Indenental Enternation

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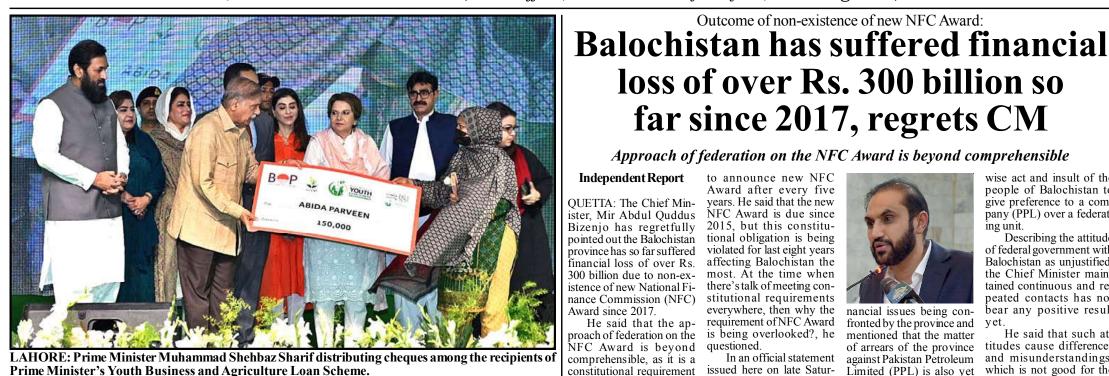
Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Independent Report

He said that the ap-

Hub

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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 ernments with that of Pa- the framing of fake cases, Minister Muhammad kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's he said, adding the PTI Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that if given an opportunity in the upcoming elections, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Pakistan Muslim Leaguetaking it on the path of progress and prosperity.

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 the opposition as day in and by juxtaposing the perfor- day out, he was bent upon mance of the PML-N gov- putting them in jails with

Jamiat Ahle Hadith Balochistan

of the National Assembly,

Zubaida Jalal has said that

the provision of the Na-

tional Finance Commission

(NFC) Award is imperative

for the economic develop-

ment of the province and

to bring it up to the level of

Talking to members of

the business community

here on Sunday, she ex-

pressed that the federal gov-

emment has acknowledged

Balochistan's backwardness

but failed to effectively ad-

dress the issues and lift the

people out of poverty, said

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 ex-

sion of security for half of

She said that the provi-

The main reason for the

other provinces.

a news release

Balochistan's development

linked with provision of

NFC share: Zubaida Jalal

QUETTA (APP): Member per cent of its resources on

four years' saga of destruc-

The prime minister while lauding the statesmanship qualities of his eland the entire leadership of der brother, regretted that former prime minister and Nawaz would change the his leader Nawaz Sharif destiny of the country by was ousted from power despite the fact that he had ended hours-long crippling Addressing the load shedding, provided cheques distribution cerlaptops and loans to youth, the load shedding, provided emony under the Prime brought muti-billions China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CEPC) power and road infrastructure projects during 2015.

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar addressing

Azmat-e-Ouran and Ishtekam-e-Pakistan Confernece organized by Markazi

maintaining law and order.

rights in accordance with

the law and the Constitution

while remaining within our

means. We ought not to be

found in some unacceptable

demanding our right, and ev-

ery province demands its

diesel and petroleum ex-

change at the boundary is

being facilitated to guaran-

tee the continuation of in-

dividuals' jobs, empower-

ing them to keep their ov-

ens consuming in their

homes. This action was

taken to try not to deny

our kin of work until we can

give them elective well-

government jobs and no in-

dustries in Balochistan. If

people remain unem-

ployed, they may fall prey

to the propaganda of anti-

She said there were few

springs of occupation.

and added, "We are also

She said that the Iranian

light said Jalal.

"We are asserting our

leader could not assimilate the revolutionary steps taken by the PML-N gov-

ernment. 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 maintained that Nawaz Sharif and they had experienced the worst kind of political vendetta, even they were sent into exile after outer from power, but unlike Imran Niazi, the PML-N Quaid never thought of

Much-needed &

much-awaited

Green Bus Service

set to be launched

in Quetta today

Independent Report

QUETTA: The much-

needed and long-awaited

Green Bus Service is going

(Monday). According to the

provincial Transport De-

partment, all the necessary

arrangements have been

made to start the Green Bus

of the Green Bus Service is

scheduled to be made at

The formal inauguration

Service from today.

to be launched from today

anything against the coun-

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

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 A number of ministers, advisers, parliamentarians, officials and beneficiaries of the loan and families at-

tended 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.

Governor Balochistan says Panacea of sufferings and tribulations lie in understanding

and following Holy Qura'an Independent Report 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 confer-The Governor main-

tained 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 ap-

reciated 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 fol-

Transporters hails govt. decision of abolishing unnecessary check posts

Independent Report QUETTA: The transporters from all over the Balochistan province have hailed the decision of Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo

12:00 Noon at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Manageand his cabinet about ment Sciences (BUITEMS) abolishing the unneces-Takato campus, Baleli. As sary check posts of the per programme, the inaugu-Pakistan Cusoms, Coast ration of Green Bus Service Guards, Police and Levwould be done by an ordiies on the roads and highnary passenger travelling on the local public transport, as already announced by the

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.



through intelligence sharing and effective actions

The military leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan agreed that terrorism was a common COAS had detailed meetthreat to the region in genings with the Military leaderal and both countries in particular.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations

BA session to begin today

Balochistan Assembly is scheduled to begin today (Monday) in the Assembly Hall here.

