion, facilitation of SMEs

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Industries and Production Murtaza Mehmood said on Tuesday that Pakistan economic and industrial development hinged on promoting, incentivizing, financing and strengthening the SMEs, besides establishing one platform for their facilitation.

He stated this while addressing a ceremony regarding World Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Day organized by Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) here. On this occasion, SMEDA signed six Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with six public sector organizations including Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC), Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO), Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), Messalaha International

Center for Arbitration and Dispute Resolution (MICADR), Urban Unit Government of the Punjab and Government of Gilgit Baltistan.

The Federal Minister cited that in other countries, a company that started in the backyard grew speedily and ultimately turned into a multi-billion global company but unfortunately in Pakistan, it was very hard for SMEs to survive. He added that the world had done a lot regarding SMEs and also micro businesses but Pakistan had not done enough as there was a lot it could have done. The SMEs in Pakistan faced too many issues especially regarding finances as there were too many bottle necks and hurdles in the bureaucracy and government, he said and mentioned that as federal minister, his focus was to get rid of these bottle

necks and facilitate SMEs, which could also be turned into a multi-national companies and 'this is our vision and focus.'

He was of the view that government should not be intervening and interfering but it should be facilitating, incentivizing and focusing on making policies. "I am very lucky to have a best SMEDA team and we worked together. Today, we have signed MoUs with public sector organizations," he maintained. The Federal Minister also appreciated the very important incentives introduced with regards to single window operation like MoU was signed between Punjab government and SMEDA. "I think, more has to be done when I see different organizations working on Pakistan's single window; they all are working on single window but actually there is no one platform for the single window.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Railways and Aviation, Khawaja Saad Rafique calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Minister explores meat export opportunities with American Consul General

LAHORE (INP): Provincial Minister for Livestock Ibrahim Hasan Murad met with American Consul General William K. Makaneole at American Consulate General in Lahore to discuss meat export opportunities between the two countries.

He said the government was keen to expand meat exports to international markets.

The purpose of the meeting was to explore new avenues for strengthening bilateral trade relations between the US and Pakistan in the livestock sector with a specific focus on meat exports.

Minister Murad and Consul General Makaneole reiterated their

commitment to fostering a strong trade relationship that would not only benefit the livestock industry but also contribute to the economic growth of Pakistan.

American Consul General William K. Makaneole appreciated the efforts of the minister in fostering the livestock industry to international markets. He also expressed that US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome was also very eager to enhance trade between the two countries. The American Consul General assured Minister Ibrahim Murad of full support and cooperation for the livestock industry in Punjab.

Hundreds of interns to work as additional field assistants in cotton areas

MULTAN (APP): Secretary of Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Ateeel said on Monday that hundreds of interns would be deputed as additional field assistants in cotton-growing areas of South Punjab to extend guidelines to farmers under an Rs 150 million project.

Under this project of the Punjab agriculture department, the interns from agriculture departments of different universities would be paid Rs 20,000 per month, however, they would join the assignment from July 3, 2023, after completing training, Saqib Ali said while presiding over a meeting to speed up proceedings on Punjab

government's internship programmes, meant to strengthen on-field advisory services for flawless cotton crop management and enhanced production.

Vice Chancellor Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture Dr. Asif Ali, Additional Secretary of Task Force South Punjab Imtiaz Ahmad Waraich, Dean Faculty Dr. Shafiqat Saeed, focal persons of internship program from universities were present while divisional and district officials of the agriculture department joined the meeting online.

Interns would be deputed as additional field assistants by July 3.



MULTAN: Women farmers bus in seedling the rice crop in their field in the outskirts of the city.

CTP to take action against transporters involved in overcharging

RAWALPINDI (APP): As residents of the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad head to their hometowns and villages to celebrate Eidul Azha, intercity transporters have started hiking their fares.

To stop this profiteering, the City Traffic Police (CTP) has launched a grand operation against these transporters for overcharging passengers. According to City Traffic Officer (CTO) Taimoor Khan transporters have already been warned to stop overcharging or else face strict action in accordance with the law.

CTO said that they had constituted special squads who monitor these buses and wagons. If they find public service vehicle (PSVs) overcharging passengers, they are issued a ticket and slapped with a heavy fine.

Trade of sacrificial animals picked up in Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): The trade of sacrificial animals has picked up momentum in the Sukkur and other districts of the Sukkur division as the faithfuls are finalize the purchasing of different animals in cattle markets because only two days are remaining in Eidul Azha. It is the second Muslim ritual that commemorates the supreme sacrifices of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) and his son Hazrat Ismail (AS). Apart from domestic traders, the businessmen of Sindh and Punjab have also brought their sacrificial animals in large number to fully exploit the market of Sukkur.



Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, Islamabad.

Poultry output targets fixed at 2.363 million tons for fiscal year 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (Online): The government has set a target to produce about 2.363 million tons of poultry during fiscal year 2023-24 in order to fulfill the domestic requirements of poultry meat and other value added products. The poultry output during the 11 months of current fiscal year (2022-23) was recorded at 2.160 million metric tons as compared to its fixed targets, where as about 5.809 million tons of meat also produced in order to fulfill the local requirements of the commodity as well as for exporting to exploit existing potential of halal meat in global markets. Domestic output of meat in 11 months of last year was recorded at 5.5 million tons as the government had set to produce about 5.5 million tons of meat during the year 2022-23, said an official in the Ministry of

National Food Security and Research. Talking to APP here on Tuesday, he said that beef production targets for period under review were fixed at 2.630 million metric tons and mutton at 817,000 tons, adding that during out going fiscal year the local production of beef was recorded at 2.55 million tons as against the set targets of 2.54 million tons, where as about 799,000 metric tons of mutton also produced as compared to the set targets of 799,000 metric tons. He further informed that agriculture sector was envisaged to grow by 3.9% in the Annual Plan 2022-23 given a strong crop sector performance of the previous year. However, he said that during the period from June-August 2022, torrential rains and flash flooding led to an unprecedented disaster in various parts of the country.

