

Independent

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Gwadar

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FAISALABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is unveiling the plaque during ground-breaking ceremony for dualization of a road from Faisalabad Bypass to Motorway (M-3) via Satiana.

CM satisfied on restoration of routine life in Wadh

Mir Ziaullah Lanove thanks Nawab Raisani, tribal elders for resolving Wadh issue

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has expressed satisfaction over the restoration of routine life in Wadh area of Khuzdar and thanked the Chief of Sarawan and former Chief Minister, Nawab Aslam Raisani, Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani and other members of the reconciliation Jirga for playing role in peaceful settlement of dispute.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, the Chief Minister said that Nawab Aslam Raisani played leading role as a tribal elder to resolve the dispute while both the parties paved the way for restoration of peace by expressing confidence on the tribal jirga.

Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo insisted that the

dialogue is the best course for peaceful settlement of the tribal disputes.

It is also beauty of our longstanding traditions to resolve the disputes through jirgas, he added.

The Chief Minister was confident that the efforts made by the tribal Jirga would yield solution to the Wadh dispute on permanent basis.

He also expressed that both the parties would demonstrate patience and tolerance in future.

He also prayed for establishment of lasting peace in Wadh and other parts of the province.

He reiterated that it is our top priority to ensure peaceful solution of the tribal disputes with mutual understanding and establish peace in the province.

Meanwhile the Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has thanked chief of Sarawan and former Chief Minister, Nawab Muhammad Aslam Raisani and all other tribal elders who made endeavours to resolve the Wadh issue tribally.

In an official statement issued here on Sunday, the Provincial Minister for Home particularly mentioned the names of Nawab Aslam Raisani, Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani, Sardar Aslam Bizenjo, Maulvi Qamaruddin, Maulvi Faiz and members of Provincial Assembly, Younas Zehri and Zabid Reki for playing effective role in resolving the Wadh issue. "I thank all the tribal elders who made efforts for resolving the issue of Wadh tribally", Mir Ziaullah Langove stated.

In view of the Monsoon Govt. fully prepared to tackle any emergent situation: CS

Independent Report
QUETTA: All instructions of Balochistan government and machinery is fully prepared to tackle any emergent situation in view of the Monsoon rains in the province.

The effective contingency plan would be prepared keeping in view the past experience and preparations made last year.

All concerned departments would use their energies and potential remaining alert.

This was briefed during the meeting held with Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili in the chair here on Sunday.

The meeting reviewed the preparations in case of the emergent situation to be



QUETTA: Provincial Finance & Food Minister Zamrak Khan Achakzai meeting with Provincial Minister for Agriculture Mir Asadullah Baloch

Emergency declared in Lower, Upper Chitral 9 killed in rain-related incidents in KP

Monitoring Desk
PESHAWAR: At least nine people were killed in rain-related incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa over the last 48 hours due to heavy rainfall while an emergency was declared in the province's Lower and Upper Chitral districts till August 15. Heavy rain with strong winds and thunderstorms lashed parts of the province on Saturday, triggering landslides and destroying infrastructure.

The rain continued intermittently through the day, resulting in a "large-scale devastation" in the district. The deluge also triggered flash floods in Chitral, which washed away bridges, roads, and livestock.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department, several areas of the country are likely to continue to receive rain until



QUETTA: Hurmat-e-Quran rally led by Maulana Abdul Rehman Rafiq, Mufti Muhammad Rozi Khan, Malik Sikandar Khan passing through Jinnah Road

Senate, NA to meet today

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (Online): Upper and Lower house of parliament to meet today (Monday) in parliament house today.

According to notification issued by Senate secretariat, Senate session will take place at 3pm today with Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani in chair in parliament house.

Agenda of session has been issued.

National Assembly (NA) session which was postponed on last Friday will meet today (Monday) at 5pm with speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf in chair.

CM grieved over financial losses caused by heavy rain

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has expressed sorrow over the financial losses caused due to the heavy rains in different areas of the province.

According to an official hand out issued here on Sunday, the Chief Minister has directed the district administration of the concerned districts to remain alert and fully assist those affected due to the heavy rains in different areas.

Similarly, the relief activities have been started in rain hit Washuk district.

According to another official communique, the food and other relief goods were provided in the rain affected areas of Washuk.

President, PM facilitate Hamza Khan ends Pakistan's wait for World Junior Squash title after 37 years

MELBOURNE (INP): In a triumphant display of skill and determination, Pakistan's squash sensation, Hamza Khan, etched his name in history on Sunday as he staged a remarkable comeback to seize victory in the World Junior Championship held in Melbourne.

The nation's long-awaited return to the world squash podium was sealed when the young prodigy defeated Egypt's formidable Mohamed Zakaria in a gripping final.

Jansher Khan was the last Pakistani player to secure this coveted trophy,



achieving the feat precisely 37 years ago in 1986. Hamza Khan was first Pakistani finalist since Amir Atlas Khan in 2008. Only five Pakistanis have reached World Championship final, Sohail Qaiser (1982), Jansher Khan (1986), Yasir Butt (2004), Amir Atlas (2008) and Hamza Khan (2023).

The gripping final clash between Hamza and Zakaria commenced with a flurry of action, as both players fiercely contested two back-to-back games that culminated in intense tiebreakers. Nonetheless, Hamza showcased his

mettle and seized control, convincingly claiming the subsequent two games, securing a splendid 3-1 victory.

During the second game, Zakaria displayed remarkable prowess, taking the lead in a thrilling 26-minute battle that culminated with a score of 12-10.

Hamza faced a daunting 8-10 deficit but demonstrated unwavering determination, thwarting Zakaria's game point attempts twice before staging a stunning comeback, eventually leveling the match with a triumphant 14-12 win.

Imran Niazi's corruption, bad governance cause of economic malaise: PM Shahbaz

Slams Imran for instilling despair, avows 'no mercy' for May 9 doers; Premier Shehbaz Sharif feels satisfied with preventing default despite harming political capital; Urges masses to defeat political masquerades of PTI in elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday said Imran Niazi was responsible for current economic difficulties as he destabilized the country's system for his vested political interests, committed massive corruption, badly governed, undermined relations with friendly countries and grossly violated agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) before the vote of no confidence against him.

In an interview with a private television, he said Imran Niazi damaged relations with friendly, brotherly countries including Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and China.

"Imran Niazi falsely accused me of corruption of 45 percent in Chinese assisted projects and damaged relations with China," he remarked.

He said corruption was rife during the tenure of Imran Niazi and every day a new scandal of corruption surfaced, including sugar, wheat and Malam Jabba scams.

The prime minister said the coalition partners assumed government in

very difficult conditions and with great efforts his government succeeded in securing the IMF programme, after getting consent of Nawaz Sharif.

