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Two-day Pakistan Literary Festival concludes: State wants reconciliation and

talks with those displeased with Government: CM Bugti

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically stated that the State of Pakistan wants to hold dialogue and reconciliation with those who are displeased with the govern-

"I am ready to embrace the youth and would do his best to resolve their issues." But talks would not be held with those who want to dismantle the country or involved in the insurgency.

State of Pakistan has also engaged in the reconciliation with the people in past, and still it wants to engage the people, but with whom talks be done?

He regretfully pointed

be made public about the

ceremony of two-day Pakistan Literary Festival concluded at the Balochistan Information concluded Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) here on Thursday.

insurgency. The provincial high He mentioned that the ups and other celebrities professors, and so the govfrom art, literature, media society from all over the other areas to destroy the country including system. Balochistan participated in the ceremony.

certain plans for our youth stressed

against the State of Pakistan to work on and implement in the past. The first insur- in future. He said that we gent of Balochistan was have plan to send our talgiven shelter in Afghanistan. The real facts should doing Ph.Ds and other higher education so that The Chief Minister their future responsibilities ofter coming back to their they are able to shoulder was addressing the closing after coming back to their country and province.

He said that we would also be sending our youth to abroad after learning their different skills.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that we destroyed our education system at our own ernance in the province, no and other segments of the one came from Punjab or

Now we have to mend our way and correct the The Chief Minister affairs at our own, add-maintained that we have ing Chief Minister

Registrar IHC

No constitutional

restriction on

holding dual

citizenship for

becoming judge

SLAMABAD (Online)

Registrar of Islamabad High

Court (IHC) has given re-

ply to the letter from Faisal

Vawda stating that there is

no restriction on holding

dual citizenship or resi-

dency in other country in

the constitution for becom-

dual citizenship is sought

from a lawyer on the occa-

sion of becoming judge of

ity or residence in other

country does not disqualify

any one from becoming

judge as per constitution.

Pakistan attaches

great importance

to its relations

with Iraq: Asif SLAMABAD (Online):

Defence Minister Khawaja

Muhammad Asif has em-

phasized that Pakistan at-

taches great importance to

its relations with Iraq and

wishes to expand coopera-

tion in all fields of mutual

interests especially de-

He expressed these

iews while talking to Iraqi

Ambassador Hamid Abbas

afta, who called on him in

said both Pakistan and Iraq

should work closely to

share their experiences and

build capacities of their

The Defence Minister

slamabad Thursday.

Holding dual national-

No information about

ing judge.

high court.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti addressing participants of concluding ceremony of Pakistan Literary Festival at BUITEMS

PTI founder appears before SC via video link in NAB amendments case

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder on Thursday appeared before the Su-preme Court (SC) of Pakistan larger bench to present his arguments in the National Accountability (NAB) Ordinance 1999

amendment case. A five-member SC bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail,

Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi, is hearing the case. Arrangements to ensure the PTI founder's appearance before the Supreme Court bench via video link were finalised in light of the apex court's order.

The case is not being live-streamed but images of the PTI founder go viral on social media. At the outset of the hearing, Advocate Khwaja Haris came to the

Well without learning modern skills

Our youth can't benefit from modern science & technology: Governor

QUETTA: Deputy Chairman Senate Saydal Khan

Nassar meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh

Qaiser chairs meeting to

boost economic activity

in Gwadar area

Independent Report OUETTA: The Governor

Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the importance of skills is equally increasing along with education in the ever changing world.

Our youth can't benefit from the modern science and technology well without learning modern skills. The Governor said that unemployment can be brought down by making the technical and vocational institutions functional at the provincial level.

The Governor was speaking to different delegations and personalities who called on him here at

Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Federal Minister for Mari-

time Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed

Sheikh presided over a

meeting aimed at boosting

economic activities in

Gwadar Port area, empha-

sizing the government's

commitment to accelerate

growth and regional devel-

opment in Balochistan re-

the Governor's House on Thursday.

Those who met were included former Vice Chancellors of different universities Brigadier (Retd) Agha Ahmed Gul, Engineer former Provincial Ministers Sultan Tareen and Mir Umar Jamali, former Members of provincial assembly. Akhtar Hussain Langove and Ahmed Nawaz Baloch. Abdul Mateen Akhunzada,

The Governor said that the Programme of Prime Minister about imparting skills to the new generation is excellent

Mir Imran Jatak and

Naseeb Kakar Advocate.

Kundi calls on President ISLAMABAD (APP) Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday called

on President Asif Ali Zardari here. The president congratulated the governor on assuming the office, according to a President House

KP Governor

press release Faisal Karim Kundi thanked the president for reposing trust in him and appointing him as the gov

President Zardari instructed Governor Kundi to work for the betterment of the people and expressed good wishes for

IHC bans entry of intelligence agencies personnel to court room

ISLAMABAD (Online) Islamabad High Court (IHC) has banned entry of intelligence agencies entry to court room.

Justice Mehmood Jahangiri issued order to ban entry of intelligence agencies personnel in court room. Police man deployed outside court room has confirmed this order of the court

Police man told Online it is directive of the court that personnel affiliated with the intelligence agencies be not allowed to enter to court room. It is pertinent to mention here new matters are coming to open on daily basis with reference to judges. Senator Vawda held

press conference after let ter was written by Justice Babar Sattar, Registrar IHC gave reply to it formally. Now IHC has banned

entry of intelligence agencies personnel into court

Pakistan will continue extending support to Kashmiris So-called legislation, court decisions cant' absolve India of its int'l obligations on Kashmir: PM

Assures implementation of understanding with AJK; stresses permanent solution to people's issues; Directs to constitute committee on Neelum-Jhelum project

internationally

 $M\,U\,Z\,A\,F\,F\,A\,R\,A\,B\,A\,D$ (APP): Prime Minister an Shehbaz Sharif on Thursrecognised dispute that reday said that no so-called mained on the UN Security legislation or court verdicts Council's agenda for the could absolve India of its last seven decades and awaited settlement as per obligations on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, under international laws. the UNSC's resolutions and

aspirations of the Kashmiri The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation The Hurriyat leaders appreciated the prime minister's role in handling of Hurriyat leaders of Jammu and Kashmir during his daylong visit here, said that Pakistan categorically the recent situation in the AJK and also thanked Parejected the Indian unilatkistan for its steadfast eral and illegal actions in the stance in condemning In-Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir dian unilateral actions and solidarity with the (IIOJK) regarding the revo-cation of its special status.

He said Kashmir was Shehbaz assured the delegation that Pakistan would continue extending its moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people and cited the recently held OIC summit in Gambia where Pakistan effectively raised the Kashmir issue.

He assured that the Foreign Ministry as well as Pakistan's diplomatic missions would play their role to highlight the Kashmir cause at international forums more effectively. He also urged the Pakistani media to create global awareness of Indian atroci-



ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Development, prosperity of Balochistan's people Govt top priority: Syedaal Khan

OUETTA (APP): Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan Nasar Thursday said the development and prosperity of the people of province and the welfare of Balochistan is the key priority of the government. He said that senators from the Upper House is deter-Balochistan are given the opportunity to represent

in the upper house. He expressed these views in a meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti to discuss the overall political and economic situation of the

province, development projects. They expressed pledge to work together for the development of the its people. Syedaal Khan said that

mined to resolve the problems faced by the provthe people of the province inces and provide opportunities for development and prosperity to its citizens. He said the development and prosperity of Balochistan will ensure the economic stability of the country.



& Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa meeting with Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango

Jatak assures to take steps for making over 180 employees of Market Committee permanent

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Mir Ali Madad Jatak has assured that steps would be taken for making over 180 contract employees of the Market Committee permanent immediately.

The Provincial Minister for Agriculture was speaking to the media persons and office bearers of All Balochistan Fruit and Vegetable Commission Agent Association after briefing in the office of Market Com-

mittee Hazar Ganji on Thursday. The Director Economics and Marketing Syed Abdul Sattar briefed the Minister Agriculture about the Market Committee. Also present on the occasion were Rafu Gul Baraich, Mumtaz Shah, Jeeyand and others.

Speaking on the occasion, Ali Madad Jatak said that the provincial government of Peoples Party is taking steps for resolving issues of the people on priority basis

the meeting of the Cabinet of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Youth Facilitation Centers to be made functional: CM directs to formulate **Balochistan Youth Policy** as per needs of youth

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has directed to the concerned authorities to formulate Balochistan Youth Policy 2024 in accordance with the needs of youth of the province

He directed to the concerned quarters to present the draft of Youth Policy based on comprehensive recommendations within 10 days.

He said that the Balochistan Youth Policy would reflect the effective representative of youth of the province.

The Chief Minister was chairing a high level meeting on the Balochistan Youth Policy 2024 here on Thursday.

The Member National Assembly, Mir Jamal Khan Raisani, Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Secretary Youth Affairs, Javaid Anwar Shahwani, Chairperson of Balochistan Commission on Status of Vomen, Ms. Fauzia Shaheen and other concerned were present.

MUZZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses

The meeting was about Balochistan Youth Policy 2024 by the Youth Affairs Department.

The meeting decided to make Youth Facilitation Centers functional in the

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said that guidance of youth in right direction is very nec-

He stressed the need to keep in mind the gender equality in the Youth Police of the prov-

He also stressed that the provision of opportunities should be made part of Youth Policy for utilizing capabilities of the

In this regard, consultation of all stakeholders should be ensured in the Youth Policy, adding the Chief Minister directed



dor of Iraq called on Minister for Defence & Defence Production Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

Session on higher education in Literary Festival:

Brain drain emerging major issue as experts, scholars, doctors & teachers are leaving country: Rahila Durrani

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Education, Miss Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani has regretfully pointed out that the brain drain is emerging a major issue in the country including Balochistan as many of our experts, scholars, doctors and teachers are leaving the country or want to

She said that there's a gap in our system that

This gap has to be filled in order to put an end to the trend of brain drain.

The Minister Education said that our education system needs a lot of improvement. We need to improve the standard of our teachers and enhance their capacities. We would also be needing a big team for bringing improvement in education sector.

Miss Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani was speakthere is a brain drain of our ing at the special session participated in the session.

people from the country. on education arranged in the Pakistan Literature Festival here at the Balochistan Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) on Thurs-

> The eminent scholars, intellectuals and experts from different parts of the country including Pirzada Qasim, Ghazi Salahuddin, Sadiga Salahuddin, Dr. Quratul Ain Bakhtiari, Mazhar Abbas and others

gion on Thursday. Federal Secretary Maritime Affairs, representatives from ministry of finance, industries & production, fisheries department, ministry of commerce attended the meeting, a news release said is-

sued here. The federal minister stressed the strategic importance of Gwadar Port

ISLAMABAD (APP): as a key player of Pakistan's economic prosperity and emphasized the need for concerted efforts to enhance import operation and business activ-

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to this cause, citing directives from the prime minister to take decisive measures to enhance import of government goods through Gwadar Port.

Furthermore, the federal minister emphasized the significance of previous decisions made by the **Economic Coordination** Committee (ECC) and the directives of the prime minister in 2008 and 2022, respectively.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh chairs a meeting regarding the enhancement of Import at Gwadar Port.

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Dubai properties

Dubai, with all its glitter and glamour, has long been a destination of choice for wealthy individuals looking to expand their property portfolio abroad. As a high-income developing market economy, as well as a 'brotherly' Muslim state, many Pakistanis see it as an attractive destination to live and put down some roots in. At the same time, however, the emirate seems to have become a haven for those looking to hide their wealth – whether lawfully or unlawfully acquired — away from the taxman's watchful eyes. This concern has long been held by Pakistani authorities, who, insiders confirm, have tried on multiple occasions to get information on properties owned by Pakistani nationals in the emirate but have been turned down each time. Now, a trove of leaked data, reported on for the first time by Dawn and 74 other media outlets in 58 different countries, shines an unprecedented light on who owns what in a place often referred to as a playground for the

The 'Dubai Unlocked' data, a consolidation of property ownership information till 2022, was recently made the subject of an international investigation. According to data seen by Pakistani journalists, their compatriots came second in terms of the combined number and value of properties held by foreign nationals in the state. For a country that can barely keep its head above water, this is a startling fact. Many individuals who have been part of present or past governments, individuals known to be associated with them, as well as several military generals were found to be in ownership of properties worth millions in Dubai — a revelation that is unlikely to sit well with the struggling masses, who generally view power with suspicion. In a country where megacorruption scandals are all too familiar, questions

Of course, many of the properties owned by Pakistanis may have been acquired lawfully, and the state must not harass ordinary citizens about where they want to spend their money. At the same time, the authorities have a responsibility to approach the C4ADS and OCCRP, which are in possession of the Dubai data, and ask for it to be shared so that they may determine if any criminals, politically exposed or sanctioned persons are on the Dubai property register. The FBR chairman has told Dawn that the authority will, once it gets access to this data, ensure that all tax evaders are caught. It is hoped that any investigation that is conducted will be fair and that no wrongdoing will be excused, regardless of how much favour any of the culprits enjoy in the current political configuration. An opportunity has been provided to close the net around powerful elements. It must be seized.

Red-light areas

F.S. Aijazuddin

Narendra Modi and Sanjay Leela Bhansali have something in common: they both view Pakistan through warped lenses. Modi's perception is of a country overrun by terrorists on the lookout for Indian soft spots to attack. Bhansali uses his camera lens to create spectacular falsities. His latest is an eightpart Netflix series on Lahore's red-light area Heera Mandi. (It derived its name from Raja Hira Singh, a favourite of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.)

Bhansali — a talented filmmaker, producer, writer, and composer — is the despair of his critics. He challenged them with films such as a saccharine adaptation of Shakespeare's romance Romeo and Juliet, titled Ramlila. It invoked the ire of some orthodox Ram bhakts. He was forced to change its name, elongating it to Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela.

His detractors made him run the gauntlet of the Delhi High Court, and then the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court, which, a week after the film's release, banned the movie's showing in Uttar Pradesh. Despite these obstacles, GKRRL became the fifth highestgrossing film of 2013.

