

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Quetta

Ph: 284 1470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vol: XXIV No. 323, Zil Hajj 26, 1444 AH Saturday July 15, 2023 Pages 12, Price Rs.15

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Such attacks are intolerable and will elicit an ef-

fective response from the Security Forces of Pakistan," he added.

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

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



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



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

CJP underlines importance of comprehensive strategy to control population

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

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

How Iran and Bangladesh overcame the population problem was a case study, he said, adding there was a need for educa-

tion and training of the population and "it is more important to make the population beneficial".

CJP Bandial said it was not appropriate to leave the responsibility of every matter to the government. He, however, added that the provision of basic human rights under the Constitution could bring happiness to the people.

"The Constitution of Pakistan not only gives the right to live but also ensures good quality of life, but also protects the fundamental right of employment," he added. The Constitution was not only a protector of rights regarding individual but also family life, he said.

He said in Article 35 of the Constitution, which is related to (Principal of Policy), it was stated that "the state will have the responsibility to take care of the child, his mother and the family."



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Load shedding reaches 14 hours in different areas of country

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

Short fall of electricity has been recorded as 6188 megawatts.

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

Government thermal power plants are generating 850 megawatts of electricity.

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

Security alert issued for Balochistan customs offices

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

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

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

Musharraf petition fixed for hearing after his death

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

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

Now this appeal plea has been fixed for hearing.

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

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

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

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

Addressing the ground breaking ceremony, the prime minister said keeping in mind the country's requirements of clean and cheap energy sources, the project should be com-

pleted before the given schedule.

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

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

"Our detractors had been fabricating rumours all around that Pakistan was going to default on its sov-

Continued on page 2

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

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

INDEPENDENT REPORT
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has directed to prepare a comprehensive plan to attract investors for promotion of business and trade activities in the Central Business District under Gwadar Master Plan.

He also directed to encourage investment in the housing sector.

The Chief Minister asserted that we would have to ensure protection of rights and authorities of the

local population for expediting the process of development of Gwadar.

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

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

The Member Provincial Assembly, Mir Hamal Kalmati, Senator Kohda Babar, Senior Member Board of Revenue, Secre-

tary Local Government, Secretary PHE, Chairman Gwadar Port Authority, Director General Gwadar Development Authority, Commissioner Gwadar And Deputy Commissioner Gwadar participated in the meeting.

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

The meeting gave approval in principle to in-

Continued on page 2



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He mentioned that the

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Agenda of BA session issued

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

According to an official communique issued by the Secretary, Balochistan Provincial Assembly's secretariat on Friday, the agenda to be taken up in the upcoming session of assembly included: tabling of a condemnation resolution against the desecration of Holy Qura'an in Sweden as well as tabling of the draft law of Balochistan Plastic Shopping and Flat bags use 2023 and proposed draft law of Balochistan Local Government 2023.

The Parliamentary Secretary Ms. Bushra Rind and Opposition leader, Malik Sikandar Khan Advocate would table the condemnation resolution against desecration of the Holy Qura'an while the Provincial Minister for Environment and Climate Change would present the draft law on use of plastic shopping bags.

It may be mentioned here that the session of Balochistan Assembly has been summoned at 04:00 PM on July 17.

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

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

Addressing a press conference at the party secretariat in Model Town, he said the PML-N had a

strong organizational set-up at division, district and union council levels in the Punjab province.

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

Continued on page 2



LAHORE: Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah is addressing a press conference

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

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

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

he maintained.

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

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

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

He also stressed that we have to rid our land of the terrorism.

PM thanks IMF MD for assistance in concluding \$3 bln agreement

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif had a telephonic conversation with Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva on Friday and conveyed profound gratitude to her for support and assistance in materializing the recently concluded Stand-by Agreement for \$3 billion.

The prime minister appreciated the IMF managing director for her leadership and professionalism. He also acknowledged that the MD felt for the poor and termed her support in-

valuable.

The IMF MD said the prime minister built a very convincing case, though the IMF Board was skeptical about Pakistan's commitment to fulfilling the conditions of agreement due to the past trust deficit. However, in the light of her continued engagement with the prime minister, she assured the Board that Pakistan would deliver on its commitments as she had personally met the prime minister and seen his seriousness to deliver.

She acknowledged the leadership shown by the prime minister. She under-

lined that there was strong partnership and mutual trust between both the parties now.

Terming Pakistan an important member of the IMF, she reassured to continue to help the country.

The prime minister on the occasion appreciated MD Ms Georgieva for her positive approach and her frank comments during his interaction with her in Paris. Eventually, the hard work on both sides paid off and the Stand-by Arrangement (SBA) was signed. He reassured that he would not tolerate an iota of violation of the agreement.

PM greets French President Macron on National Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday extended his warmest greetings to President Emmanuel Macron and the people of France on their National Day.

The prime minister, in a tweet, said, "I extend my warmest greetings to H.E. President Emmanuel Macron & the French people on their National Day today. The day commemorates the revolutionary struggle of the French people that resulted in the storming of the Bastille and ushered in a new era of liberty, equality & fraternity."

"As Pakistanis were experiencing the devastating floods last year, President Emmanuel Macron and his government came forward with prompt assistance.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributing certificates among the successful candidates of Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Program.



ZIARAT: Deputy Commissioner Hafiz Muhammad Qasim in a group photo with participants of Mid-career Management Course (MCMC) during their visit to Ziarat residency

Protection of rights and interests...

Continued from page 1

crease compensation for the owners of land acquired for the Free Trade Zone.

Similarly, the meeting also approved in principle to give ownership rights to the owners of Kachi abadis of the Kolanch Padi and Bakhshi colony.

In addition to this, the meeting also approved the compensation for the affectees of Gilag road. While on the other hand, it was decided to give special funds for water supply to the dwellers of Kalaar Kolanch till the installation

of pipeline.

Meanwhile, the meeting approved the correction of settlement of houses of 84 fishermen of the old population of the area. The Chief Minister on the occasion said that the local people have the first right of development of Gwadar and they can't be overlooked at all.

He said that the provincial government has given status of tax free district to Gwadar. He expressed the hope that the federal government would also give exemptions on the federal taxes so as to put the port city on course of development.

PM breaks ground...

Continued from page 1

oreign commitments but we crossed all turbulent waters in just 15 months," he added.

However, he said the risk of potential default had been completely averted through team effort of the government.

The prime minister said a couple of days ago, there was an approval of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme and within 48 hours around \$4.5 billion were transferred by the Pakistan's brotherly countries Saudi Arabia and UAE besides another \$1.2 billion from the IMF.

About 4 months ago, he said the Chinese government and commercial banks rolled over amounts back to Pakistan to the tune of \$5 billion.

He paid his tributes to the Chinese President Xi Jinping, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for their support

in need of the hour.

He informed that as a result of serious efforts by the coalition government and himself, the Chinese company kept the cost of the project at the level agreed upon in 2017-18 by then PML-N government and not include the average inflation of around 10% in the project cost. Further, he said on his request, a discount of Rs 30 billion was also given to Pakistan which reflected a sense of sincerity between the two countries.

Charge D' affaires of the Chinese embassy in Pakistan, Pang Chunxue said C5 would help Pakistan building low carbon, clean and cheap energy which would also produce local jobs and would engage the local industries to contribute in the project.

Chairman of China National Nuclear Cooperation Yu Jianfeng said cooperation between Pakistan and China in nuclear energy had become an integral part of the all weather strategic cooperative partnership.

Participants of MCMC visit Ziarat valley

Independent Report

QUETTA: The participants of Mid-career Management Course (MCMC) undergoing training at the Balochistan Civil Service Academy visited the Ziarat valley on Friday.

During the visit, the MCMC participants met the Deputy Commissioner Ziarat, Hafiz Muhammad Qasim. The DC Ziarat briefed the officers about the geographical and historic importance of the valley. He also briefed them about the tourism potential of Ziarat and the reservoirs of Juniper forest exist there. Later, they visited the Quaid-e-Azam Residency and Prospect Point.

Kundi says 'BISP program' to ensure more transparency under direct payment system program

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection, Faisal Karim Kundi Friday vowed to make BISP social welfare program more accountable and transparent under 'direct payment system' from August, under which they will get money directly in their bank accounts instead of toiling in long queues and giving commissions to agents.

Pakistan's biggest ever 'BISP' social welfare program was providing financial support to nine million "poorest" families, he said while talking to a private news channel.

"Social protection accounts under BISP will pay directly payment to beneficiaries where they will be able to open their bank accounts", he added.

The step has been taken after several complaints from beneficiaries of deductions by agents at payment sites, he mentioned. Replying a question, he said the government has initiated online registration of the BISP Dynamic Sur-

vey after recent flood, adding, this survey has been initiated to include new families who were left out during the 8171 Ehsaas Program survey registry.

The main objective of starting the survey system is to register more eligible families and conduct future surveys in country, he added.