He said the most difficult matters he dealt with during his government were the revival of IMF agreement, devastating floods, price hikes, restoration of ties with friendly countries and appointment of army chief.

Talking about inflation, he said price hikes were caused by skyrocketing commodity and fuel prices

in the international markets and the Ukraine war.

His party saved the state at the cost of its politics, he emphasized, admitting that due to price hikes the popularity of the his coalition government suffered and political capital was exhausted. He said the government brought cheap oil from Russia and now was importing liquefied natural gas from Azerbaijan at a lower cost to provide much needed relief to the people.

He recalled that Imran Niazi did not buy gas from the international market at

the rate of three dollars, and the negligence added to the economic difficulties of the people.

He said May 9 was an anti-state activity and was an internal conspiracy led by Imran Niazi and his associates who attacked installations of armed forces.

The incident of May 9 was similar to the attack of Indian air force in February, 2019 which was foiled by the brave pilots of Pakistan Air Force and ended in capture of the Indian pilot Abhinandan, he continued.

Traders can play pivotal role in economic growth: Governor Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that there is a pivotal role of traders and industrialists in the country's economic growth, so they should fully benefit from the profitable opportunities of trade and investment available in the province.

The Governor was addressing the ceremony of Export Award winner organized by the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Karachi on Saturday night.

Also present on the occasion were the Governor



KARACHI: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar and Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori.

No consultation held on caretaker set up so far: Opposition leader

Independent Report
QUETTA: The leader of Opposition in Balochistan Assembly, Malik Sikandar Advocate has stated that there has been no consultation on the caretaker set up so far in the province.

While speaking to a private TV channel the other day, Malik Sikandar Advocate said that we had no formal or informal talk with the Chief Minister Balochistan Abdul Quddus Bizenjo on the caretaker government neither any name has been considered so far for the caretaker Chief Minister.

The leader of Opposition said that we would make consultation with the opposition parties about the caretaker set up, then we would hold consultation with the Chief Minister.

PPP propose protocol reduction for CJP, COAS

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan People Party secretary general Nayyar Bukhari has proposed reduction in protocol of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS).

He also proposed protocol reduction of high court judges and heads of defence institutes.

Former Chairman Senate also proposed 50% reduction in provision of electricity, petrol of Chief Ministers (CM) and governors of four provinces, federal and provincial ministers.

According to media reports Syed Nayyar Bukhari said elite class should set an example of sacrifices to relief the huge population of country. PPP believes on more and more relief to lesser the problems of people.

He also demand that electricity price should not be increased for upto 300 unite consumers of middle and lower class of the country.

Use of air conditioners in government offices should be made lesser, he added.



KARACHI: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) President Maulana Fazlur Rehman addresses a protest rally held in connection with desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden outside Karachi Press Club.

Desecration of Holy Quran is unacceptable: Fazal

KARACHI (APP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief, Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Sunday termed the desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden as an open war against the Muslim Ummah.

While addressing a protest demonstration against the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden, outside the Karachi Press Club (KPC), he said that the desecration of the Muslims' Holy book would never be tolerated.

He said that the Muslims knew how to protect the Holy Quran.

Maulana urged the Muslim country to call back their ambassadors from Sweden.

The JUI-F chief said that the drive had started with a drop of rain from Karachi and it would continue.

He also condemned Israel, US and Western countries.

Announcing polls in Pak is encouraging: US

WASHINGTON (Online): US principle deputy assistant secretary of state for south and central Asia Elizabeth Horst said there is no immediate solution to Pakistan's economic situation but IMF agreement will help to control chaos.

She said holding election announcement in Pakistan is welcoming and encouraging. We hope for free, fair and peaceful election in Pakistan: Elizabeth Horst Talking to Pakistani journalists living in Washington she said we support International Monetary Fund (IMF) stand-by arrangement. This will give Pakistan breathing space.

Pakistan's bureau head in US state department said Pakistan should continue his program with IMF, there is solution but not immediate solution.

She accepted that upcoming days are very hard for Pakistan's people but they have to go through this tough phase to stabilise their economy.

She said I make sure to Pakistanis that America and Pakistan has long term relations and this situation will not affect it. US senior official said incumbent government election announcement is hopeful for America when this party is no one's favorite in Pakistan.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Hapless province

Balochistan presents a variety of complications spawned by the historical neglect of its people's rights and the perverse determination to press on with ruinous security-centric policies. The ferocious conflict that has engulfed Wadh, Khuzdar district, since Wednesday — although a tenuous ceasefire is currently in place — is another manifestation of the same.

On the surface, it is a feud sparked by notorious outlaw Shafiq Mengal's men forcibly occupying land belonging to tribal chief and BNP-M president Akhtar Mengal. With both sides heavily armed, an extended confrontation could lead to things spinning further out of control. Former chief minister Aslam Raisani has stepped in to broker peace.

However, as Akhtar Mengal himself said in a bluntly worded tweet, this is part of a far bigger problem, that it does not pertain to a specific area or a particular tribe but is an outcome of the shocking impunity with which 'death squads' have been allowed to operate in Balochistan.

Indeed, no lasting solution to the conflict can be found if individuals like Shafiq Mengal remain 'in play'. He was part of the state's response to the Baloch insurgency, whereby extremist groups and tribal militias — such as his Baloch Musalla Difa Tanzeem — were given carte blanche to hunt down separatists.

Had there been any rule of law in Balochistan, instead of short-sighted policies that generated cycles of bestial violence, Shafiq Mengal and his gang would not have been able to commit the serious crimes they are alleged to be involved in, including murder, robbery and kidnapping for ransom. Locals still refuse to speak on the record about that reign of terror in Khuzdar district during which journalists, teachers and doctors were slain in targeted killings. It was only after the public outcry over the discovery in Tootak of mass graves of missing people, with evidence suggesting his group's involvement in the crime, that he was reportedly asked to step back. But he remained free. In fact, Shafiq Mengal was a candidate in the 2018 elections for the National Assembly seat from Khuzdar — further evidence of a political landscape engineered to a point where it bears little resemblance to a representative democracy. After all, even sardars like Akhtar Mengal, who won the seat, need to be reminded of the limits to their power.

Underlying all these machinations is the real tragedy being endured by the people of Balochistan. Among the most backward and regressive areas of the province, Khuzdar district has a deeply entrenched tribal culture. Neocolonial policies of divide and rule have exacerbated the existing problems. What will it take for the state to place the people of Balochistan, their right to provincial autonomy and ownership of the natural resources that lie beneath their soil, above its own narrow interests?



Muna Khan

My social media timeline was recently filled with images of Bollywood actors Zeenat Aman and Rekha on the covers of Vogue India and Arabia, respectively. Folks gushed at how incredible the women looked at their age — 71 and 69, respectively. I couldn't help but feel the praise was filled with a dash of disbelief; that they could be this age and still look good. It's indicative of how society expects women to age, but also a reminder that women tend to get erased from screens post 50, so seeing them slay (slang for 'impressing') is cause for celebration.