Bhansali's next project Bajirao Mastani (2015) extolled the love manding freedom (azadi) between the Maratha hero Peshwa Bajirao I and his second wife Mastani. The descendants of Bajirao and Mastani disowned the film, claiming that "excessive creative liberty by Bhansali caused wrongful portrayal of their ancestors". The Bombay High Court, when approached for a stay, tactfully refused. Again, Bhansali anbecame one of the high- recognise the social toest-grossing Indian films Padmaavat (2018) pulled pre-1947 era, Lahore was mind. -- Courtesy Dawn

out of oblivion the 13th- not a poor cousin (as century Rajput ruler Bhansali would have his Rawal Ratan Singh of Mewar and the Delhi Sultanate's ruler Alauddin Khilji. Both vied for the beautiful Rani Padmini (aka Padmaavat).

In a fiery finale, Bhansali had Padmini lead a horde of Rajput women, trapped within Chittorgarh fort, to commit a collective jauhar (self-immolation).

Extremists did not

wait for Bhansali to finish his film. During its shooting in Jaipur in 2017, stalwarts from the Shri Rajput Karni Sena assaulted Bhansali, his crew and damaged the sets. Later, another group burnt a studio and the period costumes. Bhansali revenged himself when Padmaavat became the highest-grossing film of the year.

Bhansali's latest pro-

duction Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar is his personal brainchild. He gestated the idea for 14 vears, then directed it, coauthored the script, composed its music, and produced it as a mini-series for TV. The story is set in Lahore's Heera Mandi during the late 1940s. It deals with the travails of the tawaifs (dancing girls), struggling first for social, and then political, acceptance. In a belated burst of patriotism, they march through the streets, their ghungroos (ankle bells) jingling, de-

and independence from their erstwhile British clients. Apparently, Bhansali wanted Pakistani actors to perform in the film. Politics intervened. Not that Pakistani actors could have provided a shield against the first charge hurled by Bhansali's critics its lack of historical authenticity. Many Lahoris and those outsiders audiences believe) of Lucknow's cloying cul-

ture and fawning finesse. His multilingual cast parrot their Urdu dialogues passably well but ignore the niceties of proper pronunciation. His heroines are gorgeously dressed; his muscular male actors often undressed; and only the lower orders — the maids and a Sikh lovesick swain — speak Punjabi. His dancers swirl like dizzying dervi-sh--es, imitating their ol--der sisters in earlier Muslim social dram-as, particularly Mughal-i-Azam and Pakeezah. His men inexplicably wear furry caps once popularised by the late actor/ chief minister of Tamil Nadu M.G.

Ramachandran. Over the years, Lahore's Heera Mandi, like its denizens, began to lose its allure. Trade shifted from the old city to newer locations, giving way to Lahore's Food Street. The kothas that once resonated with the sound of ankle-bells are now pricey restaurants. London's Soho, after the 1970s, underwent a similar transformation — from steamy fleshpots to steaming cooking pots.

Some may recall that in 1959, the UK promulgated the Street Offences Act. It made loitering and solicitation in a public place an offence. Îts aim was to clean British citof importuning ies streetwalkers. Comedian Peter Ustinov questioned its utility, suggesting that cleaning the streets was rather like clearing the table after a meal: "One has to put the crockery somewhere." Over the years, the crockery from Lahore's Heera Mandi has moved to richer exurswered his critics; this film who love it will not bia. If that Heera Mandi exists at all, it is as a ficest-grossing Indian films of all time. Bhansali's Heeramandi. Even in a Bhansali's technicolour tional red-light suburb of

Breathing space

Khaqan Hassan Najeeb

Literature, including several cross-country empirical studies, highlights three broad macroeconomic outcomes of a country's programme engagement with the IMF. Programmes lead to an improvement in the cur- 2023. rent account deficit, a build-up in foreign exchange reserves, and a fall in inflation albeit at a slower pace. This can broadly be defined as stabilisation. The consement policies used to of economic growth, at least in the short run.

cording to the book. The has been restricted to \$0.5 billion during July-March (FY24) compared to \$4.1bn in the same period last year. Foreign ex- necessary but not suffichange reserves with the State Bank rose from a tainable growth and pros-June 2023 to \$9.1bn on May 3, 2024. Inflation ta- and meaningfully alter pered off from a high of the economy's funda-38 per cent year on year mentals. A growth framein May 2023 to 17.3pc in April 2024. Growth is estimated to remain sub- tic private sector, rededued at nearly 2pc for FY24. Pakistan's economy has reacted in the way economies are expected to respond

when they enter into an engagement with the helped avert debt default in July 2023, stabilised the rupee's free fall, and ensured that other lenders (bilateral, multilateral, and friendly countries) come on board to plug Pakistan's external gross financing gap, at least for FY24. Unfortunately, new commercial funding and

debt to pay off the earlier stay afloat. Hence, Pakistan's external public debt rose from \$94.8bn in June 2023 to \$98.1bn in \$99.7bn in December

The adjustment policies under the SBA helped stem the alarming slide of the economy. These policies included a tighter monetary and fismacroeconomic cal stance and a flexible erer. exchange rate regime to quent effect of adjust- curb imports and push exports. In Pakistan, enachieve some level of ergy sector price passstabilisation is a slowing throughs are an additional conditionality as we delay adhering to ecuting the next Ex-regulators' price determi- tended Fund Facility Since embracing the regulators' price determi-Stand-by Arrangement nations. The nine-month (SBA) with the IMF in SBA gave policymakers July 2023, Pakistan's the necessary breathing economy is behaving ac- space to embark on a reform mission to remove current account deficit the distortions in the term macro framework,

economy. So where do we go from here? We know that macrostabilisation is a cient condition for susthe only way to repair work based on unleashing a competitive domessigning Pakistan's crumbling energy sector away from the public sector-led constellation, and repairing the fiscal framework are akin to survival.

Severe weaknesses in these areas have put Also, the SBA the country in a perennial liquidity crunch in the external, energy, and fiscal sectors. Due to the shortfall of both dollars and rupees, the state has limited resources to materially improve the lives of the millions living an impoverished existence. They are debilitated by the poor quality of international bond issu- healthcare and educa-Engagement with the has weak opportunities

IMF has enabled and rising inequality. It Pakistan's access to new is of little surprise that with each passing day, one, fund the current ac- the citizenry becomes count deficit, and thus more dissatisfied with the functioning of a lethargic state and feeble democracy.

A successful at-September 2023 and to tempt to reform the economy demands a few prerequisites. First, those at the helm should alter their perception of government func-tioning. They have to see the government as an enabler, not a deliv-

> Second, some serious islands of competence and expertise are ne--eded within the public sector. Un-dertaking ref-orm surgeries and ex-(EFF) will be difficult with a weak professional

Third, when we look at Pakistan's mediumwe realise that the numbers on investment, productivity, exports, and debt will improve only marginally without a home-grown Herculean effort. That leads us to meagre \$3.9 billion in perity. Deep reforms are the fourth and last of the prerequisites — the realisation that whereas another programme supported by the IMF is a necessity, reconfiguring the economy on a productive footing goes much beyond the purview of a three-year EFF facility

Neverending technical assistance and foreign-funded projects have had little impact on a dysfunctional tax system. This should be an eyeopener to take matters into our own hands. The nation waits for the government to redefine its functioning based on the ideas highlighted by the aforementioned four prerequisites. The nation hold policymakers' feet to the fire on all these counts to ance remain out of reach. tion in a country which ensure accountability. --Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

PM orders urgent inquiry into Neelum-Jhelum project's technical fault

MUZAFFARABAD after a year in September fixed. No more delay will be acceptable," he added. Shehbaz Sharif on in April this year due to the Shehbaz Sharif on in April this year due to the Thursday directed for an urgent probe, within days, into reasons for the technical fault in the Neelum-Jhelum displeasure that the Hydropower Project findings of the inquiry into (NJHP) that led to the recent fault were still suspension of power

issued the directives at the project site during his daylong visit to the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) where he was briefed by the officials of had been spent on the NJHP Company about the recent technical fault during the last month.

generation.

