

Independent

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QUETTA: Chief of the Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir enquiring about health of soldier injured in Zhub Garrison attack at CMH Quetta

COAS General Asim Munir says Armed Forces concerned on safe havens, liberty to TTP in Afghanistan

It is expected that the interim Afghan government would not allow the use of its soil to perpetrate terror against any country: Involvement of Afghan nationals in acts of terrorism in Pakistan was another important concern that needed to be addressed

QUETTA (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Friday said the Armed Forces of Pakistan had serious concerns on the safe havens and liberty of action available to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Afghanistan.

The army chief made these remarks during his visit to Quetta Garrison where he was briefed on the

recent terrorist attack in Zhob, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), a news release said.

The COAS paid tributes to the Shuhada (martyrs), visited the injured soldiers at CMH, Quetta, lauded their services to the nation and appreciated their resolve.

General Munir said, "It is expected that the interim Afghan Government will

not allow the use of its soil to perpetrate terror against any country, in the real sense and in line with commitments made in Doha Agreement."

He further said that the involvement of Afghan nationals in acts of terrorism in Pakistan was another important concern that needed to be addressed.

"Such attacks are intolerable and will elicit an effective response from the Security Forces of Pakistan," he added.

He resolved that operations against terrorists would continue unabated and the Armed Forces would not rest till the menace of terrorism was rooted out from the country.

Earlier on arrival, the COAS was received by the Commander Quetta Corps.

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Chief Minister chairs high level meeting on Gwadar: Protection of rights and interests of local people have to be ensured to expedite development of Gwadar

We would have to ensure protection of rights and authorities of the local population for expediting the process of development of Gwadar: Bizenjo

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has directed to prepare a comprehensive plan to attract investors for promotion of business and trade activities in the Central Business District under Gwadar Master Plan. He also directed to encourage investment in the housing sector.

The Chief Minister asserted that we would have to ensure protection of rights and authorities of the local population for expediting the process of development of Gwadar.

He vowed that the local people would have to be made partner in development process by taking them into confidence.

The Chief Minister was chairing a high level meeting held to review the matters and issues of Gwadar here on Friday.

The Member Provincial Assembly, Mir Hamal Kalmati, Senator Kohda Babar, Senior Member Board of Revenue, Secretary Local Government,

Secretary Communications, Secretary PHE, Chairman Gwadar Port Authority, Director General Gwadar Development Authority, Commissioner Gwadar and Deputy Commissioner Gwadar participated in the meeting.

The meeting was briefed about the development matters and issues by the concerned high ups.

The meeting gave approval in principle to increase compensation for the owners of land acquired for the Free Trade Zone.

PM breaks ground on \$3.48 bn Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit-5

MIANWALI (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday broke ground on the 1200 MW Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit 5 (C-5) here which is likely to be completed in seven to eight years at a cost of around US\$3.48 billion.

On June 30, 2023 the prime minister had witnessed the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the C-5 project between China National Nuclear Corporation Overseas Ltd (CNOS) and Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC).

Addressing the ground breaking ceremony, the prime minister said keeping in mind the country's requirements of clean and cheap energy sources, the project should be completed before the given schedule.

Termed it a huge milestone and a symbol of co-operation between the two great friends China and Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif said the project would help the country promoting clean, efficient and comparatively cheaper energy.

He said after a pause of many years, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was going again in full swing. He gave the credit of concluding the agreement of C-5 to the coalition government and the SPD for their hard efforts.

"Our detractors had been fabricating rumours all around that Pakistan was going to default on its sovereign commitments but we crossed all turbulent waters in just 15 months," he added.



MIANWALI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Ministers, dignitaries from China and PAEC officials performing the ground breaking of the 5th Unit of Chashma Nuclear Power plant (C-5) in Chashma.

PML-N to field candidates in all constituencies of Punjab: Rana Sanaullah

LAHORE (APP): Interior Minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Punjab President Rana Sanaullah on Friday said the party had formally launched its election activities and it would field candidates in all constituencies of the province.

Addressing a press conference at the party secretariat in Model Town, he said the PML-N had a strong organizational set-up at division, district and union council levels in the Punjab province.

Rana Sanaullah said the party meeting was called to discuss the agenda of effective participation in the upcoming general election, and fielding of candidates in all the Punjab and National Assembly constituencies.

There were a total of 297 Punjab Assembly and 141 NA constituencies in the province, and the PML-N would not leave any of them

uncontested, he added.

The minister said the Muslim League was the founding party of Pakistan, which after a long journey since its creation, today Pakistan would have been a developed country, with no jobless people. Pakistan was going to become an Asian tiger, but it was pushed into crises under a conspiracy with the ousting of Nawaz Sharif and his party from power, he added.

He said that the "October 12, 1999 adventure" [Musharraf martial law] not been happened, today Pakistan would have been a developed country, with no jobless people. Pakistan was going to become an Asian tiger, but it was pushed into crises under a conspiracy with the ousting of Nawaz Sharif and his party from power, he added.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar enquiring about health of personnel injured in Zhub Garrison attack at CMH Quetta

Khurshid Shah says When Imran says he is going to meet Zardari then we will sit with him

LAHORE (Online): PPP senior leader and federal minister Khurshid Ahmad has said when Imran Khan ego breaks and he says he is ready to sit then PPP will sit with him and bring him to politics.

"political parties never escape negotiations. PPP never runs away from negotiations. Talks are held with enemy country. Imran Khan escapes talks and he has never held talks, he said this in an interview here Friday.

"If Imran Khan says he is going to meet Asif Ali Zardari and political parties should unite. Then we will sit with him and bring him to politics, he added.

We will teach Imran Khan democracy and tell him about the integrity and

solidarity of Pakistan. We had extended invitation to Imran Khan for talks and charter of economy. Why did this situation arise. He has always said opposition is seeking NRO, he added.

"whoever considers PTI political party is innocent. There is tremendous difference in the attitude of PTI and a political party. Political party will never say destroy the institutions and launch arson attack," he remarked.

Replying to a question he said consensus has developed in ruling alliance on the tenure of care taker government and date of dissolution of assembly. All coalition parties are agreed on tenure of care taker government and dissolution of assembly.

Load shedding reaches 14 hours in different areas of country

ISLAMABAD (Online): Due to intense heat wave load-shedding reached 14 hours in different areas of country.

Short fall of electricity has been recorded as 6188 megawatts.

According to power division, the overall production of electricity is 21312 megawatts, while 27500 megawatts electricity is required across country. The production of hydroelectricity is 8800 megawatts.

Government thermal power plants are generating 850 megawatts of electricity.

The production of electricity in private sector power plants is 8833 megawatts.

CJP underlines importance of comprehensive strategy to control population

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial on Friday underlined the importance of a comprehensive strategy to control the rapid increase in the country's population, saying the United Nations (UN) was also assisting Pakistan in that regard.

He was addressing the opening session of a two-day national conference on "Resilient Pakistan: Calibrating Population and Resources", organized by the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan. The CJP said the purpose of fundamental rights in the Constitution was also the happiness of the people and it was the state's responsibility to take care of the health and needs of the mother and child.

