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Officers to be clear roadmap to implement law & public welfare:

CM vows to continue action against terrorists, facilitators without any indiscrimination

Independent Report

OUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has reiterated his government's resolve to continue action against the terrorists and their facilitators in the province without any discrimination.

The Chief Minister exhorted all the security institutions to continue effective action through mutual coordination for elimination of terrorism and establishing peace in the province.

He also directed to the officers to ensure enforcement of law impartially and keep them away from the partial political affairs.

In addition to this, he also directed to the Home Department to expedite action for payment of the financial compensation to the heirs of martyrs as already decided.

The Chief Minister was chairing a high level meeting on the law and order situation here at the CM's secretariat on Mon-

day.
The Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Ziaullah Langove, Minister Finance. Mir Shoaib Nausherwani. Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional

US envoy calls on FM

ISLAMABAD (APP):The Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan, Donald Blome called on Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Monday.

On the occasion, the finance minister underscored the long-term mutual relations between Pakistan and the USA.

He informed the Ambassador about successful completion of the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) and that the Government of Pakistan was engaged with the fund to build upon the reforms under the SBA

He highlighted the pri ority reform areas of the government including increasing tax-to-GDP ratio through end-to-end digitization, bringing the undertaxed sectors into the tax net, and tax administrative

The minister reiterated the Prime Minister's commitment to privatizing State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), which has sparked interest from local and foreign investors in the case of Pakistan International AirChief Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem, Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and other concerned high ups.

The Chief Minister on the occasion directed to ensure prevention of crimes in the urban areas through snap checking.

Besides, the Chief Minister adding ordered to ensure prevention of the extortion at the check posts of Levies and Police all over the province. He warned that stern action would be taken against those officers and personnels involved in the extor-

Similarly, he directed to all administrative officers to take practical steps for improving service delivery and provision of relief to the general public

The Chief Minister announced to hold conference of all commissioners. deputy commissioners and district police officers.

He said that the officers would be given clear roadmap for implementation on the law and public welfare

He also vowed to implement the "key performance indicators" to review performance of the administrative offic-



PESHAWAR: Chief of the Army Staff General Sved Asim Munir attending funeral prayers of soldiers who embraced Shahadat during an intense exchange of fire with terrorists at general area Bagh, Khyber district

CM Bugti congratulates nation on 26th Youm-e-Takbeer **Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has greeted Pakistani nation on the 26th Youm-e-Takbeer being observed marking the nuclear blasts carried out on May 28, 1998 in Chaghai.

In a statement issued here on Monday, the Chief Minister paid rich tributes to the armed forces and those who remained firm while rendering their remarkable services to make the defence of country in-

Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti said that Pakistan's defence is strong and the nuclear capability of Pakistan is for maintaining balance of power in the South



gram Rana Mashhood Ahmed calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Day of 28th May has immense importance in history of Pak, says Governor Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail has stated that the day of 28th May has great importance in history

of Pakistan. In a statement issued the Youm-e-Takbeer, the Governor said that Pakistan had emerged as an Atomic power among the Muslim

coverable after becoming

countries of the world.

He said that the defence He said that today Pa-

kistan is an Atomic power and is very much stronger than before.

The Governor said that it is fact that the increased manpower has no meaning against the Atomic power.

He stressed that at the here on Monday marking moment, we have to demonstrate internal unity among the country and provinces. We would also have to make pledge to take part in development of the country and would not hesiof Pakistan became undis- tate from rendering any sacrifice for prosperity and protection of the country. adding he stressed.

Mian Muhammad Nawaz

nal conspiracies to be

Felicitation Resolution on Youme Takbeer approved:

BA adopts motion for formation of special committee for CPEC Project consisting of MPAs

Independent Report

QUETTA: Balochistan Assembly adopted a motion for formation of a special committee for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Project constating of the members of provincial assembly.

The motion was tabled by Provincial Minister Finance, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani in the session while the Speaker, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai was in chair here

on Monday.
Similarly, the provincial assembly also adopted the felicitation resolution regarding Youme Takbeeper being celebrated Youme

today (Tuesday).

The resolution was tabled by the Provincial Minister belonging to PML-N, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran.

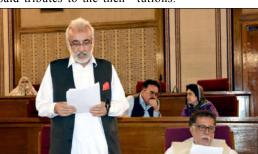
In the resolution, it was mentioned that Pakistan had the honour to become 7th atomic power in the world and first in the Islamic world on May 28, 1998. The resolution further said that Pakistani Prime Minister and cen-nation's and Islamic tral leader of PML-N, world's head was raised with pride with the nuclear

made because of the armed forces of Pakistan, political leadership and scientists. Besides the regional and sovereignty of the defence of the country and country was also made foil the internal and exter-

tion, provincial assembly ity of country and instipaid tributes to the then

Sharif on the nuclear blasts conducted on May This achievement was In the resolution, it was made pledge not to avoid from rendering any kind of sacrifice for stastability, independence bility, development and

Through the resolu- hatched against the stabil-



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for PHE Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran presenting resolution about Youm-e-Takbeer Day at Balochistan Assembly session.