According to the sources of Provincial As-

Balochistan, Malik Abdul

The agenda of session has already been issued by the secretariat of provincial

SC's division bench to hear cases at Quetta Registry

(Monday). comprises Mr. Justice

the division bench would remain continued till July

PPP, PMLN set formulae for

Baltistan.

According to reports after PPP, PmIn is ready to be the part of government.

give preference to a company (PPL) over a federat-Describing the attitude of federal government with Balochistan as unjustified,

the Chief Minister maintained continuous and repeated contacts has not bear any positive result

wise act and insult of the

people of Balochistan to

He said that such attitudes cause differences and misunderstandings, which is not good for the federalism as well, he main-



nancial issues being con-

fronted by the province and

mentioned that the matter

of arrears of the province

against Pakistan Petroleum

Limited (PPL) is also yet

to be resolved.

Outcome of non-existence of new NFC Award:

loss of over Rs. 300 billion so

far since 2017, regrets CM

Approach of federation on the NFC Award is beyond comprehensible

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 con-

stitutional requirements

everywhere, then why the

requirement of NFC Award

is being overlooked?, he

issued here on late Satur-

day night, the Chief Minis-

In an official statement

questioned

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): military commanders on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Sunday ism in the border areas Raisi and Foreign Minister

concluded his two-day successful visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. against the terrorists' networks, and explore avenues for enhancing cooperation in the security domain. During his visit, the

ership of Iran including Chief of General Staff of

(ISPR) news release, the eral Mohammad Bagheri.

Independent Report QUETTA: The session of

sembly, the first sitting of the assembly session would be held at 04:00 PM. Governor

Wali Khan Kakar had summoned the assembly session earlier last week.

assembly.

from today Independent Report

QUETTA: A division bench of the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the cases at Quetta Registry from today The division bench

Aminuddin and Mr. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail. The hearing of cases by

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

The COAS also called Hossein Amir Abdollahain

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 Armed Forces at the Military Armed Forces, Major Gen- Headquarters on his arrival.



Asifis addressing the workers convention of PML-N at Union Council Water Works.

Wrong economic policies of PTI govt led to existing economic turmoil: Kh Asif

SIALKOT (INP): Defence the national economy. Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that wrong economic policies of Pakistan Tehreeke-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 dark-

Khawaja Asif said that Minister

He said that unfortunately, Pakistan Tehreeke-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 in-Muhammad Shahbaz sulted the memorials of Sharifhad gathered all po-martyrs would be brought litical parties to support to justice under the law.

12 tourists dead as coaster falls into ditch in Chilas

coaster on Sunday skidded off the road and fell into a ravine on the Karakoram Highway near Thalichi in Chilas, Gilgit-Baltistan, kill-

ing 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

GILGIT (INP): A tourist 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 people and injuring 6 oth- of the dead tourists.



Chief Minister Balochistan,

Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo

in a tweet on his social me-

cipal Secretary to Chief Minister Imran Gichki and Commissioner Quetta Sohailur Rehman Baloch are also present

Daily Joice of Masse Independent

Financial woes of Balochistan and tepid response of Islamabad

The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus 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. This is evident from yet another policy statement issued by the Chief Minister Bizenjo referring the otherwise "lukewarm" attitude of the federal government right under the Premier-ship of Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif. In his statement, the Chief Minister gave intense reaction towards the federal government's approach towards lack / nonexistence of of new National Finance Commission (NFC) Award. The Chief Minister rightly pointed out that the new NFC Award is overdue for last eight years. According to him, the new NFC Award is due since 2015, but this very constitutional obligation is being violated for last eight years affecting Balochistan the most.

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 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. At the time when there's talk of meeting constitutional requirements everywhere, then why the requirement of NFC Award is being overlooked? he questioned. Mr. Bizenjo also referred to the financial 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 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. He said that such attitudes cause differences and misunderstandings which is not good for the federalism as well, he maintained Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo was of the view that we had a lot of expectations with the incumbent government and Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and he had also taken our stance serious. But it is beyond understandable that why the concerned federal government institutions are not giving due importance to the orders of Prime Minister? he questioned. Justifying his fierce reaction to the federation's attitude, the Chief Minister if we give our reaction to the federation, it is because that we are facing hardships, and we do it in compulsion. Undoubtedly, it is high time for the Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif-led federal government to pay proper heed towards the critical financial situation of the province. needless to mention here is that the Bizenjo government had already made it clear that it would not be able to execute the much-needed development process in the province, rather it would harm the already ongoing process. This is also high time for the federal government to pay heed towards the issue of lack of representation of the province in the federal government institutions and autonomous bodies. And last but not the least, the Prime Minister should personally look into the matter and find out why his very directives are being ignored by certain federal departments?

