

Independent

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Hub

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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 - Center 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.

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.

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



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 - Center of Excellence (LIMS - COE)



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

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

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

Senior journalists meet Principal Secretary Chief Minister fully believed in freedom of media: Gichki

Independent Report
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 of 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



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

Justice Musarrat Hilali takes oath as judge of SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Musarrat Hilali took oath 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. The total number of SC judges now has reached 16 with the induction of Justice Musarrat Hilali. Parliamentary committee for appointment of judges had approved induction of Justice Musarrat Hilali as SC judge.

No whereabouts of missing mountaineer yet

Independent Report
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. It may be mentioned here that the young mountaineer namely Mehmoodul Hasan had gone missing during mountaineering on Monday last. He was disappeared in the mountainous range of Mehrdad, Killa Ibrahim Mehmoodabad where he went for mountaineering. The DG PDMA Jahanzaib Khan personally supervised the search operation for the young mountaineer, but still the efforts were proved futile till now going to the press. The PDMA rescue team along with some volunteers remained engaged on second consecutive day i.e., Friday to find the missing mountaineer.

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 Mandviwala. 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

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. He said that it should be noted that this was the last chance for vote registration and data accuracy before the general elections. This should be done in time to ensure getting the right to vote, he added.

PM phone calls OIC SG on desecration of Quran, Islamophobia

ISLAMABAD (Online): 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. While welcoming the convening of an urgent debate at the Geneva-based Human Rights Council on the issue, the Prime Minister further underscored that the OIC must raise the issue with the UN Secretary-General and at other relevant forums and bodies within the UN system. The OIC Secretary-General echoed Pakistan's condemnation and concerns about the despicable incidents of the public desecration of the Holy Quran. He reaffirmed OIC's firm commitment to tackle the contemporary scourge of Islamophobia. The Secretary General lauded Pakistan's leading role in OIC deliberations in general and on this issue in particular. He emphasized that as the collective voice of the



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

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

Independent Report
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 Ugailli 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 acknowl-

edged 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.

Saturday July 08, 2023

Jenin incursion

Another day, another massacre. This is the violent reality that perpetually confronts the Palestinian people. While the Israeli war machine usually reserves its barbaric wrath for the impoverished coastal enclave of Gaza, this time it was the West Bank city of Jenin that was subjected to state-sponsored violence. Trouble had been brewing since last month, when Tel Aviv had dispatched helicopter gunships to the West Bank in a brazen escalation of tensions. But on Monday, the Israelis launched a brutal two-day assault targeting the Jenin refugee camp, ostensibly to hunt down Palestinian fighters. What ensued is typical of the one-sided violence that has marked this decades-old conflict, with Arab civilians facing the unrestrained cruelty of Israel's military. Perhaps it should be a relief that 'only' 12 Palestinians were killed — including several children — as over 1,000 Israeli troops descended upon Jenin. Hundreds of homes have been damaged or destroyed, while Jenin's infrastructure, including water, electricity and sewerage networks, lies in ruins. According to the UN, intentional attacks directed at civilians not taking part in hostilities come under the ambit of war crimes. Unfortunately, the UN's human rights chief issued a tepid statement, meekly urging Israel to "minimise" the use of lethal force. Washington's reaction to the blitz was expected, with a spokesperson defending Tel Aviv's "right to defend its people". Clearly, for those who trumpet the sanctity of the international 'rules-based order', there are different rules for different situations. When geopolitical enemies indulge in atrocities, there are howls of protest and sanctimonious calls to sanction and punish the perpetrators. But when friends, such as Israel, butcher civilians and flatten residential areas, the 'right' of these comrades to defend themselves is underscored.

