

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG.No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vd: XXV No. 243, Shawwal 15, 1445 AH Wednesday April 24, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

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.



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

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 met 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. After PM Shehbaz Sharif's visit, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman will also travel to Pakistan.

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

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

Continued on page 2

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 Rafiullah.

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.

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 Qaid-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 Majed

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.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnesses the signing of different agreements between China and Pakistan regarding cooperation in various fields.

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

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif 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, sug-



gested 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.

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,

were also involved in extortion and attacks on security forces as well as target killing. The terrorists were present in the district with plans to cause sabotage, it added.

"The escape routes of the terrorists were blocked," the CTD said, adding that there is a fear of the presence of facilitators of terrorists in the local population.

"Strict action is also being taken against the facilitators," the agency maintained.



QUETTA: Spokesman of Government of Balochistan Shahid Rind, Commissioner Quetta Division Hanza 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

Bolts from the Blue: Understanding Lightning's Fury



By Samiullah Umrani

Lightning is a natural atmospheric discharge of electricity that typically occurs during thunderstorms. It is characterized by a sudden, bright flash of light and the accompanying sound of thunder. Lightning is caused by the buildup and discharge of electrical charge within clouds, leading to the rapid heating and expansion of air, which produces the characteristic thunderclap. Lightning can take various forms, including cloud-to-ground, intra-cloud, and cloud-to-cloud discharges, and it poses significant risks to life, property, and infrastructure.

Formation of Lightning:

Lightning formation is a fascinating process rooted in the complex dynamics of thunderstorms. It begins with the accumulation of electrical charge within storm clouds, which ultimately leads to the spectacular discharge we perceive as lightning. Here's a breakdown of the formation process:

Charge Separation: Within thunderclouds, water droplets and ice particles collide as they move within updrafts and downdrafts. This collision results in the separation of positive and negative charges within the cloud. Lighter ice particles tend to acquire a positive charge, while heavier water droplets become negatively charged.

Electrostatic Forces: As the charge separation continues, intense electrostatic forces develop within the cloud. Positively charged regions form at the top of the cloud, while negatively charged regions accumulate near the bottom.

Electric Fields: The accumulation of opposite charges creates powerful electric fields within the cloud. These fields can reach magnitudes of millions of volts per meter, generating significant electrical potential energy.

Formation of Leaders and Streamers: When the electric field strength becomes sufficiently high, it can overcome the insulating properties of the air.

This leads to the formation of charged channels called leaders, which extend from the cloud towards the ground. Simultaneously, upward streamers may also develop from tall objects on the ground, such as buildings or trees, reaching towards the descending leaders.

Lightning Discharge: As the leaders and streamers approach each other, a conductive path is established between the cloud and the ground. This allows for the rapid discharge of electrical energy in the form of a lightning bolt. The intense heat generated by the lightning bolt causes the surrounding air to expand rapidly, producing the characteristic thunderclap.

Aftermath: Once the lightning discharge occurs, the electrical charge within the cloud is temporarily neutralized. However, the charge separation process resumes, potentially leading to additional lightning strikes as the storm continues to develop.

Why lightning falls on the earth? Lightning falls to Earth as a result of a discharge of electrical energy between charged regions within a thundercloud and the Earth's surface. This phenomenon occurs due to the presence of intense electric fields within the cloud and between the cloud and the ground. When the electric field strength becomes sufficiently high, it overcomes the insulating properties of the air, allowing for the rapid movement of charged particles along a conductive path.

During the formation of lightning, charged channels known as leaders extend from the cloud towards the ground, while upward streamers may also develop from tall objects on the ground, such as buildings or trees, reaching towards the descending leaders. When the leaders and streamers meet, a conductive path is established, facilitating the flow of electrical current between the cloud and the Earth's surface.

The discharge of electrical energy in the form of a lightning bolt results in a rapid release of heat and light, causing the surrounding air to expand explosively and producing the characteristic thunderclap. The intense energy of the lightning bolt can cause significant damage to structures, ignite fires, and pose risks to living organisms in its path.

Impacts of Lightning: The impact of lightning can be significant and far-reaching, affecting various aspects of human life, the environment, and infrastructure.

Human Safety: Lightning poses a direct threat to human safety, causing injuries and fatalities each year. When lightning strikes the ground or objects on the Earth's surface, it can travel through conductive materials such as water, metal, and the human body. People engaged in outdoor activities, such as hiking, camping, or sports, are particularly vulnerable to lightning strikes. Additionally, individuals indoors or seeking shelter may still be at risk due to conductive pathways, such as electrical wiring or plumbing.

Wildfires: Lightning is a common ignition source for wildfires, particularly in dry and forested regions. When lightning strikes vegetation or dry fuels, it can ignite fires that spread rapidly, endangering ecosystems, wildlife, and human communities. Lightning-induced wildfires can be difficult to control and extinguish, posing challenges for firefighting efforts and resource management.

Power Outages: Lightning strikes can disrupt power grids and electrical infrastructure, leading to power outages and service interruptions. The sudden discharge of electrical energy can damage transformers, power lines, and other

components of the electrical distribution system, resulting in downtime and inconvenience for consumers. Utility companies often implement measures to protect against lightning-induced outages, such as lightning protection systems and surge arrestors.

Agricultural Losses: Lightning strikes can impact agricultural activities and crop production. Lightning-induced fires can destroy crops, farm equipment, and storage facilities, leading to financial losses for farmers and agricultural communities. Additionally, lightning strikes can cause injury or death to livestock, further exacerbating the economic impact on agricultural operations.

Environmental Effects: Lightning plays a role in atmospheric chemistry and the nitrogen cycle by producing nitrogen oxides that contribute to the formation of ozone and other reactive species. Lightning-induced wildfires can also release carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, influencing climate patterns and air quality.

Mitigation Strategies:

Some key mitigation strategies include:

Lightning Detection and Warning Systems: Implementing lightning detection and warning systems can provide advanced notice of approaching thunderstorms and lightning activity. These systems use a combination of ground-

based sensors, radar technology, and atmospheric monitoring to detect lightning strikes and predict the likelihood of future strikes. Public alert systems can then disseminate warnings to individuals and communities, allowing them to take protective measures.

Lightning Protection Systems: Installing lightning protection systems on buildings, structures, and critical infrastructure can help mitigate the effects of lightning strikes. These systems typically consist of lightning rods, conductive materials, and grounding systems designed to intercept and safely dissipate electrical currents from lightning strikes. Properly

installed and maintained lightning protection systems can reduce the risk of fire, structural damage, and electrical surges.

Education and Awareness Programs: Educating the public about lightning safety practices and raising awareness of the risks associated with lightning strikes are essential mitigation strategies. Outreach programs, educational materials, and public service announcements can inform individuals about the dangers of lightning and the importance of seeking shelter during thunderstorms. Training sessions for outdoor workers, recreational enthusiasts, and emergency responders can also promote safe behavior and reduce the likelihood of lightning-related injuries.

Outdoor Safety Protocols: Establishing outdoor safety protocols for recreational activities, sports events, and construction sites can help minimize exposure to lightning hazards. These protocols may include guidelines for monitoring weather conditions, identifying safe shelter locations, and implementing evacuation procedures during thunderstorms. Organizers of outdoor events should have contingency plans in place to address the threat of lightning and ensure the safety of participants and spectators.

Emergency Preparedness and Response: Developing emergency prepared-

ness and response plans that address lightning-related incidents is critical for mitigating risks and minimizing the impact of lightning strikes. Emergency management agencies, first responders, and healthcare providers should coordinate efforts to respond effectively to lightning-related emergencies, including medical emergencies, fires, and power outages. Training exercises and drills can help ensure that personnel are adequately prepared to handle lightning-related incidents.

The author is serving as Assistant Director Public Relations in Information Department Government of Balochistan.

Example: At least 41 people have died in storm-related incidents across Pakistan in April 2024, including 28 killed by lightning. (NDMA)

Property Damage: Lightning strikes can cause significant damage to buildings, vehicles, and other structures. The intense heat generated by a lightning bolt can ignite fires, leading to property loss and destruction. Electrical surges resulting from lightning strikes can also damage electronic devices, appliances, and electrical systems, leading to costly repairs or replacements.

Electrical wiring or plumbing.

Example: At least 41 people have died in storm-related incidents across Pakistan in April 2024, including 28 killed by lightning. (NDMA)

Property Damage: Lightning strikes can cause significant damage to buildings, vehicles, and other structures. The intense heat generated by a lightning bolt can ignite fires, leading to property loss and destruction. Electrical surges resulting from lightning strikes can also damage electronic devices, appliances, and electrical systems, leading to costly repairs or replacements.

Electrical wiring or plumbing.

