

Independent

dailyindish@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Gwadar

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 321, Zeeqad 06, 1445 AH Wednesday May 15, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs.15

PM announces to privatise all SOEs sans strategic ones

Directs routing proportion of country's imports through Gwadar Port

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced that the government would privatise all state-owned enterprises (SOEs), excluding the strategic ones, regardless of their profitability or financial losses.

The prime minister, chairing a high-level meeting to review the matters related to the Ministry of Privatisation and Privatisation Commission, directed all the federal ministries to carry out the necessary procedures and extend their cooperation with the Privatisation Commission for the purpose.

In the meeting, the privatisation ministry and the Privatisation Commission presented a roadmap for the Privatisation Programme 2024-29.

The prime minister said the government had nothing to do with running the businesses but was mandated to facilitate the investors. He viewed that the privatisation of SOEs would save the taxpayers' money to help the government provide quality services to the people.

Reiterating the government's commitment to a transparent process, the prime minister directed to live telecast the bidding and other procedures of the privatisation of Pakistan International Airlines and other entities.

During the briefing on the progress in the SOEs' privatisation, the participants were told that the pre-qualification process for PIA privatisation would be completed by the end of this month.



ISLAMABAD: Governor Balochistan Jafar Khan Mandokheil called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

PM, Mandokheil vow to strengthen relations between federation, provinces further

Shahbaz Sharif reiterates desire to work with all political forces to steer country out of problems

ISLAMABAD: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokheil called on the Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here in PM's Secretariat on Tuesday.

During the course of meeting, the Prime Minister congratulated Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokheil on assuming the office of Governor Balochistan and expressed best wishes for him.

Besides, several issues of the province including overall development of the province, ongoing development projects, issues and progress of the public sector universities were also discussed during the meeting.

Both the leaders were agreed upon strengthening the relations between the

federation and provinces further.

APP adds: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reiterated his desire to work with all the political forces to steer the country out of the problems faced by it and put its economy on upward trajectory.

He said that welfare of the people of Balochistan had been among the top priorities of the government.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, a leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) who called on him. Members of the National Assembly Usman Badini and Noor Alam Khan were also present during the meeting, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti

Call attention disposed of on Govt. assurance in BA: Asim Kurd assures to extend wholehearted assistance to rain & flood affected people

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly disposed of call attention notice about the damages caused due to recent heavy rains in Pishin and Chaman districts, here in its session on Tuesday.

The Speaker Provincial Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai was in the chair.

The Member Provincial Assembly belonging to Opposition, Asghar Tareen tabled the call attention notice.

In the notice, he pointed out that the agriculture sec-

tor was badly affected due to the recent rains in the province.

The flashflood and rains caused heavy human and financial losses in Pishin and Chaman.

Besides, the houses of people were also damaged due to the torrential rains forcing them to live in the tents in open sky, he further pointed out.

Speaking on the call attention notice, the Provincial Minister for Revenue, Mir Asim Kurd assured that the compensation would be paid to the rain and flood affected people soon.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding CPEC Phase II and other projects under Chinese investment in Pakistan.

Dubai property leaks: 17,000 Pakistanis own 23,000 residential properties worth \$11bn in Dubai

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: A collaborative investigative journalism initiative has unveiled the property ownership of influential figures worldwide in Dubai. Named 'Dubai Unlocked', the project relies on data offering an extensive insight into hundreds of thousands of properties in Dubai, along with details regarding their ownership or utilization, primarily spanning the years 2020 to 2022.

Pakistani nationals are also among those listed, with their collective property holdings estimated at approximately \$11 billion.

The revelation includes approximately \$400 billion worth of properties owned by non-residents, including \$11 billion worth of properties owned by Pakistanis.

The "Property Leaks" expose the names of sev-

eral political figures, government officials, and retired civil servants from around the world. Among them, Pakistanis own \$11 billion worth of properties in Dubai, making them the second-largest group of non-residents purchasing properties in the city.

According to the "Property Leaks", 17,000 Pakistanis have bought 23,000 properties in Dubai. Indian citizens lead among non-residents purchasing properties in Dubai, with 29,700 Indians owning 35,000 properties in the city.

Additionally, there are 19,500 British citizens who own 22,000 properties in Dubai. The total value of properties purchased by British citizens in Dubai amounts to \$10 billion. At least 8,500 Saudi citizens have bought 16,000 prop-

erties in Dubai, totaling over \$8 billion.

The project — 'Dubai Unlocked' — is based on data that provides a detailed overview of hundreds of thousands of properties in Dubai and information about their ownership or usage, largely from 2020 and 2022. Properties purchased in the name of companies and those that are in commercial areas are not part of this analysis.

The data was obtained by the Centre for Advanced Defence Studies (C4ADS), a non-profit organisation based in Washington, DC. It was then shared with Norwegian financial outlet E24 and the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), which coordinated a six-month investigative project with reporters from 74 media outlets in 58 countries.



