

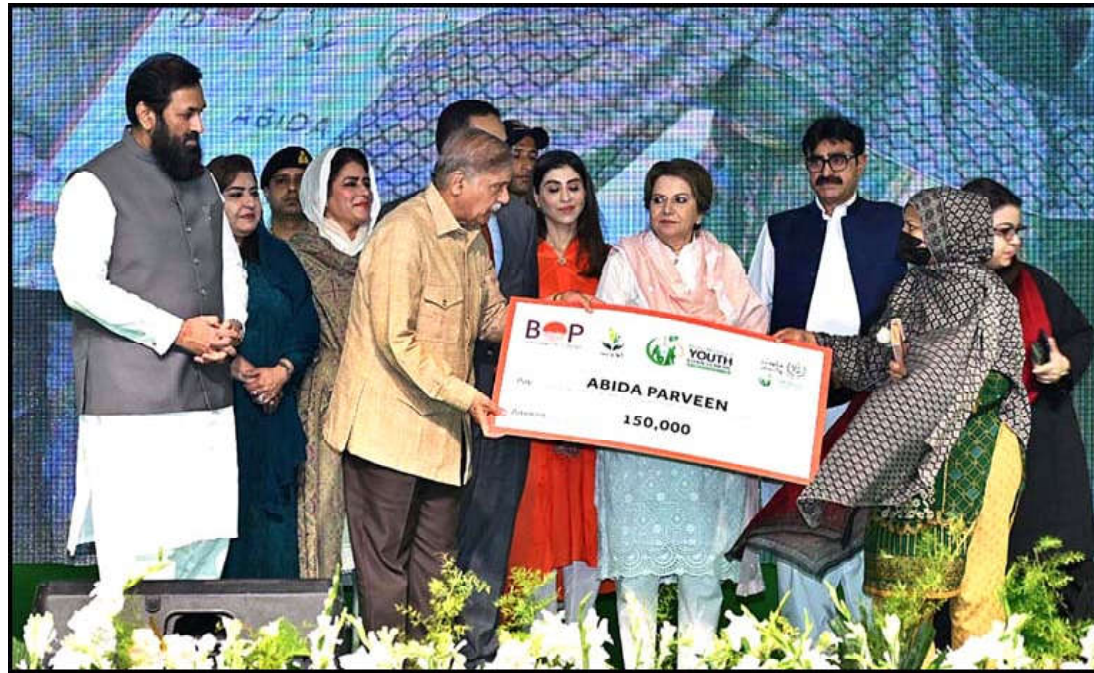
Independent

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Hub

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LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributing cheques among the recipients of Prime Minister's Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme.

Govt committed to empower youth of country

PM pledges to take country on path of prosperity if given opportunity in upcoming polls

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that if given an opportunity in the upcoming general elections, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and the entire leadership of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz would change the destiny of the country by taking it on the path of progress and prosperity. Addressing the cheques distribution ceremony under the Prime Minister's Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme, he said they would accept the public mandate in the upcoming polls and urged the people to take their decisions after looking into certain facts and by juxtaposing the performance of the PML-N gov-

ernments with that of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's four years' saga of destruction. The prime minister while lauding the statesmanship qualities of his elder brother, regretted that former prime minister and his leader Nawaz Sharif was ousted from power despite the fact that he had ended hours-long crippling load shedding, provided laptops and loans to youth, brought multi-billions China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) power and road infrastructure projects during 2015. On the other hand, Imran Khan had a phobia of PML-N leadership and the opposition as day in and day out, he was bent upon putting them in jails with

the framing of fake cases, he said, adding the PTI leader could not assimilate the revolutionary steps taken by the PML-N government. All the youth programmes, he said were started during the tenure of Nawaz Sharif as alone 50,000 vehicles were provided to the people on merit across Punjab province. The success of the loan scheme could be gauged from the fact that 99 per cent of loans were returned back to banks, he added. The prime minister mentioned that Nawaz Sharif and they had experienced the worst kind of political vendetta, even they were sent into exile after ouster from power, but unlike Imran Niazi, the PML-N Quaid never thought of

anything against the country. The prime minister elaborated that the person (IK) who was brought to power through a fraud election, kept on chanting the corruption charges during his four years tenure but did not prove them, adding that when he was removed from power corridors through a constitutional manner, he used dirty language and tactics against the state institutions. The prime minister mentioned that PTI's tenure was tainted with huge corruption scams including sugar and wheat scams, BRT Peshawar, Malam Jabba, sale of Toshakhana gifts, Rs 60 billion money embezzlement returned by the UK agency, etc, and said that no one could deny these stark facts.

