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Hub

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KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari offering Dua at the grave of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori and Sindh CM Syed Murad Ali Shah are also accompanied him.

President pays visit to Mazar-e-Quaid

KARACHI (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari, Tuesday, paid a visit to mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to pay respect to the Father of the Nation after assuming office of the president of Pakistan. It was Asif Ali Zardari's first visit to Karachi after assuming charge of the office of the president of Pakistan for the second time. President Zardari laid a floral wreath at the grave of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and offered Fatiha. He also penned down comments in the book of visitors. Asif Ali Zardari, at the occasion, was received by Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Provincial president PPP Sindh Nisar Ahmed Khuro and other senior officers of Sindh government.

Turkish ambassador calls on him PM calls for cementing Pak-Turkiye bilateral ties

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has underlined the need for enhancing bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Turkiye in all areas of mutual interest, including trade, defence, connectivity and culture. He was talking to Turkish Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, who paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister in Islamabad on Tuesday. He emphasized that both the countries enjoyed exemplary bilateral relations which are based on shared history, religion and culture and are unshakable. The Prime Minister said both countries need to work

together to achieve the annual target of five billion dollars in bilateral trade. On core issues, the Prime Minister said Pakistan deeply appreciates Turkiye's firm and consistent support for the oppressed people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He also reaffirmed Pakistan's support to Turkiye on the issue of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The Turkiye's Ambassador congratulated the Prime Minister on his re-election and conveyed best wishes from the leadership of Turkiye and emphasized the importance of strengthening the fraternal ties between both countries. The Prime Minister

deeply appreciated the congratulatory telephone call and message of felicitations from President Recep Tayyip Erdogan immediately after his re-election. In this regard, he congratulated Turkiye on the successful flight of KAAAN 5th generation fighter aircraft. The Prime Minister reiterated his invitation to President Erdogan to visit Pakistan. Shehbaz Sharif said the people of Pakistan look forward to the visit which would provide a useful opportunity for both the sides to carry out extensive consultations during the 7th session of High Level Strategic Coordination Council.

Ban imposed on meeting with prisoners in Adiala jail for two weeks

RAWALPINDI (Online): Ban has been imposed on visitors meeting with prisoners in Adiala jail for two weeks due to security concerns. Home department Punjab has issued orders to IG Jails Punjab to slap ban on meetings with prisoners and jail visits for two weeks. Media coverage has also been banned. According to home department Punjab law enforcement agencies and intelligence agencies have informed about threat alert with reference to central jail Adiala. Internal security wing home department Punjab has informed in the light of reports that anti state terrorists group which is supported by anti state elements want to target central jail Adiala to foment chaos in the country. Nec-

essary steps are urgently needed to avoid any untoward situation. According to sources, home department Punjab has directed to conduct search operation on March 13 inside jail through special branch, intelligence bureau and staff of jail department, erect barbed wire on jail boundary wall besides screening inside jail and adjacent area through disposal squad team. Order in respect of security clearance of government contractors working in the jail and staff members has also been issued. PTI founder Imran Khan, former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, former chief minister Punjab Pervaiz Elahi and former federal ministers and high profile prisoners are imprisoned in jail.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Speaker Balochistan Assembly maintains: Every possible steps would be taken for development & prosperity of Chaman, welfare of people

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai has stated that every possible steps would be taken for development and prosperity of Chaman besides resolving all issues facing the people. The Speaker exhorted the high ups of WAPDA, Municipal Corporation, Health, Education and other departments to perform their duties in professional manner. He was addressing the introductory meeting with heads of all line departments of Chaman district in Chaman on Tuesday. The Deputy Commissioner Chaman, Raja Athar Abbas and other administrative officers were also

order and protect life and property of the people. He directed all officers, doctors, paramedics and other staff to ensure presence at their respective duty places. He said our future is linked with education department and if the carelessness, lenience and negligence was demonstrated in this sector, then it would cause irreparable loss to the country and nation. Similarly, cleanliness is considered to be very important and a symbol of a good dignified nation. For the purpose, the staff and officers of the corporation would have to perform better, he added. Moreover, the Speaker directed to WAPDA authorities to improve their performance and don't give



QUETTA: A large number of people gather for collecting relief flour bags during food aids distribution under the supervision of provincial government in connection of the Holy month of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak, at Meezan Chowk in Quetta.

PM, CNS discuss professional matters pertaining to Pakistan Navy

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad Tuesday and discussed professional matters pertaining to Pakistan Navy. The Naval Chief also felicitated Shehbaz Sharif on assuming the office of the Prime Minister.

President decides not to draw salary

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Asif Ali Zardari has decided not to draw his salary. According to a press release issued by the presidency, the President took this decision in view of prevailing economic challenges. The decision is aimed to encourage prudent financial management in the country. Deciding not to burden national exchequer president Asif Ali Zardari preferred not to draw salary.

Bugti expresses sorrow on death of Asafandyar Wali's wife

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti expressed his deep sorrow over the death of Asafandyar Wali's wife and mother of Aimal Wali and condoled with the bereaved family. In one of his statements, the chief minister prayed to Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal abode with peace and granting courage to bereaved family members.

Pakistan, IMF talks likely to begin from March 15

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and International Monetary Fund (IMF) talks under the \$3 billion Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) are likely to commence from March 15. According to media reports, the country's newly sworn-in Finance Minister Mohammad Aurangzeb has given the green signal for talks with the IMF for the SBA and a new loan programme. Islamabad will hold talks with the international lender about the last tranche of \$1.1 billion under the SBA programme. Pakistan has already achieved the targets set by the IMF for the second review, the sources said. They further said Pakistan is likely to request IMF for a \$6 to 8 billion fresh loan programme. Finance ministry sources said Islamabad will engage the IMF on the economic targets for the fresh loan programme. On March 8, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said it is ready to send mission to Islamabad for the second economic review after the formation of PM Shehbaz Sharif's cabinet.

Biased interrogator becomes threat to justice system: SC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Tuesday upheld the verdict of Sindh Service Tribunal for dismissal of a police official on account of defective investigation in a minor's rape case. A three member bench headed by Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar announced the verdict on appeal of police official. The top court in its order said that the investigation officer plays an important role in the justice system, adding that poor investigation is the biggest obstacle in the way of justice. It said that only the officials who possess unblemished character should be part of disciplinary force, adding that a flawed investigation gradually culminates the justice process. The investigating officer must act without any manipulation in the discharge of his sacred duty, it said, adding that a biased interrogator becomes a threat to human rights. The court said that it is the duty of superior officers to make investigating officers work with integrity, without laziness or lust.

Jam Kamal assumes office as Federal Minister for Commerce

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jam Kamal Khan officially on Tuesday assumed his duties as the Federal Minister for Commerce, marking a new chapter in his political career. He was received by Federal Secretary for Commerce, Capt. (Retd) Muhammad Khurram Agha at the Ministry, said a press release issued here.