I don't mean to be cynical here. Aman joining Instagram has been one of the best things to happen on social media. She says her children had been telling her to join Instagram because she loves writing, and while she wondered, "isn't this a young person's game", she caved. "This isn't a comeback, but it is something of a coming around," she wrote in a post.

I believe Aman has a much higher rate of engagement than the current lot of leading Bollywood actors because her content is real. Whether it's sharing stories about working in the 1970s, or about adopting dogs — and then resharing other people's pictures — she's not shilling products, projects or plasticity. "There was far more interest in my face and figure than there ever was in my intellect," she wrote in Vogue. "This is one reason that I have loved ageing — it has

Wisen up

evened the scales." Rekha, who has not accepted any role since 2014, said of her Vogue shoot that "I am amazed at what one photoshoot can do, but I also realise that the success of it has to come from a deep place of honesty, pure intentions, originality, and consistency, every step of the way."

Their words are resonating — across ages. Over in the West, media entrepreneur Martha Stewart became the oldest model at 81 to appear on the cover of a Sports Illustrated swimsuit edition. Seinfeld alum Julia Louis Dreyfus' podcast *Wiser than Me*, a series of interviews with acclaimed older women in the arts, has featured on the best podcast lists so far this year. The publishing world has woken up to unpublished women aged 60, who "are now at a premium" wrote the Guardian.

While I'm happy to see progress since Susan Sontag wrote about "the double standards of ageing" in 1972, I'm also a little cautious. "An instrument of oppression," wrote Sontag, "is the social convention that ageing enhances a man but progressively destroys a woman." Women must destroy that convention to "liberate themselves".

While I laud Aman for doing just that, I'm concerned that an older woman's worth is still tied to her youthful appearance. I worry the celebration is a trend for the sake of representation or inclusivity to sell magazines, books, movies, etc. No real change can come about if capitalism gets its hands on it. There was a time, not too long ago, when people didn't record birth dates; growing older wasn't about clinging onto youth at whatever cost.

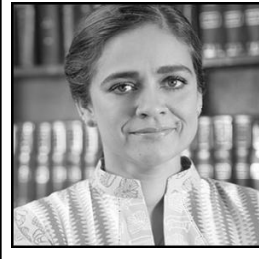
I look forward to the 'older woman moment' hitting Pakistan's shores and screens, provided it's

organic and not sponsored by the very industry that creates unrealistic standards. I'm hopeful. There was an outpouring of support for actors Samina Ahmed and Manzar Sehbai when they married in 2020, and I would love for it to translate to watching dramas where older women are in charge of their lives; ie, not dependent on men. There was that TV commercial for a mattress in 2020 which showed adult children marrying their mother off — which was different to the usual hysteria around anything related to a woman's choice.

I believe it's a woman's choice not to care or conform that ripples deep. "As they do grow older and more mature in their careers, [women] lose some of the fear of speaking their mind. And certain men don't like that," said gender equality researcher Amy Diehl in a report for Harvard Business Review in June. Misogyny happens at every stage of a woman's career, the authors found. "Women under 40 in the study saw their experience and credibility dismissed because of their age, while women between 40 and 60 continued to experience gendered ageism, too," they wrote.

I understand the pressure to look youthful is no longer limited to people in the entertainment industry. My friends recently recounted how regular folks are being advised to get fillers sooner than later, as if ageing is a terrible fate. It's not. Women have other choices, wrote Sontag. "They can let themselves age naturally and without embarrassment, actively protesting and disobeying the conventions that stem from this society's double standard about ageing ... Women should allow their faces to show the lives they have lived. Women should tell the truth." -- Courtesy Dawn

Marriage rights



Tahera Hasan

Marriage is a sacred partnership that brings individuals together. However, what is mostly overlooked in our society and culture is the fact that it is also a legal contract that governs the rights and responsibilities of both partners.

In Pakistan, the nikahnama is a crucial document that outlines the terms of a marriage. However, despite its significance, a lack of awareness prevails among women regarding their rights contained in this document. Where there is awareness, there is a fear of social and cultural implications of advocating for their rights at the time of marriage. When the bride or any person on behalf of the bride engages in negotiation or asserts her rights, it is often frowned upon and perceived as socially inappropriate.

The nikahnama, also known as the marriage contract, serves as a legal agreement between the bride and groom in Pakistan. It is signed by the couple, the officiating cleric and witnesses during the wedding ceremony. The document details various essential elements, including the haq mehr, rights of divorce and maintenance. However, the lack of awareness among women about the contents of the nikahnama invariably leads to unfortunate outcomes and a significant power imbalance in a marriage.

Pakistani law recognises the rights of both spouses and the nikahnama is a clear indication of this. However, the patriarchal norms deeply entrenched in Pakistani society and culture often re-

sult in women being unaware of their legal rights and entitlements. The right to consent, maintenance and inheritance are fundamental rights that women should be aware of and assert in their marriages. Unfortunately, due to cultural and societal pressures, many women find it challenging to exercise their rights, leading to various forms of discrimination, abuse and inequality within marriages.

One of the primary reasons for the lack of awareness among women regarding their rights is the absence of proper education, information, and social and cultural barriers. In many cases, women are not adequately informed about the terms and conditions mentioned in the nikahnama. This ignorance places them at a disadvantage, as they may unknowingly relinquish their rights or agree to unfair terms that are contrary to their best interests.

Such a lack of awareness perpetuates a cycle of gender inequality and reinforces the subjugation of women within marriages. Furthermore, even in situations where women are economically empowered, educated and aware, they are unable to protect themselves through what is, for all intents and purposes, a prenuptial agreement.

In addition to promoting awareness campaigns that focus on women's rights, it is crucial to also target and address men in these initiatives. By doing so, we can work towards fostering a change of mindset and awareness in society.

Engaging with young men is particularly vital, as they represent the future generation and have the potential to drive significant societal transformation. One of the primary objectives of these awareness campaigns should be to sensitise and educate men along with

women about women's rights as enshrined in both legal frameworks and religious beliefs. Currently, there exists a great deal of misinformation and misunderstanding surrounding these rights. By equipping men and women with accurate information and fostering empathy and understanding, we can lay the foundation for substantial progress in gender equality.

The nikahnama plays a crucial role in defining the terms and conditions of a marriage. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness among women about their rights contained in this document perpetuates gender inequality and reinforces their subjugation.

Empowering women through education, legal aid and community engagement is essential to creating a society where women can agitate for and protect their rights. The evolution of social and cultural norms regarding women's rights within a marriage is a process that faces considerable resistance and cannot be achieved overnight. However, heightened awareness is crucial to empowering women so that they can acknowledge and assert their rights.