CJCSC, Services Chiefs greet nation on Youm-e-Takbeer dedication and selfless

sacrifices of all those

who contributed to this

achieved against over-

whelming odds. The sci-

entists, engineers, and

officials who devoted

their lives to realizing

this dream rightly de-

serve the gratitude and

admiration of the nation

day in Pakistan's his-

tory, the Armed Forces

of Pakistan reaffirm

their unwavering re-

solve to defend the moth-

erland, protect its sover-

eignty and territorial in-

tegrity, and ensure the

nation's security at all

times and at any cost,

Pakistan Zindabad!

On this important

and its Armed Forces.

remarkable

Independent Report

RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and Services Chiefs on behalf of the Armed Forces of Pakistan, extend warm felicitations to the nation on the 26th anniversary of "Youm-e-Takbeer".

This momentous occasion commemorates the historic achievement of Pakistan's nuclear tests in 1998, which successfully established credible minimum deterrence and restored the balance of power in the region.

The Armed Forces and the nation pay tribute to the unwavering

PM announces public holiday on Youm-e-Takbeer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday de-clared a public holiday on May 28 to mark Youm-e-Takbeer, the day when Pakistan's defence became impregnable after nuclear tests in the hills of Chagai. Balochistan in the year

"Youm-e-Takbeer reminds how the entire Pakistani nation got united on that day to make the country's defence invincible," the prime minister said in a statement issued by the PM House.

On the day in 1998, he said, the nation decided that there would be no compromise on the country's integrity and defence by not yielding to any external pressure.

Both the political and defence forces got united on the day under the National Flag to strengthen the country's defence, he

Rana Mashhood, Saad Rafique call on PM Shehbaz

LAHORE (Online): Former Federal Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Lahore Monday and discussed overall political and economic situation of the coun-

Chairman Prime Minister Youth Program Rana Mashhood Ahmed also called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Lahore Monday.

Budget for fiscal 2024-25 to be presented on June 8 in NA

SLAMABAD (Online): Budget session of National Assembly (NA) will take place at 5pm evening on

According to sources the budget for financial year 2024-25 will be presented in NA on June 08. Finance minister Muhammad Aurangzeb will present the

budget.
The debate on budget will start on June 10. The approval of budget will be obtained in the last week of June after Eid ul Azha.

Seven soldiers embraced martyrdom, 23 terrorists killed in three separate IBOs: ISPR

PM pays tribute to Pak Army's officers, soldiers for successful operations against terrorists

diers of Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom while gallantly fighting against terrorists in three separate intelligence-based opera-tions (IBOs) that resulted in eliminating 23 terrorists by the security forces.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the security forces conducted three separate operations from May 26-27 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

On May 26, an intelligence based operation was conducted in general area Hassan Khel, Peshawar District, where six terrorists were successfully neutralized by the security forces and multiple hideouts were busted. Captain Hussain Jehangir and Havildar Shafiq

fighting gallantly. On Mav 27, in another operation conducted in Tank District, the Army troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, as a result of which ten terrorists were killed.

The third engagement occurred in general area Bagh. Khyber District, wherein, the security forces killed seven terrorists, while two terrorists were injured.

However, during the intense exchange of fire, five brave soldiers; Naik Muhammad Ashfaq Butt (age 32 years; resident of district Kahuta), Lance Naik Syed Danish Afkar (age 30 years; resident of district Poonch), Sepoy Taimoor Malik (age 32 years; resident of district Layyah), Sepoy Nadir

RAWALPINDI (APP): A Ullah also embraced Sageer (age 22 years; resi-Captain among seven sol- Shahadat on May 26, while dent of district Bagh) and Sepoy Muahmmad Yasin (age 23 years; resident of district Khushab), having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday paid tribute to the officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army for carrying out successful operations against the terrorists in Tank, Dera Ismail Khan and Bagh, Khyber district. The prime minister also paid tribute to five soldiers Naek Muhammad Ashfaq Butt, Lance Naek Syed Danish Afkar, Sepoy Taimoor Malik, Sepoy Nadir Sagheer and Sepoy Muhammad Yaseen who embraced martyrdom dur-



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti presides over the meeting to review law and order situation and payment of compensation to those martyred in terrorism incidents.