ISLAMABAD (APP): Jam Kamal Khan officially on Tuesday assumed his duties as the Federal Minister for Commerce, marking a new chapter in his political career.

The Minister brings a wealth of experience to his new role. During his inaugural briefing, the Ministry's scope and objectives were outlined. Minister Khan emphasized focus on growth, investment and the need to fully facilitate both local and foreign investors, believing that Pakistan can achieve significant strides through an inclusive approach. He expressed his commitment, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, to overcoming the country's economic challenges. Emphasizing his dedication to enhancing trade volume, the Minister identified key sectors like mining, livestock, and textiles as areas for modernization.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor, Kamran Tessori administering oath to provincial cabinet members of Sindh during oath taking ceremony held at Governor House in Karachi.

9 people killed as residential building collapses in Multan

MULTAN (INP): At least nine people persons were killed and two others were wounded when a three-storey dilapidated building collapsed in Multan late Monday night. According to District Emergency Officer Dr Kaleemullah, a residential building located in Haram Gate area of Multan collapsed, burying at least 10 persons under the rubble. The debris of the building also fell over adjoining houses. Rescue teams reached the spot after being informed and retrieved the

Turkish President congratulates President Zardari

KARACHI (APP): President of Turkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdogan Tuesday called President Asif Ali Zardari and congratulated him on assuming the office of the President of Pakistan.

Both the leaders exchanged views on matters of bilateral importance and underscored the need for further improving cooperation in all areas of mutual interest, a press release issued by the President House said.

President Asif Ali Zardari thanked the Turkish President for his telephone call and warm wishes. President Asif Ali Zardari wished Happy Ramadan to Turkish nation and desired to see role of Turkish women in Islamic world. He also desired to invite President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Pakistan.

ECP completes preparations for Senate elections

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will announce the schedule for the election on Senate vacant seats on March 14. As per details, the preparations have been completed for the polling for 48 Senate seats, scheduled to take place on the second of the next month (April). After the merger with KP, the elections on the four FAIA seats will not be held. "These seats have been abolished after the merger of tribal areas into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) under the 25th Amendment of the Constitution," the ECP said in its statement. Nomination papers about the Senate elections can be obtained from the Election Commission Secretariat Islamabad as well as the provincial elections commissioners of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

Federal Ministers pay surprise visit at G-6 utility store

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar along with Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain paid a surprise visit to the utility store at Appara Market, G-6 Islamabad. Both the ministers visited the utility store on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and reviewed quality of the edibles being sold at subsidized rates under the Ramadan Relief Package 2024. The federal ministers also interacted with the public at the utility store to get their feedback in that regard. According to Rana Tanveer, special discounts were being given to consumers at utility store under the Ramadan Relief Package 2024.

Information minister assumes charge of his office Atta Tarar emphasizes importance of promoting positive & constructive journalism

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday assumed charge as Minister of Information and Broadcasting. Federal Secretary of Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid along with other senior officers of the ministry welcomed the minister on his arrival at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Attaullah Tarar is a senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) who was elected Member of National Assembly from Constituency NA-127 from Lahore in the February 8 elections. After taking oath as Federal Minister in the President's House, today he assumed his duties in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

On his arrival at the Ministry of Information, Attaullah Tarar said the doors of the Ministry of Information would remain open for the journalist community. He stressed the need for the promotion of positive and constructive journalism in the country and strengthening the relationship between the government and the media. Attaullah Tarar said he will work together with the media to communicate the government's initiatives and policies to the people. He remarked that the media played the role of a bridge between the people and the government and this role needed to be played in a better manner.

We should use word of 'independence' with pride instead partition: CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Tuesday during hearing of a case stopped the lawyer to use the word of 'partition' instead of 'independence' of Pakistan. The CJP remarked that words of partition can be used by the people of India because they have never been rulers. We should use the words of freedom with pride, he said. A three-member bench of the top court presided by Chief Justice Isa heard the case pertaining to a property dispute. The CJP said that we can't run the case on basis of assumptions. If there is any proof of property ownership then show it, he asked the petitioner. The court subsequently turned down the appeal of petitioner. It may be mentioned here that the petitioner even couldn't present an ownership proof before lower and high courts.



ISLAMABAD: Attaullah Tarar assumes charge as Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting.

PPP, JUI-F form alliance for Senate elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary General Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Syed Nayyer Hussain Bukhari Tuesday said that PPP and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) have agreed to collaborate in the forthcoming Senate elections. Addressing a press conference along with Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani and JUI leader Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, he said that PPP will support the JUI candidate for Senate polls in Balochistan, while the JUI will extend support to Yousaf Raza Gillani in Islamabad. Nayyer Bukhari said the Senate by-election being held on vacant seats of the upper house on March 14. Balochistan's three Senate seats have been vacated and the JUI has requested for the PPP's support in Balochistan. On the occasion Ghafoor Haideri said JUI will not participate in government making but play their role in the Parliament.

Two cops embraced martyrdom in terrorists attack

PESHAWAR (APP): At least two cops embraced martyrdom while an ASI sustained injuries in an attack by terrorists on a police mobile in the jurisdiction of the Machni Gate area police station. According to SSP Operations Peshawar, Kashif Aftab Abbasi, the policemen were on routine patrolling when the terrorists ambushed and attacked the police mobile. The SSP said that a search operation was started in the area to trace the terrorists.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

PDM redux

The new prime minister has stuck to a safe formula by inducting familiar faces in his cabinet and giving them their usual portfolios, and accommodating allies and benefactors where more deserving people could have been given a chance. The only big change seems to be the inclusion of Muhammad Aurangzeb, the erstwhile president of one of Pakistan's largest banks, to do the finance minister's job. He replaces the candidate the PML-N has usually favoured for the portfolio, Ishaq Dar.

Mr Aurangzeb is among three as-yet-unselected members of the cabinet inducted yesterday, with the two others being the former caretaker chief minister of Punjab, Mohsin Naqvi, and a former adviser to the caretaker prime minister, Ahmad Cheema. It seems the latter two had to be accommodated for their 'services to Pakistan'. Meanwhile, Mr Dar, despite his disastrous performance as finance minister during the PDM-led government, has still managed to be shortlisted for another ministry in the new regime.

A big positive is that the cabinet is not as bloated this time as it was during the PDM government. The new government would be well-advised to keep itself lean and focus on dealing with Pakistan's many crises.

At the same time, it is disappointing that Shehbaz Sharif's federal cabinet has shaped up to be a men's club. There was just one exception among the 19 individuals sworn in by President Asif Ali Zardari yesterday — Shaza Fatima Khawaja. She took oath as the only minister of state, while 18 others — including her uncle, Khawaja Asif — were inducted as federal ministers of the new government.

It is difficult to understand why the PML-N would so casually disregard half the population when assigning important portfolios. The omission seemed particularly jarring given the PR campaign around women's empowerment the party has been running ever since Maryam Nawaz got herself elected as the first woman chief minister of Punjab.