The 969 megawatts project first faced suspension of power generation in 2022 due to the fault in head race tunnel and was later restored

same technical fault.

The prime minister, while speaking on the occasion, expressed his awaited and directed the inquiry should be carried officials concerned to out by third party experts The prime minister submit the report within and not by the designer or days and restore the power contractor of the project. generation after repair work as early as possible.

He said it was unfortunate that \$5 billion it was still facing technical issues. "I am very much clear. I need a thorough

was a project of national significance in the power sector after Tarbela and Mangla dams with a huge cost and must remain functional for decades.

He directed that the He also directed the

Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) and NJHP Company to complete the project despite an initial repair work of the tunnel estimate of \$40 million, but at the earliest and resume generation.The prime minister appreciated the WAPDA chairman and his probe whether lapses were team for their efforts to in the design or in the repair the fault in the construction, and the tunnel and resumption of responsibility should be generation last year.

PSX stays bullish, gains **266.72** points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 266.72 points, a positive change of 0.36 per cent, closing at 74,930.70 points against 74,663.98 points the previous trading day.

A total of 407,625,139 shares valuing Rs 16.978 billion were traded during the day as compared to 572,420,772 shares valuing Rs 25.947 billion on the last day.

Some 377 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 161 of them recorded gains and 194 sustained losses, whereas the prices of 22 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were P.I.A.C (A) with 34,846,148 shares at Rs26.20 per share, Pak-Electric with 28.542.422 shares at Rs 26.47 per share and World Call Telecom with 24,078,585 shares at Rs 1.38 per share.



Commerce minister chairs high-level Committee on export facilitation

Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Thursday chaired a high level meeting to address pressing issues in Pakistan's export and business sectors.

On the direction of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, a high-level committee was notified to address issues and challenges faced by the business sector, said a press release issued here.

Attendees included top exporters, business

ISLAMABAD (APP): Investment Facilitation Authority of Pakistan Council (SIFC), Maj. Gen. Tabassum Habib and various ministry representatives from the FBR, finance, industry, maritime and information

The meeting focused on creating actionable solutions by directly engaging with stakeholders and relevant government bodies on matters periodically communicated by chambers of commerce, the Pakistan Business Council (PBC), the leaders, the Director business community, and General of the Special the Trade Development business community, and

technology sectors.

(TDAP) to the ministry. Minister Jam Kamal Khan stressed the need for high-ranking officials to

ensure effective decisionmaking.He expressed concern over the absence of the FBR Chairman, SBP Governor, and Secretary of Finance, emphasizing their importance in future meetings. Exporters and business representatives voiced concerns, which were directed to pertinent departments for an immediate response, with feedback required within 24

Deputy PM lauds EXIM Bank's robust support for

Pakistan's efforts for ISLAMABAD (Online): financial and economic stability and business friendly policies. Ishaq Dar particularly noted the stellar performance of

The Foreign Minister Foreign projects in Pakistan outlined

Gold rates up by Rs 1,600 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Integrated system to be evolved to promote trade, investment: Aleem Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Investment, Privatization Communications besides ensuring the investors protection.

While presiding over "Ease of Doing Business", organized by the Board of Investment, the minister said that the consultation with the provinces would be done for legislation to be enacted at provincial level so that the investors can get a more satisfactory environment.

Minister for Board of Muhammad Aurangzeb, Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan and Advisor to Abdul Aleem Khan Prime Minister Rana Ehsan Thursday said that a Afzal attended the meeting, coordinated and integrated where as federal secretaries system in collaboration and Chairman Securities with the provinces would and Exchange Commission be evolved to promote of Pakistan were also trade and investment, present in the meeting, said a press release.

Aleem Khan said that all the four provinces and a high level meeting on their chief ministers would also be taken into confidence in this regard, adding that ease of doing business would provide a clear road map for the promotion of business in the country while its related proposals, legislation and other important issues would be finalized soon.



Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja addresses the inaugural ceremony of Pak-Qatar

Aurangzeb says: No new legislation under consideration to extend tax, for erstwhile FATA

Finance extend tax and duty June 30 of this year.
exemptions for the The minister sai
erstwhile Federally the business comm erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Provincially Administered Tribal Areas (PATA) regions. In response to a calling

ISLAMABAD (APP): attention notice regarding Federal Minister for the proposal to withdraw Senator tax and duty exemptions Muhammad Aurangzeb for these regions, the Thursday informed the minister explained that National Assembly that these exemptions had been there is no new legislation in place for six years and under consideration to are now set to expire on

The minister said that the business community, during interactions on the budget, has been advocating for a level playing field for all industries

BEIJING: Chairman of EXIM Bank of China Wu Fulin calls on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

IT sector's uplift key priority: Shaza Fatima

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication government is going to Shaza Fatima Khawaja digitize Thursday said that the governance and society development of IT sector under was the first priority and Digitalization Plan, adding the government that digitalization would welcomed this investment ensure transparency in the by Pak-Qatar Group in Pakistan's IT Pakistan's

infrastructure uplift. there were number of infrastructure opportunities for our connectivity in the youth in this era of country.

said economy,

system and facilitation for

the masses Shaza Fatima said that While addressing the inaugural ceremony of Pakbetter HT and Qatar IT Tower, she said Telecommunication

development projects in Pak

Chairman of EXIM Bank of China, Wu Fulin called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Beijing Thursday.

and Chairman EXIM Bank discussed the EXIM Bank's long-standing cooperation with Pakistan and its interest in future investments in Pakistan.

Pakistan Stock Exchange and renewed confidence of international investors in Pakistan's economy. The Minister appreciated EXIM Bank's robust support for important development

The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 1,600 and was sold at Rs 245,600 on Thursday compared to its sale at Rs 244,000 on last trading

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 1,371 to Rs 210,562 from Rs 209,191 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs 193,016 from Rs 191, 758, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

Assembly passes budget as opposition withdraw cut motions

session of Khyber Pakhtukhwa Assembly chaired by Speaker Babar Salim Swati here Thursday passed eleven months excessive budget of Rs 1456 billion for 2023-24 after approving all demands for grants.

The ministers tabled demands for grants of their opposition withdrew their cut motions on the request of treasury culprits of May 9 benches. Afterwards, the vandalism and said that budget was passed when monuments of martyred Speaker approved all 66

the Provincial Capital.