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. Kennedy is widely accused of spreading 'lies' I use quotes because I don't think it's always possible to prove some-

one is willfully lying. Should media organisations give their platform to someone who, according to the Centre for Counting Digital Hate named RFK as the second most prolific poster of anti-vaccine information online? There is a lot of focus on Kennedy's views on vaccines and he is routinely described as an anti-vaxxer, though he claims he is asking for more studies on vaccines.

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. These are some of the wilder theories he has spoken about — but it's important to say they are finding resonance across

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. Although he pitches himself as an outsider — who is routinely censored for his views he has received immense media coverage with profiles in all leading publications. He has appeared on nearly all the highly watched podcasts, save Sam Harris' who said he won't give him the platform to air his misinformation. It was Harris'

podcast that had my

lunchmate posing the

question on what I would

do as a journalist.

I think the important podcast bros are not journalists. This doesn't diminish their power to engage with their guests, or same rules as journalists. Journalists do their due diligence and ask tough questions, with the goal being to inform the public, not think about their own ratings or brand. I know this is hard to believe, given how polarised the media and society is, even in Pakistan, but the trust deficit has been

caused because journalguidelines. They can bring audiences back by ensuring fair and balanced coverage of leaders and fighting attempts to censor them as that is a huge disservice to the public's right to informa-Labelling 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. on RFK without amplifying him and always adding context and data to Courtesy Dawn

let readers make their own decisions.

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 Marianne Williamson, who was once descri-bed 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 distinction to make here is things others do not: that Harris and the other anti-corporates, anti-elite capture in the political sys--tem, antiwar, anti-CIA, whom he bla-mes for the murder of his father ask difficult questions, or and uncle. He does not influence voters, but have answers to the kind they're not following the of policies he'll create, and lacks support from his party, and many of his family members, includsiblings, ing endor-sed Joe Biden. Much of the RFK amplification machine is coming from the right-wing media that wants an election between Trump and RFK. The media shouldn't fall into this trap. There is a way to ists veered from these report on people without amplifying or ignoring

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 There is a way to report and debunking their nonsense. Let them do their jobs, please. -

Abolish the CDA



Danval 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 lowcost 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

cision the CDA has ever roll. made is flawed or, on the contrary, that the opposite will be true for an elected local governthe mechanism for reaching such decisions must contain a certain level of accountability being made. In other words, the prerequisite which enables representation

tially no different to any

other housing society, except their playing field is all of Islamabad — or where it can use bureaucratic muscle to evict, rather than, say, cantonment areas. They see sectors developed' plots. This is the CDA's bread and butter. It was the city, only to 'dedoing so in its own way. context, it seems obvia substitute for local

government. But what would abolishing this white elephant look like in practhe entire institution. At the least, it would mean representatives. This would include legisla- held amendments to guaransecurity of tenure local government. It Courtesy Dawn

unelected institution, would include administhe CDA simply does trative devolution, such not have that mandate. as transferring the By no means does CDA's nearly 20,000 this imply that every de- staff to the MCI's pay-

Most importantly, this would entail a fiscal rearrangement. The idea that the primary source ment. It only means that of income for a city is to sell its own land has to be revisited. Any revenue currently collected by the CDA or the ICT towards the people on administration can be whose behalf they are redirected to the public exchequer, that is, MCI — and bolstered by a is to have a system comprehensive taxation system, which includes sources that are com-The CDA is essen- mon to cities worldwide, such as property tax. At present, the CDA has a Rs150bn bud-get for the in--coming financial year at least those parts over which no control can be exerted by the

residents of Islamabad. This proposed arrangement is very much land — not the people the opposite of what who happen to live on it CDA has maintained — and feel irked by the with the MCI. Since the wasted potential of 'un- latter's inception in 2015, the bureaucratic which could be lucrative resistance put up by the CDA against the fledgling and ineffective MCI never meant to govern has been fierce. Within the first mayoral term, velop' it, and has been any powers it had been vested with were When looked at in this stripped away and returned, leaving the MCI ous that the CDA is not entirely dependent on the CDA for finances, rather than the other way around.

Such a relationship cannot be changed by a tice? At the most, it tweak to the system, but would entail dismantling only through a fundamental shift towards prioritising citizens over breaking its monopoly profits. With Islamabad by placing it under the as its birthright, the CDA control of the Metro- has become very compolitan Corporation of fortable wielding power Islamabad, ie, the that should not belong to capital's body of elected it. The fact that a democratic institution can be hostage tive and constitutional unelected officials is not new to Pakistan, but it tee election cycles and does seem to plague the system ranging from loproviding a legal and cal governments to the political foundation for top of the pyramid. --

Commerce News

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

Sharif has directed to administration to ensure Ahmed Khan, Nelson establish one window construction, maintenance operation facilitation and restoration of national centers to resolve highways.

