

# Independent

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Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 77, Shawwal 15, 1445 AH Wednesday April 24, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs.15

## Iranian President vows to enhance cooperation with Pak in diverse sectors

LAHORE (APP): Iranian President Dr Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi says Pakistan and Iran are keen to develop centers of arts and learning besides promotion of arts and sciences.

Addressing students and faculty at Government College University in Lahore, he said it is need of the hour to pay special attention to arts, sciences and technology to shine among the comity of nations.

President Raisi said that universities should be centers of learning and research and a comprehensive strategy in the education sector may pay dividends.

On Allama Iqbal, the Iranian President said the poetry of Allama Dr Muhammad Iqbal enjoys special acceptance in Iran.

He said Pakistan and Iran maintain the same stance on Palestine issue. Dr Raisi said Iran would further enhance its cooperation with Pakistan in the energy and other sectors.

The Iranian President thanked Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif for the cordial hospitality during his visit.



KARACHI: Iranian President Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi along with others paying homage to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah during ceremony held at Jinnah Mausoleum in Karachi.

## Pending cases to be disposed of soon: CJ BHC

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Justice, Balochistan High Court (BHC), Mr. Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar has stated that the cases pending in the courts would be disposed of soon.

It is loss of the lawyers if cases remain pending, observed the Chief Justice while addressing the reception hosted here at the High Court on Tuesday.

The reception was arranged in honour of the newly appointed Chief Justice Hashim Khan Kakar and retiring judge Mr Justice Nazeer Ahmed Langove.

The Chief Justice BHC said that he considers the Bar his mother institution as the judges come from there.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presenting a memorial shield to Commander West (Navy) Rear Admiral Adnan Majeed

## Terrorists involved in attacks on Customs officials killed in DI Khan operation

PESHAWAR (Agencies): The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Tuesday claimed to have killed at least eight terrorists who were involved in attacks on Customs officials in Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

One of the most-wanted terrorists, Jahanzaib, was also among those killed in the operation conducted on Monday in the KP district, the CTD said in a statement.

The dead terrorists, according to the statement,

## CPPA seeks Rs 2.94 per unit increase in tariff for March

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-G) has sought Rs 2.94 per unit increase in power tariff for March under monthly fuel cost adjustment (FCA) mechanism.

In a petition submitted to National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on behalf of XWAPDA power distribution companies (DISCOs), the CPPA-G maintained the actual cost of electricity remained Rs 9.38 per unit against reference fuel charges of Rs 6.44 per unit for the month of March.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Safaraz Bugti talking with mediemen. Provincial Ministers are also present

## PM lauds CIDCA's role in bolstering Pakistan's economic development

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level delegation of the Chinese International Development Cooperation Agency, led by its Chairman Luo Zhaohui, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad today.

Welcoming the delegation, the Prime Minister said China is Pakistan's most trusted friend and appreciated China's steadfast support to Pakistan.

Acknowledging CIDCA's pivotal role in bolstering Pakistan's economic development, the Prime Minister specifically commended CIDCA for its vital support during the 2022 floods and for its relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts in Pakistan.

The Prime Minister underscored that CPEC has contributed to Pakistan's socio-economic development as well as the progress and prosperity of the peoples of the two countries.

He hoped that the Phase-II of CPEC would result in more industrial, scientific, and green development. He further said CPEC-II is also an opportunity for the private sectors of both countries to form joint ventures.

Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong also attended the meeting.

The Prime Minister witnessed the signing ceremony of four Memorandums of Understanding focusing on Flood Rehabilitation, Information and Communication Technologies, Juncao Technology, China-Pakistan Development Cooperation Planning 2024-2028 alongside a Letter of Exchange on the establishment of a First Aid Centre in Balochistan, and Protocol on Cooperation in Human Resources Development under the Global Development Initiative.

These agreements signify the deepening cooperation between Pakistan and China across various sectors.

NA told

Govt committed to implement minimum wages

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly on Tuesday adopted a resolution urging the government to ensure the payment of minimum wages in both government-run departments and private enterprises.

The resolution was introduced by MNA Syed Rafullah.

In response, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb said that federal government is committed to implementing minimum wages in the capital and its affiliated departments.

He said that Deputy Commissioners and Commissioners in the federal capital are overseeing the implementation of minimum wages. He further said that following the passage of the minimum wage legislation by parliament, a notification was issued for its implementation.

US warns Pak of 'possible sanctions' for doing trade with Iran

WASHINGTON (INP): The United States hinted at the "risk of possible sanctions" on Pakistan if Islamabad did trade with Iran.

US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller while reacting to a question on the visit of Iran President Ebrahim Raisi said that the United States is one of Pakistan's largest export markets. However, he advised "caution to those considering trade deals with Iran," citing the potential threat of sanctions.

"We advise anyone considering business deals with Iran to be aware of the potential risk of sanctions," the spokesperson did not specifically name Pakistan but reminded it of the US significance as the biggest foreign market and one of the biggest investors in the country.

"We have also been a leading investor in Pakistan for the past 20 years. Pakistan's economic success is in both of our interest, and we look forward to continuing our partnership," he added.

Missing persons issue is very old, cannot be resolved overnight: Law Minister

Voters rejected PTI's narrative of hatred, hypocrisy and lies in bye-elections: Attaullah Tarar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal government has said missing persons matter is very old and it cannot be resolved overnight on court's orders.

"Talks are underway between political and military circles. Government is taking this issue seriously. This matter is linked to terrorism. However, committee has been constituted and investigations have been started. The country is put on the path to economic development. People have absolutely rejected PTI contradictory statements, this was said by law minister Azam Nazir Tarar and information minister Ata Tarar while addressing a joint press conference here Tuesday.

Law minister Azam Nazir Tarar said talks are underway between political and military circles since some time on the issue of missing persons. Pakistan has played role of front line country in war affected area since four decades. This war has led to enhance enormously internal and external challenges of Pakistan. We have paid price for it.

First talk in this regard was held in PPP government and a commission was constituted on this matter, he pointed out. The representatives of Balochistan were also part of this commission.

10200 cases were presented before missing persons commission, he indicated. Some among them were resolved.

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Tuesday that the voters during the recent bye-elections had rejected the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's narrative of hatred, hypocrisy and lies.

Addressing a press conference along with Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar here, he said much hue and cry was made about so-called rigging in the by-elections but even a single proof could not be presented by the PTI leadership.

Rahila Durrani assigned depts of Colleges & Higher & Technical Education as well

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Education (Schools) Ms Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani has also been assigned the departments of Colleges, Higher and Technical Education.

This was announced in an official notification issued here on Tuesday.

Security forces kill terrorist in Pishin IBO

RAWALPINDI (APP): Security Forces killed a terrorist last night during an intelligence based operation in Pishin, Balochistan.

According to ISPR, three terrorists were also apprehended in injured condition who has been identified as an Afghan national.