Israel is mistaken if it thinks such brutal actions will dim the Palestinian spirit of resistance. In fact, each time Tel Aviv strikes, Arab fighters vow to strike back, and often deliver on their promises, thus perpetuating the circle of violence. The two-state solution, or whatever remains of it, has little chance of success when the Israeli establishment considers Palestinians as subhuman, worthy of extermination and collective punishment. Shockingly, Israel's extremist national security minister was quoted as saying recently that 'terrorists' (his ugly euphemism for Palestinians) must be 'eliminated' "if necessary even [in the] thousands". This ominous threat sounds like a plan for a mass anti-Arab pogrom. The international community apparently lost interest in a viable Palestinian state a long time ago. Yet, can those with a conscience globally at least speak up for the Palestinians' right to life and dignity? To be recognised as human beings and not be subjected to wanton Israeli violence? Or will Palestinian civilians continue to be endlessly killed and maimed in Israel's elusive quest for 'security', as they remain silent?



Faisal Bari

It is not too difficult to see, upon entering a school, whether or not it works well. If the premises look as if someone worries about them, if the infrastructure works, if the teachers and students are inside the classrooms with the students absorbed in their lessons and their teachers ensuring they are taught well, and if the staff and administration are pulling in the same direction, it is very likely the school is working well.

The research that my colleagues and I did some years back showed that for every school that was working well, there was a leader who, for lack of a better term, took 'residual responsibility' for the school and worried about it beyond the call of duty.

Usually, it was the head teacher or principal of

the school; but, in some instances, it was the owner or a person on the governing board. In a couple of cases, it was even a member of the teaching staff.

For a school to work, a 'leader' has to be there. She motivates and provides the vision for the school, she inspires by example, she ensures the school's smooth functioning, and she is there to manage any crisis that crops up.

But over the years I have seen the opposite too — in schools as well as universities. A 'bad' leader can destroy even a good school or university. A leader driven by a personal agenda and more concerned about her pursuits and ego, with little or no respect for herself or others, can bring down a school or university in a matter of years. Again, recent literature on leadership points this out clearly: bad leaders can have a big impact on organisations.

So, leadership matters. On the public sector side, at the K-12 level, we are still taken in by the seniority model for posting head teachers and principals in most provinces.

Where a change has been made, it has been to

appoint the most educated teacher as the head teacher, instead of trying to look for the best 'leader'. Being senior or being more educated is no guarantee that a person is a good leader too, or even has the potential to be one.

The situation is not very different for most of the private sector. But the more dynamic education providers in the private sector moved away from the seniority model for appointing school leadership quite some time back.

Most of their school have created systems for leader identification and/or selection. They have leadership training and support programmes and they ensure leaders are provided with proper opportunities for career development.

They also have strong weeding programmes where 'bad' leaders are identified and, if training and support cannot change outcomes, these people are moved out of the leadership positions as quickly as possible.

The autonomy of the head teacher has been shown to have an impact on school performance, and there is the impact of good leadership too. Our schools in the

public sector have not been performing well. Where other reforms are being implemented, it would be important to add leadership identification, selection and support programmes too.

The same argument applies to universities. Even today, if you look at advertisements for hiring vice chancellors for public sector universities, there is still an almost exclusive emphasis on seniority, academic output and administrative experience. In many cases, even experience in the armed forces has been considered 'good' administrative experience for appointment as VC. VCs need to be good leaders. A lot of power, good or bad, rests with them.

We need to have better systems for finding leaders who can be appointed to VC positions. This imperative is becoming more binding as the university sector is becoming more crowded and competitive. We have over 200 universities in the country. Islamabad alone has more than 24; over half of them have emerged in the last 23 years or so.

Universities will, increasingly, have to compete for funds and students as space gets more crowded.

Leaders who can create a reputation for quality education at their institution will become increasingly more important.

The imperative applies to the private sector as well. I have been associated with a private sector university in Pakistan for over three decades now, and have worked with more than six VCs. Each has brought their own unique perspective to the institution. Good leaders have been able to enhance the institution's reputation significantly and to create the virtuous cycles that lead to better educational programming and outcomes for students. They have attracted good faculty and have been able to create a mission- or vision-driven institution with buy-in from faculty and staff, leading to improvement in morale and outcomes.

There have been poor leaders as well. They have undermined rules and routines for their personal agenda, ego satisfaction and self-aggrandisement. This costs the institution not only in terms of morale but in actual outcomes too: staff and faculty get apathetic, some leave, others choose to work to please the leader

rather than doing their work for the university.