PACRA reaffirms credit rating of PMIC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency (PACRA) has maintained the long-term and short-term entity ratings of Pakistan Microfinance Investment Company (PMIC) at 'AA' (Double A) and 'A1+' (A One Plus) respectively.

The rating reflects a strong equity base, well-conceived business plans and strong ownership structure, a news release said.

The ratings denote a very low expectation of credit risk emanating from a very strong capacity for

timely payment of financial commitments which is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

PMIC, incorporated in 2016, is licensed to carry out investment finance services as a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) under the NBFC Rules, 2003 and NBFC Regulations 2008.

The strong sponsors, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (49%), Karandaz (38%) and KfW, a German development Bank (13%) strengthen the financial profile of PMIC.



LAHORE: Federal Minister of Industries & Production Syed Murtaza Mehmood witnessing the signing ceremony of MoU between SMEDA & Strategic Partners.

Business of knife sharpeners shine on Eidul Azha in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Besides the trade of sacrificial animals, the business of blacksmiths and knife sharpeners were also shined in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on the joys occasion of Eidul Azha.

Eidul Azha has brought joy for people viz a viz blacksmiths, butchers and knives sharpeners whether trained or untrained arrived to get maximum profits at Peshawar.

As only a day left in Eidul Azha celebrations, the blacksmiths and knife sharpeners of Peshawar and adjoining districts have received numerous orders to get maximum business, they were earning two times high.

Knife sharpeners and blacksmiths besides seasonal butchers whether trained or untrained, are deemed as rare commodities these days in Peshawar, who were receiving innumerable orders despite an exorbitant charges for their services.

At Firdus, Rati Bazar, Hayatabad, Gulbahar,

Boards etc. in Peshawar, special machines have been installed at various shops to sharpen knives, beef cutters, knives and meat cleavers along with selling Bar-B-Q instruments as part of an arrangements for Eid ul Azha.

The professional traders are attracting a number of customers due to their decorated handles and sharp-edged instruments.

Butchers' appliances sale including knives, cutters and stand blades etc, has also witnessed record increase.

The people are also repairing their old and damaged machetes, knives and other tools needed for cutting meat. Ordinary shopkeepers, professional and untrained blacksmiths and knife sharpeners belonging to far flung areas of KP are also being seen selling these tools in different areas including Gulbahar, Hastnagri, Karimpura, Cantonment areas, Tehkal, Latifabad, Ghareeb Abad, Hayatabad, Board and were earning two times high.

US, China, UK remained top three destinations of Pak exports in 11 months

ISLAMABAD (INP): The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the eleven months of the current fiscal year (2022-23), followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the US during July-May (2022-23) were recorded at US\$ 5481.385 million as opposed the exports of US\$ 6162.991 million during July-May (2021-22), showing a decline of 11.05 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 1891.949 million compared to the exports of US\$ 2544.418 million last year, showing a decrease of 25.64 percent.

UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 1806.385 million during the months under review against the exports of US\$ 2011.859 million during last year, showing a decline of 10.21 percent, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani

exports to Germany stood at US\$ 1488.461 million against US\$ 1574.850 million last year, showing a decrease of 5.48 percent while the exports to UAE were recorded at US\$ 1341.359 million opposed US\$ 1632.907 million last year.

During July-May (2022-23), the exports to Holland were recorded at US\$ 1324.959 million against US\$ 1341.035 million whereas the exports to Afghanistan stood at US\$ 478.342 million against US\$ 494.8585 million.

Rupee gains 71 paisas against US Dollar in interbank

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday gained 71 paisas against the US Dollar (USD) in the interbank trading as it closed at Rs285.99 against the previous day's closing of Rs 286.70.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market stood at Rs 287.5 and Rs 290 respectively.

The price of the Euro went up by 71 paisas to close at Rs 312.93 against the last day's closing of Rs 312.22, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen lost one paisa to close at Rs 1.99, whereas a decrease of Rs 1.05 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound.



LAHORE: Vendors displaying sacrificial animals to attract the customers in connection with upcoming Eid ul Adha at Sacrificial Animal Market.

IMF agreement inevitable for Pakistan: ICCI

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on Tuesday said the International Monetary Funds (IMF) agreement was inevitable for a sustainable economic base in Pakistan.

However, the government would have to take decisions keeping in view the country's economic recovery, he said in statement.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said, "The business community believes that the IMF agreement is indispensable for the country and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has negotiated with the Fund as a real national leader and spokesman for the aspirations of the Pakistani nation. "He emerged as a true national hero by not compromising on national interests during the long period of negotiations, but it is our misfortune that at last he also had to accept the tough conditions of the

IMF to save the country economically," he added.

The ICCI president said the trust of friendly countries and international organizations would be restored by the IMF agreement. However, instead of burdening the people or the business community, the government should find a middle way.

To get out of the economic crisis, the government should formulate short, mid and long-term policies, he added. He said the business community had been supportive of the government's initiatives, which should adopt such measures to provide a conducive environment for business. He said the business community across the country, including the ICCI, had demanded reduction of the interest rate in the budget proposals, which was supported by the parliament and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships namely, OOCL Le Havre, MSC Mundra, Lana and Milaha Ras Laffan carrying Containers and LNG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal and Pakistan Gas Terminal respectively.

Meanwhile four more ships, MSC Letizia, Maersk Columbus Yankul Silver and Al-Maha with Containers, Palm oil and LPG also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim during the last 24 hours.

A total of 09 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them four ships, MSC Mundra, Sadah Silver, Bochem Pegasos and Opera sailed out to sea on Tuesday morning on Tuesday and two more ships, Lana and Star Bovarius are expected to sail on today.