How Iran and Bangladesh overcame the population problem was a case study, he said, adding there was a need for education and training of the population and "it is more important to make the population beneficial".

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Security alert issued for Balochistan customs offices

QUETTA (INP): The Deputy Collector Headquarters of Balochistan Customs House has written a letter to the officers, instructing them to enhance the security measures in their respective offices.

The letter emphasizes the need to tighten security at customs field offices and strictly regulate access.

It states that private individuals should not be permitted to enter the offices without proper verification.

Musharraf petition fixed for hearing after his death

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former president Gen (Retd) Pervez Musharraf petition has been fixed for hearing in Supreme Court (SC) after his death.

Pervez Musharraf had challenged the decision of rejection of his nomination papers in election-2013. His appeal plea was filed on April 06, 2013.

Now this appeal plea has been fixed for hearing. A 3-member bench of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) will take up appeal plea filed by former president Pervez Musharraf against rejection of his nomination papers for hearing on July 20. Atif Shakoora, president Paspun Pakistan had filed petition on April 06, 2013 in Election Commission seeking rejection of nomination papers of candidate Pervez Musharraf from Karachi constituency NA-250.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and Additional IGP Jawad Dogar meeting with Additional Chief Secretary Home Saleh Muhammad Nassar

US doesn't interfere in Pakistan's political matters: Ambassador

Monitoring Desk PESHAWAR: Donald Blome, the United States ambassador to Pakistan, said the US doesn't interfere in Pakistan's political matters, Geo News reported quoting him.

The ambassador's remarks came during a ceremony in Peshawar where the US Agency for International Development (USAID) provided \$5 million worth of equipment to

the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Board of Revenue, augmenting its capacity for accurate land measurements, said a communiqué.

Following the recent International Monetary Fund's (IMF) approval of a programme for Pakistan's support, the US has been welcoming towards the agreement between the country and the money-lending institution.

COAS on two-day visit to Iran for discussion on bilateral matters

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir is on a two-day official visit to Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Army Chief will meet Iranian Military and Civilian leadership during his visit to Iran, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

During the visit, the COAS will discuss bilateral matters, related to defence and security cooperation.

All incidents happened in recent days are intolerable for all of us: Mitha Kakar

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Information, Mitha Khan Kakar has stressed that the government, Pak Army and public have to play their role to prevent terrorism and establish peace in Zhob. For the very purpose of peace and prevention of terrorism, it is necessary for all three to be on one page, which is also in the best interest of the area insisted the Advisor for Information.

He said that we want to see the land of Zhob division peaceful. He said that all the incidents happened in the recent days

are intolerable for all of us, he maintained.

Mitha Khan Kakar said that this land is the land of peaceful and patriotic people. There's no such group or political party which would like to push the area in the fire.

He said that our security forces and masses have rendered sacrifice of their lives for protecting the area, and we can't forget these sacrifices.

The Advisor also said that the acts of terrorism have given us a lesson that we would have to sideline our differences and unite on one point agenda of peace.

Agenda of BA session issued

Independent Report
QUETTA: The agenda for the 61st session of Balochistan Assembly has been issued here on Friday.

According to an official communiqué issued by the Secretary, Balochistan Provincial Assembly's secretariat on Friday, the agenda to be taken up in the upcoming session of assembly included: tabling of a condemnation resolution against the desecration of Holy Qura'an in Sweden as well as tabling of the draft law of Balochistan Plastic Shopping and Flat bags use 2023 and proposed draft law of Balochistan Local Government 2023. The Parliamentary Secretary Ms. Bushra Rind and Opposition leader, Malik Sikandar Khan Advocate would table the condemnation resolution against desecration of the Holy Qura'an.

Services of FC & levies to be taken for external security of prisons, says IGP

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Prisons Department Balochistan has decided to seek services of the Frontier Corps and Levies force for external security of prisons in the province.

This was informed by the Inspector General of Prisons Balochistan, Shujauddin Kasi while speaking to a private News channel here.

According to the IG Prisons, the decision to this effect has been made in view of the law and order situation in the province.

He mentioned that the

FC and Levies force used to be deputed for external security of the jails in the past. Therefore, it has been decided to get services of the FC and Levies again.

The IG Prisons also said that work of construction of new jails is continued in Killa Saifullah, Loralai and Gwadar. While on the other hand, a project is also under consideration to build a jail in Kalat, he maintained.

Moreover, a feasibility report is being prepared for construction of central jail in Quetta, Mr. Kasi informed.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo presiding over a high level meeting held to review the matters and issues of Gwadar

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Only a 'breather'

Lest we forget amid the euphoria over the new \$3bn IMF loan, Pakistan, with 23 bailouts, has been the most frequent customer of the lender of last resort for many years.

And we're likely to maintain this distinction for the next several years even if we start right away fixing our economy's structural problems, which take us to the brink and the IMF every few years.

The fact that Pakistan has completed only one programme successfully — that too without fully achieving its targets — inspires little confidence in the capability and resolve of our leadership to take us to the 'finish line' under the new nine-month facility either. They have repeatedly demonstrated their impatience with shortcuts to growth for political mileage, breaching the agreements with the lender midway.

That said, the critical importance of the new IMF bailout for the country's flagging economy can't be overstated. The IMF board signing off on the loan has already brightened up the economy. Fears of a sovereign default before the end of 2023 have receded, and Pakistan's dollar bonds have rallied rapidly since the initial approval of the agreement on June 29. The rupee has strengthened against the dollar, the stock market is jubilant, Fitch has upgraded Pakistan's credit rating by a notch, and the Saudis and Emiratis have deposited the promised \$2bn and \$1bn, respectively, to shore up SBP's forex reserves.

The government is dubbing these developments as indicators of economic recovery, claiming the 'hard times' are over. Well, yes, the hard times may be behind us for the moment. But does this bailout signify the end of our problems? It doesn't. It gives us a few stable months to conduct the elections and service external debt over the next six months, but doesn't really change the fundamentals of the economy such as insufficient tax revenues, low exports, import-based consumption, and so on. However, it can help us get back on our feet if we use this 'breather' as a bridge to broad-based reforms for longer-term debt sustainability and growth. We're in the deepest ever crisis of our own making and living on borrowed money and time. We've avoided tough decisions for too long, hoping the world would bail us out. No more. There is no way around reforms. No matter how painful they may be, it'd still be worth it in the end.

RIP my 'book mate'



Zubeida Mustafa

For over 30 years we shared the same passion — our love of books. That means both of us loved to read and treasure them, though our tastes and even the language we liked to read in were different. But such is the magic of books — that they create a very special bond that never breaks. Now I feel bereft, for Sabahat Kalim, my 'book mate', is no more. She passed away on June 25 leaving her loving family devastated.