Institutions with a history, precedent and set expectations about quality and ways of doing things can survive bad leaders for some time, but even these periods are not without cost. If Trump can almost undermine institutions in an established democracy, one can imagine what a poor leader can do in institutions that might not have as long or deep a history. And recovery from a bad period is not guaranteed either.

Leadership matters. Good leadership can make a school or university and bad leadership, if it continues, can destroy even a well-performing school or university.

Barring a few of the more dynamic private sector school systems, across the private and public sector we have yet to start taking leadership issues seriously.

This needs to change. If schools and universities are to perform better, we need to identify/select and nurture/support good leaders and, if they cannot be trained, then weed out the bad ones. -- Courtesy Dawn

Where no questions are asked



Dr Sania Nishtar

In Pakistan, polarization and rhetoric are at their peak and many conflicts abound whilst a terrifying brain drain and flight of capital are underway. With the recent IMF SLA, we have narrowly averted the threat of a sovereign default. However, it is critical now that we focus on a long-term plan for meaningful economic reform that will help prevent such a situation in the future. But first, we must introspect. Why have we landed in this situation? And beyond what's apparent, for example the numbers, we need to get a sense of their true determinants.

We tend to predominantly debate the dismal statistics — deficits, inflation, growth numbers, interest rate, etc. These, however, are symptoms of the problem, just as fever can

herald infection and persistent cough can signal cancer. When you deal with a patient, one must diagnose and treat the underlying disease, not just the symptoms; similarly, beyond the economic numbers, it is imperative we ascertain their determinants.

To this effect, economists have been drawing attention to structural problems, our import-dependent economy, our investments in non-productive sectors, the focus on consumption versus investment; our dollar denominated sovereign debt, the tendency to artificially control the exchange rate, the persistently low tax-to-GDP ratio, the lacking ease of business ecosystem, lack of global competitiveness, the overall lack of an enabling environment, poor governance, and so on and so forth.

However, it must be appreciated that these 'structural problems' are manifestations of deeper issues. I believe the most salient of these structural problems is the lack of accountability, which pervades every level of government in Pakistan today. I realized the extent of this rot when I first served in

government as a caretaker federal Minister in 2013. After my term, I wrote a paper in 'The Lancet' titled 'Reflections From My Tenure as Minister' ([https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanct/article/PIIS0140-6736\(14\)61284-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanct/article/PIIS0140-6736(14)61284-8/fulltext)) about my understanding of the government's limitations and fault lines.

It was eye-opening to find that in Pakistan, the government is simply not set up to perform. In installing the government, we focus on processes — elections, cabinet selection, and key appointments — but not the attributes which truly matter for the government's performance: namely, accountability, incentives, and performance measurement.

Although these three are intertwined and accountability has several dimensions bordering on the financial, administrative, legal, and political realms, the rest of this piece will focus on one aspect of accountability, which is the lack of answerability for actions, which I consider one of the root causes of government malfunction.

Let's take the present state of the economy as an

example. On the revenue side, we lament the persistently low tax-to-GDP ratio, but we cannot hold tax functionaries accountable for not taxing many holy cow sectors and not deploying data analytics to catch habitual evaders. My experience with catching 820,000 BISP fake beneficiaries leads me to believe that this can be done easily with data triangulation using CNIC as the peg.

Decision-makers have consistently encouraged consumption over investment and savings and have prioritized investment of aid in non-productive assets. No one is ever held accountable for busting the ceiling of the Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Limitation Act repeatedly, especially for loans which were spent on non-productive politically motivated assets.

No one has ever been made answerable for the massive politically motivated human resource hirings, and procurement rent seeking which has made public-sector enterprises non-viable incurring hundreds of billions in losses annually which need to be underwritten by tax-payers money.

There has also been a

failure to deploy ease of business, e-tendering, and privatization reforms. Transparency reforms, to enable electronic filing and public expenditure tracking were not institutionalized to track pilferages from the system. Yes no one is ever questioned for the damage done and losses incurred in the process.