BEIJING: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar holds a luncheon meeting with Chairman of China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) Luo Zhaohui.

Pakistan, China reiterate resolve to accelerate all CPEC projects

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan and China on Tuesday expressed joint determination to accelerate progress on all projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) including ML-1 upgradation, Gwadar Port, and realignment of Karakoram Highway.

The bilateral ties and cooperation were discussed in a meeting between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC), Liu Jianchao here.

The deputy prime minister is on a four-day visit to China mainly to co-chair the Fifth Pakistan-China Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

In the meeting, the two leaders also reaffirmed the importance of the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China and to further reinforce mutually beneficial collaboration.

They discussed the longstanding cooperation and exchanges between the political parties of Pakistan and the Communist Party of China.

Pakistan advises Indian politicians to cease dragging it into domestic politics

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Tuesday urged the Indian politicians to cease dragging it into their domestic politics for electoral gains and to handle sensitive strategic matters with the utmost caution.

"We call upon the international community to take note of Indian leadership's belligerent rhetoric, which poses a

grave threat to regional peace and stability," Spokesperson Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a press statement, in response to media queries regarding a series of Pakistan-related remarks made recently by the Indian Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister and other cabinet members.

Work to be done for converting 29,000 registered tube wells on solar energy in Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti had crucial meeting with the Federal Minister Planning, Ahsan Iqbal in Islamabad on Tuesday in order to resolve the issues of agricultural tube wells in Balochistan.

During the course of meeting, it was decided to start work on the measures for converting the 29,000 registered agricultural tube wells of the province on solar energy as an alternative solution.

It was informed during a briefing conducted by the

Power Division, there are more than 11,000 illegal agricultural connections in the province too.

However, there was also discussion on the supply of electricity to the agricultural tube wells in the meantime till their solarization. The Power Division was also talked in this regard. Speaking on the occasion, Federal Minister Planning told that the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has directed to resolve the issues of Balochistan on priority basis.

The Chief Minister Balochistan offered the

measures for restoration of electricity in the province on behalf of the provincial government.

The Federal Minister Energy Owais Ahmed Leghari requested the Government of Balochistan to work together for prevention of the power pilferage. Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti invited Federal Minister Energy to visit Balochistan and assured him of best cooperation in this regard.

The Chief Minister assured that the campaign would be started afresh against prevention of theft of electricity in the province.



ISLAMABAD: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti talking with Federal Ministers and other officials regarding provision of uninterrupted electricity to tubewells in Balochistan and other issues

SC orders appearance of PTI founder through video link

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Tuesday ordered the federal and provincial governments to ensure the attendance of Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) founder in the next hearing in intra court appeals against termination of amendments in National Accountability Bureau law.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa said that if the founder of PTI wants to give arguments, he can give through video link. He said that we accept the request of PTI founder in this regard and instructed the government to make arrangements.

A five member larger bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Amin ud Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokheil, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi heard the appeals of federation.

Addressing a press conference along with Federal Minister of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam at the Parliament House, he said that the conspiracy of the inimical forces was foiled who forced humiliation due to the Prime Minister's timely actions.

Termining Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf as "Tehreek-e-Intishar", he said its dreams of creation of chaos and anarchy had also been shattered.

"Along with the enemy, the 'Tehreek-e-Intishar' also thought that in some way or the other, chaos would spread and there would be anarchy" as its leadership

wanted to benefit from the sad situation.

Tarar said that the Prime Minister took all the coalition parties and stake holders on board and heard their views.

"Yesterday's meeting was attended by all the political leadership including the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir", he remarked.

The minister said the political leadership and federal ministers resolved the issues through mutual understanding.

The minister said that the prime minister resolved the issue with excellent decision making as the crisis can be eliminated only by timely decisions.

"There is a world of difference between the incompetent government of the past and present elected regime", he added.

He said that inflation was being controlled by prudent government policies and measures.



QUETTA: Consul General of Germany Dr. Rudiger Lotz meeting with Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango

Dr. Rudiger Lotz calls on Provincial Minister for Home & TA: India involved in terrorism in Balochistan, Zia Langove tells German Consul General

Our enemies are hatching conspiracies against Gwadar & CPEC in which they would not succeed at all; German diplomat assures cooperation for bringing improvement in education and health sectors in Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has categorically stated that our enemy country, India is involved in terrorism in Balochistan for it (India) is also making funding for this purpose.

However, our security forces are fighting war for eliminating terrorism in the

province. He said that our enemies are hatching conspiracies against Gwadar and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), however, they would not succeed in their designs all.

The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs was speaking to the German Consul General based in Karachi, Dr. Rudiger Lotz who called on him here on Tuesday.

The German envoy greeted Mir Ziaullah Langove on assuming the office of Provincial Minister for Home.