I first met Sabahat in 1990 when I was interviewing people in my search for a professional librarian for Dawn. The editor had requested me to oversee the library as he felt that a journalist would understand the newspaper's needs. In three years, I was frustrated. The first two librarians who were hired just couldn't rise to our expectations. One was too slow, and the other was too quick in outside matters. In my third attempt I was lucky. Among those who responded to my call was a young woman whose remarkable confidence and knowledge bowled me over. Then there was no looking back. Thus began Sabahat's long association with Dawn and me. She proved to be an asset for the newspaper — the journalists as well as members of the management and the marketing department. She was the most sought after person from every floor of Haroon House, and she vindicated my choice. Sabahat did her

profession proud. She could well be described as the role model for aspiring young librarians. Her first commitment was to make information promptly accessible for the reader who could be a leader writer in a hurry demanding the details of an event that happened 50 years ago. And all this was in the pre-internet days when thumbing through Keesings' Contemporary Archives, Who is Who and the newspaper clipping files was the only way of meeting our information needs and deadline constraints.

It was remarkable how Sabahat used her imagination and her aesthetic skills to make the library a pleasant place that attracted readers. The books were neatly catalogued and over 400 clipping files enabled a reader to trace any news that had appeared in the press. Sabahat's greatest achievement, that I believe is unparalleled in Pakistan, is Dawn's newspaper index. When the newspaper was computerised there came the opportunity to make an index, which is every librarian's dream. It is a challenging task, but I never doubted her potential to do the job and she did it. She had a natural instinct to dig out information and arrange it in such a way that it could be easily retrieved. Only a researcher would appreciate what Sabahat launched. In Dawn's index you can search for something specific and you will find specifically what you are looking for. You are not confronted with a million or more irrelevant suggested answers as happens when you use Google. Full credit for designing and creating the index and sustaining it goes to Sabahat. She alone had the resilience to do it, and redo it when a file

was corrupted. Dawn earned a reputation of being a haven for researchers who flocked here in search of material for their theses/books from far and wide.

She was interesting company and her knowledge of Urdu literature, especially poetry, was phenomenal as was her interest in qawali. But more than a friend, she was a person you knew you could fall back on. She was more concerned about my visual disability and quietly facilitated me by ensuring that I had all the information I needed for whatever I was writing about. Her skill as an indexer benefited many authors, and I feel honoured that she made the index for all my books as she had promised. When friendship and professional cooperation combine, one could not be more fortunate.

True to her name (meaning beauty), she had a beautiful heart. Kind and generous to a fault, she always responded to a cry for help. Whether it was an ill friend in need of company or a domestic aide's child who needed medical care, Sabahat was always there to help. I remember once she told me about a girl of 12 who had burnt her leg that was not treated. As she grew older, it became difficult for the child to even walk normally or go to school. Not only would Sabahat accompany the child to the hospital until needed, she followed up this kind deed by supporting the family monetarily for several months as the child was badly malnourished. That was not all. Thanks to Sabahat the girl recovered fully, completed her education and was married. How many lives she made better we may never know, for the help she extended was quiet but practical. -- Courtesy Dawn

Unsafe spaces



Shazia Nizamani

Violence against women takes many forms — including rape, murder, sexual harassment, domestic violence and child and forced marriages — and is prevalent in Pakistan. Women are not safe in their homes, in public or in their workplaces. Just a few cases from the month of May, as reported in the newspapers, can help in understanding the gravity of the issue.

During the month, a father killed his 19-year-old daughter on the suspicion that she was having an affair. A young woman was shot dead by her brother in Karachi's upscale

DHA neighbourhood. A man who recently returned from Dubai killed his wife over a petty domestic dispute in Wazirabad, Punjab. A newlywed woman was shot dead by her father in City Courts, Karachi, where she had arrived to record a statement confirming that she had entered a free-will marriage. In the same month, a man opened fire at his ex-wife in City Courts Karachi after the hearing of a child custody case. In another gruesome incident, a 20-year-old woman was burnt alive in the name of 'honour' in Jhang, Punjab.

The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) released a policy brief on March 8, 2023, according to which around 63,000 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) had been reported in Pakistan over the past three years, with some 4,000 being reported in the first half of 2020 when lockdowns were first imposed to curb the spread of Covid-19.

The NCHR, quoting

Ministry of Human Rights data, said 80 per cent of these cases were related to domestic violence, while some 47pc pertained to domestic rape, wherein married women experienced sexual abuse. The data was based on reported cases; the actual number is feared to be much higher.

According to the US-based National Library of Medicine, only 3.2pc of women who experience domestic violence actually report it in Pakistan. In rural areas, the prevalence of physical violence against women is 56pc. In contrast, the lifetime prevalence in urban environments is 57.6pc physical, 54.5pc sexual, and 83.6pc psychological.

The UN Children's Fund, Unicef, estimates that around 19 million girls in Pakistan are married off before the age of 18 and 4.6m before 15. Married girls are often forced into dangerous pregnancies at a young age and pregnancies that are too closely spaced. Women from religious minority communities remain particularly vulnerable to forced marriage, and very little has been done to stop child and forced marriages.

According to the Domestic Health Survey, women with higher education attainment are more likely to seek help to end violence (46pc) compared to women with no education (25pc). These statistics indicate the importance of female education in encouraging reporting of violence and abuse and seeking legal help. The data proves that there are higher chances of educated women reporting a case as they may have better knowledge of relevant laws and how to seek help from relevant legal forums.

Women generally feel discouraged from reporting incidents or filing cases due to a lack of female officers at police stations, the generally unfriendly and hostile en-

vironment in our policing system, the high fees demanded by lawyers for filing suits, and the prospect of lengthy court proceedings. A strong perception still prevails among a large section of the police and judiciary that domestic violence is a private matter and should be resolved at the family level.

Several laws on domestic violence, honour killings, harassment at workplaces and early child marriages are in place, but implementation and application of these laws remains weak or negligible. The basic challenges are addressing a lack of awareness about the relevant laws; the societal acceptance of GBV; the prevalent patriarchal mindset; lack of support from society and state in the form of shelter homes, provision of legal aid, and more; as well as the stigma attached to women who refuse to live in abusive relationships.

The existing laws need to be implemented in their true spirit by building capacity in law enforcement agencies, particularly the police, and sensitising the judiciary, lawyers, media and health professionals on GBV. There should be well-planned and well-organised awareness campaigns for the education and sensitisation of both women and men on GBV as well as on the laws made to counter it. A grievance and redressal mechanism at the district level must be established, covering legal aid and helpline services, facilitation in complaint registration, as well as protection and rehabilitation of victims. The condition of shelter homes, particularly the Darul Amans, needs to be improved. The Constitution guarantees the right to life and dignity to citizens; women, as equal citizens of Pakistan, are entitled to the protection of these rights by the state. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Chinese Companies keen to set up joint ventures in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chinese manufacturers companies on Friday visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and showed keen interest to set up joint ventures in Pakistan in various fields.

A delegation of Chinese companies led by Gan Meilin, Chairman, Xiandong Hi-Tech Electric Co. visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and

Industry (ICCI) and showed keen interest to set up joint ventures in Pakistan in various fields including machinery manufacturing, electric vehicles, equipment industry, drilling, magnetic wire manufacturing, commercial concrete, equipment installation and department store sales, said a press release issued by ICCI here.