The list can go on and on. Explore every problem and it will be rooted in the lack of accountability — the energy sector, which has been deliberately designed to run in loss; foreign policy decisions that fostered terrorism; decisions which entrenched circular debt in many sectors; in attention to water availability and land use; the trillions which are channeled in untargeted subsidies from which the affluent benefit. Every sector has an institutionalized pattern of collusion by design.

I wrote about the systematic collusion in the wheat value chain in these columns on May 6 (<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1067410-wheat-policy-impertives>). No one has been held answerable for the loopholes and the lack of oversight in this regard. Shockingly, tax eva-

tion and money laundering has also been structurally ingrained, through loopholes in tax laws. No one is answerable for that.

Unfortunately, even the deepest governance reform to-date — the 18th Amendment to the constitution — failed to address certain key issues needed for transparency reform, such as political party finance, conflict of interest and accountability within government, despite the broad-based changes it introduced in the entire state system.

There are more recent glaring examples of the way the lack of answerability has been damaging for the country. For over a year, there were many warnings of an impending sovereign default, yet the IMF deal was delayed for months. Or for that matter, how will you hold the coalition of thirteen parties accountable for speedily legislating on matters that are widely perceived to further their own interests but failed to come together in the interest of water security and other critical needed governance reforms over the last seven decades. -- Courtesy TheNews

The way to peace



Amin Valliani

All human beings are different from each other in many ways. They are different in their lifestyles, cultures, thoughts, habits and likes, dislikes, etc. However, most people have an innate desire for peace and tranquillity. Everybody wants peace in life, but very few people manage to attain it. The major reasons for the absence of peace are internal and external conflicts, rigidity, quarrelsome behaviour and some other negative tendencies. In order to attain peace, one needs to be pragmatic, adaptive, flexible and compromising in his/her attitude.

It is said that a sure key for peace in life is compromise. It is by adopting such an attitude, rather than being unyielding in dealing with others, that a person becomes fluid. Many disputes within families, societies and nations are resolved by adopting the way of compromise — an agreement that involves concessions from both sides.

In the history of mankind, wars have been stopped, lives have been saved, peace has been restored, material losses have been curtailed and people have kept their dignity by resorting to compromise. An uncompromising attitude from any side is an obstacle to peace, therefore, all major world philosophies have supported the idea of compromise.

It is not good for people to remain in perpetual animosity. Holding

out an olive branch to opponents does not mean weakness, but a way out of turmoil. This principle of compromise advocates that 'half a loaf is better than none'.

The early history of Islam indicates that Muslims under the benign leadership of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) followed the principle of compromise. They concluded the treaty of Hudaibiyah, which allowed the Muslims to live in peace. The agreement also allowed the Holy Prophet and his followers to enter Makkah the following year for what came to be known as the first pilgrimage.

Similarly, the Holy Quran enjoins that if they (enemies) are inclined towards peace on just terms, the overture should be accepted: "If they incline to peace, incline you as well to it, and trust in Allah. Surely, He is All-Hearing, All-Knowing" (8:61).

Through compromise, each party gets less than it feels it is entitled to, but agrees to it because the situation it anticipates under a deal is better than the one it expects in the absence of one. It can provide a bridge across a difficult period. This is an essential aspect of life whereby one can end disputes and spend life in peace and tranquillity.

At present, Pakistan is experiencing turmoil because of differences among various political parties. The best way to address the turmoil is compromise. Violence and confrontation are never an answer to this political challenge, especially when the country is going through a serious economic crisis. The art of compromise is an essential component of politics, without which life goes into gridlock.

Since the beginning of time, compromise has been the main way for

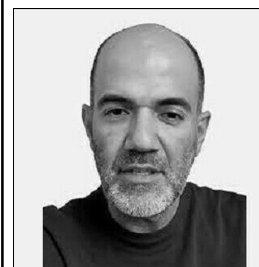
people, groups and countries to work out their differences. It is a tool of diplomacy, but needed in all areas of life, such as politics, business, professions, etc. In Pakistan, where there is a huge backlog of unresolved court cases, the principle of compromise would be worth trying out. It would reduce the burden of the courts and also satisfy the disputing parties to some extent. There should, therefore, be a mechanism to make disputing parties agree to a compromise.