Example: At least 41 people have died in storm-related incidents across Pakistan in April 2024, including 28 killed by lightning. (NDMA)

Property Damage: Lightning strikes can cause significant damage to buildings, vehicles, and other structures. The intense heat generated by a lightning bolt can ignite fires, leading to property loss and destruction. Electrical surges resulting from lightning strikes can also damage electronic devices, appliances, and electrical systems, leading to costly repairs or replacements.

Electrical wiring or plumbing.

Example: At least 41 people have died in storm-related incidents across Pakistan in April 2024, including 28 killed by lightning. (NDMA)

Property Damage: Lightning strikes can cause significant damage to buildings, vehicles, and other structures. The intense heat generated by a lightning bolt can ignite fires, leading to property loss and destruction. Electrical surges resulting from lightning strikes can also damage electronic devices, appliances, and electrical systems, leading to costly repairs or replacements.

Electrical wiring or plumbing.

Example: At least 41 people have died in storm-related incidents across Pakistan in April 2024, including 28 killed by lightning. (NDMA)

Property Damage: Lightning strikes can cause significant damage to buildings, vehicles, and other structures. The intense heat generated by a lightning bolt can ignite fires, leading to property loss and destruction. Electrical surges resulting from lightning strikes can also damage electronic devices, appliances, and electrical systems, leading to costly repairs or replacements.

Electrical wiring or plumbing.



Chairman JCSC confers civil awards to eminent scientists, engineers

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC), General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, on behalf of the President of Pakistan, conferred civil awards on eminent scientists and engineers from strategic organizations for their meritorious services at the Investiture Ceremony held here on Tuesday at Chaklala Garrison.

A total of 35 awardees were conferred with the awards, whereas seven officers were awarded Sitara-i-Imtiaz, 15 officers were awarded President's Award for Pride of Performance and 13 officers were awarded Tamgha-i-Imtiaz.

The Chairman JCSC lauded the services of the scientists and engineers; hailing them as the nation's unseen heroes. While addressing the awardees, the JCSC said, "You, all, have selflessly contributed towards strengthening the foundations of a resilient nation; and for that, we are forever indebted to you."

Govt's formation..

Continued from page 1

development of Balochistan is impossible in the present budget.

Referring the issue of missing persons in the province, the Chief Minister said that the propaganda is being made about the missing persons.

He said that it is not fair to level allegations against the institutions about the missing persons. However, it is difficult to determine that who is disappearing the people, he said.

Still the commission formed for recovery of the missing persons has resolved the issue of 80 percent missing persons.

He said that it is responsibility of the government to recover missing persons.

Our committee would work for resolving all the issues, he maintained.

Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti asserted that terrorists can't be let free and added that every individual and institutions have to play role against terrorism.

He said that Baloch doing resistance and sectarian terrorism have connection in Afghanistan.

He strongly believed that many issues can be resolved by improving governance in the province.

The parliament has to make decision about negotiations with those making resistance, he added.

He said that we have to find solution to the problems of law and order as for how long the province would confront the situation.

He stressed that we have to end terrorism after preparing one narrative.

He said that the term of "angry Baloch" is made by the media, so it (media) should tell who is angry?

He said every individual has to support the government against killers of the innocent people.



Nawaz Sharif leaves for China on a five-day personal visit

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif left for China on a five-day personal visit.

Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar is accompanying Nawaz Sharif on visit to China. According to media reports, Nawaz Sharif would hold meetings related to the development works of the Punjab province and will also meet the owners of Chinese companies. He will also undergo a medical checkup during his stay in China.

NLC PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR LIAISONING WITH CONSULTANT & CLIENT ACCORDING TO PPRA RULES FOR RUNNING PROJECTS IN QUETTA

- Sealed application for pre-qualification of Consultancy Services for liaisoning with Consultant & Client are invited in accordance with PPRA Consultancy Regulation 2010.
- Pre-qualifications duly completed are required to be delivered at office of this Headquarter at 1000 hours on 09 May 2024 which will be opened on the same day at 1100 hours. Consultancy firms shall provide certificate on E-Stamp paper (Rs. 100) that they are not involved in any type of litigations with Government Department in the Court of Law and they are not black listed from NLC and any other Government Department and also nothing is outstanding against their firm.
- The accepting officer reserve the right to accept or reject the documents. Rejected firms will be dealt with as per PPRA Consultancy Regulation 2010.
- The interested parties can contact with Headquarter Project Directorate NLC Balochistan for further details from 0900 to 1630 hours on all working days and can contact office phone number 081-2300765. This pre-qualification notice is also available at www.nlc.com.pk and www.ppra.org.pk.

Engineer Waqas Khan
AM Contract
Headquarter Project Directorate NLC Balochistan

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-232404397533 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The DIRECTOR GENERAL AGRICULTURE EXTENSION-Q invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates.

S.No	Name of Work	E/Cost
1.	Supply/Installation of solar irrigation pumping system at Coconut farm Uthal and Seed Farm Gandawah	10,798,000/-

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 7,558,600 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million) In Relevant Category and Specialized Code is EE03 (ii) (Energy Generation System), the Firm has to Supply/ install the solar irrigation pumping system with in 90 days after signing of supply order/ agreement Affidavit of correctness of Information. Must unconditionally agree with all the instructions, terms & conditions specified in the bidding documents & contract agreement. Complete Portfolio of Company, Registration with PEC with the relevant Codes. Power of Attorney for Lead Member of the Consortium. GST Registration with Active Status in Active Tax payers List. Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,500 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 07 May, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 07 May, 2024 till 11:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM Address: DIRECTORATE GENERAL AGRICULTURE EXTENSION RANI BAGH SARIYAB ROAD QUETTA Phone no: 0819211500 Fax no: Email: abudullah.haji@gmail.com

PRQ No.1925/23-04-2024
DIRECTOR GENERAL AGRICULTURE EXTENSION BALOCHISTAN QUETTA

Shadab Khan upbeat about lifting ICC T20I WC 2024

LAHORE (APP): All-rounder Shadab Khan has said that Pakistan cricket team has the right combination of cricketers which may help them lift the ICC Men's T20I World Cup 2024 in West Indies and USA. Talking to the media men on the sidelines of a practice session at the Gaddafi stadium here on Tuesday, he said he is happy with the role assigned to him in the team, adding that players have been given different roles by the team management.

CORRIGENDUM

In continuation of previous advertisement Published in daily newspapers Vide AB No.408/19-4-2024 please note the following correction. Last date and time of bid submission is changed from 1st May 2024 to 30th April 2024 11:00 AM. Bids will be open on same day at 12:00 PM. Other terms and conditions will remain same and unchanged.

AB No.416/23-4-2024
Project Director, Balochistan Medical Support Program-Poverty Eradication Initiative.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-232404390263 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Divisional Forest Officer Duki invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Works	E/Cost
1	Raising of 600 acres woodlot plantation at Duki	6,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 4,200,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 07 May, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 07 May, 2024 till 12:30 PM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:30 PM Address: Divisional forest officer duki Phone no: 0333787163 Fax no: 987 Email: attatransdo@gmail.com

PRQ No.1933/23-04-2024
DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER DUKI

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia & Uzbekistan sign an important partnership agreement

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan have signed an important partnership agreement. Financial, consultative and corporate finance services will be provided to investors through partnership.

Anshar Capital, Uzbekistan's largest investment bank, will work closely with KASB Securities Limited (KASB), a leading stock and commodity brokerage firm in Pakistan for expansion of capital market and collection of foreign capital.

The partnership is expected to expand the market and attract foreign investment, particularly in key sectors such as energy, infrastructure, and agriculture.

Both firms will be actively engaged in supporting investors and traders in Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Saudi Arabia, providing them with expert guidance and support to navigate the markets.

Khadim Ali Shah Bokhari Securities Limited (KASB) is a stock and commodity brokerage located in Pakistan. KASB is playing vital role for coverage of Saudi Market in Pakistan.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-232404398583 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MAINTENANCE I DIVISION QUETTA invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Works	E/Cost
1	ANNUAL REPAIR & SPECIAL REPAIR OF BUNGLAW NO.54-AZARGHOON ROAD QUETTA	8,789,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 6,152,300 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million) In Relevant Category and Specialized Code is C6 (11), C5 (11). Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 10 May, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 10 May, 2024 till 10:45 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:45 AM Address: EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MAINTENANCE I DIVISION QUETTA C&W Complex NEAR CHAMMAN PATAK MIR JAFAR KHAN JAMALI ROAD QUETTA Phone no: 08129202438 Email: maintenanceen@gmail.com

PRQ No.1929/23-04-2024
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MAINTENANCE DIVISION-I QUETTA

TENDER NOTICE

The ADMINISTRATION (COLLEGE DIRECTORATE) invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-232404396311 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Furniture & Fixtures (Total Item(s) Count: 20)	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 4,900,000 in Previous 3 Years Turnover of at least 4,900,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years. Presence in Active Tax Payer List Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is not permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security in Case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and non-responsive. Submission of the required Bidding document Fee. Firm must have register Manufacturer with Industries department Govt of Balochistan. Firm must register with Balochistan Revenue Authority. Must agree to serve the contract 27-05-2024 at Govt Girls Inter College Kachhi Dahdar. The Bidder Must have Functional Corporate office having P.T.O. Phone & fax number. Bidder Must provide samples of items Last Three Years audit report. Furniture must be let for one year at least, warranty must be provided on bidder letter-head Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 07 May, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 07 May, 2024 till 10:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:00 AM Address: Directorate of colleges & Higher education Shawokshah road Quetta Phone no: 3337935623 Fax no: 0819202676 Email: directorcolgs@gmail.com

PRQ No.1945/23-04-2024
DIRECTOR COLLEGES & HIGHER EDUCATION, BALOCHISTAN QUETTA

President for comprehensive efforts to prevent heart diseases

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaking on the occasion, the president expressed concern over the rise in cardiovascular diseases and emphasised the need for a comprehensive Heart and Non-Communicable Diseases prevention programme.