To another question, he said the BISP beneficiaries will now getting the increased amount of Rs 9,000 under the assistant program adding, the BISP is a revolutionary programme of the government and implements various schemes for the welfare of the downtrodden segments of society.

"The number of Benazir Scholarships for Undergraduates has also increased this year, he said, adding, including Transgender Persons in the Benazir Kafaalat program as well as the families with differently-abled persons with relaxation in Poverty Score is another big step of government", he added.

Emirates celebrates 25 years of uniting Peshawar with world

Airline's silver Jubilee of transforming travel experiences, and promoting trade and cultural exchange



Independent Report

KARACHI: Emirates today marks 25 years of successful operations in Peshawar, Pakistan's sixth largest city. Since the inaugural flight on July 14, 1998, Emirates has carried over 1.8 million passengers between Dubai and Peshawar and lifted more than 25,000 tonnes of cargo, supporting travel and trade through the export of commodities.

In 1998, the inaugural flight landed at Bacha Khan International Airport, becoming the second Pakistani city served by the airline and, since then, the airline has ensured seamless travel connectivity between Pakistan's North Western city of Peshawar and Emirates' network, including its hub city of Dubai.

Emirates currently offers five weekly flights to passengers from Peshawar operated with a Boeing 777-300ER wide-body aircraft, capable of carrying up to 428 passengers and 20 tonnes of cargo in the bellyhold.

Jeddah has emerged as the most popular destination for passengers traveling from and to Peshawar. Hajj and Umrah travel to Medina was also very frequent over the years while the UK (Manchester, London and Birmingham), Turkey, Germany and France were popular amongst leisure travellers and students pursuing higher education abroad. Business and corporate travellers frequented popular points in China, Japan, Malaysia and Thailand. Top Middle East destinations and points of origin include Dammam, Kuwait City, Baghdad, Tehran, Doha and Istanbul, while the US, Canada, South Africa and Egypt are also amongst the top destinations for travellers from Peshawar.

On the occasion of the airline's 25th anniversary of operations in Peshawar, Mohammed Alhashmi, Emirates' Vice President for Pakistan said "As one of the longest-serving international carriers in Peshawar, Emirates has continuously strived to provide exceptional services, unparalleled connectivity, and a seamless travel experience to its valued passengers. Over the past 25 years, Emirates has witnessed significant growth, firmly establishing itself as a trusted and preferred airline for both business and leisure travelers. We take great pride in being a catalyst for economic growth, tourism, and cultural exchange, and we are excited to further strengthen our relationship with the wonderful people of Peshawar. We would also like to thank all our partners and key stakeholders for their continued support which has made our successful operations possible." Total kilometres clocked by Emirates' aircrafts traveling in and out of Peshawar since operations began is 13.8 million kilometres – enough to travel the world roughly around 370 times. Over the same period Emirates operated close to 7,500 flights to and from the city. The airline has also been a facilitator of trade between Peshawar and the world, supporting local industries and businesses. With its vast cargo network and state-of-the-art facilities, Emirates SkyCargo has been instrumental in enabling seamless transportation of goods, promoting export opportunities, and stimulating economic development in the country.

Students, parents must check recognition of institutions prior admission: HEC

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) on Friday urged the students and their parents to ensure the accreditation of professional degree programmes and the recognition of admitting university/sub-campus from HEC before taking admission.

According to HEC, the professional degree programmes include Engineering, Medicine & Dentistry, Veterinary Education, Nursing, Architecture and Town Planning, Pharmacy, Law, Homoeopathy, Tibb, Agriculture, Business, Computing, Teacher Education, and Technology.

The programmes required accreditation from the respective professional councils, it said.

To verify the accreditation status of your desired programme, HEC asked students to reach out to the concerned professional councils' website hec.gov.pk/site/accredita.



QUETTA: Additional Chief Secretary Home Saleh Muhammad Nassar presiding over a meeting regarding security arrangements during Muharramul Haram

PML-N to field candidates...

Continued from page 1

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

The minister said the Muslim League was the founding party of Pakistan, which after a long journey since its creation, stabilized the country on strong footing.

He said the PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif, by conducting the nuclear tests on May 28, 1998, had further stabilized Pakistan. However, the world then imposed sanctions on the country, but it was Nawaz Sharif who as prime minister at that time steered it out of the crises, he added.

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

The minister recalled that the PML-N government had overcome many challenges, including ter-

rorism and power outages just in four years, but then again Nawaz Sharif was punished for that "sin", which, in fact, was an enemy towards the country.

After 2017, he said, a "project" was launched to divide the country politically again like that of 1999, which stopped development process was stopped, and brought Pakistan to the brink of default. However, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's government, under the guidance of Nawaz Sharif, brought the country again out of crises in a short time span of one year, the minister added.

"We promise that after the success in the upcoming elections, we will continue working for development of the country. We will overcome inflation, increase the people's livelihood and resolve their problems, and ensure supremacy of the law. We will provide a better future to the youth and promote tolerance," Rana Sanaullah vowed.

He expressed the hope that there would be no conspiracy against the PML-N in the next elections and the country would continue its journey of development under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif.

The PML-N did not

believe in the politics of 'revenge and hatred', he added.

Rana Sanaullah said that the PML-N would not compromise on its electable candidates, asserting that in 2018, the party contested the elections despite many candidates had returned its tickets, and maintained its political existence.

Responding to a query, the minister said action being taken against individuals and groups involved in the May 9 incidents according to the laws, was not a political revenge. No innocent person was arrested, he added.

Regarding the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief, he said the relevant institutions were continuing their investigation in that regard. Some miscreants had been caught so far, while the masterminds of May 9 mayhem would also be brought to book.

The minister said in the upcoming elections, the people would vote for the parties keeping in view their past performance.

The PML-N parliamentary party would decide about the prime ministerial or chief ministerial candidate, whereas Nawaz Sharif's consultation would be mandatory in that regard, he added.

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
PAKISTAN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are hereby invited in sealed covers from approved Government contractors who have the relevant field of specialization and duly registered/ renewed their enlistment for 2022-23 with Pakistan Engineering Council, in relevant category. The schedule for the purchase of bidding documents, and submission / opening of Bids shall be as quoted below.

- Submission of Application with documents quoted below up to: 04-08-2023 (Office Hours)
- Issuance of Bidding documents on: 09-08-2023 (Office Hours)
- Submission of Bids on: 10-08-2023 (till 12.00 PM)
- Opening of Bids on: 10-08-2023 (at 1.00 PM)

S. No	Name of works	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Cost of Tender
1	Construction of B/T road from Ghezha to Sur Tal Mandozai, Walma Toha Kakari Tehsil Barshore District Pishin	34857673/-	03% of Bid amount	5000.00
2	Construction of B/T road Bagh-e-Shasa Ismailzai to Kanri Kasa Chwanza Mandozai Tehsil Barshore District Pishin.	34548097/-	03% of Bid amount	5000.00
3	Construction of B/T road Tehsil Bostan and Yaro District Pishin.	33154092/-	03% of Bid amount	5000.00
4	Construction of B/T road at New Khushab and Aziz abad Tehsil Khanozai District Pishin	33154092/-	03% of Bid amount	5000.00
5	Construction of B/T road Tesil Hurrmazai, Saranan District Pishin	33154092/-	03% of Bid amount	5000.00
6	Construction of B/T road at different Streets of District Pishin	33154092/-	03% of Bid amount	5000.00
7	Construction of B/T road at District and Tehsil Pishin	33154092/-	03% of Bid amount	5000.00
8	Construction of Tuff tile, PCC streets with drain District Pishin	27628898/-	03% of Bid amount	5000.00
9	Construction of Tuff tile, PCC streets Tehsil Hurrmazai (Malazai & Yasin zai) District Pishin (Eastern side)	13814449/-	03% of Bid amount	5000.00
10	Construction of tuff tile, PCC streets Tehsil Hurrmazai (Malazai & Yasin zai) District Pishin (Western side)	13814449/-	03% of Bid amount	5000.00
11	Construction of tuff tile, PCC streets with drain at MC Saranan, Hujram & Karbala District Pishin (Eastern side)	13814449/-	03% of Bid amount	5000.00
12	Construction of tuff tile, PCC streets with drain at MC Saranan, Hujram & Karbala District Pishin (Western side)	13814449/-	03% of Bid amount	5000.00

Note In case of any unavoidable situation the second schedule of submission / opening of Bids shall be as

- Submission of Bids on: 18-08-2023 (till 12.00 PM)
- Opening of Bids on: 18-08-2023 (at 1.00 PM)

Other terms and conditions may be seen on PPRA Web site (www.ppra.org.pk)

(Aminullah Khan)
Executive Engineer
Central Civil Division No-III
PAK PWD, Quetta

PID(Q)25/23

EXTENSION OF DATE

With reference to the AB No. 486 / 29-5-2023, Projects titled as "Clearance of ROW of Link Road from Sabzal Samungli Cross Via Shaboo Road to Airport Road TSE- 222305326293" and AB No. 510 / 07-6-2023 "Clearance of ROW of New Road from Airport Road to Northern Bypass Nawakilli TSE- 222306336803 published in Daily Newspapers" are hereby extended till 24th July 2023, all other conditions remain same.