There are certain situations which one cannot change. It is better, then, to accept the situation as it is and wait for better times. One should never make his/her desire or liking the final word. Some things in life are not obtainable nor achievable, yet one's ego wants to achieve these. This does not mean that we should not struggle. Our struggle should be continuous but we should be ready to make any adjustments or compromises where the situation demands so.

We must never forget that human life is a series of compromises and it is not always easy to achieve in practice what one has found to be true in theory. Learning the wisdom of compromise can be highly beneficial, for it is better to bend a little than to break.

Life is like a bumpy road with many ups and downs. Many people undergo mental, emotional or physical challenges and sometimes feel lost or without hope. Most of the time, untangling oneself from these depressing thoughts can cause confusion and pain. However, compromising with life's challenges provides solace and understanding and enables one to cope with these demanding situations. Therefore, the idea of compromise needs to be promoted in life. -- Courtesy Dawn

Colonial present



Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

The French state prosecutes a mini civil war against African and Arab populations. The Israeli Defence Forces bomb and kill Palestinians in the West Bank with complete impunity, again, and Pakistani youngsters smuggle themselves on fishing vessels at the risk of death to the coveted West, even as our rulers grovel for handouts from 'donors', and then celebrate when we get them. Who says colonialism is dead?

It is fashionable these days to take a stinky view of the past, to say that talk of colonialism and imperialism is passé. The argument is that we should take responsibility for our own failures and stop blaming the white man.

It is correct that aimlessly blaming the white man or anyone is neither here nor there. But acknowledging our colonial present is not about blaming anyone; it is about accurately identifying the roots of today's structural crises so as to find a way out.

For Pakistanis — and other Muslim-majority societies — the words 'colonialism' and 'imperialism' drip easily off our tongues when we talk of Palestine, Israel, and its principal backer, the US, have engaged in naked aggression to dispossess Palestinians of their lands and dignity for decades. The Israeli settler-colonial project extends deeper into Palestinian territory with each passing day.

with our very own colonial present. Many insist the IMF and other donors have no role in our crisis. This is akin to turning one's back on the truth that Pakistan is like many former colonies in Latin America, Africa and Asia whose economies, politics and societies continue to be shaped by neocolonial debt regimes.

Why, for instance, could our donors not have responded to last summer's floods — and the approximately \$40bn in damages incurred — by not giving us more loans, and instead, cancelling at least some of our existing debt obligations?

One reason is that our ruling class — led by the military est-ablishment — is simply not committed to undoing the political, economic and cultural structures that keep them at a table in proximity to the global ruling class.

The smug contentment at doing a deal with the IMF mirrors the contentment at issuing contracts to MNCs, one's own companies and those of friends while sacrificing the resources and rights of the sons and daughters of the soil.

It mirrors the building of countless roads, expressways, mega water infrastructure and real estate schemes despite clear evidence that the colonial logic of conquering nature are disastrous. It mirrors the fiefdoms of sardars, the epidemic of enforced disappearances, and the war economies generated by the weaponisation of religion. Deploying politically correct, liberal language to sanitise what is happening in Palestine, France, Pakistan's own peripheries, or many other parts of the world is at best self-deception, and at worst, colonial apologetics. To acknowledge our colonial present is to at least reimagine political-economic projects of decolonisation that represent the only potential salvation for our youth. -- Courtesy Dawn

France also has no problem continuing to extract resources from its former colonial possessions in Africa. The slogans of the French republic — liberté, égalité, fraternité — ring hollow in the face of such colonial modalities.

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
MILTAN: 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 the 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, chili, 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

and platform solutions that are equipped with latest technology & managed security. Hatem Bamatraf, President and Group CEO, PTCL & Ufone 4G, expressed his satisfaction during the signing ceremony regarding the

the nation. By forging such alliances, PTCL remains dedicated to its pivotal role in advancing both telecommunications infrastructure and delivering cutting-edge, reliable solutions to the banking industry.