He said that steps should be taken to enforce the display of health advisories about the quantity of sugar in carbonated and sugary beverages.

The head of the delegation briefed the President about the role of PANAH in disseminating information about the spread of heart diseases and its risk factors among the general public. He apprised that PANAH had been making

efforts to prevent, minimize and control fatalities due to angina, heart failure and heart attack.

He informed that the Association aimed to educate the people and impart training regarding the recognition of cardiac arrest and providing Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to save lives.

He further apprised that PANAH had also helped the victims of natural disasters, besides treating poor patients and children.

The president appreciated PANAH's role in promoting cardiac health and advocating for healthier lifestyles and assured them of his full support in this regard.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH), led by its President, Major General (Retd) Masud-ur-Rehman called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

UNICEF representative calls on Education Minister, discusses education sector challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) representative in Pakistan Mr. Abdullah A. Fadil called on the Minister of Federal Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui here on Tuesday and discussed the challenges being faced by the education sector of Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Education Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmed Wani in addition with senior officials of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training.

Federal Minister Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui welcomed Mr. Abdullah A. Fadil and acknowledged the services of UNICEF in the education sector of Pakistan. He appreciated the

role of UNICEF in helping Pakistan in its bid to create equal access to quality education for the people of Pakistan.

Federal Minister said that there is a dire need to address the issue of Out of School Children and the broader gap of access and quality of education on an emergency basis.

Dr. Khalid said that the ministry of education is working on a holistic plan to create a National Education Framework under which the federation and the provinces will be equal stakeholders.

Minister said that this policy will be launched within a month and will bring all the stakeholders on the same page. He said that all the provinces along with donor partners will be taken on board to create a national consensus.

Dr. Khalid said that the primary goal is to drastically reduce the Out of School Children in Pakistan and that can only be done with a national, concerted and focused effort.

Secretary Education Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmed Wani said that this seemingly insurmountable crisis can only be addressed if we can make the solution of the education crisis a corner stone of the broader narrative of economic progress.

Mr. Wani said that the federal government will pledge support for the underprivileged areas of the provinces such as slums to ensure broader inclusiveness under the National Education Policy.

Mr. Abdullah A. Fadil said that UNICEF has been present in Pakistan since 1948.



ISLAMABAD: A high level delegation led by Sir Steve Smith (UK International Education Champion), Wendy Alexander (Scottish Higher Education Champion) and British Council Global Director of Education, Maddalaine Ansell called on Federal Minister for Education Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

Kashmir delegations, GB Councils members calls on Engr Muqam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Kashmir delegations and Gilgit Baltistan Councils members called on Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan and State and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) separately here at the Ministry on Tuesday.

They felicitated Engr Amir Muqam on assuming his charge as federal minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, said a press release.

During the meetings, matters pertaining to Kashmir Council and Gilgit Baltistan Council, development projects and problems faced by the masses were

discussed in detail. Speaking on the occasion, Engr Amir Muqam said that Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan would extend all out cooperation for resolving problems faced by the local populace of the country's northern region.

He said that working relationships between Federal and Azad Jammu Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan governments would be improved further.

The minister also vowed to work for the welfare, development and prosperity of Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir.

Shahera Shahid visits Press Council of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid visited Press Council of Pakistan's (PCP) Secretariat on Tuesday and lauded its performance in addressing the problems faced by journalist community.

According to a press release issued here, the secretary said appointment of Chairman PCP Arshad Khan Jadoon would further improve the performance of the institution.

She said that opening of one-window operation had improved confidence in the journalists and public.

On the occasion, the PCP chairman said that all-out efforts would be made to address the issues facing journalist community and general public.



ISLAMABAD: Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar along with Attorney General of Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan in a meeting with the Pakistan Tax Bar Association.

Abai's poetry laid foundation for modern Kazakhstan: Kistafin

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin on Tuesday said that national poet and intellectual of Kazakhstan Qunanbaily Abai's left an indelible impression on the socio-economic landscape and culture of Kazakhstan and his ideas are the foundation for modern Kazakhstan.

"His ideas laid the groundwork for the Kazakh cultural renaissance of the 20th century," he said. "Qunanbaily Abai's poetry and books have been translated into many languages of the world, which taught the whole world about humanity, peace and common prosperity," he added.

Sharing details on book launching ceremony, he said that "Book of Words" by Abai, translated into Pashto, Punjabi, Sindhi, and Balochi, alongside a Kazakh-Urdu-English phrasebook.

The ceremony was organized by the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies in collaboration with the National Library of Pakistan and the Embassy of Kazakhstan to Pakistan.

Today, Abai Qunanbaily's legacy is alive and thriving, inspiring generations of writers, thinkers, and activists,

he said. The Ambassador said that during Qunanbaily Abai's era, several important socio-political and socio-economic changes occurred in Kazakhstan. Abai's creative poetry affected the philosophical thinking of educated Kazakhs, he said.

The leaders of the progressive Alash Orda movement saw him as their inspiration. He participated in the governing of the country and played a certain role in trying to resolve complicated problems of society.

Throughout his life, Abai faced number of challenges, including political oppression and personal tragedy, he said.

Despite these obstacles, he remained committed to his principles and continued to inspire others through his writings and actions.

Nasir Rizvi visits Safe City Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: IGP Islamabad visited various sections of Safe City and briefed the officers. They will establish a virtual police station in Islamabad and launch a safety app for women. According to details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, visited Safe City Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

He said that on this occasion, SSP Safe City and other police officers were also present. The IGP Islamabad examined various departments of Safe City Islamabad and briefed the officials.

He said that the federal government will establish a virtual police station in Islamabad and launch a Women Safety App for women's protection.

He further stated that the number of cameras equipped with artificial intelligence capabilities will increase in Safe City Islamabad and efforts will be made to ensure the protection of city data.

Section 144 case: Court confirms bail of PTI leader Swati

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and Sessions Court Islamabad has confirmed bail of PTI leader Azam Khan Swati in violation of section 144 case.

Additional and Sessions Judge Owais Khan heard the bail plea Tuesday. Azam Swati appeared in the court along with his lawyers.

The court accepted bail of Azam Swati against surety bonds worth Rs 5000.

Ali Bokhari counsel for Azam Swati said Azam Swati was arrested in this case and on next day he was granted bail. His bail was dismissed due to non appearance in the court and he was declared proclaimed offender.

Police officer has been made plaintiff in this case which is illegal. The court confirmed bail of Azam Swati after hearing the arguments.

It is pertinent to mention here case was registered against Azam Swati in 2014 for violating section 144.

Law minister for inclusion of rehabilitation aspects in Anti-Narcotics act

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday announced the inclusion of rehabilitation aspects in Anti-Narcotics Act, reflecting the government's commitment to holistic approach in addressing drug-related issues.

The inaugural session of the Reimagining Justice Conference: "Public Health and Human Rights Centred Drug Policy" organized by Justice Project Pakistan, commenced today with a keynote address by the Federal Minister for Law and Justice.

The conference, aimed at addressing the pressing issues surrounding drug policy, featured the presentation of the OHCHR's report on human rights challenges in combating the glo-

bal drug problem. The law minister emphasized the importance of collaboration among all stakeholders for building a better world.

He acknowledged the government's commitment to holistic approach in addressing drug-related issues. The inaugural session of the Reimagining Justice Conference: "Public Health and Human Rights Centred Drug Policy" organized by Justice Project Pakistan, commenced today with a keynote address by the Federal Minister for Law and Justice.



ISLAMABAD: MNA Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, High Commissioner of Mauritius Rashidally Soobadar and Mushahid Hussain Sayed during celebration of 56th Anniversary of the Independence Day and 32nd Anniversary of the Republic of Mauritius.

