

Independent

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Gwadar

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QUETTA: Shaban Khatme Nabuwat holding protest against desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden

PM, COAS vow to address food insecurity, boost agri exports

Govt launches Land Information and Management System – Centre of Excellence – to transform unproductive land

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's civil and military leaders joined hands on Friday to tackle the pressing issues of food insecurity, malnutrition, and soaring import costs in the agriculture sector. Inauguration Ceremony of Land Information and Management System – Centre of Excellence (LIMS – COE) was graced by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as a chief guest here on Friday. Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir

was also present on the occasion. The ceremony was also attended by Ministers of Finance, Defence, Planning Development & Special Initiative, National Food Security & Research, Information, Chief Secretaries of Provincial Governments, agricultural experts and Senior Army Officials. According to the World Food Programme, 36.9 % of Pakistanis are food insecure and 18.3% of these are facing severe food crisis. Cognizant of the prevailing food insecurity, mass malnutrition and widening import bill of agri related products vis-à-vis projected population growth and future domestic food needs, the National political, economic and military leadership has decided to undertake the decisive and meaningful steps to address this critical issue. Establishment of LIMS is the first exceptional initiative, aimed at enhancing food security and improving agri exports thus reducing import burden on national exchequer by transforming millions of acres of uncultivated and low yield land within the country. This state-of-the-art system will help optimize the agricultural production through innovative technologies and sustainable precision agricultural practices based on agro-ecological potential of land, while ensuring well being of rural communities and preservation of environment.

Youm-e-Taqaddus-e-Quran observed, Azmat-e-Qura'an conference held in Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: Youm-e-Taqaddus-e-Quran was observed with due respect and enthusiasm in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan on Friday. The peaceful rallies were taken out and demonstrations staged marking the Youm-e-Taqdees-e-Qura'an in the provincial metropolis and different other districts. Call for peaceful observance of the day was given by the Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif.

A big rally was taken out by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Balochistan to mark the

Youm-e-Taqdees-e-Quran'an from near Darbar marriage Hall to the Quetta Metropolitan Corporation. The rally was led by the provincial and Quetta district leaders of PML-N including Chaudhary Naem Karim and others. They were carrying the banners and placards inscribed with the slogans condemning the desecration of Holy Qura'an in Sweden.

Moreover, the conferences were also held and rallies were taken out to strongly condemn the desecration of Holy Qura'an. A similar Azmat-e-Qura'an conference was held under the auspices of

Aalmi Majlis Tahfuz Khatme Nabuwat (AMTKN) Balochistan at the Jamia Masjid Qandhari.

The leaders of AMTKN including Maulana Ahmed Khan and others participated. The rallies were taken out by the Sunni Ulema Council, Awami League and other organizations in the Quetta city.

The participants of all the events condemned the incident of desecration of the Holy book in strongest words. They demanded expulsion of the Swedish ambassador from Pakistan. They also urged the people to boycott the Swedish products.

Governor Balochistan Political leaders encourage people to fight against oppression, exploitation

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has exported all the authoritative people, ruling elite and the political leaders to wage joint struggle for attaining national interests by diverting their direction towards the real public service and setting aside their personal interests.

He strongly believed that we can overcome our issues and hardships by utilizing our resources.

The Governor was speaking to a delegation who called on him under leadership of former Federal Secretary, Sardar Ejaz Ahmed Khan Jaffar here at the Governor House on Friday morning.

The Governor said that real public politics is a sacred duty based on the real public service. The political leaders give courage to their people to fight against the cruelty and exploitation instead of frightening them. He said that we can make it possible to achieve the national goals by upholding the high human values, political ideologies and our behaviors.

The Governor stressed that if we focus on securing rights of the people and make them center of our policies and development projects, then marked improvement can be brought about in the society.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir and others in a group photo during inauguration ceremony of Land Information and Management System – Centre of Excellence (LIMS – COE)

People should register their vote for general election by 13 July: PEC

QUETTA (APP): Provincial Election Commissioner Balochistan Sharifullah on Friday said that only seven days were left for correction of voting in general elections 2023.

He said that registration and validation of vote would be done by July 13, 2023. Your vote is not just your voice but your power, register your power and use it in elections, he said.

He said that the people's ID card number would be sent to the Election Commission in a message to 8300 and the people would be given immediate information. If the details of the vote were not correct or the vote was not registered, the people should immediately approach to the concerned District Election Commissioner's office and get their vote registered or get corrected details of their vote, he mentioned.

No whereabouts of missing mountaineer yet

QUETTA: All out efforts are being made to find the mountaineer gone missing three days ago in the mountains of Quetta.