Is the PML-N really so short of capable women leaders, or does the new prime minister find them all unworthy of being given a seat at his table? It is hoped that neither is the case, and more women will eventually be nominated for top jobs. Meanwhile, Mr Sharif has, knowingly or unknowingly, thrown his old guard a huge challenge. It has become clear over the past two years that Pakistan cannot continue to be run in the manner it has been in the past, and a lot must be done very differently this time around.

Will the PML-N's old hands prove themselves able to adapt and capable of catering to Pakistan's much-changed needs, or will we see them replaying their past policies? It does not need to be pointed out that a lot is riding on their success, and the path forward is beset with difficulties.

No peace of mind

Ali Burhan Mustafa

Domestic violence in Pakistan is widespread and indicative of deep gender inequalities and socioeconomic instabilities that are, in turn, exacerbated by unemployment and community disorder. Collectively, these factors contribute to the extensive state of psychological distress across communities. The issue of child marriage has aggravated the crisis: some 21 per cent of Pakistani girls are married off before the age of 18, thanks to poverty, dire education deficiency, and conservative cultural norms.

Child marriage is especially common in Pakistan's rural areas. It contributes to a cycle of domestic violence, one of the top factors responsible for psychological harm in the country. While laws like the Sindh Child Marriage Restraint Act of 2014 are a step in the right direction, enforcing the rules and changing societal mindsets are huge challenges.

Culture's authoritarian stamp is evident in other reprehensible practices as well. For example, in 2023, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan reported nearly 400 'honour' killings in the preceding year. However, some NGOs and international agencies estimate that the actual number each year could be as high as 1,000.

The discrepancy in figures highlights the difficulty in accurately recording such incidents, partly due to society's reluctance to view them as crimes. Despite the legal progress made by amending criminal law to reflect the unacceptability of such a practice, the lack of enforcement of the law and archaic beliefs continue to impede progress. 'Honour' killings, often motivated by perceived

threats to family honour, contradict the aim of legal reforms and the protection of individual rights. They underscore the urgent need for further efforts to plug the gap between tradition and fundamental rights.

Similarly, in Sindh, the issue of forced conversions presents a significant challenge, with the Centre for Social Justice documenting a minimum of 124 instances of such cases in 2022 alone. Forced conversions predominantly affect girls, often minors, from Hindu families, but have also impacted the Christian and Sikh communities.

While accurate figures are not known, activists estimate that between 20 to 25 Hindu girls may be subjected to forced conversions each month — these include cases of abduction and forced marriage. Despite taking up the issue in the Sindh Assembly and attempting to outlaw the practice, lawmakers have encountered social pressure as well as resistance from religious factions.

In Pakistan, a considerable escalation in the number of workplace harassment complaints has been observed. While this shows increasing awareness and a greater propensity among individuals to report harassment, it also highlights another significant reason behind mental distress.

Statistics reveal a substantial rise in reported cases, which went up from nearly 500 in the period spanning 2010 to 2018, to a staggering 5,000 from 2018 to 2022. Despite the implementation of the Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, aimed at curbing and rectifying such misconduct, enforcing the law remains a formidable challenge, with inadequate consequences for the guilty. The effort

to enforce legislative measures is further impeded by the lack of designated ombudspersons in pivotal regions, notably Punjab. Equally to blame for the dejection and anxiety in society is the high prevalence of working children. Acquiring current and gender-specific information on child labour in the country, particularly with regard to girls, presents a significant challenge due to the limited availability of disaggregated data and difficulty in obtaining the most recent information. The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, in collaboration with Unicef and local entities, such as the So-ciety for the Protection of the Rights of the Child, is leading the effort to gather data on child labour, so that, based on the figures, policy reform can be instituted.

But despite these efforts, child labour remains entrenched, exposing our young ones to hazardous and exploitative working conditions from an early age. Neighbourhood disorder, including violence, drug use, and community tensions, worsens domestic violence and negatively affects mental health and the quality of life. This results in depression, anxiety and PTSD, and highlights the very limited availability of mental health services and the stigma associated with seeking help for depression.

In such conditions, ensuring fundamental rights in Pakistan is challenging. A dedicated and collective effort by stakeholders to address the causes responsible for poor mental health can go a long way in making the issue a priority for the state. -- Courtesy Dawn

Student motivation

Neda Mulji

The best of teachers find it hard to motivate some of their students. Numerous studies in motivation have looked closely at why and how some learners do well in school and others seem to give up without trying. Fear of bad grades, fear of failing and disappointing teachers or parents all play a role.

Excellence in academics cannot be achieved without motivation. The latter is largely a choice that leads to effort, and most students make the choice to stay motivated if they have the confidence that their goals are achievable.

Teachers often talk about 'making' students learn, which implies applying coercion. Students don't need to be 'made' to do anything if the underlying motivational needs are addressed. Once they are motivated to study, they only need encouragement and support. The teacher's role as a facilitator is paramount in ensuring that students develop a level of interest and curiosity that enables them to chase targets, to absorb the content, practise and reinforce concepts that must be studied.

Most facilitators set high expectations and show students how to get there — successful teachers unlock potential by making content accessible and easy enough to grasp. They give opportunities to students to respond to content, engage with each other and they monitor the gaps where students need extra help.

Telling students to study doesn't work as well as showing them how to tackle the work at hand. By middle school, many students begin to procrastinate, fall behind on homework

and end up facing disgruntled teachers and parents. A student recently asked me: "Where is my motivation?" Interesting thought, reflecting self-awareness.

Lack of motivation isn't a problem in itself, but rather a symptom of something else; just like fever, where the body temperature rises to signal an underlying health condition. Lack of motivation signals something else at play, most often a belief that the work is hard and beyond reach. Those that get left behind in a race don't run faster if they have given up and accepted that defeat is inevitable.

A study on motivation revealed that students work harder for teachers that they like and do well in subjects that are taught by their favourite teachers. This correlation isn't a coincidence. The 'favourite' teacher clearly understands what will unlock potential and does something right to instil belief and confidence in the student's ability. Sometimes, the strategies may be as simple as creating a thinking environment, as described in Nancy Kline's Time to Think, where the facilitator or mentor provides ease and comfort for the learner to embark on some kind of introspection, to understand what is needed to be done for academic success.

Schools, where students spend a large part of their formative years, are supposed to be breeding grounds for thought, interrogation, understanding and knowledge. Ironically, they become spaces that breed anxiety, competition and a desperate bid to avoid failure. Students who spend their time at school avoiding failure are unlikely to be self-motivated — rather, they chase goals set by oth-

ers and tag along benchmarking themselves through the years against what their peers have or haven't achieved. Avoiding failure as a strategy is not the same as a strategy for success.

Social and emotional well-being at school is a precursor to motivation for success. Yet, very few schools follow a curriculum that embeds social and emotional learning. Hardly any schools offer formal, structured programmes that cater to social and emotional well-being. At the heart of well-being is the belief that learners can cater to their own growth needs and devise their own strategy for success.