Chamber of Commerce and Industries parliamentarians from the

city of Iqbal, which called on him in the leadership of

Besides, the Prime

Muhammad Asif in Sialkot

exporters' problems.

He gave these instructions, while talking

The delegation

Commended the Prime

Minister for final approval to a delegation of Sialkot of IMF agreement and economic revival in the country. Shehbaz

Shehbaz Sharif among those, who called thanked members of the on the Prime Minister. delegation for supporting him in taking tough decisions in the best Defence Minister Khawaja interest of the country.

Prime Minister's Minister instructed to Advsior Ahad Khan formulate a policy in this Cheema, Special Assistants

ISLAMABAD (Online): regard. He also ordered the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sialkot district Bajwa, Rana Shamim the business community of Azeem, Arshad Warraich.

APP add: Prime Rana Liaqat, Arif Iqbal, Rana Afzaal, Rana Abdul Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday directed the Sattar, Chaudhry Ikram, formulation of a policy for Manshaullah Butt, Mrs. the establishment of one-Shehzad Gulnaz, Zeeshan window facilitation centers Rafiq, Muhammad Rafiq for resolving issues of Khawaja exporters. He was talking Maqsood Akhtar were to a delegation comprising members of Parliament and office bearers of the Sialkot President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) here. The delegation paid tribute to the prime Malik, Wahab Jahangir, minister on the final approval of the agreement with the International.



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 Associations Front shows the government was (PIAF), Faheemur finding it difficult to achieve providing incentives to the industry, has lamented that the economy was facing multiple challenges of falling exports, high inflation, and low growth, immense pressure on

payments

(INP): In a statement on Pakistan Sunday, the PIAF Chairman Industrial and Traders said that the low growth Rehman Saigol stressing the industrial growth and the need for putting the export target, leading to economy on a sustainable more pressure on foreign growth trajectory by exchange reserves of the country.

He asked the government to address the underlying structural vulnerabilities through smooth energy supply at with fiscal accounts under competitive rates, as country's overall export account of heavy interest proceeds continued to

PCMEA for containing dollar rate

Industries Abdul Ghafoor

Amir Majeed Sheikh, Dr

Mariyam Noman, Arshad

Butt, Sohail Barlas and

Mughal,

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Carpet Pakistan 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 Wattoo said that sector argued.

agriculture development had been slowed since its devolution Amendment as the percent).

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

explained that about 48 to provinces under 18th million hectares (60

CEO TDAP says: Trade facilitation to Afghanistan vital

ISLAMABAD (APP): Kabul. Chief Executive Trade Development Authority its trade facilitation for

Afghan istan. opening ceremony of the Imam Abu Hanifa between the two fraternal Exhibition held Sunday in neighbors.

Motiwala shared that Pakistan was the largest Pakistan (TDAP) trading partner of Muhammad Zubair Afghanistan. In this Motiwala said that context, he thanked the Pakistan always attached Afghan government for the highest importance to providing such business opportunities to Pakistani hanistan. exhibitors which will He was addressing the further widen the business-

Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) Rule 2023: Amin and Telecom Syed Amin ul Rules in consultation with council will be established

Haque has said that move the to strengthen the country's stakeholders. cybersecurity posture; the Federal Cabinet of Pakistan has given its approval to the Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) Rule 2023. In a statement, 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

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

Cabinet approves Computer

session with the advise CERTs for the government bodies and regulatory authorities was started in August 2021. Subsequently, sector regulators carried out minister said that the extensive consultations CERT, Government with their respective private entities.

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

"These Rules further proactive and integrated for identifying and measures regarding cyber- national level.

concerned as a forum for a consultative The consultation coordinating process to effective implementation f its functions and

services.

The definitions and constituencies of National CERT, Information Infrastructure IT Minister further CERT, Sectoral CERT, said that CERT Rules – Federal CERT, and 2023 provides a legislative Provincial CERT are umbrella to handle ever- discussed separately, he added.

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, provide a state-of-the-art CERTs at National and Sectoral Levels will risk management process enhance the overall cybersecurity posture prioritizing protective and resilience at the

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 Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif have saved the country from default after

a successful agreement with IMF besides taking bold economic and fiscal decisions for Pakistan. public gathering here where

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. Éngr Amir Muqam

said that PTI has disappointed the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Addressing a big completely failed to deliver despite its nine years long ANP leader Sher Rehman rule in the province.

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 people knew 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

politics was irrelevant now and PTI has been shattered in groups due to the negative politics of Niazi.

He said Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharifhad brought the country back on track of development and if voted to power would change the destiny of people.Amir Muqam said that former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif restored peace, abolished load shedding and made defence of Pakistan impregnable.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Haji GhulamAli 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

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)

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

Independent Report
LAHORE:In the latest development, the Office of Jhang as a watchman. Additionally, Amina Bibi from Vehari had been recruited as bulawi, Abrara Sadia and Chaand Hamza Goraya had been posted as naib gasid in Faisalabad and DG Khan respectively by the education department after the involvement of

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 in Attock, Muhammad a junior clerk in BPS-11. Inospital after them first aid.

the ombudsman office.