However, whereabouts of the missing young mountaineer could not be known yet, stated the sources of Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan.

Chief Minister fully believed in freedom of media: Gichki

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has issued clear directives to resolve the issues being faced by the journalists which include the early implementation on the project of establishment of residential colony for them, making the media academy operational and provision of furniture, annual grant and

other necessary facilities for it. In addition to this, the Chief Minister has also directed to provide maximum facilities to the media person. These are included the increase in the seed money for the journalists welfare fund and annual grant of the Quetta Press Club and release of grant-in-aid for the press clubs of other districts of the province.

Local body elections in Balochistan, PTI wiped out

QUETTA (Online): The last phase of local body elections in Balochistan has been completed successfully.

PTI has been wiped out. PTI could not win in a single district in entire Balochistan.

People of Balochistan have rejected PTI in the province. No district Chairman and vice chairman of PTI was elected anywhere in 35 districts.

Balochistan Awaami

party got 10 seats of Chairman and 9 seats of vice chairman.

PPP got 6 seats of Chairman and 4 seats of vice chairman.

JUI (F) got 4 seats of chairman and 4 seats of vice chairman. Polling continued from 8am to 5pm.

Election Commission (EC) had established a control room in the office of the regional Election Commissioner.

The security situation in the province remained satisfactory.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial administering the oath to Justice Supreme Court judge of the Ms. Justice Musarrat Hilali, Chief Justice Peshawar High Court as Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan

Naveed Qamar, PPP finance team hold meeting with IMF country representative

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar on Friday held crucial meeting with Ester Perez Luis, the country representative of International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In a significant development for Pakistan's economic landscape, Ester Perez Luis, the International Monetary Fund's resident representative, met with the finance team of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), including Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Commerce, and Saleem Mandvivala.

The meeting, held at minister's enclave, was aimed at discussing the possibility of a standby agreement with Pakistan, which would have a profound impact on the nation's financial stability,

said a press release issued by Ministry of Commerce. The PPP team expressed its willingness to support the IMF programme, citing larger national interests as the driving force behind their decision.

Syed Naveed Qamar, representing the PPP finance team, acknowledged the significance of the standby agreement in addressing Pakistan's economic concerns. He reiterated the PPP's commitment to working in harmony with the IMF to ensure the successful implementation of the programme.

The discussion between the IMF representative and the PPP finance team is seen as a positive step towards economic reform and stability in the country.



QUETTA: A delegation led by central leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Sardar Yaqoob Nassar meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Justice Musarrat Hilali takes oath as judge of SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Musarrat Hilali took oaths as second woman judge of Supreme Court (SC) on Friday.

Oath taking ceremony was held in SC and Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial administered oath to Ms Hilali. The ceremony was attended by senior judges, Attorney General (AG) and lawyers.

Justice Musarrat Hilali will serve as SC judge for three years.

First Hajj flight to land Quetta on 9th July

QUETTA (APP): The first return flight from Jeddah carrying pilgrims will land in Quetta Airport at 8:55 am on July 9, 2023, Pakistan International Airline Balochistan sources said on Friday.

General Manager PIA Balochistan Abdul Ghafar Miankhalil will receive the pilgrims upon their return at Quetta Airport, they added.

PIA officials have requested media to cover the post hajj operation that will begin on July 9, 2023.

Resolution of journalists' problems topmost priority of present government: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Friday that the government fully believed in freedom of the press and addressing the problems of journalists was the topmost priority of the government.

This she said during a meeting with a delegation of journalists led by Abbottabad Press Club President Raja Haroon and Secretary General Raja Munir.

Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs

Senior journalists meet Principal Secretary

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has issued clear directives to resolve the issues being faced by the journalists which include the early implementation on the project of establishment of residential colony for them, making the media academy operational and provision of furniture, annual grant and

other necessary facilities for it. In addition to this, the Chief Minister has also directed to provide maximum facilities to the media person. These are included the increase in the seed money for the journalists welfare fund and annual grant of the Quetta Press Club and release of grant-in-aid for the press clubs of other districts of the province.



QUETTA: A delegation of the senior journalists meeting with Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Imran Gichki

PM phone calls OIC SG on desecration of Quran, Islamophobia

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a telephone conversation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), H.E. Houssein Ibrahim Tahoun Friday and discussed desecration of Holy Quran.

Prime Minister conveyed Pakistan's strong condemnation of willful and provocative incidents of public burning of the Holy Quran which hurts Muslims sentiments worldwide.

He stressed that vilification of religion, revered religious personalities, Holy Scriptures and symbols could not be condoned on the self-serving pretext of freedom of expression and protest.

