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Federation, provinces to jointly overcome biggest challenge of economic stability: PM

KARACHI (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Balochistan, was in fact the development of Pakistan. Wednesday said the economic stability was a biggest challenge for the country at the moment that could be overcome with the coordinated efforts of the federation and the provinces.

'We should work together to serve the country and for the development of the provinces as with the joint efforts we can solve problems of the people of Pakistan," the PM said in his remarks at meeting with Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and his cabinet here at the CM House.

PM Sharif emphasized that the federation and the provinces could work in collaboration towards the improvement of national economy.

Shehbaz Sharif called upon federal and the provincial governments to keep very close relationship to Sindh while in Punjab, they gave opportunity to Pakimake our country developed nation. He said develop-

Prime Minister hoped that the big investment opportunities will benefit to all provinces equally.

He stressed the need of forging unity and harmony among each other so that positive results could be achieved. He said the purpose of his visit to Sindh was to create mutual understanding.

Referring to foreign investment, the Prime Minister made a special mention of recent visits of the delegation of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the president of Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan and hoped that in coming months, many foreign delegations would visit Pakistan

As a result of February 8 election, the people of Pakistan gave mandate to Pakistan People's Party in make our country developed nation. He said develop-ment of Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and sin there is a split mandate and we have to respect it." **KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad** tion there is a split mandate and we have to respect it."



KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a briefing regarding various develop



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of China International Development Cooperation Agency, Luo Zhaohui, along with his delegation call on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Modern vehicles, arms, ammunition to be provided to Levies force, assures Ziaullah Langove

Independent Report

come by the Director Levies jawans were General Levies, martyred while fight-Naseebullah Kakar. ing against the terror-

President for stronger economic, cultural ties with China

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday said that Pakistan and China enjoyed long-term strategic relations, which need to be further strengthened in the areas of trade, economy, agriculture, people-to-people contacts, and culture.

The president, in a neeting with the visiting Chairman of China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), Luo Zhaohui, who along with his delegation called on him, underlined the need for both countries to continue to work together to take bilateral relations to new heights.

The ambassador of

Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the president said that Pakistan considered CPEC of immense strategic importance and was fully committed to the timely completion of all

CPEC projects. Highlighting the importance of Gwadar Port, he said that Gwadar Port would not only promote regional connectivity but would also make the transport of goods to China costeffective.

He also suggested to undertake joint training projects to equip human resources with skills keeping in view the Chinese demand for skilled workforce.

Chairman of China In-China in Pakistan Jiang ternational Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), Mr Luo Zhaohui, briefed the presi-Zaidong, the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Dr Jahanzeb Khan, and senior officials of the Chinese dent about CIDCA's role in and Pakistani governments Pakistan's socio-economic attended the meeting. development as well as its Reiterating Pakistan's contributions in the health firm commitment to China and education sectors.

2.4 million gallons of drinking water required daily for Quetta: CM concerned about delay in completion of Mangi dam; directs to complete project within given time by any means

ter for Public Health En-

Provincial Minister for Fi-

cerned high ups attended the

lion gallons of water is re-

quired daily for Quetta.

Wednesday.

meeting

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has expressed concern over delay in completion of the Mangi dam project, which is otherwise meant for supplying potable water to Ouetta Khan and other con-

The Chief Minister directed to the concerned authorities to complete the Mangi dam project within the prescribed time by any means providing necessary security for the project. He asserted that no

more delay is tolerable in completion of the Mangi dam project.

Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti was chairing an emergent meeting he called on the issue of water shortage here

at the CM's secretariat on lion gallons of drinking water would be supplied to The Provincial Minis-Quetta from Mangi dam.

Regarding security of the Mangi dam project, it gineering (PHE), Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, was informed that the services of Frontier Corps nance, Mir Shoaib Nosherwani, Chief Secre-(FC) have been hired for the project tary, Shakeel Qadir

Addressing the meet-ing, Chief Minister exhorted the concerned high ups to make realize the public During briefing, the hardships as no excuses would be accepted in this Chief Minister was informed that around 2.4 milregard.

He asserted that those demonstrating lenience would be sent home.

However, the issue of water would be resolved in He on the occasion di-Quetta with completion of rected to the Provincial the Mangi dam project, it Home department to prowas briefed to the Chief vide the required sec Minister. It was also in- for the Mangi dam formed that daily 8.1 milproject.

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Ziaullah Langove has assured that modern vehicles, arms and ammunition would be provided to the Levies force on emergent basis enabling it to cope with the security challenges in its areas of jurisdiction.

He urged the Levies force to do their work as their would be no political interference.

Provincial The Minister was on visit to the Directorate of Levies force here on Wednesday.

Upon arrival, the Minister for Home was accorded wel-

The smartly turned ists and criminals. out contingent of Lev-He directed to

ies presented guard of send the cases of prohonour to the Minismotion of the employees after completing He was briefed by within a week time as DG Levies about per the rules and overall functioning of regulations. the force besides it's He different operations in the province.

modern era.

duties well.

peace, political and economic stability is Speaking on the not possible without occasion, the Minister bringing improvement in the system. Home maintained Earlier, the DG that the Levies force

is facing new security Levies said that there is a need to put the challenges in the force on modern lines and make it disci-He said that personnel would be implined force.

said

that

among them.

IHC Wednesday

He informed that parted modern training so that they are the Levies force has able to perform their been operating in 82 percent area of the He said that the province.

Is any one accountable in agencies: IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): (AG) Mansoor Awan ap-Islamabad High Court (IHC) has remarked is any peared before the court and presented the report about one answerable in agencies. the missing persons who "Is any one answerable in have been recovered. agencies. Where is self ac-

The court inquired the countability which could be violations of human rights seen. State courts will not were identified in this petiprotect any terrorist. Question. It is clear the state tion arises when any ultra courts will not protect any vires law step is taken. terrorist. Question arises Whatever action is taken by when any ultra vires law police we see it if it has step is taken. Whatever acbeen taken correct or incortion is taken by police we rect, these remarks were see it if it has been taken given by Justice Mohsin correct or otherwise. The counsel Emman

Akhtar Kiyani during hearing of the missing persons Mazari told the court the case here Wednesday. day the caretaker Prime Justice Mohsin Akhtar Minister (PM) had ap-Kiyani remarked " whose peared in this court, one near and dear one goes miss-Baloch student was lifted ing, he is relative of comon that day. On next day mon man or judge or lawthis missing student is reyer this act foments hatred leased from Rawalpindi. Justice Mohsin Akhtar

The case regarding Kiyani remarked policemen Baloch missing persons are suspended easily became up for hearing before cause whatever they do they do it before all. Is any Attorney General one accountable in agencies.

Ambiguous terms in 'Nikah Nama' can't be used against bride: SC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that ambiguous terms in the 'Nikah Nama' (marriage contracts) could not be used against women.

"The bride has full freedom to express her consent before the terms and conditions are fixed in the marriage contract. If there is ambiguity or doubt in the terms and conditions of the marriage contract or in any entry or column, then the benefit will be given to the wife," the court observed.

The SC ruling said,"If the marriage certificate is filled by someone else without meaningful consultation of the bride, it cannot be used against the bride.

"It is settled law that if there is any ambiguity in the terms, it will be determined by the original intention of the parties.'