TURBAT: Chief Justice Balochistan High Court, Mr. Justice Hashim Khan Kakar in a meeting with lawyers of Kech Bar Association

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Privatisation divide

With Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar having clawed his way back to the centre of economic policymaking, a tussle between two competing viewpoints — one represented by him, the other by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb — was inevitable.

Mr Aurangzeb believes that Pakistan's economy can no longer bear the burden of state-owned enterprises, which need to be privatised as early as possible. On the other hand, Mr Dar, who is foreign minister and a confidant of Nawaz Sharif, fears that all-out privatisation could deplete his party's already dwindling political capital. Hobbled by high inflation, recent blunders in wheat procurement and rising energy costs, the party can ill-afford any agitation against privatisation. Hence, no matter what the finance minister says, the two are not on the same page as evident in his outright rejection of Mr Dar's concept of "strategic and essential SOEs". "There is no such thing as strategic SOEs," Mr Aurangzeb told a pre-budget conference. All SOEs, regardless of their categorisation, he asserted, would be handed over to the private sector. His stance on the 'strategic' SOEs is the opposite of what Mr Dar, who was previously finance minister and heads the important Cabinet Committee on Privatisation, had stated recently. Removing seven profitable public companies at the disposal of the Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund from the privatisation list, Mr Dar reportedly said that the government would restrict its concerns to "strategic and essential SOEs", whose number — 40 — would be decreased after scrutiny.

The final decision on which the entities are to be categorised as strategic or essential is to be made by the Cabinet Committee on SOEs headed by Mr Aurangzeb. It might not be easy for him to have his way on their privatisation, despite support from the powerful circles that signed him up for implementing taxation, energy, and SOE reforms along with privatisation under the IMF's tutelage. Mr Dar's economic ideas are acceptable neither to the IMF nor to these circles. Under these circumstances, his transfer to the foreign ministry and later his elevation as deputy prime minister were perceived as major concessions from PM Shehbaz Sharif, although under pressure from Nawaz Sharif. Put simply, the differences between Mr Aurangzeb and Mr Dar reflect the tensions within the ruling party as well as the compulsions of an economy that cannot pick up momentum until it has undergone drastic and politically unpopular changes. The disagreement between the current and former finance minister on privatisation has emerged at a time when the government is all set to start talks for another IMF bailout facility in order to revive the economy. How this disagreement within the government will sit with the lender, which is already wary of the risks attached to the execution of the economic stabilisation policies, is anybody's guess.

Climate justice

Jamil Ahmad

In the face of rising risks from climate change, calls for climate action and climate justice have grown stronger. The creation of the Loss and Damage Fund under the UN climate convention is considered an important step towards action. A request is pending before the ICJ for an opinion on states' obligations towards people on climate change.

Civil society has sought judicial assistance to compel national authorities to take swift climate action. Governments and companies have been taken to courts for inaction or failure to implement environmental agreements.

The number of cases on climate and the environment has grown over the years as the dangers associated with climate change became more ominous, with efforts to control global warming falling short of expected targets. Vulnerable communities took the lead in seeking redressal through the courts.

Two landmark cases in Asia are illustrative. In Pakistan, Asghar Leghari, a farmer, took the government to court in 2015 for not acting to combat climate change, arguing that the inaction of the authorities was against the constitutional right to life, because climate change posed a serious threat to water, food, and energy security. In the Philippines, a group of schoolchildren went to court in the 1990s pleading that deforestation harmed their fundamental rights. In both cases, the courts ruled in favour of the litigants.

The rise in climate litigation is propelled also by developments in international environmental governance and breakthroughs in the global environmental

policy domain such as the Paris climate accord and other agreements. Once ratified, their legal injunctions and policy directions are incorporated into national legal frameworks. Failure of the parties to multilateral environmental agreements to abide by their pledges and implement measures to address climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution give justified grounds for lawsuits against the authorities, industry, and the corporate sector. A report Global Trends in Climate Change Litigation, 2023 by the London School of Economics, citing figures from databases, notes that around two-thirds of climate-centred lawsuits have been filed since 2015, when the Paris Agreement was signed.

Meanwhile, the codification of the concept of a rights-based approach to the environment has taken place in parallel. Historically, environmentalists have advocated a rights-based approach. They challenged governments in the courts and in most cases, obtained favourable decisions. Last year, Brazil's supreme court declared that the Paris Agreement was a human rights treaty, which enjoyed 'supranational' status. Lately, a group of Swiss women obtained a verdict from the European Court of Human Rights that inadequate efforts by their government to control climate change was violating human rights — a ruling that can prompt similar lawsuits elsewhere. The recognition by the UN General Assembly in July 2022 of a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a human right further strengthened a bottom-up, rights-based approach to the environment and climate change. It catalysed legal actions against governments for their failure to implement

climate policies and actions which exacerbated the negative impact of climate change.