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 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

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

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 electricity supply and the construction of roads, demonstrating 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

Jirga succeeds in brokering peace agreement in Kurram

PESHAWAR (APP): A 30member 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 and Kohat after hectic security forces and police were deployed after clearing the fronts of the parties and normalcy began in stoppage of clashes.

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

Tight security to be ensured during Muharram: Minister

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-Haraam to foil all nefarious designs of

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

on movement of the provincial, divisional and suspects so that any untoward incident could be averted before its occurrence.

imperative for maintaining

law and orders. Therefore,

he appealed the Ulema

Kiram to promote religious the miscreants. 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

FAISALABAD (APP): direction to keep vigil eye be made functional at district level which would remain active round the

The minister said that He said that role of divisional commissioner religious scholars was 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 that control rooms would business activities.

Two notorious bike snatcher gangs busted, 12 arrested

RAJANPUR 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 Nasir Khan, district officers Corps (FC) South Brigadier Suhail Bajwa institutions, notables and institutions, notables and here on Sunday chaired an important meeting at Captain Sikandar Shaheed FC Camp and reviewed the FC Camp and reviewed the arrangements regarding the Muhammad Saddiq Khatib, security plan for upcoming

Commissioner Muhammad Shoib, Acting Khan Muhammad.

elders of the area. The meeting was also attended by Suni religious scholars Pir Saleem Shah, Mulla Muharram-ul-Haram. Abdul Rehman, Qari The meeting was attended by Deputy Khan, Maulana Gul Tank Muhammad and Maulana

International News

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

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said his

weapons, in an interview published on Sunday. Ukraine started receiving cluster weapons from the United States, a move that sparked concerns

tat actions," Putin said.

He added Russia had move that sparked concerns due to the long-term risk posed to civilians by bomblets that fail to ex-

plode.

"Russia has a suffi-

Monitoring Desk

last four days, causing a

The controversial weapons can disperse up to country had enough cluster several hundred small exmunitions to answer if plosive charges, which can remain unexploded in the Ukraine was to use the

against us, we reserve ourselves the right to tit-for-

"If they are used

not yet used the weapons despite a "certain shortage of munitions at some

Human Rights Watch cient stockpile of various and Ukrainian forces have kinds of cluster munitions," accused Russia of already Putin told a state-television using cluster munitions on

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 par

Humanitarian groups have strongly condemned the US decision to supply cluster munitions to

US President Joe Biden said the decision was "very difficult" but stressed Ukraine needed

extra ammunition to refill its depleted stocks. EU urged to

CHEONGJU: Rescuers reported that 37 people were killed and another battled on Sunday to reach people trapped in a flooded tunnel in South Korea, nine were missing nationwide in the heavy downwhere at least 37 people pours, mostly buried by have died and nine are misslandslides or after falling ing after heavy rains caused flooding and landinto a flooded reservoir. Hundreds of rescue workers were still struggling slides. South Korea is at the to reach more than 10 cars peak of its summer monand an unknown number of soon season, and there has people trapped in a 430been heavy rainfall for the

Heavy rains, flooding

leave 37 dead in

South Korea

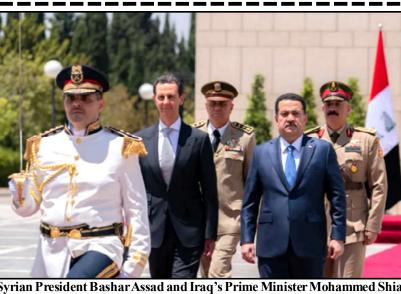
probe Greek shipwreck killing **Monitoring Desk**

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.



metre (1,410-foot) under-

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.



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

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

Monitoring Desk DAMASCUS:

prime minister held talks Sunday with Syrian President Bashar Assad in Damascus during the first trip of its 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

and water shortages in the ranking delegation, at the through both countries because of projects in Tur-

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, on the war-torn country who was heading a high-

Euphrates River that cuts 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 presi-

> 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.

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

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

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.

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 efcosts 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 crossborder transactions and greater economic coopera-

tion", 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 anforts to cut transaction nounced 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 payments, and foster Co (ADNOC), Reuters reported on Friday



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy 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

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.

The Sunday Times news-

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.

Pakistan seeks Chinese investment to upgrade agriculture, IT, mining, housing sectors: Ahsan Iqbal

Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal has said that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) will provide an opportunity for Chinese investments to take advantage of incentives that Pakistan offers to foreign investment with con-

'We are working on nine special economic

Special Economic Zone will be inaugurated later this month. Similarly, the other economic zones are also in the advanced stages, in Sindh, Punjab, and Baluchistan," he told APP during his recent visit to

Pakistan, he said, also has a great advantage in low cost of labour. As in China, many industries are experiencing high costs of production due to increased levels of cost and are now moving to Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Pakistan also has a great advantage in terms of low cost of pro-