The Prime Minister appreciated the OIC Secretary-General's role in articulating Muslim Ummah's concerns and demands about these Islamophobic trends and incidents.

He emphasized that as the collective voice of the Islamic world, the OIC must chalk out a coordinated and comprehensive strategy, aimed at raising global awareness about its perspective and building legal and political deterrence against rising incidents of anti-Muslim hatred and Islamophobia.

34th edition of National Games celebrated: Successful holding of National Games built positive image of Pakistan & Balochistan: CS

QUETTA: The successful holding of 34th edition of National Games was celebrated at a simple, but an impressive ceremony here in Quetta on Friday.

The ceremony was held with Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili in the chair at the Sikandar Jamali Auditorium located in the Civil Secretariat.

The services of all those contributed in successful holding of the mega national event in Balochistan were acknowledged and appreciated much at the ceremony.

Prominent among those attended the ceremony were the Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, DIG Police Quetta, Ghulam Azfar Mahesar, Secretary Sports, Muhammad Ishaq Jamali,

Director General Sports, Durra Baloch, administrative secretaries of different provincial government departments, sports officials, representatives of the sports associations besides other concerned.

Addressing the ceremony, the Chief Secretary paid tributes to all the stakeholders especially police and sports officials for successfully conducting the mega sports event.

He said that there was an excellent coordination between the law enforcement agencies for making the event successful. In addition to this, the manner Sports and Communication and Works departments performed was also really commendable. With their cooperation and hard, the long mega event was held successfully, he commended.

PM directs for steps to curb smuggling of tyres, spare parts

Assures to extend facilitation to Chinese investors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the authorities concerned for the early formulation of a comprehensive policy to do away with the smuggling of tyres and spare parts.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of Service Long March Tyres and Chaoyang Long March Tyres led by their Chairman Li Qingwen, also instructed the relevant authorities to take effective measures to curb the smuggling of tyres.

He told the delegation that being a time-tested

friend, China always supported Pakistan like a brother in every hour of need.

He also assured the delegation that the government would extend all possible support to the Chinese investors to facilitate their investment in Pakistan.

The prime minister appreciated the delegation for their company's investment through Pakistan's renowned tyre manufacturing company.

The prime minister was told that tyres being manufactured by Chinese

investment were also being exported to the international market.

It was told that within a short span of a year, the company's tyres have created their space in the world markets.

The prime minister was told that the company would enhance tyres manufacturing to boost its exports to \$200 million annually.

The prime minister instructed the authorities to extend all-out support to the Chinese investors to uplift the tyre industry in Pakistan.

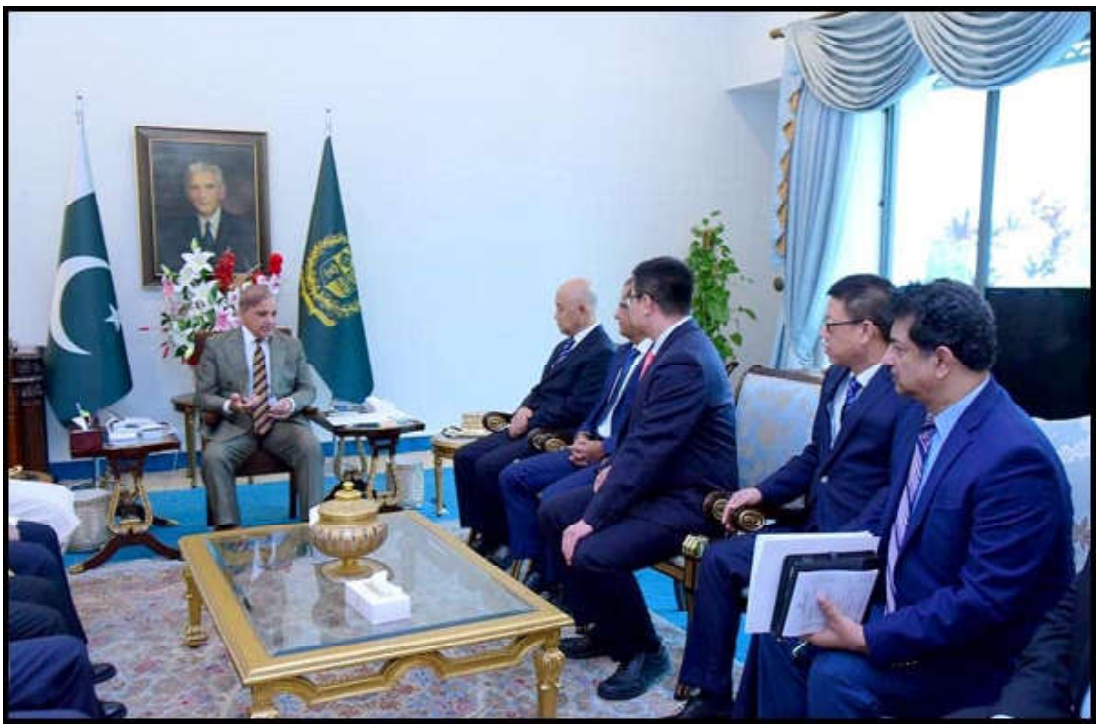
Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Pasha