According to the UNEP's Global Climate Litigation Report: 2023 Status Review, "the total number of climate change court cases has more than doubled since 2017" and is growing worldwide. The report found that the "cases mostly fell under one or more of six categories; cases relying on human rights enshrined in international law and national constitutions; challenges to domestic non-enforcement of climate-related laws and policies; litigants seeking to keep fossil fuels in the ground; advocates for greater climate disclosures and an end to greenwashing; claims addressing corporate liability and responsibility for climate harms; and claims addressing failures to adapt to the impacts of climate change".

Increased climate litigation will help climate action and ultimately climate justice. However, the extent of following up on court judgements remains limited in developing countries like Pakistan, where adjudicating on environmental issues is complex and confronts structural obstacles in the way of implementing court orders. Prompt enforcement of statutes, regulations and judicial pronouncements on climate and environment, will be enabled by incorporating the environmental dimension in all aspects of legal actions. All segments of the legal community must be equipped with the appropriate tools and information about environmental matters. A re-vamping of the legal architecture is a 'sine qua non' for coping with surging litigation on the environment and climate. -- Courtesy Dawn

For a better deal

Dr Niaz Murtaza

As the IMF's most habitual client globally, we often get a dose of the Fund's harsh medicine. Each time, business, civil society and other groups rightly object to an IMF deal's harsh terms, but mostly after it has been struck. As an IMF team will arrive soon for a new deal, they must coordinate to influence deal talks.

Some blame our leaders but others the IMF for harsh deals. The problem starts with our governments — from Musharraf to the PTI. In their zeal to get high GDP growth, they take the faulty path of high fiscal and external deficits and money supply growth, instead of high investment, productivity and exports that require politically costly reforms. That path soon leads to high inflation and falling dollar reserves, and finally to the Fund's door. But just as doctors often mistreat serious diseases caused by bad patient habits, so does the IMF often misdiagnose and mistreat economic ills caused by state policies.

The immediate patient symptoms before the IMF are usually high inflation and falling reserves due to high twin deficits and money supply growth. To stabilise the patient, the IMF usually prescribes higher interest rates, rupee depreciation, higher taxes and cuts in state expenses. All these put a brake on GDP growth, albeit fake, and cause a huge loss of jobs and state services that hurt poor and small businesses more.

In our recent deals from 2000 to 2019, the IMF has also included issues that affect the twin deficits and money supply growth indirectly — State Bank autonomy; state units, circular debt and power

sector reform; exchange rate and tax policy; etc. Even though we were at the peak of economic crises each time and needed major stabilisation, many IMF demands were rightly criticised for their sequence, extent and precise focus.

But things now differ. Economic policy targets macroeconomic stability, growth, equity and sustainability. We already have some stabilisation from the last stand-by IMF deal. Inflation and fiscal deficit are falling; reserves are up and the rupee has been climbing for months. Thus, we need an unorthodox IMF programme. We must not raise interest rates but cut them.

The IMF wants high interest rates to treat both inflation and falling currency and reserves. True, a stable rupee has been achieved via stringent controls on dollar demand for imports, profit repatriation, etc. which are slowing GDP growth. Once these controls are ended to raise GDP growth, reserves and the rupee may fall. But this pressure must be fixed via front-loading about half of IMF flows (and back-loading the rest to ensure compliance) and dollar flows expected from multilateral and bilateral donors rather than high interest rates. This will reduce fiscal deficit and create room for GDP and job growth.

Instead of indirect taxes and development and social spending cuts, the Fund must demand non-essential defence and civilian outlays cuts and increased direct taxes on non-taxable sectors and elites. If it signs a deal without this, it would be equally culpable in burdening the poor.

Such steps will help achieve both stability and growth. But durable growth will require more

creative strategies to raise savings, investments, exports and outputs. Our savings must rise, being among the lowest regionally. This means that even for investment for domestic outputs, we often use foreign investment which creates profit repatriation liabilities without export earnings, thus raising our external deficit.

We must ideally use foreign investment for sectors that give export revenues and/or help obtain high-end technical capacities. Increased exports require state-capital col-laboration to enter the high-end export sectors. But growth policies are beyond the IMF's remit, the wrong neoliberal take being that stabilisation will automatically give growth. This raises questions. The IMF must not overdo stabilisation now, to let us follow growth policies. It must ensure equity by requiring big outlays for the poor suffering from years of stagnation.

Beyond specific IMF terms, austerity-linked Fund deals imposed since 1980s don't make sense, unlike earlier condition-free ones. Policy conditions encourage reform-averse states to adopt good policies, but they can't afford them during economic crises when IMF aid must allow counter-cyclical growth policies.

Donors must proactively apply policy conditions linked to bigger aid from bilateral and multilateral donors in normal times when the roots of crises are being laid via faulty state policies. Rich states must also change their unfair global policies that choke growth in poor states. Only then can recipient states achieve stability and equitable growth. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

SATRC on policy, regulation, services starts



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on the matters related to Ministry of Privatisation and Privatisation Commission.