The minister said, Pakistan has a very good infrastructure and then it has the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework. So, it becomes a very attractive destination for Chinese enterprises to

stressed that permitting the

burning of Torah, Bible, or

Psalms would be equally

unacceptable. Gratitude

was extended to those who

respected the sanctity of

to the European Union and

the United Nations, the

leaders urged immediate at-

tention and global legislative

action to safeguard the sanctity of all heavenly re-

versal message of peace,

harmony, moderation, and

tolerance found in Islam and

all other religions, they ve-

hemently clarified that no

religion's teachings promote

PML-N fully

prepared to

contest polls:

Rana Tanveer

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Minister for Federal Edu-

cation and Professional

Training Rana Tanveer

Hussain says PML-N has

strong roots in masses and

party will fully take part in

ration ceremony of water

supply project in Sharqpur on Sunday, he said PML-N

said there is no future for

those who change political

Kundi says:

Uplifting of

Sindh PPP's

main motto

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Special Assistant to Prime

Minister Faisal Kareem

Kundi on Sunday said that

the members of the Paki-

stan Peoples Party were

committed to uplifting the

Sindh province as Pakistan

Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) given

news channel, he said that

our party was focusing on

the productive develop-

products like aloe vera and

import pharmaceutical raw

materials globally for pro-

Talking to a private

it in a bad condition.

lovalties.

Addressing an inaugu-

upcoming elections.

violence or extremism.

Recognizing the uni-

In a collective appeal

zones in Pakistan.

About specific Chinese companies who are looking forward to cooperating in this regard, he said, there are many Chinese companies which are coming. Many have invested in Gwadar free zone.

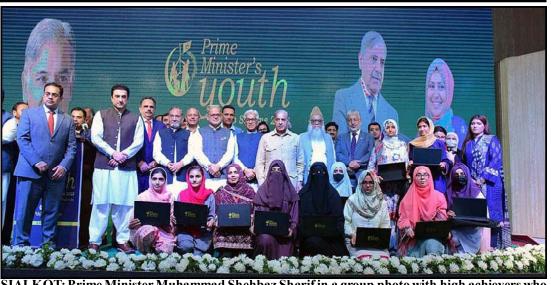
'But, we are now really looking forward to developing our agriculture sector based on new technolo-

Minister Muhammad

Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday

urged women to come for-

ward and ramp up their vital roles in different fields



received laptops under the PM Youth Scheme distribution ceremony.

#ClimateMarchkhi 23

KARACHI: Participants hold banners during Climate March at Frere Hall

Religious Harmony: Pakistani leaders unite in historic interfaith press conference

LAHORE (APP): Muslim Ulema Council. Among the ing in Sweden, they also and Christian leaders, in a groundbreaking display of religious harmony, came together for a historic press conference on Sunday, where they held the holy scriptures of the Bible, Torah, Psalms, and the Quran.

momentous event marked the first time in the nation's history that leaders from both communities gathered in unison to address the importance of respect for all four heavenly

The notable event took place at the University of the Central Punjab and was organized under the auspices of the International Interfaith Harmony
Council and the Pakistan

Condemning the recent incident of Quran burn-

in medium flood at

Sulemanki Headworks with

continuous upsurge in the

river water. The water in-

flow and outflow in Sutlei

has been 81,000 cusecs

with upsurge reported at

Bhikan Pattan bridge. The

river water has submerged

scores of residential settle-

Local administration has shifted over 5,000

people to safer places and

rescued 151 people and

hundreds of cattle stranded

affected Basti Maqsood

Watto in Dona Outab Sarho

area, while a protective

dyke of the river being

Floodwater has badly

ments and crops.

in floodwater.

prominent figures present was Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Mahmood Ashrafi, who joined hands with the Muslim and Christian leaders to promote interfaith understanding and cooperation.

During the conference, the leaders underscored the significance of showing reverence for all heavenly religions and their sacred texts.

They emphatically stated that no individual, group, country, or organization should ever be allowed to disrespect any heavenly book, as well as the prophets and messengers associated with them.

people said. However, the

water level in Sutlej River

going down at Ganda Singh

Wala with 20,000 cusecs

water flow. Local authori-

ties have been engaged in

flood rescue operation in

areas adjacent to the river.

'Rescue 1122 teams have

shifted 4782 people to safer

places and provided boat

service to 12,924 individu-

als", Rescue sources said.

"Hundreds of cattle stranded in flooded areas,

have also been rescues,

sources added. India had re-

leased over 2,00,000 cusecs

water in Sutlei downstream

in Pakistan on Tuesday af-

ter persistent rains in the

catchment areas of the river.

Sutlej River in medium

flood at Sulemanki

Headworks

BAHAWALNAGAR eroded with floodwater at

(INP): Sutlej Riverhas been Nama Jinde Kaka, local

of life and make contributions to the progress of the Addressing a ceremony to distribute

laptops under PM's Youth Laptop Scheme 2023 at Government College Women University here, he said Rs 5 billion were allocated for projects related to the empowerment of women. "No nation can make progress if women are not made productive part of society.

He said in the past his government had spent a substantial amount on the medical education of female students and the investment in women's education would continue. He said

would complete its tenure and a caretaker government would be formed.

PM urges women to ramp

If people would give chance to them in the next election, our government would bring revolution in the field of education and a large number of students would be given laptops, he remarked.