and other relevant officers attended the meeting.

Online add: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has assured to extend every possible facilitation to the Chinese investors for investment in Pakistan.

He made the remarks while talking to a delegation of Service Long March Tyres and Chaoyang Long March Tyres led by Chairman Li Qingwen in Islamabad.

Shehbaz Sharif said China has also supported Pakistan in difficult times. He said China is a longstanding friend of Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Service Long March Tyres and Chaoyang Long March Tyres led by their Chairman Mr Li Qingwen calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.



MULTAN: Governor Punjab Engr. Muhammad Baligh Ur-Rehman cutting the ribbon to inaugurate three days of "Mango Festival 2023" at DHAA Arena Hall.

Wafaqi Mohtasib mediates to ensure payment of Rs 5m as wages to MEPCO labourers

Independent Report
MULAN: More than 100 daily wage labourers working in the Multan Electric Supply Company (MEPCO) were provided five months salary by their contractor duo to the timely intervention and mediation of Mr. Muhammad Zahid Senior Investigation Officer (IRD) of Wafaqi Mohtasib Office, Multan.

Mr. Muhammad Zeeshan a daily wage labourer along with 33 others lodged complaint against "Ali Azam Enterprises", a contractor of MEPCO, wherein they claimed that the said contractor had failed in paying their daily wages for the last five months and they were living miserably.

The complaint was processed under Informal Resolution of Disputes (IRD) through mediation and conciliation between the representative of MEPCO and the contractor, Mr Riaz Ahmad, under Wafaqi

Mohtasib IRD Mechanism.

The said contractor admitted the fact about non-payment of wages and undertook that payment of wages to all the laborers of D.G Khan, Kot Chutta and Rajanpur MEPCO Division would be made till June, 26th, 2023.

On 27th June, the representative of "Ali Azam Enterprises" appraised the Wafaqi Mohtasib Office that pending wages of more than 100 labourers amounting to Rs Five million has been paid and their rightful grievance have been redressed through mediation and conciliation.

Mr. Zeeshan, the representative of the complainants also endorsed version of the agency to the extent that their wages have been paid before Eid-ul-Azha and extended gratitude to the Ombudsman office for redressal of their grievances.

Companies fail to distribute electricity, waste 1237k units daily

ISLAMABAD (Online): Reason behind unannounced electricity load shedding disclosed as distribution companies failure in distribution and waste of 1237000 units of electricity on daily basis.

It has been revealed that electricity distribution companies are failed and due to technical error electricity of 30 million is wasting on daily basis.

Source told that daily consumers are burdened 900 million without even consuming electricity.

FESCO cannot use 176 Mega Watt (MW) daily due to maintenance work daily. GEPCO fails to use 232 MW due to technical error. PESCO also fails to use 134MW due to overloading and faults. SEPCO cannot use 140MW due to electricity theft and line losses. MEPCO don not use 225MW. HESCO fails in using 114 MW due to theft, faults and overloading. KESCO fails in using 193 MW electricity.

Pak-Korea program on certified seed system to yield 160,000 tons of seed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Project Steering Committee of Korea Program on International Agriculture (KOPIA) Pakistan Center was informed on Friday that "Pakistan-Korea Joint Program on Certified Seed Potato Production System" is set to yield an impressive production of 160,000 tons of certified seed potatoes.

The meeting was held with Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali in the chair and discussed collaborative efforts in various research projects, focusing on the development of technologies for potato seed, chilli, and fodder crop production. This meeting was also attended by Korean scientists, representatives from the

Korean Embassy, Ministry of National Food Security and Research, universities and senior officials of allied departments, said a press release. These initiatives are being implemented through the joint efforts of PARC and the KOPIA and the successful outcomes of these projects are anticipated to significantly enhance both the quantity and quality of these crops.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Ali lauded the invaluable cooperation extended by the Government of Korea in this regard and emphasized the potential extension of this cooperation to the livestock sector and the application of sex semen technology. He assured the Korean counterparts of PARC's commitment to maintaining close collaboration and acknowledged the people.