On Youm-e-Takbeer

Gilani emphasises constant efforts to make country's defence impregnable

ISLAMABAD (APP): As Pakistan successfully demthe nation observes Youme-Takbeer on Tuesday to commemorate the 26th anniversary of Pakistan's nuclear tests, Acting President Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani called for drawing inspiration from that success to make the country's defence impregnable through technological and

economic advancements. The acting president, in

his message to the nation, termed the day a pivotal moment in the nation's history and called for a renewed pledge to continue working towards a peaceful and stable world. He said on that day,

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Federal Minister for Infor-

mation, Broadcasting, Na-

tional Heritage and Cul-

ture Attaullah Tarar on

Monday said that a convicted person in prison could not digest

and acknowledge mul-

tiple achievements of

current government on

diplomatic front and initia-

tives for the development

sinister plan to compare

the current situation with

that of 1971 but theses tac-

tics are doomed to fail;

InshaAllah, Pakistan will

remain on the map of the

world and make march to-

wards progress and pros-

perity", he said while ad-

dressing a press confer-

ure of the present elected

government, by the grace

He said during the ten-

"Definitely, there is a

of the country.

onstrated its nuclear capabilities and joined the ranks of nuclear powers. "Youme-Takbeer serves as a testament to our nation's resilience, unwavering determination, and commitment to maintaining regional peace and stability," he added. He said the journey to

becoming a nuclear state was not without its difficulties as the national leadership and scientists braved various challenges to achieve the remarkable feat. 'Today, as we reflect on this journey, we acknowledge the hard work of our

scientists and engineers without whom this achieve- marked.

A convicted person can't acknowledge

Govt's diplomatic achievements,

initiatives for developments: Tarar

stan had achieved many

milestones on the diplo-

had a telephonic conversa-

tion with the Prime Minis-

ters of Norway and Ireland

in the backdrop of their strong stance on Middle East situation", he re-

ter Shehbaz Sharif had tele-

phonically contacted the

prime ministers of Norway

and Ireland who had con-

demned the ongoing atroci-

ties in Gaza and Rafah and

He said Prime Minis-

'The Prime Minister

matic front.

marked.

Bhutto whose efforts led to making Pakistan a nuclear state. We also appreciate Mohtarma Bhutto's decision as the opposition leader of the time to support Nawaz Sharif for conducting nuclear tests. Indeed, it was the collective determination of our civil and military leadership as well as our scientific acumen, and unwavering dedication to national defence that propelled us forward," Acting President Gilani re-

called fort immediate for

PM Shehbaz Sharif in-

formed the two Prime

Pakistan's position on the

raised its voice for the rights

of Palestinians," he said adding PM Shehbaz Sharif

during his address to UN

General Assembly had

stated categorically that

Pakistan will continue to

raise its voice for the cause

of Palestinians.

"Pakistan has always

The minister said that

ceasefire

Ministers

situation.

Nawaz Sharif likely to elect PML-N President LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan ment would not have been League-Nawaz election possible. Today, we also commission will issue recognize the contributions nomination papers for of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali election of the party's

new president today. The five-member election commission of the party being headed by Rana Sanaullah. Iqbal Jhagra, Ishrat Ashraf, Jamal Shah Kakar and Khealdas Kohistani are

other members of the commission. Candidates can get nomination papers upto 5:00 in the evening, a party spokesperson said. "The papers could be submitted from 10:00am to 12;00 noon tomorrow," spokesman said. "Scrutiny of the papers will be held between 1:00 to 2:00pm".

"The central general council of the party will elect new president at 4:00pm tomorrow," election commission announced. Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif could likely to return unopposed as the PML-N president.

According to the agenda of the PML-N general council session, it will elect the party's president and approve amendments in the party's constitution. Acting president of the party Shehbaz Sharif and newly elected president will address the ses-

The general council will also approve resolutions over Kashmir, Palestine and other matters during the



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail being briefed about the Quetta Development Package.

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Mercury rising

Should we expect a political heatwave this summer? The climate seems to be rather conducive to it. The two largest parties are once again on the warpath, with a slew of troubling developments precluding any hopes for the long-awaited normalisation of political temperatures.

In Lahore, the chief minister of Punjab has approved the registration of fresh cases against the PTI leadership, this time for "building a hateful narrative against state institutions". It appears that the PML-N government will rely on the odious defamation bill it recently passed in the Punjab Assembly to go after its chief rival. The provincial information minister, speaking on the matter, explained to the media that the Punjab home department had provided information establishing that PTI leaders were 'spreading mischief inside and outside jail". She claimed that the party was "spreading hate as part of organised propaganda" to incite the people, destabilise the country and inculcate hatred against

Was this anticipated? Unfortunately, yes. Meanwhile, in Islamabad, the PTI has been engaged in a bitter confrontation with the Capital Development Authority, which this week razed part of the party's central secretariat and later sealed the building under an anti-encroachment drive after issuing several warnings. Twenty-six individuals, including a PTI leader, were subsequently booked by Islamabad Police on various charges, including terrorism, allegedly for violently resisting the CDA op-