A huge cache of arms, ammunition and explosives was also recovered during the operation.

Security forces of Pakistan, in step with the Nation, remain determined to thwart attempts of sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan.

Better plan being devised for improving law and order: Govt's formation completed; ministers given portfolios; 16-point reforms prepared, says Chief Minister

Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti says committee being formed for talks with those on the mountains; recovery of missing persons government's responsibility

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that the formation of provincial government has been completed with portfolios assigned to the ministers.

The Chief Minister said that we have prepared 16-point reforms agenda for bringing improvement in the government affairs and the provincial ministers would work on them.

He said that the Provincial Minister for Home

would work along with all security institutions for maintaining law and order in the province.

The Chief Minister was addressing a hurriedly called press conference along with provincial ministers here on Tuesday.

Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti maintained that we are forming a committee for holding talks with those moving on the mountains.

The committee would talk with the parties present in the parliament and outside, stated the Chief Minister adding that

we would speak to the tribal personalities for ending violence.

He said that it is better to resolve the issue of Balochistan through dialogue.

What should we do if the issue of Balochistan is not resolved through negotiations.

He announced that the development schemes would be completed timely after the budget.

However, he added that of Balochistan is impossible in the present budget.

PM Shehbaz likely to visit Saudi Arabia this week

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is expected to travel to Saudi Arabia on a three-day official visit this week.

The prime minister will leave for Saudi Arabia on April 28 (Sunday), his second visit to the Kingdom since assuming the top office.

Shehbaz Sharif last traveled to Saudi Arabia during his second term as PM at the start of the ongoing month.

During his visit, Prime Minister Sharif will meet with Crown Prince and Prime Minister of KSA Mohammed Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and discussed further fortifying of the fraternal relations between the two brotherly nations and exploring avenues for enhanced collaboration across various sectors.

The prime minister had also performed Umrah and offered Nawafil inside Ka'aba as he was granted access inside 'Baitullah', as a special gesture.

The premier, during his upcoming visit, will hold meetings with Saudi crown prince and other officials.

Punjab to welcome Iran's investment: Maryam; emphasises stronger industrial, agri cooperation

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif met with Iranian officials on Tuesday said that the Punjab government would welcome Iranian investment in the value-added livestock market of the province, emphasising stronger bilateral cooperation in industrial and agriculture sectors.

The chief minister, in a meeting with President of Iran Dr Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi and his spouse Dr Jamileh-Sadat Alamolhoda at the Governor's House here, suggested that both countries could earn valuable foreign exchange by establishing MDF zones and promoting halal meat export, according to a press release issued by DGPR.

Referring to the Pak-Iran friendship spanned over decades, the chief minister said that her government wished to carry out economic projects to alleviate poverty.

She told the Iranian president that immense opportunities were available in Punjab for investment in the environment-friendly green energy sector.

Balochistan's lawmakers call for development initiatives in province

ISLAMABAD (APP): Members National Assembly (MNAs) from Balochistan emphasized the importance of progress and development in the province, urging an efficient utilization of resources to uplift the area.

Speaking at National Assembly forum, JUI-P lawmaker Engineer Muhammad Usman Badini hailing from Balochistan raised concerns over funding issues in Balochistan University, emphasizing that employees have not yet received salaries of six months. He also highlighted the vast expanse of his constituency, spanning over 1000 square kilometers and rich in resources, urging development efforts in the region. PML-N's Haji Jamal Shah Kakar emphasized the significance of Balochistan for the country's development and nation's future. He stressed

the need for development initiatives in the area to achieve prosperity for the people of province.

IPP lawmaker Gul Asghar Khan underscored Pakistan's resource wealth and advocated for development through strategic planning. Delivering his inaugural speech in the National Assembly, he called for prioritizing the resolution of public issues.

MNA Mian Khan Bugti stressed the need for educational uplift in Balochistan, describing it as a region lagging behind as compared to other parts of the provinces. He highlighted the underdevelopment in Western side of Balochistan, citing deficiencies in gas, electricity and other essential facilities.

Mian Bugti called for concerted efforts to uplift the region, urging the concerned for provision of gas facilities to the local population.

Spokesman of Government of Balochistan Shahid Rind, Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat, Deputy Commissioner Lt. (retd) Saad bin Asad and DG PDMA Jahanzeb talking with DGPR Balochistan Muhammad Noor Khetran during their visit to DGPR Office





Daily Voice of Masses  
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**By-election trends**

While it is too early to deduce a definitive political trend from the provisional results of Sunday's 21 by-polls held so soon after the Feb 8 general elections, the exercise has once again emphasised the need for the state — particularly the ECP and the administration — to work on improving the credibility of the electoral process. Five National Assembly seats were up for grabs, while the rest of the contests were for the provincial legislatures, 12 of those for Punjab Assembly constituencies. Just as allegations of rigging and irregularities had marred the Feb 8 polls, similar accusations were levelled in a number of constituencies during the by-polls, most of which were won by PML-N candidates.

An example was the 'confession' of a presiding officer at a Lahore polling station. The PTI might have played up these claims, but independent observers, too, were of the view that all was not well at many polling stations in Punjab. The ECP 'took notice' of the apparent electoral malfeasance and sought a report. Meanwhile, violence was reported from Narowal, resulting in the death of a man near a polling station.

Whereas the by-polls should have been a straightforward process, this was not to be. Clearly, the lessons of the Feb 8 polls, as well as earlier fiascos such as the 2021 Daska by-election, have not been learnt. Unless polls in Pakistan are transparent — and seen to be so — the country's democratic evolution will remain slow.

The ECP bears the principal responsibility for ensuring this transparency; others in the government, state and bureaucracy also have a duty to promote electoral integrity. Unless the culture of violence and rigging is rooted out, so that the vote is the sole determinant and source of political power, the credibility of the electoral process in Pakistan will continue to remain under a cloud. By-elections in Pakistan have generally attracted little voter interest, with voters often tending to cast their ballots in favour of the party already in the saddle. As per the provisional results, the PML-N secured two NA seats, while winning 10 provincial constituencies in Punjab. Many of these were seats that N-League candidates had already won on Feb 8.

Rather than reflecting any great triumph for the N-League narrative, as its leaders are claiming, the results are more an indication of the fact that voters want to maintain the status quo at this point in the electoral cycle.

Nevertheless, it is difficult to ignore the rigging claims, which also dominated the Feb 8 polls. They indicate that the electoral victory is not as clear as the ruling party is portraying. There is much time between now and the 2029 elections. This period should be used by all stakeholders to ensure the next elections are free of controversy.

**Towards the end**

Arif Hasan

Europe destroyed itself and also the rest of the world as a result of World War II. Since it had colonies all over the world, they were also inadvertently drawn into the chaos.