QUETTA: Commander West Pakistan Navy Rear Admiral Adnan Majeed (SI-Military) meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti presiding over a meeting review progress of Mangi Dam

In a meeting with a del-

Tarar said incumbent

The meeting discussed

wedding ceremony turned

into a mayhem in Lakki

Marwat, where six individu-

als were killed and two oth-

ers injured when a rival

party resorted to indiscrimi-

nate firing on their oppo-

nents attending the celebra-

Khosa says of progress projects with standard top priority

(APP): QUETTA Balochistan Minister for Communications and Work Mir Saleem Ahmad Khosa on Wednesday said that timely completion of development projects in democracy. the province and transparency in their quality was the top priority of provincial government.

He expressed these ment supported the freeviews while reviewing dom of media in the counworks of ongoing schemes under-construction Committee Rooms and Offices of government soon after as-Chairman Standing Comsuming office took steps to mittee and Member of Proclear outstanding dues of vincial Assembly (MPA) Hostel the media houses with the in Balochistan Assembly aim to provide much-Ouetta. On this occasion, needed relief to journalists Technical AdvisorofC&WDeand media workers. partment Mukhtiar Ahmed Kakar and related engineer various matters pertaining officers were also present. to the welfare of journalists and media workers.

Technical Advisor of the Department of C&W Mukhtiar Ahmed Kakar briefed the minister regarding the work of ongoing project and said that the project started in 2022 and would be completed and functional in the same year. He said in the briefing

that the project included an auditorium basement parking with capacity for approximately sixty vehicles, apart from this, there were three floors and two committee rooms in each floor. eight chairman's offices. eight PA offices, two staff offices.

Presents Rs1 mln cheque to KPC Timely completion | Media playing the role of fourth pillar of democracy: Tarar KARACHI (APP): Federal

Responding to their in-Minister for Information vitation, the minister asand Broadcasting Attaullah sured the KPC office-bear-Tarar on Friday said media ers that he would visit the in the country was playing club soon to address their the role of fourth pillar of concerns directly.

KPC President Saeed Sarbazi underscored the egation of Karachi Press Karachi Press Club's sig-Club here at the Governor nificance saying that it was House, he said the governone of the country's largest clubs with a rich history of working for flourishing democracy

The KPC president and General Secretary Shoaib Khan apprised the minister of the challenges and problems being faced by the workers of both print and electronic media.

The minister handed over the cheque of Rs one million to KPC President Saeed Sarbazi at the Sindh Governor House.

Six killed by rivals during wedding in Lakki Marwat

PESHAWAR (APP): A fell prey to a longstanding rivalry and were killed by their rivals during a wedding. The sudden attack by

rivals gave little chance to opponents for response. however, a retaliatory fire by the people present at the wedding made the attackers leave the area and escape.

Lakki police informed Police said two passon Wednesday that the inciersby were among those dent occurred in village Akri who received bullet injuries and died while another man Khanzada Khail, Lakki Marwat where six people was critically injured.

Pakistan, Iran agree on swift FTA finalization, target \$10 b trade over five years ISLAMABAD (APP): Agreeing to turn the viewed the entire spectrum Pakistan and Iran agreed to common border from a of Pakistan-Iran bilateral expeditiously finalize the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and boost their bilateral trade to USD10 billion over the next five years through joint economic projects, setting up of joint border markets, economic free zones, and

new border openings. The bilateral ties and cooperations were discussed during the delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Iran's President Dr. Seyed Ebrahim Raisi who was on an official visit to Pakistan from April 22-24, accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian, as well as other members of the cabinet and senior officials.

in the energy domain, in- cords. cluding trade in electricity, power transmission erated their commitment lines and Iran-Pakistan and dedication to further Gas Pipeline Project, ac- strengthening the bilateral cording to a joint statement issued by Foreign moting academic, cultural Office on the culmination and tourism activities, and of Raisi's visit on Wednesday.

QUETTA: Provincial Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango being briefed by

Joint statement

DG Levies Naseebullah Kakar about departmental affairs

'border of peace' to a 'bor- relations, exchanged views der of prosperity', both on regional and global iscountries reiterated the sues of mutual concern, importance of cooperation and signed multiple ac-Pakistan and Iran reit-

fraternal relations by proenhancing tourism to historic religious sites.

countries to combat and Pakistan's Balochistan man trafficking, hostagetaking, money-laundering

Both leaders reiterated the importance of forging change of views between political, military and security officials of the two narcotics smuggling, hu-

provinces. The two sides re- and abduction.

Both sides underscored the imperative of a longterm durable economic regular cooperation and expartnership and collaborative regional economic and connectivity model, particularly for socio-economic development in threats such as terrorism, Iran's Sistan-Balochistan

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OPINION

been

Daily **Independent**



Ties with Tehran

The official visit by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, which ends today, has been marked by mutual praise, and promises to improve ties, particularly in the economic sphere.

The significance of the trip has been enhanced by the prevailing geopolitical tensions in the region, particularly Iran's conflict with Israel, poor ties between Tehran and the Western states, especially over the former's central role in the 'axis of resistance', as well as the unpleasant episode in January when Iran and Pakistan exchanged missile strikes.

Thankfully, whatever bitterness was engendered by the latter incident seems to have been forgotten, as Pakistan rolled out the red carpet for the Iranian leader. In Islamabad, Mr Raisi met the president, prime minister and army chief, and later headed to Lahore and Karachi to meet the respective provincial leaderships. Trade topped the Iranian president's agenda, while security issues were also discussed. Mr Raisi said the current level of bilateral trade was "unacceptable", and desired to see annual trade go up to \$10bn. Foreign sanctions, as well as the lack of proper banking channels, stand as major obstacles in enhancing bilateral commerce. Expanding the number of border markets can help remove these obstacles, and bring socioeconomic opportunities to border communities on both sides. Pakistan also seeks to expand foreign trade to improve its economic position. While searching for trade partners across the oceans should continue, we must work to expand regional commerce. As things stand, South Asia is among the world's least integrated regions. While resuming economic ties with India is more complicated, Pakistan should strive to improve trade relations with its western neighbours, Iran and Afghanistan. This can open pathways for Pakistani products to markets in Central Asia and greater Eurasia. Regarding security matters, violent non-state actors operating in the common border areas present challenges to both states' security. Therefore, it is welcome that an accord was signed on security cooperation. Both countries' security forces should cooperate with each other to neutralise malign actors and manage border security.

As for the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, the issue was obliquely referred to in a Pakistani statement, but there has been no major breakthrough. Mr Raisi mentioned that some actors did not want to see Pakistan-Iran relations grow. "It is not important," he said, dismissing critics. The US, meanwhile, has again cautioned that anyone doing business with Iran risks being sanctioned by America. Pakistan must take a long-term view of this problem. While ties with the US are important, should Pakistan seek American approval for all key economic and strategic decisions? Today, the US does not want the Iran pipeline to proceed. Tomorrow, if ties between Washington and Beijing nosedive, and the US asks Pakistan to reconsider CPEC, or our defence cooperation with China, will we comply?