The prime minister said during his tenure, about one million laptops were given to the youth and the PTI leadership blamed them for using the scheme as a bribe, adding that contrary to it, their initiative brought about an IT revolution in the country, enabling the youth to continue their studies, work as freelancers and earn a respectable livelihood for their families. A number of ministers, advisers, parliamentarians, officials and beneficiaries of the loan and families attended the ceremony. The prime minister stressed that these laptops were given purely on merit, and if proved otherwise, he would be held accountable as these resources belonged to the country.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar addressing Azmat-e-Quran and Istehkam-e-Pakistan Conference organized by Markazi Jamiat Ahle Hadith Balochistan

Governor Balochistan says Panacea of sufferings and tribulations lie in understanding and following Holy Qura'an

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has emphasized that the Holy Qura'an is the great source of guidance for the whole humanity, and as such the panacea of our sufferings and tribulations being faced by us lie in understanding and following teachings of the Holy Book.

He also said that meaningful change in the Muslims' lives can be brought only when we would make part of their practical life by understanding the Holy Qura'an. This and similar other views were expressed by the Governor while addressing the Azmat-e-Qura'an and Istehkam-e-Pakistan conference organized by Markazi Jamiat Ahle Hadith here at the Jamia Salfiar, Airport road on Sunday.

The leaders of Jamiat Ahle Hadith as well as political leaders and religious scholars belonging to different schools of thoughts also participated in the conference.

The Governor maintained that we learn lesson from the Holy Qura'an to speak before every cruel and against all social evils, and we can succeed in forming exploration and cruelty-free society by following the teachings of Holy Qura'an. He on the occasion appreciated the organizers for holding the conference on vital topic of Azmat-e-Qura'an and Istehkam-e-Pakistan, which he added, speaks high about their deep affiliation with Islam and patriotism. He said that the only solution to our sufferings is that we must understand Holy Qura'an and follow its teachings.

Balochistan's development linked with provision of NFC share: Zubaida Jalal

QUETTA (APP): Member of the National Assembly, Zubaida Jalal has said that the provision of the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award is imperative for the economic development of the province and to bring it up to the level of other provinces. Talking to members of the business community here on Sunday, she expressed that the federal government has acknowledged Balochistan's backwardness but failed to effectively address the issues and lift the people out of poverty, said a news release. The main reason for the poverty and backwardness of Balochistan is the lack of funds and not enough share in the NFC Award, despite the fact that Balochistan constitutes half of Pakistan," she explained. She said that the provision of security for half of Pakistan is a huge challenge, and the province spends 40

per cent of its resources on maintaining law and order. "We are asserting our rights in accordance with the law and the Constitution while remaining within our means. We ought not to be found in some unacceptable light said Jalal. and added, "We are also demanding our right, and every province demands its right." She said that the Iranian diesel and petroleum exchange at the boundary is being facilitated to guarantee the continuation of individuals' jobs, empowering them to keep their own homes. This action was taken to try not to deny our kin of work until we can give them elective well-springs of occupation. She said there were few government jobs and no industries in Balochistan. If people remain unemployed, they may fall prey to the propaganda of anti-state elements.

Much-needed & much-awaited Green Bus Service set to be launched in Quetta today

QUETTA: The much-needed and long-awaited Green Bus Service is going to be launched from today (Monday). According to the provincial Transport Department, all the necessary arrangements have been made to start the Green Bus Service from today. The formal inauguration of the Green Bus Service is scheduled to be made at 12:00 Noon at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) Takato campus, Baleli. As per programme, the inauguration of Green Bus Service would be done by an ordinary passenger travelling on the local public transport, as already announced by the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo in a tweet on his social media account Twitter.

Transporters hails govt. decision of abolishing unnecessary check posts

QUETTA: The transporters from all over the Balochistan province have hailed the decision of Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo and his cabinet about abolishing the unnecessary check posts of the Pakistan Customs, Coast Guards, Police and Levies on the roads and highways. However, they have stressed the need to start implementation on the cabinet's decision and make the concerned departments bound to fully

honour the decision in this regard. The transporters representatives including office bearers of different associations of the transporters, unions and traders organizations were in meeting with the Additional Chief Secretary Home, Muhammad Saleh Nassar and Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Imran Gichki here on Sunday. The transporters' and traders leaders apprised the senior government officials about the issues being faced by them.