Towards the end of the war, and especially after, Europe discovered the terrible physical and 'moral' cost of it. Europe had in the past two centuries devastated its colonies through highly rapacious and political processes supported by deep-seated racism. By the end of the war, the Europeans also discovered how the Jews, Gypsies, and Slavs had been placed in concentration camps and gassed and starved to death by the millions as they were looked upon as racially inferior to the Aryan race.

The Jews were an educated, financially powerful community with strong links to European and American politics, academia, and global financial institutions. As such, their inhuman extermination, and the large numbers involved, became the most important issue that troubled post-war Europe's conscience. The devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki did not acquire the same importance in the European psyche.

Due to the tragic war and the racism that was part of it, the major powers (who had won World War II and who were largely European colonists) got together to create the United Nations and formulate its goals, rules, regulations, and covenants, which have grown over the years. The covenants have proposed equality of mankind, irrespective of caste, creed, or ethnicity, and sought to maintain the sanctity of national frontiers and guarantee that the causes and repercussions of World War II would never be seen

again. The headquarters of the UN's various agencies were for the most part located in European cities, and the initial formulations of the UN Charter and its supporting documents were developed by Western intellectuals, politicians, and academia. Thus, the UN was, for the most part, a European/ US construct.

As a result of the barbaric destruction of Gaza, the occupation of Palestinian land by Israeli homes, and the genocide that is accompanying it, Europe and the US, by supporting Israel's war against Hamas and the Palestinian people have violated everything that the UN Charter promotes and which the Western colonial countries have supported not only internationally but also within their own countries. Post-World War II, they have promoted these values as their own and have considered countries and societies that violated them as 'uncivilised'. So Europe has dismantled its own 'civilisation' and value system.

To assuage its post-war conscience, Europe developed two terms: one was 'Holocaust' and the other 'antisemitism'. The Holocaust is used to describe the mass murder of ethnic communities that Europe carried out. Another term that has evolved is 'antisemitism', which means that anyone who acts or says anything that is anti-Jewish is anti-Semite. Almost all European countries have laws that can punish those who deny the Holocaust and/ or is antisemitic.

Israel and its supporters and benefactors have used these two terms to promote the concept that any individual or country that denies the Holocaust or says anything that is antisemitic is anti-Israel. The Western powers have supported this con-

cept since the end of World War II.

This is ironic because many communities in the Global South, such as the Arabs, and the Muslims, were not involved in the Holocaust, but they have been accused of denying it. Similarly, they had nothing to do with the extermination of the Jews. Not only that, the Arabs themselves are Semites, and Islam is a Semitic religion. The Muslim faith is derived from Abraham, as is the Jewish faith. They are two branches of the same tribe. So history is a major casualty in the Euro-pean narrative of this form of reasoning.

Another myth that has been promoted is the invincibility and discipline of the Israeli army. This has been proven by Israeli Western-supported victories because of which Arab countries have refrained from attacking Israel directly since 1967. Iran by its recent attack has shattered this myth and the denial of the Holocaust and antisemitism have become a joke universally but the price for this has been paid by the children and women of Gaza.

The public, especially the young, in most Western countries have protested against their governments' support for Israel. This should not be allowed to fizzle out, as the anger against the Saudi crown prince for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi has — he is now the blue-eyed boy of the Western world. The formal and informal alliances that had been formed among opponents of Israel should be kept alive so that a positive change can take place in international media and the last remnants of colonialism can be wiped out, and a more equitable world created for the coming generation. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Wrong choices**

Naseer Memon

A fresh conflict has erupted between Punjab and Sindh on the issue of irrigating a new command area. Punjab's irrigation department sought a water availability certificate from the Indus River System Authority to irrigate two million acres of land under the Smaller Cholistan scheme.

The department's presentation reveals that the feasibility studies of the Greater Cholistan and Smaller Cholistan schemes have been completed to bring a total of 6.6m acres of new land under canal command. Sindh's objection was overruled at Irsa and the certificate was issued in favour of Punjab, but the province submitted a detailed note of dissent against the proposal.

Similarly, in August 2023, Wapda had presented a proposal on another forum to irrigate 6m acres of land in Cholistan through the Sutlej river on its left bank.

A drive for large-scale corporate farming has already kicked off. Sindh's last caretaker government had leased 52,000 acres of land in six districts where the newly created Green Pakistan Initiative intends to experiment with corporate farming. Developing new command areas in Cholistan is also part of the mega farming campaign; \$40 billion in revenue and the creation of millions of jobs are being touted under the initiative.

Undoubtedly, Pakistan has large swathes of barren land. But macro-scale farming needs large amounts of guaranteed flood flows and an extensive irrigation infrastructure. Officials in Punjab, it seems, are given to conjuring up numbers to claim the availability of surplus water whenever they want to advocate

new upstream diversions. Sindh has always rejected this data and interpretation. The debate can be endless but it is undeniable that Sindh frequently encounters sub-optimal flows that have led to ecological devastation in the Indus delta.

For the Cholistan dream project, Punjab has proposed an elaborate web of reservoirs and link canals. New reservoirs at Midh Ranjha, Shah Jewna and Chiniot, and new barrages at Hasilpur and Bahawalnagar on the Sutlej, are part of the scheme. Additionally, a new 195-kilometre link canal from the Chenab river is proposed for conveying 'perennial' flows to the Sutlej. Punjab claims that regulated flows of the Chenab will feed the Sutlej, which will eventually irrigate the Cholistan command area through two new feeder canals.

The Punjab irrigation department's proposals for the Smaller Cholistan scheme entail data on water availability. Water availability from the first week of July to the first week of September has been shown as Punjab's share from the flood flows. These flows range from 4,137 cusecs to 4,122 cusecs. Developing such a huge command area on the assumption of the availability of flood flows negates the fundamentals of irrigation engineering. Indus data shows that from 2001 to 2022, flows below Kotri Barrage remained less than 10 million acre feet for nine years. Who can guarantee that the Chenab and Sutlej rivers will receive surplus flows every monsoon?

India is aggressively damming the Chenab. According to The Diplomat, over 70 major hydroelectric projects on the Chenab are at different stages. Although they are run-of-the-river projects, their reservoirs

will hold water for weeks. Amid climatic vagaries and frequent upstream diversions, the reliance on flood flows for developing a massive command area lacks logic. What if a dry spell persists for a few years in the Chenab and the proposed three reservoirs are exhausted? Will the command area be left parched and the crops allowed to wilt? The Chenab and Sutlej flows eventually reach the Indus and the proposed scheme will reduce flows to Sindh.

Pakistan's population is projected to cross 400m by 2050. This poses a challenge for food security. Hence, the objective should be to increase food production, which can be achieved without controversial projects.