More 'Moditva'

Mahir Ali The impressive logistics of India's nat-io-nal elections inspire considerable was subsequently internati-onal coverage. barred from travelling to This year, the process iniseveral countries, includtiated last Friday will culing the US.

minate at the start of June, The barriers fell and the potential electoraway when he (Narendra ate inclu-des around a Modi) became prime mintenth of humanity. In a few ister a dozen years later. cases, election officials Today, he is valued by trudge for miles through the West as the leader of hostile terrain to gather a a nation that is construed handful of votes, someas a bulwark against times just one or two. China. His government

Such demonstracan get away with pursutions of devotion to deing pointless vendettas mocracy are indeed excepagainst Sikh proponents tional, even though their of Khalistan in Canada, contribution to what ultithe US, Britain and Ausmately counts - the re- tralia, once the initial hoosult - may well be negliha recedes. And there is gible. What is arguably precious little Pakistan even more remarkable is can do about assassinathe extent to which the tions on its territory, ruling BJP has gone to which the Indian leadertrample down on chalship was happy to boast lengers ranging from the about once the allega-Congress to the currently tions had imprisoned Arvind publicised. It hardly Cejrival's Aam Aadmi comes as a surprise that Party. Such actions betray with such operations by

a lack of confidence in were impressed by achieving the declared Mossad's activities and goal of 'ab ki baar char the Saudi evisceration of sau paar' — the aim of Jamal Khashoggi. winning more than 400 seats in the 543-strong It's the domestic

sphere, though, that is more worrying. The days Lok Sabha this time, a super-majority that could alwhen India could be perlow the Sangh Parivar to ceived as an exemplar of formally replace the libdemocracy in the Global eral/ secular/ socialist el-South are long gone. It is ements of the Ambedkarnot just the BJP and the drafted constitution with various longer-standing the ideas of Savarkar, purveyors of Hindutva Hedgewar and Golwalkar. that have irrigated its Hindu

bloodstreams which are Mahasabha and the RSS to blame. The Congress, bear testimony to the fact lately reduced to a rump, that the concept of and many of its current Hindutva is hardly a novallies in the INDIA coalielty. It might be an exag- tion - the clumsily geration to claim that it lay named Indian National dormant during the initial Development Inclusive decades of indepen-Alliance — are equally dence, but it went mainresponsible for their failstream only in the past ure to guide the nation three decades or so. Key towards its tryst with a signposts range from the less alarming destiny.

rath yatra led by Lal Indira Gandhi's Krishna Advani and the Emergency nearly 50 consequent demolition of years ago justifiably inthe Babri mosque in spired a great deal of op-Ayodhya to the Godhra position. She suffered incident and the anti- the consequences, and Muslim pogroms in returned to power by once aspired. -- Cour-Gujarat in 2002. The democratic means. She tesy Dawn

state's chief minister was was assassinated by considered to be Sikh bodyguards whom complicit in the horren- she had refused to sack dous bloodletting, and after the misguided military assault on the Golden Temple. The remaining son who succeeded her was assassinated by a Tamil suicide bomber following India's military intervention in

Sri Lanka. The path to globalisation opened up under Manmohan Singh, and its consequences played into the opposition's hands. Modi had no inten-

tion, though, of undermining neoliberalism under his watch. According to the World Inequality Database, inequality "began rising" after the early 1980s, "and has skyrocketed since the early 2000s". Wealth concentration, it says, has been "particularly pronounced" since 2014. By 2022-23, the income share of the top 1pc was "among the highest in the world". As long as the Adanis and Ambanis are happy to fund the BJP, the disparities in wealth will only grow. That helps to explain why young middle-class Indians aspire to the 'donkey route' to the US, and

less well-endowed workers seek dangerous jobs in Russia, Ukraine or Israel. An economic success story would not be exporting so much labour. The impressive growth figures, however, largely rely on what does not trickle down. Far more alarming, mind you, are fascistic tendencies that place India in similar categories as Hungary, Italy and arguably Israel. Sure, it could emerge from the hole into which it has fallen --- the south in gen-eral, and Kerala in particular, has thus far resisted

Modi's purported charms. It may do so again, but it won't be enough to dislodge the PM, and five more years of Modi could destroy the dreams to which India's best minds

While the finance minister trudges through the corridors of the IMF and World Bank, engaged in applying for a longer, larger new programme even before the current one has ended, the provincial governments back home are flush with funds to the extent that they never consider raising any revenues on their own or spending prudently what they have.

For this, we have the seventh National Finance Commission (NFC) award to thank, and later the 18th Constitutional Amendment, which everyone hoped would spark less contentious, more equitable growth. But these hopes were not realised because the federation kept up its old habits spending this year Rs360 billion on subjects it had devolved to the provinces and running up huge fiscal deficits that led to unsustainable domestic and foreign borrowing, despite the looming threat of default. The provinces lost any incentive to raise revenues on their own or spend

their resources wisely. Both the seventh NFC award and 18th Am-e-ndment are here to stay — and I stro-ngly believe that the hopes and goals they sparked can still be realised, as empowering the provinces truly strengthens the federation and, with it, Pakistan itself.

While these awards transferred resou-r-ces and devolved subjects (including agriculture and education) to the provinces, they did not explicitly change the provinces' role in the management of the economy. This oversight must now be urgently rectified.

What we suggest is reversing roles, given our current dismal economic situation. The allocate their current re- tesy Dawn

Reversal of roles

Let me elaborate. If

Rashid Amjad

provinces should be to of private sector-led ecoloan nomic growth and job generation. Pakistan's arzi is approved by the IMF (and all signs are that it will and the country will enter its fifth programme in the last 25 years), this will greatly ease the

chances of covering the country's \$25bn annual external financing gap and help Pakistan avoid defaulting on its external debt. The conditionalities accompanying the IMF programme, howcent growth rate at best over the next three to four years, which the Fund is already projecting. This is far lower than the minimum 7pc required to absorb the increase in the labour force and reduce poverty, which has increased substantially by all accounts post-2020.

Also, implementing the tightly paced economic reforms programmes that the IMF will monitor (with quarterly reviews of efforts to increase the taxto-GDP ratio from 10pc to 15pc), privatising lossmaking state-owned enterprises, and implementing energy sector re-forms will be quite a handful for the federal government. Then, there is the task of attracting foreign investment – hopefully, not by selling the family silver at throwaway prices — and using the proceeds to re-

duce external debt and not for wasteful expenditures So, in these circumstances, where will economic growth come from litical party is runn-ing a during this period of major province should stabilisation? This will re- be incentive en-o-ugh

federation's primary role sources and adopt polishould be to res-tore and cies to achieve this new maintain macroeconomic goal. As a starting point, stability while that of the each province should now set higher economic serve as the major engine growth and job generation targets in the forth-coming 2024–25 budgets and annual development plans to help raise the national average. They must also build up their provincial database to monitor growth, job generation and poverty re-

> duction. But what concrete steps can the provinces take to fulfil this new role? They could start by

concentrating support in more labour-intens-ive, less import-intens-ive sectors now under their direct responsib-ility, ever, will stifle economic namely, agricult-ure, growth to a 2.5–3.5 per small and medium enterprises, construct-ion, housing, retail and services, especially IT. The provinces should also reorder their portfolio of development projects and prioritise those with lower capital-output ratios and shorter gestation periods as well as earmark specific projects for public-private partnerships.