Contrary to what many learners and their teachers believe, ability is not fixed. It's mostly malleable and directly related to the learners' self-belief and agency in steering their own course. If they are taught self-regulation early on, their motivation is entirely within their grasp.

Much of students' academic success is dependent on how their teachers interact with them. If the control is in the learners' hands and they believe that they are the 'captain of their ship', they demonstrate ambition and drive, and no longer need coercion. The reverse is also true. Once a lack of motivation sets in, it becomes a pattern that is hard to break. Students' behaviour begins to reflect their lack of control, which leads to avoiding studies.

The words of a famous song 'Teacher, leave them [sic] kids alone' ring true timelessly. Students need consistent encouragement rather than fear, threats and sarcasm about their ability. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

PM for a complete roadmap to enhance IT exports

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed for submission of a comprehensive roadmap to boost IT exports.

He said the government would take steps to fully avail of the billion dollars potential of the country for IT exports, besides, the young people would be provided with required facilities of education, skills development and startups.

The prime minister chaired a review meeting on IT and Telecom sector. The meeting was attended by Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Economic

Affairs and Establishment Ahmad Khan Cheema, Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Governor State Bank of Pakistan Jameel Ahmed, Shahzad Saleem and the relevant senior officials, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the meeting, the prime minister said that during their previous tenure, positive outcome was witnessed from the initiation of different projects in the IT sector.

He stressed upon resolution of all issues of start ups, freelancers and IT companies relating to banking. Expressing his satisfaction over the IT export volume of more

than \$3 billion in the current year, he emphasized upon its further increase.

For bringing Pakistan's IT sector at par with the international standards, they would have to work hard, he observed. The prime minister also asked for submission of a comprehensive report regarding special technology zones.

The meeting was apprised of progress on IT package announced by the prime minister during June 2023. During the previous tenure, due to special attention of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the IT exports witnessed 13 percent increase during

the first seven months of the current fiscal year when compared with previous corresponding year.

Under the Digiskills programme, a total of 4 million students of 17 batches, comprising 28 percent females, had been imparted training. Pakistan had emerged as the second top country in the world on the basis of numbers of freelancers. Pakistan was exporting IT products to 170 countries of the world, it was further added.

The meeting was informed that during the previous year, an investment of \$400 million was made in Pakistani startups.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding IT and Telecom Sector in Islamabad.

Mobilink Bank, BizB partner to drive financial inclusion, empowering women micro-entrepreneurs

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Bank partnered with BizB, a leading marketplace in Pakistan, welcoming the company as a 'Brand Ambassador Organization,' to drive financial inclusion and bolster women micro-entrepreneurs nationwide. This symbiotic partnership strives to offer easily accessible financial services and support the endeavours



of female entrepreneurs in the growing e-commerce landscape.

Through this partnership, women micro-entrepreneurs under BizB's W-Empower will not only have access to a platform for buying and selling preloved apparel but will also enjoy the full range of features provided by the Dost App, ensuring smooth and convenient transactions.

Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and digital services to nearly 160 million customers in six dynamic markets that are home to 7% of the world's population.

Qaiser says: Uplifting industry, business essential for economic prosperity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Tuesday said that in view of the economic situation of the country, increasing business was the first priority of the government so that the economic issues were resolved.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that it was in the manifesto of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) that the economy will be improved through the growth of business.

NAVTC, IAP signs MoU to boost skill training

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC) and the Industrialists' Association Peshawar (IAP) on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to boost demand-driven skills training in the country.

Minister says: Vital for economy, agriculture sector to be uplifted on priority basis

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Agriculture Mohammad Sajjad has said that the agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's economy and the provincial government will develop this sector on a priority basis according to the vision of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur.

The officers involved in agriculture must perform their services with seriousness and honesty, he directed that such agricultural projects should be prepared which have far-reaching effects as well as in accordance with the aspirations of the landlords, and benefit the farmers.

He expressed these views while presiding over the first review meeting related to the projects of the agriculture department. Secretary Agriculture Javed Marwat, CPO Agriculture, DGs of all sectors and other relevant officers were also present

Huawei & Ufone 4G win prestigious GSMA Global Mobile (GLOMO) Award

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Ufone 4G & Huawei won the GSMA GLOMO award for the category 'Best Mobile Innovation for Emerging Markets' at the Mobile World Congress for groundbreaking solution of Microwave SuperHub. The global first-ever trial and commercial deployment of the SuperHub feature was done in Ufone network during Q4 2023 enhancing the spectral efficiency of the microwave spectrum.

Microwave spectrum, a critical asset in today's digital landscape, demands efficient utilization to meet the ever-growing demands of wireless technologies, as the challenges facing microwave backhaul networks have intensified, particularly in emerging markets such as developing countries with lesser optical fiber footprints.

In response to these challenges, Huawei and Ufone 4G joined forces & unveiled the groundbreaking SuperHub solution. Designed to overcome the hurdles posed by limited spectrum resources, spatial constraints and frequency acquisition difficulties,

SuperHub has enabled Ufone to maximize microwave spectrum reuse with unprecedented efficiency. This was made possible by reuse of same microwave frequency channel across multiple links at aggregation site with a spatial separation as low as 20 degrees. Ufone recorded a remarkable 50% spectrum saving without any compromise on quality. Jafar Khalid, Group Chief Technology and Information Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G commented, "We are absolutely delighted that Global Mobile (GLOMO) Awards, which are the industry's most prestigious accolade with over 200 independent judges and 30 awards across



6 categories, have recognized the joint contributions of Ufone and Huawei.

In finding an innovative solution to optimizing microwave spectral efficiency, enhancing capacity and reducing interference. This advancement in global backhaul connectivity represents a paradigm shift in how terrestrial microwave networks will be built in future, and we are proud to be the front-runner in this journey."

James Zeng, Global President of Huawei Microwave Product Line, explained, "With increasing demands on existing network infrastructure, systemic optimizations are critical to improve performance and experience.

KP CM for preparing plan of action to raise financial matter with federation

Independent Report
PESHAWAR Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur on Tuesday directed the concerned authorities to prepare a plan of action within one month, to raise financial matters with the federation.

Presiding over a high level meeting here, the CM directed that all relevant documents should be kept ready to effectively present the case of the financial affairs province with the federal government.

He said that the matter of payments of all outstanding dues and constitutional rights of the province would be taken up at all available

forums including courts. Gandapur said that experts should be hired to effectively take up the financial matter with the federal government in an effective manner.

During the briefing, the Chief Minister was informed that as the AGN Qazi formula, Rs 1,510 billion dyes were payable by the federal government under the net hydrel profits. Similarly, six billion rupees arrears were pending under the electricity price, sold to the National Grid.

Regarding the merger of tribal districts into KP, the officials concerned said that the financial merger of the tribal districts had not taken place so far. It was

said that the merger had increased the KP population manifolds but no the resources.