PROJECT DIRECTOR
Chief Minister Package for Quetta Development

AB No.16/14-7-2023

TENDER NOTICE

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.

The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIV KHUZDAR invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2023 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates. Tender Fee Rs. 1000/- and bid Security 1% for each work.

S.No	Name of Work's	E/ Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION BUND/WALL FOR KILLI HAFEEZ BAGHBANA AREA, DISTRICT KHUZDAR TSE- 232407342663	10,000,000/-
2	CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION WALL FOR M.A.I. JAFFARABAD AREA, DISTRICT KHUZDAR TSE- 232407342653	10,000,000/-

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents. Bidding Procedure: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure (TSE- 232407342663, TSE- 232407342653) Tender Documents: The Bidding document can be downloaded from www.bppra.gov.pk (free of cost) and the same can also be obtained from the office of the under-signed upon payment of prescribed tender fee. Last Date and Time of Bid Submission 31 July, 2023 at 11:00 AM and will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM Address: Irrigation Colony Old Karachi Road Khuzdar Phone no: 0848413278 Fax no: 0848413831 Email: engg_saeed@yahoo.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
IRRIGATION DIVISION KHUZDAR

PRQ No.96/14-7-2023

www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dpr_gob

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Saturday July 15, 2023

Only a 'breather'

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

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

The fact that Pakistan has completed only one programme successfully — that too without fully achieving its targets — inspires little confidence in the capability and resolve of our leadership to take us to the 'finish line' under the new nine-month facility either.

They have repeatedly demonstrated their impatience with shortcuts to growth for political mileage, breaching the agreements with the lender midway.

That said, the critical importance of the new IMF bailout for the country's flagging economy can't be overstated. The IMF board signing off on the loan has already brightened up the economy.

Fears of a sovereign default before the end of 2023 have receded, and Pakistan's dollar bonds have rallied rapidly since the initial approval of the agreement on June 29.

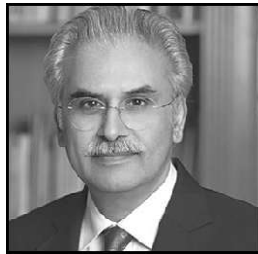
The rupee has strengthened against the dollar, the stock market is jubilant, Fitch has upgraded Pakistan's credit rating by a notch, and the Saudis and Emiratis have deposited the promised \$2bn and \$1bn, respectively, to shore up SBP's forex reserves.

The government is dubbing these developments as indicators of economic recovery, claiming the 'hard times' are over. Well, yes, the hard times may be behind us for the moment. But does this bailout signify the end of our problems? It doesn't.

It gives us a few stable months to conduct the elections and service external debt over the next six months, but doesn't really change the fundamentals of the economy such as insufficient tax revenues, low exports, import-based consumption, and so on.

However, it can help us get back on our feet if we use this 'breather' as a bridge to broad-based reforms for longer-term debt sustainability and growth. We're in the deepest ever crisis of our own making and living on borrowed money and time.

We've avoided tough decisions for too long, hoping the world would bail us out. No more. There is no way around reforms. No matter how painful they may be, it'd still be worth it in the end.

**Zafar Mirza**

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan recently convened a national roundtable on enshrining the right to health in the Constitution — a great initiative and a step in the right direction. Most participants saw this as a constitutional gap and agreed to address this effectively.

There were also a few voices of caution against creating a constitutional entitlement and then not being able to underwrite it with the resources required to translate the right into needed healthcare.

A senior legal expert also warned about the pre-conditions, complexity and procedural length of a constitutional amendment. There is also a, somewhat rightful, cynicism that has engulfed us in Pakistan — nothing is possible here;

'then-what' attitude; and what is the state of other rights provided in the Constitution. These are understandable cautionary flags. Nevertheless!

In modern republics, it is important to have a firm and explicit social contract between people and the state. Our 1973 Constitution begins beautifully: "[w]e, the people of Pakistan] ... do hereby, through our representatives in the National Assembly, adopt, enact and give to ourselves, this Constitution." So, it is we, the people, who have already given ourselves 23 rights (listed in articles nine to 28) provided in the chapter on "Fundamental Rights" in Part II of the Constitution.

A right is enforceable only after it is established as a fundamental right in the Constitution. Also, any other existing law that is inconsistent with the right conferred has to be voided but also, "The State shall not make any law which takes away or abridges the rights so conferred and any law made in contravention of this clause shall, to the extent of such contravention, be void."

From a jurisprudential

perspective, it is understood that the right to health is associated with the right to life (Article 9) and the right to dignity (Article 14), as there is no life and dignity if human health is not protected.

There is a considerable body of supportive constitutional jurisprudence available in Pakistan in this regard. One can argue, hence, that implicitly the right to health is available. However, an explicit right is not available. From effective enforcement perspective, an unambiguous and independent fundamental right to health in the Constitution is critical.

At present, some piecemeal mention of various aspects of healthcare are provided in chapter 2 of Part II of the Constitution, ie Principles of Policy. These are principles, not enforceable but have a guidance value. Article 37 is titled 'Promotion of social justice and eradication of social evils'.

Under this article, section reads: "The State shall ... make provisions for securing just and humane conditions of work ... and for maternity benefits for women in employment".

Article 38, section d, reads: "The state shall ... provide basic necessities of life, such as food, clothing, housing, education and medical relief, for all such citizens, ... on account of infirmity, sickness and unemployment." Article 24 (3a) and Article 151(4) on protection of property rights and inter-provincial trade, respectively, also mention "public health" in a very indirect and roundabout way.

These cursory and oblique references to medical relief and public health do not constitute a right to health. The concept of healthcare is much broader and multidimensional and it goes far beyond the narrow provision of medical relief to sick citizens.

Founded in 1948, the constitution of WHO defined health in physical, mental and social well-being terms and also established it as a fundamental human right without any discrimination of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.

It was also considered fundamental to peace and security. Unequal development in different countries in the promotion of health and control of disease, es-

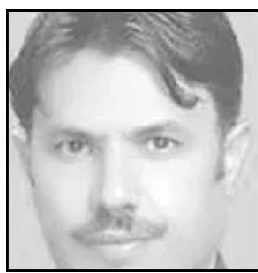
pecially communicable disease, was considered a common danger, as became profoundly evident during the recent Covid-19 pandemic. And, governments were considered responsible for the health of their peoples. Signing this comprehensive syntax of health as members of WHO, one after another, member states started sanctifying the right to health in national constitutions and laws.

Until January 2020, according to one analysis, 74 per cent of national constitutions explicitly protect some aspect of the right to health for all citizens. Pakistan has been a member of WHO from the beginning but it has not included right to health as a fundamental right in any of its constitutions, ie the constitutions of 1956, 1962 and 1973.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was adopted in 1966 and Pakistan ratified it in 2008. ICESCR borrowed the language from the WHO constitution in its Article 12 which recognizes the right of citizens to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

In 2000, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted and issued a General Comment 14 on Article 12 of the ICESCR and elaborated on its scope in great detail. General Comment 14 must be an essential reading by discussants on the right to health, in any setting. The comment clearly explains that the state parties are obliged to protect, respect and fulfil the right to health.

As a dualist state, Pakistan has to translate its international legal obligations into national law; only then do these obligations become enforceable. Given the health crises in the country (read my article titled 'Dubious distinctions' published on these pages on Jan 13, 2023) and the chronic state neglect in this regard, the time has come to start a national campaign on the right to health as a constitutional right. "The state shall provide free and compulsory education to all children..." The Constitution of Pakistan was amended to include this right to education as a fundamental right in 2010 through the 18th Amendment. Why not the right to health? --Courtney Dawn

Right to health**How to respect the mountains****Zubair Torwali**

As temperatures in the densely populated urban cities increase, many people from these areas wish to spend a few days away from the hustle and bustle of the city and extreme heatwaves.

For a majority of them, areas in northern Pakistan are a prime destination. Those who can afford to travel for a few nights visit various tourist spots in northern areas. It is also interesting to note that most elite Pakistanis go to Europe or North America to spend their summer while others (including budget travellers) visit tourist spots in north Pakistan — areas in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan, including valleys in the Hindu Kush, Karakoram and Himalayas.

While non-locals visit these famous tourist destinations, many of the locals

make trips to the highland pastures, lakes, passes and meadows. Pastures and meadows which would have been visited by only shepherds and herders just a few years back are now frequently being visited by many people from the down valleys.

Pakistani authorities have also been holding several festivals in some well-known spots in the north for several years now. Recently they held the Shandur Festival. Such small-scale festivals have also been held in Kalam, Kumrat, Malam Jabba, Madakhlast, Kaklaskh, and other areas.