Understandably, the party is incensed by its relentless victimisation; disappointingly, it has yet to show any remorse for its own culpability in similar targeting of its opponents in the past. It has also seemed unwilling to mend fences with its opponents, having set strict preconditions for any negotiations that are unlikely to be accepted in the current situation. It seems in no hurry to see matters resolved and appears to be hoping that the crises engulfing the government will eventually bring

about its downfall. These are all worrying reminders that political stability, a prerequisite for the economic stability desperately sought by the inflation-weary citizenry, remains as elusive as ever. With the budget almost upon us and the IMF making it clear it will not consider extending more loans till its painful requisites are met, the months ahead are likely to see civil discontent explode once again as summer electricity bills and new taxation measures land on the largely unsuspecting public. The country seems to be at the end of its tether. At some point, its leaders need to ask themselves: what is the point of fighting if ashes are all that will be left to rule over after they are done? Each of them is equally responsible for the deep pit Pakistan seems to have fallen into. It is time they stopped digging deeper and started thinking about how to get it out.

Moving bombs

Mohammad Ali Babakhel

In the post-9/11 scenario, suicide bombing emerged as the deadliest and most popular terrorist strategy adopted by various groups around the world. After 9/11, there was an intensification in both the frequency and innovation of suicide bombings. Among these, the suiprovised explosive device (SVBIED) quickly became one of the most lethal weapons deployed. This sophisticated weapon requires significant technical proficiency, which leading militant organisations developed and employed effectively.

The Islamic State's frequent use of SVBIEDs in Iraq and Syria helped the militant group attract global media attention. SVBIEDs served as a powerful force multiplier, enabling numerically inferior militants to deliver tons of explosives to designated targets and overrun larger enemy contingents. IS used SVBIEDs to punch holes in static defences, with follow-up attacks inflicting further damage on defenders.

IS tried to gain an edge over its enemies by tailoring SVBIED designs to specific threats, targets, and environments, with the aim of increasing the likelihood of the vehicle reaching its intended detonation point. For example, the covert SVBIED, the most commonly used type, features a vehicle with an unmodified exterior fitted with an interior explosive payload, driven and detonated at a specific mechanism that enabled target. The unmodified exterior allows it to blend in with other vehicles, deceiving the police and making it difficult to de-

An up-armoured SVBIED typically has the explosive power of terrorist groups. -- Coursteel plates welded on the blast forward and to tesy Dawn

the front exterior, shield- the sides. The payload ing the engine block, arrangement also inwindscreen, and tyres. These were used during

conflicts in Iraq and Syria. The improvised vehicle, the attacker, and the fitted explosives from incoming fire until the intended point of detonation. After capturing Mosul in 2014, IS seized many military-armoured vehicles, modified them, cide vehicle-borne im- and used them as A two-man SVBIED

is operated by two attackers: one driver and one rooftop gunner. The gunner provides suppressing fire until the vehicle reaches its detonation point. This type of SVBIED was used in attacks against hardened military targets in Iraq and Syria. To target fortified positions, IS designed specific SVBIEDs capable of removing concrete blast barriers to clear the passage.

The militants also use parked VBIEDs, resemble SVBIEDs but are parked at a location and detonated remotely. Parked VBIEDs lack drivers and function as larger, disguised stationary IEDs. Different vehicles provide varying storage capacities to place explosives as needed, effectively targeting and ensuring maximum damage. Usually, VBIEDs are employed by terrorists against large targets to facilitate forced entry and create significant

impact. To increase the explosion's impact, a few SVBIEDs were designed and used on some occasions by IS with rooftop rocket pods and a firing the drivers to suppress fire from the SVBIED's target. In some instances, explosives are mounted on the doors and windshields' interi-

cluded crude oil to increase the primary blast effect upon detonation of the main payload and shielding protected the ensure that the remnants at the site were burned causing more losses.

From 2014 to 2024, a total of 85 suicide attacks, including 26 VBIEDs, resulted in the deaths of 557 civilians and 143 policemen in KP. The highest number of VBIED attacks was eight in 2014, followed by four in 2023. Between 2014 and 2024, Peshawar faced the highest number of attacks, with 26 suicide and 11 VBIED attacks, followed by 14 suicide attacks in North Waziristan and six VBIED attacks in Bannu. Ground realities suggest that suicide bombing, including VBIEDs, is primarily an urban or bordering district phenomenon.