QUETTA: A combine delegation of transporters meeting with Additional Chief Secretary Home Muhammad Saleh Nassar. Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Imran Gichki and Commissioner Quetta Sohailur Rehman Baloch are also present

Outcome of non-existence of new NFC Award:

Balochistan has suffered financial loss of over Rs. 300 billion so far since 2017, regrets CM

Approach of federation on the NFC Award is beyond comprehensible

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has regretfully pointed out the Balochistan province has so far suffered financial loss of over Rs. 300 billion due to non-existence of new National Finance Commission (NFC) Award since 2017. He said that the approach of federation on the NFC Award is beyond comprehensible, as it is a constitutional requirement

to announce new NFC Award after every five years. He said that the new NFC Award is due since 2015, but this constitutional obligation is being violated for last eight years affecting Balochistan the most. At the time when there's talk of meeting constitutional requirements everywhere, then why the requirement of NFC Award is being overlooked?, he questioned. In an official statement issued here on late Saturday night, the Chief Minister also referred to the fi-



TEHRAN: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir meeting with President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ebrahim Raisi

nancial issues being confronted by the province and mentioned that the matter of arrears of the province against Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) is also yet to be resolved. He said that it is an un-

wise act and insult of the people of Balochistan to give preference to a company (PPL) over a federating unit. Describing the attitude of federal government with Balochistan as unjustified, the Chief Minister maintained continuous and repeated contacts has not bear any positive result yet. He said that such attitudes cause differences and misunderstandings, which is not good for the federalism as well, he maintained.



TEHRAN: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir meeting with President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ebrahim Raisi

Pakistan, Iran vow to counter terrorism in border areas

COAS Ge. Asim Munir wraps up a two-day "successful" trip to Iran; Army chief also meets Iranian president and foreign minister.

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Sunday concluded his two-day successful visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The military leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan agreed that terrorism was a common threat to the region in general and both countries in particular. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the

military commanders on both sides vowed to eradicate the menace of terrorism in the border areas through intelligence sharing and effective actions against the terrorists' networks, and explore avenues for enhancing cooperation in the security domain. During his visit, the COAS had detailed meetings with the Military leadership of Iran including Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces, Major General Mohammad Bagheri.

The COAS also called on President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian. During discussions, the significance of Pakistan-Iran bilateral relations for regional peace and stability was highlighted. The COAS was presented with the Guard of Honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of Iranian Air Force at the Military Headquarters on his arrival.

BA session to begin today

QUETTA: The session of Balochistan Assembly is scheduled to begin today (Monday) in the Assembly Hall here. According to the sources of Provincial Assembly, the first sitting of the assembly session would be held at 04:00 PM.

The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar had summoned the assembly session earlier last week. The agenda of session has already been issued by the secretariat of provincial assembly.



SIALKOT: Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif addressing the workers convention of PML-N at Union Council Water Works.

SC's division bench to hear cases at Quetta Registry from today

QUETTA: A division bench of the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the cases at Quetta Registry from today (Monday). The division bench comprises Mr. Justice Aminuddin and Mr. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail. The hearing of cases by the division bench would remain continued till July 21, 2023.

PPP, PMLN set formulae for GB government

GILGIT (Online): Pakistan People Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) has set the formulae of power sharing on the basis of majority to form government in Gilgit Baltistan. According to reports after PPP, PMLN is ready to be the part of government.

SIALKOT (INP): Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that wrong economic policies of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government has led to the existing economic turmoil. Addressing the workers' convention at Mohallah Water Works on Sunday, he said, "We are determined and will soon succeed in bringing the country out of darkness". Khawaja Asif said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif had gathered all political parties to support

the national economy. He said that unfortunately, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was brought into power in 2018 through a rigged elections, and those who supported Imran Khan, the performance of Imran Khan and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was in front of them. During the planned attacks on 9th May, the memorials of martyrs were insulted, he said, adding "we stand with our martyrs and Ghazis" and those who insulted the memorials of martyrs would be brought to justice under the law.

12 tourists dead as coaster falls into ditch in Chilas

GILGIT (INP): A tourist coaster on Sunday skidded off the road and fell into a ravine on the Karakoram Highway near Thalichi in Chilas, Gilgit-Baltistan, killing at least 12 people. According to details, a coaster carrying tourists plunged into a gorge on the Karakoram Highway near Thalichi, killing at least 12 people and injuring 6 oth-

ers including women and children. The coaster was going to Gilgit from Lahore. Rescue teams recovered the dead bodies and shifted them to a hospital. According to the sources, the tourist coaster skidded off the road due to high speed. The local administration has started efforts to identify the names of the dead tourists.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Financial woes of Balochistan and tepid response of Islamabad

The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo is up against the federal government once again. The issue is identical, one and the same, financial problems being confronted by the province for long.

He said that Balochistan province is the biggest affectee of the situation than other federating units. It's awesome when the Chief Minister noted with concern that Balochistan has so far suffered financial loss of over Rs. 300 billion due to non-existence of new National Finance Commission (NFC) Award since 2017.

He said that it is an unwise act and insult of the people of Balochistan to give preference to a company (PPL) over a federating unit. Describing the attitude of federal government with Balochistan as unjustified, the Chief Minister maintained continuous and repeated contacts has not bear any positive result yet.