'We will reclaim Article 370 with interest', vows Mehbooba Mufti

ISLAMABAD (APP): Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti led several road shows in south Kashmir's Bijnbehara, saying that resolution of the Kashmir issue is a supreme issue for her party.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Mehbooba, who was accompanied by party leaders opined that the supreme issue for her party has been the resolution of the Kashmir issue, for which the people here have rendered immense sacrifices, with children orphaned and women widowed in large numbers.

"We will reclaim Article 370 and whatever was snatched from us in August 2019, with interest. I am certain about it, but at the same time, we need to put up a collective democratic

fight for the resolution of the Kashmir issue for lasting peace and tranquility," she maintained.

Mehbooba underscored the pervasive climate of fear that has ensnared IOJK at present, lamenting the erosion of civil liberties even within the confines of one's home. She also condemned the unwarranted stops and searches along the Islamabad-Srinagar highway, stating that the youth are being frisked, their mobile phones taken away, and they are being framed under fabricated charges. Mehbooba also expressed serious concern over the encroachment upon ancestral lands of people, the exploitation of resources, and the alarming rise in unemployment and substance abuse among the youth.

FIA continues crackdown against electricity theft

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), in the light of the orders of the Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi continued crackdown against elements involved in electricity theft and over-billing on Tuesday.

According to the spokesperson, the FIA Peshawar zone conducted raids and registered 13 inquiries against the elements involved in electricity theft. The raids were carried out by Anti-Corruption Circle Peshawar and Composite Circle Mardan. According to preliminary investigation, electricity was being stolen from shops, houses, flats and tube wells directly from the main line and by tampering with meters. Raids were conducted at Al Faisal Street, Bara Gate, Tordhar Swabi, Pandu Road Peshawar, Peshawar Center Plaza, Ring Road Peshawar.

In the operation, PESCO officials disconnected the illegal connections on the spot.



ISLAMABAD: District Administration Department officials inspecting the selling and checking the price control list of different items during crackdown drive against profiteers.

DG Counter Terrorism Japan Kotaru Otsuki visits CPO

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, Director General Counter Terrorism Japan Kotaru Otsuki, visited the Central Police Office Islamabad along with a delegation of the Japanese Embassy, and met with Inspector General of Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, a public relations officer said.

He emphasized that the security of foreign ambassadors and delegations in the federal capital is among the top priorities of Islamabad Police.

He also ensured the delegation of complete cooperation. The delegation expressed confidence in the security arrangements made by Islamabad Police.

The IGP stated that the safety of foreign dignitaries and delegations in the federal capital is one of the top priorities of Islamabad capital police and every possible measure will be taken in this regard.

Mashhood says: Empowering youth thru financial support top priority of govt

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of Prime Minister Youth Program Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Tuesday said that empowering youth through financial support was the top priority of the government.

He expressed these views during a meeting with Deputy Governor of State Bank of Pakistan Salim Ullah. The Chairman further said that providing better economic opportunities and making the young generation more financially independent and self-sufficient, there was an urgent need to provide them an economically friendly environment, so that they

would be able to have a prosperous future.

The meeting deliberated on strategies to increase access to financial services for the youth under the Prime Minister's Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme.

Rana Mashhood said that bursting potential of the youth should be utilized to ensure their role in the development and prosperity of Pakistan. The Chairman reiterated his commitment to work closely with the State Bank of Pakistan to ensure concrete initiatives for the development and empowerment of youth across the country.



ISLAMABAD: Pro-Rector Brig (R) Nadir Ali along with other inaugurating culture festival held at NUMAL University Rawalpindi Campus.

EPA to hold public hearing of 132KV Grid Station's EIA report

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan-Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) is going to hold public hearing of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) report of the construction of 132 KV Grid Station and its feeding transmission lines to be established at the Cabinet Division Housing Society at E-16 Sector of the federal capital on April 25 (1100 hours), Thursday at Margalla View Marquee.

The EIA Report public hearing is mandatory for any development project in the federal capital prior to seeking no objection certificate from the public development authority under the Pakistan Environmental

Protection Act (PEPA) 1997 and Review of IEE/EIA Regulations, 2000. The general public, experts, civil society and media is encouraged to attend and participate in the consultative process. The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) under its 7th STD programme intends to install a grid station in the Cabinet Division Housing Society (CDHS), Islamabad to provide reliable supply of power to Roshan Pakistan, Dhok Doray, Dohk Pind Padian, Gulshan Sihat, Dhok Paracha, Engineers Housing Society, Farming Housing Society, Itifaq Housing Society, Sector D-12, Sangjami and Tarnol Islamabad.

Free meal program starts in govt ICT schools

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has started implementation of free food program in federal government educational institutions of Islamabad Capital Territory. According to details, in the first phase, around 40 primary schools will be provided mid-day meal this week. However, in the first phase out of these 40 schools, free meals will be provided to the children in 20 schools of Tarnol and Nelore sectors.

Secretary Education Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, had announced free meals for children along with provision of other facilities in primary schools working under the ambit of Federal Directorate of Education.

IGP Islamabad conducts meeting with Operations Division officers

ISLAMABAD: According to details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, conducts an important meeting with officers of the Operations Division, a public relations officer said.



He said that in the meeting, DIG Operations, SSPs, SPs, SDPOs, and all SHO's participated. IGP Islamabad stated that all

police officers should perform policing with human emotions. If any police officer is not taking an interest in duty, they will not be part of the department.

He said, "You all are extremely valuable to me, and each of my officers is my pride. Together, we will

serve the public 24/7. Our work is to eradicate crime."

He further stated that all police officers should work courageously in the jurisdictions of martyrs.

Moreover, DIG Operations and SSP Operations are present for your command. Night patrolling officers are being appointed across the district to make the patrol system more effective.

He instructed all police officers to uphold the oath they took while wearing the uniform. "We are here to respect people," he said.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Wednesday April 24, 2024

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.

Arifa Noor

A clip from a recent television talk show is doing the rounds on the banned platform, X. In it, a journalist/commentator discusses how rumours of a possible extension for the Supreme Court chief justice have cropped up time and again.

The option was 'discussed' during the tenures of Saqib Nisar and Asif Saeed Khosa, he says. The present times are no different, it appears, for he mentions how the rumour has come up again and how he would be in favour of the current Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa accepting an extension.

However, he does hasten to emphasise that this was his personal opinion and nothing more. It is an important caveat because there are no reports of the chief justice being interested in such a move but this has not put an end to these rumours.

Such chitchat, like the monsoon cycle, is a seasonal occurrence. Whenever the moment is ripe, it seems to appear out of nowhere and pervades the

air in Islamabad as does the humidity in those rainy days, before vanishing one day. Those of us who do not speak to the most powerful can never really understand how the rumours begin or end. But we do hear of them, as do most others.

This seasonal occurrence is not limited to the job tenure of those leading the robed men on Constitution Avenue. There are other positions of power, too, where during times of transition, rumours of an extension swirl around, sucking all the oxygen out of Islamabad and politics, as well.

It would not be wrong to say transitions at key positions have now become so critical that they turn into moments of instability for overall political and governance structures. And in these moments, little else is taken seriously.

Consider simply the previous transition last summer during the last few months of chief justice Umar Ata Bandial; the skirmishes between him and his successor took place in public. Letters were

written by both sides, judges refused to sit on benches, cases of a political nature dominated the discussions and so on. There was considerable uncertainty and consequently, the Supreme Court appeared more like a public spectacle than a serious appellate forum.

The confusion and uncertainty only died down when the transition took place — and that too for just a short while. One reason for this could be the larger political situation but also because the current chief's tenure is such a short one that it took barely a few months before the rumours of an extension erupted again. And along with it come the stirrings from within to reduce the chances of such a move. For many argue the dissent is more than just opinions about certain decisions or policies.

As mentioned, these uncomfortable transitions are not limited to the big white building on Constitution Avenue. They extend to other institutions too. Indeed, the military has proven to be just as vulnerable at times. Simply consider the tenure of

Gen Bajwa; one interpretation of the political engineering of 2017 onwards is that the PML-N government under Nawaz Sharif may not have agreed to an extension, which was at the time easier to manage through a weak PTI government seen to be more dependent on the machinations of the establishment than solid public support.

And by then, even a weak and cornered PML-N was willing to back such a move, in order to repair its relationship with the powers that be. If this interpretation is to be accepted, the magnitude of the intervention in comparison to the goal is mind-boggling.

A similar explanation can also be found of the events leading up to the vote of no-confidence and its aftermath in 2022 — that it was manufactured (which many within the PDM government have now acknowledged) to ensure the PTI and Imran Khan were not in power to make the crucial decision in the November of 2022.

The point here is that one reason Pakistan is fac-

ing longer periods of instability is the frequency with which we experience longer and longer periods of uncertainty and jostling at the time of each critical transition. Ideally, this uncertainty should be limited to the political transition through elections, which would then yield a government to supervise the constitutional manner in which other transitions are managed.