To prevent such incidents, Pakistan needs to revise the legal, administrative, and procedural dynamics of vehicle registration, purchase, activation and change of ownership of SIM cards, renting accommodation, drones and explosives businesses, and record-keeping of travellers. Strict enforcement is required for the regulation of auto workshops. Transparency in vehicle transactions and the prevention of vehicular theft, as well as addressing gaps in the transaction of explosives, will reduce the chances of using ve-

hicles as moving bombs. Employing sniffer dogs, high-tech explosive detectors, public safety education, target hardening, and redesigning the security architecture of high-profile hotels and commercial buildings, along with adherence to improved security protocols for public transport and trains, ors to direct as much of will reduce the space for

Boiling point

Huma Yusuf

other slew of alarming headlines. We are better prepared than we were in 2015, when over 2,500 people lost their lives to soaring temperatures. Public awareness has improved, and emergency measures such as relief camps have been mobilised in urban areas. But Pakistan is still a long way from building the resilience — in all respects, sociopolitical infrastructural — that it ravages of climate change, particularly ex-

treme heat.

Concern about extreme heat has largely been driven by economic considerations. Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research has estimated that global warming will reduce global income by 19 per cent by 2049. The ADB has found that extreme heat results in 650 billion hours of annual labour losses globally (equivalent to 148 million full-time jobs). Of immediate relevance to Pakistan, 2022 research from Dartmouth University found that an annual increase in the temperature of the five hottest days of the year can reduce economic growth by a percentage point.

This economic fallout is driven by decreases in labour productivity and supply as the one degree Celsius inworking poor become crease in the average anunwell, supply chain disruption, and agricultural loss. A recent policy report by LSE's Grantham Institute on the impact of high temperatures on Bangladesh's workforce daily wage earners found that wlabour productivity and supply would decrease by 46.2pc by 2080 in a world with a three-degree temperature as families are trapped in-

But extreme heat is not about GDP alone. that heatwaves amplify

those with less education Another heatwave, an- are more likely to die in heatwaves. These are typically groups with fewer resources, informal housing, erratic energy access and poor healthcare. And we cannot easily ignore this demographic: 1.2bn urban and rural poor will be coping without cooling solutions by 2030.

Women are espe-

cially hard hit by extreme

heat. According to an

FAO report published in March, female-headed will need to endure the households lose 8pc of their income due to heat also result in 49 more minstress; in the case of female farm labour — a key working constituency in Pakistan — each day of not attend to while they extreme high temperatures reduces the value of crops produced by women by 3pc as compared to men. This is because when the mercury rises, women focus more on unpaid domestic work sourcing water, caring for heat-affected dependents, and cooking under prohibitive conditions. The physical toll of extreme heat on women, particularly pregnant ones, is also more ad-

> Worse, high temwith an increase in gender-based violence. A 2023 study by JAMA Psychiatry based on research in Pakistan, India and Nepal found that a nual temperature linked to a 6.3pc increase in incidents of physical and sexual abuse. Again, this is no surprise: when temperatures rise, crops fail, struggle to work, health suffers, and the financial pressures resulting from these realities kick in just doors to escape the sun.

Extreme heat means extreme stress, driving Evidence is mounting not only domestic violence but also poor meninequality. Women, the tal health. Research from rural and urban poor, the US, for example,

marginalised groups and shows that higher temperatures coincide with an increase in hospital visits for anxiety, selfharm and substance

Children are also susceptible to extreme heat — and it's not just about dehydration. Frequent heatwaves can have a long-term effect on a child's educational attainment. Half of our country's school-going population has lost a week of learning to the current heatwave. Globally, according to the FAO, higher temperatures utes of child labour per week as children pick up chores that women canmanage the extra domestic burden of hot days.

Given this, heat can-

not only be considered through an economic lens, with bottom line considerations of worker productivity driving climate-adaptation efforts. We have to see extreme heat as an amplifier of social inequality and marginalisation, and recognise that the welfare of future generations could be jeopardised with each poorly managed heatwave. We know the peratures also correlate solutions (heat-resilient urban infrastructure, greenhouse gas reduction, holistic farm policies acknowledge women's challenges in a climate-stressed world, etc). But what will make us implement them? Perhaps our policymakers should closely watch the election across the border, unfolding in extreme heat, with collapsing candidates and stalled campaigning.

> shows that heatwaves alter voter preferences, with ballots going to those with proactive plans for building agricultural resilience and planning irrigation. If money couldn't get us to plan better for extreme heat, maybe politics will? -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

ECC approves Rs 4272 million TSGs

Coordination Committee payment of troops costs / (ECC) of the cabinet here Technical Supplementary 4.272.422 million for Division. various divisions and ministries.

According to press release issued by finance ministry, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Plans chaired the meeting.

Economic 2.363 million for the subsistence allowance for

million for the Ministry of approved Division Muhammad Aurangzeb SUPARCO to meet the

Satellite System".