A few tourists and locals prefer to hike across passes to districts and provinces. In Gilgit-Baltistan, trekking, hiking and summiting high peaks is a famous sport whereas in areas like Swat, Chitral, Dir, and, to a lesser extent, Kohistan, trekking and hiking is not that common yet many people usually trek to areas above the alpine lines and to the pastureslands to see lakes, pastures, glaciers and small peaks.

Several issues have been noticed with this increased influx of road tourists, trekkers and hikers. Perhaps the major issue is

environmental destruction. Fifteen years back, Mahudand in Kalam Swat used to be pristine. The same was the case with the Kumrat valley in upper Dir and was true for Shandur on the border of Chitral and Ghizer.

With an increased flow of tourists and, of course, with the frequency of festivals, these places have now been turned into large dustbins. Mahudand Lake presents a sad picture. The same is true for the white foamy water streams and forests in Kumrat. Shandur is full of trash now as well.

Chugail Pasture, which lies in the lap of the Koshojan peak up in the Mankiyal valley in Bahrain, Swat, used to be the cleanest meadow a few years back. It has more than 100 huts of herders who have a local code which does not allow any herder to go to the pasture with the cattle until a certain time in summer — usually the end of June. When this ban is over all herders go there with their herds and flocks. When internet users discovered this place a few years back, they rushed to this piece of paradise. And now it is also filled with trash.

Tourists in large num-

bers also visit the famous deodar forests between Kalam and Ushu. And now it is heart-wrenching to look at the forest as it is full of trash spread everywhere.

In 2015 when we first visited Kumrat there were a couple of tent hotels, very clean and safe. After that we visited it almost every year and witnessed the growth of shoddy constructions in the area, and the forests turned into a trash can. One can see the same at the Badgoi Top and the Dasht-e-Laila nearby.

During Eid holidays, the road from Mingora to Mahudand via Madyan, Bahrain and Kalam is turned into a trash line with piles of trash spread on both sides. It is equally disturbing to see how Swat River is getting filled with more and more trash every year.

Many domestic tourists come to these areas with a specific mindset. While living in cities, these people have developed a certain kind of superiority syndrome even though we all know the general conditions of our big cities. Most Pakistani cities compete with each other in the race of being the most polluted. They also face issues of broken streets and other crimes. Still

cities are considered 'civilized' whereas people living in Hunza and Psharu are regarded otherwise.

These tourists come to the mountains and have some stereotypes about people living here. During the peak days of tourism in Swat and Dir usually do not care about the sanctity of a house while having fun in front of these houses or bathing in the streams and rivers there.

Many trekkers usually go to the pastureslands, for example, to Chukail after the ban is lifted. But many families live in these huts, and the women there have to bring water or care for the younglings of their cattle outside the houses. The presence of tourists outside their homes creates trouble for them.

Finally, there must be a few tourists who actually want to learn about different languages and cultures in these areas. Many vloggers from the cities come and make vlogs without any knowledge about the local people, their languages and cultures. A number of vloggers behave exactly like the colonizers and present distorted facts about these people and languages. --Courtney Dawn

RIP my 'book mate'**Zubeida Mustafa**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Unsafe spaces**Shazia Nizamani**

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

During the month, a father killed his 19-year-old daughter on the suspicion that she was having an affair. A young woman was shot dead by her brother in Karachi's upscale DHA neighbourhood. A man who recently returned from Dubai killed his wife over a petty domestic dispute in Wazirabad, Punjab. A newlywed woman was shot dead by her father in City Courts, Karachi, where she had arrived to record a statement confirming that she had entered a free-will marriage. In the same month, a man opened fire at his ex-wife in City Courts Karachi after the hearing of a child custody case. In another gruesome incident, a 20-year-old woman was burnt alive in the name of 'honour' in Jhang, Punjab.

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

first imposed to curb the spread of Covid-19.

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

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

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

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

Women generally feel discouraged from reporting incidents or filing cases due to a lack of female officers

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

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

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

Towns, district councils' budget increased by 50%: CM Sindh told

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah was told on Friday that the budget of all the towns and district councils has been increased by 50 per cent, and the local government would strengthen the local bodies by giving them funds and providing them with equipment.

This was informed by Sindh Minister of Local Government Syed Nasir Hussain Shah to the Sindh CM, who on the third consecutive day interacted with the newly elected chairmen, and vice chairmen of district councils, Town Municipal Committees, and Town Committees of four districts of Hyderabad Division and urged them to

develop parks, playgrounds, water supply and sanitation schemes, and streets, a statement said.

"The main issues of our towns and villages are defective or nonfunctional sewerage systems that they gutter or open drains are flowing onto the streets," he said and added that his government has constructed sewerage systems almost in all the small towns and villages but there is lack of ownership of these schemes which you (chairmen) have to look after and own in the larger interest of the people of the areas.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Local Government Syed

Nasir Shah, MPA Aijaz Shah, Dost Mohammad Jesar, Asif Shah, and others. The chairmen and vice chairmen of district councils, Town Municipal Committees, and Town Committees of four districts - Tando Muhammad Khan, Jamshoro, Dadu, and Badin were also present on the occasion.

The Sindh CM said he has started meetings with the newly elected representatives of local bodies so that he could listen to them and give his guideline so that a working relationship could be developed to redress the public grievances. "Our main objective is to serve the province and make a difference," he said.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori meets delegation of French NGO, Triangle Generation Humanitaire at Governor House.

Aleem Adil writes letter to CM Sindh on Interim setup

KARACHI (Online): Opposition leader Sindh Aleem Adil Sheikh wrote letter to Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah on the issue of interim setup in province as government tenure will end next month.

Copy of letter was also sent to Speaker Sindh Assembly.

It was stated in letter that tenure of Sindh Assembly will end on August 14, so as per constitution make consultation with opposition leader on interim government.

Opposition leader wrote that according to constitution consultative meeting be summoned so discussion can be made on appointing interim government. I am available for consultative meeting any time.

Constitutionally Chief Minister is bound to consult opposition leader.

Aleem Adil Sheikh said since few days, opposition leader's issue is in the air from Sindh CM and other ministers and they are giving analysis on the changing of opposition leader. No ban on analysis. He said that he will talk on interim setup as per CM Sindh. When he will call, I will come over.

He said CM Sindh and Opposition leader has to consult on the issue of interim setup, for which he will write letter.

Whether I m on bail or in jail, I will come over for consultation: Aleem Adil Sheikh.

He said if you want to have opposition leader like Raja Riaz so there are many in assembly.

7 dead, 1,296 injured in Punjab road accidents

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

As many as 638 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 638 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams. The data analysis showed that 658 drivers, 40

underage drivers, 114 pedestrians and 531 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics showed that 253 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 285 persons, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by 89 in Multan with 97 victims, and at third Faisalabad with 79 accidents and 92 victims.



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

Governor Sindh for ensuring foolproof security arrangements in Muharram-ul-Haram

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori has said that foolproof security would be provided for gatherings and processions during Muharram-ul-Haram.

He was talking to a delegation of Jafaria Alliance led by Shabbar Raza which called on him at Governor House here Friday. Security measures for Muharram processions, close coordination with local administration, economic steps of federal government for strengthening of economy and other matters of mutual interest were

discussed during the meeting. The Governor Sindh said that all facilities would be provided to mourners throughout the province. All district administrations have been directed to coordinate with relevant persons in this regard, he added.

The Governor said that the desecration of the Holy Quran was unacceptable as this incident had hurt millions of Muslims around the world. "I have written a letter to Swedish Ambassador in Islamabad and strongly condemned the incident", he said. He said that all religious

leaders had condemned this incident. This shows that all peace-loving persons are against such kind of acts, the Governor added. He said that positive results of the economic policies of the federal government had started to emerge. "We all must contribute towards this in our own capacity, he opined. Shabbar Raza thanked the Governor Sindh for his assurance and said that the acts of the Sindh Governor on the incident of Sweden reflected the sentiments of the entire Muslim Ummah. Former MNA Rehan Hashmi was also present on the occasion.



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

No country can progress without empowering the women: Governor

Independent Report

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

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

tenures. He said that the government made strenuous efforts and steered the country out of the economic crisis. Governor Punjab said that politics is the name of public service, and under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the government is taking many steps for the welfare of the people and providing them with basic facilities. Governor Punjab further said that the supreme leader of PML (N) Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is respected all over the world as a statesman and he is using his personna for the welfare of his country and nation. The Governor of Punjab said that martyrs who sacrifice their lives for the

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

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

Minister listens to public issues at open court

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

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

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

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

Motorcycle lifter gang busted, three held

MULTAN (APP): Multan police have busted a motorcycle lifter gang and arrested three of its members besides recovering stolen motorcycles during a special operation launched here on Friday. According to police sources, the Multan police under the supervision of Station House Officer (SHO) Abdul Rehman Gill carried out the operation against the criminals.



LAHORE: Provincial Information and Tourism Minister Aamir Mir visiting Iran-Pak Heritage Exchange at Hamra Arts Council.