A fine balance



Muna Khan

When people hear I teach journalism, I'm often asked what I think about the media coverage of X issue or how I would cover X issue if I was a journalist. The questions usually reflect the person's frustration with the media. Last week, I was asked how I would cover Democratic candidate Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) Jr's presidential bid.

I think the important distinction to make here is that Harris and the other podcast bros are not journalists. This doesn't diminish their power to engage with their guests, or ask difficult questions, or influence voters, but they're not following the same rules as journalists.

I understand the dilemma with Kennedy. He is, after all, American royalty with that surname; I doubt he'd garner the kind of attention if he was someone else. Kennedy's views are controversial: he is against big pharma, blames 5G for a host of ailments, says Wi-Fi causes "leaky brain", HIV may not cause AIDS, suggests links between antidepressants and the rise in mass school shootings, and claims chemicals in water may cause children to become transgender.

Labeling Kennedy a loon or dangerous or both only shows the media has learned nothing from covering Trump — who, if you remember, was ridiculed from the day he announced his candidacy. There is a way to report on RFK without amplifying him and always adding context and data to

the political divide. Kennedy has the support of venture capitalists, tech bros in Silicon Valley — including the former and present owners of Twitter — and has earned Donald Trump's praise too.

RFK cannot be ignored, but should he get the oxygen the media feels it needs to get ratings? Because that is essentially what this comes down to: profitability vs public interest. Media outlets look at elections through the lens of a horse race, ie, who will win. Except that in their coverage of a candidate, they end up creating an electable. RFK garners more attention than the other contender, Marianne Williamson, who was once described as Oprah's spiritual adviser. Why isn't every move of hers given the same space?

I see the appeal in RFK because he's saying things others do not: anti-corporates, anti-elite capture in the political system, antiwar, anti-CIA, whom he blames for the murder of his father and uncle. He does not have answers to the kind of policies he'll create, and lacks support from his party, and many of his family members, including siblings, have endorsed Joe Biden. Much of the RFK amplification machine is coming from the right-wing media that wants an election between Trump and RFK.

De-platforming and/or censorship does not work. It was embarrassing to watch TV channels in Pakistan blur out the PTI leader's face in his meeting with the IMF delegation. What is the purpose of this ridiculous ban? Why are audiences treated with such little regard? I have full faith in the media's ability to do its job of reporting fairly on all leaders and debunking their nonsense. Let them do their jobs, please. -- Courtesy Dawn

Abolish the CDA



Danyal Adam Khan

With the approval of three new sectors in Islamabad worth Rs30 billion, certain residents of the city can brace themselves for a new round of evictions and demolitions in the name of progress. Although this will — and should — spark legitimate resistance and a renewed conversation about the city's master plan, we can also use this opportunity to ask ourselves a more fundamental question: why does the CDA even exist?

If you happened to be a dictator in the 1960s, it would have been one of your lesser crimes if you looked over undulating green hills and thought, 'I probably need an authority to raze these and build a capital'. Nearly 56 years later, though, it is ludicrous to leave the governance of the capital city in the world's fifth-most populous country to a non-representative bureaucratic institution.

Islamabad is not the sleepy town it was even one decade ago, and requires some serious urban planning if it is to avoid the congested fate of our other megacities. It requires an intra-city mass transit system, entire sectors dedicated to low-cost housing, mixed-use development, an equitable expansion of its water network, a functioning waste management system, and so on. The idealistic list of possibilities is endless. But these are not decisions that can be made without incorporating the will of the city's residents and, as an

unelected institution, the CDA simply does not have that mandate. By no means does this imply that every decision the CDA has ever made is flawed or, on the contrary, that the opposite will be true for an elected local government. It only means that the mechanism for reaching such decisions must contain a certain level of accountability towards the people on whose behalf they are being made.

The CDA is essentially no different to any other housing society, except their playing field is all of Islamabad — or at least those parts where it can use bureaucratic muscle to evict, rather than, say, cantonment areas. They see land — not the people who happen to live on it — and feel irked by the wasted potential of 'undeveloped' sectors which could be lucrative plots. This is the CDA's bread and butter. It was never meant to govern the city, only to 'develop' it, and has been doing so in its own way. When looked at in this context, it seems obvious that the CDA is not a substitute for local government.

But what would abolishing this white elephant look like in practice? At the most, it would entail dismantling the entire institution. At the least, it would mean breaking its monopoly by placing it under the control of the Metropolitan Corporation of Islamabad, ie, the capital's body of elected representatives. This would include legislative and constitutional amendments to guarantee election cycles and security of tenure — providing a legal and political foundation for local government. It

cannot be changed by a tweak to the system, but only through a fundamental shift towards prioritising citizens over profits. With Islamabad as its birthright, the CDA has become very comfortable wielding power that should not belong to it. The fact that a democratic institution can be held hostage by unelected officials is not new to Pakistan, but it does seem to plague the system ranging from local governments to the top of the pyramid. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

PM directs to establish one window facilitation centers to resolve exporters' problems

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed to establish one window operation facilitation centers to resolve exporters' problems.