The delegation exchanged views with the

business community to explore areas of mutual collaboration and business partnerships.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) briefed the Chinese delegation about the potential areas of joint ventures and investment in various sectors of Pakistan's economy.

He said that CPEC has started a new era of

development and long-term business partnerships between Pakistan and China. He said that Pakistan was establishing many special economic zones under CPEC and it was a good opportunity for Chinese companies to transfer technology to Pakistan and set up joint ventures in areas of interest. He said that ICCI is working on a new industrial estate in the region.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting on the establishment of Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund, at Finance Division.



MULTAN: Female customers selecting and purchasing old clothes displayed by the roadside vendor to attract the customers.

Chairman FBR holds E-Khuli Kachehri to listen taxpayer's grievances

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Asim Ahmad here on Friday held E-Khuli Kachehri to directly receive telephone calls from taxpayers and listened to their grievances and recommendations.

He was addressing E-Khuli Kachehri held at the board's headquarter under the government vision as part of the FBR drive to facilitate taxpayers, said a news release. The occasion provides an opportunity to taxpayers to directly communicate with Chairman FBR for resolving their tax-related issues and promote culture of tax compliance in the

country. The chairman gave on-spot directions to relevant offices to resolve issues of the taxpayers at the earliest.

He also advised the taxpayers to visit their nearest Regional Tax Office and Collectorate of Customs for speedy redressal of their concerns. He appreciated the suggestions given by the taxpayers for further improving the tax-related services for better facilitation. The chairman assured that their valued input would be considered and expressed the resolve to further improve the services and mechanism of taxation to facilitate all taxpayers.

DC for sale of food items at fixed prices

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner Zaheer Anwar Jappa Friday said that food items should be sold at fixed prices and availability of food items in adequate quantity should also be ensured.

In order to maintain the balance between demand and supply, the supply chain of food items should be monitored effectively. He gave these instructions while presiding a meeting of the supply chain management committee at his office. Deputy Commissioner instructed that secretaries of market committees should take proper measures to deal with shortages in the supply of goods during the flood situation.

Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund draft law finalized

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar here on Friday chaired a meeting on the establishment of Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund.

The meeting deliberated upon technicalities involved, finalized the draft law and decided to send it to Ministry of Law and Justice for legal opinion and further necessary action, said a press statement issued by the finance ministry.

The establishment of the fund is authorized under the Public Finance Management

Act-2019, the statement added.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Finance, Tariq Bajwa, Chairman Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Akif Saeed and senior officers from Finance Division and SECP attended the meeting, according to press statement issued by the finance ministry.

As announced by the Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in his budget 2023-24 speech in the Parliament, the meeting reviewed the draft bill for the establishment of Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund.

KP Govt delegation to participate investment conference in Kabul

PESHAWAR (APP): A high-level delegation consisting of the officials from various subsidiaries of the Department of Industries and Commerce is going to represent Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in a three-day investment conference in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, said a press release issued here on Friday.

The conference organized in the name of Imam Abu Hanifa is scheduled to begin from July 19, 2023. The delegation is

going to Afghanistan on the directives of the Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Muhammad Adnan Jalil. The delegation of the province will highlight the incentives offered by the KP government to investors and potential sectors for investment. The caretaker Minister of Industry was officially invited by the Peshawar-based Afghan Consul General Hafiz Mohibullah during the meeting.

Rupee sheds Rs1.13 against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Friday witnessed Rs 1.13 devaluation against the US Dollar in the interbank trading as it closed at Rs277.59 against the previous day's closing of Rs276.46.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market stood at Rs280 and Rs283 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs3.18 to close at Rs 311.73 against the last day's closing of Rs308.55, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

PSX loses 198 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Friday, losing 198.98 points, a negative change of 0.44 per cent, closing at 45,067.98 points against 45,266.96 points the previous trading day.

A total of 267,514,280 shares were traded during the day as compared to 489,176,319 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 6.783 billion against Rs 14,543 billion on the last trading day.

Mian Zahid says: IMF loan sigh of relief for public, businessmen

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that the approval of the loan by the IMF and the issuance of the first tranche of 1.2 billion dollars has proved a sigh of relief for the public and businessmen.

In a statement issued here on Friday, he said that

the decision of the lender will ease the ongoing uncertainty and stop hoarding of dollars which will stabilize the economy, increase the value of the rupee and improve the confidence of investors.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the hike in prices of petroleum products, electricity and gas as a result of the IMF agreement will increase the cost of doing business, but it is better than bankruptcy, therefore we support it.

Thar farmers educated on biosaline agriculture

KARACHI (APP): A training workshop to educate Thar farmers about biosaline agriculture was organized at the Excellence Centre of Mining, Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) here on Friday.

The workshop titled "Improving Salinity Tolerance of Conventional and Non-conventional Crops Under Extreme Environmental Conditions" was arranged by the Institute of Sustainable Halophyte Utilization of the University of Karachi in collaboration with Pakistan Science Foundation. The General Manager of Thar Foundation Farhan Ansari delivered a welcoming speech, said a

statement issued here. Farhan Ansari commended KU Professor Dr Bilquees Gul for her work on the biosaline agriculture project with SECMC.

Earlier, Professor Dr Gul informed the participants that the objective of this biosaline agriculture training workshop was to empower local farmers with knowledge and skills to help them thrive in the challenging Thar environment.

"By adopting biosaline agriculture, farmers can not only enhance their crop yields but also mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change and water scarcity on their livelihoods."

No country can progress without empowering the women: Governor

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation of women led by President Muslim League (N) Lahore, Women's Wing, Sadia Taimur, including former members of the Assembly Samira Komal and Syeda Sambal called on Governor Punjab Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore, here today.

Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that no country can progress without empowering the women. He said that Muslim League (N) had taken many initiatives including all women universities, and Women on Wheels to empower women in its previous tenures. He said that the

government made strenuous efforts and steered the country out of the economic crisis. Governor Punjab said that politics is the name of public service, and under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the government is taking many steps for the welfare of the people and providing them with basic facilities.

Governor Punjab further said that the supreme leader of PML (N) Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is respected all over the world as a statesman and he is using his persona for the welfare of his country and nation.

The Governor of Punjab said that martyrs who sacrifice their lives for

the sake of the country are given great respect and status all over the world, adding that on May 9, the memorials of martyrs were desecrated and army installations were attacked under a plan which was unforgivable crime.

President Muslim League (N) Lahore Women's Wing Sadia Taimur said that we are grateful to Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman for honoring women office bearers of the party. She said that we believe in fighting fake news and propaganda on social media with truth and honesty. The delegation included Zahida Azhar, Kausar Chaudhry, Shahr Bano, Samra Nazir, Naubahar,



LAHORE: A delegation of women led by President Muslim League (N) Lahore, Women's Wing, Sadia Taimur in a group photo with Governor Punjab Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore.