ISLAMABAD (APP): First meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC) on Policy Regulation and Services commenced on Tuesday.

Organized by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and hosted by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), this three-day international meeting convenes regulatory experts and policymakers from Afghanistan, Bangladesh,

Bhutan, Iran, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The meeting started with an inaugural event widely attended by industry and government stakeholders. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) in his welcome address urged the delegates to actively engage in insightful discussions and commend PTA for organizing the workshop. Dr. Khawar Siddique Khokar Member

Compliance & Enforcement PTA who is also the chair of the SATRC Working Group on Policy, Regulation, and Services (PRS) in his address, outlined the meeting's primary objective: fostering the exchange of insights, experiences, and best practices to address challenges, explore opportunities, and finalize initial steps on work items.

Chairman PTA, Major General @ Hafeez Ur Rehman in his inaugural note, underscored the

importance of regional collaboration in addressing common ICT challenges through dialogue and knowledge sharing. He highlighted the importance of learning from each other's experiences to effectively introduce new technologies and services while safeguarding consumer rights and nurturing industry growth.

Shaza Fatima, Minister of State for IT & Telecom who was the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony.

NAVTTTC, KCCI ink Mou for skill development of youth

KARACHI (APP): National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) and Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Tuesday, joined hands for skill development of youth and making the curriculum consistent to market demand.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was inked, in this regard, here at Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Chairperson NAVTTTC, Gulmina Bilal Ahmed and President KCCI Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh signed the MoU.

The MoU is aimed at imparting skill development training to the employees of KCCI affili-

ated industrial units while it also included acquiring of domestic and foreign labour markets. Stressing on the need of creating awareness about the NAVTTTC she informed that currently the commission was regulating more than 5000 training centers across the country with special focus on quality assurance.

Highlighting the measures for ensuring transparency and quality training in the institutes funded by the government, she said that steps were also being taken to install bio-metric system and cameras for monitoring of the institutes.

She urged the vocational and technical training institutes to get international certification and said that internationally certified institutes will be given priority in the NAVTTTC programs aimed at training and skill development of the youth.

KCCI President, speaking on this occasion, underscored the importance of technical training and hoped that signing the MoU with NAVTTTC would benefit the country as well as the business community.



KARACHI: President Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh presents Shield to Chairperson National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) Gulmina Bilal Ahmed after Signing MoU Ceremony Between (NAVTTTC) and (KCCI) at KCCI.

Commerce minister orders review of EDF projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Tuesday directed a thorough assessment and analysis of projects funded by the Export Development Fund (EDF) in recent years.

The directive aims to evaluate the initiatives that have bolstered export development and to identify areas for improvement, said a press

release issued here. The ministry of commerce has communicated this directive through a series of letters to various stakeholders involved in EDF-funded projects.

These letters, including one addressed to the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP), underscore the need for detailed progress reports and updates on specific projects.

KP Minister launches online wheat procurement App for farmers, suppliers

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Food, Zahir Shah Toru, announced on Tuesday the launch of an online app for wheat procurement aimed at facilitating farmers and suppliers.

The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has introduced this online app to streamline services for local and provincial farmers and suppliers.

In a video statement, Minister Zahir Shah Toru highlighted that farmers and suppliers can now input information about their available wheat through the app, ultimately aiding the Food Department in its

operations. The online app encompasses all necessary features for wheat procurement, and priority will be given to farmers and suppliers meeting the standards set by the Food Department. Minister Toru emphasized that starting from May 18, wheat procurement will be conducted from those who adhere to SOPs and provide standard wheat.

He mentioned that wheat procurement from local farmers within the province will take place from May 7 to 17. He assured that transparency and merit will be upheld throughout the wheat procurement process.



BEIJING: Executive Vice President of China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG) and Chairman of China Three Gorges International Limited (CTGI) Wu Shengliang called on the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Barkwa advocates cultivating barren lands to boost agri production

PESHAWAR (APP): Minister for Agriculture, Major (Retd) Sajjad Barkwa, chaired a meeting of the Agriculture Department on Tuesday to discuss the schemes of ADP, AIP, and PSDP for the financial year 2024-25.

The minister received a detailed briefing on both new and ongoing schemes.

He directed the authorities concerned to cultivate barren lands to boost the province's agricultural production.

Shahid Rasheed says: PM restored confidence of lenders, int'l institutions

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the Finance Minister's resolve to sell state-owned firms was commendable, as it would help save trillions of wasted rupees to keep these companies artificially alive. The country was saved from bankruptcy due to the Prime Minister's efforts, and now the confidence of the international institutions has been restored, he added.

Announces to visit Muzaffarabad PM expresses deep grief over loss of lives in AJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday expressed his deep grief and sorrow over loss of lives during the protest incidents in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and announced that he would visit Muzaffarabad within few days to hold further consultations over the issue.