He gave these instructions, while talking to a delegation of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industries and parliamentarians from the city of Iqbal, which called on him in the leadership of Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif in Sialkot on Sunday.

Besides, the Prime Minister instructed to formulate a policy in this

regard. He also ordered the Sialkot district administration to ensure construction, maintenance and restoration of national highways.

The delegation commended the Prime Minister for final approval of IMF agreement and economic revival in the country. Shehbaz Sharif thanked members of the delegation for supporting him in taking tough decisions in the best interest of the country.

Prime Minister's Advisor Ahad Khan Cheema, Special Assistants

Jahanzeb Khan, Tariq Bajwa, Rana Shamim Ahmed Khan, Nelson Azeem, Arshad Warraich, Rana Liaquat, Arif Iqbal, Rana Afzaal, Rana Abdul Sattar, Chaudhry Ikram, Manshaullah Butt, Mrs. Shehzad Gulnaz, Zeeshan Rafiq, Muhammad Rafiq Mughal, Khawaja Maqsood Akhtar were among those, who called on the Prime Minister. President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industries Abdul Ghafoor Malik, Wahab Jahangir, Amir Majeed Sheikh, Dr Mariyam Noman, Arshad Butt, Sohail Barlas and

Sarfraz Bhatti represented the business community of Sialkot. APP add: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday directed the formulation of a policy for the establishment of one-window facilitation centers for resolving issues of exporters. He was talking to a delegation comprising members of Parliament and office bearers of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) here. The delegation paid tribute to the prime minister on the final approval of the agreement with the International.



A delegation of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Sialkot. Minister of Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif was also present.



FAISALABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan offering 'dua' after inaugurating sui gas supply at Chak No. 4 JB Ram Diwali.

Measures needed for industry to put economy on track: Faheem Saigol

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF), Faheemur Rehman Saigol stressing the need for putting the economy on a sustainable growth trajectory by providing incentives to the industry, has lamented that the economy was facing multiple challenges of falling exports, high inflation, and low growth, with fiscal accounts under immense pressure on account of heavy interest payments.

In a statement on Sunday, the PIAF Chairman said that the low growth shows the government was finding it difficult to achieve the industrial growth and export target, leading to more pressure on foreign exchange reserves of the country. He asked the government to address the underlying structural vulnerabilities through smooth energy supply at competitive rates, as country's overall export proceeds continued to shrink.

PCMEA office-bearers said that policy makers should also consult the stakeholders and take a unanimous decision regarding the dollar, as the prevailing situation had a negative impact.

PCMEA for containing dollar rate

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMAEA) has urged the government to take appropriate steps to contain dollar rate against rupee so that export deals could not affect due to fluctuations in the dollar rate. PCMEA Senior Vice Chairman Usman Ashraf, central leader Abdul Latif Malik, Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Chairperson Ejazur Rehman and other senior members told media here Sunday that exporters were reluctant to do foreign business deals due to uncertainty of the dollar, therefore government should focus on stabilizing the foreign exchange reserves by bringing in foreign exchange through exports and remittances to give a direction to the faltering economy. Dollar fluctuations were creating difficulties in importing raw materials and signing the contract with the foreign buyers, they added.

PCMEA office-bearers said that policy makers should also consult the stakeholders and take a unanimous decision regarding the dollar, as the prevailing situation had a negative impact.

PBF for bringing agri sector under federal govt again

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) has suggested that federal government should take over the agriculture sector again for its revival in a better way through recently launched Green Pakistan Initiative. Talking to media here Sunday, the PBF Central Vice President Jahan Ara Watoo said that agriculture sector development had been slowed since its devolution to provinces under 18th Amendment as the

provinces were still looking for federal government's assistance on this count. "At province level, agriculture is still functioning as extension departments with regard to monitoring, supply, procurement, distribution and prices, and even today, agricultural policy making is the domain of regulatory bodies at the centre," she argued. Jahan Ara Watoo explained that about 48 million hectares (60 percent).

CEO TDAP says: Trade facilitation to Afghanistan vital

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Executive Trade Development Authority Pakistan (TDAP) Muhammad Zubair Motiwala said that Pakistan always attached the highest importance to its trade facilitation for Afghanistan. He was addressing the opening ceremony of the Imam Abu Hanifa Exhibition held Sunday in

Kabul. Motiwala shared that Pakistan was the largest trading partner of Afghanistan. In this context, he thanked the Afghan government for providing such business opportunities to Pakistani exhibitors which will further widen the business-to-business relations between the two fraternal neighbors.