Minister listens to public issues at open court

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and In-charge Prime Minister's Public Affairs & Grievances Wing Murtaza Javed Abbasi said on Friday the incumbent government was committed to resolving public issues on priority basis as swift measures were being taken in that regard.

He was addressing a khuli kutchery (open court) held at the Civil

Secretariat here. Deputy Commissioner Rafia Haider and other officials concerned were also present.

The minister listened to people's problems and issued on-the-spot directions to address complaints promptly and submit a report within six days. A complainant, Muhammad Sultan, informed the minister about his daughter.

Four family's members killed in road accident

LARKANA (APP): Four members of a family including woman and new born baby were killed in a collision between motorcycle and speedy truck, on Ratodero-Larkana road, near Wassand Sakh (Distributory) on Friday.

According to police, four persons namely Muhammad Seelro (38), Muhammad Yousif Seelro (30), Mst. Manzooraan Seelro (52) and a new born baby of Village Seelro of Ratodero taluka (Larkana) were riding on a Motorcycle when their two wheeler collided with a speedy truck on the road.

CM visits Bibi Pakdaman shrine to review work of expansion

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited Bibi Pakdaman shrine to review progress on the ongoing renovation and expansion project. Secretary Communication & Works gave a briefing on the renovation work. The chief minister urged acceleration on the work and set a deadline of five days to finish the expansion project. He emphasised the need to complete renovation of shrine's premises as soon as possible. The primary goal was to have renovation and expansion project completed before the first of Muharram.

he added. Mohsin Naqvi acknowledged that expansion would provide enhanced facilities for devotees, and widening the pathway would improve accessibility for visitors.

In consideration of the landowners affected by the project, the CM instructed the commissioner Lahore to ensure compensation based on the prevailing market rates. Later, talking to the media, the chief minister underscored the commitment to open the shrine to the public by the first of Muharram, highlighting efforts dedicated to renovation and expansion project.



LAHORE: Former MPA, Khawaja Salman Rafique calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

SMIU to mark "139th Foundation Day Week" in September

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Madressatul University (SMIU) has decided to celebrate foundation day week in connection with the 139th foundation day of Sindh Madressatul Islam in the first week of September 2023. This decision was taken in a meeting held here on Friday at the university's conference room.

The meeting was chaired by Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai. It was decided that during the one-week celebrations, a National Seminar on Life, Struggle and Services of Khan Bahadur Hassanally Effendi will be organised, where prominent scholars and intellectuals present

their research papers on Khan Bahadur Hassanally Effendi. The meeting also decided that during the celebrations students of SMIU would present theatre, sing national songs, recite poetry and participate in other events, the spokesman added. Different committees were formed to organise the 139th foundation day's celebrations.

Speaking in the meeting, Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai said SMIU was open to organise a mega event to mark 139th Foundation Day of SMI, which was a matchless institute of the country as it had served the nation for the last 139 years.



LARKANA: People along with children enjoying bathing in the watercourse to get some relief from hot weather in Ghulam Bhutto Village.

7 dead, 1,296 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least seven persons were killed and 1,296 others injured in 1,211 road traffic crashes (RTCs) in Punjab districts during the last 24 hours.

As many as 638 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 638 with minor injuries were treated at the rescue medical teams.

The data analysis showed that 658 drivers,

40 underage drivers, 114 pedestrians and 531 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes.

The statistics showed that 253 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 285 persons, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by 89 in Multan with 97 victims, and at third Faisalabad with 79 accidents and 92 victims.

Drizzle forecast for Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department on Friday predicted hot and humid weather for most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours.

However, drizzle is forecast in Karachi and its surrounding areas during the night time.

The Minimum and maximum temperatures were recorded in Karachi 33-35 degrees Centigrade, Hyderabad 36-38 degrees Centigrade, Sukkur 40-42 degrees Centigrade, Thatta 35-37 degrees Centigrade, Mohenjodaro 41-43 degrees Centigrade.

Dadu 44-46 degrees Centigrade, Mithi 38-40 degrees Centigrade, and in Nawabshah 42-44 degrees Centigrade.

Mainly, hot and humid weather is likely to prevail in the province and drizzle in the city at night.

Nine matches decided in 4th Gatorade tourney

KARACHI (APP): In the fourth Gatorade Trophy 3x3 under-21 basketball tournament being held under the patronage of Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Iqbal Memon, as many as 9 matches were decided on the first day at Arambagh basketball court.

The tournament is being played on League basis, according to a communique issued here Friday.

In the first match, Arambagh Club defeated Quaid-e-Azam Rangers School Red by 9-5, in the second match, CCG defeated Quaid-e-Azam Rangers Red by 8-0, in the third match, Arambagh Club defeated CCG Club by 9-7, in the fourth match, Jump Shoot Club defeated Quaid-e-Azam Rangers School Green 5-4, in the fifth match Iqra Club Blue beat CCG Club 8-5, in the sixth match

Trot Club beat Quaid-e-Azam School Green 7-5, in the seventh match Iqra Blues beat Quaid-e-Azam School Red 6-2. In the eighth match, Jump Shoot Club defeated Focus Trot Club by 7-3 and in the ninth match, Aram Bagh Club defeated Iqra Blue by 15-6.

In these matches, Ali Asad, Ahmed Ali, Ayan Ali, Ali Malik, Manan, Hur Muhammad, Zain Khan, Aun Zaidi, Nabil Ahmed, Daniyal Khan Marwat, Hasnain Khan, Rao Abdul and Shehryar showed excellent game, Amir Sharif, Zahid Malik and Rajkumar Lakhwani refereed while Naem Ahmed, Zulfiqar Abbas and Usman Khan performed the duties of technical officials, KBBA President Ghulam Mohammad Khan, Mohammad Yaqub International Shariful Hasan.

WASA on high alert to cope with flooding: MD

RAWALPINDI (APP): Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Rawalpindi was put on high alert to cope with urban flooding following rain on Friday, said Managing Director (MD), WASA.

He informed that twin cities, Rawalpindi and Islamabad received heavy 27 mm rain, and all arrangements were finalized by the agency to deal with flash flood. He said that according to rainfall gauging stations, 6 mm rain was recorded at Saidpur Village, 27mm at PMD, 18mm at Shamsabad, 3mm at Chaklala while water level sensor data showed five feet at Kattarian and four at Gawalmandi.

International News

US takes up 'hacking' with China as issue threatens ties

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned Beijing's top diplomat of consequences over hacking after a breach blamed on China again threatened to undermine a nascent stability in ties between the two powers.

Less than a month after Blinken paid a rare visit to Beijing, he met for more than an hour and a half with Wang Yi, the Chinese Communist Party's foreign policy supremo, on the sidelines of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) talks in Jakarta.

"Director, good to see you," a smiling Blinken said in the only public com-

ments between the two sides after the longer-than-expected meeting at a hotel.

A senior US official later said that Blinken raised with Wang the breach of US government sites reported this week by Microsoft, which blamed Chinese hackers motivated by espionage.

Blinken "made clear that any action that targets US government, US companies, American citizens, is of deep concern to us and that we will take appropriate action to hold those responsible accountable", the official said, on condition of anonymity.