US supports KP Govt to strengthen land records system

PESHAWAR (APP): The U.S. government is partnering with the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to strengthen transparency and accuracy in the land records and registration system, promoting economic growth and investment in the seven subdivisions of the newly merged districts.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has provided equipment worth \$5 million dollars to the KP Board of Revenue to augment its capacity for accurate land measurements. The ceremony held in this regard was also attended by the US Ambassador, Donald Blome, said a press release issued here on Friday.

The United States also announced a new

partnership to empower the Ombudsperson Secretariat by providing training to Ombudsperson staff on women's rights and land settlement regulations.

This initiative aims to raise awareness about the Ombudsperson's crucial role in safeguarding women's rights to property and inheritance.

Speaking on the occasion, Senior Member of Revenue (SMBR), Ikramullah Khan said that the board is digitizing the entire land record system in seven subdivisions of the newly merged districts to benefit the people by increasing efficiency, accuracy, and convenience of the institution.

Ambassador Blome has also joined Inspector General Akhtar Hayat and KP Police Officers in an inauguration ceremony.



SIALKOT: Ishtiaq Ahmed Khan President High Court Bar Lahore addressing the annual prize distribution function of Shadab Law College.

11 districts declared most sensitive for Muharram

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police have declared 4500 places of worship in 11 districts of the province the most sensitive during Muharram.

The 11 sensitive districts of the province include Peshawar Kohat, Hangu, Dera Ismail Khan, Kurram, Orakzai and Tank. Based on the information shared by the police and security forces, the home department has decided to deploy police, FC, Frontier Corps for performing security duties during the holy month of Muharram at sensitive and most sensitive places of worship.

According to a police official, the police have been instructed to strictly manage the security to maintain peace and order in the province.

The district police have been directed to chalk out their security plans for Muharram as per the requirements.

The lists of the most sensitive places of worship have been sent to the respective district administrations for taking security measures.

In the provincial capital the inner city and various Imambarghas on GT Road, Hayatabad and Peshawar Cantt have been declared as sensitive and the most sensitive.

CM visits Bibi Pakdaman shrine to review work of expansion

Independent Report

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited Bibi Pakdaman shrine to review progress on the ongoing renovation and expansion project.

Secretary Communication & Works gave a briefing on the renovation work. The chief minister urged acceleration on the work and set a deadline of five days to finish the expansion project. He emphasised the need to complete renovation of shrine's premises as soon as possible. The primary goal was to have renovation and expansion project completed before the first of Muharram, he added.

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

In consideration of the landowners affected by the project, the CM instructed the commissioner Lahore to ensure compensation based on the prevailing market rates. Later, talking to the media, the chief minister

underscored the commitment to open the shrine to the public by the first of Muharram, highlighting efforts dedicated to renovation and expansion project. Over 200 workers, alongside architect Nayyer Ali Dada and his team, were working round-the-clock.

The CM mentioned that provincial ministers, the commissioner, and relevant officials visited Ganda Singh Wala to oversee relief activities in the villages affected by the floods. With the decrease in the water level of the Sutlej River, 21 villages situated along the riverbed have been affected. Evacuation measures have been implemented, and relief operations were currently in progress, he said. Provincial Ministers Amir Mir, Azfar Ali Nasir, architect Nayyer Ali Dada, CCPO

Lahore, commissioner & DC Lahore, and others were present. Meanwhile, Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited the Talwar Post's adjoining border village namely Bhiki Pind.



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

Exhibition arranges to fortify Pak, Iran ties: Amir Mir

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Minister for Information and Tourism Amir Mir said on Friday that a special exhibition had been organized to further strengthen ties between Pakistan and Iran.

He said this after inaugurating Pak-Iran Heritage Exchange Programme held here at Alhamra. He said, "Pakistan and Iran not only share religious but cultural ties as well."

Amir Mir said that he was happy to attend Pak-Iran Heritage Photo and Literature Festival, adding that photos of Pakistan's Biker Group at historical places in Iran during their visit was historical asset. He further said that efforts of the people of both countries were visible and it was vital to create awareness and harmony

among people to improve international relations.

The minister said that Punjab government wanted to strengthen trade ties between Pakistan and Iran through tourism. Punjab government would continue to support holding of such events, he added.

He congratulated Tourism Department and Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDPC) for holding this programme.

He also visited stalls along with Iranian Consul General Mehran Mowahid Far.

Iranian handicraft and live music was arranged whereas stalls of Pakistan and Iranian food were set up. Sufi dance was performed on Pakistani and Iranian traditional music. The exhibition will continue till tomorrow.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi as Chief Secretary in charge of Prime Minister's Public Affairs and Complaints Wing is addressing an open Kacheri at Lahore office.

General Election: PML(N) provincial leadership open up for candidates

LAHORE (Online): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz provincial leadership asked names for candidates of upcoming general election.

Provincial president of Pmln Rana Sanaulah summoned meeting of party organizational position holders meeting in party secretariat at model town. Organizational party position holders including divisional presidents and secretaries and others from across the Punjab will take part in meeting.

Orders issued to participate in meeting. Provincial president Rana Sanaulah will hold consultation with party position holders over the strong names for general election candidates.

assembly. Pmln decided to be active for upcoming general elections.

Provincial president of Pmln Rana Sanaulah summoned meeting of party organizational position holders meeting in party secretariat at model town. Organizational party position holders including divisional presidents and secretaries and others from across the Punjab will take part in meeting.

Orders issued to participate in meeting. Provincial president Rana Sanaulah will hold consultation with party position holders over the strong names for general election candidates.

Chinese Companies keen to set up joint ventures in Pakistan

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

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

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

The delegation exchanged views with the

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

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

He said that CPEC has started a new era of

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



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



KARACHI: Special Assistant to CM Qasim Naveed Qamar along with Provincial Minister for Information, Transport & Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon and other addressing Media Briefing regarding the Ground Breaking Ceremony of the Dhabaji Special Economic Zone at local Hotel.

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

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

He was addressing E-Khuli Kachehri held at the board's headquarter under the government's vision as part of the FBR drive to facilitate taxpayers, said a news release.

The occasion provides an opportunity to taxpayers to directly communicate with Chairman FBR for resolving their tax-related issues and promote culture of tax compliance in the country. The chairman gave on-spot directions to

relevant offices to resolve issues of the taxpayers at the earliest.

He also advised the taxpayers to visit their nearest Regional Tax Office and Collectorate of Customs for speedy redressal of their concerns.

He appreciated the suggestions given by the taxpayers for further improving the tax-related services for better facilitation.

The chairman assured that their valued input would be considered and expressed the resolve to further improve the services and mechanism of taxation to facilitate all taxpayers and generate more revenue for the betterment of the national economy.

Rupee sheds Rs1.13 against US Dollar

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

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

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

The Japanese Yen went up by 01 paisa to close at Rs2, whereas an increase of Rs3.65 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs364.19 as compared to its last day's closing of Rs360.54. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 28 paisa and 29 paisa to close at Rs75.57 and Rs73.98, respectively.

PSX loses 198 points

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

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

As many as 323 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 98 of them recorded gains and 196 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 29 companies remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were Telecard Limited with 31,107,092 shares at Rs 8.28 per share; WorldCell Telecom with 20,052,363 shares at Rs.1.29 per share and K-Electric Ltd with 19,448,511 shares at Rs.2.00 per share.

Colgate Palm witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 100.29 per share price. items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732, increased by 0.51 per cent and went up to 267.24 points from last week's 265.88 points. The SPI for consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517, Rs 29,518-44,175, and above Rs 44,175 witnessed an increase of 0.50 per cent, 0.46 per cent, 0.41 per cent and 0.21 per cent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 21 (41.17%) items increased, 11 (21.58%) items decreased and 19 (37.25%) items remained stable. The items, which recorded a decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week (WoW), included bananas (12.18%), tomatoes (6.35%).



LARKANA: A view of dates tree full of fruit at dates garden.

Weekly inflation up by 0.33 pc

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.33 per cent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on July 13, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 258.63 points as compared to 257.79 points during the past week, according to the PBS data.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 28.96 per cent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 is covering 17 urban centres and 51 essential

items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732, increased by 0.51 per cent and went up to 267.24 points from last week's 265.88 points.

The SPI for consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517, Rs 29,518-44,175, and above Rs 44,175 witnessed an increase of 0.50 per cent, 0.46 per cent, 0.41 per cent and 0.21 per cent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 21 (41.17%) items increased, 11 (21.58%) items decreased and 19 (37.25%) items remained stable.

The items, which recorded a decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week (WoW), included bananas (12.18%), tomatoes (6.35%).



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

Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund draft law finalized

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

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

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

Act- 2019, the statement added.

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

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



LAHORE: Workers of bricks kiln factory holds protest in the favor of their demands outside press club in Provincial Capital.