Next, the provinces should rapidly expand their education and health services to reduce their very high numbers of out-of-school children and dropouts while improving learning outcomes. And most important, the provinces should direct their policies and support at all levels (municipal and local) towards the facilitation of private sector investment and higher capacity utilisation to generate more employment. Their success galvanising the private sector will be the key to playing their new role as the major engine of growth and job generation

That each major poquire the provinces to to prove their mettle to build their capacity to re- the electorate. -- Cour-

Commerce News

Govt committed to double exports' volume in 5 yrs: PM

Muhammad Minister Sharif on Shehbaz Wednesday expressed the confidence that the economy as without your country's exports volume would be doubled over the cannot bring the country glory, the prime minister next five years with the out of economic crisis," the support of business community.

the community. said He government, ın consultation with the community to sit with the agriculture, mines & business community, would chalk out a comprehensive policy framework to increase the

The growth would also help brilliant minds should resolve the country's together find ways to

KARACHI (APP): Prime foreign exchange reserves' overcome the challenges issue, he added. and problems hindering the "You are actually the country's development

backbone of the national and prosperity.' It was the only way support, the government to regain the country's lost said.PM Shehbaz prime minister said while highlighted that the addressing the business government was fully focused on bringing He asked the business revolution in sectors of

The

government to resolve their minerals, information issues and challenges as it technology and industry. He also expressed the was the only way to move forward, and bring government's resolve to exports that would ultimately help ensure sustained economic growth. export-led national interest. The could not be possible

> business community. **Rupee sheds** 02 paisa against dollar

without the support of the

SLAMABAD (APP) Pakistani Rupee on Wednesday depreciated by 02 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.39 against the previous day's closing of Rs278.37.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the

280.35 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 41 paisa to close at Rs 297.57 against the last-day closing of Rs 297.16, according to the State Bank of Pakistan

remained unchanged to close at Rs1.79, whereas an increase of Rs2.03 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound. which was traded at measure, a reaction has Rs346.01 compared to the last closing of Rs 343.98. potential chain reaction of

suppliers will undoubtedly bring the system to a grinding halt, affecting businesses at every stage to at Rs74.22.



KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing business community during his visit to Karachi.

Jam Kamal leads efforts to enhance IT Capacity for trade monitoring

Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Wednesday chaired a meeting to assess

the effectiveness and (IT) infrastructure of the of (MOC). The meeting was information and data deliberated the current IT essential for informed capabilities of the ministry, decision-making. It was particularly in monitoring enacted, but its further

need transformative potential of technological

advancements, he emphasized the imperative for leveraging digital tools to enhance the efficiency and precision of traderelated data monitoring and analysis. Furthermore, the Minister Kamal stressed the importance of fostering collaboration for exchange of information and data.

Shipping activity at **Port Qasim** KARACHI

(APP): Shipping activity was report at the port where three ships namely, Xpress Salween, Maersk Detroit and Lokojo carrying Container and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal and Gasport Terminal respectively on Tuesday

sentatives voiced their chal-Meanwhile four more lenges, while a leading exships, MSC Sindy, Mara porter from Karachi high-Thapolis, Lila Ace and lighted the significance of Loxley with Containers, maize exports. The session Chemicals and LPG also also saw participation from the Investment Officer and arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Oasim on today Counselor from Sahiwal morning. A total of seven Agriculture Department ships were engaged at PQA and TDAP representaberths during the last 24 tives, focusing on the prohours, out of them three duction technology showships, X-Press Salween.

Pakistan catching ride on global EV boom

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan, existing business by in its timely joining the investing \$10 million in amplify its competence.

month. Last Automobile brand Huazi Pakistan-China venture, announced the plan to display the first electric car in Islamabad this month, achieving yet another score Pakistan's EV in endeavour.

In May, Chinese In the first half of this vehicle manufacturing year, China's EV brand company Huaihai in BYD witnessed a record-collaboration with its breaking 95.8% increase y-

global trend, is ramping up manufacturing electric cooperation with vehicles, starting with international EV giants to two-wheeler and fourown wheeler vehicles in Punjab. Among the global

players, China's presence in the international EV Green Energy, a joint market has become too prominent to be neglected. Among the global EV sales, 59% are contributed by China, which is also the world's biggest EV producer, with 64% of global volume.

In the first half of this Pakistani partner o-y of cumulative sales, announced that it is snapping global sales seeking to expand its champion.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman IPO Pakistan Farukh Amil and Shazia Adnan, Director General (IPO) Pakistan addressing a press conference on curtain raiser of World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated every year on 26 April at IPO Pakistan Headquarters.

Machinery import surges by 30% in nine months

ISLAMABAD (APP): agriculture machinery and equipment surged by 102.31 percent from \$30.198 million to The imports of the overall machinery group witnessed an increase of 30 \$61.095; office machinery percent during the first three quarters of the including data processing equipment 41.28 percent current fiscal year (2023from \$249.167 million to 24) compared to the corresponding period of the last year, the Pakistan \$352.029 million; electrical machinery and apparatus Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The total imports of

the last year.

The

68.69 percent from \$1,1247.552 million to \$2,105.047 million; the machinery group during July-March (2023telecom related equipment 24) stood at \$5.854.931 million against the imports of \$4,493.283 million during the same period of import

117.90 percent from \$744.971 million to \$1,623.321 million; mobile phone 181.26 percent from \$462.700 million to \$ 1.301.388 million and other of apparatus 14.05 percent.

sector

ISLAMABAD: Wada Mitsuhiro, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Pakistan pays a courtesy call on the Honorable Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema. LCCI for deferment of

SROs hurting businesses

that are bound to bring businesses to a halt.

A LCCI spokesman told media here Ŵednesday that in a letter to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, been set in motion. The LCCI President Kashif Anwar attracted his non-compliance among attention towards recently introduced SROs 457(I)/ 2024, SRO 350(I)/2024 and SRO 1842(I)/2023 and said that they were of the supply chain.



dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.6 and Rs KARACHI (INP): Paki-

trade

The Trade Develop-

Department, has initiated a

series of awareness semi-

nars to explore export op-

portunities in maize pro-

duction and its key areas.

The inaugural seminar

traordinary surge in maize exports, recording an unprecedented growth of 195% from July 2023 to February 2024, reaching

\$324 million compared to a (SBP). The Japanese Yen mere \$10 million during the same period last year. Major maize markets for Pakistan include Vietnam, Malaysia, Korea, and Oman. ment Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), in collaboration with the Punjab Agriculture

There was no change in the price Emirates Dirham as it closed at Rs75.79, and the Saudi Riyal increased by 01 paisa

activities, utilization Pakistan's Maize Exports increases by 195% was held on Ednesday in stan has witnessed an ex- Okara, where trade and in-

vestment officers from Viet-

nam and Korea provided

valuable insights into export

requirements and potential

opportunities for maize im-

sion, local farmers' repre-

cased during the seminar.

In the concluding ses-

ports from Pakistan.

and



Minister underscored the indispensable role of sufficiency of the digital solutions in Information Technology facilitating the acquisition accurate and Ministry of Commerce comprehensive Independent

Thursday April 25, 2024

Company

Punjab

Change

The rates of such

Zero tolerance

against illegal

encroachments:

RCB Chief

RAWALPINDI (APP)

Chief Executive Officer

Cantonment Board Ali

Irfan Rizvi said that there

would be no compromise

regarding a comprehensive

anti-encroachment

operation which was

The CEO said this

CEO).

against

Wednesday.

encroachments

cantonment areas.

Rawalpindi

illegal

National News

Page 03

KP cabinet takes decisions related to wheat procurement, health, education, power

Independent Report PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cabinet on Wednesday met here under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and took several decisions about energy production, education, food security, procurement of wheat, and sustainable development.

The cabinet approved the rehabilitation and restoration of the 17megawatt (MW) Ranolia Hydropower Project in Kohistan Lower.

The Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) had already approved the project at a cost of Rs.8.1 billion with the condition that the same will be processed for the approval of the provincial cabinet for inclusion as a non-ADP scheme. The inclusion as a non-ADP registration smart cards. scheme and financial Taxation Department had assistance from the Asian Development Bank. already signed an MOU

The cabinet also with the National Security approved the acquisition of Printing (NSPC) of the Federal 327 kanal land for the 88 MW Gabral Kalam Government for the Hydropower project being provision of registration financed by the World certificates and supply of Bank in District Swat. smart cards in 2022

On commissioning the project is expected to registration and cards would be Rs 574 as compared to Rs 1475 in generate over Rs.7.4 billion incomes per year for the Islamabad, Rs 530 in Province It also approved the Punjab and Rs 1600 in

Sindh, the cabinet informed. It also approved additional compensation in respect of land and builtup property based on an the utilization of the funds independent valuation of the defunct FATA study for executing the 300 Development Authority MW Balakot Hydropower amounting to Rs 500 project on Kunhar River million and the Rs 43 Manshera. million accumulated The cabinet approved markup over it under the

the shifting of manual accelerated implementation registration books to program in the merged cabinet approved its automated motor vehicle districts.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman addressing the opening session of the International Climate Change Conference organized by a private university in Sialkot.

Emergent measures under way to control effects of climate change: Governor

Independent Report AHORE: Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman has said that climate change is the biggest challenge facing the planet. The Punjab government is aware of the serious situation and measures are being taken on an emergency basis to deal with it. He expressed these views while addressing the opening session of the International Climate should be allowed to ply Conference organized by a private on the roads and along with university in Sialkot today. this, modern technology

Punjab Governor should be adopted in new Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that due to vehicles.On this occasion, Governor

climate change, Pakistan is Muhammad Balighun Rehman also planted a among the top ten countries most affected by sapling in the university the unexpected increase in lawn and prayed for the temperature, melting of development and stability glaciers and deforestation. of the country. Governor He said that due to climate Punjab appreciated the change, agriculture sector efforts of the university administration for holding is suffering which would have adverse effect on an international conference economy. He underlined on the important issue. the need to adopt modern Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujahid Kamran, Chairman technology in agriculture sector . Governor Punjab Board of Governors said that fully fit vehicles

Muhammad Islam also addressed the event. A large number of delegates including Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Zulqarnain and teachers wer present in the ceremony.

Governor KP inaugurates Blossom Festa Fun Fair & Pet Show in KGMC

PESHAWAR Khyber Governor ́Најі Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali Wednesday visited Khyber Girls Medical College and formally inaugurated the Blossom Festa Fun Fair and Pet Show in the college premises. The Governor Haji Ghulam Ali inspected the various stalls set up by the students in the Fun Fair. The Governor encouraged the students to set up stalls containing food and drinks and other items. The Governor inspected the pets of happy moment to see various valuable breeds students' love for pets. "I'm the pet show at the college.

(APP): appreciated the interest of the students in the pet show and fun fair and lauded them for more care to the animals. The Governor also distributed medals, appreciation certificates and cash prizes to the first, second and third position holders besides giving away trophies and certificates to the position holders of the pet show. He also invited the students of Khyber Girls Medical College to visit the Governor House. He said it is a great and

brought by the students in happy to see female students actively participating in such



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam inaugurates Blossom Festa Fun Fair during his visit to Khyber Girls Medical College.

Mashal terms profound bond of friendship between Pak, China as source of pride

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Adviser to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Social Welfare, Special Education, and Women Empowerment, Mashal Yousafzai, has highlighted the profound bond of friendship between Pakistan and China, describing it as a source of immense pride.

She emphasized China's unwavering support to Pakistan, especially during challenging times, citing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a prime example of this the two nations.

enduring friendship.

Yousafzai expressed these sentiments during her visit to China Window, a Chinese cultural center in Peshawar, where she praised the Chinese Embassy for providing the people of Peshawar with an invaluable opportunity to immerse themselves in Chinese culture.During her visit, Mashal Yousafzai visited various galleries of the cultural center, adding her remarks to the visitor's book and signing the friendship wall. She lauded the CPEC as a testament to the strong ties between

ternational passengers.

mittee was assigned to fol-

low up on this file [...] and

disburse compensation in

cooperation with the rest of the federal and local au-thorities," said Sheikh Mohammed, who is also

the ruler of Dubai, which

was one of the worst hit of

workers and one Emirati.

Cabinet ministers

Sheikh

released an official toll.

"A ministerial com-

GILGIT: Provincial Minister Gilgit-Baltistan addressing a press conference after cabinet meeting at CM Secretariat.

KP to adopt fixed ST on services for lawyers, customs agent

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government has decided to adopt a fixed sales tax on services for lawyers and customs agents instead of a percentage.

The decision was taken in a meeting held on agents from a percentage Wednesday between Advisor regime of sales tax.

to KP Chief Minister on The Finance Muzzammil Aslam traffic and Director General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority Fouzia Iqbal.

It was decided that KPRA will send recommendations to the Advisor for Finance to switch lawyers and customs

Punjab Minister says: **Punjab** govt allocated **Rs 1 bln for providing** motorbikes to students BAHAWALPUR (APP):

carried out in various parts of the cantonment on Provincial Transportation Minister Bilal Akbar has All temporary or said that the Chief permanent encroachments Minister Youth Initiative is outside shops will be an education-friendly removed and strict action initiative for students on will be taken against those behalf of Punjab Chief obstructing the flow of Minister Maryam Nawaz including Sharif.

pedestrians, he said. According to which Those creating hurdles the Punjab government has for public and traffic will allocated a huge amount of not be tolerated, he added. 1 billion rupees as a Spokesman RCB, Rasheed subsidy for the provision Saqib informed that of motorbikes free of encroachments interest in connection with on footpaths and pedestrian the independence of areas were being removed students.

for public convenience.

70% mapping

speaking participants of the webinar about the importance and usefulness of the Chief Minister's Youth Initiative to the students in a function held at Ghulam Muhammad Ghotvi Hall of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Finance Farooq Qamar, Secretary Regional Transport Authority Urooj Fatima, officers of Bank of Punjab, teachers of educational institutions, officers, and students were present in

He said this while the ceremony.

International News

ofAfghans residing in KP completed PESHAWAR (APP): The

mapping process of Afghan refugees residing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has entered its final phase as according to the Home and Tribal Department KP on Wednesday, 70 percent of the task has been completed. It said 880,000 Afghan

refugees were issued citizen cards of which 320,000 were residing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Since November 2023 till date, 314000 Afghans have repatriated to their native

The mapping of Afghan refugees holding Afghan completed by 30th April.

Citizen Cards would be

Fears grow for Rafah as Gaza crisis rages 200 days on

Monitoring Desk GAZA STRIP: The Israeli aggression entered its 200th day as aid groups warned that Israeli plans to invade the southern city of Rafah where most Gazans have taken refuge would create an "apocalyptic situation".

Fears have been rising that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will soon follow through on repeated threats to send troops into Rafah, where 1.5 million people have sought shelter, many in makeshift encampments.