He said the laptops were given as recognition of the hard work and talent of the students. The laptops were distributed on the basis of merit in the past as well, he added As Khadim e Aala

Punjab, he said he always wanted to share the resources with other provinces as the progress and prosperity of the country depended upon shared development.

He said 100,000 laptops had already been



PakArmy alongwith Rangers and Cil Administration continue its flood Relief/evacuation efforts in flood area of Bahawalnagar Chishtian and

Govt takes tough decisions for resolving country's challenges: Hamza

Punjab chief minister Hamza Shehbaz on Sunday said the incumbent government had taking tough decisions to bring the country out of challenges created by the previous incompetent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government.

will field young candidates in elections. The Minister Talking to the media, he said anti people policies of the PTI forced the people to "commit suicides"

The PTI dragged the country into an economic quagmire due to its flawed policies, whereas the present government had been working hard for the past 15 months to address issues that have developed as a result of the PTI-led government's negligence."

He said the country's agreement with the Interna-

LAHORE (APP): Former (IMF) has considerably prevented it from default If the prime minister had not held negotiations with the IMF MD, the country might have defaulted, he continued. He said the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) put its politics at stake by taking tough decisions in larger national interest.

Hamza Shehbaz said that the future of the country was linked with holding general elections held on time in a free, fair and transparent manner.

He stressed the need of all political stakeholders to sit together for taking collective efforts to strengthen economy of the country, adding that political point scoring at this time may further worsen economic and overall situa-



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Balochistan Shafqatullah Lango meeting with Sardar Shahid Khan Leghari

of shame: Rasheed

RAWALPINDI (INP):

exceeding all bounds of "shame." In a scathing Twitter statement on Sun-Ahmed highlighted the concerning trend of celebrating loans as an achievement. He underscored that

governments across the globe typically feel a sense of embarrassment when seeking loans. However, he lamented that the sitting Pakistani government seemed to be embracing this practice as a source of pride. The former federal minister's remarks shed light on his concerns regarding the country's economic

Lambasting the government, Ahmed said electricity, gas, flour and sugar had become more expensive in the 15 months of the PDM government and any efforts to bring the country's economy on track would be "futile".

soned politician said he took oath as the Prime Minister on the day of his indictment, got cleared himself from money laundering cases and now "committed" a Rs.70 billion money

had gone into poverty.

up role in economic progress SIALKOT (APP): Prime next month his government distributed while in the current year, another 100,000 laptops would be awarded.

The people should decide in the general elec-tions after evaluating what had happened in the country in the last five years, he asserted. He thanked Finance

Minister Ishaq Dar for ensuring the allocation of funds for the import of laptops for students.

He said students would be given more laptops and scholarships and laboratories and research institutes would be set up in educational insti-

Shehbaz Sharif said Muslims were left behind in different fields of education while the West moved ahead and it was time for reflection and action in the right direction.

Railways minister calls on PM; briefs on reforms

LAHORE (APP): Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique on Sunday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and apprised him of the progress over reforms in Pakistan Intentional Airlines (PIA) and outsourcing process aimed at provision of better services at airports.

During the meeting, they also discussed the matters related to the relevant ministry.

15-member Pak delegation to visit China

ISLAMABAD (INP): A 15-member Pakistani delegation led by Ambassador ® Sohail Mahmood Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), would participate in a Seminar and Think Tank Forum in China, with an aim to further promote academic and people-topeople exchanges between Pakistan and China.

On invitation from Fudan University, Shanghai, the Pakistani delegation including diplomats, senior academics, researchers and media persons, departed to China on Sunday for a week-long visit, said a press release issued here.

The delegation includes Prof. Dr. Engr. cellor, University of Associate, ISSI.

Alam, University of Hazara; Prof. Dr Ayesha Sohail, University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir; Amb. Babar Amin, Former Ambassador; Dost Mohammad Barrech, University of Balochistan; Dr

Fouzia Hadi Ali, University of Punjab; Prof. Dr Kausar Takrim, University of Peshawar; Muhammad Ali Baig, Research Fellow, ISSI; Dr Mukesh Khatwani, University of Sindh; Shaukat Piracha, Senior Anchor, Aaj News; Dr Tahir Mumtaz Awan, COMSATS Univer-Shabbir, Director China-Pa-

sity, Islamabad; Dr Talat kistan Study Centre (CPSC), ISSI; Tanveer Hashmi, Jang Group and Attaullah Shah, Vice Chan- Misbah Mukhtar, Research

PTI suspends membership of more party leaders

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Sunday suspended the basic party membership of six more party leaders.

The members include Haji Shaukat Ali, Mujahahid Maitalah, Nadia Aziz, Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah, Nadia Aziz and others.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) terminated the basic party membership of former defence minister Pervez Khattak for not 'giving satisfactory reply about inciting PTI members

Omar Ayub Khan issued the termination letter with reference to the show cause notice' served to Pervez Khattak last

"You [Khattak] have not provided a satisfactory reply within the given stipulated time regarding contacting party members and inciting them to leave the party," the termination notice stated.