Cabinet approves Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) Rule 2023: Amin

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for IT and Telecom Syed Amin ul Haque has said that move to strengthen the country's cybersecurity posture; the Federal Cabinet of Pakistan has given its approval to the Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) Rule 2023.

In a statement, the minister said that the decision comes after a thorough consultation process that involved various stakeholders, with the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication (MoITT) taking the lead in formulating the CERT Rules.

According to an official statement, under section 51, read with section 49 of the Prevention of Electronic Crime Act (PECA), 2016, and in compliance with the National Cyber Security Policy (NCSP), 2021, the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication (MoITT) as a designated organization of the Federal Government to deal with

Cyber Security has formulated the CERT Rules in consultation with the concerned stakeholders. The consultation session with the government bodies and regulatory authorities was started in August 2021. Subsequently, sector regulators carried out extensive consultations with their respective private entities.

IT Minister further said that CERT Rules – 2023 provides a legislative umbrella to handle ever-emerging cyber-security risks and vulnerabilities at the National, Sectoral, and Organizational levels by laying out a working mechanism in the form of technical support, operational facilities, and capacity-building services.

"These Rules further provide a state-of-the-art proactive and integrated risk management process for identifying and prioritizing protective measures regarding cyber-

security". He said that a CERT council will be established as a forum for a consultative and coordinating process to advise CERTs for the effective implementation of its functions and services. The definitions and constituencies of National CERT, Government CERT, Critical Information Infrastructure CERT, Sectoral CERT, Federal CERT, and Provincial CERT are discussed separately, he added.

The specific responsibilities, functions, and services of the National CERTs and Sectoral CERTs are also outlined in the rules. Federal IT Minister said that as far as the impact on Cyber Security Landscape is concerned, CERTs at National and Sectoral Levels will enhance the overall cybersecurity posture and resilience at the national level.

PML-N saves country from default: Muqam

PESHAWAR (APP): Adviser to the Prime Minister for Political and Public Affairs and National Heritage, Engr Amir Muqam here Sunday said that Pakistan Muslim League-N President and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif have saved the country from default after a successful agreement with IMF besides taking bold economic and fiscal decisions for Pakistan. Addressing a big public gathering here where ANP leader Sher Rehman

along with thousands of supporters joined PML-N, Engr Amir Muqam said that PML-N was the only party that could take the country out of all existing challenges. He said that PML-N has strong roots in masses in all provinces and would form the next government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Engr Amir Muqam said that PTI has disappointed the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and completely failed to deliver despite its nine years long rule in the province.

He accused the PTI chief of destabilizing the country and destroying the national economy. Amir Muqam that the entire nation had seen attacks on national institutions and defense installations during May 9 vandalism. He said that one party had made a deep conspiracy against Pakistan on May 9 by attacking state institutions while Pakistan Muslim League-N had frustrated the evil designs of the attackers. Amir Muqam



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali in a group photo with delegation of public representatives of District Mohmand.



HYDERABAD: View of the water level increasing in the Phuleli Canal while many nearby residents evacuate from their homes due to increased water level and overflowing canal water, in Hyderabad.

Ombudsman office facilitates 18 individuals in securing govt jobs

Independent Report
LAHORE: In the latest development, the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab successfully interceded on public complaints to ensure that provincial government departments provide permanent jobs to 18 applicants of different districts under Rule 17-A of the Punjab Civil Servants (Appointment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 1974. While giving details, the spokesman for the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab reported on Sunday that Talha Tariq had been appointed as a junior clerk in Attock, Muhammad

Ilyas of TT Singh as a gardener and Omar Daraz of Jhang as a watchman. Additionally, Amina Bibi from Vehari had been recruited as bulawi, Abrara Sadiq and Chaand Hamza Goraya had been posted as naib qasid in Faisalabad and DG Khan respectively by the education department after the involvement of the ombudsman office. Furthermore, the health department recruited Muhammad Waqas Bashir of Jaranwala as a ward boy, Rawalpindi's Sultan Muhammad as a sentry patrol and Muhammad Hamad Ali of TT Singh as a junior clerk in BPS-11.

One killed, 5 injured during firing in marriage ceremony

FAISALABAD (APP): One person was killed while five others sustained serious injuries due to firing during a marriage function in the area of Satiana police station. Rescue 1122 spokesman said here on Sunday that guests of groom and bride sides indulged firstly in exchange of harsh words and then in blunt firing on each other in Chak No. 278-GB over some marriage related issues. As a result, 33-year-old Muhabbat Ali received serious injuries and died on the spot whereas Rescue 1122 shifted five others to hospital after providing them first aid.

Abbasi inaugurates development projects in Abbottabad

ABBOTTABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Murtaza Javed Abbasi Sunday inaugurated a series of completed development projects worth millions of rupees across various areas, including Batangi, Ser Sharqi and Ser Gharbi in Abbottabad.