KP Govt delegation to participate investment conference in Kabul

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

The conference organized in the name of Imam Abu Hanifa is scheduled to begin from July 19, 2023. The delegation is going to Afghanistan on the directives of the Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Muhammad Adnan Jalil.

NEPRA determines Rs 29.78/kWh as revised national average tariff

ISLAMABAD (INP): National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has determined the revised National Average tariff for the FY 2023-24 as Rs 29.78/kWh, which is Rs 4.96/kWh higher than the previously determined national average tariff of Rs 24.82/kWh.

The increase of Rs.4.96/kWh is mainly due to overall low sales growth, rupee devaluation, high inflation, exorbitant interest rates and addition of new capacities etc, said a statement issued here Friday.

Total Revenue requirement of XWDISCOs is projected as Rs 3,281 billion with projected sales of 110,165 GWh for the FY 2023-24.

Thar farmers educated on biosaline agriculture

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

The workshop titled "Improving Salinity Tolerance of Conventional and Non-conventional Crops Under Extreme Environmental Conditions" was arranged by the Institute of

The delegation of the province will highlight the incentives offered by the KP government to investors and potential sectors for investment.

The caretaker Minister of Industry was officially invited by the Peshawar-based Afghan Consul General Hafiz Mohibullah during the meeting, in the context of which he has directed the relevant officials of the department to participate in this conference.

This will be for the first time that relevant officers of the industrial sector of the province will visit Afghanistan for the purpose of promoting bilateral investment.

NEPRA determines different consumer-end Tariff for each distribution company (XWDISCO), owing to their different revenue requirements and allowed different level of T&D losses.

The determined tariffs are intimated to the Federal Government to file uniform tariff application.

The uniform tariff so determined by NEPRA after incorporating the amount of subsidy/surcharge as intimated by the GoP, is notified by the GOP to be charged from the consumers.

MEPCO, GEPCO, HESCO, SEPCO, QESCO, PESCO & TESCO filed Adjustment/ indexation request under Multi-year tariff regime for FY 2023-24.

Sustainable Halophyte Utilization of the University of Karachi in collaboration with Pakistan Science Foundation. The General Manager of Thar Foundation Farhan Ansari delivered a welcoming speech, said a statement issued here. Farhan Ansari commended KU Professor Dr Bilquees Gul for her work on the biosaline agriculture project with SECMC.

Dhabaji Special Economic Zone project to be launched on Saturday: Sharjeel

KARACHI (Online): Sindh government to launch Dhabaji Special Economic Zone- a CPEC priority project aimed at attracting foreign direct investment, promotion of industrialisation and creation of employment opportunities- on Saturday, said Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon.

Addressing a press briefing along with Special Assistant to Chief Minister Sindh for Investment and Public Private Partnership projects Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar here on Friday, Sharjeel Memon said that Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah will

perform the groundbreaking of the project. He said that the Dhabaji Special Economic Zone (DSEZ) is offering 10 year tax holiday to local and foreign investors intending to set up industries in the zone while they would enjoy tax exemptions on the import of plants and machinery as well.

The information minister informed that DSEZ is a priority project under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and it is being developed in Sindh province under Public Private Partnership mode through an international competitive bidding process.

The zone is expected to attract foreign direct investment of around \$ 5 billions and create more than 150,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities, he anticipated adding that investors who wanted to exploit the lucrative opportunity being offered were already in contact with the concerned authorities.

Sharjeel Memon termed it as a momentous development for Pakistan and the entire region in terms of industrialisation and investment and said that DSEZ could play a significant role in stabilizing the economy particularly in the current economic situation of the country.

Gold rates up by Rs.6,500

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs6,500 and was sold at Rs.214,500 on Friday against its sale at Rs. 208,000 the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.5,574 to Rs.183,900 from Rs. 178,326 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs.168,574 from Rs. 163,466, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola silver increased by Rs.50 to Rs2,650 whereas that of ten gram silver went up by Rs 42.86 to Rs.2,271.94.

The price of gold in the international market remained constant at \$1959 from \$1946, the association reported.

Pakistan-Indonesia Business Council set up to boost bilateral trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan-Indonesia Business Council was established on Friday at a ceremony held at the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KADIN) in Jakarta.

Foreign Secretary Dr. Asad Majeed Khan witnessed the signing ceremony for the establishment of the the Business Council.

The foreign secretary termed the establishment of Pakistan-Indonesian Business Council an important step towards deepening of economic engagement and unlocking the vast potential within Pakistan-Indonesia partnership.

He expressed the hope that the Council would serve as a catalyst

for further economic cooperation by improving business-to-business interaction, promoting joint ventures, generating employment opportunities, and reducing poverty to build prosperous and resilient societies.

In his keynote address, KADIN Chairman Arsjad Rasjid P.M. noted that Pakistan was an important non-traditional trading partner of Indonesia.

He emphasized the immense potential for mutually beneficial economic ties between Pakistan and Indonesia, and underscored the importance of long-term collaboration to unlock the untapped potential in both markets.



LAHORE: An elder craftsman is busy in his stall during Art and Craft Exhibition at Al-Hamra Art Gallery in Provincial Capital.

DC for sale of food items at fixed prices

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

In order to maintain the balance between demand and supply, the supply chain of food items should be monitored effectively. He gave these instructions while presiding a meeting of the supply chain management committee at his office.

Deputy Commissioner instructed that secretaries of market committees should take proper measures to deal with shortages in the supply of goods during the flood situation.

The supply of pulses, vegetables, and fruits should be ensured along with the sale of LPG at fixed rates. He said that the auction process of vegetables and fruits should be monitored on a daily basis in the fruit and vegetable markets.

Collective efforts stressed to strengthen PESCO

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) Sardar Arif Khan Sadozai Friday underlined the need for making joint efforts to improve the efficiency of the Company.

The PESCO Chief Executive while talking to the media urged consumers to pay bills regularly and avoid unnecessary use of power to protect the system from excessive load.

He informed that in Dera Ismail Khan PESCO Dera Circle alone, various institutions and electricity consumers including PD meters were defaulters of a sum of Rs 30 billion including Rs 170 million against City and Cantt feeders whereas Sheikh Yousaf feeder-1 and 2 owe Rs 400 million, he added.

He said effective measures were being taken to improve the power supply system besides accelerating efforts to overcome the issue of

power theft. He said eradication of power theft was among the top priorities of the company and in that regard, no leniency would be tolerated.

He said operations by the PESCO team were underway against 'Kunda' mafia across the province and cases were registered against them.

He said that construction work on two new grid stations in Dera Ismail Khan had entered into the final stage that eventually improve the electricity system in the district optimally.

He said that new grid stations including DI Khan-2 Grid Station and Bundkorai Grid Station were initiated as part of efforts to overcome issues of recurring and frequent power tripping in the area and with completion of these stations, these issues would be resolved.

Besides, he said that shortage of staff was yet another challenge which would be overcome soon.

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

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned Beijing's top diplomat of consequences over hacking after a breach blamed on China again threatened to undermine a nascent stability in ties between the two powers. Less than a month after Blinken paid a rare visit to Beijing, he met for more than an hour and a half with Wang Yi, the Chinese Communist Party's foreign policy supremo, on the sidelines of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) talks in Jakarta. "Director, good to see you," a smiling Blinken said in the only public com-

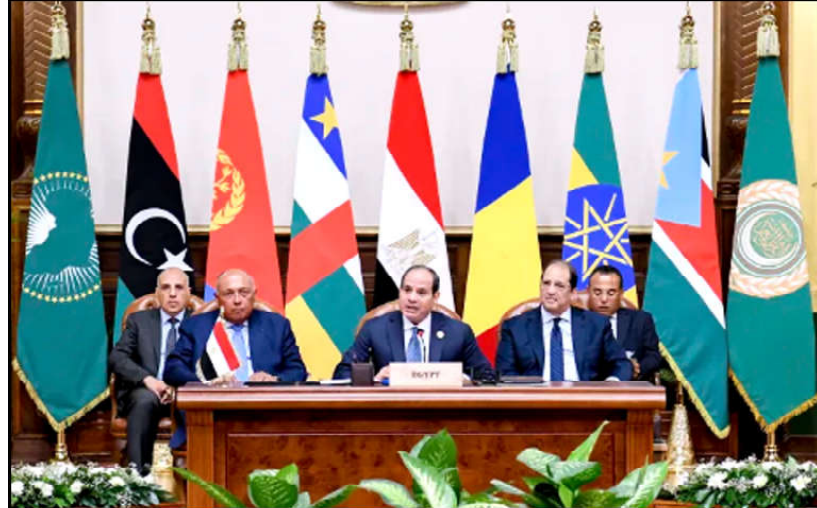
ments between the two sides after the longer-than-expected meeting at a hotel. A senior US official later said that Blinken raised with Wang the breach of US government sites reported this week by Microsoft, which blamed Chinese hackers motivated by espionage. Blinken "made clear that any action that targets US government, US companies, American citizens, is of deep concern to us and that we will take appropriate action to hold those responsible accountable", the official said, on condition of anonymity. The official stopped

short of saying that Blinken directly accused China of involvement. The State Department has publicly said only that it is investigating the hacking, which according to Microsoft affected approximately 25 organisations. State Department spokesman Matthew Miller called the Jakarta talks "candid and constructive" and part of efforts to "responsibly manage competition" between the world's two largest economies. Wang is representing China at the Jakarta talks as Foreign Minister Qin Gang, who would normally

attend such meetings, is ill, according to China's foreign ministry. Blinken told Wang to convey his "best wishes" to Qin, another US official said. Incidents have repeatedly impacted efforts to repair US-China relations, with Blinken scrapping his first planned trip to Beijing in February after Washington said it detected a Chinese espionage balloon over the US mainland. Blinken eventually visited in mid-June, becoming the first US secretary of state in China in nearly five years, opening a flurry of diplomacy since then.