According to a report by the Zarai Taraqiati Bank, the national potential for total grain production is 100,933,000 kilograms per year, whereas the actual national grain production from 2015 to 2016 remained 38,227,000 kg. This means that Pakistan is producing only 38 per cent of its actual potential. Moreover, Pakistan's per acre yield of 1.05 tons pales in comparison with China's 1.9. India obtains 1.1 tonnes. In rice, Pakistan's per acre yield is 1.25 tonnes which is less than half of China's 2.6 tonnes. Even Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India are ahead of Pakistan with 1.7, 1.6 and 1.3 tonnes per acre respectively. Hence Pakistan has the potential to double its grain production from the existing cultivable land. It would be prudent for the decision-makers to avoid the wrong choices and make attempts to increase crop yield and production through improved farm practices, modern water application techniques and quality seeds. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**Economy on right path, govt committed to accelerate growth: Finance Minister**

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said here on Tuesday that the economy was steadily advancing in the right direction, underlining the government's steadfast commitment to accelerate momentum towards achieving both economic growth and comprehensive social development.

In his address at the 7th edition of the Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit, Collaboration for growth, the minister highlighted the impact of the incumbent government's constructive measures on economic indicators, noting their

resilience amidst challenges. He emphasized that these indicators signify a favorable trajectory compared to previous standings, signaling an optimistic outlook for the economy.

He said that upon assuming power, the foreign exchange reserves of the country stood \$3.4 billion, an import bill covering only 15 days. However, he noted a significant improvement, with reserves now exceeding \$13.3 billion. He further anticipated a boost following the disbursement of the country's tranche from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Besides, the minister

said, Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) was performing well as it witnessed remarkable growth during recent days, adding such sentiments were helping to restore market confidence. Moreover, the agricultural sector in the country experienced notable growth with the successful harvesting of bumper crops, promising a positive ripple effect on the industrial sector, he added.

The agriculture credit disbursement during the period from July-February, 2024 witnessed 33.6 percent growth as compared to the same period of last year, he said adding that during the period under review the current account deficit decreased by 74 percent and reached to \$1.00 billion as against the deficit of 3.9 billion.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries Production and Food Security, Rana Tanveer Hussain being briefed by Commissioner Livestock Stock regarding Livestock Department.

**Federal government to collaborate with provinces to reduce electricity losses**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari on Tuesday said the federal government would engage with provincial governments in order to mitigate electricity losses.

He stated this while responding to a calling attention notice in the National Assembly

regarding un-scheduled load-shedding and overbilling in the Karachi especially in Layari and Azam Basti by Karachi Electric Supply Company.

He emphasized the need for assistance from law enforcement agencies to address the issue effectively.

The minister underscored that without

the cooperation of provincial governments and law enforcement agencies, controlling power issues and minimizing losses would be challenging.

He also revealed plans to establish a new board aimed at enhancing governance in the sector.

Addressing the specific situation in Karachi, he highlighted

that electricity supply challenges in certain areas contribute to load-shedding.

He mentioned that in Azam Basti, for instance, three feeders served 12,200 consumers, leading to 10-hour load-shedding due to losses. Efforts were underway to reduce the current loss rate of 38.3%, he added.

Regarding load-shedding in Layari, the minister detailed that out of 82 feeders, there was no load-shedding on 31, while others experienced varying durations of load-shedding based on losses. Providing an overview of Karachi Electric's operations, Leghari noted that out of 2,109 feeders, 1,500 faces no load-shedding.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with Deputy Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan.

**Chinese company delegation meets Ch Shafay Hussain**

LAHORE (APP): A delegation from a chip manufacturing company in China met with Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, here on Tuesday at the Punjab Investment Board.

The Chinese company expressed interest in investing in chip and card manufacturing. Andrew Leong from XH Smart Tech Limited stated that their group aims to establish a chip

manufacturing plant in Punjab and requested land in Bhalwal Industrial Estate. During the meeting, Provincial Minister Chaudhry Shafay Hussain highlighted the extensive investment opportunities in Punjab's industrial zones.

He mentioned the benefits of Special Economic Zones, including ten years of income tax exemption and one-time duty-free machinery import.

**Afghan trade delegation visits FPCCI to boost bilateral trade**

Independent Report LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Regional Chairman and Vice President Zaki Ajjaz said that Pakistan and Afghanistan have great

scope for promoting bilateral trade. He added that steps were necessary to prevent smuggling, as smuggling causes great harm to the domestic economy.

He expressed these views while addressing Afghan trade delegation,



led by Board Member Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) and Co-Chairman Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) Khan Jan Alokozai, at the FPCCI Regional Office Lahore.

The head of the

Afghan delegation, Khan Jan Alokozai, said that FPCCI and ACCI are playing a vital role in promoting bilateral trade, and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce is also praiseworthy. He further said that tariffs and taxes

now more than ever. He said that there is potential to increase economic activities in this region. He said that 70% of trade between the two countries is done through Lahore, from where pharmaceuticals, rice, auto

on agriculture products from both sides should be eliminated, which would further enhance the trade. Pakistan is our second home; our culture and language are one.

He further said that they are willing to increase trade with Pakistan. Both countries need each other

parts and other items are exported to Afghanistan.

He said that Afghanistan is promoting its private sector. Political instability between the two countries affects mutual trade. The delegation urged Pakistani investors to invest in Afghanistan as Pakistanis.

**Bill drafted to regulate veterinary sciences and animal welfare: Tanveer**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Industries and Production and National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain Tuesday said the government was committed to increase export of livestock from Pakistan since this sector contributes around 62% of the agricultural GDP of the country.

Addressing a meeting, he said livestock sector was very important in the agriculture economy of Pakistan as around eight million families were connected to this sector.

He said there was a lot of potential to earn foreign exchange from the livestock sector.

He said Pakistan was the fourth largest milk producing country and all necessary steps would be taken to meet the requirements of meat

and milk across the country.

Rana Tanveer said the current government's mission is the development of the agricultural sector and also determined to increase the export of livestock.

He said for the first time in the history of Pakistan, a bill has been drafted to regulate veterinary sciences and animal welfare. The bill will soon be sent to the cabinet for approval.

He said practical measures are being taken to protect livestock from diseases.

"Strengthening the surveillance system to protect animals from diseases is need of the time," he said adding that concrete measures are being taken to create real-time data of animal diseases in the country.



## Governor Punjab hails Pak-Iran friendship

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has said that Pakistan and Iran are bound to each other by rich historical, cultural and civilizational ties. During a meeting with the President of Iran Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi at the Governor's House here on Tuesday, he said Pakistan accords great importance to its relation with Islamic Republic of Iran. President of Iran Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi hailed the city of Lahore for its beauty and grandeur, adding that it houses many architectural heritage sites. President Raisi expressed the hope that his visit will enhance people to people ties between the two countries.