Cargo throughput of 160,017 tonnes, comprising 117,850 tonnes imports Cargo and 42,167 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 3,646 Containers (1,809 TEUs Imports and 1,837 TEUs export).



MULTAN: A laborer busy in spreading corn seeds for drying purpose in his field.

Tokyo stocks end down on unease over Russia

TOKYO (AFP/APP): Tokyo stocks ended lower on Tuesday after global markets mostly retreated as US tech shares stumbled and a short-lived mutiny in Russia stoked unease on trading floors.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index was down 0.49 percent, or 160.48 points, to end at 32,538.33, while the broader Topix index slipped 0.28 percent, or 6.36 points, to 2,253.81.

The dollar stood at 143.62 yen, against 143.50 yen in New York late Monday.

Falls in large tech shares weighed on major indices on Wall Street overnight. Shares of Google

parent Alphabet dropped 3.2 percent following a downgrade by UBS, while Tesla plunged 6.1 percent on a downgrade by Goldman Sachs. Worries related to an advance by the Wagner mercenary force, which was called off before it reached Moscow, also held back share prices, according to analysts. The developments weighed on the sentiment of investors in Japan, where "uncertainty over the situation in Russia smouldered", IwaCosmo Securities said. "As the end of the month approaches, concerns over the tilt toward selling also dragged down the market," it said.

US, allies not involved in uprising against Kremlin, says Biden

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden on Monday said a brief uprising by Russian mercenaries against the Kremlin was part of a struggle within the Russian system and the Washington and its allies were not involved in it.

"We made clear we were not involved, we had nothing to do with this," Biden said in his first comments on the uprising by Wagner mercenaries that fizzled over the weekend.

At a White House event, Biden addressed the dramatic power struggle that erupted over the weekend when the mutineers barreled toward Moscow only to stop before reaching the capital.

Russian intelligence services were investigating whether Western spy agencies played a role in the aborted mutiny, the TASS news agency quoted Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov as saying on Monday.

Biden said he spoke with key allies on a video conference to make sure everyone was on the same page and coordinated in their response.

"We agreed with me that we had to make sure

that we gave (Russian President Vladimir) Putin no excuse — to blame this on the West and blame this on Nato," he said. He said he and his team would continue assessing the fallout from the incident. "It's still too early to reach a definitive conclusion about where this is going," he added.

President Vladimir Putin's former chief strategist on Monday urged an end to mercenary groups in Russia after a mutiny by Yevgeny Prigozhin's Wagner militia, cautioning that they interfered with the chain of command.

Vladislav Surkov, once known as the Kremlin's puppet master by friends and foes alike, said "private military companies" were an idea imported from the US, created to engage in proxy wars. "How can a military unit be private in our understanding? This is completely inconsistent with Russian political, managerial and military culture," Surkov, who left the Kremlin in 2020, said in an interview published by his associate Alexei Chesnakov.

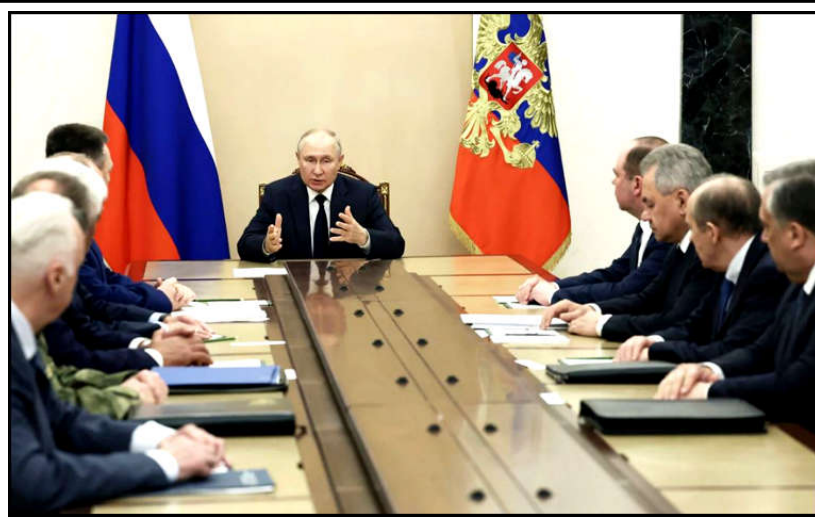
Such groups, Surkov said, risked turning Russia

into "some kind of Eurasian tribal zone" while dividing the command of the armed forces as Russia fought what the Kremlin calls a "special military operation" (SVO) in Ukraine.

"Why do we need them today when we are openly participating in the battle for Ukraine? This is not a proxy war, this is the SVO," Surkov said. "The army must be strengthened not only with weapons, but also with unity of command." As first deputy chief of the Kremlin administration from 1999 to 2011, Surkov helped Putin forge his tightly controlled political system.

Prigozhin said that a one-day mutiny by his Wagner force had been intended not to overthrow Russia's government but to register a protest over what he said was its ineffectual conduct of the war in Ukraine.

"We showed a master class, as it should have been on Feb 24, 2022. We did not have the goal of overthrowing the existing regime and the legally elected government," he said in an 11-minute audio message released on the Telegram messaging app.



Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a meeting with the heads of Russian law enforcement agencies at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia.

Russian mutiny details remain scarce as Putin says he sought to avoid bloodshed

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Monday he let Saturday's aborted mutiny go on as long as it did to avoid bloodshed, while the Wagner mercenary group boss who led the uprising said he never intended to overthrow the government.

Putin's televised address was his first public comment since Saturday, when he had said the rebellion threatened Russia's very existence and those behind it would be punished.

"From the very beginning of the events, steps were taken on my direct instruction to avoid serious

bloodshed," Putin said on Monday.

"Time was needed, among other things, to give those who had made a mistake a chance to come to their senses, to realise that their actions were firmly rejected by society, and that the adventure in which they had been involved had tragic and destructive consequences for Russia and for our state."