The official stopped

short of saying that Blinken directly accused China of involvement.

The State Department has publicly said only that it is investigating the hacking, which according to Microsoft affected approximately 25 organisations.

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller called the Jakarta talks "candid and constructive" and part of efforts to "responsibly manage competition" between the world's two largest economies.

Wang is representing China at the Jakarta talks as Foreign Minister Qin Gang, who would normally

attend such meetings, is ill, according to China's foreign ministry.

Blinken told Wang to convey his "best wishes" to Qin, another US official said.

Incidents have repeatedly impacted efforts to repair US-China relations, with Blinken scrapping his first planned trip to Beijing in February after Washington said it detected a Chinese espionage balloon over the US mainland.

Blinken eventually visited in mid-June, becoming the first US secretary of state in China in nearly five years, opening a flurry of diplomacy since then.



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken sits at a table with advisors across from Director of the CCP Central Foreign Affairs Office Wang Yi and his advisors.



Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi speaks during the summit on the Sudan conflict, at the Presidential Palace in Cairo, Egypt.

South Korea asks China to play 'constructive role' against North's threats

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: South Korea's Foreign Minister Park Jin on Friday called on China to play a "constructive role" in curbing North Korea's threats, after Pyongyang launched an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) this week.

The remarks were made during a meeting with Chinese top diplomat Wang Yi on the sidelines of an Association of Southeast Asian

Nations (ASEAN) meeting in Jakarta, where Park "strongly denounced" North Korea's ICBM launch. It is a common interest of Seoul and Beijing for North Korea to stop provocations and return to dialogue, his office said. "Minister Park ... stressed that it was more important than ever for the Chinese side to play a constructive role for the peace and stability of the Korean peninsula," Seoul's foreign ministry said in a statement.

Aid group's rescue ship held 'indefinitely' in Italy

Monitoring Desk
MARSEILLE: Aid group SOS Mediterranean on Thursday accused Italy of hampering its work after the authorities there ordered its migrant rescue ship Ocean Viking held "for an indefinite period" in port.

Officials had cited "a very small number of technical and administrative shortcomings," said the aid group. Having the ship blocked in the port of Civitavecchia, north of Rome.

Macron awards India's visiting Modi top France honour

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: France's president on Friday awarded the country's top honour to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the start of Bastille Day celebrations where he is the featured guest. Emmanuel Macron awarded Modi the grand cross of the Legion d'Honneur (Legion of Honour), the highest grade of France's order of merit that "salutes the role of the prime minister in the excellent relations of friendship

and confidence that unite France and India", the presidency said in a statement.

Modi said on Twitter that he had accepted the award "with great humility", hailing it as "an honour for the 1.4 billion residents of India". The honouring of Modi this year reflects deepening ties between France and India, which are marking 25 years of "strategic partnership". Modi called Macron his "friend" in a speech to Indians living in France on Thursday evening.

Egypt, Ethiopia hope to reach agreement within 4 months after long dispute over Africa's largest dam

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: After years of failed talks, Ethiopia and Egypt said they aim to finalize within four months an agreement on the operations of Africa's largest dam, an apparent breakthrough in a dispute that Cairo has described as an existential threat.

The joint statement on "expedited negotiations," issued by Ethiopia's government, came after Ethiopia's prime minister,

Abiy Ahmed, discussed the dam with Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi on the sidelines of a regional meeting about the conflict in neighboring Sudan.

Sudan is a third party to the talks about the \$4.6 billion Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on Ethiopia's stretch of the Blue Nile, which is located just 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the Sudanese border.

North Korea's ambassador blames US for regional tensions in a rare appearance at UN Security Council

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: North Korea's U.N. ambassador defended his country's recent long-range missile launch in a rare appearance at the U.N. Security Council on Thursday where he also accused the United States of driving the situation in northeast Asia "to the brink of nuclear war." Kim Song told the council that Wednesday's test-flight of the developmental Hwasong-18 missile was a legitimate exercise of the North's right to self-defense. He said the United States was raising regional tensions with nuclear threats and deploying a nuclear-powered submarine to South Korea for the first time in 14 years.

Kim said the missile launch had "no negative effect on the security of a neighboring country," pointing to Japan's announcement that the ICBM — which flew at a steep angle — landed in open waters outside Japan's exclusive economic zone.

South Korea's U.N. Ambassador Hwang Joon-

kook countered, asking: "How can an ICBM launch ever make neighboring countries appear safe?"

Diplomats said Kim's appearance was the first time a North Korean diplomat addressed the Security Council since 2017. Hwang said each of North Korea's repeated ballistic missile launches allow the country to advance its technology toward its goal of having an arsenal of nuclear-armed weapons. Immediately before the meeting, a statement from nine council members including the U.S. and Japan, joined by South Korea, was read to reporters condemning the launch "in the strongest possible terms" and stressing that it was the 20th ballistic missile launch this year in blatant violation of multiple Security Council resolutions banning such tests.

In Pyongyang, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, slammed the U.N. Security Council for convening a meeting to "pick a quarrel with" her country's self-defense step while ig-

noring the U.S. push to increase the danger of a nuclear war. In a statement carried by state media, Kim Yo Jong called the council "a new Cold War mechanism totally inclined to the U.S. and the West."

She also warned that the United States would pay a price for its hostility toward the North. "I do not conceal the fact that very unlucky things will wait for the U.S.," she said without elaborating but reiterated her country's push to build up its nuclear deterrence capability. The Security Council imposed sanctions against North Korea's first nuclear test explosion in 2006 and tightened them over the years in a total of 10 resolutions seeking — so far unsuccessfully — to cut funds and curb its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. The last sanctions resolution was adopted by the council in December 2017, and China and Russia vetoed a U.S.-sponsored resolution in May 2022 that would have imposed new sanctions over a spate of intercontinental ballistic missile launches.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo presiding over a meeting to review budget and financial affairs

Overseas Pakistanis playing key role in socio-economic dev. of country: Alvi

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday said the overseas Pakistanis were playing an important role in socio-economic development of the country.

In a meeting with the delegation of Overseas Pakistanis led by Dr Nasir Shahid here at Aiwan-e-Sadr, he said the overseas Pakistanis were working to promote the better image of their country in the respec-

Sacrifice of Siraj Raisani, others would always be remembered: Bizenjo

QUETTA: Paying tributes to Nawabzada Siraj Raisani and his companions martyred in a suicide attack in Daringarh area of Mastung on July 13, 2018, the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has stated that the sacrifice of the martyrs would always be remembered.

In a message issued on fifth death anniversary of Nawabzada Siraj Raisani and his companions the other day, the Chief Minister paid homage to them saying that they had embraced martyrdom in the tragic suicide attack.

He said that Nawabzada Siraj Raisani and his companions were true patriotic and stood for

PAC annual report presents recovery of Rs. 556 billion

ISLAMABAD (Online): Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has recovered more than 556 billion rupee during the period of last one year, says annual report.