By striving for a better understanding of the nikahnama, Pakistani women can protect themselves. Furthermore, by actively involving men in awareness campaigns and discussions that focus on women's rights, we can pave the way for a more just and equal society.

Empowering men with knowledge and sensitivity is paramount if we want to dismantle harmful gender norms, dispel misinformation, and ultimately realise a future that embraces equality for everyone. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Attracting foreign investment vital to save livelihood of millions: Mian Anjum

LAHORE (INP): Chairman Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) Mian Anjum Nisar has said that with energy cost continuing to escalate, the new investment challenges keeping on burdening the already weak economic landscape in the country, as the FDI in FY23 was down by 25 percent annually.

In a statement on Sunday, he asked the government to take concrete steps to attract foreign investment, saving the livelihood of millions of workers associated with various sectors.

Anjum Nisar observed that the focus should be on streamlining the long-standing structural bottlenecks in

the investment climate such as streamlining the FDI approval process. At the same time stability in the country's economic and political scenario is critical for any resurgence of investment in the country. Poor economic and political climate have been additional factors in bogging down the business and investment in the country over the last one year. Quoting the data, he said that the FDI in June more than halved to \$114 million from \$271 million in the same month a year ago while net FDI in FY23 has declined continuously over the last 4 years and was the weakest in FY23.

What is worrisome is the fact that the consecutive decline over the last 4 years was also seen in FDI inflows with weakest FDI

inflows in FY23 over the last 4 years. He said that the economic crisis has forced the global investors to put their new investment plans on hold, foreign direct investment (FDI) was 25% lower than the investment registered last year.

He said there is no visible improvement in employment while the small and medium industries (SMEs) - the main providers of jobs are struggling because of lack of funds and demand.

The BMP chairman said that the larger industries are also operating partially.

Textile sector that was the major provider of permanent and daily wage jobs has lost 50 percent of both domestic and export market.



CHINIOT: A farmer busy in seedling rice crop in his field along Lahore Road.

Kashif for strengthening local manufacturing sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis on Sunday stressed the need for developing and strengthening of local manufacturing sector as a sound manufacturing sector of a country can produce quality goods.

Besides, it helps in reducing reliance on foreign products to reduce imports and promote self-sufficiency, he said while talking to a delegation of industrialists led by

Faran Shahid.

He said a well-developed manufacturing sector can help a country diversify its economic base, adding that over-reliance on a few sectors can make an economy vulnerable to external shocks, whereas a diverse economy is more resilient.

The thriving manufacturing industry can act as a catalyst for economic growth, job creation, and technological progress, he remarked.

SECP registers 27,746 new companies in FY 2022-23 with 5% increase

LAHORE (APP): Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 27,746 new companies in the FY 2022-23 showing an increase of around 5 percent as compared to the previous fiscal year.

According to SECP official source, due to the policy and performance of incumbent government, the total number of registered companies now increased to 196,805.

As a result of end-to-end digitization of the company incorporation process, about

99.8 percent companies were registered online while 1,256 foreign users were registered from overseas, the source added.

The total capitalization (paid-up-capital) with regard to newly incorporated companies for the FY 2022-23 stood at Rs 36.6 billion.



Senior Member Board of Revenue Nabeel Javed being briefed during his surprised visit to Revenue Department Bhawalpur.

SAARC- Conference Durable peace must to achieve economic growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Durable peace is indeed a key factor for success in any region, including South Asia especially for economic growth and social prosperity as well as human development.

This was stated by former President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ifkhar Ali Malik on Sunday, while speaking as a chief guest at a seminar on "Peace a key to stability in South Asia".

The event was held under the aegis of IT

Professionals headed by Mian Faiz Bukhsh, said a press release issued here today.

"South Asia is a diverse and vibrant region comprising countries such as Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives," he added.

"While the region has immense potential for economic growth, technological advancements, and social development, several conflicts and tensions have

hindered its progress," he observed.

He said, "Peaceful conditions are essential for economic growth and investment. When there is stability and security, businesses can flourish, trade can thrive, and foreign investments can flow into the region."

He said, "Peaceful relations promote the development of infrastructure, industries, and a conducive business environment, ultimately leading to economic success."

Rs7.5/unit raise in power tariff harmful for businesses, must be reversed: PIAF

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Faheemur Rehman Saigol declared the government's decision to increase electricity base tariff by Rs7.50 per unit harmful for the trade and industry, as the businesses are already under financial stress, urged the government to reverse the proposed jump in power charges.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he said the government's decision to increase the electricity tariff is anti-industry, and the PIAF strongly condemns

government's move and calls on it to rescind it. He urged the power ministry to identify system constraints and communicate targets to all concerned departments in order to launch a wartime effort to upgrade the transmission system.

Faheemur Rehman Saigol said that it was unfortunate that the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority is all set to accord final approval for massive raise in electricity base rates up to Rs 7.50 per unit (27 percent) for industry, commercial sector, agriculture tube-wells,

Govt should patronize mango orchards at national level

MULTAN (INP) Mango trees should be given the status of a national tree and steps should be taken to increase mango exports as it will not only help earn foreign exchange but also improve the living standard of peasants.

This was recommended by different speakers including Chairman Seraisikistan Council Zahoore Dharaija, Malik Allah Nawaz Wani, Saleem Darbari, Aamir Shehzad, and many others in a seminar on Mangos, here. Chairman Seraisikistan Council Zahoore Dharaija lamented that mango orchards were being ignored continuously.

Minister says: Modern irrigation system becomes indispensable for agricultural self-sufficiency

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Irrigation Haji Fazal Elahi on Sunday said that modern irrigation system has become indispensable for agricultural self-sufficiency, while the construction of canals and dams can make more barren land arable and this is among the top priorities of the government.

He revealed that the federal government has given us a formula for the distribution of the water of the Indus River among the four provinces under the

IRSA Act. According to this act, he said, our province's share is 8.78 million cubic feet (14 per cent), but due to the lack of an active canal system, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cannot use its share of water property.

He added that Chashma Right Bank Canal (CRBC) Lift Low Gravity project has been approved with the federal and provincial partnership, the cost of which being shared by our province is 35%, but due to a lack of resources.



QUETTA: A vendor arranging seasonal fruits on his van to attract customers.

China dominated Pakistan's FDI with \$432.7 million in FY 23

ISLAMABAD (INP): In the Financial Year 2023 (from July 2022 to June 2023), Pakistan received the highest Foreign Direct Invest (FDI) worth US\$ 432.7 million from China, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday quoting the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)'s latest figures. In FY 2023, Pakistan received \$1.4377 billion in FDI with China leading with 30.09% of the total FDI coming to the country.

As per SBP, the FDI inflows/outflows include cash received for investment in equity, intercompany loan, capital equipment brought in/out, equity in accounts abroad, and reinvested earnings.