Addressing the participants of the federal cabinet meeting, the prime minister said that it was a matter of immense pain that few people lost their lives during the protest, besides damage caused to buildings.

"It was a very unfortunate incident," he said, adding that a police officer also lost his life, besides a number of personnel of law

enforcement agencies were also hurt.

The prime minister and the members of the cabinet also offered Fateha for the departed souls.

The prime minister emphasized that maintaining law and order in the country was a priority so that the country could move on path of progress and prosperity.

"Azad Jammu and Kashmir is the jugular vein of Pakistan as declared by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah," he added. The prime minister further said that he held meetings on the AJK issue and thanked President Asif Ali Zardari, political leaders of the allied parties, leaders of AJK chapter, AJK leadership and parliamentarians for their support.



ISLAMABAD: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.

Bugti, Langove flay terrorism incident in Sui: Fresh wave of terrorism to be defeated as well, asserts Chief Minister

Minister Home seeks report of incident of killing of Allah Rakhia from ACS; directs to arrest culprits

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has condemned the incident of terrorism in Sui area of Dera Bugti, in which a teacher namely Allah Rakhia was gunned down.

In a condemnation statement issued on Tuesday, the Chief Minister expressed grief over the martyrdom of Allah Rakhia and said that he is grieved over martyrdom of a long time friend.

He said that martyr Allah Rakhia was a true Pakistani and good human being. He said that his brutal killing is very condemnable.

The Chief Minister also said that new chain has

been started to kill the armless and innocent Pakistanis by the terrorists.

However, the provincial government would defeat this fresh wave of terrorism as well, adding he pledged.

Meanwhile, the Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has also condemned the incident of killing of a retired government teacher in Sui.

He has sought report from the Additional Chief Secretary Home about the incident. He also directed to the Deputy Commissioner Dera Bugti to form a special team for arrest of the culprits involved in the killing.

If elected to 15-nation body for 2025-26 term Pakistan to push for implementation of UNSC resolutions

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has told a United Nations-affiliated forum that it's bid for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the term 2025-26 was aimed at promoting adherence to the world body's Charter and seeking faithful implementation of UN Security Council resolutions as well as international law, among other objectives.

"Pakistan has consistently manifested its commitment to the Charter's vision of preventing war and promoting peace; fostering global prosperity; and promoting universal respect for human rights," Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, said during a debate on the forthcoming

election to the 15-member Council, organized by the World Federation of UN Associations (WFUNA) at the UN headquarters in New York on Monday. Founded in 1946 as a Federation of national associations, WFUNA works to promote the values of the UN Charter, defend multilateralism, and raise awareness on the main pillars of work of the United Nations—peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights.

"If elected to the Council, Pakistan will continue its efforts in the same vein to promote a peaceful and equitable world order that responds to the needs and priorities of all nations," the Pakistani envoy said in presenting Islamabad's vision and priorities as a Security Council member.



QUETTA: Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly Ghazala Gola, Provincial Advisor Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi and MPA Shahnaz Umrani talking with Provincial Minister Mir Asim Kurd Gailo after BAs session.

In collaboration with Indus Hospital Network: GoB decides to initiate Chief Minister initiative of Health on Wheels in Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has decided to initiate the Chief Minister Initiative of Health on Wheels in order to provide healthcare facilities in remote areas of the province.

The CM Initiative of Health on Wheel service would be started from the native district of Chief Minister (Dera Bugti) in collaboration with the Indus Hospital.

The decision to this effect was made during meeting of a delegation of Indus Hospital with the

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti here on Tuesday.

During the meeting, the delegation of Indus Hospital briefed the Chief Minister about the proposal of CM Initiative of Health on Wheels in the province.

The Chief Minister directed the concerned authorities to benefit from the experiences and expertise of the Indus Hospital in order to provide health facilities and bring improvement in them in Sui and Baikar areas. He also opened doors of his personal residence for



RAWALPINDI: President Asif Ali Zardari in a group photo with officials of the Green Pakistan Initiative during his visit to its headquarters

Governor Balochistan meets Sardar Ayaz: Parliament determined to play role for development of Balochistan: Speaker NA

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: The Speaker of National Assembly, Sardar Muhammad Ayaz Sadiq has stated development of Balochistan is actually development of Pakistan and as such the Parliament is determined to play its role for development of the province and welfare of its people.

The Speaker of National Assembly was speaking to the Governor who called on him at the Parliament House, Islamabad on Tuesday.

During the course of meeting, they discussed about the overall economic and political situation besides the matters of mutual interests.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq greeted Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail on assuming the office of Governor.

He also expressed best wishes for the Governor Balochistan.

He expressed the hope that Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail would play his constitutional role for strengthening further the

relations between the federation and the provinces in befitting manner.

The Governor thanked the Speaker National Assembly for expressing best wishes for him.

He also applauded his role for running the proceedings of National Assembly in an impartial manner.

Both the leaders pledged to play their wholehearted part for sustainable development and prosperity of the country.