Furthermore. proposal of the Ministry on Monday approved the Ministry of Interior of Industries & Production and Rs 200 million for to allow SNGPL based Grants (TSGs) of Rs Intelligence Bureau plants to operate for a for Industries period of 6 months starting Likewise, the ECC from March 31, 2024 till also approved Rs 19.373 September 20, 2024 was Law & Justice and Rs committee, to ensure 4,050.686 for Strategic smooth supply of urea fertilizer for Kharif season.

> According to the requirements of the project statement, the meeting was cabinet titled "Pakistan Multi- attended by the Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): committee approved Rs Mission Communication for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan; Minister for Power, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari; Minister for Petroleum, Musadik Masood Malik; Minister

> Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain; Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema; Minister of State for Finance & Revenue, Ali Pervez Malik; Governor SBP. Chairman SECP, Federal Secretaries, and other senior officials of the relevant ministries.



over a meeting of Economic Coordination Committee (ECC).



Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb called on by the Ambassador of USA to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Donald Blome in

Pak, Netherlands negotiate on economy, trade for eying new investment opportunities

on Monday discussed the requested to renew the opportunities for technical programs like March, according to data economic and trade ties CBI and PUM for from the National Bureau and also eye new investment opportunities for increasing the bilateral economic ties.

Netherlands Ambassador to Pakistan, visit Pakistan along with Henny Fokel De Vries called on Minister for many Dutch companies Commerce Jam Kamal Khan. Both discussed to Pakistan. deepen the trade The minister relations, said a press highlighted Pakistan's

release issued. The Ambassador various Minister of Commerce energy, Dutch o f

ISLAMABAD (APP): companies. Minister Pakistan and Netherlands Jam Kamal Khan benefits of SMEs in Pakistan. He also extended an

invitation to the Dutch Minister for Trade to a business delegation as operating

significant potential in sectors. appreciated the role of including renewable services in coordinating and agriculture, IT, human support for resolving the resources, fisheries, and textiles.

China's industrial profits swing back to growth in April

ANKARA (AA/APP): China's industrial profit posted an increase in April, reversing a decline in of Statistics on Monday.

Profits at China's industrial companies rose 4% at an annualized pace in April, compared with March's 3.5% decrease which ended seven consecutive months of rises. April's uptick was led by the government's stimulus measures which came into effect to boost the economy and a

recovery in exports. In January-April, industrial profit went up by 4.3% from a year ago to 2.09 trillion yuan (\$289 billion).

Rs 300 bln interest free loans to be given to farmers: Saqib Ateel

Secretary Agriculture south Punjab Saqib Ateel said that interest free loans worth Rs 300 billion would be given to farmers in order to enhance agricultural productivity.

He said this in the 'Meet the Press" event of the local Press Club, here on Monday. The secretary agriculture south Punjab stated that overall Rs 400 billion would be spent Agriculture Punjab project. said Saqib.

The loans will be given with collaboration of Bank of the Punjab, he informed. About 0.5 million farmers will obtain these loans, he hinted. He also maintained that 7,000 tubewells would be energized through the solar system. Huge amounts will also be spent on bricklining of the 7300 water courses. Similarly, services of the 500 agri-graduates will be hired for promotion under the Transforming of the agriculture sector,

Pak economic downfall, **Indian development started** in 1990s: Shahid Rasheed

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt has said that the journey of Pakistan's economic downfall and Indian development started in the early 1990s.

In a statement issued here on Monday, he said India went almost bankrupt in 1991 and borrowed against the entire country's gold to start a serious economic development

However, Pakistan, which was much better than India in many respects by then, began a downward journey as politicians were more interested in corruption and hiding stolen funds than economic development.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that good laws were made in India to promote industry, agriculture, and services sectors and to lure investments, while in Pakistan, legislation was enacted to protect the stolen funds.

Speakers for dedicated track, trace system to bring informal sector into tax net ISLAMABAD (APP): Agriculture, Retail and was paying taxes in the

The speakers at a prebudget consultative session Monday urged the government to ensure a dedicated track and trace system to bring the retailers and businesses taxes. He added that these from the informal sectors into the tax net to generate taxes and it was necessary revenue from untaxed sectors.

The Sustainable making processes. Development Policy Institute (SDPI) organized the consultative discussion "Pre-Budget Seminar: Tax Reforms in

Real Estate Sectors".

Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI underlined that it was imperative to unearth the bottlenecks in paying sectors were willing to pay consider their suggestions in the policy-

Ahsan Bakhtawri, President, Islamabad Chamber of (ICCI) said the retail sector national tax numbers.

country, but it was crucial Dr Abid Qaiyum to integrate the retailers who were not part of the

system. He urged the government to develop a proper track and trace system that could identify the non-tax paying retailers who were doing billions of rupees annual business but did not pay

He said that products should not supplied to Commerce, and Industry retailers who lack NTN or

Gold rates up by Rs 800 per tola

karat gold increased by Rs 240,800 on Monday target of Rs1.515 trillion told APP on Monday.