However, what has happened instead is that the players are perhaps now all planning moves to influence or shape one transition in order to manage or orchestrate their own. The right chief can ensure the right election and the right election which brings to power the right set-up can then ensure the right chief.

And what this means is that, to a five-year period of an election cycle has now been added a three-year period of a chief's tenure along with the possibility of an extension. If the transition at the Supreme Court also is beset with similar problems, we may just add a third cycle of uncertainty. What this means is

that the periods where the focus should be on governance and policymaking will end up becoming shorter and shorter. This does not bode well for a country whose crises continue to grow primarily because the political instability allows little time for mid-to-long-term planning and implementation.

However, the larger issue here is to identify how and why these moments of transition have turned into longer periods of instability. It is not as if controversies were not present earlier — they were there, as were rumours of possible extensions. They have, nonetheless, become more intense now, as has the jostling.

Is it because the rules governing the transitions have weakened further (as has much else in society)? Or has more power been centralised in these positions, which, in turn, makes the appointments all the more crucial? Or is it that the jostling during these transitions has increased? It is hard to find a simple answer. As is the solution. -- Courtesy Dawn

Reimagining governance

Mosharraf Zaidi

One of the frameworks that has been most influential in shaping my understanding of governance has been the Capability, Accountability and Responsiveness or CAR framework, developed in the early 2000s by my then-colleagues at the artist formerly known as DfID (Department for International Development).

DfID used to be the development ministry within the UK government, and during Boris Johnson's run as prime minister, it was absorbed into the country's foreign ministry and is now part of the wider FCDO. DfID's ideas about governance were central to how the issue of governance was thought about for the first two decades of this century in part because the UK has had, at least until Brexit, an outsized influence on how international aid and assistance is talked about, disbursed and spent.

The dizzying pace of China's growth as a global leader, the gradual withdrawal of the West from its position of moral leadership over the last two decades, and the rise of middle powers like Brazil, Turkey, In-

donesia, and Saudi Arabia has meant that governance is defined more and more diversely than ever before. What was unthinkable even a decade ago is now widely embraced and what was widely seen to be sacrosanct is no longer even part of the conversation.

A religious extremist like Narendra Modi is held up by Western governments and businesses as the epitome of democratic reform. Rapid economic growth and its ability to create jobs for Americans and Europeans are increasingly the only metrics that matter in Washington DC, New York, Brussels and Geneva. These changes have profound implications for countries in the 'Global South' — and especially those whose elites are lazy and incapable of finding their own voice and purpose in a fast-changing, always dynamic world.

Pakistani elites are a perfect archetype for the floundering among the countries of the Global South. Remember: most developing countries are still floundering. It is easy to get caught up in the narratives of a handful of successful, positive-trajectory countries. It is also easy to mis-

diagnose exactly what they have got right and what most countries, including Pakistan, keep getting wrong.

India is in a category all its own — even prior to the rapid economic growth it has experienced since the turn of the century, India had a tradition of forming and sticking to its own positions and approaches — both to domestic public policy and to how it related to the rest of the world. Bangladesh, an exemplar, is over-referenced in Pakistan because it used to be the same country. It continues to enjoy impressive economic growth and admirably balance great and rising powers. But it is hardly a world-beater. Brazil, Turkey, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia are all much better positioned to be seen as exemplars.

In each of these examples, the distinctive differential is how they stack up on the Capability, Accountability and Responsiveness framework. But because each of these three terms is so generic and often poorly understood, it is easy to misdiagnose exactly how more successful countries leverage their systemic capability, accountability

and responsiveness — and how less successful ones waste even the little capability, accountability and responsiveness that their systems have. To see this clearly, we need to lay out each term as it relates to governance in 2024.

Capability is the getting things done metric within the CAR framework. Can a system do things? Can it do them fast? Can it do them in a manner that people can see? Maybe even a manner in which people like that things are getting done? Can a system do things within a reasonable budget, or at least a budget that doesn't make the thing that is being done unpopular? Capability is not just the "delivery" angle of governance. It is delivery aligned with context — political and financial.

Traditionally, Pakistan has been seen by foreigners as a high-capability country, largely because of a well-trained generalist bureaucracy that can hang with the best in the world when it comes to speaking about Pakistan. The Pakistani elite have hung their hat on this generic capability for the last two decades at great cost because even

though the bureaucracy continues to be very highly capable by the metrics of twenty years ago, it has gradually lost the relevance and ability to be effective by the metrics of today. The big deltas that have worked against Pakistan's 'capability' in this era have been demography, global geopolitics, and technology.

Accountability is the most misleading of the three legs of the CAR framework. It traditionally means exactly what it seems to mean — but in Pakistan, it has always meant something different. Accountability is the formal recognition that individuals and organizations are answerable for their performance. First-order reactions to this in Pakistan are always about civil-military relations, or about financial management and fiduciary risk. But these are distractions from what accountability should mean.

Accountability is whether anyone is ever rewarded for getting things done (demonstrating capability) or punished for not getting things done. Listen to the most seasoned political analysts in Pakistan and they will tell you, "Vote delivery ka nahin hai". Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif — whose entire personal brand is built on delivery — laments this. His opponents, both inside his party and among the opposition, celebrate it.

In 1998, there were 140 million Pakistanis. Today there are 100 million more. All below the age of 25. Social media companies set their own algorithms and their own rules — resulting in large-scale disinformation and misinformation being consumed as the biblical truth. Form and function across all governing verticals are completely mashed into each other. Many individuals' ability to articulate the problem, passionately at times, is seen as a proxy for capability. Political victimization is seen as accountability. No one is ever rewarded for doing good work and worse, no one is ever fired for being bad at their job. Dancing for retweets and likes is seen as being responsive.

The country's leadership needs to establish a new language for governance. Instead, it chases down an obsolete world, with even more obsolete equipment. More pain is coming — no matter how many shiny new organizations and built in this governing structure. -- Courtesy TheNews

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-Semitic. 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 concept 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 tree. 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 Chinot, 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 Taraqati Bank, the national potential for total grain production is 100,933,000 kilogrammes 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 productivity through improved farm practices, modern water application techniques and quality seeds. -- Courtesy Dawn

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 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.

It is to mention that this visit underscores the commitment of both the neighbouring countries to foster regional stability and prosperity through diplomatic channels and mutual cooperation.



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". She said there were two types of extremes, adding that one extreme - restricted women to homes while other one was put women in race of earning equal to men.

She said both extremes yield negative results in their own ways. Dr Jamileh Alamolhoda said, "In Iran special attention is given in homes to educate girls about providing comfort and respect, whereas boys are educated to provide protection."

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.

She approved a proposal to amend 11 laws, rules and ordinances in this regard. Maryam Nawaz Sharif said a police station and a special force would be established at tehsil level under the supervision of Tehsil Enforcement Authority. Authority in-charge, investigation officers, enforcement officers and constables will be appointed in a Tehsil Enforcement Authority, which will have powers to register cases, investigate them and to make arrests in addition to the enforcement of law.

The CM said offices of Provincial and District Enforcement Authorities would also be established to ensure effective monitoring.



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.

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 globally, new treatment methods are being introduced.

"I hope our young doctors will make a name for themselves in society by contributing to the eradication of diseases," he said.

"It should be your commitment to improve the conditions of hospitals and provide every possible medical facility to patients," he urged.

He emphasized that the young generation should set their goals for success in their respective fields.

The Governor added that today's youth are adept with modern technology, as it has made education, including medical education, more accessible across all fields.

He mentioned that both federal and provincial governments are investing heavily in the future of the youth.

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.

KP Govt vows to fully support NCRC

Independent Report 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 NCRC to protect the rights of children.

Minor girl dies in water tank

PESHAWAR (APP): A three-year-old girl on Tuesday was killed after falling into a water tank in Jamrud tehsil in Khyber district.

The police said the daughter of one Zahir Shah was playing near the water tank when she fell into the tank.

Oblivious to the tragedy, the girl's family was searching for her outside the house but after sometime they found the lifeless body of the girl in water storing tank.

The girl was rushed to a nearby hospital where the doctors confirmed her as dead.



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.

Salman Rafique chairs 36th FJMU syndicate meeting

LAHORE (APP): The 36th Member of Punjab Assembly Nooshen Adnan, and Farrukh Shah. Officers from the Finance Department and Higher Education Commission, along with other departments as Syndicate members, also participated in the syndicate meeting.

Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique confirmed the decisions made during the 35th meeting of Fatima Jinnah Medical University. During the syndicate meeting, tribute was paid to Prof. Dr. Kamran Khalid Khawaja for being recognized as the best teacher and Prof. Dr. Balqis Shabbir for receiving the presidential award.