Later, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi along with his entourage departed for Karachi from Old Airport here on Tuesday evening. Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman along with his wife Aisha Baligh and provincial ministers saw off the Iranian dignitaries. Punjab Information Minister Azma Zahid Bukhari, Finance Minister Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman, Minister for Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Khawaja Salman Rafique, Minister for Food and Livestock Bilal Yasin, Minister for Industries Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, Chief Secretary, Inspector General Police, Iranian Consul General in Lahore

Mehran Mawahid Far, Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Lahore, CCPO and other officers were present. During the day-long visit to Lahore, the Iranian President and other dignitaries had a very busy schedule packed with multiple official engagements, reflecting the importance of bilateral discussions and cooperation between the two brotherly Muslim nations. These engagements aim to further strengthen the existing relationship and explore new avenues for collaboration in various sectors. After accomplishing the engagements in Lahore, the high-level Iranian delegation departed for Karachi.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rahman meets with President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi at Governor House.

## Knowledge without morality serves powerful: Dr Jamileh

LAHORE (APP): Prof Dr Jamileh-Sadat Alamolhoda, the wife of Iranian President, said on Tuesday that knowledge without morality serves the purpose of powerful and cruel ones. Addressing the international seminar: exhibition and launching of book titled "The Art of Living Femininely" by Prof Dr Jamileh Alamolhoda here at the University of Home Economics, she said that she was happy to visit the women university, adding that there were women universities in Iran

as well. She underscored the need for giving adequate attention towards women whether it was a women university or a co-educational institute. She said: "Culture of Iran and Pakistan have some common characteristics". Independence of women was compared with western countries, she said and added that for us providing protection and taking women along was independence of women. Jamileh Alamolhoda said: "There are a lot of challenges with regard to

upbringing of coming generations and all of us have to play our special role in this regard". She said that it was a high time to stand up for protecting the values of morality, adding that each of us was aggrieved over the killing of humans in Gaza. She said that time had come to restore values of morality, adding that teachers were actually technicians of knowledge centre. She said: "I have mentioned in her book that if women play their role effectively and efficiently then success could be achieved".



LAHORE: Ms. Dr. Jamila Alam Al Hoda, wife of the Honorable President of the Islamic Republic of Iran being received during her visit Pakistan Home at University of Home Economics, Gulberg.

## Afridi praises issuance of scholarships by Chinese universities to Pak students

PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Higher Education, Meena Khan Afridi has praised the issuance of scholarships by Chinese universities for Pakistani students, particularly those from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He expressed the desire to cooperate with the Chinese government in the field of education to ensure that Pakistani students receive higher

## ANF recovers 133 kg drugs in six operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover 133 kg drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that 2.4 kg Ice was recovered from two passengers going to Saudi Arabia at Islamabad Airport, 700 grams Ice was recovered from a passenger going to Doha at Peshawar Airport. In third operation, 87 kg hashish and 33.9 kg opium recovered from Nowshera while 5 kg hashish and 1 kg opium were recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up in Tandujam, Hyderabad. 2.7 kg hashish was recovered from an accused arrested in Sohrab Goth Karachi. 600 grams hashish was recovered from a drug smuggler netted near Turki Toll Plaza Jhelum. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused while further investigations are under process.

## Governor urges young doctors to serve humanity

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali, has emphasized that serving the suffering humanity should be the purpose and goal of young doctors. He addressed the 8th Convocation of Gandhara University, Peshawar, as a special guest. He mentioned that young doctors will bring innovation and improvement to the field of medicine. The Governor highlighted that to completely eradicate diseases, it's essential to utilize one's education effectively, adding that as new diseases emerge

## Police arrest eight drug dealers with over 11 kg charras

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi district police have arrested eight drug dealers and recovered over 11 kg charras, said a police spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that Rattanaal police held Tariq and recovered 2400 grams charras while Rizwan, Adeel, Bilal and Aliyan were sent behind the bars for having over 5.5 kg charras. Waris Khan police rounded up Bilal Khan and Waqas and recovered 1440 and 550 grams charras respectively.

## CM Punjab directs to established Provincial Enforcement Authority

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, chairing a meeting to review implementation of various government policies in the province, directed to establish the Provincial Enforcement Authority in Punjab. The CM said the enforcement authorities would also be established in every district and tehsil of Punjab, adding that the Provincial Enforcement Authority would be headed by the chief secretary, supported by a director general, the District Enforcement Authority will be headed

by a deputy commissioner while Tehsil Enforcement Authority will be headed by the respective assistant commissioner. The enforcement authorities will have powers to take action against price hike, encroachment of government lands and hoarding besides performing other special tasks assigned by the government from time to time, including seizures of state properties. The CM directed to make these enforcement authorities functional and start legislation for the purpose.



BATTAGRAM: DIGHazara Tahir Ayub Khan, DPO Battagram Qamar Hayat Khan and other police officials are saluted the constable Amjad Hussain who martyred during duty by unknown terrorists at Khas Pull Check Post in district Battagram (Hazara Division) during funeral prayer, held at Police Lines Headquarter in Battagram.

## KP Govt vows to fully support NCRC

PESHAWAR: The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will provide full support to the National Commission for Child Rights (NCR) to facilitate the process of registration of children and its awareness. The complete coordination between the concerned institutions will be continued in this regard. Registration of children at birth is a very crucial process. Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary Chairperson National Commission for Children's Rights Ayesha Raza Farooq participated in a

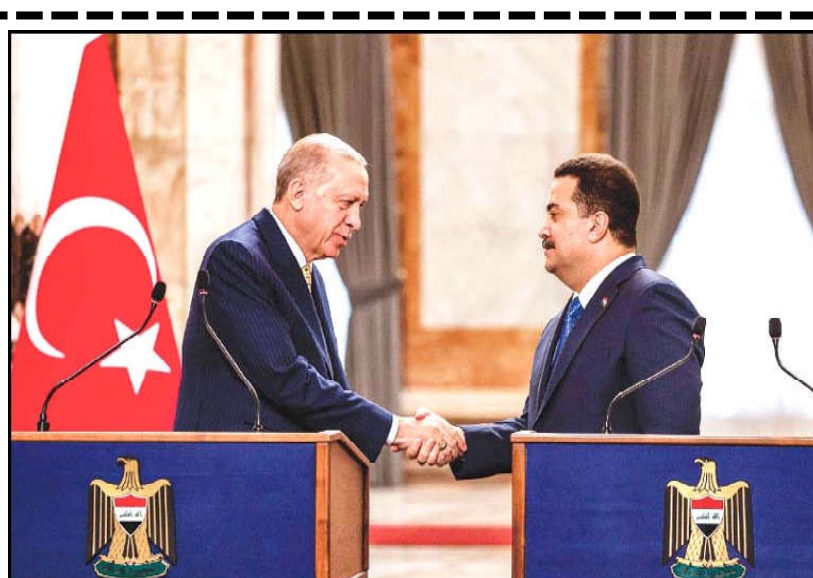
meeting organized on children's birth registration along with Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary in Peshawar on Tuesday. In the meeting, various feasible suggestions were considered regarding increasing the rate of registration at the time of birth of children. On this occasion, the Chief Secretary said that to facilitate the process of registration of children at the time of birth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, they will ensure the implementation of all feasible suggestions, and will fully cooperate with the NCR to protect the rights of children.