Wagner head Yevgeny Prigozhin spoke in an 11-minute audio message that was posted on his press service's Telegram channel and which gave few clues to his whereabouts, or the deal under which he halted the move toward Moscow.

Prigozhin shocked the world by leading Saturday's armed revolt, an event that numerous Western leaders saw as exposing Putin's vulnerability after invading Ukraine 16 months ago.

The mercenary leader abruptly called the uprising off after his fighters had approached Moscow with virtually no resistance during a dash of nearly 800 km (500 miles).

The Russian president said on Monday he would honour his weekend promise to allow Wagner forces to relocate to Belarus if they wanted, sign a contract with Russia's Defence Ministry, or return to their families.

Ukraine 'peace summit' talks make progress but long way to go: officials

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: Ukraine's work with allies to build broad international support for a peace blueprint has made progress but any summit to endorse a document is at least months away, officials said.

Senior officials from Ukraine, G7 countries, the European Union and nations such as Brazil, India, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Turkey met on Saturday in Denmark for talks on the concept, even as an abortive mutiny unfolded in Russia.

China had been invited to the talks but did not attend — highlighting the challenge faced by Ukraine and its allies in building a truly global, heavyweight coalition.

The Copenhagen meeting aimed to advance a proposal by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for a "peace summit" to endorse principles that would underpin any settlement to end the

war that started with Russia's invasion 16 months ago.

Ukrainian and Western officials have said that the summit would not involve Russia. Instead, they aim to rally a broad coalition behind the Kyiv government — including major countries that have decided not to give Ukraine military aid or impose sanctions on Russia — to increase diplomatic pressure on Moscow.

Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen said the turmoil in Russia could persuade more countries to get on board.

"It is my interpretation that Putin is weakened, to some extent at least. And hopefully that could also have an impact on the rest of the world's willingness to discuss a post-war situation in Ukraine," Rasmussen told reporters at a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Luxembourg on Monday.

Fighting erupts in Sudan's southeast after RSF advance in Khartoum

Monitoring Desk
KHARTOUM: Sudan's army confirmed on Monday that the rival Rapid Support Forces (RSF) had taken the main base of a well-equipped police brigade in Khartoum and there were reports of fighting spreading for the first time to Blue Nile state near Ethiopia.

The RSF said it had captured dozens of armoured vehicles and pickup trucks after seizing the Central Reserve Police headquarters on Sunday, consolidating its position in southern Khartoum where several important military camps are situated.

The army had leant on the Central Reserve Police for ground fighting in Khartoum, where it has struggled to counter mobile RSF units which quickly spread out across the city once fighting erupted on April 15. The army said in a statement that the Central Reserve police base had been taken after three days of fighting, accusing the

RSF of attacking "state institutions."

Local activists said at least 15 civilians had been killed in the fighting, and more than 80 had been seriously wounded.

Also on Monday, residents on social media reported an attack by the SPLM-N, Sudan's most powerful rebel group, in the city of Kurmuk in Blue Nile State, on the border with Ethiopia.

Reuters could not independently verify the reports. The United Nations mission in Sudan said hundreds of civilians had crossed the border into Ethiopia to seek safety due to clashes in Blue Nile on Sunday and Monday, while others appeared set to head north to Damazin, the state capital. Clashes linked to tribal tensions in Blue Nile State left hundreds dead last year. The SPLM-N last week clashed with the army in South Kordofan state, raising fears the conflict could spread across Sudan's southern regions.



Honduras military takes over prisons after dozens die in riot.

Honduras military takes over prisons after dozens die in riot

Monitoring Desk
TEGUCIGALPA: Honduras' military began taking control of the country's violent prisons on Monday, following a gang dispute that left 46 inmates dead at a women's detention center last week, officials said.

The images show similarities to ones shared earlier this year by neighboring right-wing El Salvador's government, which has beehived up prison security and locked up more than 62,000 alleged criminals during a crackdown on gangs.

"Our mission is to defeat organized crime inside the prisons and we are (also) going after the intellectual authors operating from outside," Defense Minister Jose Manuel Zelaya said in a tweet.

arranged on the floor of Tegucigalpa's high-security Tamara prison with their arms over their heads, guarded by heavily armed soldiers.

The images show similarities to ones shared earlier this year by neighboring right-wing El Salvador's government, which has beehived up prison security and locked up more than 62,000 alleged criminals during a crackdown on gangs.

"Our mission is to defeat organized crime inside the prisons and we are (also) going after the intellectual authors operating from outside," Defense Minister Jose Manuel Zelaya said in a tweet.

South Korea to return to Japan's 'white list' for exports on July 21

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japan will reinstate South Korea to its "white list" for exports with fast-track trade status effective July 21, Japanese trade minister Yasutoshi Nishimura said on Tuesday, a crucial step for resolving an economic row between the two nations.

Japan lifted export curbs on high-tech materials to South Korea in March as the nations mended ties amid South Korea's repeated missile launches and China's stepping up defence activities.

South Korea's trade ministry welcomed the move as a "complete recovery of trust between the two countries in export control". The ministry also said it would work closely with Tokyo on bilateral and multilateral export control issues in future.

Toronto elects Olivia Chow as first Chinese Canadian mayor

Monitoring Desk
TORONTO: Olivia Chow became the first Chinese-Canadian to be elected as mayor of Toronto, Canada's biggest city, on Monday, pledging to support renters, champion social causes, and reduce the sweeping powers of her office.

"I would dedicate myself to work tirelessly in building a city that is more caring, affordable, and safe, where everyone belongs," Chow told her supporters during the victory speech.