It was told that the share of the province under NFC was 19.64 percent in proportion to the current population of the province, while the province was only getting 14.16 percent at the time. The finance department informed that according to the current population of the province, it should get Rs 262 billion annually in the form of NFC Award.

Similarly, under the ten-year development plan of the merged districts, the province has so far received only 103 billion rupees out of 500 billion rupees.



LAHORE: Punjab Transport Minister Bilal Akbar Khan presides over the meeting of department at Transport House.

Minister reviews Sehri, Iftar arrangement in institutions of Social Welfare dept

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal Sohail Shaukat Butt held a virtual meeting of all divisional directors to review the arrangements for Sehri and Iftar in institutions across their respective districts.

He underscored the importance of maintaining high-quality facilities in these institutions, stating that no compromise would be made in this regard.

Highlighting the significance of providing optimal Sehri and Iftar arrangements during the month of Ramadan, Minister Butt announced

plans for his team to conduct visits to all districts. These visits aim to engage with residents directly, listening to their concerns with empathy, and ensuring that individuals in institutions supervised by the Social Welfare Department receive the best possible health and residential amenities.

Moreover, Minister Sohail Shaukat Butt issued directives to expedite the completion of ongoing developmental projects in the districts, emphasizing the government's commitment to advancing community welfare.

Father, two sons killed in Palosai firing

PESHAWAR (APP): In an unfortunate incident, a man and his two sons were shot dead when exchange of harsh words led to a clash between the deceased and the accused in Palosai area here on Tuesday.

Police said the incident took place in the vicinity of Tehkal police station where a man named Nawaz and his sons, Asghar and Dawood were killed by the accused from the same area.

Police said a woman also sustained bullet injury in the firing.

Police have registered a case of triple murder against the alleged accused namely, Ibad Ullah.

Medical facilities under Sehat Card restarted: Minister

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Health, Syed Qasim Ali Shah has said that provision of medical facilities under Sehat Card had been started and Rs. 10 million had been spent on seven hundred patients so far.

Addressing a press conference here Tuesday, he said that facilities have been restarted under Sehat Card that was party leadership to help those that are unable to bear expenses of medical treatment. Regretting suspension of facilities under Sehat Card in past,

health minister said that treatment of about 1800 ailments are being provided under the scheme.

He said that operations of certain kinds would be done by government hospitals to address overbilling and added that number of hospitals that were on Sehat Card panel were reduced from 180 to 118.

He said that Sehat Card has been revived despite arrears of Rs. 18 billion on the system. He said that government would resolve the challenges to continue Sehat Card facility for betterment of people.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing the media persons during his visit to JDC Sehri Dastar Khawan.

Azma Bukhari says: Nigebhan Ramadan package distributes rations to over 1.5m families so far

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari announced the "Nigebhan Ramadan Package," a unique program for over 6.4 million deserving families in Punjab on behalf of Chief Minister Punjab.

Verified Data of recipients is collected from the BISP and NADRA, with the goal of providing rations to deserving families without the requirement for them to queue up. Addressing a press conference at Directorate General Public Relations Punjab, Azma Bukhari

emphasized that the Ramadan package includes a separate allocation for delivery costs. She stated that 75% of identified beneficiaries have been verified, ensuring efficient distribution. An hourly updated dashboard has been created for ration distribution, with over 55,853 packages already distributed. This initiative began with a pilot project due to the massive target of reaching 6.4 million people.

The provincial minister highlighted that over 1.5 million families in Punjab have already received rations.



LAHORE: Ombudsman Punjab Major Azam Suleman Khan (R) Presented Annual Report 2023 to Governor Punjab.

Minister commends PEF's commitment to quality education

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat visited the Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) head office to review the progress and initiatives of the foundation. During the visit, Managing Director of PEF, Shahid Farid, provided a comprehensive briefing on various educational projects undertaken by the foundation. Highlighting the impact of PEF's public-private partnership model,

Shahid Farid said that 2.6 million students were currently benefiting from free and quality education in more than 7,000 partner schools in Punjab. He emphasized PEF's ongoing efforts to address the issue of out-of-school children in the province through targeted campaigns and the implementation of the new admission policy for the academic year 2024-25, aimed at enrolling more underprivileged children into PEF schools.

LHC allows to construct 30-storey building in Gulberg Lahore

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) while announcing an important decision regarding construction of high rise buildings has allowed to construct 30-storey building in the area of Gulberg Lahore.

The court dismissed the petition filed against the construction of 30-storey building. Sahibzada Muzaffar Ali, senior legal advisor of LDA gave arguments. Petitioner Noor Din had challenged construction of 30-storey building in the residential area.

He had taken plea in the petition that high rise buildings cannot be constructed in residential area.

Chaudhary Amir says: All facilities being provided to the journalist fraternity in the Punjab Assembly

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation from the Press Gallery, led by President Press Gallery Akhlaq Bajwa, met with Secretary Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Amir Habib at the Assembly's office.

The delegation included Press Gallery Secretary Hassan Ahmed, Sheikh Adnan, Ibrahim Lucky, Abbas Naqvi, Liaqat Ansari, Azam Malik, Hafiz Naem, Sahil Baloch, Maqsood Khalid, Chaudhry Asif Iqbal, and others. During the meeting, discussions were held with journalists regarding current issues.

Secretary Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Amir Habib assured journalists of addressing all their concerns. Speaking to the journalists, Secretary Chaudhry Amir Habib stated that the Speaker of the Punjab Assembly, Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, is a friend of the journalists. All facilities are being provided to the journalist fraternity in the Punjab Assembly.

For the first time in history, the Speaker of the Punjab Assembly has allocated a room for the Press Gallery in the Punjab Assembly.

AC Naurang pays surprise visits to bazaar

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): District administration Lakki Marwat is taking concrete measures to extend relief to citizens during the holy month of Ramadan.

As part of efforts, Additional Assistant Commissioner Naurang Gohar Ali along with Tehsildar Naurang on Tuesday paid visit to bazaar following receiving complaints regarding the overpricing of essential food commodities through Marastyal App.

International News

As Ramazan begins, world leaders call for silencing guns in Gaza

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: As Ramazan commences, global leaders united in recognising the significance of the holy month and called for silencing guns in Gaza.

US President Joe Biden pledged international efforts to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza in his Ramazan message and committed to working tirelessly for an immediate six-week ceasefire.

Simultaneously, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres passionately appealed for peace in Gaza, urging all parties to "honour the spirit of Ramazan by silencing the guns".

He stressed the urgent need for delivering humani-

tarian aid, stating, "My strongest appeal today is to remove all obstacles to ensure the delivery of life-saving aid at the speed and massive scale required."

In the spirit of compassion, Guterres called for the "immediate release of all hostages" and underlined the global significance of the situation, declaring, "The eyes of the world are watching. The eyes of history are watching. We cannot look away."

The secretary general highlighted the severe humanitarian crisis in Gaza, pointing out unprecedented civilian casualties and destruction. He lamented the slow and insufficient delivery of relief, noting that

"life-saving relief for Palestinians in Gaza is coming in trickles—if it comes at all".