QUETTA: Vendor sells mosquitoes net to earn his livelihood for support his family during hot day of summer season at a roadside stall located on Zarghoon road in Quetta

Ahsan Iqbal inaugurates 200kv solar PV system

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Prof Ahsan Iqbal on Friday inaugurated the installation of a 200kv solar PV system at the ministry to promote environment-friendly electricity.

The ceremony was held at the Ministry's auditorium which was attended by the Secretary, Ministry of Planning Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Additional Secretary (AS) and officials of the ministry, said a press release issued here.

Speaking at the occasion, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal said, "The provision of affordable, reliable and clean energy has always remained a priority of the government."

"Pillar IV of Vision 2025 outlines the approach

towards achieving energy, water, and food security," the minister said.

"The recent 5E framework provides a short to medium-term strategy to achieve economic growth, social development, and environmental sustainability in the coming years," he remarked.

"The recently launched 5Es framework and energy is one of the important E, he highlighted.

"Plan House will be established soon."

He said, "This generation will also reduce the annual energy bill for the Ministry from Rs 26.746m per annum to Rs 14.09m resulting in annual savings of Rs 12.66m. At the existing prices, the project is expected to recover its capital cost within four years."

Sindh Bank selects PTCL to implement cutting edge SD-WAN Infrastructure

Independent Report
KARACHI: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) and Sindh Bank have signed an agreement for deployment of SD-WAN at 200 branches of Sindh Bank.

Karachi. The ceremony was witnessed by Hatem Bamatraf, President and Group CEO PTCL, Imran Samad President & CEO Sindh Bank and their teams.

PTCL is providing Sindh Bank with its state-of-the-art infrastructure

agreement with Sindh Bank, emphasizing PTCL Group's commitment to assisting the bank in meeting its digital connectivity requirements. As a national carrier, PTCL is at the forefront of driving digitalization throughout



Zarrar Hasham Khan, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G and Syed Ata Hussain Jaffri, EVP Head of IT, Sindh Bank, signed the agreement at a ceremony recently held at Sindh Bank Head Office in

Govt taking concrete steps to stabilize country's economy: Governor

MULTAN (APP): Punjab Governor Engineer Baligh ur Rehman Friday said that the incumbent government was taking concrete and immediate steps to stabilize Pakistan's economy as country had come out of the economic crisis to a great extent.

He expressed these view while inaugurating the three-day Mango Festival organized here by Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Agricultural University, DHA Multan and Mango Research Institute.

The governor said that the honest and hardworking leadership was working round the clock to get the country out of the problems, adding that everyone had to play his due role for developing the country.

Baligh ur Rehman said that those who spread hatred caused irreparable damage to the country, today even the monuments of the martyrs were not preserved.

He said that the nation had to end hatred and promote love in the society, adding that a lot of work had been done in

education sector in the province as new universities had been established in South Punjab and the research on crops was being made in the universities.

The governor pointed out that in 2018, the country was going to become the 24th largest economy in the world but it moved to 44th economy in 2022.

The country's leadership was striving hard to get it out of troubles, he said, adding that the stock exchange had been improved after the agreement with the IMF as the dollar was now heading towards a decline.

The governor said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif took crucial steps for the development of the agricultural sector as wheat crop's production had increased this year.

He said that the incumbent government had fixed the support price of wheat on time which benefited the farmers.

Baligh Ur Rehman said that the agriculture sector of South Punjab

Gold prices up by Rs 600

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 600 and was sold at Rs 208,400 on Friday against its sale at Rs 207,800 the previous day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 515 to Rs 178,670 from Rs 178,155 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs 163,780 from Rs 163,309, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten-gram silver remained constant at Rs 2480 and Rs 2,126.20 respectively.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships named, Seaspan Beacon, Singapore, and Atrotos Heracle Containers carrying Canola and Palm oil, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Grain & Fertilizer Terminal, and Liquid Cargo Terminal respectively.

Meanwhile, two more ships, Kition-M and Perth-I with Mogas and Coal also arrived at the outer anchorage of the Port Qasim on Friday.

SBP says: Financial system exhibit resilient performance with 18.3% growth in asset base

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), on Friday said that financial sector had shown resilience against internal and external headwinds and posted steady performance as the financial sector's asset base grew by 18.3 percent in Calendar year 2022.

The banking sector witnessed 19.1% growth in its assets mainly driven by investments while the credit risk remained contained as gross NPLs ratio lowered to 7.3 percent by end CY22.