The projects encompassed significant initiatives such as the expansion of the electricity supply and the construction of roads, demonstrating the government's commitment to progress and growth.

Addressing the public gathering after the inauguration of the projects the federal minister stressed the utmost importance of maintaining quality and transparency in all ongoing development ventures. He underscored the significance of timely project completion to ensure that the public can promptly benefit from the improvements. Murtaza Javed Abbasi emphasized the essential role of the youth in propelling Pakistan towards a brighter future.

Tight security to be ensured during Muharram: Minister

FAISALABAD (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Higher Education/Chairman Standing Cabinet Committee for Law & Order Punjab Manzoor Qadir said that tight security arrangements would be ensured during Muharram-ul-Haram to foil all nefarious designs of the miscreants. Addressing a press conference at Municipal Corporation Hall here on Sunday, he said that all law enforcing departments including police have been made alert with a clear-cut

direction to keep vigil eye on movement of the suspects so that any untoward incident could be averted before its occurrence. He said that role of religious scholars was imperative for maintaining law and orders. Therefore, he appealed the Ulama Kiram to promote religious harmony and urged the nation to forge unity among their ranks and avoid from sectarianism so that peace could be ensured in the society for greater national interest. He said that control rooms would

be made functional at provincial, divisional and district level which would remain active round the clock. The minister said that divisional commissioner and police officers had pointed out some security related issues which would be resolved on war-footing to make the Muharram security foolproof. He said that a comprehensive strategy was devised for Muharram security which would be implemented in true spirit. This strategy would not affect trade and business activities.

Two notorious bike snatcher gangs busted, 12 arrested

RAJANPUR (APP): Police have busted two notorious motorcycle snatcher gangs and arrested 12 criminals of these gangs besides recovering looted valuables worth over Rs two million during a special crackdown launched on Sunday. This was disclosed by Station House Officer (SHO) Muhammadpur Dewan police station, Akhtar Khan while holding a press conference at his office.

Sector Commander FC South reviews security arrangements for Muharram

TANK (APP): Sector Commander Frontier Corps (FC) South Brigadier Suhail Bajwa here on Sunday chaired an important meeting at Captain Sikandar Shaheed FC Camp and reviewed the security plan for upcoming Muharram-ul-Haram. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Tank Muhammad Shoib, Acting

District Police Officer Tank Nasir Khan, district officers of various departments and institutions, notables and elders of the area. The meeting was also attended by Suni religious scholars including Maulana Muhammad Sadiq Khatib, Pir Saleem Shah, Mulla Abdul Rehman, Qari Nasrullah, Hakeem Sana Khan, Maulana Gul Muhammad and Maulana Khan Muhammad.

Jirga succeeds in brokering peace agreement in Kurram

PESHAWAR (APP): A 30-member peace jirga succeeded in brokering a peace agreement between the two rival tribes of the tribal district Kurram on Sunday. After the signing of the one-year peace agreement, the personnel of security forces and police were deployed after clearing the fronts of the parties and normalcy began

to be restored. Talking to APP, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Kurram, Muazzam Khan Bangash said that a 30-member peace jirga comprising Sunni and Shia elders from Orakzai, Hangu and Kohat after hectic efforts of negotiations with both parties for a period of last three days succeeded in stoppage of clashes.

International News

Putin says Russia has 'sufficient' cluster munitions for tit-for-tat

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said his country had enough cluster munitions to answer if Ukraine was to use the weapons, in an interview published on Sunday. Ukraine started receiving cluster weapons from the United States, a move that sparked concerns due to the long-term risk posed to civilians by bomblets that fail to explode. "Russia has a sufficient stockpile of various kinds of cluster munitions," Putin told a state-television

journalist. The controversial weapons can disperse up to several hundred small explosive charges, which can remain unexploded in the ground. "If they are used against us, we reserve ourselves the right to tit-for-tat actions," Putin said. He added Russia had not yet used the weapons despite a "certain shortage of munitions at some point". Human Rights Watch and Ukrainian forces have accused Russia of already using cluster munitions on

the battlefield. They are banned by numerous countries — notably in Europe — that are signatories to a 2008 Oslo Convention, to which neither Russia, the United States nor Ukraine are parties. Humanitarian groups have strongly condemned the US decision to supply cluster munitions to Ukraine. US President Joe Biden said the decision was "very difficult" but stressed Ukraine needed extra ammunition to refill its depleted stocks.



Syrian President Bashar Assad and Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani review a military honour guard during a welcome ceremony in Damascus, Syria.