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%).

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 Chairperson 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.



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



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

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".

PM announces aid of Rs 1m each for kids' families killed in Shangla 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 Shangla.

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.

President for accelerated efforts to provide jobs to differently-abled people

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prospective employers for the job placement of skilled Differently-abled People (DAPs) should be identified and, in the first phase, public and private sectors to empower them financially. He said that the suitability of PWDs for different jobs in the market should be determined as per international standards, and they should be facilitated in finding jobs for their financial empowerment.

The President expressed these views while chairing a meeting regarding the framework for the classification and severity of disability, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Senior officials of the Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination, NAVTTC, and NADRA, and representative of the World Health Organization, Dr Maryam Malik, attended the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that prospective employers for the job placement of skilled Differently-abled People (DAPs) should be identified and, in the first phase, public and private sectors to empower them financially. He said that the suitability of PWDs for different jobs in the market should be determined as per international standards, and they should be facilitated in finding jobs for their financial empowerment.

The President emphasized the need for adopting the framework for the classification of disabilities, developed in line with international standards and best practices, at the national and provincial levels. He added that the framework would help determine the severity of disability as well as the suitability of PWDs for jobs in the market. He also called for making the disability certificates accessible and readable to the general public by translating them into Urdu.

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.



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

ICCPO meets CNS at Naval Headquarters

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.

If PDM has to do politics like this then martial law is better: Asad

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Speaker National Assembly (NA) Asad Qaiser has said there is no constitution in the country. "What message has gone by preventing speaker from entering into Gilgit-Baltistan assembly, he said this while reacting to stopping speaker to enter into Gilgit-Baltistan assembly. what law is there in this country, he inquired. We have become circus show in the world, he held. "I ask from PDM what type of democracy is this."

PML-N submits request to retain 'tiger' as poll symbol

ISLAMABAD (Online): PML-N has filed application in Election Commission (EC) for the allotment of election symbol of tiger to the party in coming general election.

EC had invited applications from all political parties through its July 01, 2023 press release for allotment of election symbols for next general elections.

PML-N Assistant Secretary General Dr Mehr Liaqat and office secretary Sجاد Hussain filed application duly signed by party president Mian Shehbaz Sharif in EC office on July 07.

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 employment 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.

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.

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.

Major operation of FIA Interpol, 6 suspects arrested from Dubai

ISLAMABAD (Online): FIA National Central Bureau Interpol Pakistan has arrested 6 suspects who were wanted by Punjab Police.

The suspects have been arrested from UAE and shifted to Sialkot Airport.

According to FIA spokesperson, Qamar Shehzad, Taqueer Butt, Bostaan Hassan, Sam Zaib, Waqar Azeem and Naseem Abbas are included among the arrested suspects.

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. In order to get immediate relief and amicable solution to the issue, Balochistan exporters reported to the Federal Ombudsman against the non-issuance of quarantine certificate, said Taj

Mohammad Barich, President of Fruit and Vegetable Import Exporter Association 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.



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

Desecration of Quran in Sweden hurts billions of Muslims: Talha

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal minister of religious affairs Senator Talha Mehmood said Holy Quran Desecration in Sweden is condemnable act.

Quran is our holy book and constitution/guideline of life, said religious minister.

He said insolence of Holy Quran unacceptable in any condition.

Senator Talha said in his statement on Sweden incident that Quran is beacon for other religions. We respect all religions. We believe of freedom of speech but disrespecting sacred of any religion is completely intolerable. Country level protest will be lodged on the call of Prime Minister Shehbaz Shareef, said Talha Mehmood. He said Pakistani nation loves Islam and Quran and they are sacrifices their lives for it.

He also called JUI workers to take full part in this peaceful protest.

Issue will be highlighted on international level with this peaceful protest, he said own and others properties must not be damaged.

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

He said that desecration of Holy Quran in Swe-

den 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.

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 cor-

ruption are hostile to Pakistan and Islam. To protect the security and peace 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.



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



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