"Everybody seems to the accusation. be on a countdown to war across the largest displacement camp on Earth, which is Rafah," Norwegian Refugee Council chief Jan Egeland said

Egeland warned that a ground assault on Rafah would be an "apocalyptic situation" and that humanitarian groups "are com-pletely in the dark on how claims it had buried Palestinian bodies were "baseless and unfounded", withto mitigate this countdown out directly addressing alto a catastrophe' Also on Tuesday, the

United Nations rights office said it was "horrified" at reports of mass graves found at the Gaza Strip's two biggest hospitals after Israeli sieges and raids. Israel has repeatedly

targeted Gazan medical facilities during the war, accusing Hamas of using them as command centres and to hold hostages abducted on October 7. Hamas denies

Gaza's Civil Defence agency said nearly 340 bodies were uncovered in the past three days of people killed and buried by Israeli forces at the Nasser Hospital in the southern city of

Israel's army responded by saying that

Khan Yunis.

legations that Israeli troops were behind the killings. The army said that "corpses buried by Palestinians" had been examined by Israeli troops searching for hostages and then "returned to their place"

UN rights chief Volker Turk called for an "independent" probe into the deaths at Nasser and Gaza City's Al-Shifa hospitals, noting the "special protection" awarded to medical facilities under in-

ternational law. The Israeli army carried out intense shelling overnight of Gaza City, correspondents and witnesses said, with the military saying it also struck Hamas positions



tion of Djibouti.

WASHINGTON: The United States Senate on Tuesday approved legisla-tion requiring the popular social media app TikTok to divest from its Chinese parent company ByteDance or be shut out of the US market

The measure was part of a \$95 billion foreign aid package, including military assistance to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan, which has now cleared Congress and heads to President Joe Biden's desk

US and other Western officials have voiced alarm over the popularity of TikTok with young people, alleging it allows Beijing to collect data and spy on users. It has 170 million users in the United States alone.

These critics also say TikTok is subservient to Beijing and a conduit to spread propaganda. China and the company strongly

deny these claims. The bill, which could trigger the rare step of barring a company from operating in the US market.



People gather by a destroyed building at the site of a drop of humanitarian aid in the northern Gaza Strip.

Boat disasters in Africa, Europe leave 43 dead

Monitoring Desk tal maritime accident on the perilous so-called Eastern JAIROBI/WIMEREUX: Twenty-one migrants died Migration Route from Afon Tuesday in boat disasrica to the Middle East in ters off the coast of the as many weeks.

Another vessel carrying mainly Ethiopian migrants sank in the same area off the Djibouti coast on April 8, claiming the lives of several dozen According to the

people. "Tragedy as boat capsizes off Djibouti UN's migration agency, at coast with 77 migrants on least 16 people are dead and 28 missing in a new migrant board including children,' boat disaster off the coast International the Organisation for Migraof the Horn of Africa nation (IOM) said in a post It was the second fa- on X, formerly Twitter.

Gaza protests grow at US colleges, thousands

demonstrate in Brooklyn **Monitoring Desk** ing with Hamas. Pro-Palestinian protests have followed WASHINGTON: Protests President Joe Biden, a self-deagainst Israel filled streets in Brooklyn and escalated at clared "Zionist", for months. universities across the At universities, protests have United States, some of which recently grown to encampincluded Jewish Passover ments that draw students and Seders, as demonstrators defaculty of various backgrounds, manded an end to civilian including of Jewish and Muscasualties in Gaza. The growlim faiths, that host teach-ins. ing protests follow mass arinterfaith prayers, and musical rests of demonstrators at performances. A large Brooksome East Coast universities lyn street protest reached a standoff on Tuesday when in recent days, and show a New York police began to ardeepening dissatisfaction in the United States, historically rest people over disorderly conduct, restraining those who re-Israel's most important ally, with the course of the fightfused to move with zip ties.

dent Tsai Ing-wen said on Wednesday she was happy the US Congress had passed a sweeping foreign aid package which includes arms support for the island, as China urged Washington to stop selling weap-

The United States is

North Korea officials visit Iran in a rare public trip

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: A North Korean delegation led by the cabinet minister for international trade is visiting Iran, the North's official media said on Wednesday in a rare public report of an exchange between the two countries believed to have secret military ties. The minister for external economic relations. Yun Jong Ho, left Pyongyang on Tuesday by air leading a ministry delegation to visit Iran, the North's KCNA news agency said. It gave no other detail.

UAE announces \$544m for repairs after record-breaking rains the world's busiest for in-

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates announced \$544 million to repair the homes of Emirati families on Wednesday after last week's record-breaking rains caused widespread flooding and brought the oilrich Gulf state to a standstill.

"We learned great lesthe UAE's seven sheikhsons in dealing with severe doms. The rainfall, the UAE's heaviest since rains," said Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum after a records began 75 years ago, cabinet meeting, adding killed at least four people, including three Filipino that ministers approved "two billion dirhams to deal with damage to the homes UAE authorities have not of citizens'

Wednesday's announcement comes more also formed a second comthan a week after the unmittee to log infrastrucprecedented deluge lashed ture damage and propose the desert country, where solutions, it turned streets into rivers Mohammed said in a post and hobbled Dubai Airport, on X, formerly Twitter.

Ukrainian officials thank the US for its latest military aid to help stop Russia's onslaught

Monitoring Desk

Russia. Ukraine President KYIV: Ukrainian officials Volodymyr Zelenskyy thanked the U.S. Senate for approving the \$61 billion aid package late on Wednesday expressed thanks for a fresh batch of U.S. military aid that threw Kyiv's armed forces Tuesday. "Ukraine's longa lifeline in their more than two-year war with Russia, range capabilities, artillery even though the new supplies aren't expected to and air defense are exhave an immediate impact tremely important tools

for the quick restoration on the battlefield. Ukrainian troops of a just peace, Zelenskyy said on the sohave faced acute shortages cial platform X. He urged of shells and air defense quick deployment of the systems as political quarhardware that Kyiv exrels in Washington held up the aid for months, alpects to receive in the lowing the Kremlin's coming weeks and forces to edge forward in months "The key now is speed," he said in a later some parts of eastern Ukraine by sheer weight of troop numbers and post. Two Russian S-300 missiles struck Kharkiv, firepower in what has

largely become a war of Ukraine's second-largest attrition. The U.S. decision came as the Kremlin's

city near the border with Russia, during the night, army extended its bominjuring six people, and another two hit the bardment of the north-Kharkiv region town of eastern Kharkiv region and Zolochiv where no casu-Ukrainian long-range alties were reported, lodrones struck more fuel cal officials said. and energy facilities inside

United Arab Emirates announced \$544 million to repair the homes of Emirati families in a cabi-



Monitoring Desk MEXICO CITY: Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said he hopes to present a new fund aimed at boosting the lower pensions in the system on May 1, a month ahead of presidential elections.

net meeting.

The creation of the fund, which is part of a pension reform proposed by the president in February, was approved on Mondav by the country's lower house. It now needs to be the government

passed by the Senate. "I hope that on May 1, Labor Day, we can present a report to workers and give them the good news, that their pensions are guaranteed and that they will also be increased. Lopez Obrador said at a press

conference. The opposition has warned that the move could put workers' savings managed by private companies at risk, a claim denied by

Taiwan happy with US aid package, China objects to arms sales **Monitoring Desk**

TAIPEI: Taiwan Presi ons to Taipei.

Taiwan's most important international backer and arms supplier even in the

absence of formal diplomatic ties

Daily **Independent**, Hub

KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif reads a pledge to serve the country with the youth of the nation during his visit to Mazar-e-Quaid.

Businessmen want PM to reconcile with PTI founder, improve ties with India

ness magnate Arif Habib has neighbours, including India, and alleviate foreign exurged Prime Minister and once with the inmates Shehbaz Sharif to extend a of Adiala Jail," Habib adgesture of reconciliation to his incarcerated political opponent, the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), and improve relations with neighbouring countries, es-

pecially India. Habib's counsel came during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's address to the business community at a ceremony on Wednesday, where the premier ex-

pressed confidence that Pakistan's exports would double over the next five years with the support of be pivotal in achieving this the business community.

goal.