At the outset of ablaze on that day. session, treasury member, Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani, opposition members including Sobia Shahid of PML-N, Ejaz Muhammad and Rehana Ismail of JUI presented their cut motion when law minister tabled demands for grants of Rs 5.84166 billion that was him and said that budget respective departments being spent by caretaker setup. Sobia Shahid demanded action against

were damaged and building

LAHORE: Activists of Young Doctors Association

holding a press conference for their demands in

MUST, DHQ signs MOU

to modernize healthcare

services in Mirpur

Mirpur University of Understanding (MoU) to

Science and Technology enhance and develop the

(MUST) and Mirpur Hospital Management

have teamed up to hospital's digital transform healthcare infrastructure. The

significant step towards and DHQ Hospital,

services in the region. The services and education in

two institutions have Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

modernizing healthcare advancing

Divisional Headquarters System

(DHQ) Teaching Hospital

services in Azad Jammu

and Kashmir (AJK),

signing a landmark

agreement to develop a

cutting-edge Hospital

Correspondent, Mirpur

University and DHQ

Hospital have taken a

According to APP

Management System.

Friday May 17, 2024

She said that people might start protest again if perpetrators were not punished Mushtaq Ghani also demanded judicial inquiry on May 9 incident to sift fiction from reality. He withdrew cut motion later when Speaker placated would be revised if cut motions were accepted.

All the members withdrew cut motion after assurance of law minister to accept demands of opposition members.



PESHAWAR (APP): An online open court will be held at Tax House Peshawar to address the genuine problems of the taxpayers from 12:00 P.M to 1:00 P.M on May 21,

Chief Commissioner
Inland Revenue Regional Tax Office (RTO)
Peshawar, Zafar Iqbal Khan will participate in the proceedings Commissioner Withholding Syed Khalid Shah, Commissioner Peshawar Zone Dr Farooq Jameel,

Commissioner Corporate Zone Fazal Additional Malik, Commissioner Headquarters Bahadar Sher Afridi, Deputy

Commissionei Headquarters Riaz Ahmad Khan and Assistant Commissioner/Focal Person Sheroz Ahmad Khan will be present for the assistance of the Chief Commissioner. Trading community

and other taxpayers have been invited participation in the online open court to redress their problems through website



the meeting of Power Steering Committee at CM Secretariat.

Qasim takes important initiative to prevent Leishmina epidemic

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: The Health
Ali Shah told media men Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Syed Qasim Ali Shah has taken important initiative to prévent Leishmania epidemic wherein he handed over the first batch of injections for the treatment of Leishmania to the DHOs of Mohmand, and Khyber district.

during distribution of injections to prevent Leishmania in both Mohmand and Khyber Districts. Glucantime injections

have been provided with the support of MSF, Syed Qasim Ali Shah said, adding, Glucantime adding, Glucantime injections have been sold It is necessary to take through UNICEF for the timely measures to prevent treatment of Leishmania.

9 community NGOs pledge cooperation to end polio

LAHORE (APP): Heads of nine key community organisations Punjab have pledged their full support to eradicate polio from the province, extending

their cooperation from major cities to all districts. The commitment was made at a jirga, organised at the office of the Director General Health Punjab here on

representatives from significant community organisations including Pakhtun Tanzeem, Falahi

Thursday, attended by

Committee, Khattak Welfare Association, Marwat Association, Bajaur Ittehad, Hazara Welfare Organisation, Minzal Welfare Organisation, and Pakhtun Qabail

Movement. The session was chaired by Khizer Afzaal, the head of the polio programme in Punjab and Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Coordinator. During the jirga, the organisations reviewed past reviewed past initiatives aimed at eradicating polio in

Deputy Speaker SA calls on **Governor KP**

PESHAWAR (APP): Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly Naveed called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor House here on Thursday.

Bishop of Pakistan Humphrey Sarfaraz Peter was also present at the

Deputy Speaker and Bishop Sarfraz Peter congratulated Faisal Karim Kundi on assuming the post of Governor and presented him with a bouquet.

The Governor thanked Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly Anthony Naveed and Bishop Sarfraz Peter for coming to congratulate him.

Ensuring cooperation and playing a role on a priority basis in solving the problems faced by the minorities in the province, the Governor assured

Governor appreciated the role of the minority community in the development.

The services of all the minorities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially the Christian community, in all sectors including the education sector, are Mohmand Loya Jirga, Punjab, such as commendable, Faisal Afghan Refugees Aman awareness campaigns. Karim Kundi said.

Meeting discusses matters relating to provision of funds to KPHA

Independent Report

Finance Advisor, Muzamil Aslam Thursday chaired a meeting to discuss provision of funds to Chyber Pakhtnkhwa Authority (KPHA) for land purchase.

discussed provision of funds to KPHA for continuation of ongoing projects and to purchase land for future projects. Participants concurred to invite suggestions from Accountant General Office about payments outstanding dues.

The advisor said that government is utilizing resources to complete public welfare projects and strategy was being prepared to pay the outstanding amount. He also directed participants to present their proposals and suggestions relating to matter in next meeting.

Provincial Minister for Communication and Works, Shakil Ahmad, Secretary Works, Dr. Asad Ali, Secretary Law, Akhtar Saeedm Managing Director KPHA, Asad Ali and concerned officials also attended the meeting.



PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister for Social Welfare, Special Education Mashal Yousafzai addressing during the closing ceremony of Child Protection Case Management Foundation Training for District Child Protection Units.

AG KP agrees to ensure withholding of sales tax on service

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Director General (DG) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) held a meeting with the Accountant General (AG) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Thursday to discuss issues relating to withholding of Sales Tax on Services from bills processed through the AG

The Accountant Khyber General Pakhtunkhwa Naseer Uddin Sarwar welcomed DG KPRA Fouzia Iqbal at his office for the meeting. extended to the regions so Advisor to KPRA on Tax AG Office.

Enforcement Fazal Amin Shah and Assistant Collector (Withholding) Hizbullah Khan also accompanied the DG

The DG KPRA and her team presented the agenda for the meeting and briefed AG Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and his team that the exemption to erstwhile Administered Tribal Area (FATA) and Provincial Administered Tribal Area (PATA) has expired on October 31, 2023 and the sales tax on services is

International News

China and Russia reaffirm their close ties as Moscow presses its offensive in Ukraine

System revolutionizing the digital

partnership will see the

university's Network and

Telecommunication Centre

(NTC) providing expertise

and resources to improve

patient care, streamline

operations, and increase

collaboration will strengthen

the bond between MUST

healthcare

efficiency.

Monitoring Desk dent Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Thursday reaffirmed their "no-limits" partnership that has deepened as both countries face rising tensions with the West, and they criticized U.S. military alliances in Asia and the Pacific region.

At their summit in Beijing, Putin thanked China's proposals for ending the war in Ukraine, which have been rejected by Ukraine and its Western supporters as largely following the Kremlin's line.

China claims to take a neutral position in the conflict, but it has backed the Kremlin's contentions that Russia was provoked into attacking Ukraine by the Nazism and militarism."

West, and it continues to supply key components needed by Moscow for weapons production.

China, which has not criticized the invasion, proposed a broadly worded peace plan in 2023, calling for a cease-fire and for direct talks between Moscow and Kyiv. The plan was rejected by both Ukraine and the West for failing to call for Russia to leave occupied parts of Ukraine.

torical nod to Russia's narrative about Nazism in Ukraine, with a joint statement Thursday that said Moscow and Beijing should defend the post-World War II order and "severely condemn the glorification of or even attempts to revive

"denazification" of Ukraine as a main goal of the military action, falsely describing the government of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who is Jewish and lost relatives in the Holocaust, as neo-Nazis. "Both sides want to show that despite what is happening globally, despite the pressure that both sides are facing from the U.S., both sides are not about to turn their backs on

China also gave a rheeach other anytime soon, said Hoo Tiang Boon, who researches Chinese foreign policy at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University. While Putin and Xi said they were seeking an end to the war, they offered no new proposals in their public remarks.