Iraqi premier in Syria for first visit in over a decade to discuss boosting cooperation

Monitoring Desk
DAMASCUS: Iraq's prime minister held talks Sunday with Syrian President Bashar Assad in Damascus during the first trip of his kind to the war-torn country since the 12-year conflict began. The two leaders told reporters that they discussed fighting drugs, the return of Syrian refugees and the imperative of lifting Western sanctions imposed in Syria. They also talked about Israel's strikes on the war-torn country

and water shortages in the Euphrates River that cuts through both countries because of projects in Turkey. Iraq and Syria have had close relations for years even after many Arab countries withdrew their ambassadors from Damascus and Syria's membership in the 22-member Arab League was suspended because of the crackdown on protesters in 2011. Assad received Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, who was heading a high-

ranking delegation, at the presidential palace in Damascus. They discussed mutual relations and cooperation between the two neighboring countries among other issues, according to the office of Syria's president. Al-Sudani's office said in a statement that talks revolved around ways of expanding cooperation in the fields of trade, economy, transportation, tourism, how to combat climate change and collaboration to fight terrorism.

India ties up with UAE to settle trade in rupees

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India has signed an agreement with the United Arab Emirates that will allow it to settle trade in rupees instead of dollars, boosting India's efforts to cut transaction costs by eliminating dollar conversions. During a visit by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the UAE on Saturday, the two countries also agreed to set up a real-time payment link to facilitate easier cross-border money transfers. The two agreements will enable "seamless cross-border transactions and payments, and foster greater economic cooperation", said a statement from the Reserve Bank of India on Saturday.

India, the world's third biggest oil importer and consumer and whose central bank last year announced a framework for settling global trade in rupees, currently pays for UAE oil in dollars. Bilateral trade between the two countries was \$84.5 billion in the year from April 2022 to March 2023. An official with knowledge of the details of the agreement said India could make its first rupee payment for UAE oil to Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (ADNOC). Reuters reported on Friday.

Heavy rains, flooding leave 37 dead in South Korea

Monitoring Desk
CHEONGJU: Rescuers battled on Sunday to reach people trapped in a flooded tunnel in South Korea, where at least 37 people have died and nine are missing after heavy rains caused flooding and landslides. South Korea is at the peak of its summer monsoon season, and there has been heavy rainfall for the last four days, causing a major dam to overflow.

The interior ministry reported that 37 people were killed and another nine were missing nationwide in the heavy downpours, mostly buried by landslides or after falling into a flooded reservoir. Hundreds of rescue workers were still struggling to reach more than 10 cars and an unknown number of people trapped in a 430-metre (1,410-foot) underground tunnel in Cheongju.

EU urged to probe Greek shipwreck killing

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: Nearly a month after the sinking of an overloaded boat off the Greek coast where 700 people, including Pakistanis, were killed, a prominent global humanitarian body has called on the European Union (EU) to ensure a "full, transparent" investigation into the tragedy. "So far, there have been no moves to launch such an investigation into the shipwreck — one of the deadliest on record in the Mediterranean Sea.

Xi Jinping calls for 'solid' security barrier around China's internet

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping said China must build a "solid" security barrier around its internet under the supervision of the ruling Communist Party, in his latest call to safeguard online data and information. China must persist in managing, operating and ensuring access to the internet in accordance with the law, Xi said in instructions delivered to officials attending a two-day

cybersecurity meeting in Beijing that ended on Saturday. "We must adhere to the Party's management of the internet and adhere to (the principle of) making the internet work for the people," state-run Xinhua news agency cited Xi as saying. In the past decade, Xi has made preserving security a priority, with his concept of security covering everything from politics and the economy to the environment and cyberspace.

US remains concerned N.Korea will conduct another missile test

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said on Sunday the Biden administration remains concerned that North Korea will move forward with another intercontinental ballistic missile test. "I have been concerned for some time that North Korea would conduct what would be its seventh nuclear test," Sullivan said during an interview with CBS's Face the Nation.



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol attend a meeting, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine.

UK defence minister Wallace to step down as lawmaker at next election

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: British defence minister Ben Wallace will not stand as a member of parliament (MP) in the next UK national election, and will leave government when Prime Minister Rishi Sunak carries out his next cabinet reshuffle, he told The Sunday Times newspaper. Wallace, a member of the ruling Conservative party, has been MP for Wyre and Preston North and its predecessor constituency in northwest England since 2005. Advertisement • Scroll to continue He has been de-

fence secretary for four years, helping lead Britain's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "I'm not standing next time," he said in an interview with the newspaper, but ruled out going "prematurely" and forcing another by-election. Sunak is facing three by-elections next week, and opinion polls suggest his Conservative party could lose all of them. A general election must be held in Britain within the next 18 months. The Sunday Times said a cabinet reshuffle was expected in September.



South Korean rescue workers search for missing persons near a bus along a deluged road leading to an underground tunnel where some 15 cars were trapped in flood waters after heavy rains in Cheongju.