In FY 2023, the total inflow from China remained at \$475.3 million, the outflow was \$43.1 million, net FDI was \$ 432.2 million, net foreign portfolio investment (FPI) was \$0.5 million and the total FDI remained at \$432.7 million.

FPI consists of securities and other financial assets held by investors in another country. Along with FDI, FPI is one of the common ways to invest in overseas economies. In June 2023, Pakistan also received \$ 5.8 million from Hong Kong bringing the total FDI from Hong Kong to \$96.6 million in FY 23.

Cabinet reviews flood situation, precautionary arrangements

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presided over an emergency meeting of Punjab Cabinet at CM Office on Sunday in which latest flood situation and preparations as well as precautionary arrangements with regard to spilling water in rivers by India was reviewed.

Secretary Irrigation apprised during the briefing that water level was increasing in the dams being built by India at River Ravi and Sutlej while the dam being built at Ravi was filled with 90 percent water and the dam built at Sutlej was filled with 70 percent of water.

The cabinet was

informed that more rains were expected in the catchment areas of Ravi and Sutlej while India may spill more water in these rivers as there was a threat of flooding in both the rivers.

Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi ordered Irrigation department, PDMA, Rescue 1122 and the administration to remain alert with regard to the latest flood situation and spilling of water by India. He directed to prepare a plan to timely evacuate the population residing inside the bed of River Ravi and Sutlej.

Mohsin Naqvi while ordering all commissioners to take precautionary measures on an emergency

basis stated that all preemptive measures should be given a final shape for the safety of village people present inside the bed of both rivers.

The CM asserted that no negligence or lapse would be tolerated under any circumstance with regard to timely evacuation of the people.

He directed that Commissioner Lahore and other divisional commissioners should ensure implementation of the formulated plan in case of an emergency. He directed that the administration should constitute mobile teams to provide edibles and medical facilities to affectees.



LAHORE: Ambassador of France Nicolas Galey meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at CM Office.

Jamal visits city to review Monsoon arrangements

RAWALPINDI (APP): Advisor to Chief Minister Punjab, Kunwar Dilshad along with Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health Care, Dr. Jamal Nasir here on Sunday visited different areas and reviewed the arrangements finalized for Monsoon.

They visited Gawalmandi and Ariya Mohalla areas and inspected flow of water in Nullah Lai.

They also inspected arrangements finalized to clear stagnant rainwater, encroachments and other arrangements made to deal with urban flooding.

Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chatta, Director General, Rawalpindi Development Authority, Saif Anwar Jappa, Deputy Commissioner Hasan Waqar Cheema, Managing Director Water and Sanitation Agency Muhammad Tanveer and other officers concerned were present on the occasion.

The Advisor and Provincial Minister said that there was a possibility of heavy rains so, all the departments concerned should remain alert round the clock.

Martyrs package Cases of 3 police martyrs sent to Pb govt

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar is actively working for the welfare of the heirs of police martyrs and in the same continuity, the cases of three personnel who were martyred during duty have been sent to the Punjab government for getting martyr package.

As per police spokesperson, three cases of Punjab police martyrs including Head Constable Muhammad Imran of Special Branch Lahore, Constable Murtaz Ahmed of Lahore, Constable Nisar Ahmed of Toba Tek Singh were sent to Home Department Punjab for obtaining martyr package. Dr. Usman Anwar sent the three cases to the Punjab government on recommendations of Compensation Award Committee of the Welfare Branch which was held at Central Police Office (CPO) under the supervision of Additional Inspector General Finance and Welfare Riaz Nazir Gara.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates rehabilitation of Faisalabad Circular Road.

SCN approaches Sherry for halting indiscriminate cutting of forest trees in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Conservation Nature (SCN), a non-governmental organization striving for conservation of environment, culture and heritage, has approached Federal Minister for Climate Change, Sherry Rehman to take notice of planned and indiscriminate cutting of forest trees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) over the pretext of diseased and windfallen trees.

In a letter sent to Federal Minister for

Climate Change on Sunday, the SCN office bearers urged Sherry Rehman to divert her attention to a matter of grave concern that requires her immediate attention and intervention.

"It has come to our organization's attention that certain senior officials within the Provincial Forest Department of KP are engaged in the indiscriminate cutting down of forest trees in specific parts of the province," reads the letter.

The SCN is

committed to preserving and safeguarding our natural resources, including the invaluable forests that contribute significantly to the reduction of Greenhouse Gases as well as the well-being of the environment, climate change and society, it added. Showing its concerns, the SCN observed the tree felling activities appear to have been initiated without any transparent and accountable assessment, consultation, or public disclosure.

CM KP for urgent relief measures in rains hit areas

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Izzat Khan on Sunday issued strict directives to the relief department and district administrations to remain on high alert and provide relief to people of the area hit by torrential rains and flash floods.

The chief minister also directed relevant officials to ensure immediate assistance to those affected by the heavy downpours. He said that rescue and relief operations must be promptly

launched to ensure the safety and well-being of the affected population as the situation demands urgent attention. People in the distress should be provided immediate relief and support. We must take all necessary measures to ensure their safety and well being, he said. The chief minister further assured that the caretaker provincial government would leave no stone unturned in providing every possible assistance to those facing difficulties during this challenging hour.

Promotions of officers, personnel in Punjab Police continues

LAHORE (APP): On the instructions of Inspector General Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, the process of promotion of officers and personnel in all ranges and districts of the province is continuing without interruption.

In this regard, 89 more officers and personnel have been promoted as per the rules and regulations. Punjab police spokesman said here on Sunday that according to merit and

seniority, 89 personnel were promoted to the rank of sub-inspector and ASI, 51 ASIs and 38 head constables are included among those who were promoted. In the ongoing next phase of promotion, 7,000 personnel who meet the rules and regulations are being promoted and after Lahore, Multan, Bahawalpur, Gujranwala and Faisalabad, promotions have also been completed in Sargodha.

SDMA warns people to refrain from visiting flooded streams, rivers

MIRPUR (APP): After the torrential rains hits various parts of the AJK, the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) Saturday warned people living close to the seasonal nullahs and streams to refrain from visiting the flooded ponds, rivers and streams as the main spell of the torrential rains have begun in various parts of the State.

According to the information, various parts of the AJK state lashed with torrential rains that

played havoc in various areas including Mirpur district especially in the New City and various adjoining slums in various parts of this district, official sources confirmed.

Mirpur went in the grip of heavy rainfall since about the last midnight of the day breaking the hot spell to a greater extent besides turning various low-lying areas into ponds and seasonal nullahs flooded with the rainy water.

International News

Iran's Khamenei says Sweden in 'battle-array' over Koran desecrations

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said that people who desecrate the Koran should face the "most severe punishment" and Sweden has "gone into battle-array for war on the Muslim world" by supporting those responsible.