Maqbool says: Program prepared to improve literacy rate

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Education Maqbool Siddiqui Tuesday informed the National Assembly that a program is being prepared to enhance the literacy rate in the country.

In response to a calling attention notice regarding the cessation of nearly twenty school buses designated for student transportation and their conversion into the Pink Bus Project, along with the non-appointment of teachers for vacant positions in Islamabad Capital Territory, he called upon the elected representatives and other societal segments to actively contribute to this cause.

He said that the government has declared an education emergency to enroll out-of-school children in educational institutions.

Regarding transportation, he said that in addition to existing school and college bus services, the ministry plans to deploy 20 buses from urban to rural areas specifically for girl students and female teachers from both public and private schools.

US warns of sanctions after India-Iran Chabahar Port pact

WASHINGTON (APP): Hours after India signed a 10-year contract to operate Iran's Chabahar port, the US warned that its sanctions on Tehran remain in place and "anyone" considering business deals with the Islamic Republic needs to be "aware of the potential risk". At the same time, the State Department Principal Deputy Spokesperson, Vedant Patel, said that it will let the Indian government speak on its foreign policy goals.

"I will let the government of India speak to its own foreign policy goals vis-à-vis the Chabahar port as well as its own bilateral relationship with Iran," Patel said in the department's daily press briefing on Monday.

"We are aware of these reports that Iran and India have signed a deal concerning the Chabahar Port," Patel said in response to a question.

Italian Defence Secretary General calls on Secretary Defence Production

Independent Report
RAWALPINDI: Italian Secretary General of De-

fence and National Armaments Director, Lieutenant General Luciano PORTOLANO called on Secretary Ministry of Defence Production, Lieutenant General Muhammad Chiragh Haider here on Tuesday.



RAWALPINDI: Italian Secretary General of Defence and National Armaments Director, Lieutenant General Luciano Portolano (left) and Secretary Ministry of Defence Production, Lieutenant General Muhammad Chiragh Haider (right) during their meeting.

He appreciated the potential and its ability to

address needs of the Pakistani defence forces.

Lieutenant General Muhammad Chiragh Haider also emphasized that Pakistan had a lot of potential in the fields of energy and defence production with the possibility of joint ventures which needs to be explored. Both the sides stressed on the need to have a regular exchange of high-level visits between both countries.

AGP denies impression of interference in judiciary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP), Mansoor Usman Avan on Tuesday strongly denied the impression of interference in the powers of judiciary by any institution.

Addressing a press conference here, he said that a wrong impression was made on a letter written to the chief justice of Islamabad High Court (IHC).

He said that it was also a wrong impression that if there was a conflict between executive and judiciary. The AGP said that it was essential to clarify the issue as the IHC judges' letter is being presented in a wrong way. He said, it was requested to hear surveillance-related matters in-camera so that the sensitive information wouldn't go in public domain, and this was communicated to the relevant quarters, he added.



NASEERABAD: Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani talking with mediapersons.

PHE minister for provision of facilities to people in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Minister for Public Health Engineer (PHE) Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran Tuesday said that measures were being taken to address public issues for facilitating to people in the area.

In his statements, the minister said that the fruits of the measures for the welfare of the people and the development of the area would be revealed soon. He said he was grateful to the people of the constituency,

who believed and supported him every time. Solving people's problems is my first priority, practical steps have been initiated to fulfill the promises made to the people, he said.

Sardar Khetran said that keeping in mind the service of our leader Nawaz Sharif, we were all striving for the welfare of the people and the country adding that history was a witness that whenever Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) came to power,



QUETTA: Opposition leader Mir Younis Aziz Zehri, MPAs Mir Ghulam Dastagir Badini, Fzal Qadir, Asghar Ali Tareen, Malik Naem Khan Bazai, Syed Zafar Agha, Dr. Nawaz Kibzai and Mir Asadullah Baloch meeting with Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani.

President assures support to provinces for Green Pakistan Initiative

RAWALPINDI (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday visited the Green Pakistan Initiative Headquarters where he was given a detailed briefing about the Initiative, Land Information and Management System operations.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti and Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari were also present on the occasion, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The president was briefed about the improved water irrigation system based on modern patterns.

A briefing was also given over agriculture, dredging of canals, IT-based operations and effective irrigation water system under the Green Pakistan Initiative.

The president was also apprised of the concepts of model agri-farms and agricultural smart farms operations to facilitate the farmers' community for progress of the agriculture sector.

President Zardari appreciated the working of

Green Pakistan Initiative and Land Information and Management System under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

While lauding the team of Green Pakistan Initiative, he stressed upon working with equal zeal for the national and economic development of the country.