Congolese people react during the funeral of the nine victims, including seven children who were killed in a strike earlier this month at the Bulengo displaced persons camp (IDP), in Goma, North Kivu province, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

More than half of Zimbabwean population will need food aid, cabinet says

Monitoring Desk HARARE: More than half of Zimbabwe's population will need food aid this year following a devastating drought that led to widespread crop failure as humanitarian organisations seek funding to save many from hunger, the country's cabinet heard late on Tuesday. About 6 million people in rural areas and 1.7 million in urban areas will re-

quire assistance, according to the Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZIMLAC).

Zimbabwe is among the worst hit countries by the El Nino induced drought in Southern Africa, with Zambia and Malawi also facing food shortages this year. This is Zimbabwe's worst drought in 40 years, according to the government.

Iran switches to Friday, **Saturday** weekend

TEHRAN: Iran's parliament approved changes to the working week for all government employees on Wednesday that would establish a 40hour working week with a Friday-Saturday weekend.

The legislation, which still requires a green light from constitutional watchdog the Guardian Council, would replace the existing 44-hour working week with a half-day Thursday and a full-day off Friday.

The change had

been hotly debated, and 136 lawmakers voted in favour with 66 against and three abstentions, the official IRNA news agency said. Lawmaker Mohsen

Pirhadi told parliament on Wednes-day that leading cleric Ayatollah Javadi Amoli had raised no objection to Saturday as a weekend day.



US questions China's no-first-use nuclear call given buildup

Monitoring Desk

has not responded to US nuclear-weapons risk-reduction proposals and Washington has questions about Beijing's call for nofirst-use talks while China continues to build up its arsenal, the top US arms control official said on Wednesday.

Under Secretary of State Bonnie Jenkins told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee the US estimates China currently has 500 operational nuclear warheads and will probably ward," she said.

2030. She said US officials met with Chinese counterparts last November, opens new tab to discuss arms control and proliferation, their first such talks in nearly five years. "The meeting enabled a preliminary discussion on potential measures for managing and reducing risks," she said. "Unfortunately ... the PRC has declined a followon meeting and has not provided (a) substantive re-

Four killed in New Caledonia riots; France declares state of emergency

Monitoring Desk SYDNEY: France declared

a state of emergency on the Pacific island of New Caledonia on Wednesday after three young indigenous Kanak and a police official were killed in riots over electoral reform.

The state of emergency will give authorities additional powers to ban gatherings and forbid people from moving around the Frenchruled island Police reinforcements have been sent — and more are on the way — after

rioters torched vehicles and businesses and looted stores. Schools have been shut and there is already a curfew in the capital. Rioting broke out over a new bill, adopted by lawmakers in Paris on Tuesday, that will allow French residents who have lived in New Caledonia for 10 years to vote in provincial elections — a movê some local leaders fear will dilute the Kanak vote. "Since the start of the week, New Caledonia has been hit by violence of a rare

Slovak PM 'able to speak' after shooting: president-elect **Monitoring Desk**

HANDLOVA: Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico on Thursday was speaking but tired and still in a "really difficult condition" a day after being shot multiple times, the presidentelect said after visiting his

"He is able to speak but only a few sentences and then he is really, really tired ... The situation is very critical," President-elect Peter Pellegrini told reporters outside the

Turkey says it killed PKK members in northern Iraq strikes **Monitoring Desk**

ANKARA: Turkey hit northern Iraq with air strikes on Wednesday and claimed to have killed 12 members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) sheltering there.

The Turkish defence ministry said the PKK militants had "neutralised" in the Gara and Hakurk regions of northern Iraq.

The ministry's use of the term "neutralised" commonly means killed.

UN's top court opens hearings on the Israeli military's incursion into Rafah

Monitoring Desk THE HAGUE: The United

Nations' top court on Thursday opened two days of hearings into a request from South Africa to press Israel to halt its military operation in the southern Gaza city of Rafah, where more

than half of Gaza's popula-tion has sought shelter.

It is the fourth time
South Africa has asked the International Court of Justice for emergency measures since the nation launched proceedings alleging that Israel's military action in its war with Hamas in Gaza amounts to genocide.

According to the latest request, the previous preliminary orders by The Hague-based court were not sufficient to address "a brutal military attack on the sole remaining refuge for the people of Gaza.

South Africa said the situation was getting worse in the war-ravaged area.

"Israel's genocide has continued at pace and has reached a new and horrific stage," said Vusimuzi Madonsela, South Africa's ambassador to the Netherlands. Israel has portrayed Rafah as the last stronghold of the militant group, brushing off warnings from the United States and other allies that any major operation there would be cata-

strophic for civilians. South Africa has asked the court to order Israel to withdraw from Rafah; to take measures to ensure unimpeded access for U.N. officials, humanitarian organizations and journalists to the Gaza Strip; and to report back within one week on how it is meeting these demands.

Ukraine says it has checked Russia's offensive in a key town, but Moscow says it will keep pushing

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Ukrainian units locked in street battles

with the Kremlin's forces in a key northeastern Ukraine town have halted the Russian advance, military officials in Kyiv claimed Thursday, to ruins though a senior Moscow official said the frontline push had enough re-

sources to keep going. Russian attempts to establish a foothold in the town of Vovchansk, which is among the largest towns in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region with a prewar population of 17,000, "have been foiled," Ukraine's general staff said in a midday report. It was not possible to independently verify the claim.

Six people were injured Thursday in one Russian daylight attack on Vovchansk using cluster munitions, local officials said, as emergency workers and volunteers were rescuing people affected by shelling. months.

Among the injured were two medics, he said.

Ukrainian authorities have evacuated some 8,000 civilians from the town. The Russian army's usual tactic is to reduce towns and villages to ruins with aerial strikes before its units

Vovchansk, located just 5 kilometers (3 miles) from the Russian border, has been a hotspot in the fighting in recent days. Russia launched an offensive in the Kharkiv area late last week, significantly adding to the pressure on Ukraine's outnumbered and outgunned forces which are waiting for delayed deliveries of crucial weapons and ammunition from Western partners. Ukraine has repeatedly tried to strike behind Russian lines, often using drones though Russia's response to the new technology used in unmanned vehicles has improved in recent

Pakistan to be among world's top 10 economies by 2047: Ahsan

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Ahsan Iqbal Thursday said that by 2047, Pakistan would be included amongst top 10 economies in the world.

"By working hard, we can bring Pakistan to the top 10 economies of the world by 2047 and for this we have to silence negative voices," he said.