Therefore, the notice stated, Khattak's basic membership of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has been terminated



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar inaugurating Science & Computer Lab at Darain Educational System School & Col-

PM expresses grief over loss lives in tourist bus accident

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives in a tourist bus accident near Thalichi, at Karakoram highway on Sunday.

In a statement on Sunday, he prayed for eternal peace of the deceased and expressed condolences with their bereaved families.

The Prime Minister directed the Gilgit-Baltistan authorities for immediate relief operation and also directed relevant federal departments to assist in relief

Praying for speedy recovery of the injured, the Prime Minister directed authorities concerned to provide best medical facilities to them.

PPP takes big decision over **Asifa Bhutto** politics

KARACHI (Online): Pakistan Peoples Party has decided to launch Asifa Bhutto in political arena in upcoming election. Sources told that Asifa

Bhutto will take full part in next election. People party has

started paying attention on various constituencies of

Sources said that Asif Zardari will take final decision about the constituency from where Asifa will take part in politics.

'India can't change Kashmir's disputed status by deploying more troops'

ISLAMABAD (INP): In- territory as the India milidia cannot change the dis-Kashmir by deploying more since 1989 in IIOJK. and more troops in the ter-

According to a report released by Kashmir Media Service on Sunday, the Modi regime has deployed personnel of a special commando unit of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the already highest militarized zone in the world.

It said India is sending CRPF's CoBRA commandos to further brutalize the people of the occupied territory. It said huge concentration of Indian troops has made IIOJK a giant open air prison for its residents but the Modi regime cannot get rid of the Kashmir dispute by deploying more

world human rights organizations have already warned of genocide in the

puted status of Jammu and mitted scores of massacres It deplored that 96,213 Kashmiris had fell to Indian bullets in the past 30 years in IIOJK and In-

tary has previously com-

dian army and Hindutva forces carried out genocide of nearly 250,000 Muslims in Jammu region in November 1947. It said the Modi regime is trying to change the demography of IIOJK by committing genocide of Kashmiris but would never succeed in its nefarious designs and the people of Kashmir would continue their freedom movement till completes success.

The report said the IIOJK people are engaged in a peaceful political movement and the Modi government cannot subdue them through its military might, troops in the territory.

The report said the bility in the south Asian region is linked to amicable resolution of the lingering Kashmir dispute



QUETTA: Chairman Balochistan Aman Jirga Lala Yousaf Khilji is addressing the public gathering at Airport Road.

Gwadar Free Zone North to start operation in 30 days and purchase of agricultural

Rehman Baloch presiding over a meeting regard- ment projects in Sindh

QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta Division Sohailur

ing Muharramul Haram and law & order situation. | province.

ISLAMABAD (INP): Holding Company. Gwadar Free Zone North, also known as Phase II, covering 2221 acres, will launch its first formal operation

within the next 30 days. This zone will enjoy exemption from all sorts of taxes and customs duties for a period of 20 years, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. This watershed development coincides with Agven Private Limited, an export fertilizer company, gearing up for its first production operation in the second week of August.

Agven Private Limited is the first investor to establish an industry in Gwadar North Free Zone. It procured 10 acres of land in the Free Zone to set up a fertilizer factory, marking a first for Gwadar in both size and product.

Agven will start operations under temporary arrangements such as electricity and water provision

'The factory's construction started last year and was completed in a re-

markably short time. Agven will offer hundreds of job opportunities and provide local business opportunities in terms of commodities and raw material sup-Project Coordinator Arslan told Gwadar Pro. Upon operation, it can

vestors to Gwadar Free Zone. Mr. Arslan added that sulfur and sulfuric acid, used as raw materials for fertilizer manufacturing, would be imported from Iran and Central Asian Another export com-

pany, "Hangeng," along with its branches "Hangeng Trade Co (SMC-PVT) Ltd" and "Yuanhua Industrial Co," is set to start operations in Gwadar Free Zone North Hangeng Trading Co.,

Ltd. will foster cultivation

cessing in the Gwadar Free Zone and export to China. Yuanhua Industrial Co. Ltd. will mainly engage in animal husbandry and livestock development. An official of Hangeng stated that the operation, potentially attract other in-

expected to commence soon, will create 1,000 di rect and 3,000 indirect employment opportunities for locals. Hangeng plans to build an industrial ecosystem in Gwadar, intending to establish aquaculture, medical treatment, and technical support facilities. For this, experts from China will be hired to train local youth in animal husbandry, livestock, and aloe vera culti-

Moreover, a free ani mal husbandry breeding hospital will be established to provide medical and tech-

Govt crossing all bounds

Awami Muslim League (AML) chief and former federal minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed expressed his strong disapproval of the current government's attitude towards loan acquisitions, accusing them of

policies and decision-mak

Taking a jibe at Shehbaz Sharif, the sea-

laundering in solar energy.

Ahmed said the rulers, who were only concerned about their own children, would face their [disastrous] end, adding they [rulers] were unable to realize up to what extent the poor