Drawing attention to the threat of an Israeli assault on Rafah, Guterres warned that it could plunge Gaza into an even deeper crisis. He deplored that no party showed any respect for international humanitarian law during this war and as a result, "international humanitarian law lies in tatters".

The UN chief recalled heartfelt pleas from families affected by the conflict, quoting a family member who said, "We are not here for condolences.

We are not here for apologies. We are here for immediate action."



BEIJING: Delegates applaud as President Xi Jinping (centre) arrives for the closing session of the National Peoples Congress at the Great Hall of the People.

Communist Party gets more control over China's cabinet

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China's parliament on Monday revised a law to effectively grant the Communist Party more executive control over China's cabinet, the State Council, after cancelling the premier's post-parliament news conference for the first time in three decades.

The amended State Council Organic Law passed by 2,883 delegate votes, with eight opposing and nine abstaining, during the closing day of the National People's Congress in Beijing.

It was the latest in a

series of measures in recent years that have gradually eroded the executive authority of the State Council, headed by Chinese Premier Li Qiang, which nominally oversees China's 21 government ministries as well as local governments.

Legal experts say the amendment of the State Council Organic Law for the first time since 1982 continues a trend of transferring more power from the state into the Party's hands, leaving the government to faithfully implement Party directives.

Newly added articles stress that the State Council must "resolutely uphold the Party Central Committee's authority and its centralised and unified leadership" and follow Xi Jinping Thought, the party's name for the president's signature ideology, which expounds on subjects ranging from diplomacy to culture.

"This is a significant shift in the reorganisation of executive authority in China," said Ryan Mitchell, a law professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

French lawmakers vote on Ukraine support in 'risky' Macron bet

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: French lawmakers will say on Tuesday whether they support a security accord with Ukraine, in a vote that is non-binding but closely watched in France and beyond.

Ukrainian officials have told Reuters they are worried that a vote that was not overwhelmingly in favour of Kyiv would be negative symbolically and could hurt President Emmanuel Macron's efforts to ramp up his country's support in the coming months. The 10-year security pact with Ukraine includes commitments by Paris to deliver more arms, train soldiers and send up to 3 billion euros (\$3.2 billion) in military aid to Ukraine in 2024.

Macron has also adopted a tougher stance towards Russia, urging Ukraine's allies to urgently do more and creating a backlash among some by not ruling out the presence of Western troops in Ukraine.

The far-right National Rally (RN) have said they would abstain in Tuesday's vote and the hard left France Unbowed (LFI) is also opposed to the security pact.

"I do not want Emmanuel Macron to have free rein," RN chief Jordan Bardella said, accusing Macron of leading France onto an "irresponsible, dangerous path." Macron has pushed for the vote in a bid to try and alienate the far-right and far-left ahead of European parliamentary elections in June over their perceived less supportive positioning towards Ukraine.



Aid ship sails, amidst a test to launch a new sea route from a port in Cyprus to deliver aid to residents of the Gaza Strip who are on the brink of famine, at sea.

Kremlin says appeal by Pope Francis for Ukraine talks is quite understandable

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: The Kremlin on Monday said that a call by Pope Francis for talks to end the Ukraine war was quite understandable and that Russia was ready to sit down, but that Kyiv had ruled out talks due to its mistaken view that the West could defeat Russia.

Pope Francis has said that Ukraine should have what he called the courage of the "white flag" to negotiate an end to a conflict that has killed tens of thousands.

"special military operation" to ensure its own security. Kyiv and the West call it a brutal colonial-style war of conquest.

"It is quite understandable and he (the pope) spoke in favour of negotiations," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters when asked about the Pontiff's remarks. Peskov said that President Vladimir Putin had repeatedly spoken of Russia's willingness and openness to negotiations, but that Ukraine had knocked down such proposals.

Led by Musk, Silicon Valley inches to the right

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Since his tumultuous takeover of Twitter, Elon Musk has made an unabashed turn to the right politically, defying the orthodoxy that Silicon Valley is a citadel of well-heeled liberals beholden to Democrats.

Long considered non-identifiable ideologically, Musk's politics are now headline right wing as he uses his platform (now called X) to stoke the themes cherished by Fox News, conservative talk radio and far right movements across the West.

In just the latest example, repeating a conspiracy theory of far right chat rooms, Musk last week posted that US President Joe Biden was importing migrants for votes, laying the groundwork for "something far worse than 9/11." But beyond the posts, the question on everyone's mind is whether the world's second richest person will put his weight.

Nord Stream sues insurers in London over 2022 pipeline blasts

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Nord Stream is seeking more than 400 million euros (\$436 million) from its insurers over explosions in 2022 which ruptured pipelines designed to transport Russian gas to Germany, court filings show.

Nord Stream AG names Lloyd's Insurance Company and Arch Insurance (EU) DAC (ACGL), opens new tab as defendants in its lawsuit, which was filed at London's High Court last month.

Court filings state that Nord Stream's current preliminary estimate of "the costs to dewater and stabilise the pipeline, to undertake a full repair and to replace the lost gas inventory" is between 1.2 billion and 1.35 billion euros.

Nord Stream's lawsuit also says one of the pipelines "looked 'mangled and deformed' in one area where it had been damaged, but 'appeared smooth and to have been cut' in another.

50 hurt as plane 'just dropped' mid-flight

Monitoring Desk
AUCKLAND: At least 50 people were hurt when a Boeing 787 operated by LATAM Airlines dropped abruptly mid-flight from Sydney to Auckland on Monday, according to the airline and a New Zealand health service organisation that treated the injured.

The aircraft experienced a strong shake and as a result 10 passengers and three cabin crew members were taken to a hospital, the South American carrier said as it investigates the cause.

First Gaza aid ship leaves Cyprus as Palestinians on brink of famine

Monitoring Desk
LARNACA: A ship carrying 200 tonnes of aid for Gaza left Cyprus on Tuesday in a pilot project to open a sea route to deliver supplies to a population aid agencies say is on the brink of famine.

The charity ship Open Arms was seen sailing out of Larnaca port in Cyprus, towing a barge containing flour, rice and protein. The mission was funded mostly by the UAE and organised by US-based charity World Central Kitchen (WCK).

The journey to Gaza takes about 15 hours but a heavy tow barge could make the trip take considerably longer, possibly up to two days. Cyprus is just over 200 miles (320 km) north-west of Gaza.

The US military said its vessel, the General Frank S Besson, was also en route to provide humanitarian relief to Gaza by sea.

With aid agencies saying deliveries into Gaza have been held up by bureaucratic obstacles and in-

security since the start of the war on Oct 7, and even Israel's allies demanding easier aid access to the enclave, attention has shifted towards alternative routes including sea and air drops.

Qatar's foreign ministry spokesperson Majed Al-Ansari said on Tuesday that negotiators seeking a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, which controls Gaza, were not close to a deal.