Ahsan Iqbal's address at the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Conference was held in the Ministry of Planning regarding the na- goals are included in

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Speaker

Balochistan Assembly,

Captain (Retd) Abdul

Khaliq Achakzai has stated

that today's decisions of the

political and military lead-

ership are guarantor of the

of Pak Army against recent

terrorism and extremism is

vital for survival of our fu-

ergy sector on Thursday.

the channel reported that

the IMF had also set the

condition of timely issu-

ance of the notification of

both sides also agreed on

speeding up the collection

vealed. Pakistan and the

Fund had agreed on present-

ing a plan for abolishing the

subsidy the government

had offered on tube wells.

money lending organiza-tion, they elaborated, had

also demanded the govern-

ment to eliminate circular

that the IMF had also de-

kistan and the United King-

dom have expressed their

commitment to further en-

hance coordination on mul-

tilateral fora on matters re-

lating to arms control, dis-

armament and non-prolif-

eration. The commitment

was expressed during the

6th Round of Pakistan-UK

Dialogue on Arms Control

& Non-Proliferation here on

Wednesday, a Foreign Of-

fice press release said on Thursday.

Secretary (Arms Control &

Disarmament) Ambassador

Akhtar, and Director De-

fence and International Se-

curity at the Foreign, Com-

monwealth and Develop-

ment Office (FCDO),

United Kingdom, Ambas-

sador Stephen Lillie, led

their respective delegations.

A broad spectrum of

Mohammad

Additional Foreign

Kamran

topics relating to arms contions next year in London.

debt in the gas sector.

of electricity bills.

annual tariff adjustment.

Quoting its sources,

Sources disclosed that

Besides that, they re-

The international

Sources further said

ture generations

He said that the war

He said that it is be-

cause of the Pak Army that nation is united and the should be our priority

Pakistan accepts IMF's

condition to abolish

subsidy to energy sector

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa- manded the issuance of a

kistan has accepted to the notification for an increase

International Monetary in gas prices on June 1 be-

Fund's (IMF) condition to abolish subsidy on the enactoristics at the subsidiest stopping gas supply to captive power plants at

prosperity of Pakistan.

tional development agenda. The minister said that

compatible with the SDGs", he said

ral resources were misused in industrial revolution.He said that 'We want to retain a better country for future gen-

sustainable development

BEIJING: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad

Ishaq Dar meets with the Minister of Finance of the People's Republic of

War against terrorism vital for survival of next generations:

Decisions of political & military

leadership guarantees prosperity

of Pakistan, Speaker BA

on Pakistan because of the

patriotism and sacrifices of

here on Thursday, the

Speaker said that the war

that was started against

Pakistan after 9/11 is still

Pak Army defeated all such

elements who had attacked

the sovereignty of the coun-

cheaper rates during the

rated, had not only urged

the government to supply

gas to all fertilizer plants in

the country at the same rate

but also to other industries

tween Pakistan and the In-

ternational Monetary Fund

(IMF) on the 24th 'longer

programme had kicked off

Muhammad Aurangzeb,

comprised Governor State

Bank of Pakistan Jameel

Ahmed, Federal Board of

Revenue Chai-rman Amied

Zubair Tiwana and their

proliferation came under

discussion during the dia-

their perspectives on issues

concerning global and re-

gional security, new and

emerging technologies, in-

cluding the military use of

artificial intelligence and the

peaceful applications of

compassed matters pertain-

ing to the agenda of the First

Committee of the United

Nations General Assembly

the Conference on Disarma-

ment, as well as the Inter-

national Atomic Energy

Agency (IAEA) and the Or-

ganization for the Prohibition

of Chemical Weapons

(OPCW). While reiterating

the need to ensure continuity

in the conduct of the dialogue,

the two sides agreed to hold

the 7th Round of Consulta-

The discussions en-

nuclear technology.

Both sides also shared

respective teams.

Pakistani side, led by

larger'

and

QUETTA: Former MPAs Akhtar Hussain Lango

and Ahmed Nawaz Baloch meeting with Governor

Pakistan, UK vow to

enhance coordination

on multilateral fora

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- trol, disarmament and non-

Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

on Monday.

Finance

The negotiations be-

bailout

Minister

across the country.

The Fund, they elabo-

ongoing year.

In a statement issued

The world knows that

He said that Pakistan

trust of world is increasing whether these are the deci-

sions about legislation mak-

ing or judgments of the

higher judiciary. This is be-

cause of the establishment

otherwise the political and

constitutional institutions

had brought the country at

this juncture from where the

return was impossible to-

criticism being made against

the Pak Army under the

garb of following the con-

only condemnable but also

be stopped, adding he

we have to make right deci-

sions for our country and

He condemned the

He said that it is not

This process should

The Speaker said that

wards success.

Pakistan's 2025 agenda. He said that Pakistan affected by climate change.

The minister said that opment goals and the work of distribution of resources is done by the Par-

sector has an important role to play in achieving the help spread awareness of

velopment Goals, when

formulated, were intended to develop and it is our responsibility to establish safe and sustainable development for future generans, he said. He said that "We want

to retain a better country for future generations". The minister said that sustainable development goals are included

Pakistan's 2025 Today, all the stake-

holders, civil society and private sector can also play a role in achieving sustainable development goals, he



Chinese Finance Minister reaffirms continued support for Pak financial stability

Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Minister of Finance Lan Fo'an and underlined the Government of Pakistan's reform agenda with a focus on governance, revenue, and ease of doing business to attract Foreign Direct Investment.

The deputy prime minister, who is on a four-day visit to China, also emphasized Pakistan's high priority to invest-ments from China, and shared an overview of the priority sectors identified for this purpose, including agriculture, IT, mines and minerals and renewable en-

ciation for Pakistan-China QUETTA: The Chief Minfinancial and banking coopister Balochistan, Mir eration calling it a manifes-tation of the 'All Weather Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has directed to the concerned Strategic Cooperative Parthigh ups to advertise 92 nership' between the two vacant posts of the vetericountries. nary doctors in Livestock They discussed ideas department at the earliest.

to further enhance financial cooperation, especially in view of growing business-to-business (B2B) linkages between Pakistan and

Taking note of the positive trajectory of Pakistan's economy, the Chinese finance minister commended Pakistan's economic agenda and reiterated China's continued support to Pakistan in the efforts to strengthen finan-cial stability.

Ghazala Gola lauds efforts of CM Bugti regarding farmers

Independent Report

The Chief Minister

announced to provide inter-

est free loans to the unem-

ployed veterinary doctors

under the Soft Loan

was speaking to a represen-

tative delegation of the

Balochistan Veterinary

Doctors Association here

The Chief Minister

Programme.

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Speaker Balochistan Provincial Assembly Ghazala Gola on Thursday lauded the role of the Balochistan Chief Minister (CM) regarding the best policy of the province farmers.

In a statement issued here, she said that Balochistan CM Mi Sarfraz Bugti set an example for the farmers by talking to the prime minister in the best way. The deputy speaker further said that by providing basic facilities to the farmers, its fruits would reach the common people saying that the current policies of the Balochistan government have won the hearts of the

She said that the CM fought for the farmers sitting on a peaceful protest for seven days sent a message to the citizens of Balochistan that the gov ernment of Balochistan would provide good amenities to its citizens by planning the best, she said.

LHC dismissed petition against appointment of Dar as DPM

LAHORE (Online); Lahore High Court (LHC) has dismissed the petition against appointment of Foreign minister Ishaq Dar as Deputy Prime Minister tance, is one of the big (DPM)

Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan of LHC had earlier

reserved judgment. The court while announcing judgment dismissed the petition declaring it non maintainable.