Approval was given during the syndicate meeting for the purchase of biomedical equipment for the under-construction mother and child block. Additionally, Fatima Jinnah Medical University was granted approval to hire cleaning and security services for the next year. Permission was also granted to hire a tax consultant for Academics.

LAHORE (APP): The 36th Member of Punjab Assembly Nooshen Adnan, and Farrukh Shah. Officers from the Finance Department and Higher Education Commission, along with other departments as Syndicate members, also participated in the syndicate meeting.

Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique, here on Tuesday.

In the meeting, Additional Secretary Zahida Azhar, Additional Technical Secretary Dr. Hafiz Shahid Latif, and Deputy Secretary Finance Hamad Al-Rab from the Department of Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education were present.

Also in attendance were Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Khalid Masood Gondal, Vice Chancellor King Edward Medical University Prof. Dr. Mehmood Ayaz, Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kamran Khalid Khawaja, Registrar Prof. Nadeem Kasuri, Prof. Dr. Balqis Shabbir, Prof. Dr. Shamsa Humayun, Prof. Dr. Shireen Khawar, MS Gangaram Hospital Dr. Moin, MS Shahdara Teaching Hospital Dr. Frayad, MS Mazing Teaching Hospital,



ABBOTTABAD: Students of Government Girls Degree College Nawanshahr planted 300 saplings in Salhad dumping ground with the support of Water and Sanitation Services Company Abbottabad (WSSCA) during the Plantation Campaign 2024, in Abbottabad.

Govt focuses on economic stability for country's development: MNA

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Member National Assembly (MNA), Naima Kanwal has said that the government is giving top priority to the country's development through economic stability.

She expressed these views while visiting the Press Information Department (PID) Dera Ismail Khan here on Tuesday.

She said the country was facing challenges on the economic front, but the federal government was committed to meet those challenges and in this regard PPP being partner of the present set-up would play its full role in line with the vision of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

As part of a multi-pronged strategy aimed at strengthening of the country, she said the federal government was actively pursuing efforts to build trust with friendly countries and added that high-level visits of Saudi Arabia, China, and Iran within a month and a half were practical examples in this regard. Notably, she highlighted such as the Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline.

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 Rattaamral 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.

Dhamial police netted an accused namely Rizwan for carrying a 1200 grams charras.

Separate cases were registered against all the arrested drug dealers.

Afridi praises issuance of scholarships by Chinese universities to Pak students

Independent Report 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 education and contribute to the nation.

Afridi shared these views on Tuesday during his visit to China Window, a Chinese cultural center in Peshawar. During his visit, the provincial minister toured various galleries at China Window, signed the friendship wall, and registered his comments in the visitor's book.

Speaking to the media, Afridi mentioned that students from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are interested in studying at Chinese universities.

However, due to financial constraints, many are unable to fulfill this wish. He urged Chinese universities to offer more scholarships to students from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, stating that the provincial government is prepared to cooperate fully in the education sector to facilitate.

Afridi emphasized the ideal friendship between Pakistan and China and highlighted the importance of technology transfer in strengthening this bond.

He expressed confidence that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would play a significant role in this technology transfer.

Afridi commended the Chinese Cultural Center in Peshawar as a symbol of Pakistan-China friendship and appreciated its efforts to promote friendship between the two nations.

CMGB orders simplification of border pass system for traders

GIGIT (APP): The Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan has taken notice of the difficulties faced by traders in obtaining border passes to China.

He has directed the Provincial Secretary of Interior to simplify the border pass system for Gilgit-Baltistan traders and take steps to facilitate the speedy issuance of border passes according to the existing procedure.

Drug dealers to be dealt with iron hands: Commissioner Mardan

MARDAN (APP): Commissioner Mardan Shaikat Ali Yousafzai on Tuesday said the drug dealers and smugglers would be dealt with iron hands and they would not be allowed to destroy the lives of young generation.

Chairman Human Rights Commission Mardan Aurangzeb Kashmiri, Commissioner Mardan and the Deputy Commissioner Mardan were also present during the open court session wherein hundreds of people turned over and presented their grievances for the early solutions.



KARACHI: Containers are being placed by Sindh Police for the security arrangements are making fool-proof by police due to security reasons on the arrival of Iranian President Dr. Ebrahim Raisi, at Shahrah-e-Faisal road in Karachi.

Minister of Health inaugurates operation Theaters Complex at LRH

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Minister for Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Syed Qasim Ali Shah, inaugurated the Operation Theaters Complex at Lady Reading Hospital on Tuesday.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the Board of Governors, Professor Mohammad Zabir Khan, Member of the BOG Asadullah Chamkani, Hospital Director Dr. Mohammad Abrar Khan Khattak, Associate Director Tariq Burki, Medical Director Hameed Shahzad, Nursing Director, and other senior officials who warmly welcomed the Health Minister as the guest.

Minister for Health Syed Qasim Ali Shah inaugurated the modern Operation Theaters Complex during the LRH tour.

According to the LRH spokesperson, Hospital Director Dr. Mohammad Abrar Khan briefed Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah about the hospital's functioning. On this occasion, the hospital director provided a detailed explanation regarding the hospital budget, health facility cards, mass emergencies, and financial crises. Chairman of the Board of Governors, Professor Mohammad Zabir Khan, informed Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah about the establishment of Nursing College and Medical College in LRH for which the health minister assured budget provision.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali addressing the 8th Convocation of Gandhara University, Peshawar.

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, signalling 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 Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb addressing during Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit 2024 collaborating for Growth.

SCCI demands issuance of soft loans to uplift solar, green energy sector

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry president, Fuad Ishaq urged the government to issue soft loans for promotion of solar and green energy sector in the province.

The SCCI chief said government needs to take steps to promote the solar and green energy sector, which is the only way to fulfill the growing energy needs of the country that will not only provide a clean environment but also create employment opportunities.

Fuad Ishaq was talking to Patron in Chief of Green Wend Energy (GWE) Prof Subhan Qureshi and Chief Technical Officer Saad Rashid here during a meeting held at chamber house on Tuesday.

attended by the chamber senior vice president Sanaulah Khan, vice president Ejaz Khan Afridi and acting secretary general Muqtasid Ahsan and others. In the meeting, Subhan Qureshi informed that his organization is going to hold International Solar Expo 2024 (ISE 2024) on June 1 and 2 in Peshawar. He invited the SCCI president, office bearers and members to participate in the expo.

Fuad Ishaq welcomed the initiative of GWE and assured full participation of the chamber's members in the international event.

Keeping in the prevailing scenario, the SCCI chief stressed it is dire need of hour, urging the federal and provincial governments to take proactive steps for promotion of the solar.



FAISALABAD: Provincial Minister for Transport and Mass Transit Bilal Akbar Khan visiting after inaugurating Urban Transport Plan & Road Show for Electric and Petrol Bikes Scheme at Iqbal Auditorium University of Agricultural.

Raisi's visit to further expand Pak-Iran economic cooperation: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that the three-day visit of Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi will open new avenues of economic cooperation between the two countries.

In a statement here on Tuesday, he said that a large delegation of Iranian businessmen was also accompanying the distinguished guest, so their visit should be taken full advantage of, and economic cooperation should be increased, which will also help reduce the tension between the two countries.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that economic matters in Pakistan have always been neglected, which has caused the country to come close to bankruptcy.

Due to the efforts of the political and military leadership, the country avoided bankruptcy, but the economy could not be declared out of danger, he added. The business leader said that Pakistan was still trying to get more loans from the IMF and was forced to sell national assets because essential institutions have been run on a political rather than economic basis; therefore, they have become white elephants.

He said that the Iranian president was visiting when Pakistan's economic condition was weak, and the country could be fined twenty billion dollars for non-implementation of the gas pipeline agreement.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that elements in the border areas threaten both countries, which has caused tension to become routine in bilateral relations, and both countries continue to make accusations.

Rupee sheds 04 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday depreciated by 04 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.37 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.33.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.5 and Rs 280.25 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 53 paise to close at Rs 297.16 against the last-day closing of Rs 296.63, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen remained unchanged to close at Rs 1.79, whereas a decrease of 28 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 343.98 compared to the last closing of Rs 344.26.

Gold rates further decline by Rs. 7,800 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased further by Rs. 7,800 and was sold at Rs. 240,900 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs. 248,700 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs. 6,687 to Rs. 206,533 from Rs. 213,220 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs. 189,322 from Rs. 195,452, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola silver decreased by Rs. 100 to Rs. 2,650 from Rs. 2,750.

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 Aijaz said that Pakistan and Afghanistan have great



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

Bill drafted to regulate veterinary sciences and animal welfare: Tanveer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister of 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.

He said a track and trace system for the animals is also being devised which will help control movement of animals.