The CDNS compared to its sale at Rs 240,000 on the last achieved 85 percent of surpassed the annual trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 686 to Rs 206,447 from Rs 205,761 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs 189,243 from Rs 188,615, the All Sindh Sarafa Association reported.

CDNS collects Rs 1.5tlln targets in fresh bond

current fiscal year, from target of Rs 1.6 trillion

Savings has set an annual target of Rs 1.742 trillion which it is encouraging and it is hoped that year 2021-22

ISLAMABAD (APP): ISLAMABAD (APP): National Savings will The per tola price of 24 The Central Directorate surpass its annual target ISLAMABAD (APP): National Savings will of National Savings this FY 2023-24, the (CDNS) has attained a senior official of CDNS

> the annual target in the target and achieved the July 1 to May 26th. in fresh bonds in the The National current fiscal year, he said.

He said this was an for the year 2023-24, in Rs 200 billion additional annual target than the that 85 percent of the target of Rs 1300 billion Jewellers | target has been achieved, for the previous financial

Youm-e-Takbeer: A proud day for nation

Four PAEC agriculture

research centers have been

established in the three

provinces of Pakistan hav-

ing a major share of the cultivatable land in the country. Nuclear Institute of

Agriculture (NIA) in Tando

Jam, established in 1962

was the first such institute

followed by Nuclear Insti-

tute for Agriculture and Bi-

ology (NIAB), in Faisalabad; Nuclear Insti-

tute for Food and Agricul-

ture (NIFA), in Peshawar

and National Institute for

Biotechnology & Genetic

Engineering (NIBGE), in

agriculture centers have de-

veloped and evolved more

than one hundred and fifty

(150) crop varieties for Pa-

kistan. For utilization of

marginal lands, PAEC has

developed technology for

the utilization of salt-af-

fected lands and this tech-

nology is being provided not only to the local farm-

ers but also at international

a fair share in human re-

through training courses,

workshops and internships. These courses

equally benefit researchers,

students and academia from

various research organiza-

tions and universities.

NIAB and NIBGE in

Faisalabad are also affiliated

with Pakistan Institute of

Engineering and Applied

Sciences (PIEAS) – the leading university of the

country, for award of MPhil and PhD degrees in

Biology and Biotechnology.

wards agriculture industri-

alization and commercial-

ization, PAEC recently or-

ganized a huddle of agricul-

ture scientists, agricultur-

ists and business leaders in

the field of agriculture. The

Agriculture symposium

cum exhibition was orga-

nized at NIAB and NIBĞE

vation to Harvest Business

Growth", the two-day

event was sponsored by

Support Industries and

Technologies (SITECH), in

line with Government's

Green Pakistan Initiative.

Its ultimate aim was to

commercialize and popu-

larize the latest technical

advancements in the field of

agriculture and biotechnol-

perts and researchers from

seed companies, progres-

sive farmers, corporate sec-

tors, researchers, academia

from agri and biotech fields

and representatives from

government, Fongrow Coy

participated. The partici-

pants appreciated the event

and they hoped that orga-

nizers will provide more

such opportunities of es-

tablishing linkages among

agricultural researchers,

farmers and allied depart-

ments as well as businesses.

striving to prove a catalyst

in all key areas of national

development, May 28 will

always remain a feather in

its cap asit made Pakistanis

hold their heads high with

pride.- The writer is a PR

practitioner. He can be

journalistinmaking@gmail.com

sensitive areas. The test

Although PAEC is

in future.

reached

Leading agricultural ex-

Titled "Cultivate Inno-

institutes in Faisalabad.

Taking a big step to-

source

These centers also have

development

So far, these PAEC-run

Faisalabad.

Youm-e-Takbeer: the day PAEC made the nation proud



By Muhammad Aftab

May 28 has a special significance in the life of every Pakistani. On this day, the scientists, engineers and technicians of PAEC achieved the unachievable and delivered what they had promised in the form of five nuclear blasts at Chaghi in Balochistan, making the nation's defense unconquerable. Besides some known names who contributed in this herculean task through unmatched contributions for the country's security, there were numerous unsung heroes who worked day and night towards achieving thisunbelievable mission by a developing

Energy Cancer Hospitals (AECHs) located in all provinces and major cities of the country while the 20thcancer hospital at Muzaffarabad, AJ&K, is under construct of the country to 20thcancer hospital at the only Asian country to attain this position at that time. Pakistan ratified the under construction. These hospitals are helping the government in catering to the healthcare needs of cancer-affected patients in the country by providing diagnostic and therapeutic facilities.PAEC-managedcancer hospitals provide facilities to patients at subsidized rates by dint of support from Patient Welfare Society (PWS) of the hospitals and Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM).