Washington had said for weeks that it hoped for a truce deal in time for the Ramadan Muslim holy month that began this week, but it has so far failed to materialise with the sides unable to agree terms to halt fighting, free hostages and bring in aid.

Tuesday's sea supply mission was the culmination of months of preparation by Cyprus, the EU member state closest to the conflict. It is keeping a wary eye on spillover effects from upheaval in the Middle East and is already seeing migratory inflows from Lebanon increasing.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal took the charge of the Ministry. Senior officials of the Planning Ministry warmly welcomed the Federal Minister upon his arrival. Secretary Awais Manzoor Sumra briefed the Federal Minister in detail on the ongoing projects of the Planning Ministry.

Federal cabinet members assume charges after allocation of portfolios

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has allocated portfolios to the newly-formed 19-member federal cabinet.

According to a notification, Khawaja Asif has been named defence minister. He has also been assigned additional portfolios of defence production and aviation. Ishaq Dar has been given the portfolio of foreign minister, Ahsan Iqbal is the Minister for Planning, Development and Special Measures.

M u h a m m a d Aurangzeb has been assigned the portfolio of finance and revenue, while Mohsin Naqvi has been assigned the portfolio of Home Affairs and Narcotics Control, Ahad Cheema has been assigned the portfolio of Economic Affairs and Establishment Division.

Pakistan urges UNSC to be more transparent, inclusive to address conflicts, crises

UNITED NATIONS (APP): The Security Council must be more transparent and inclusive in conducting its business to meet the challenges posed by current global, regional conflicts and crises, a senior Pakistani diplomat has stressed, and called for improved working methods as also steps to ensure the implementation of its resolutions, especially on longstanding issues and disputes.

"Nothing undermines the credibility of the Security Council more than 'selective' implementation and non-implementation of its resolutions," Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the 15-member body on Monday.

resolutions undermines the credibility of the Security Council and erodes confidence in its ability to fulfill the responsibilities assigned by the UN Charter," he said while speaking in a debate on: The Working Methods of the Security Council.

Ambassador Jadoon underscored the imperative for the Security Council to respond decisively to the increasingly complex challenges to global peace and security by acting in an effective, transparent, accountable, and democratic manner.

In his remarks, the Pakistani envoy highlighted key areas for improvement in the Council's working methods, including the need for full adherence to openness and transparency, as provided under the rules.

Ambassador Jadoon referred to the absence of interactive discussions in open meetings, saying it compromises the Council's mandated role, particularly its duty to act on behalf of all Member States.

He also advocated for enhancing the quality and frequency of reporting to the General Assembly and allowing automatic participation of non-Council members in deliberations upon request, and called for the elimination or reform of the "penholder" system to ensure greater inclusivity and fairness.

In this regard, he emphasized the need to uphold and respect the General Assembly's role as the principal deliberative, policy-making, and norm-setting organ of the UN.

Ahsan reiterates continuation of policies to ensure stability, economic development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal here on Tuesday reiterated that political stability and continuation of policies were prerequisites to lead the country towards stability and development.

Addressing a press conference after assuming the charge of federal minister, he lamented that political instability and discontinuation of policies had always inflicted the country and blocked the way towards sustainable progress and development.

Citing examples of various countries including India, Turkey, China, Bangladesh, and Korea, the minister said no country had achieved success without consistent policies and political stability.

He said, the last 50 year political history of Pakistan had a negative impact on the implementation and progress of development projects like Vision

2010, Vision 2025, and other five-year plans.

He underlined the importance of making comprehensive decisions and planning for the continued success adding it was imperative to focus on creating an entrepreneurial ecosystem, promoting job creation, and ensuring the success of the youth.

He said, the planning should be made keeping in view the modern infrastructure as digital technology was having great influence on different sectors in the era we were living in.

The minister emphasized the importance of replacing outdated production resources with new ones, by embracing international tools and technologies. This adaptation would help us foster growth in the agriculture and industry.

in \$25 billion investments were made from 2013 to 2018.

He underlined the need to adopt innovative financing mechanisms, especially considering the limited space in Pakistan's economic condition to ensure a strong infrastructure.

Talking about the debt situation, he said, it was previous government of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf that took highest loan in the history of Pakistan during 2018, which forced the successive government to take further loans for paying off.

Ahsan also highlighted the importance of collaboration with the private sector to boost Pakistan's exports. With a target of reaching \$100 billion in exports within 7 to 8 years, it is crucial to tap into the potential of the private sector and create an enabling environment for businesses to thrive.

He highlighted that the success of Pakistan depended on increasing foreign exchange reserves.



QUETTA: Pro-Vice Chancellor Balochistan University of Information Technology Engineering and Management Sciences Dr. Abdul Rehman and General Manager Oil and Gas Company Abdul Razzaq Khattak exchanging documents after signing of a MoU between BUTEMS and OGDCL.

Polio virus detected in sewage samples across Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Health has confirmed the presence of the poliovirus in sewage lines spanning the four provinces of Pakistan. Twelve districts across the country have tested positive for polio in sewage samples, as revealed in a technical report received by the Ministry of Health. This brings the total number of polio-positive sewage samples for the current year to 46.

Polio testing samples were collected from 11 cities between February 13 and 20. Among the confirmed cases, sewage from the Urban Environmental Site of Okara, Orangi Nala in Karachi, Kemari, Muhammad Khan Colony in Karachi, and Haji Murid Goth in Karachi Central were found to be infected with the poliovirus. Additionally, sewage samples from cities including Karachi, Okara, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Jacobabad, Islamabad,

JUI-F chief reaches Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah

LAHORE (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief, Maulana Fazlur Rehman reached Saudi Arabia on Tuesday to perform Umrah.

The party representatives received the Fazlur Rehman upon his arrival at Madina Munawara Airport.

The JUI-F chief will pay respect at Roza e Rasool (Peace Be Upon Him). After three-day stay in Madina Munawara, Maulana Fazlur Rehman will leave for Makkah Mukarrama to perform Umrah.

DC inaugurates Sasta Bazar for facilitating people in Ramadan

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kharan Muneer Ahmed on Tuesday inaugurated Sasta Bazar for giving subsidy on edible items to people in the Holy month of Ramadan on Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner said that measures were being taken to provide maximum facilities to people in the month of Ramadan saying that therefore, Sasta Bazaar was installed in the area with the aim to decrease difficulties of people.

PML-N prepares strategy for Senate's bi-election in Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Balochistan has prepared strategy for the upcoming bi-elections of Senate in the province.

The strategy was finalized in a meeting of the provincial parliamentary party held under the chair of its provincial president, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail here on Tuesday.

The meeting discussed the matter about the Senate elections and de-

cidated to make the candidates successful together with the coalition parties.

A three-member committee was also formed under leadership of provincial president of PML-N in the meeting.

The committee would make contact with the ally parties including the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

It may be mentioned here that the bi-elections are scheduled to be held on three vacant general seats of Senate from Balochistan on March 14.



QUETTA: A view of desert looks on the road during 1st holy Ramadan-ul-Mubarak.