Protests have raged across Iran and Iraq after Sweden allowed the burning of the Koran under rules protecting free speech. Protesters in Iraq set alight the Swedish embassy in Baghdad on Thursday.

An Iraqi immigrant to Sweden burned a Koran outside a Stockholm mosque last month. Protesters in Sweden kicked and partially destroyed a book they said was the Koran outside the Iraqi embassy in Stockholm on Thursday, but did not burn it as they had threatened to do, Reuters witnesses said.

Swedish officials have deplored the acts but said they cannot prevent them.

Iran's state media reported that Khamenei had demanded Sweden hand

over those responsible for prosecution in Islamic countries.

"All Islamic scholars agree that those who desecrate the Koran deserved the most severe punishment... The duty of that (Swedish) government is to hand over the perpetrator to the judicial systems of Islamic countries," Khamenei said in a statement carried by state media.

Iran, which has delayed the posting of a new ambassador to Sweden, also said it was not accepting a new Swedish envoy.



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko meet outside the Naval Cathedral of St. Nicholas in Kronstadt near Saint Petersburg, Russia.

Cambodia's ruling party claims landslide win in one-sided election

Monitoring Desk
PHNOM PENH: The party of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen declared a landslide victory in a general election on Sunday, a vote that critics widely dismissed as a sham aimed at cementing the party's rule before an expected transfer of power to his eldest son.

The contest was effectively a one-horse race, with Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP), a political behemoth with a vast war chest, facing no viable opponent after a ruthless, years-long crackdown on its rivals.

Polls closed with a turnout of 84% according to the election committee, with 8.1 million people voting in a much-criticised contest between CPP and 17 mostly obscure parties, none of which won seats in the last election in 2018.

The only opponent with any real clout was disqualified from running.

"We've won in a landslide... but we can't calculate the number of seats yet," said CPP spokesperson Sok Eysan.

Self-styled strongman Hun Sen, who has ruled Cambodia for 38 years, had

brushed off all Western concern about the election's credibility, determined to prevent any obstacle in his carefully calibrated transition to his anointed successor and eldest son, Hun Manet.

No timeframe had been given for the handover until Thursday, when Hun Sen signalled his son "could be" prime minister next month, depending on "whether Hun Manet will be able to do it or not". He needed to win a National Assembly seat to become prime minister, which was likely.

Biden will establish a national monument honoring Emmett Till, the Black teen lynched in Mississippi

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden will establish a national monument honoring Emmett Till, the Black teenager from Chicago who was abducted, tortured and killed in 1955 after he was accused of whistling at a white woman in Mississippi, and his mother, a White House official said Saturday.

Biden will sign a proclamation on Tuesday to create the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument across three sites in Illinois and Mississippi, according to the official. The individual spoke on condition of anonymity because the White House had not formally

announced the president's plans.

Tuesday is the anniversary of Emmett Till's birth in 1941.

The monument will protect places that are central to the story of Till's life and death at age 14, the acquittal of his white killers and his mother's activism. Till's mother's insistence on an open casket to show the world how her son had been brutalized and Jet's magazine's decision to publish photos of his mutilated body helped galvanize the Civil Rights Movement.

Biden's decision also comes at a fraught time in the United States over matters concerning race.



People are seen at the site of a bridge that collapsed in Patras, Greece.

Support for Japanese cabinet slips to 28% - media poll

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Public support of Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's cabinet has fallen nearly 20 percentage points to 28% over the past two months, the Mainichi Shimbun reported on Sunday, citing a poll it conducted.

Kishida, who took office in October 2021, saw his approval plummeting in some polls late last year, battered by revelations of ties between the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and the Unification Church, but numbers began to edge up with a thaw in ties with

South Korea and a trip to Ukraine in March.

He got a boost in May when he hosted a G7 leaders' summit in the city of Hiroshima but the cabinet's support has plummeted 17 percentage points since then, to just 28%, dropping below 30% for first time since February, the newspaper said.

Technical problems with a national identity card system is one main issue undermining support, the newspaper said.

The number of people who disapproved of the cabinet rose to 65% from 58% last month.

Former Brazilian President Bolsonaro fades from the spotlight

Monitoring Desk
RIO DE JANEIRO: Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro is fading from the spotlight, showing the courts' power over the electoral system and the political shortcomings of the increasingly powerless former leader. Brazil's top electoral court ruled last month that Bolsonaro is ineligible to run for any political office until 2030 for abusing his power and casting unfounded

doubts on the country's electronic voting system.

Bolsonaro was once called the "Trump of the Tropics" after emerging as a crusading outsider promising to shake up the system and pursuing an aggressive brand of identity politics including conservative values. Trump, who also cast doubt on the U.S. electoral system and faces legal trouble, remains the front-runner for the Republican Party's nomination.

Kyiv drone strikes munitions depot in Crimea

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: A Ukrainian drone attack on Crimea on Saturday blew up an ammunition depot, sparking evacuations on the Moscow-annexed peninsula and halting rail traffic, just five days after drones damaged Russia's symbolic bridge across the Kerch Strait. In a counteroffensive launched to retake lands lost to Moscow, Kyiv has increasingly made clear despite some Western unease that it aims to also take back the Black Sea peninsula.

War reporter's death prompts Russian outrage over cluster bombs

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: A Russian war reporter was killed and three were wounded in Ukraine on Saturday in what the defence ministry said was a Ukrainian attack using cluster munitions, prompting outrage from Moscow.

In a separate incident, German broadcaster Deutsche Welle said one of its journalists, Yevgeny Shilko, had been wounded elsewhere in Ukraine in a Russian attack with cluster

munitions that killed a Ukrainian soldier. It said his life was not in danger.

Cluster bombs are in the spotlight after Ukraine received supplies of them from the United States this month.

Many countries ban them because they rain shrapnel over a wide area and can pose a risk to civilians. Some bomblets typically fail to explode immediately, but can blow up years later.

Yemeni police say they've arrested 2 suspects in the killing of a senior World Food Program official

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Yemeni police on Saturday arrested two suspects in the killing of a senior World Food Program official the previous day, authorities said. Ten others were also detained for their alleged involvement in the killing of Moayad Hameidi, who had recently arrived in the country to take the post of the head of the World Food Program.



People gather outside Town Hall to protest the alleged sexual assault of two tribal women in the eastern state of Manipur, in Bengaluru, India.