NA told Govt. making all-out efforts to

enhance energy mix to provide

affordable power to consumers

power.

costs

faulters.

Having engaged with the Pakistan Peoples Party and other parties, I urge framework, developed in you to engage two more consultation with business

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Federal Minister for Law

and Justice Azam Nazeer

Tarar Wednesday in-formed the National As-

sembly that the govern-

ment was making all-out

efforts to enhance the en-

ergy mix to provide afford-

able electricity to the con-

ing attention notice regard-

ing the production of elec-

tricity from expensive

sources instead of cheap

Responding to a call-

sumers.

vised the premier during the Q&A session.

for elevating the stock market to record levels and securing a bailout package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

during his previous tenure as prime minister. In his address, PM Shehbaz Sharif reiterated his confidence in Pakistan's export potential, stressing

commitment that collaboration with the business community would He outlined plans for a comprehensive policy

KARACHI (INP): Busi- times: once with our leaders, to boost exports change reserve challenges. Acknowledging the business community as the

backbone of the economy The businessman the prime minister invited commended PM Shehbaz collaboration in addressing economic hurdles and fostering development and rosperity.

He emphasised the importance of collective effort and innovative solutions to overcome challenges and revitalise Pakistan's economy.

PM Shehbaz underscored the government's revolutionise various sectors, including agriculture, mining, information technology and industry, with a focus on reducing unemployment, poverty and in-

flation Pakistan wants cordial ties with

neighbours: Khawaja Asif ISLAMABAD (INP): Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said Pakistan is willing to enjoy cordial re-

lationship with the neighbouring countries in-The minister said a cluding India. plant with the help of China Talking to media on will be set up in Pakistan

Wednesday, the defence minister said Taliban defeated the colonial powers without modern equipment which was a fact praise-

worthy "Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan are not ideal this time and we need to work on improv-

The minister urged lawmakers to educate the ing ties with them," he sources, he said that the people in their respective said. government is actively en- constituencies about the criminal nature of electric

Gillani calls for further promoting parliamentary relations b/w Pakistan, US

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani Wednesday appreciated the tions US government for its collaboration across various sectors and emphasized the need to enhance trade links

for mutual benefit.

During the meeting with US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome, the chairman Senate stressed the need for increased cooperation to boost trade volume.

Both sides engaged in detailed deliberations on various aspects of the enduring friendship between Pakistan and the United States, said a news release.

Ambassador Blome extended heartiest congratulations to Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani on being elected as Chairman Senate and conveyed his best wishes for a successful tenure.

Expressing Pakistan's commitment to nurturing its long-standing friendly ties with the US, the Chairman Senate emphasized the IMF

He praised the efforts importance of further promoting parliamentary relaof the Pakistan economic team and emphasized the tions between the two napotential for further eco-He underscored the nomic cooperation between

pivotal role that parliamen-Pakistan and the US. tary contacts can play in Acknowledging the



enhancing public and legispositive economic indica lative engagement. tors of Pakistan, the ambas-Recognizing the sigsador noted the downward nificant economic partnertrend in inflation and high ship between the two coundollar reserves, stating that tries, Chairman Senate the IMF's positive feed-Gillani highlighted the US back would encourage inas Pakistan's largest tradvestors

ing partner. He also highlighted the Ambassador Blome flourishing gaming industry commended the new ecoin Pakistan and called for nomic team of Pakistan and enhanced cooperation in expressed optimism regardthe digital sector. ing the ongoing discussions

Both discussed the between Pakistan and the importance of parliamentary contacts.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Sardar Sarfaraz Chakar Khan Domki, MPAs Mir Barkat Ali Rind, Mir Asghar Ali Rind, Nawabzada Naimatullah Zehri and Naveed Kalmati meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti

Mir Sarfraz Bugti for taking steps to establish good governance in province

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Wednesday ots' to the Practice and Prosaid that provincial government would take practical measures to address cedure Committee for forpublic issues and establish good governance in consultation with all mation of a larger bench to stakeholders. hear the matter

He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of Pakistan Bar Council (PBC), High Court Bar (HCB) and Balochistan Bar Council (BBC) led by Muneer Ahmed Kakar Advocate called on him here.

The matters relating to the problems of Bar Councils came under discussion during the meeting. Justice Hassan Azhar

The Chief Minister said that provincial government would review the proposals presented within the available resources to solve the genuine issues being faced by the lawyers' community and assured to take measures for the welfare of the lawyers frater nity

He said that Bar Councils and lawyers would be consulted on legislation re lated to public interest in the Balochistan Assembly.

PM visits Mazar-e-Quaid, pays homage to father of nation

Iqbal, Federal Minister for

Commerce Jam Kamal,

Federal Minister for Pro-

fessional Training and Edu-

cation Dr Khalid Maqbool

The Prime Minister

Minister

Prime

KARACHI (APP): Prime casting Attaullah Tarar, Fed-Minister Shehbaz Sharif eral Minister for Planning Wednesday visited the and Development Ahsan mausoleum of Father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, where he paid his respects and offered Fateha. This is the first visit

Thursday April 25, 2024

Siddiqui were present on of Shehbaz Sharif to the the occasion. Mazar-e-Quaid after he Shehbaz Sharif along with took the oath for the second term as the prime minyouth paid rich tributes to ister on March 4, 2024. the founding fathers of Pa-The prime minister kistan.

laid a wreath at the mausoleum and also penned his took an oath from the youth comments in the visitors' who performed promibook.In his remarks, the nently at Mazar-e-Quaid prime minister said he was to serve Pakistan and play there to pay tribute to the their role in the development of the country. Earlier, Prime Minisgreat Quaid for his great struggle to create a separate homeland and show his respects to him.

ter Shehbaz Sharif arrived on a day long visit to Governor Sindh Karachi and was received Kamran Khan Tessori, by Sindh Governor Kamran Chief Minister Syed Murad Khan Tessori and Chief Ali Shah, Federal Minister Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at Karachi Airport. for Information and Broad-

OUETTA: Provincial Minister for Communication & Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa being briefed about progress on development projects in provincial Assembly

SC sends appeals regarding 'army courts' to committee for formation of larger bench

ISLAMABAD (APP): The General for Pakistan in-Supreme Court on Wednes-day referred 'the set of informed the court that 20 people had been released tra court appeals (ICAs) before Eid after they comagainst the termination of peted sentences. Justice Hilali re-marked that the decisions civilians' trials in army courts in line of May 9 ri-

of the military courts should be brought on the record

The court said that it A six-member bench would view that what procedure had been adopted for of the top court headed by Justice Amin ud Din Khan the trials and if the accused and comprising Justice were given the opportunity Muhammad Ali Mazhar, to hire lawyers of their choice

Justice Amin ud Din Waheed, Justice Musarrat Khan said that the court had Hilali and Justice Irfan conditioned the decisions of Saadat Khan heard the pearmy courts with the final judgment of the top court but still it could summon

the decisions.

aimed at providing affordable electricity to the masses. He said that the Prime Minister has established a special committee to activity.

gaged in various projects

ity theft. He emphasized the importance of collective efforts in curbing this illegal

promote the generation of

electricity through solar

to manufacture solar pan-

els in the country to reduce

about the government's on-

going efforts to combat

power theft and address de-

Nazeer Tarar informed

Irrigation Dept. to be put on modern lines: Minister for Irrigation stresses on constructing new dams in all districts of Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Irrigation, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani has underlined the need to build new dams in all districts of the province for stopping wastage of water and increasing water reservoirs.