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



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

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

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: After years of failed talks, Ethiopia and Egypt said they aim to finalise within four months an agreement on the operations of Africa's largest dam, an apparent breakthrough in a dispute that Cairo has described as an existential threat. The joint statement on "expedited negotiations," issued by Ethiopia's government, came after Ethiopia's prime minister,

Abiy Ahmed, discussed the dam with Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi on the sidelines of a regional meeting about the conflict in neighboring Sudan. Sudan is a third party to the talks about the \$4.6 billion Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on Ethiopia's stretch of the Blue Nile, which is located just 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the Sudanese border.

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

Monitoring Desk
MARSEILLE: Aid group SOS Mediterranee on Thursday accused Italy of hampering its work after the authorities there ordered its migrant rescue ship Ocean Viking held "for an indefinite period" in port. Officials had cited "a very small number of technical and administrative shortcomings," said the aid group. Having the ship blocked in the port of Civitavecchia, north of Rome, "prevents us from carrying out rescue operations" for migrants in the Mediterranean, the NGO's co-founder and director Sophie Beau said. The authorities were creating a "very harmful" environment for civil society groups looking to aid migrants, she added. Italy's government has since last year been led by far-right Prime Minister Georgia Meloni.

Russia says West is sponsoring 'nuclear terrorism' after Ukrainian drone strike

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia accused the West on Friday of sponsoring "nuclear terrorism" after authorities said a Ukrainian drone had struck the western Russian town of Kurchatov, where a nuclear power station similar to the ill-fated Chernobyl plant is located. Roman Starovoi, the governor of Russia's Kursk region which borders Ukraine, said the Ukrainian drone had struck a residential apartment building in Kurchatov, a Soviet-era town built on the banks of a cooling pond for the Kursk nuclear power station which is still in service. "A drone crashed in

the town of Kurchatov overnight," Starovoi said on the Telegram messaging app. "Fortunately, none of the residents were injured. Critical facilities were not damaged as a result of the drone crash and its subsequent detonation." The only damage was to the facade and glazing of one apartment building, he added, saying the authorities would help residents restore their homes. There was no immediate reaction from Ukraine, which is regularly subjected to massed Russian drone attacks and seldom comments on its own suspected drone and sabotage attacks inside Russia.

'End of AIDS' still possible by 2030, hopes UN

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: "The end of AIDS" is still possible by 2030, the United Nations insisted on Thursday, but cautioned that the world's deadliest pandemic could only be halted if leaders grasped the opportunity. "AIDS can be ended" as a public health threat, the UNAIDS agency said, as it outlined a roadmap of investment, evidence-based prevention and treatment, empowering civil society and tackling the inequalities holding back progress. UNAIDS said ending the pandemic was, above all, a political and financial choice. "We are not yet on the path that ends AIDS," the agency's executive director Winnie Byanyima said, but "we can choose to get on that path". The UN first set out in 2015 the target of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. Byanyima said the greatest progress on HIV — the virus that causes AIDS — was being made in the countries and regions that have invested strongly. She cited eastern and southern Africa, where new HIV infections have dropped by 57 per cent since 2010.

Syria says UN can deliver aid through shuttered Turkish crossing for six months

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The Syrian government on Thursday said the United Nations could use a border crossing from Turkey to continue delivering aid to northwest Syria for another six months after the Security Council failed to renew its authorization for the operation. The U.N. aid deliveries would have to be "in full cooperation and coordination with the Syrian Government", Syria's U.N. Ambassador Bassam Sabbagh wrote in a letter on Thursday to the Security Council, seen by Reuters. U.N. Security Council approval for the Turkish-based aid operation de-

livering help to several million people in rebel-held northwest Syria expired on Monday as members struggled to convince Russia to extend it for more than six months. Russia vetoed a nine-month authorization renewal at the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday and then failed in its own bid for a six-month extension of the operation, which has been delivering aid including food, medicine and shelter since 2014. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had pushed for a 12-month renewal. U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said the Syrian letter had been received and the United Nations was studying it.

Macron awards India's visiting Modi top France honour

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: France's president on Friday awarded the country's top honour to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the start of Bastille Day celebrations where he is the featured guest. Emmanuel Macron awarded Modi the grand cross of the Legion d'Honneur (Legion of Honour), the highest grade of France's order of merit that "salutes the role of the prime minister in the excellent relations of friendship and confidence that unite France and India", the presidency said in a statement. Modi said on Twitter that he had accepted the award "with great humility", hailing it as "an honour for the 1.4 billion residents of India". The honouring of Modi this year reflects deepening ties between France and India, which are marking 25 years of "strategic partnership". Modi called Macron his "friend" in a speech to Indians living in France on Thursday evening.

"This closeness is not limited to just the leaders of two countries, it is in fact a reflection of the unwavering friendship between India and France," Modi said. The Indian defence ministry on Thursday announced its intention to procure another 26 French-made Rafale fighter jets as well as three more Scorpene-class submarines in a deal expected to be worth billions of euros. Despite differences over the war in Ukraine and tensions over human rights in India, Western democracies are courting Modi and India as a military and economic counterweight to China. Macron's red carpet welcome comes weeks after Modi was given the rare honour of a White House state dinner in Washington — a city he was once banned from visiting. Macron told a meeting of military leaders on Thursday evening that India was "a giant of world history which will have a decisive role for our future".

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

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: North Korea's U.N. ambassador defended his country's recent long-range missile launch in a rare appearance at the U.N. Security Council on Thursday where he also accused the United States of driving the situation in northeast Asia "to the brink of nuclear war." Kim Song told the council that Wednesday's test-flight of the developmental Hwasong-18 missile was a legitimate exercise of the North's right to self-defence. He said the United States was raising regional tensions with nuclear threats and deploying a nuclear-powered submarine to South Korea for the first time in 14 years. Kim said the missile launch had "no negative effect on the security of a neighboring country," pointing to Japan's announcement that the ICBM — which flew at a steep angle — landed in open waters outside Japan's exclusive economic zone. South Korea's U.N. Ambassador Hwang Joon-

kook countered, asking: "How can an ICBM launch ever make neighboring countries appear safe?" Diplomats said Kim's appearance was the first time a North Korean diplomat addressed the Security Council since 2017. Hwang said each of North Korea's repeated ballistic missile launches allow the country to advance its technology toward its goal of having an arsenal of nuclear-armed weapons. Immediately before the meeting, a statement from nine council members including the U.S. and Japan, joined by South Korea, was read to reporters condemning the launch "in the strongest possible terms" and stressing that it was the 20th ballistic missile launch this year in blatant violation of multiple Security Council resolutions banning such tests. In Pyongyang, the powerful sister of North Korea leader Kim Jong Un, slammed the U.N. Security Council for convening a meeting to "pick a quarrel with" her country's self-defense step while ignoring the

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

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

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: South Korea's Foreign Minister Park Jin on Friday called on China to play a "constructive role" in curbing North Korea's threats, after Pyongyang launched an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) this week. The remarks were made during a meeting with Chinese top diplomat Wang Yi on the sidelines of an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) meeting in Jakarta, where Park "strongly denounced" North Korea's ICBM launch. It is a common interest of Seoul and Beijing for North Korea to stop provocations and return to dialogue, his office said. "Minister Park ... stressed that it was more important than ever for the Chinese side to play a constructive role for the peace and stability of the

Korean peninsula," Seoul's foreign ministry said in a statement. For several years, the United Nations Security Council has been divided over how to deal with Pyongyang, with China and Russia saying that more sanctions will not help ease the tensions. Washington accuses Beijing and Moscow of emboldening North Korea by shielding it from more sanctions. Park's meeting with Wang took place as relations between the two countries have soured after China's ambassador last month warned South Korea against making a wrong bet when it comes to Sino-U.S. rivalry. Seoul's foreign ministry said Park and Wang agreed to pay "close attention" to build "healthy and mature" bilateral relations based on mutual respect.



French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron welcome Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Elysee Palace, in Paris, France.