COLOMBO: A group photo of Pakistan Shaheens after winning ACC Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup after beating India in the final

Pakistan thrashes India to lift Emerging Asia Cup trophy

Sufiyan Muqem spins Pak to victory with 3 important wickets

Sports Desk
COLOMBO: All round Pakistan Shaheens defeated India A by 128 runs in the final played in Colombo, Sri Lanka on Sunday to lift the Emerging Asia Cup. Chasing a target of 353 runs, India were dismissed for 224 runs in 40 overs. Spinner Sufiyan Muqem caused all kinds of troubles for the Men in Blue by taking three important wickets including opener Abhishek Sharma, who scored 61, captain Yash Dull, who was set at 39 off 41, and Harshit Rana, 13, while conceding 66 runs in 10 overs. Mehran Mumtaz, Mohammad Wasim and Arshad Iqbal claimed two wickets each. For India, opener Abhishek Sharma was the top run-scorer with 61 runs in 51 balls. Earlier, Pakistan A had set India A target of 353 runs on a good batting surface. Middle-order batter Tayyab Tahir scored a brilliant century to help Pakistan post a massive total on the board after being asked to bat first. Pakistan were in a precarious position after losing five wickets for just 187 runs but Tahir took the attack to the Indian bowlers and scored 108 runs in only 71 balls with the help of 12 fours and four sixes. He had an impressive strike-rate of 152.11. Pakistan had got off to a strong start with openers Sahibzada Farhan (65 off 62) and Saim Ayub (59 off 51) scoring fifties and adding 121 runs for the first wicket. However, India bounced back with quick wickets in the middle overs. Tahir added 126 runs in 98 balls for the sixth wicket with Mubasir Khan, who scored 35 runs. R a j v a r d h a n Hangargekar and Riyan Parag took two wickets each for the Men in Blue. India won the toss and choose to bowl first against Pakistan A in the highly-anticipated final. India were unchanged from the semis while Pakistan made one change, with Mehran Mumtaz replacing Amad Butt. Meanwhile Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif has congratulated Pakistan team on defeating India in the final of ACC Men's Emerging Cup in Colombo this evening.

Minister Communications says PDM govt starts dissemination of fruits of pro-people policies

FAISALABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Maulana Asad Mehmood said that Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government had not only saved country from default but also started dissemination of fruits of its pro-people policies. Addressing the groundbreaking ceremony of dualization of a road from Faisalabad Bypass to Motorway M-3 via Satiana here on Sunday, he said that PDM had taken responsibility of running coalition government when the country was facing very crucial time as the previous rulers had badly ruined its economy. He said that PDM government under dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif took bold steps in the greater national interest and saved the country from default. He added that Pakistan was making tremendous progress in 2018 when Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran Khan was installed in the country under a calculated move. The ill-conceived policies of Imran Khan's government not only stopped the pace of national development but it also made life an ordinary person very miserable. The installed government used all national resources to promote culture of hate and tried to divide the nation but the people were cognizant and well aware of the nefarious de-

PM vows to eradicate economic woes, poverty, price hike

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday reiterated the resolve to eradicate economic woes, poverty and inflation from the country. On his Twitter handle, the prime minister thanked Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi, who on his request, extended relief to the provincial government employees and pensioners regarding the increase in salaries and pensions and bringing them at par with the federal government employees and pensioners. He also congratulated the Punjab government employees for an increase of 35 percent in salaries and 17.5 percent increase in pensions. By doing it, the prime minister said, the caretaker chief minister earned the prayers of millions of government employees and pensioners in the province.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Central Secretary Information Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) Chaudhry Shabbir meeting with Parliamentary Leader of BAP Nawabzada Khalid Magsi

GoB establishes 1st-ever forest school in Ziarat

QUETTA (APP): The Balochistan government has established the first-ever forest school in Ziarat to educate the youth regarding the preservation of forests in the area. The government has also decided to form a special force and engage the local community to ensure the preservation of the forest, an official of the Balochistan government said. In coordination with the departments concerned, steps would be taken to control the illegal cutting of trees, he remarked. He said an effective action plan would be formulated to curb illegal deforestation. He said these forests play an important role in providing both green.



QUETTA: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Siraj ul Haq addressing the Provincial Electrol Convention of Jamaat-e-Islami Balochistan.

Country needs massive change and revolution: Siraj ul Haq

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Ameer Jama'at-e-Islami (JI) Siraj ul Haq has categorically stated that our country needs a change and revolution, and if the people voted JI to power in next general elections, then it would rid the country of World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF). He said that we want that the dream of change and revolution in the country may be materialized with cooperation of the people. He also declared that if Allah gave us chance to rule the country, we would enforce the system of zakat and Ushr getting rid of the prevailing interest system (soodi nizam). He said that we want that every human being may lead respectable life, have opportunity to get good quality education, get standard health facilities and elderly persons have allowance, and so. The JI Ameer charged all the political parties, whether it is in form of PDM, or other parties including PML-N, PPP and PTI have miserably failed to deliver and resolve the issues of people of the country. These political parties have destroyed all the institutions including those were meant for accountability as well as the educational institutions, agriculture, industries and every thing. These parties are just enjoying the rule, and nothing else as they have nothing to do with the problems of common men. He regretted that the interest rate was increased from 17 percent to over 22 percent in the country right in presence of the PDM chief, Maulana Fazlur Rehman. He said that we had opposed the interest system in banks, and introduced interest-free system once we had come in power in Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa in the past. He asserted that Pakistan and soodi system can't run together. He said that we would have to seek guidance from the Holy Qura'an to steer the country out of prevailing issues and chaos. These and similar other views were expressed by the Ameer JI while addressing the election convention organized by the JI Balochistan here at a local marriage Hall on Sunday.

2-day int'l conference to mark CPEC & BRI-decade celebrations starts today

ISLAMABAD (APP): A two-day international conference on "Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) - From Vision To Reality" will start here on Monday. The conference is being organized by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of China, a news release said. The CPEC being a strategic principal component of the BRI focuses on infrastructure development and socioeconomic cooperation between China and Pakistan, the two all-weather friends. The conference aims to bring together policymakers, scholars, practitioners and other stakeholders to exchange ideas and insights related to economic, social, environmental and geopolitical impacts of the CPEC and BRI. Chinese Charge d'Affaires Pang Chunxue and Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal would be chief guest at the occasion. The conference would explore opportunities for enhanced cooperation, sustainable development and inclusive growth in the subsequent phase of CPEC. During the moot, various sessions would be held in which key policymakers would take a broader overview of the CPEC. However, the panel discussions would take place under key themes by the expert speakers who would present their research findings.

4 of a family killed as landslide hits car in Skardu

SKARDU (INP): Four members of a family lost their lives as landslide hit their car in Skardu on Sunday. The tragic incident took place on Juglot-Skardu Road near Shangus. Police officials said the landslide fell on the car that killed four members of a family.

2 sisters dead as landslide hits house in Swat Valley

SWAT (INP): Two sisters lost their lives after a landslide struck their home in Madyan area of Swat. The natural disaster occurred in Tehsil Bahrain, shaking the entire community and causing profound grief for the affected family. According to the rescue spokesperson, the incident unfolded in the early hours of the morning when a massive landslide descended upon the dwelling of Noor Rahman, a resident of Madyan.