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

Consumer Confidence increased by 1.9 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) improved by 1.9 points to 33.6 points on month-on-month basis during the month of March 2024 over the previous month (February 2024), according to consumer confidence survey report released by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Likewise, the Current Economic Conditions (CEC) index improved by 2.9 points to 30.9 and the Expected Economic Conditions (EEC) index by 0.9 points to 36.4 in March 2024 over the previous wave.

households increased slightly by 0.1 point to 32.9, whereas for rural households, it improved significantly by 8.2 points to 36.0 in March 2024 over the previous survey.

The CCI of fresh households recorded an increase of 2.8 points to 34.7 in March 2024. For rotating households, it increased slightly by 0.2 point to 31.5 in March 2024 compared with February 2024.

Consumers' Inflation Expectations increased by 0.5 points to 72.7 in March 2024 as compared to the previous wave of the survey.



ISLAMABAD: Political Counselor British High Commission, Ms. Zoe Ware calls on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja.

PSX loses 74 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Tuesday shed 74.06 points, a slight negative change of 0.10 percent, closing at 71,359.41 points against 71,433.46 points the previous trading day.

A total of 655,935,508 shares valuing Rs. 24,485 billion were traded during the day as compared to 655,205,105 shares valuing Rs. 31,248 billion the last day.

Some 371 companies transacted their shares in the stock market.

Finance Minister meets Anjuman-e-Tajran

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with Naeem Mir, Chairman Supreme Council All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajran, today.

The meeting was also attended by Chairman FBR. The meeting served as a platform to discuss pertinent issues concerning the business community and economic policies. During the meeting, Finance Minister appreciated the valuable contributions of the

business community towards the economic development of Pakistan. He emphasized the government's commitment to address the concerns and promote the interests of traders and businessmen across the country. Minister Aurangzeb also highlighted the importance of encouraging the business community to register under the recently launched Tajir Dost App, designed specifically to support and facilitate the needs of the business community.

Federal government to collaborate with provinces to reduce electricity losses

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Power Sardar Awaiz 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.

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.

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.

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.

PBC delegation calls on Power Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Pakistan Business Council called on Minister for Power Division Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari here Tuesday.

Challenges confronted to Industrial sectors of the country came under discussion during the meeting, said a press release issued here.

During the meeting, the delegation highlighted issues affecting the industries and presented recommendations to improve the power sector.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said the recommendations presented by the Pakistan Business Council.

ISLAMABAD (APP): State Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja Tuesday said that digital technologies play a significant role in economic in the current era.

Speaking at the Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit, she highlighted the government's unwavering commitment, led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, to foster digital transformation nationwide.

"We are actively pursuing various initiatives aimed at digitization," she said.

The minister said that the youth were the asset of the country and stressed the need for capacity building and channeling their energies effectively.

Shaza acknowledged the contribution of the private sector in the digitization journey, and pledged full government support to facilitate their endeavors.

Efforts were already in motion to bolster entrepreneurship and cultivate startup ecosystems, aligning with the prime minister's vision, she said.

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation from Pakistan Business Council called on Minister for Power Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari.

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. The minister assured the Chinese company of full support for investing in the industrial zone and emphasized the potential in chip and card manufacturing. He affirmed the Punjab government's commitment to providing necessary support for establishing the chip manufacturing plant.

Chaudhry Shafay Hussain reiterated his determination to attract new investments to Punjab, emphasizing the province's investor-friendly environment and the streamlined support provided to both domestic.

Finance Minister meets Anjuman-e-Tajran

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with Naeem Mir, Chairman Supreme Council All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajran, today.

The meeting was also attended by Chairman FBR. The meeting served as a platform to discuss pertinent issues concerning the business community and economic policies. During the meeting, Finance Minister appreciated the valuable contributions of the

business community towards the economic development of Pakistan. He emphasized the government's commitment to address the concerns and promote the interests of traders and businessmen across the country. Minister Aurangzeb also highlighted the importance of encouraging the business community to register under the recently launched Tajir Dost App, designed specifically to support and facilitate the needs of the business community.

Iraq, Turkiye agree to cooperate against Kurdish militants

Monitoring Desk
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

and act against non-state armed groups that could be working with terrorist organisations. He did not mention the PKK specifically.

An Iraqi government spokesperson said PKK members were welcome in Iraq so long as they did not engage in political activism or carry weapons. He did not elaborate.

The PKK took up arms against the Turkish state in 1984 and is designated a terrorist organisation by Ankara and its Western allies. Turkiye has conducted a series of cross-border operations against the group in northern Iraq since 2019.



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

200 bodies exhumed at Gaza hospital

Monitoring Desk
GAZA STRIP: Gaza's Civil Defence agency said on Monday that health workers had uncovered around 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

Monitoring Desk
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.

Prosecutors lay out 'criminal conspiracy' in Trump trial

Monitoring Desk
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.

Tensions flare at US universities over Gaza protests

Monitoring Desk
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 Shafik 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.

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

Monitoring Desk
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'

Monitoring Desk
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 Berry, 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.

Russia will strike in unexpected places this summer, Ukraine says

Monitoring Desk
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.

Ukraine's second largest city has been pounded by missiles and drones in recent weeks, but Kyiv's forces will be prepared to thwart any assault, 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, relieving critical ammunition shortages and air defences.

Ukrainian officials say they expect a Russian in late spring or summer, and that they believe Moscow wants to seize the strategically important eastern town of Chasiv Yar by May 9 when it marks Soviet Victory Day in World War Two.

Pivnenko said he foresaw "some difficulties" for Kyiv's troops, but that Russian forces would not make decisive gains.

"Perhaps they may be able to meet 10-15% of their goals. But this will not be a strategic victory," he expected Russian troops to continue pounding Kharkiv's critical infrastructure, much of which has already been damaged or destroyed in Russian strikes, but not to capture the city.

Modi is accused of using hate speech for calling Muslims 'infiltrators' at an Indian election rally

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India's main opposition party accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of using hate speech after he called Muslims "infiltrators" — some of his most incendiary rhetoric about the minority faith, days after the country began its weeks-long general election.

The remarks at a campaign rally Sunday drew fierce criticism that Modi was peddling anti-Muslim tropes. The Congress party filed a complaint Monday with the Election Commission of India, alleging he broke rules that bar candidates from engaging in any activity that aggravates religious tensions.

Critics of the prime minister — an avowed Hindu nationalist — say India's tradition of diversity and secularism has come under attack since his Bharatiya Janata Party won power a decade ago. They accuse the party of fostering religious intolerance and sometimes even violence. The party denies the accusation and says its policies benefit all Indians.

At a rally in the state

of Rajasthan, Modi said that when the Congress party was in government, "they said Muslims have the first right over the country's resources." If it returns to power, the party "will gather all your wealth and distribute it among those who have more children," he said as the crowd applauded.

"They will distribute it among infiltrators," he continued, saying, "Do you think your hard-earned money should be given to infiltrators?"

Mallikarjun Kharge, the Congress party's president, described the prime minister's comments as "hate speech" and party spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi called them "deeply, deeply objectionable."

The party sought action from the election commission, whose code of conduct forbids candidates from appealing "to caste or communal feelings" to secure votes. The first votes were cast Friday in the six-week election, which Modi and his Hindu nationalist BJP are expected to win, according to most surveys.



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

Qatari emir in Nepal, expected to tackle migrant conditions and Nepali student held hostage by Hamas

Monitoring Desk
KATHMANDU: The emir of Qatar landed in Nepal Tuesday on his first-ever visit to the South Asian country, after visiting Bangladesh and the Philippines, where improving migrant workers' conditions in the Gulf state and a Nepali student still held hostage by Hamas are expected to be on the agenda.

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani is set to meet Nepali dignitaries, including President Ram Chandra Poudyal and Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal during his two-day visit.

Qatar hosts an estimated 400,000 Nepali workers, most in construction and manual labor. Concerns about working in extreme heat — that could reach over 40 C (104 F) — inadequate living facilities and abuse have risen in recent years.

New York-based Human

Rights Watch called on Qatar, Nepal and Bangladesh in a statement Sunday to prioritize labor protection for migrant workers during the emir's visit.

"It is important ... to go beyond exchanging diplomatic pleasantries over their longstanding labor ties and seize this moment to publicly commit to concrete, enforceable protections that address the serious abuses that migrant workers in Qatar continue to face," the statement quoted Michael Page, the agency's deputy Middle East and North Africa director, as saying. The statement added that while Qatar-based jobs have allowed migrant workers "to send remittances back home to their families," many experience abuse, including "wage theft, contract violations, and chronic illness linked to unsafe working conditions."

Aid workers worried over looming Rafah invasion

Monitoring Desk
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.

5 migrants die while crossing the English Channel hours after the UK approved a deportation bill

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: Five people, including a child, died while trying to cross the English Channel from France to the U.K., French authorities said Tuesday, just hours after the British government approved a migrant bill to deport some of those who entered the country illegally to Rwanda. The prefecture of France said in a statement authorities spotted several boats packed with migrants off the coast of Pas-de-Calais, attempting to depart in the early morning.