For the bright future of Pakistan, the president also assured complete cooperation of all the provinces for achieving the objectives of Green Pakistan Initiative.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta and Administrator Metropolitan Corporation Quetta Hamza Shafiqat briefing Provincial Minister for Local Bodies and Rural Development Sardar Sarfaraz Chakar Domki about MCQ

FIA NCB - Interpol Pak issues 6-month performance report

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and National Central Bureau (NCB)-Interpol Pakistan has achieved significant milestones in combating transnational crime, says the six-month performance report issued on Tuesday.

During the last six months, a total of 66 accused wanted for serious crimes, including murder, attempted murder, robbery, kidnapping, and corruption, were apprehended from different countries, says the report adding that FIA NCB - INTERPOL had issued red notices for the arrest of these accused.

Korea, UNHCR mark \$ 1 m contribution to support refugees in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Republic of Korea Tuesday marked the contribution of one million dollars, aimed at bolstering UNHCR's response in supporting Afghan refugees and their host communities in Pakistan.

This one-year project benefiting more than 125,000 people across the country.

The announcement was made here at a ceremony held at the National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTC), Centre of Excellence, where the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Pakistan, Park Ki Jun and UNHCR Representative, Philippa Candler signed an agreement. The Chairperson of NAVTC, Gulmina Bilal, was also present on the occasion.

Speaker BA asks MPAs to attend Assembly session in time

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai has asked the members to attend the Assembly session in time.

The Speaker gave this ruling while chairing sitting of the Provincial Assembly here on Tuesday. Actually, the Member Provincial Assembly, Ms. Farah Azeem Shah pointed out the session was started around one hour late while the scheduled time was 11:00 AM. She said that the nations, which don't value the time and punctuality, can't progress. The Opposition MPA, Maulana Hidayatur Rehman also stressed that the session of assembly should be started at the given time. He regretfully pointed out that the members of assembly come in the session on their own will.

Nazeer Tarar says: Uniform policy pursued to combat power pilferage

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Azam Nazeer Tarar, said on Tuesday in the National Assembly that a comprehensive uniform policy is being implemented to address power pilferage nationwide.

Responding to Asad Qaiser, he highlighted that under this policy, increased load shedding is being applied to feeders with high levels of power theft.

He said that curbing power pilferage is crucial to mitigate the circular debt

issue. He further mentioned that the government has initiated a campaign against power theft, resulting in the recovery of billions of rupees. He said that significant progress has been made in border management at Chaman through new mechanisms. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to resolving issues faced by the people at the Chaman border. He said that the public has elected representatives to advocate for their concerns and formulate solutions within parliament.

Pakistan Coast Guard takes action against anti-narcotics, smuggling

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Coast Guard took action against anti-narcotics and smuggling, on the instructions of Interior Minister and Anti-Narcotics Mohsin Naqvi.

According to the press release issued on Tuesday a huge amount of contraband was seized during special operation of Pakistan Coast Guards on the

coastline. During the operation, 12,970 kg of supari, 3,049 packets of gutka mix, 1,524 packets of cigarettes, 1,543 kg of cloth mix, and 206 bundles of net cloth, dairy and bakery products, grocery items, dry fruits, makeup accessories, cooking oil, crockery, electronic devices, speed boats, various vehicles, engine oil, Iranian petrol and diesel were seized.



QUETTA: Provincial Food Minister Haji Noor Muhammad Dumar meeting with Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

Bureaucracy continues to be reshuffled Secretaries of various departments transferred

Independent Report
QUETTA: The reshuffling of senior civil bureaucracy of Balochistan province is continued as administrative secretaries of different provincial government departments were replaced giving them new postings.

According to an official notification issued here by the Services and General Administration Department (S&GAD), the senior officer of Balochistan Civil Service, Kambar Dashti (BS-21), serving as the Secretary Communication and Works (C&W) Department, has been transferred and posted as Secretary PHE Department and the BCS officer, Javed Anwar Shahwani (BS-20) serving as the Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs has been transferred and posted as the Secretary Fisheries and Coastal Development.

Besides them, the BCS officer, Yasir Khan (BS-20) serving as Secretary Transporter and the BSS officer, Abdul Wali Kakar (BS-20), posted as the Secretary PHE, have been directed to report in the S&GAD.

Member Chief Minister Inspection Team, has been posted as the Secretary Transport Department.

Moreover, the BCS officer, Lal Jan Jaffar (BS-20), serving as Secretary (Planning) Planning and Development Department, has been posted as the Secretary C&W Department while the BSS officer, Imran Gichki (BS-20), posted as the Secretary Fisheries and Coastal Development, has been transferred and posted as Secretary PHE Department and the BCS officer, Javed Anwar Shahwani (BS-20) serving as the Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs has been transferred and posted as the Secretary Fisheries and Coastal Development.

Similarly, the senior officer of Balochistan Secretariat Service (BS-21), posted as the Secretary Excise Taxation and Anti-Narcotics, has been transferred and posted as the Secretary Forests and Wildlife.

Similarly, the officer of BCS, Muhammad Hayat Kakar (BS-20), serving as