Chow secured 37.2% vote, according to preliminary results, ahead of her nearest rival Ana Bailao, former deputy mayor. A prominent voice in progressive politics, Chow's campaign drew on her record as a former member of parliament in Ottawa and as a Toronto city councillor, and leaned on historic relationships established by her late husband, former New Democratic Party (NDP) and federal opposition leader Jack Layton.

Chow, 66, will be the first woman to serve as mayor since Barbara Hall in 1997. She previously ran for mayor in 2014, when she came in third. Born in Hong Kong, Chow emigrated to Canada at the age of 13, and graduated from the University of Guelph with a degree in fine art. Chow takes over as mayor after the resignation of John Tory, conservative-leaning mayor who won his third election last October.

Ukraine's Zelenskyy praises 'advances' after visiting front sectors

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelenskyy praised Ukrainian troops for advancing "in all sectors" on Monday after spending the day posing with and handing awards to front-line soldiers in the east and south of the country.

"Today in all sectors, our soldiers made advances. It is a happy day," Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address, delivered from a train after visiting two frontline areas.

The president's office posted four videos of Zelenskyy's journey, which he said covered "hundreds of kilometres" and appeared to present encounters in at least three locations.

Judge to weigh whether Trump's New York criminal case should be moved to federal court

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: A U.S. judge is set to hear arguments Tuesday over President Donald Trump's attempt to move his criminal case in New York out of the state court, where he was indicted, to a federal court where he could potentially try to get the case dismissed. Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein will listen to the afternoon arguments, though he isn't expected to immediately rule.

Trump's lawyers sought to move the case to Manhattan federal court soon after Trump pleaded not guilty in April to charges that he falsified his company's business records to hide hush money payouts aimed at burying allegations of extramarital sexual encounters.

While requests to move criminal cases from state to federal court are rarely granted, the prosecution of Trump is unprecedented. The Republican's lawyers said the charges, while related to his private company's records, involve things he did while he was president. U.S. law allows criminal prosecutions to be removed from state court if they involve actions taken by federal government officials as part of their official duties.

Trump is alleged to have falsified records to cover up payments made in 2017 to his former personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, to compensate him for orchestrating payouts in 2016 to porn star Stormy Daniels and Playboy model Karen McDougal.

Serbia releases 3 captured Kosovo police officers

Monitoring Desk
PRISTINA: Belgrade on Monday freed three Kosovo police officers who had been taken into custody by Serbian security forces earlier this month, following a court order to release the trio.

The move followed weeks of soaring tensions between the two sides, after rioting in northern Kosovo saw more than 30 Nato peacekeepers injured in late May. "We confirm that the 3 kidnapped police officers have been released. Even though we are joyous that they get to return to their families, this abduction consists of a serious human rights violation and must be reprimanded,"

Fire engulfs high-rise in United Arab Emirates. No reports of injuries

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: A fire tore through a high-rise residential building in the United Arab Emirates early Tuesday before being brought under control, according to videos circulating online.

There were no immediate reports of injuries from the blaze in Ajman, one of the seven emirates that makes up the UAE, which also includes the futuristic cities of Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

The footage showed a corner of the building engulfed in flames reaching from the ground level to the top, with debris falling to the street below.

Ajman News, a local media outlet, later reported that the fire had been brought under control. Footage on its Instagram showed the blackened exterior of the building and firefighters on the street below.

There was no immediate comment from UAE officials.

The UAE has seen a number of similar fires in recent years that have been linked to flammable cladding on many of the country's ubiquitous high-rises.

Montreal has worst air of any major city

Monitoring Desk
MONTREAL: Forest fires in Canada left Montreal blanketed with smog on Sunday, giving it the worst air quality of any major city in the world, according to a pollution monitor.

Quebec province's most populous city had "unhealthy" air quality according to IQAir, which tracks pollution around the globe, as hundreds of wildfires burned across the country. Environment Canada issued smog warnings in several Quebec regions due to the fires, saying "high concentrations of fine particulate matter are causing poor air quality and reduced visibilities."

Malaria cases in Texas and Florida are the first US spread since 2003, CDC says

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: The United States has seen five cases of malaria spread by mosquitos in the last two months — the first time there's been local spread in 20 years.

There were four cases detected in Florida and one in Texas, according to a health alert issued Monday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Malaria is caused by a parasite that spreads through mosquito bites. Infected people can suffer fever, chills and flu-like illness. If it goes untreated,

infected people can develop severe complications and die. The largest death toll in recent years has been seen in children in sub-Saharan Africa.

Health officials are warning doctors, especially those in southern states where the weather is more friendly to the tropical mosquito that spreads malaria, to be aware of the possibility of infection. They also should think about how to access the IV drug that is the first-line treatment for severe malaria in the United States, the CDC said.

Indian wrestlers take fight from sit-ins to court

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Top Indian wrestlers who have accused their federation president of sexual harassment said they will rely on legal challenges rather than return to protests, local media reported on Monday.

Olympic medalists and other Indian wrestling champions supported a weeks-long sit-in in New Delhi, accusing federation chief Brij Bhushan Singh of groping women athletes and demanding sexual favours.

Singh is also a powerful lawmaker for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Police charged him on June 15 with sexual harassment and stalking, accusations Singh denies.

Top US Republican threatens impeachment probe of attorney general over Hunter Biden

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The top Republican in the U.S. House of Representatives is threatening an impeachment investigation of Attorney General Merrick Garland over the Justice Department's criminal probe of President Joe Biden's son, Hunter.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy tweeted on Sunday that U.S. Attorney David Weiss, the federal prosecutor appointed by Republican ex-president Donald Trump and overseeing the investigation, must answer questions about whistleblower allegations that the Justice Department intervened in the case to protect Biden's son.

"If the whistleblowers' allegations are true, this will be a significant part of a larger impeachment inquiry into Merrick Garland's weaponization of DOJ,"

McCarthy said, using the acronym for the Justice Department.