The Minister said said that we would remain determined to put the irrigation department on modern lines as per the vision of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti

He said that the public issues would be resolved on priority basis.

The Provincial Minister Irrigation stated so while speaking on the occasion of his visit to the office of administrative secretary of the department on Wednes-**Independent Report** day QUETTA: Two coalmine

The Secretary Irrigation briefed the Minister about the overall performance of the department.

The Minister said that Irrigation department is very important for the public service. He mentioned that the

ing in a coalmine located in issue of irrigation has been the PMDC coalmine area of resolved to great extent be-Shahrag when they were cause of the recent rains in trapped there and died of the province. suffocation of poisonous

> Later, their bodies were taken out from the affected coalmine by the local coalmine workers on self-help basis.

workers died of poisonous

gas suffocation in a

coalmine located in Shahrag

area of Harnai on Wednes-

Chief Mines Inspector, two

mine workers were work-

According to the

day

NAB takes notice of illegal appointments made in NA

in National Assembly (NA)

Secretariat. Sources said the

letter written by NAB has

been received in NA secre-

tariat. Through this letter

Tabassum and Shafaqat Hussain meeting with Provincial Advisor Women Development Department secretariat ISLAMABAD (Online): NAB has taken notice of illegal appointments made

Secretary directs to take action against absentee medical staff at RHC Kan Mahtarzai

OUETTA: Journalists of Islamabad Shahana

Independent Report QUETTA: The Secretary Health Department. Abdullah Khan has directed to take departmental action against the Incharge Lady Medical Officer and other medical staff found absent from their duties at the Rural Health Center (RHC) Kan Mehtarzai in Killa Saifullah district on EHC.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi

Wednesday The Secretary issued directives for taking action against the absentee medical staff during his surprise visit to the RHC Kan LHVs there. Mehtarzai.

Incharge Lady Medical Ofdetails about the appointficer and other staff absent ments made from 2018 to from their duties. March 2024 in NA secretariat He expressed dismay have been sought. Reply has over the absence of Incharge been sought about the proceand other medical staff at dure under which the appoint-

the RHC. However, he found the basic healthcare, EPI, MCH and Nutrition Programme fully functional at the

He on the occasion directed to District Health Officer to make labour room operational at the RHC and appoint local

He also stressed the During his visit, the need to improve the ser-Secretary Health found the vices of vaccination further.



Independent Report

OUETTA: The Chief Min-

ister Balochistan, Mir

Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has

stated that international

karate combat player

Shahzaib Rind has bright-

ened the name of Paki-

stan at international

s pride of Balochistan and

Pakistan and he has proved

that there is talent of world

Independent Report

QUETTA: The employees

of Watern and Sanitation

Authority (WASA) lodged

protest against non-pay-

ment of their salaries in the

metropolis on Wednesday.

taken out from WASA of-

Zarghoon road.

The protest rally was

level in Balochistan

He said that Shahzaib

level

QUETTA: Provincial Minister Finance Mir Shoaib Nausherwani being briefed by DG Afzal Khosti during his visit of Directorate General Treasury & Accounts

Announces job & Rs. 2mln for karate player: Two coalmine Shahzaib Rind brightens name workers suffocated to of Pakistan at international level. death in maintains Chief Minister Harnai coalmine

Sarfraz Bugti announces provincial government to bear expenses of traveling & professional training of Shahzaib for abroad; says talented players to be fully patronised

> was speaking to Shahzaib rected the Secretary Sports in this regard.

> He said that the pro vincial government ac the crucial fight against In-He announced the

government job and cash reward of Rs. 2 million for Shahzaib Rind. He also announced to

bear the expenses of traveling and professional training of Shahzaib Rind to be country done abroad and also di-

The Chief Minister **WASA** employees lodge

protest against non-

payment of salaries

dian player.

Rind who called on him here on Wednesday. He congratulated Shahzaib Rind on winning

knowledges the talent and capabilities of talented youth and would fully patronise them.

Shahzaib Rind on the ccasion thanked the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti on encouraging him.

He asked youth of the íncluding Balochistan to work hard.

Law Minister

meets IPC delegation ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation from the Inter-

national Parliamentarians ment of their salaries of two Congress (IPC) met with months. The employees Federal Minister for Law said that they are deprived and Justice, Azam Nazeer of the salaries for last two Tarar here on Wednesday. months. They criticized the

The delegation was provincial government in led by IPC President Abdel this regard. They demanded Rahim Maaia and included of the government to re-Secretary General Sitara solve the issue, otherwise Ayaz, Assistant Secretary General Ijlal Ali Khan and Deputy Speaker Jordan.



OUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani addressing introductory session of female Principals. Secretary Education Salah Muhammad Nassar is also present

stries of Law & Justice and Defence against the apex courts' ruling of October 23, in which it had annulled the civilians trials in army courts

Rizvi, Justice Shahid

titions filed by the Federal

Government, and the min-

The counsel for Justice (retd) Jawad S. Khawaja prayed the bench to form a larger bench in the light the notes of Justice Yahva During the course of Afridi and Justice Mansoor proceedings, the Attorney Ali Shah.

Member CMIT inspects development projects ficials to mobilize all avail-

Independent Report QUETTA: The Member Chief Minister Inspection Team (CMIT) Umeed Ali Khokhar visited Usta Muhammad and Jaffarabad districts on Wednesday. During the course of visit, Chief Minister in-

spected different completed and under completion projects in the districts. Speaking on the occasion, Member CMIT di-

rected to the concerned of-

able resources for completion of the projects in larger public interests. He said that heavy responsibility rests with the engineers to discharge their duties with dedication. He warned that no negligence and carelessness would be tolerated in this regard. He also directed to the Executive Engineers to work on the projects on priority basis removing flaws in them.



QUETTA: Director General (DG) Health Balochistan, Dr. Farooq Hoth along with others addressing during press conference held at Quetta press club.

Harassment of women serious & culpable offence, says Rubaba

Independent Report ship of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti. QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Women

ment on it.

Dr. Rubaba Buledi was Development, Dr. Rubaba speaking to the Secretary Women Development De-Khan Buledi has stated that harassment of women is partment, Sardar Khan Bugti and other officers afserious and culpable offence and there is zero tolter assuming the responsierance policy of the governbilities of department here on Wednesday.

She asserted that case The Advisor for Women Development, Dr. would be registered under Rubaba said that the Anti-Harassment Act if any women of Balochistan are female was harassed. She said that it is our talented, however, there's a basic responsibility to proneed to take comprehensive vide harassment free and steps for providing ample conducive environment to opportunities to women so the women at workplace. that they may progress at national and provincial She said that comprelevel. She said that women hensive steps would be taken for providing opporof province are facing extraordinary hardships. Untunities to the women to move forward in all sectors. der the given circum-She said that the re-

stances, steps would be taken enabling women to markable performance of defend their rights effecthe provincial government tively, she added. would be felt under leader-

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they would intensify their fice which terminated at the Edhi chowk after passing protest further. Meanwhile, traffic jam through Double road and was occurred due to protest of WASA employees The protestors staged at main intersection of the sit-in at the Edhi chowk and