The observations were made in Financial Stability Review (FSR) for CY22, the annual flagship publication of the central bank published under

Section 39(3) of the SBP Act 1956, said a statement issued here.

The review presents the performance and risk assessment of various segments of the financial sector including banks, non-bank financial institutions, financial markets, financial market infrastructures and non-financial corporates.

The FSR for CY22 noted that Pakistan's economy experienced a turbulent year as the existing economic imbalances were compounded by the unfavourable external environment.

The review termed the twin deficits, high inflation, catastrophic flooding, and

FPCCI, business bodies welcome direct link with Kazakhstan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and other business bodies on Friday welcomed commencing of direct air link between Pakistan and Kazakhstan on Saturday as it would help enhance bilateral economic cooperation.

It would prove to be a miles tone in forging mutual business and economic integration with Kazakhstan and other Central Asian states, FPCCI President Irfan Iqbal Malik said while talking to APP.

He said the direct flights would increase the possibilities of economic cooperation between the two countries. Two flights in a week from Almaty, the industrial hub of Kazakhstan, to Lahore, would help enhance

economic activities.

Irfan Malik said Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yezan Kistafin, deserved appreciation for playing an important role in the launch of a direct air link between the two brotherly countries.

Karachi Chamber of Commerce (KCCI) President Muhammad Tariq Yousaf said with the start of direct flights, the economic relations between the two countries would improve further.

He said the business community of Karachi considered that the step would have positive impact on trade relations with Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Kashif Anwar said Kazakhstan was an important country.



LAHORE: A wood worker given the final touches and polishes on a clothes hanger stand at Shahdara Furniture Market.

Weekly inflation up by 0.70 pc

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.70 per cent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on July 06, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 257.79 points as compared to 256.00 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 28.55 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 1.08 per cent and went up to 265.88 points from last week's 263.03 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 1.02 per cent, 0.91 per cent, 0.83 per cent and 0.51 per cent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 24 (47.06%) items increased, 10 (19.61%) items decreased and 17 (33.33%) items remained stable.

The items, which recorded a decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week (WoW), included bananas (7.51%), chicken (2.80%), eggs (1.17%).

Marriyum says: Young people shining stars of successful Youth Program of PML-N

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Friday that several young people had become shining stars of the success of the Youth Programme of PML-N. Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif.

In a tweet sharing a video clip of an icon of the programme, she said this was not only the success story of the enviable and proud Muhammad Mohsin Ali, but also an excellent example of success of the inspiring vision and thinking of bringing change in the lives of the youth and society through education.

This capable and hardworking young man Mohsin Ali of Mian Rahima village of Hafizabad, who won five gold medals, has explained the secret of success of Pakistan's youth.

The minister said as Chief Minister of Punjab, Shehbaz Sharif mentored hundreds of intelligent but poor young boys and girls like Mohsin Ali. "Shehbaz Sharif encouraged and patronized them by giving educational scholarships and opportunities to pursue higher education abroad", said Marriyum Aurangzeb. The minister said these young people were witnessing the success of the vision of Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif. She said today Mohsin Ali presently had been serving as a lecturer in the same MAO College, Lahore near which he was earning livelihood for his family by working on a "Tandoor".



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging view with Inspector General Islamabad Akbar Nasir Khan at Naval Headquarters.

ICCPO meets CNS at Naval Headquarters

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan met Chief of Pakistan Navy Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi, at Naval Headquarters Islamabad, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, ICCPO and Chief of Naval Staff held discussions on professional matters and the law and order situation in the federal capital and exchanged valuable insights on important matters.

During the productive meeting, ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan and Chief of Pakistan Navy Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi engaged in a comprehensive discussion regarding the law and order situation.

Chief of Pakistan Navy Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi expressed his appreciation for the relentless commitment demonstrated by the Islamabad Capital Police in upholding law and order and he commended the police force for their unwavering dedication and proactive approach in ensuring the safety and security of the federal capital.

During the meeting it was also decided to further improve intelligence sharing between the Islamabad Capital Police and the Pakistan Navy to make the security of Islamabad more effective.



QUETTA: A delegation led by former Federal Secretary Sardar Ijaz Ahmed Jaffar meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Ejaz Sanjrani says Desecration of Holy Quran intolerable, condemn heinous act

QUETTA (APP): Coordinator to Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ejaz Sanjrani on Friday said that the Sweden incident had hurt and insulted Muslims all over the world.

He expressed strong reaction to the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden and said that such extremist and criminal acts had hurt the religious and spiritual feelings of the Muslim Ummah. The incident appears to be part of a plan to create conflict and chaos aimed to sabotage the efforts for global peace, he said and added that the Muslim Ummah and the people of Pakistan strongly condemned this heinous act.

Desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden conspiracy against Muslims: Vicky

Independent Report
QUETTA: The member of the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Vicky Manzoor Friday strongly condemned the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden in a protest here to mark their resentment against the tragic incident.

He said that the Christen community demanded from the UN to take immediate action against the culprits.

He said that desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden was conspiracy against Muslims living across the world.

Vicky said that unfortunately this was not the first incident, such heart-breaking incidents had already been reported earlier.

He said that the Charter of the United Nations advocated the respect and observance of human and fundamental rights without discrimination of race, sex, language or religion. "The right to freedom of expression must be exercised with responsibility," he demanded.



QUETTA: A protest demonstration being held by Balochistan Hindu Council and Hindu Panchayat Quetta against desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi chairing a meeting regarding the framework for the classification of disabilities, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Launches 'Benazir Social Protection Account' Pakistan will soon stand on its feet, says PM Shahbaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday launched the "Benazir Social Protection Account" under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) here along with Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (PA&SS) and BISP Chairpersons on Shazia Marri.

Addressing the ceremony, the prime minister directed the BISP authorities to place a condition for the Programme beneficiaries to get their children enrolled in schools to promote the education culture in the country.

It must be ensured that after a certain period the beneficiaries would get stipends only in case their children were attending schools, he reaffirmed.

The government, he said, should not go for promoting the 'flocks of beggars' in anyway, rather it must promote the ones who were 'doers' in the real sense, with both mental and physical capacity to build Pakistan.

The time would come soon when the country would be standing on its own feet and generating resources itself, he added.

The launch ceremony was attended by Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation Faisal Kareem Kundi, members of diplomatic community and BISP beneficiaries.

Briefing about the salient features of the Account, Shazia Marri said

under the new system, beneficiary women would have the option to select the bank of their choice, and they would receive the payments directly in their accounts which they could withdraw at their convenience.

Four banks namely National Bank of Pakistan, Bank Alfalah, JS Bank Limited and United Bank Limited had been initially selected through a competitive process for the new payment model, she added.

CPEC to promote growth, social prosperity: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning and Development Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said that the government was promoting China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project (CPEC) to attain sustainable economic growth and social prosperity as envisaged by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in the country.

Addressing a seminar on CPEC, organized by the Bahria University Islamabad, the minister said that CPEC was a mega-development project, which included developmental projects related to basic infrastructure, energy generation, Gwadar Port development and industrial cooperation.

The minister said that the project which was started 10 years ago on July 5, 2013 which provided employment opportunities to millions of people across the country, besides speeding up the pace of development in various sectors of national economy.

The CPEC has made significant progress due to the vision of the leadership of the Chinese President Xi Jinping, he said adding that Gwadar, energy, infrastructure and industrial development projects were agreed upon during the visit of the Chinese President.

He said that 11 working groups were established in the context of CPEC projects, adding that there were key achievements in the construction and development of Gwadar port, adding that the port was fully functional, Gwadar airport, hospital, sea water potable plant and other projects have also been built.

The minister said that the projects which were completed under CPEC were contributing in economic development and employment creation and played a key role in improving the lives of the people. He said that the One Belt One Road initiative promoted economic and maritime cooperation in the world.

The first memorandum of cooperation of CPEC was signed on July 5, 2013, which was the story of Pakistan's development, he said adding that the previous government threw away this opportunity for development.

Ahsan Iqbal said that Pakistan had made a revolution in industrial development in the 60s, but later geographical and social inequality hindered the phase of development.



Federal Minister for Planning and Development Prof Ahsan Iqbal addressing the seminar on "CPEC- The Road to Prosperity and Growth Amidst Challenges" in Islamabad.

PM announces aid of Rs 1m each for kids' families killed in Shingla landslide

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday announced financial assistance of Rs 1 million each for the families of eight children who were buried alive in a landslide in the Martung Tehsil of Shingla.

The ones who sustained injuries in the incident would also be provided with financial support from the prime minister, according to a PM Office statement.

The prime minister announced the financial assistance at the request of his Advisor and President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter Engineer Amir Muqam who had written a letter to him appealing for support to the families of the deceased and the injured people.

Quarantine certificates issuance delay puts export of mangoes in jeopardy

QUETTA (APP): The export of mangoes to the neighboring countries through land route has been in a great jeopardy as Plant Protection Department is allegedly using delaying tactics in issuance of quarantine certificate to the exporters, Fruit and Vegetable Import Exporter Association said.