Hunter Biden has agreed to plead guilty to two misdemeanor charges of willfully failing to pay income taxes and to enter as part of an agreement that could avert conviction on a gun-related charge, according to court documents filed last week.

Garland has denied Internal Revenue Service whistleblower testimony alleging that Weiss was hindered by the Justice Department from pursuing a more aggressive investigation of the president's son.

House Republicans, some eager to seek retribution for Trump who was impeached twice when Democrats controlled the House, have launched multiple investigations into Biden's family and administration to seek evidence of wrongdoing.

Work begins to clean up train derailment in Montana's Yellowstone River

Monitoring Desk
HELENA: Work is underway to clean up rail cars carrying hazardous materials that fell into the Yellowstone River in southern Montana after a bridge collapsed over the weekend, officials said Monday.

Montana Rail Link is developing a cleanup plan and is working with its unions and BNSF Railway to reroute freight trains in the area to limit disruption of the supply chain, Beth Archer, a spokesperson for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, said in a joint statement issued with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and Montana Rail Link. Contractors and a large crane were on site to stabilize and remove cars from the river once a plan is set, officials said. Some rail cars that did not go off the tracks were removed

from the area, and two cars carrying sodium hydrosulfide had their contents transferred to other cars and moved to safety, Archer said.

Montana Rail Link will be responsible for all cleanup costs, CEO Joe Racicot told a news conference. Sixteen cars derailed, and 10 of them ended up in the river downstream from Yellowstone National Park Saturday morning.

Six mangled cars that carried hot asphalt, three holding molten sulfur and one with scrap metal remained in the rushing water on Monday in an area surrounded by farmland near the town of Columbus, about 40 miles (about 64 kilometers) west of Billings. Two of the cars were submerged, and a dive team was deployed to gather more information, Archer said in a statement.



Several train cars are immersed in the Yellowstone River after a bridge collapse near Columbus, Mont.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairing the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC).

Faisal Karim Kundi says BISP, a non political scheme, serving 9 million women across country

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday said the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) was a non-political scheme under which about nine million deserving women were being benefitted across the country. Faisal Kundi, who is also the central information secretary of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), stated this during a meeting with different delegations and party representatives here at the residence of PPP District President Malik Farhan Dhap in Paroa.

He said the poor voters of every party were being facilitated under this program.

Kundi said that Rs 80.7 billion were being dis-

tributed among deserving people under Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) across the country.

He said the recent payment distribution process of BISP was being monitored by him, Federal Minister Shazia Marri and the BISP officials. Keeping in view the extreme weather conditions and the hardships being faced by the beneficiary women, the payments were transferred to specific retailers from the payment centres, he added. Kundi said that 900,000 cards were blocked during the previous regime and we had promised the nation to restore them, adding, about 250,000 cards including 7,000 from Dera Ismail Khan had been restored to date. About 165,000 women from Dera Ismail

Khan benefitted under BISP while 12,000 more have been registered from the area during a recent survey.

Kundi said that Dera Ismail Khan has been included in the districts of the pilot project under which the beneficiaries would be paid through banks by next month. Moreover, he said Rs 70 billion were given to the flood victims. He said a NADRA office had been opened in Paroa Tehsil despite the obstacles and now he had demanded the Interior Ministry to immediately establish the same facility in Paniala. "We inaugurated the rehabilitation work on Chashma Right Bank Canal (CRBC) last month and issued instructions to the contractor to complete the work within one month.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Syed Faisal Sabzwari addressing a ceremony to hand over letters to KPT employees for regularization of service under PM's Assistance Package.

Notification for appointment of VCs of 5 PSUs issued

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Vice Chancellors of five public sector universities of Balochistan have finally been appointed on Tuesday.

The necessary notification regarding appointment of the Vice Chancellors has been issued.

According to the notification, Dr. Khalid Hafeez has been appointed the Vice Chancellor of Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) while Dr. Ehsanullah Kakar has been posted as the Vice Chancellor, University of Loralai and Dr. Maqsood Ahmed has been posted as the Vice Chancellor, Balochistan University of Engineering

and Technology Khuzdar. Similarly, Professor Dr. Shabbir Lehri has been posted as the Vice Chancellor, Bolan University of Medical and Health Sciences Quetta and Dr. Qadir Bakhsh Baloch was posted as Vice Chancellor of Mir Chakar Rind University Sibi.

According to the notification, the appointment of vice chancellors has been made for three years.

It may be mentioned here that a search committee was formed for Vice Chancellors of the five public sector universities of the province.

Interviews of the candidates has also been conducted before the appointment.



QUETTA: MPA Sardar Yar Muhammad Rind meeting with Provincial Finance Minister Engr. Zamrak Khan Achakzai

Commissioner directs to take stern action against encroachments

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Division, Sohailur Rehman Baloch has directed all Deputy Commissioners and concerned departments to take stern action against those established encroachments in the nullahs and other water courses in their respective districts.

He also directed to take immediate steps for cleaning of the nullahs and improving sewerage and sanitation system ahead of the monsoon rains in the

Division. These directives were issued by the Commissioner Quetta while chairing a meeting to review the preparations and arrangements for the monsoon rains in the districts fall in Quetta Division, here on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Pishin, Dr. Yasir Khan Bazai, Assistant Commissioner Political, Babar Khan, as well as officials of PDMA, Education, Health, Irrigation, C&W department, Metropolitan Corporation besides others.

Dr. Arbab Kamran posted as MD Trauma Center Independent Report

QUETTA: The senior doctor of Health management cadre serving in Grade-20, Dr. Arbab Kamran has been posted as the Managing Director, Trauma Center and Emergency Department, here.

This was announced in an official hand out issued here by the Health Department the other day.

According to the notification, Dr. Azamullah Babar, serving as MD Trauma Center, has been transferred and posted as the Consultant Surgeon, Mufti Mehmood Memorial Hospital Kuchlak.