Huge quantity of drugs recovered

Independent Report
PISHIN: Assistant Commissioner Pishin Habib Ahmed Bangulzai, while holding an important press conference at Levis headquarters, said that on the special instructions of Commissioner Quetta Division Sohail ur Rehman Baloch and Deputy Commissioner Dr. Yasir Bazai, Levies force and Law enforcement agencies conducted a joint operation and raided three drug manufacturing factories in Nasuzai and Haiderzai areas of Yarro and recovered a large quantity of narcotic drugs, ice drug, crystal meth and Oman, and were destroyed on the spot, while one accused, Muhammad Ishaq, son of Yar Muhammad, was arrested.

PDMA puts on high alert after light & heavy rains reported in different parts

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and administration of different districts have been put in high alert after light to heavy rains reported from different areas of the province on Sunday. The Director General PDMA, Jahanzeb Khan was moved to Lasba district to personally reviewed the situation as well as the losses caused due to the heavy rain and the relief operation there. Meanwhile, the normal traffic was restored in the Quetta-Karachi and Quetta-Sibi highways, which was suspended due to the heavy rain and flood water affected the highways. The Quetta-Karachi highway was affected at different points at Utjal and Bela. Similarly, Quetta-Sibi highway was affected at Pinjra bridge when the portion of diversion prepared after flash flood and rain last year. Meanwhile, the DG PDMA reviewed the situation of rains and losses caused due to rains in Lasbela and adjoining areas. He also reviewed the rescue and relief operation in the affected area. It was informed that although some villages have been affected due to the rains and flash flood in the district.



QUETTA: Central Secretary General BNP (Awami) Syed Faiz Baloch, Dr. Nashanas Lehri and other addressing a Press conference



WASHUK: Relief goods being distributed by PDMA among affectees of recent rains

BAEF provided Rs2.9b to poor patients for treatment of chronic diseases

QUETTA (APP): Under the initiative of Balochistan Awami Endowment Fund (BAEF), Rs 2.9 billion has been provided to poor patients for the treatment of chronic diseases. Talking to APP, the Coordinator of BAEF, Noorullah said as many as 3000 patients are being treated under the BAEF initiative in the best public and private sector hospitals across the country. As many as 500 more cases would be approved in the 20th board meeting of BAEF to provide financial assistance to poor patients, the Coordinator of BAEF. The next board meeting of the Balochistan Awami Endowment Fund (BAEF) would be held in the first week of August after a period of seven months due to a lack of funds to approve more cases of poor patients. The coordinator said the programme was receiving Rs70 million monthly as seed money but the need of the poor people had gone above Rs500 million. The board meeting of the program could not commence after December last year due to the unavailability of funds to approve more cases of needy patients suffering from different chronic diseases, he added.

PDM-led govt saves country from default: Karim Kundi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Faisal Karim Kundi Sunday said that the PDM-led government had saved the country from default after a successful agreement with IMF besides taking other bold decisions. The lower strata of the society was looking towards PPP leadership as they have all the abilities to take the country out of existing challenges, he said while talking to a Private news channel. The PPP is the only voice for the poor and always worked for students, youth, women, labourers and small growers, he added.

Those who speak against Asif Zardari should look at their past: Zehri

Independent Report
HUB: President of Pakistan People's Party Hub district Mir Ali Hassan Zehri has said that Peoples Party is a reality and Asif Ali Zardari is a big name of Pakistani politics and the soul of Pakistan People's Party. Muhammad Aslam Bhutani Sahib who is talking against him now days is just trying unsuccessfully to support his childish politics, nothing else. Mr. Bhutani used to read the odies of PPP Co-Chairman Mr. Asif Ali Zardari in major events and used to say that "we cannot disagree with Asif Ali Zardari at any cost and he is very kin to us". Proofs of all these things are present in the programs running on social media and various news channels. When Bhutani could not get his interests and all his efforts to join the People's Party failed, now he is talking against the People's Party and Asif Ali Zardari. It is called inconsistency in words and deeds and forgetfulness of kindness. He said that the People's Party is a party of sincere people and there is no room for people who have contradictions in words and deeds and people who forget kindness. He said that MNA should avoid talking against Asif Ali Zardari and stop shining politics with negative tactics.

VC conference prepares roadmap to promote peace at university campuses

ISLAMABAD (APP): The three-days Vice Chancellors' Conference on Peaceful and Tolerant University Campuses was concluded here Sunday with a resolution to undertake collaborative practical steps to promote values of peace, tolerance, harmony, respect for diversity and co-existence at the university campuses through ensuring the effective engagement of students and student-centric approach. The Conference was organized by Community Resilience Activity-North (CRA-North) in collaboration with the Inter-University Consortium (IUCPSS) and other organizations. The Conference pledged full support for various initiatives aimed at promoting peace, inclusivity, harmony and tolerance in the society. It witnessed active participation from over 60 esteemed delegates, including 45 Vice Chancellors and senior representatives representing universities across the country including the Newly Merged Districts of KP, Punjab, Balochistan, Sindh and Islamabad. Under the theme of "Unity through Diversity: Embracing Differences," the Conference addressed critical issues pertaining to campus environments and student interactions. The event emphasized the significance of peaceful coexistence, understanding, and mutual respect among students, faculty, and staff from diverse backgrounds. Distinguished speakers, including renowned educationists and experts, delivered thought-provoking keynote addresses and participated in the panel discussions. They highlighted the importance of creating safe and friendly spaces and promoting dialogue to bridge gaps among individuals with varying perspectives, capacity development of the faculty, updating curriculum on peacebuilding and tolerance, investment in science and technology to produce skilled youth, strengthening the link between the administration and students, development of peace societies, use campus radios for community awareness, and promote academic exchange between the students from newly merged district and rest of the country. The Vice Chancellors from various universities shared their experiences and successful strategies implemented in their respective institutes.

GFZ witnesses another success as new trading centre accomplished

GWADAR (INP): Gwadar Free Zone has witnessed another success as work on setting up new exhibition & trading center has been completed, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Sunday. The project covers an area of about 2,000 square metres. The centre consists of an exhibition hall, business area, meeting rooms, sports area, office, dormitory, etc. It will exhibit Pakistani and Chinese commodities to visitors from home and abroad, noted CCCC-FHDI Engineering CO.,LTD, the project constructor. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). As per the project constructor, the new center - as a comprehensive exhibition and sales center as well as a window for international exchanges in Gwadar in the future - will boost the development of manufacturing, trade and logistics and other industries in Gwadar, further promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and further promote the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in Gwadar.



UTHAL: DG PDMA Jahanzeb Khan being briefed about rain situation in district Lasbela