One year performance report of PAC presented in the meeting Noor Alam Khan in chair. Big cases of corruption and malpractices were handed over to NAB and FIA.

Many orders including \$3 billion loan, NADRA Data leak, Hajj assistants scandal investigation orders were given.

PAC issued performance report from May 23, 2022 to July 14, 2023.

Committee held 93 meetings in total in chairmanship of Noor Alam Khan 6568 audit objections and 344 financial calcula-



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Finance Engineer Zamrak Khan Achakzai and Advisor to CM for Information Mitha Khan Kakar meeting with Principal Secretary to CM Imran Ghichki.

Mir Changez greets Atiq after joining PPP in Balochistan

QUETTA, (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Provincial President Mir Changez Khan Jamali on Friday said that important political and tribal personalities from Balochistan were in touch with the central and provincial leadership of the party and soon they would announce their formal joining the PPP.

He shared these views while talking to Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) leader Atiq Khan Kakar when a delegation led by him.

The delegation comprised on PPP's Provincial President Mir, Changez Khan Jamali and Provincial Executive Committee member Syed Hasnain.

Political leader Waheed Khan Kakar was also present on this occasion.

In the meeting, Provincial President Mir Changez Khan Jamali invited Atiq Khan Kakar to join the People's Party on

behalf of President Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians Asif Ali Zardari and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Atiq Khan Kakar accepted the invitation and announced to join the Pakistan People's Party.

Mr. Kakar said that he would soon formally join the People's Party along with his colleagues in a major inclusion programme.

On this occasion, Provincial President of People's Party Mir Mir Changez Jamali and Hasnain Hashmi congratulated and welcomed Atiq Khan Kakar on joining Pakistan People's Party.

Mir Changez Khan Jamali and Syed Hasnain Hashmi said that Pakistan People's Party has emerged as a major political and democratic party in Balochistan, the clear proof of which was the local elections in the province.

He said the country was passing through economic challenges that needed to be resolved by collective efforts.

President Alvi said besides working for their own country, the overseas Pakistanis were also playing role in development of the host countries.

He urged them to put more efforts for economic development of Pakistan.

President Alvi extends tenure of PHC judges

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi extended the tenure of posting of three additional judges of Peshawar High Court by six months.

The president approved the extension in the period of Justices Fazal Subhan, Shahid Khan and Dr Khurshid Iqbal, on the advice of the prime minister.

The extension in the posting will be with effect from July 18, 2023.

Zhob, Sui terrorist attacks' martyrs laid to rest with full military honors

ISLAMABAD (APP): The funeral prayers of all the shuhada, who embraced, shahadat, on Thursday while valiantly thwarting a full-scale terrorist attack on Zhob Garrison and during an intense exchange of fire with hardcore terrorists in Sui were offered at their native towns on Friday with full military honours.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the burial ceremonies were attended by serving and retired officers, soldiers, relatives and a large number of people from different segments of society.

"Armed Forces of Pakistan stand resolute and committed to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the motherland at all costs," the ISPR said.

Govt focusing on diversifying energy mix: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday said the government was focusing its attention on diversifying the energy mix while tapping of the nuclear power was part of the long-term energy security strategy.

In a post on the social media platform Twitter, he said, "Today I performed the groundbreaking of the eighth nuclear power plant of Pakistan and the fifth nuclear power unit to be built at Chashma. This 1200-MW power project, on completion, will provide clean & affordable electricity to the national grid. Given the increasing energy needs of the country, the government is focusing its attention on diversifying the energy mix and tapping of the nuclear power is part of our long-term energy security strategy."

"Grateful to China for its continued support to Pakistan in almost all areas of development. Like other sectors, Chinese support has been critical to setting up state-of-the-art nuclear power plants in the country," he added.

JuA Karachi 'emir' killed by unknown man in Afghanistan

KARACHI (Online): Unknown shooter gunned down the ban group Jamat ul Ahrar's Karach head (emir) Muhammad Daudzai on Friday in Afghanistan told TTP sources.

According to sources he was killed in Sharana city of Paktika province.

Killed militant leader belonged to Pandiali Tehsil of Mohmand district of tribal area of Khyber-Pk.

Daudzai was appointed chief of his Karachi group by previous leader of JuA.

Notorious commander was wanted in Pakistan for his alleged involvement in several attacks, extortion and target killing in across the country.

Two other brothers naming Mian Jaffar and Qari Qadim were already killed in Afghanistan by US and NATO forces during Ashraf ghani's regime.

The two banned outfits had developed differences following attacks in Zhob and the de-notification of Dost Muhammad alias Asad Afridi as the DI Khan commander.

Speaker NA says: Turkish people's struggle to defend democracy to be remembered in history

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf Friday said the 15th July episode of the failed coup attempt in Türkiye, was bravely defended by the Turkish people as 250 people sacrificed their lives to save democracy and to protect their rights and freedom. It is indeed a historic example and a great message to the entire world that nothing can harm a democratic order if it is tested and then trusted by the people. He made the remarks while addressing the 7th commemoration ceremony of the martyred of the July 15, 2016, thwarted coup attempted by Fethullah Gulen Terrorist Organisation (FETO) and Democracy and National Unity Day.

The speaker further stated that this day reminded us of the memorable victory of the Türkiye's democracy over the dark forces of regression and repression as it was the glorious day when the entire Türkiye nation stood like a rock side by side and showed their patriotism and courage.

They defended democracy and their popular leader President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The cowardly attempt was made to detract from its chosen path of democracy, people's rules, and people's progress, he added.

He congratulated Dr. Mehmet Paçacı, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye, on behalf of the entire nation on this 7th anniversary.

He expressed that Pakistan and Türkiye shared goals of democracy & stability. Pakistan considered Türkiye a brotherly country as it supported us in difficult times, especially during natural disasters, including the earthquake of 2005, the speaker said.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf witnessing Türkiye Art Exhibition displayed on the occasion of Turkish Democracy and National Unity Day.

PUC issues 'code of conduct' for peace, harmony in Muharram

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) on Friday released the 'code of conduct' aimed at promoting peace, inter-sect harmony, and tolerance throughout the country during the month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

The code was developed in consultation with religious scholars from various schools of thought and religions.

PUC Chairman and Prime Minister's Special Representative on Inter-faith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, and other prominent religious figures addressed a press conference here to announce the code of conduct.

They expressed their commitment to fully adhere to the guidelines and cooperate with the government and law enforcement agencies at all levels.

The religious leaders emphasized the importance of respecting all holy scriptures, including the Quran, and strongly condemned any act of desecration.

They also acknowledged the success of a resolution passed in the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) regarding the burning of the Holy Quran in Sweden, expressing gratitude to China, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Turkey, Iran, and other countries for their support.

Furthermore, the religious scholars expressed appreciation for the condemnation of an Israeli delegate's speech on Pakistan's internal affairs in the UNHRC.

They denounced Israel's actions, stating that it was a country known for violating human rights and promoting blasphemy laws' elimination in Pakistan, as well as advocating for homosexuality. The interference of Israel and its demands were strongly condemned by the Ulema, Mashaykh and all Pakistanis.