Pak, Japan hold bilateral political consultations to strengthen ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Secretary Dr. Asad Majeed Khan and his Japanese counterpart Shigeo Yamada held bilateral political consultations in Tokyo on Tuesday and reviewed significant aspects of Pak-Japan ties.

The two sides agreed to spare no effort to preserve, promote and diversify the longstanding robust relationship. Important regional and international issues were also discussed in depth, said a Foreign Office statement.

The foreign secretary also called on Japan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Takei Shunsuke and National Security Advisor Takeo Akiba. He also interacted with Shun Imaizumi, President, Japan-Pakistan Association.

6 killed and 4 injured as car plunges into ravine in Lower Kohistan

KOHISTAN (APP): At least six people were killed and four others were injured in an accident on Tuesday when a car traveling from Besham to Kolai Pallas Lower Kohistan fell into a deep ravine while taking a sharp turn.

According to Rescue 1122 sources, a car that was carrying 10 persons was heading towards Kolai Palis from Besham fell into a deep gorge when the driver lost his control while taking a sharp turn. The accident claimed six lives while four others sustained injuries.

SC rejects plea for early initiating proceedings on complaint against judge

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has rejected the plea seeking court's order for initiating immediate proceedings on the complaint against judges in Judicial Council (JC).

A two members bench of SC presided over by Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan took up the case for hearing Tuesday. The petitioner had filed petition in SC for regulating proceedings in JC.

The court had reserved judgment on June 13 in connection with maintainability of the petition. SC rejected the petition for continuing reference against former Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar.

The petitioner had filed petition praying the court to issue orders for

launching immediate proceedings on receipt of complaint in JC against the judges.

A 2-member bench of SC presided over by Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan took up for hearing on June 13, 2023 the petition seeking court's order to regulate JC proceedings.

During the hearing of the case Justice Muneeb Akhtar remarked removing the judge from his position has been talked about in 209. But nothing has been written about if judge is removed. The petitioner wants what. Should court issue directive to council.

Justice Muneeb Akhtar had given these remarks too "will the right to fair trial be not affected due to initiation of proceedings against judge in a jiffy.

Project Pakistan Sports Festival & Culture Day Program ends in Ziarat

Independent Report
QUETTA: The closing ceremony of the Project Pakistan Sports Festival and Balochistan Culture Day programme was held at Government Degree College Ziarat on Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner Ziarat, Shabbir Ahmed Badini was the chief guest on the occasion. Also present on the occasion were the District Sports Officer, Nasir Panezai, principals and teachers of different colleges, schools besides the tribal elders.

A large number of students from various educational institutions also participated in the programme.

The Deputy Commissioner distributed prizes among the position holder students of different events.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy commissioner said that wholehearted steps would be taken to promote sports and culture in Ziarat.

In addition to this, all necessary facilities would also be provided to youth, adding he assured.



QUETTA: Chairman Tajir Balochistan Takri Hameed Bangulzai meeting with Director Anti Narcotics Force Brig. Adnan Danish

Dar chairs a meeting on CAD, ASF at Finance Division

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting on matters related to Civil Aviation Division (CAD) and Airport Security Force (ASF), at Finance Division, today.

Federal Minister for Aviation and Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique, Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, SAPM on Finance Mr. Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Aviation, DG ASF, DG CAA and senior officers from Finance and Aviation

attended the meeting. The Chair was briefed on the issues being faced by the Aviation sector pertaining to regulation, service provision, security, safety and enhancement of state capacity in Aviation sector.

The meeting discussed the necessary amendments required in the aviation laws/ordinances in order to ensure effective service provision to improve the standards of aviation sector in Pakistan to meet the international standards for resumption of PIA flights to the USA, UK and the Europe.

Journalists vow to become voice of Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senior Kashmiri journalists based in Islamabad and Rawalpindi have vowed to become voice of Kashmiris at a time when media in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) is totally choked by Indian government and is not allowed to report ground realities.

They were addressing a conference titled "Plead-

ing the case of Kashmir in Changing Global Realities - Challenges and Opportunities" which was organized by Institute of Dialogue, Development and Diplomatic Studies (IDDSD) in collaboration with Riphah International University (RIU). The conference was aimed at bringing the Kashmir issue in limelight keeping in view the changing regional and global situation.

Sabzwari distributes letters to 750 regularised employees of KPT

KARACHI (APP): Under Prime Minister's Assistance Package for employees, service of more than 750 contractual staffers of Karachi Port Trust (KPT) has been regularised.

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Syed Faisal Sabzwari, on Tuesday, distributed letters to regularised KPT employees in a ceremony here that was attended by Chairman KPT Syed Syedain Raza Zaidi, trustees and leaders of CBA union and a large number of workers.

Syed Faisal Sabzwari addressing the occasion felicitated the employees and said that longstanding issues of KPT employees were resolved by the administration and years-old issues of employees including regularisation of services, adjustment of increments, issuance of bonus and other demands of employees presented in charter of demand has been fulfilled.

The minister also announced a Rs 20000 Eid bonus for daily wage staffers of KPT at the occasion.

Now it was the responsibility of the employ-

ees as well officers of the trust to work with a renewed zeal and dedication for the growth of KPT, he urged adding that the government was endeavouring to make KPT not only a profit-making organisation but also an efficient entity and employees of the trust could play a pivotal role in the achievement of the objectives. The minister highlighting the ministry's efforts for modernising the port infrastructure and attracting foreign investment said that a concession agreement has been inked with Abu Dhabi Port Group for the establishment of Karachi Gateway Terminal Limited. Pakistan would receive \$50 million as an up front payment with 12.5% additional royalty as per the agreement which also included provisions for the development of state-of-the-art terminals, setting up a special economic zone and railway connectivity of KPT and Port Qasim, he informed.