India blasts Chandrayaan-3 lander toward moon's south pole

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India's space agency launched a rocket on Friday that sent a spacecraft into orbit and toward a planned landing next month on the lunar south pole, an unprecedented feat that would advance India's position as a major space power. The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) LVM3 launch rocket blasted off from the country's main spaceport in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh on Friday afternoon, leaving behind a plume of smoke and fire. About 16 minutes later, the ISRO's mission control announced that the rocket had succeeded in putting the Chandrayaan-3 lander into an Earth orbit that will send it looping toward a moon landing next month.

ICC prosecutor says he is investigating alleged new war crimes in Sudan's Darfur region

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The International Criminal Court's prosecutor said Thursday he is investigating alleged new war crimes and crimes against humanity in Sudan's Darfur region during the country's current conflict that has killed more than 3,000 people and forced over 3 million to flee their homes. Karim Khan told the U.N. Security Council that fighting between government forces and the paramilitary Rapid Security Forces has spilled into

Darfur which was wracked by bloodshed and atrocities in 2003. He said the world, the country and the council are "in peril of allowing history to repeat itself." In 2005, the Security Council referred the situation in Darfur to the ICC, and Khan said the court still has a mandate under that resolution to investigate crimes in the vast western region. Darfur has been one of the epicenters of the current conflict that began on April 15, turning into an arena of ethnic violence.

Indonesian president warns ASEAN 'can't be proxy' of any country

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Friday said ASEAN cannot become a proxy for other countries, as US-China tensions rise over issues in the Asia-Pacific. Foreign ministers from the Southeast Asian bloc have gathered in Jakarta for talks about regional issues from the disputed South China Sea, which Beijing claims almost in its entirety, to the crisis in Myanmar, where China is its junta's main ally. Disagreements over the cybersecurity breach blamed on China again threatened to undermine a nascent stabilisation of ties, a US official told AFP. Wang told Blinken that the United States should not interfere in China's affairs and "work with" Beijing to improve their relationship, according to the Chinese foreign ministry. ASEAN has been divided on the Myanmar crisis and how to engage with its pro-China junta since the 2021 coup plunged the country into violent turmoil. The bloc issued a much-debated communique on Thursday that repeated its condemnation of violence.

world's two largest economies have soared in recent years over a host of issues, including China's drills around self-ruled Taiwan and sweeping US export restrictions on advanced semiconductors. The Jakarta meetings have been joined by both China and the United States, whose top diplomats met Thursday on the sidelines in the Indonesian capital. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned China's Wang Yi of consequences after a cybersecurity breach blamed on China again threatened to undermine a nascent stabilisation of ties, a US official told AFP. Wang told Blinken that the United States should not interfere in China's affairs and "work with" Beijing to improve their relationship, according to the Chinese foreign ministry. ASEAN has been divided on the Myanmar crisis and how to engage with its pro-China junta since the 2021 coup plunged the country into violent turmoil. The bloc issued a much-debated communique on Thursday that repeated its condemnation of violence.

EU parliament alarmed by violence in Manipur

Monitoring Desk
STRASBOURG: The EU parliament urged India to end violence and protect minorities in the country's northeastern Manipur state, criticising "nationalistic rhetoric" it said was adding to tensions. It came as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi began a visit to France. Greeted by his French counterpart Elisabeth Borne at Orly airport outside Paris, Modi stepped off his official plane to military honours around midday ahead of two days of meetings. MEPs expressed concern over clashes between Manipur's majority Meitei, who are mostly Hindus and live in and around the state capital Imphal, and the mainly Christian Kuki tribe in the surrounding hills.

China flexes military muscles ahead of Taiwan's war games

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: China's military has been flexing its muscles this week around Taiwan practicing joint force operations far out at sea, ahead of Taipei holding its annual war games at the end of the month when Taiwan will simulate breaking a Chinese blockade. China, which views democratically governed Taiwan as its territory, has been staging regular exercises around the island for the past three years, to pressure Taipei to accept Beijing's claim of sovereignty. Since Tuesday, China has sent dozens of fighters, bombers and other aircraft including drones into the skies to Taiwan's south, some crossing the Bashi Channel which separates Taiwan from the Philippines and into the Pacific, accompanying Chinese warships, Taiwan's defence

ministry said. Some of the aircraft crossed the Taiwan Strait median line, an unofficial buffer that separates the two sides, and came near waters 24 nautical miles off Taiwan's shores, the island's contiguous zone, in what Taiwan security officials called "harassment". Chieh Chung, a military researcher at Taiwan's National Policy Foundation think tank, said practicing long-distance missions was important for China as they would be the "main combat mode" in any conflict. "China regards breaking through the first island chain as an important tactical goal," he said, referring to the islands running from Japan through Taiwan, the Philippines and on to Borneo, enclosing China's coastal seas. China's defence ministry did not respond to a request for comment.



Aid group SOS Mediterranee's migrant rescue ship Ocean Viking at a port.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

a prosperous and peaceful Balochistan. Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo further said that the martyrs of Daringarh rendered sacrifice of their lives for development of the province struggling against extremism. He said that we honour their legacy and make a pledge to continue their mission for a better future.

The Chief Minister said that "let's remember these brave people, who served the province and nation devotedly." The Chief Minister said that let's pledge to work for peace, unity and development of the province and make it a peaceful province. He also vowed to make the country and province hub of peace eliminating terrorism and extremism.

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

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

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

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

"We are hopeful that this project will start this year," he said in an interview with APP after a special meeting of the 12th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of CPEC in Beijing. He said, "The railway track has been badly dam-

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

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

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

Ahsan Iqbal said the

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

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

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

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The funeral prayers of all the shuhada, who embraced shahadat, on Thursday while valiantly thwarting a full-scale terrorists attack on Zhob Garrison and during an intense exchange of fire with hardcore terrorists in Sui were offered at their native towns on Friday with full military honours. According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the burial ceremonies were attended by serving and retired officers, soldiers, relatives and a large number of people from different segments of society. "Armed Forces of Pakistan stand resolute and committed to eliminate the menace of terrorism."

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf Friday said the 15th July episode of the failed coup attempt in Turkey, was bravely defended by the Turkish people as 250 people sacrificed their lives to save democracy and to protect their rights and freedom.

It is indeed a historic example and a great message to the entire world that nothing can harm a democratic order if it is tested and then trusted by the people.

He made the remarks while addressing the 7th commemoration ceremony of the martyred of the July 15, 2016, thwarted coup attempt by Fethullah Gulen Terrorist Organisation (FETO) and Democracy and National

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Vice Chancellor, University of Balochistan, Dr. Shafiqur Rehman, Deputy Inspector General of Police Quetta, Ghulam Azfar Mahesar and other senior police officers as well as the academicians, representatives of the civil society and elites participated in the ceremony. The Traffic police officers and personnel duly clad in the new uniform were also part of the ceremony.

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

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

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

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

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



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

PAC annual report presents recovery of Rs. 556 billion

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

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

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

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

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

tions of fiscal year 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 were presented in meetings.

Totally 600 audit objections were reviewed in which 20 audit object were given to NAB (National Accountability Bureau) and 34 were given to FIA (Federal Investigation Agency). 211 audit objections were returned to handle on level of DAC (Departmental Accountability Committee).

Report says that PAC settled 73 fiscal calculations and 145 audit objections of various ministries and divisions in last one year and also recovered 556.52 billion Pkr in this period.

Reports of almost 200 public petitions were summoned from related institutes: report.

Govt focusing on diversifying energy mix: PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The religious leaders emphasized the importance of respecting all holy scriptures, including the Quran,

and strongly condemned any act of desecration.

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

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

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



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

Mir Changez greets Atiq after joining PPP in Balochistan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JuA Karachi 'emir' killed by unknown man in Afghanistan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hayatullah Durrani calls on Saito Machi

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

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

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

Both parties agreed that Saito Machi would be invited as an honourable guest in the future, visiting Hanna Lake, Juniper Forest in Ziarat, and Chotiar Valley.

This visit aims to further strengthen the ties between the Chiltan Adventurers Association Balochistan, Pakistan Cave Research and Caving Federation, Pakistan Canoe and Kayak Federation, and HDWSA while highlighting unity and harmony among cultural and sports legends.

Sobia condoles martyrdom of security forces' personnel in Zhob attack

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Students are the real assets of any nation, these strata of society need pressing attention to secure the future development of the country," said the speakers while addressing a seminar held under the auspices of NAB. The seminar also highlighted the effective ways through which students can contribute to building a more transparent and accountable society.

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

Hussain Shah promoted on post of Chief Economist

QUETTA: The Director Development, Hussain Shah (BPS-18) has been promoted on the post of Chief Economist in BPS-19 on the permanent basis.

This was announced in an official notification issued here by the Development and Planning, Government of Balochistan on Friday.

Hussain Shah promoted on post of Chief Economist

QUETTA: The Director Development, Hussain Shah (BPS-18) has been promoted on the post of Chief Economist in BPS-19 on the permanent basis.

This was announced in an official notification issued here by the Development and Planning, Government of Balochistan on Friday.



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