Supply of free medicines restored to patients suffering from CML

Independent Report

QUETTA: The supply of free medicines has been restored to the patients suffering from Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML) in Quetta on Tuesday.

The free medicines have been restored to the CML patients because of the untiring efforts made by Secretary Health, Abdullah Khan.

According to Secretary Health, the CML is a blood cancer that is curable and the patients can lead full life after the treatment.

He said that the free medicines have been restored to the CML patients in Sandeman Provincial Headquarter hospital Quetta.

Health told that at present around 765 patients of CML are registered in the province.

He directed to ensure timely payment of medicines to the companies supplying medicines ensuring transparency in the system so that there is no disruption in the supply of same in future. He also directed to the concerned authorities not to leave any stone unturned in provision of health related facilities to the people. He vowed to mobilize our capabilities for the public service.

He said that the system of governance and accountability has been strengthened by preparing health sector strategy.

FC Balochistan, MPCL distribute ration among 180 needy people

QUETTA (APP): Frontier Corps Balochistan (North) and Mari Petroleum Company Limited (MPCL) distributed rations among 180 indigent people and needy families of Kohlu on the occasion of Ramadan.

Commandant Mawand Rifles Brigade Col Babar Khalil and representative of Mari Petroleum Company Limited Lt. Col. Amjad distributed ration to the deserving and disabled people.

Lieutenant Colonel Amjad said that ration has been distributed to hundreds of deserving and needy families on the occasion of Ramadan, there was greatness in service.

He said that Mari Company has been continuing welfare services in the area saying that welfare services would continue in the future with the support of FC in the rehabilitation of the people of the area, health, education and other sectors.

All Disabled Welfare Organization Balochistan President Sanullah Marri said that Frontier Corps Balochistan (North) and Mari Petroleum Company Limited appreciated the distribution of ration to the deserving families.

He also paid homage to FC Balochistan for co-operation in social sectors.

Senior journalist Amin Butt passes away

MIRPUR (APP): Senior local journalist and former President Kashmir Press club Mirpur-AJK Muhammad Amin Butt died here on Tuesday after prolonged illness.

Late Amin Butt was suffering from diabetes since long and was shifted to local Kashmir Institute of Cardiology recently after he suffer heart problem, according to the family sources.

Amin Butt had long distinguished career in the field of journalism as he served various local and national print and electronic media houses including Daily Jang, Such TV, Azad Kashmir Radio Mirpur and several other media organizations as their representative in Mirpur, Azad Jammu & Kashmir. Convener Jammu & Kashmir Free Media Association Altaf Hamid Rao, President Jammu and Kashmir Union of Journalists Hafiz Muhammad Maqsood, Ex Secretary General Kashmir Press Club Mirpur Sohrab Ahmed.

Naqvi announces to forego salary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior & Narcotics control Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday announced to forego his salary during his tenure as minister.

He made an announcement on social media application X and stated that in this challenging time, he was committed to support and serving the nation in every possible ways.

Earlier, the minister had a meeting with lawyers' community in Lahore in a simple gathering organized in his honor in a local hotel.

Former President Supreme Court Bar Ahsan Bhawan, Federal Minister of Law Senator Azam Nazir Tarar and the officials of Pakistan and Punjab Bar Council attended the meeting.

Advocate General Punjab and officials of various bar associations also participated in the function.

The lawyer leaders pay tributes to Mohsin Naqvi for his unparalleled

performance as Chief Minister of Punjab.

They said that Mohsin Speed excelled at every level and completed public projects with surprising speed in a short period of time.

The lawyer leaders congratulated Mohsin Naqvi on his appointment as a federal minister and expressed good wishes.

The minister said that he would do his best to pay back to the country in the best interest and fulfill the responsibility that Allah had given to him.

He said that he did best for the lawyers what he could do for the community because lawyers' community was very close to his heart.

"I believe in team work and team work brings the best results" the minister added.

The lawyer leaders thanked Mohsin Naqvi for the record work for the welfare of the lawyers community.

Walk organized under title "Education for everyone, every child in School" in Loralai

QUETTA (APP): A walk was organized in the context of admission campaign 2024 under the title "Education for everyone, every child in school" organized by Department of Education Loralai on Tuesday.

District Education Officer (DHO) Imran Al-Hussani, Deputy District Education Officer Bahadur Shah Nasir, District Education Officer Female Medium Fauzia Durrani, Kaleem Behlul of UNICEF, Mujeebur Rehman Muslim Aid of BRSP and representatives of other NGOs, Loralai, schools' principals, headmasters, teachers and students took part in the walk.

The students carried banners and placards with various slogans in connection with the school admission campaign.

The walk was started from the Municipal Committee Office which was ended at the Municipal Committee Office on the way back through various streets of the city.

Later, a seminar was held in the hall of the Municipal Committee.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Loralai Sajad Aslam Baloch said that this year, we have set up to achieve target of enrollment of 5000 children in schools.

He said that all-out resources would be utilized to gain the above target and this message could be delivered door-to-door for interest of children future.

Our first priority will be that no child should stay out of school. In this regard, every member of the society and especially journalists must play their full role through print and electronic media so that we can achieve the given target, he said.

He said that the nation develops through education and we all have to play our role in this regard saying that the government schools should improve their quality of education so that more and more people tend towards schools.

Deputy Commissioner Loralai said that the absence of teachers would not be tolerated and strict action would be taken against the absent teachers.



Ramzan Food Package for 15000 affected families is being dispatched to Gaza from Al-Khidmat Foundation.

China, Pakistan enjoy great potential in marine energy exploration: NPC deputy

BEIJING (INP): China and Pakistan enjoy great potential in marine energy exploration, said Yan Hongtao, a deputy to the National People's Congress and the general manager of China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) Tianjin. "We can engage in more comprehensive cooperation on joint marine energy exploration and development, and strengthen the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between China and Pakistan," he stated according to China Economic Net (CEN).

As the pioneer of offshore oil and gas resource exploration in China, CNOOC has actively participated in the construction of the "21st Century

Maritime Silk Road".

In a bid to enhance bilateral friendly cooperation in science, it also took part in the 91-day China-Pakistan joint marine geological survey in the Indian Ocean starting from December 2019.

During the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in 2023, the two heads of state hope that both sides will seize the 10th anniversary of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as an opportunity to develop an "upgraded version" of the corridor focusing on growth, livelihood, innovation, greenness and openness.

They aim to enhance cooperation in areas such as industrial parks, agriculture,

mining, and new energy.

Under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) framework, if we continue to conduct geological surveys and research in Pakistani waters, we will undoubtedly establish a robust data foundation for delineating potential oil and gas areas, selecting favorable zones, evaluating resources, and analyzing the oil and gas potential in this region. It will promote our all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to a new level," said Yan. Firstly, Yan suggested to promote China-Pakistan joint energy exploration and development cooperation along the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road in Pakistan's exclusive economic zone in the Indian Ocean.