## International News

## Iraq, Turkiye agree to cooperate against Kurdish militants

BAGHDAD: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said relations with Iraq were entering a new phase after the neighbours agreed to cooperate against Kurdish militants, boost economic ties via a new trade corridor and consider Iraq's needs for access to scarce water. Erdogan was in Iraq on a long-awaited visit, the first by a Turkish leader since 2011, following years of strained relations as Ankara ramped up cross-border operations against PKK militants based in mountainous, mainly Kurdish northern Iraq. "I shared my belief

that the PKK's presence in Iraq will end. We discussed the joint steps we can take against the terrorist organisation PKK and its extensions targeting Turkiye," Erdogan said at a joint news conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani in Baghdad. The two countries agreed to a strategic framework agreement overseeing security, trade and energy as well as a 10-year deal on the management of water resources that would take Iraq's needs into account, Sudani said. Sudani said the two countries would cooperate to bolster border security



Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan shake hands after a joint statement to the media.



Emergency personnel work at the site of a helicopter crash in Lumut, Perak, Malaysia.

## Russia will strike in unexpected places this summer, Ukraine says

KYIV: Russian troops will strike in unexpected parts of the front when they conduct their summer offensive in Ukraine and could try to advance on the northeastern city of Kharkiv, the commander of Ukraine's National Guard said on Tuesday. Oleksandr Pivnenko said. "We are getting ready. Yes, the enemy will give us unpleasant surprises. It will operate in areas where we do not expect it. But it will not achieve its goal," he told the Ukrainian news outlet Liga.net. Russia has been inching forward in the east, but long-delayed U.S. military assistance is finally expected to be approved this week and reach Ukraine soon.

## Aid workers worried over looming Rafah invasion

JERUSALEM: An expected Israeli assault on Rafah has aid groups scrambling for ways to help the 1.5 million civilians sheltering in the south Gaza city but the uncertain timeline poses a logistical nightmare. "We always are prepared with plans to up-scale or downscale but, really, we don't know what to expect," said Bushra Khalidi, head of advocacy at Oxfam. Oxfam joined 12 other aid groups in a joint call for a ceasefire on April 3, stressing that more than a million civilians, including at least 610,000 children, were "in direct line of fire" in Rafah. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said repeatedly that Israel will press ahead with the threatened assault on Rafah, the last major population centre in Gaza that Israeli ground troops have yet to enter.

## 200 bodies exhumed at Gaza hospital

GAZA STRIP: Gaza's Civil Defence agency said on Monday that health workers had uncovered about 200 bodies over the past three days of people killed and buried by Israeli forces at a hospital in Khan Yunis. When asked for comment, the Israeli military said: "We will come back to you on the matter." Mahmud Bassal, spokesman for Gaza's Civil Defence, said that "civil defence crews are still recovering bodies from inside Nasser Medical Complex, and since Saturday bodies of nearly 200 martyrs have been retrieved". Bassal said several of the recovered bodies had decomposed. "There is difficulty in the process of identifying them but civil defence efforts are ongoing," he said. On Sunday, Bassal said that some of those killed had been tortured. Ismail al-Thawabta, head of the Hamas government media office in the Palestinian territory, gave a higher figure of 283 bodies found at the hospital.

## Floods swamp China

QINGYUAN: Floods swamped cities in southern China's densely populated Pearl River Delta following record-breaking rains, sparking worries about the region's defenses against bigger deluges induced by extreme weather events. The province once dubbed the "factory floor of the world" is prone to summer floods. Since Thursday, Guangdong has been battered by unusually heavy, sustained and widespread rainfall, with powerful storms ushering in an earlier-than-normal start to the province's annual flooding season in May and June.

## Tensions flare at US universities over Gaza protests

NEW YORK CITY: Tensions flared between pro-Palestinian student protesters and school administrators at several US universities on Monday, as in-person classes were cancelled and demonstrators arrested. The protests, which began last week at Columbia University with a large group of demonstrators establishing a "Gaza Solidarity Encampment" on school grounds, have spread to other campuses, including Yale, MIT and others. Some Jewish students at Columbia have reported intimidation and anti-Semitism amid the days-long protest, which is calling for the prestigious New York institution to divest from companies with ties to Israel. Classes were moved online on Monday, with university president Nemat Shafiq calling for a "reset" in an open letter to the school community. "Over the past days, there have been too many examples of intimidating and harassing behavior on our campus," she said.

## Prosecutors lay out 'criminal conspiracy' in Trump trial

NEW YORK: Donald Trump engaged in a multi-layered conspiracy of fraud, lies and cover-ups, prosecutors said on Monday during opening arguments in the first ever criminal trial of a former US president. Assistant District Attorney Matthew Colangelo said Trump falsified business records to buy the silence of porn star Stormy Daniels over a 2006 sexual encounter that could have impacted his 2016 presidential bid.

## 2 Malaysian military helicopters collide and crash while training, killing all 10 crew

KUALA LUMPUR: Two Malaysian military helicopters collided midair and crashed during a training session on Tuesday, killing all 10 people on board and injuring a swimmer in a pool, authorities said. The helicopters were rehearsing at a naval base in northern Perak state for the navy's 90th anniversary celebration when the accident occurred, the navy said in a brief statement. "All victims were confirmed dead on site," it said. A video circulating on social media purported to be of the incident shows several helicopters flying low in a formation. One of the helicopters veers sideways and clips the rotor of another helicopter, causing both to plunge and crash. A local police officer, who declined

to be named because he isn't authorized to speak to the media, confirmed the footage is genuine. The two choppers were mangled beyond recognition. Rescue workers sifted through the debris to find the bodies. The victims included three women and seven men aged between 26 and 41, authorities said. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said the nation mourned over the "heart and soul-wrenching tragedy." He said the navy will immediately carry out an investigation to find the cause of the incident. Seven of the dead crew members were aboard an AW139 maritime operations helicopter, the navy said. That aircraft is produced by AgustaWestland, a subsidiary of the Italian defense contractor Leonardo.

## Germany, Britain act against 'Chinese spies'

BERLIN: Germany and Britain on Monday both swooped on suspected spies accused of passing on secret information to China, as concern deepens in the West over aggressive Chinese espionage. In Germany, investigators arrested three German nationals in the west of the country suspected of sharing information on maritime technology, prosecutors said in a statement. The trio, named as Herwig F., Ina F. and Thomas R., are accused of taking part in an information-gathering project funded by Chinese state agencies, as well as illegally exporting a laser to China. In Britain, two men were charged with handing over "articles, notes, documents or information" to China between 2021 and last year. Police named the men as Christopher Berry, 32, and Christopher Cash, 29, who previously worked at the

UK parliament as a researcher. The German arrests and British charges come amid repeated Western warnings of Chinese intelligence services targeting advanced technologies. German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser warned of the "considerable danger posed by Chinese espionage in business, industry and science". "The area affected in the current case — innovative technologies from Germany that can be used for military purposes — is particularly sensitive," Faeser said. China firmly rejects accusations that it carried out spying activities in Germany, its embassy in Berlin said on Monday, after three Germans were arrested on suspicion of working with the Chinese secret service. "We call on Germany to desist from exploiting the espionage accusation to politically manipulate the image of China and defame China," a spokesperson for the embassy said in an emailed statement.





ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Air Asia Aviation Group (AAAG) called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-i-Sadr.

## Pakistan aims to reach \$3 trillion economy by 2047: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said that Pakistan aimed to reach \$3 trillion economy by 2047 and called for enhanced public-private collaboration and a streamlined regulatory framework.

"Pakistan is poised to become a \$3 trillion economy by 2047, bolstered by a targeted growth rate of 9%," he said while emphasizing the current opportune moment for international investments in Pakistan, including significant commitments from China and Saudi Arabia.

"Leveraging productivity enhancements, Pakistan aims to establish itself as an attractive destination for global industries, fostering its position in the international market," he added.

Minister Ahsan Iqbal, speaking at the Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit 2024, stressed the imperative role of collaboration between the government and the private sector in driving economic growth.

He advocated for the development of comprehensive ecosystems within business clusters to optimize value chains and promote sustainable value addition.

Drawing parallels with successful models from countries like Japan, Korea, Singapore, and Malaysia, he emphasized the need for trading houses to facilitate the global market integration of local products.

Underlining the interdependence of exports and global supply chains in driving economic advancement, Minister Ahsan Iqbal stressed the need for Pakistan to transition from a predominantly domestic market focus to an export-oriented economy. He underscored the critical role of exports in revenue generation and integration into the global supply chain, citing the current low export figures as indicative of the need for strategic investment in this area.

Highlighting the imperative of enhancing business competitiveness on a global scale, the minister urged businesses to prioritize export proficiency and sales mastery.

He emphasized the pivotal role of competitiveness and productivity in driving wealth creation, and the need for a progressive mindset to achieve the country's economic goals.

The minister announced forthcoming measures aimed at reducing regulatory burdens on the private sector, signaling the government's commitment to fostering a conducive business environment. He reiterated the government's vision to streamline regulatory procedures to eliminate obstacles hindering entrepreneurial aspirations.

Ahsan Iqbal urged attention to the urgent need to enhance the investment landscape, citing the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) as a promising platform for promoting Pakistan's attractiveness as a business-friendly destination.

He emphasized the importance of establishing a robust global business identity for Pakistan, drawing parallels with the successful initiatives seen during the early stages of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The minister reaffirmed Pakistan's potential to achieve significant economic milestones, projecting a trajectory towards a \$2 trillion economy by 2047 with a growth rate of 7%, and ultimately, a \$3 trillion economy with a growth rate of 9%.

## SSGCL to suspend gas supply in Balochistan today to repair pipelines

QUETTA (APP): Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL) will temporarily suspend its gas supply in some areas of Balochistan to repair gas supply pipelines on April 24 from 9am to 5 pm which were damaged by recent rains and floods in the province.

In a statement on Tuesday Spokesman of SSGCL Salman Ahmed Siddique said that the SSGCL was trying to improve gas pressure in different areas of the province as the gas supply pipelines were damaged due to rains and floods.

In this regard, gas supply will be temporarily closed in some areas of Balochistan by the SSGCL, gas supply will be suspended in respective areas of Balochistan including Quetta, Kuchlak, Pishin, Ziarat, Harnai, Khad Khocha, Mastung, Mangocher, Kalat and adjacent areas on April 24, from 9 am to 5 pm, he said.

## Govt's priority to protect life, property of people: DC

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Duki Captain @ Fayyaz Ali on Tuesday said that the protection of life and property of the people was the first priority of the government for which all available resources were being utilized.

He expressed these views while visiting various levies stations. He was accompanied by Levies Force Risaldar Mohammad Asrar Tareen.

During his visit to the various Levies stations of the district, the DC also reviewed the attendance register of the employees, weapons, the color of the wireless system building and other facilities.

He said the drains were blocked due to the negligence of the departments concerns.

Hamza said that any kind of negligence and carelessness would not be tolerated and strict action would be taken against the officers concerned on receiving the complaint.

He said the business community is also involved in blocking the drains.

## PM seeks UK's support to promote higher education, improve quality

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday expressed the government's desire for working together with the United Kingdom to promote higher education and improve quality of education in Pakistan.

The desire was expressed during a meeting with the delegation of representatives from leading UK universities here at the PM House.

The delegation was led by UK's International Education Champion Sir Steve Smith.

The prime minister welcomed the delegation and emphasized the importance of promoting quality education, saying that it was the top priority of the government.

He expressed his commitment to ensuring that every child had access to education, and that the Federal Government was working with the provincial governments to achieve that goal.



QUETTA: Provincial Amir JUI Maulana Abdul Wasay and MPAs Zabid Reki, Asghar Tareen and leader of JUI Molvi Gulam Sarwar Musakhail meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti

## Ali Madad vows to make Agriculture ideal Dept

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Minister for Agriculture Mir Ali Madad Jatak on Tuesday said that measures were being taken to make the Agriculture Department an exemplary sector which was a very important sector and 70 percent of the people were linked with it. He expressed these views while talking to officers of a departmental briefing here. Secretary Agriculture Suhail-ur Rehman Baloch gave a detailed briefing on the occasion.

Special Secretary Agriculture Qadir Baloch, Additional Secretary Agriculture Arif Tareen, Director General Agriculture Extension Masood Baloch, DG Agriculture Engineering Agha Ali Raza and other senior officers were present on occasion. Mir Ali Madad Jatak said that according to the vision of Chief Minister Balochistan, all resources would be used to develop the agriculture department on modern lines. He said that if proper attention was paid to the agriculture sector, not only we could be self-sufficient in grains, rather, we could earn a lot of exchange by doing deals.

## Shahzaib Rind accorded warm welcome upon arrival in hometown

QUETTA: The international combat karate fighter, Shahzaib Rind reached Quetta on Tuesday.

The sports department officials and others received him at the airport. Upon arrival in the hometown, Shahzaib Rind was accorded warm welcome at the Quetta airport.

Shahzaib Rind recently won the international combat karate fight against Indian player in Dubai. He had knocked out the Indian player in first round.

Speaking to the media after arrival in Quetta, Shahzaib said that he is very pleased to win his fight against India. He said that he brightened the name of Pakistan in the world.

He said that Bollywood actor Salman Khan had also come to see his fight. Salman Khan had also watched his previous fights, adding Rind mentioned.

Similarly, actor Imran Abbas had also witnessed his fight in Dubai and supported him a lot.