The petitioner took the plea senator Ishaq Dar is already appointed as foreign minister and he has been appointed as DPM too to favor him further. There is no post of DPM in the constitution. Therefore, the court should nullify the appointment of Ishaq Dar as DPM. The counsel for the federal government told the court Ishaq Dar has been nominated.

Livestock dept. at earliest The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Secretary Livestock

> also present in the meeting. Speaking to the veterinary doctors, Chief Minister said that the veterinary doctors would be provided interest free loans under the

Department, Muhammad

Tayyab Lehri and other

concerned high ups were

Interest free loan to be provided to veterinary doctors:

CM directs to advertise 92 vacant

posts of veterinary doctors in

Soft term loan Programme. Under programme, the veterinary doctors would be able to establish their service centers in the field, the Chief

Minister added

able to start their earning and livelihood in a dignified manner by providing professional services and facilities to the livestock breeders. He said that at the time when world is heading towards the corporate farming, then we would also have to pay attention on the

corporate farming.

The Chief Minister assured the members of delegation to provide suitable opportunities to the youngsters for provision of other veterinary services by formulating effective policies in the province.



MUZZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnesses the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Pakistan and the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir with regard to 960 MW Dudhnial **Hydropower Project.**

Revolutionary changes to be brought in agri sector, pledges Jatak

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Mir Ali Madad Jatak has stated that revolutionary changes would be brought in the agriculture sector of

the province. He said that at present the major issue being faced by the zamindars is electricity supply. He assured that every possible steps would be taken to provide relief to the zamindars resolving their issues.

The provincial government has prepared strategy for converting the agricultural tube wells of the province on solar energy in collaboration with the federal government.

The Provincial Minister for Agriculture was speaking on occasion of the visit to Directorate General

on Thursday. The Director General Water Management Maqsood Ahmed briefed the Minister about the overall functioning of the

institution. Also present on the occasion were the senior officers of Water Management from all districts.

Ali Madad Jatak said that water management is very important section of the Agriculture department.

On one hand zamindars benefit from the water management but it also plays important role for stopping wastage of water, he added.

The Minister said that every possible effort would be made to remove hurdles for bringing improvement in the water management sector and re-



gation Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani talking with mediamen

China's high quality development model offers new opportunities for Pakistan: Jiang Zaidong

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese Ambassador, Jiang Zaidong at a well-attended symposium on the Trans-formation of China's Economy to High-Quality
Development Model organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) said the keenness on Pakistan's side to greatly enhance the ongoing commercial cooperation was welcoming as it would inject new impetus into China-Pakistan cooperation as China enters a new development

Dispelling the impression of an overcapacity problem being faced by

not have a problem of 'overcapacity' as China was exporting to the whole world and had a matching production capacity. 'China is ready to work with Pakistan to implement the important consensus reached by leaders of the two countries," he said in a news release. Ambassador Zaidong

explained that to promote an in-depth integration of China's new development of 5Cs with 5Es (5 Corridors: growth corridor, livelihood-enhancing corridor, innovation corridor, green

China, Ambassador corridor and open corridor) Zaidong said that China did Pakistan and China needed vet closer cooperation both at the governmental as well as the societal level.

While China's new energy product exports were already benefiting the world and making important contributions to addressing climate change issues and promoting green transformation, with the new developmental plans China aspired to transform and upgrade traditional industries, cultivate and strengthen emerging industries, and lay out the construction of future-oriented industries

development is possible is among top ten countries only through implementation of SDGs. "It is also to be taken parliamentarians have a into consideration that very important role re-Pakistan's budget would be garding sustainable devel-

Ahsan said that natu-Minister for Planning

The minister said that

liament. He said the private

SDGs and media should SDGs to the public.

The Sustainable De-

BEIJING (APP): :Deputy
Prime Minister and Foreign expressed profound appre-Senator Thursday met with Chinese

National Assembly told Pakistan witnessed 1,514 terror incidents in 2023

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan witnessed 1,514 terror inicidents in 2023, the interior ministry told National Assembly (NA) on Thursday. According to details, the interior ministry submitted a written in the National Assembly regarding law and order situation of Pakistan.

The report stated that 572 security personnel were marytred and 1292 incidents in 2023, while 358 citizens lost their lives and 700 sustained wounds. The report highlighted the worsening law and order situation in the country specially in KP, where 858 terror attacks were reported that claimed lives of 402 security personal and 178 civilians. As many as 148 security personal were martyred and 198 were injured in 626

terror attacks in Balochistan



QUETTA: A representative delegation of Balochistan Veterinary Doctors Association meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti. Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan are also present

15 injured in Lasbela coach accident

LASBELLA (APP): At least fifteen people sustained injuries when a passenger coach traveling from Karachi to Awaran met with a fatal accident near Lasbela district of Balochistan on

Thursday. According to the details, the ill-fated passenger coach was heading towards Awaran when it turned turtle due to over-speeding near the Land pull area of Lasbela, injuring 15 persons, a privater news channel reported.

Soon after the incident, rescue teams reached the spot after getting information and shifted the injured to a nearby hospital.

New political party APP will be announced today

ISLAMABAD (Online): New political party under former Prime Minister (PM) Shahid Khagan Abbasi will be announced today (Friday). Name of new party has been proposed as "Awam Pakistan Party" (APP). Application for its registration will be filed in Election Commission (EC). Logo, anthem and membership forms have been prepared of this

The central leaders of party are Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Miftah Ismail, Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar. Sardar Mehtab Abbasi. Javed Abbasi and others. Sources said Shahid

Khagan Abbasi and Miftah Ismail along with other members will announce

name of new party and its

future strategy today in

Salik expresses satisfaction over arrangements for Pakistani Hujjaj e-Pak (SAW) is hardly a 5-10 minutes walking dis-

MADINAH al-MUNAWWARAH (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Thursday expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made for extending maximum facilities to Pakistani Hajj pilgrims by the country's Hajj Mission and supporting team. "All the team present is working with full dedication. So far, by the grace of Allah Almighty, there is not even a single complaint which the ministry had been receiving in the past,'

he said. The minister was talking to media after visiting different sections of the Pakistan Hajj Mission's Main Control Office (MCO), working roundthe-clock for facilitation of the guests of Allah Almighty, and getting a briefing from Director Hajj Madina Zia-ur-Rehman.

He said providing accommodation to 100% Pakistani Hujjaj in the Markazia, from where Masjid Nabvi and Roaza-

authorities for extending all possible assistance and cooperation to Pakistan in making seamless Hajj arrangements for its citizens. "Our team will stay here until each and every Pakistani does not leave for the homeland after performing the religious obligation of Hajj, safely," he added. Expressing a strong

achievements.

He said best quality

food was being provided to Pakistani Hujjaj, while a

state-of-the-art medical fa-

cility, equipped with world-class doctors and

paramedics, had been estab-

lished adjacent to the

Hussain thanked the Saudi

Minister

commitment of the government for facilitation and well-being of Pakistani pilgrims, he said the entire team of Pakistan Hajj would remain active throughout the Hajj operation without repeating mistakes of the past.



QUETTA: Members of Pakistan Citizen Liberation Forum are holding protest demonstration against price hike of essential commodities and inflation, at Quetta press club.

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