In order to get immediate relief and amicable solution to the issue, Balochistan exporters resorted to the Federal Ombudsman against the non-issuance of quarantine certificate, said Taj Mohammad Barich, President of Fruit and Vegetable Import Exporter Association.

tion Balochistan during a meeting of his delegation with Associate Advisor Regional Head of the Federal Ombudsman, Mir Ghulam Sarwar Brohi in his office here Friday. Taj Mohammad Barich told that the importers and exporters of Balochistan export fruits and vegetables to the neighbouring country of Iran. "The mango season is going on, but an official of the Plant Protection Department, Karachi held the entire department hostage. Quarantine certificate is not being issued to the importers and exporters of Balochistan causing massive loss to the traders of Iran and Pakistan."

People rejected JUI in local bodies election in Ziarat: Dummar

Independent Report
QUETTA: The senior Provincial Minister Noor Muhammad Dummar has stated that the people of Ziarat district have rejected the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam in the local bodies elections.

In a statement on Friday, Noor Muhammad Dummar said that the Jamiat faced failure in the local bodies election in Ziarat district as it has no public support.

He said that the people of the district tested the religious party time and again and made it success in the previous elections, but it didn't honour their support. The senior Minister claimed that Jamiat has not been enjoying the public support and power, so it has been rejected by them at every platform. While on the other hand, we have served the people round the clock and provided jobs to the unemployed youth, Mr. Dummar claimed further.

He said that the newly elected chairman and vice chairman of Ziarat district council would work on priority basis to resolve the public issues.



TORKHAM: First Russian Truck under Pak-Russia Road Trade Agreement reaches Torkham.

Prime Minister's Empowered Youth Program: 3,000 internship allocated in various depts. for youth of Balochistan, maintains CS

Independent Report
QUETTA: The provincial government is taking steps to provide employments to youngsters of the province. In this regard, 3,000 out of total 8,000 internships have been allocated for youth of the province. These internships would be offered to them in different departments. In addition to this, scholarships have also been increased from 1,000 to 3,000 by the Google through which they may earn their own livelihood.

These views were expressed by the Chief Secretary while presiding over the meeting of secretaries committee here on Friday.

The Secretary Law, Abdul Saboor Kakar, Secretary prosecution, Ghulam Ali Baloch, Secretary Finance, Zahid Saleem and other secretaries participated in the meeting. The Commissioners and deputy Commissioners participated in the meeting through video link.

The matters pertaining to the development projects, PSDP, federal development projects, payment of the QESCO bills and bids of the official vehicles came for threadbare discussion.

It was informed to the meeting, all borders have been sealed for prevention of the wheat, which has resulted in reduction of the prices of wheat and flour as compared to other provinces.

The Chief Secretary directed all administrative officers to take steps for conservation of the electricity and gas by implementing the national conservation initiatives by the federal government.

He particularly mentioned that the federal government has launched internship empowered youth programme for the students of Balochistan, and so far some 4,000 youth have submitted applications for the programme. He asked the youth belonging to remote areas to fully benefit from the programme and get them registered at www.bnip.gov.pk.

Similarly, he told that 961 students have so far joined the programme for scholarship offered by Google.



ISLAMABAD: Ester Perez Luis, the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) resident representative, calls on the finance team of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), including Syed Naveed Qamar, the Federal Minister for Commerce, and Senator Saleem Mandviwala.

Samina Zehri says: Country needs national unity & harmony

Independent Report
QUETTA: Central Vice President Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri on Friday said that the enemy was after the integrity and peace of Pakistan and the recent incidents of terrorism were a link to the same nefarious plans of the enemies.

All Pakistanis should unite together for the country and would fully support to Pakistan Army, security agencies to root out terrorism, she said in a statement adding that Pakistan needed national unity at this time, not riots.

Pakistan needs peace and security, not chaos and unrest. Pakistan cannot afford any political chaos and unrest.

Those who want to push Pakistan towards corruption are hostile to Pakistan and Islam.

To protect the security and stability of Pakistan, the whole nation has to work together for the integrity and survival of Pakistan and for this we will not hesitate to make any sacrifice and it will destroy the nefarious intentions of the enemies forever, she said.

She said that Pakistan was in dire need of political and economic stability at this time and, for this, all political elites should respect each other while avoiding intolerance and extremism and should not take any steps that would strengthen the tactics of the enemies.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said that political disagreement was everyone's right, but it was not acceptable to go so far in political opposition and throw mud on the opponent's personal life and family by putting aside moral values.



QUETTA: Activists of Suni Ulema Council hold protest out Quetta Press Club.