Lebanon's Hezbollah launches deepest attack into Israel since start of Gaza war

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah group said on Tuesday it had launched a drone attack against Israeli military bases north of the city of Acre, in its deepest strike into Israeli territory since the Gaza war began.

The Israeli military said it had no knowledge of any of its facilities being hit by Hezbollah, but had said earlier on Tuesday that it intercepted two "aerial targets" off Israel's northern coast. Hezbollah said it acted in retaliation for an earlier Israeli attack killing one of its fighters. The group published what appeared to be a satellite photo, with the location of the strike symbolized by a flash with a red circle around it that sat halfway between Acre and Nahariya to the north.

Israeli airstrikes killed two Hezbollah fighters in southern Lebanon, the military said earlier on Tuesday. Hezbollah later confirmed the death of one of its fighters, Hussein Azkoul, but provided no further details. A separate Israeli strike overnight Monday to Tuesday killed a fighter in Hezbollah's elite unit, Radwan Forces, the military said, though Hezbollah has not confirmed his death.

Solomon Islands faces tense wait for election results

Monitoring Desk
SYDNEY: Solomon Islands faces a tense wait for an election result after opposition parties pulled ahead of incumbent Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare's OUR party, as counting on Tuesday showed independents will be key to forming government.

Last week's national election was the first since Sogavare struck a security pact with China in 2022, inviting Chinese police into the archipelago and drawing the Pacific Islands nation closer to Beijing.

The election is being watched by China, the US and neighbouring Australia because of the potential impact on regional security.

Human rights groups condemn UK plan to send asylum-seekers to Rwanda after Parliament backs new law

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Britain's plans to send some asylum-seekers to Rwanda were swiftly condemned by international humanitarian organizations after Parliament approved legislation allowing the deportation flights to begin later this year. Both the U.N. refugee agency and the Council of Europe on Tuesday called for the U.K. to rethink its plans because of concerns that the legislation undermines human rights protections and fears that it will damage international cooperation on tackling the global migrant crisis.

"The new legislation marks a further step away from the U.K.'s long tradition of providing refuge to those in need, in breach of the Refugee Convention," U.N. High

Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said in a statement. "Protecting refugees requires all countries — not just those neighboring crisis zones — to uphold their obligations." The statement came just hours after Britain's House of Lords dropped its attempts to amend the legislation, paving the way for it to become law. On Monday, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said deportation flights to Rwanda would begin in 10-12 weeks.

Michael O'Flaherty, the Council of Europe's commissioner for human rights, criticized the legislation for preventing asylum-seekers from asking the courts to intervene when they are they are threatened with being sent back to the countries they are fleeing.

Police in Bosnia arrest 23 people suspected of being part of global drug kingpin's 'inner circle'

Monitoring Desk
SARAJEVO: Law enforcement officers in Bosnia arrested 23 people suspected of belonging to a "global drug kingpin's inner circle," including police and security officials, in a clampdown on criminal networks controlling much of Europe's cocaine trade, authorities said Tuesday.

Europol, the European Union's law enforcement agency, and Bosnian officials said the suspects were detained Monday as security forces searched their homes and other loca-

Police in Bosnia arrest 23 people suspected of being part of global drug kingpin's 'inner circle'

tions. They are suspected of drug trafficking, money laundering and other organized crime offenses, officials said.

"Among the 23 persons arrested yesterday are not only accomplices, but also corrupt officials identified as facilitators of the network's criminal activities," Europol said in a statement.

The 23 are suspected of being part of the "inner circle" of a drug kingpin arrested in 2022 and sentenced to seven years in prison a year later in the Netherlands, it said.

BBC anchor quits after furore over photos

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Veteran news anchor Huw Edwards resigned from the BBC on Monday on "medical advice", the broadcaster said, nine months after he became embroiled in a scandal over sexually explicit images involving a teenager.

Edwards, 62, had been the BBC's lead presenter in key events, such as the death and funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, but was suspended in July 2023 when allegations first emerged.

BBC anchor quits after furore over photos

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Veteran news anchor Huw Edwards resigned from the BBC on Monday on "medical advice", the broadcaster said, nine months after he became embroiled in a scandal over sexually explicit images involving a teenager.

Edwards, 62, had been the BBC's lead presenter in key events, such as the death and funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, but was suspended in July 2023 when allegations first emerged.



Buildings and streets are flooded after heavy rains hit China's southern Guangdong province.

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 work-

ing with the provincial governments to achieve that goal.

The prime minister said as Punjab chief minister he had established the Education Endowment Fund in the province, and a similar initiative would also be taken at the federal level.

He said the government was taking steps on emergency basis for the development of the education sector.

The prime minister, praising the UK's support for Pakistan's education sector, expressed his desire to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the fields of education and trade.

He highlighted that the launch of degree programmes in the universities of Pakistan and the UK on reciprocal basis was a welcome step.

The modern education, especially science and technology, was guarantee of development of any na-

tion, he added.

PM Shehbaz underscored that the bilateral relations with UK spanned over decades which were further strengthening with the passage of time.

He emphasized that there should be collaboration in the fields of research and technology in the universities of the two countries.

He further said Pakistan wanted to take benefit of the capacity of the UK's education sector.

The delegation expressed their interest in collaborating with Pakistani universities and offered assistance in teacher training and capacity building.

The prime minister was informed by the delegation that the scope of the Education Gateway Pakistan was being extended which would help enhance bilateral cooperation in the education sector.



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 pro-

vide 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%.

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.

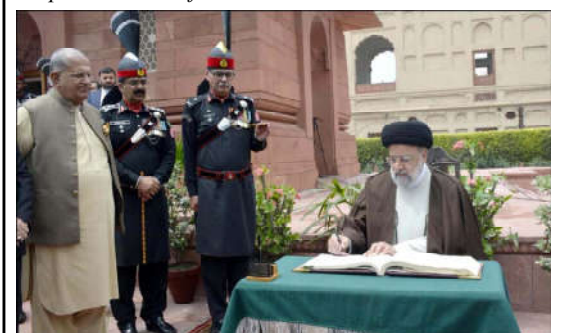
The president further observed that Pakistan had a significant place owing to vast tourism prospects, particularly in the religious tourism.

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.



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

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

Iranian President Raisi, Sindh CM discuss bilateral economic opportunities

KARACHI (INP): Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi met Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday during his visit to Karachi and had a detailed discussion on Pakistan-Iran economic opportunities, including issues concerning investment. Raisi is currently on a three-day visit to Pakistan and had arrived a day ago. His visit is the first of its kind by any head of state after the February 8 general elections.

Raisi earlier landed at Jinnah International Airport's old terminal where he was received by Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and provincial ministers.

He later visited Mazar-i-Quaid where he laid a floral wreath and offered prayers with provincial officials and his delegation in tow. Raisi's subsequent visit was to the Sindh Chief Minister's House. A ceremony was held in which an honorary doctorate was awarded to the Iranian president by Governor Tessori. A statement issued by CM Shah's spokesperson Abdul Rasheed Channa said the Iranian president and provincial chief held a meeting discussing investment issues.



ISLAMABAD: H.E. WADA Mitsuhiro, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan paid a courtesy call to Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar.

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

Independent Report
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.



QUETTA: Provincial Amir JUI Maulana Abdul Wasay and MPs Zaid Reki, Asghar Tareen and leader of JUI Molvi Ghulam 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 Agricul-

ture 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.

Pakistan not to surrender its water rights: Tarar

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.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani 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 Gillani 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.

He commended the summit for its role as a constructive forum for addressing key challenges and formulating strategies for economic growth.

Regarding security challenges, the Chairman noted the resurgence of terrorism and emphasized the importance of regional stability.

He underlined the need for global attention to end conflicts that threaten national security.

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

QUETTA (APP): Administrator Quetta Metropolitan Corporation Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat 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 Shafqaat said special efforts have been taken regarding the cleanliness of drains and ensured smooth flow of sewage water during rains to facilitate the Quetta dwellers.

Under the supervision of Administrator Quetta Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat, the corporation has collected over 200 tons of garbage from the nullahs during the campaign.

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.



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

Shahzaib Rind accorded warm welcome upon arrival in hometown

Independent Report
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 Khetran 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 Engi-

neer 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.

Minister of Communications and Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa said that transparency in all projects was the first priority of the government. He said that strong infrastructure is vital for development and progress of Balochistan.

The provincial minister while giving instructions said that selection of best team would be ensured to speed up the completion of all ongoing development projects.

He said that any kind of negligence regarding development and prosperity of the province would not be tolerated. Mir Saleem Ahmad Khosa also instructed the concerned departments regarding the standards on development projects.

He said that a monitoring team would be constituted in completion of development projects.