He said that he has been taking part in the international events on self help basis till now.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Shoaib Nausherwani and Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetrana holding a meeting

## Work in progress to expand communication system in Balochistan region: Khosa

QUETTA (APP): The provincial government is utilizing all available resources to expand communication system across the Balochistan region.

This was stated by Provincial Minister of Communication and Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa while addressing meeting held here.

The development projects in the province is the first priority of the government and the role of the Department of Communications and Works is like a backbone in the development and prosperity of the province, he added.

Secretary Communications and Works Qamber Dashti briefed the minister about the development projects being executed in different parts of Balochistan.

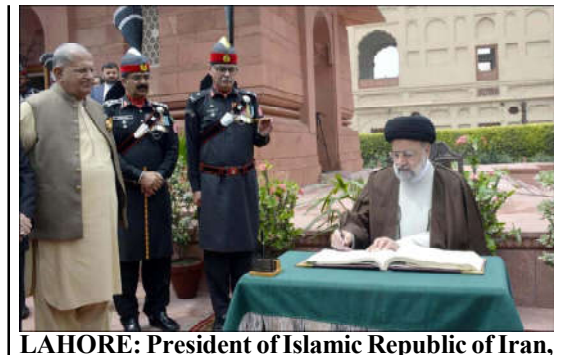
On this occasion, Additional Secretary Amir Hamza Zehri, Chief Engineer Design Dr Sajjad Baloch, Zonal Chief Engineer Officers and senior officials of the department were also present.

The Secretary Communications and Works while giving briefing to the minister, shared the detail information regarding the progress of all ongoing development projects in the provincial areas.

He said that due to slow funding, the projects could not be completed on time.

He further informed that a review on the progress of all ongoing development projects in the province is being made under the chairmanship of the secretary, communications and works.

The secretary would issue further orders for timely completion of development projects after reviewing issues being faced in completion of works.



LAHORE: President of Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Eyyub Ebrahim Raisi writing remarks in visitors book during his visit to Mazar-e-Iqbal.

## President highlights significance of enhanced aerial connectivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday underlined significance of enhancing aerial connectivity with different countries and said that with increase in people to people contacts, potential of Pakistan's tourism sector could be adequately tapped.

The president expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of Air Asia Aviation Group (AAAG) that called on him at the Aiwan-i-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The president further observed that Pakistan had a significant place owing to vast tourism prospects, particularly in the religious tourism.

Pakistan Stock Market possessed ideal investment opportunities and urged the investors to fully explore its potential, he added. The delegation apprised the president of the AAAG and its flight operations.

## Delay in tax cases: PM directs to suspend Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue, officials

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday took notice of the "willful" delay in tax cases and ordered for suspension of Commissioner Inland Revenue Islamabad and other relevant officials.

While issuing a directive for the suspension of all the relevant officials, the prime minister also asked for initiating an inquiry against them, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. Soon after assuming the office, the prime minister had directed for immediate reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and decided to oversee the process himself.

## Murad Ali Shah says There are vast investment opportunities in various sectors across province

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday firmly stated before the National Assembly that the government remained resolute in not relinquishing its water rights, emphasizing that any alteration to the Indus Water Treaty necessitated mutual consent from both Pakistan and India.

Addressing a Calling Attention Notice in the House, he underscored India's attempts to violate the agreement, highlighting the World Bank's role as a signatory committed to upholding its integrity.

Azam Nazeer Tarar reiterated that the Indus Water Treaty stood immutable unless both Pakistan and India reach a consensus for modification.

## Bushra Bibi health condition declared ok

ISLAMABAD (Online): Health condition of Bushra Bibi wife of PTI founder has been declared all OK and report thereof has been sent to higher authorities. Sources said Bushra Bibi complained about her indisposition and burning in chest. Doctors of Adiala jail conducted her medical check up and advised her to consult specialists doctors particularly heart specialist of PIMS.

PIMS doctor conducted her detailed medical check up and declared her completely fit besides advising her to take care in her food.

Doctors team comprised Dr Bushra Liaqat, Dr Hira Tahir and Dr Sidra. Sources said PIMS hospital report has been sent to higher authorities.

## Pak-Saudi ties to be taken to new heights in fields of mutual interest: Speaker NA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday said that Pakistan attached great importance to its long-standing brotherly relations with Saudi Arabia.

"Pak-Saudi relations are bound by unbreakable bond of religion, culture, history, and mutual trust and respect," he said during a meeting with the Saudi Ambassador in Pakistan, Naval bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy who called on him at Parliament House.

He also expressed, "The continuous upward trajectory of our bilateral ties is extremely heartening, and we are committed to taking this mutually beneficial partnership to new heights by expanding cooperation in all fields of mutual interest."

The speaker highlighted that the people of Pakistan held deep respect and affinity for Saudi Arabia, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

## List of necessary medicines issued for secondary & tertiary hospitals

QUETTA: The list of necessary medicines has been issued to the secondary and tertiary hospitals thanks to the Secretary Health, Abdullah Khan who took special interest in this regard. The Additional Secretary Health, Arif Khan, Deputy Secretary Health, Riayat Ali, Additional Director MSD Dr Ismail Mirwani, senior pharmacist, Ejaz Sheikh, Deputy Director DTL, Mehmood Baig, Incharge pharmacist of MSD, Naimatullah, pharmacist Noor Muhammad and supply chain specialist, Fazal Kakar played important role in preparation of the medicines list. The Secretary Health said that the list of essential medicines has been issued for the secondary and tertiary hospitals in the province for the first time. The list was issued after consultation with the heads of different departments. The requirements of hospitals have been kept in view while preparing the list of essential medicines besides in accordance with the necessary model list of WHO.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani addressing during Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit 2024 collaborating for Growth.

## Gillani calls for concerted efforts to tackle environmental issues, population growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani Tuesday called for concerted efforts to tackle economic challenges, environmental issues, social welfare, and population growth.

While addressing the 7th edition of Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit he expressed gratitude to the organizers for the invitation. He emphasized the importance of forums like the summit in fostering dialogue and collaboration among business leaders.

## Quetta Administration clears 15 Nullahs so far during cleanliness drive: Hamza

QUETTA (APP): Administrator Quetta Metropolitan Corporation Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat on Tuesday said that the administration has cleared 15 out of 82 Nullahs so far during the ongoing anti-encroachments and cleanliness drive launched in Quetta to keep the city clean and ensure the best sanitation.

On the direction of Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, the Quetta Administration has initiated a cleanliness campaign and eliminated encroachments on the nullahs of city to restore them to their original shape to prevent urban flooding situations in the city.

Talking to media persons along with Spokesperson of Balochistan government Shahid Rind, Hamza



QUETTA: Balochistan Government Spokesperson Shahid Rind, Commissioner Quetta Division and Administrator Hamza Shafiqat along with Director PDMA Jahanzaib Khan watching garbage taken out from nullah at Jinnah road during cleanliness campaign.