Hayatullah Durrani calls on Saito Machi

QUETTA (APP): Hayatullah Khan Durrani, the first Pakistani recipient of the British Caving Legend Award and Founder of Chiltan Adventurers Association Balochistan, called on Saito Machi, the Culture and Political head of Consulate General of Japan in Karachi, said a statement issued here on Friday.

The purpose of the meeting was to convey warm greetings and emphasize the importance of promoting cultural exchanges, sports events, and environmental activities between Pakistan and Japan.

During the meeting, Shahzada Hayatullah Khan Durrani expressed his regard and highlighted the significance of fostering unity, respect, and harmony among cultural and sports representatives.

Both parties agreed that Saito Machi would be invited as an honourable guest in the future, visiting Hanna Lake, Juniper Forest in Ziarat, and Chotiar Valley. This visit aims to further strengthen the ties between the Chiltan Adventurers Association Balochistan, Pakistan Cave Research and Caving Federation, Pakistan Canoe and Kayak Federation, and HDWSA while highlighting unity and harmony among cultural and sports legends.

Ahsan hopes to start ML-1 railway line project this year

BEIJING (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal said that with China's support, work on the multi-billion ML-1, the main railway line project between Karachi and Peshawar, would be started as early as possible during this year.

The ML-1 project was to be done in the first phase, but somehow, it got delayed in the last four years.

"There was little follow-up from the previous government, but now, we are actively following it up," the minister said.

"We are hopeful that this project will start this year," he said in an interview with APP after a special meeting of the 12th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of CPEC in Beijing.

He said, "The railway track has been badly damaged during the floods last year. This is the main railway track line linking north and south Pakistan. We want to repair it and we want to upgrade it as early as possible. It will be a US\$10 billion project. We will do it in phases, and we hope to start this project as soon as possible during this year."

Ahsan Iqbal said, "The 150 years old railway line now requires major modernization and up-gradation. We are hoping that with China's help, we will be able to modernize this railway track from Karachi to Peshawar and it will be a very big support to our logistics."

About Karachi circular railway, he said, "It is a mass transit project for Karachi which is the biggest city in Pakistan. So, we also agreed to fast-track that project."

Ahsan Iqbal said the JCC meeting was very historic because it marked a decade of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

"About 10 years ago, both China and Pakistan started a new journey of bilateral relationship through CPEC which is a pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative."

"As a result, today, we have more than \$25 billion worth of investments in Pakistan under CPEC and the flagship project has helped Pakistan overcome its energy crisis."

Under CPEC, we installed more than 8,000 megawatts of power projects. It has helped us to construct modern highways, and motorways, which has improved connectivity in the country, linked different parts of the country, and provided efficient logistic support to the economy.

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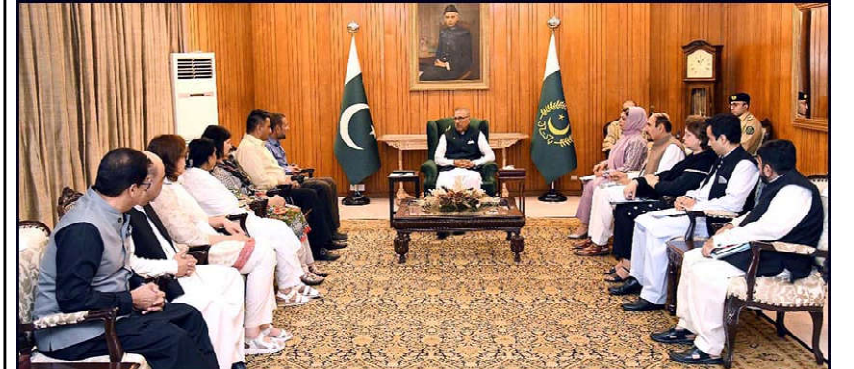
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ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi meeting with a delegation of Overseas Pakistanis.

Quetta Traffic police revamping: Balochistan Police serving masses despite numerous challenges: IGP

QUETTA: The Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh has stated that the Balochistan police is facing numerous challenge and it is serving the masses despite all these challenges.

He said that it is included in our priorities to bring improvement in the investigation process, making Madadgar 15 effective and ensure traffic management. The steps are being taken to revamp the traffic police.

This and similar other views were expressed by the Inspector General Police while addressing the ceremony held on the initiatives and revamping of Quetta traffic police arranged at the Central Police Office's Auditorium here on Friday.

The former Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Ms. Rahila Hameed Durrani,

Vice Chancellor, University of Balochistan, Dr. Shafiqur Rehman, Deputy Inspector General of Police Quetta, Ghulam Azfar Mahesar and other senior police officers as well as the academicians, representatives of the civil society and elites participated in the ceremony.

The Traffic police officers and personnel duly clad in the new uniform were also part of the ceremony.

Addressing the ceremony, the IGP said that we are going to introduce new uniform of the Quetta Traffic Police. While on the other hand, steps are also underway to bringing improvement in the traffic related issues.

He frankly told the audience it is an easier to think about improvement in traffic affairs, however, it is difficult to implement. However, sincere endeavours are being made

to improve the traffic system in Quetta despite the limited resources, adding he mentioned. He opined that parking lot should be specified in order to improve the traffic management system in the city. He made it clear that traffic police are not in the domain of traffic police in city. However, the traffic system is being computerized in Quetta. A chip is being placed on the driving license, he maintained.

The IGP on the occasion acknowledged that there is a need to take steps for improving the behaviours of police and thana culture, although the officers and personnel remain busy in maintaining law and order and preventing crimes.

Moreover, efforts are also being made to provide facilitation to the women approaching the police, the IGP added.

Sobia condole martyrdom of security forces' personnel in Zhob attack

QUETTA (APP): Central leader of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and former provincial minister Sobia Kiran Kabzai on Friday expressed her sorrow over the martyrdom of 9 personnel of security forces in the attack of terrorists in Zhob Garrison.

In a statement issued here, she said that nine security personnel sacrificed their lives for the defense of the country.

She also praised the security personnel for killing the attacking terrorists through quick response.

Sobia Kiran paid tribute to the security personnel who laid down their lives for the protection of the lives and property of the people.

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Students asked to actively participate in NAB's anti-corruption initiatives

QUETTA (APP): National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan on Friday urged the students to actively participate in anti-corruption initiatives launched by the premier anti-graft bureau.

Addressing the students, they highlighted the role of students in the process of NAB and the eradication of corruption.

They shared valuable insights about the negative effects of corruption on society and the steps to be taken to eradicate it.

The seminar also highlighted the effective ways through which students can contribute to building a more transparent and accountable society.

The seminar was a part of the awareness campaign on the role of students against corruption. The main objective of the seminar was to highlight the ill-effect of the malpractices and hatred against corruption among the students.

Speakers including Miss Saima Nazir and Hina on behalf of the City School, while Deputy Directors Zahid Kasi and Khuram Shahzad on behalf of NAB Balochistan expressed their views.

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QUETTA: Police personnel pose for group photo in new uniform of the traffic police.