The term of the current 21-year agreement of Pakistan International Container Terminal (PICT) was about to end and the expiry

of the agreement would have left 4 births of the port inoperative and risking jobs of hundreds of workers, he said adding that the government have made timely arrangements those not only secured the jobs of employees but also ensured much needed foreign investment.

Later responding to media queries, the minister said that KPT does not sell any birth but enters into a concession agreement with private sector entities for operations of births and receives charges and royalties under the agreement.

It was a government-to-government agreement that was reviewed and authenticated by framework development and negotiation committees and later by the federal cabinet after fulfilment of all the necessary procedures and regulations in a transparent manner, he clarified.

Faisal Sabzwari said that the government was working with a comprehensive approach consisting of measures for revenue generation, infrastructure improvement, employee welfare and other initiatives for the development.



QUETTA: Provincial Finance Minister and Chairman Balochistan Food Authority (BFA) Engr. Zamrak Khan Achakzai presiding over 9th meeting of BFA Board.

CTD arrests nine alleged terrorists

LAHORE (APP): The Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab arrested nine suspected terrorists, including a woman, linked with banned organizations during operations in different areas of Punjab.

According to the spokesman, the CTD Punjab conducted 35 intelligence based operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism, in which 36 suspected persons were interrogated and nine alleged terrorists were arrested with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials.

CJP orders search of journalists Imran Riaz

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial ordered the AGP to search the senior journalist Imran Riaz Khan.

As per details, while hearing the proceeding on civilian trials in military courts the CJP to the Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) to search and then recover him.

He made these remarks as the six-member bench of the Supreme Court Tuesday resumed hearing pleas against trials of civilians in the military courts.

The bench headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial comprises of Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Mazahir Ali Akbar Naqvi, and Justice Ayisha Malik.

Lightning, heavy downpour claims 5 lives in district Mansehra

MANSEHRA (APP): At least five persons and a number of livestock were killed in lightning and rain-related incidents in Manshera district on Tuesday.

The first incident took place in Kas Khawari village of Siran Valley during late-night, the wall of Abdul Razaq's house was collapsed due to heavy downpour. Tragically, two siblings were buried under the debris and lost their lives on the spot while two others sustained critical injuries and were shifted to the hospital. The dead children were identified as Zafraan, 12 years old, and Alishba, 8 years old.

In the second incident, lightning struck shepherds and their herd as they were heading towards the Chormali forest in Chattr Plain.

QESCO announces no load-shedding during Eid-ul-Adha

Independent Report
QUETTA: Quetta Electric Supply Company has made various arrangements for a regular supply of electricity during the Eid-ul-Adha holidays and in this regard, there will be no load shedding in the provincial capital city of Quetta during Eid-ul-Adha. Central Complaint Cell Zarghun Road, Quetta 0819201445 and 0812829753 have been designated as central monitoring and emergency control center which will operate 24 hours and the center will also be in touch with the emergency control center 15 under the provincial government.

There will be three shifts i.e. 24 hours in the control center headed by an executive engineer in the QESCO control center. The control center will oblige the concerned subdivision to take immediate action to restore electricity in the shortest possible time on the part of the consumers during the Eid-ul-Adha

in case of a power cut or technical failure at any place in the city of Quetta.

After this, the concerned SDO in case of disconnection of the power supply, along with their line staff, will take immediate action to restore power. Also, during the Eid-ul-Adha holidays, the Central Complaint Cell will monitor power outages on all feeders and inform the higher authorities of QESCO about the status of the power supply.

Similarly, the sub-divisional officers outside Quetta will be present in their office from 5 pm to 11 pm during the Eid holidays to ensure the timely resolution of customer complaints. In addition, customers can call 118 directly or send a message to 8118 from their mobile phones. On SMS their complaints would be registered. All city and district headquarters outside Quetta city will not have load shedding on the day of Eid from 7 am to 12 pm.



QUETTA: MPA Mir Hamal Kalnati meeting with Provincial Minister Mir Sikandar Ali Umrani

Delegation of Councilors meets MS DHQH Uthal

Independent Report
UTHAL: While living in limited resources, efforts are being made to provide basic health facilities to the citizens of Uthal. The support of elected local public representatives is indispensable for providing better health facilities and solving the problems faced by DHQ Hospital. These views were expressed by Dr. Imran, Medical Superintendent of District Headquarters Hospital Uthal while talking to the delegation of Uthal Councilors under the leadership of Chairman Municipal Committee Uthal Syed Somar Shah Kazmi. In the delegation, Dr. Tola Ram Lasi, senior minority leader of Jam Group Lasbia, Vice Chairman Wasim Ahmed Khaskheli, Councilors Abdul Ghaffar Langah, Abdul Ghani Soomro, Khalifa Nabi Bakhsh Barah, Sanaulah Chana, Habibullah Khaskheli, Huzoor Bakhsh Chana, Rahmatullah Jamot, Jam Leaders of the group, Mohammad Akram Khosa, Azizur Rahman Yousafzai,

and others included. DHO Dr. Imran made the delegation a detailed visit various departments of the hospital, Operation Theater, Gynecology Ward, Children's Ward Laboratory, and Benazir Development Center, and also gave a detailed briefing regarding these departments. Talking to the delegation, Dr. Imran said, "Civil Hospital Uthal is facing a shortage of medicines and staff. The current staff is quite old, some of whom are nearing retirement and the existing medicine quota is also insufficient. The population of the city is also increasing day by day." The cooperation of the elected public representatives is indispensable for solving the problems faced by Civil Hospital Uthal. Elected local public representatives should play a role in solving the problems faced by DHQ Hospital Uthal, he said. On this occasion, Chairman Municipal Committee Uthal Syed Somar Shah Kazmi praised the performance of Dr. Imran, Medical Superintendent of DHQ Hospital.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers, Parliamentary Secretary and MPAs expressing their views on point of order during Balochistan Assembly session