In the field of international cooperation and promotion of the culture of sharing and learning from fellow scientists' research, PAEC started conducting annual meetings of researchers and scientists in Pakistan. A brainchild of the Nobel Laureate of Pakistani origin, Dr. Abdul Salam, the nuclear state, a founding

PAEC has so far estab- at CERN and International lished nineteen (19) Atomic Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Pakistan became Associate Member State of CERN on July 31, 2015, status agreement with CERN on August 26, 2015.

Tuesday May 28, 2024

In the use of nuclear energy for generating electricity, PAEC is currently operating six nuclear power plants (NPPs), including Karachi Nuclear Power Plants Unit-2 & Unit-3 diagnostic and therapeutic commonly known as K-2 and K-3 in Karachi; and C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4 NPPs in Chashma, Mianwali. These plants are collectively producing over 3500 megawatts (MWs) of electricity.

Advantages of nuclear power generated electricity include low per unit cost of generation, all-year-round availability, and no emissions of greenhouse gases, besides being critically important from energy-security point of view.

As a responsible



Nuclear Technologyan imperative for national defense and development

By Saima Durrani

The famous lines of US president John F Kennedy attered half a century ago 'Ask not what your country can do for you-ask what you can do for your country" may seem bit clichéd now but the devotional pledge and undercurrents of selfless service embodied in his statement can still inspire anyone anywhere in the world eager to serve

one's motherland. rather well with us who are still striving to achieve the cherished dream of seeing a prosperous Pakistan among

the comity of nations. Pakistan today faces formidable social, economic, and security challenges. Many nations have faced similar challenges in history and successfully turned them into opportunities through dedicated commitment of self less hard working individuals. Once effectively addressed, our challenges likewise offer unprecedented opportu-

progress And if this dedication in science and technology, growth, we have the recipe for success at our hands. Science and technology (S&T) are fundamental for social and economic progress in developing countries as they have been central in the progress and development of virtually all the nations of the world. Nuclear technology, a top notch specialty in its own domain offers a wide array of applications leading to today's geo-political scefense portfolio of any coun-

which can guarantee a prosperous country. It was no mere coincidence that despite initial problems, as early as 1956, an S&T set up the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission PAEC was established by the farsighted leaders to make use of the international trend of atoms for peace initiative of American president Eisenhower . This organization not only provided the scientific thrust intended for national development in agriculture, human health, energy& industry but also delivered when asked to make the motherland's defense im-

Development contributes to 11 of them

ported the option of going for nuclear. Also Finance Minister was tasked to evaluate the effect of sanctions and for development of contingency plan in consultation with the concerned ministries and state bank. It was proposed conversion of foreign currency accounts into Rupee at official exchange rate (About \$ 7bn). Banks to offer attractive rates on these rupee accounts. The PM gave the 'final go ahead' on 18 May to Chairman PAEC to carry out tests. All parties conference was called on 24 May by PM to inform about the decision of detonation which was unani-

through its dedicated setup and genetically modified of laboratories and insti-

tute for Food and Agricul-

ture (NIFA) at Peshawar in

1982 and National institute

of Biotechnology and Ge-

netic Engineering (NIBGE)

lead in utilizing nuclear tech-

nology to improve produc-

tivity by developing new

crop varieties, pest control

technologies, plant nutri-

tion and water management,

animal health and produc-

tivity and food decontami-

tional breeding methods with mutation breeding,

marker assisted selection

and genetic engineering

nutrients have been identi-

fied to efficiently manage

plant nutrition and reduced

application of chemical fer-

tilizers. Exports play a vi-

tal role in the economy of a

country and as our exports

are mainly (70%) based on

agriculture therefore any ef-

forts in this sector contrib-

ute directly toward the de-

velopment of Pakistan.

Services are being provided

by PAEC institutes for re-

moval of contaminants

from export commodities

through irradiation, identi-

fication of aflatoxins and

drug residues in food and

dairy products and DNA

based testing of basmati rice

Pakistan.

Combining conven-

nation and preservation.

The Commission took

As nuclear technology is the most innovative way to improve agriculture practices, PAEC never lagged behind in this arena and recruited its first biologist way back in 1958 which was followed by the establishment of Radiobiology Division in early 60's at Atomic Energy Centre, Lahore. Subsequently, first full-

This notion of selfless fledged Atomic Energy Agservice should resonate riculture Research Center was established in 1962 at Tandojam which was followed by Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB) in 1972 at Faisalabad, Nuclear Insti-

nities for transformational

is coupled with capability the real engine for economic the development push we all aspire. Moreover, in nario, the strategic and detry is measured up against its potential economic viability. And it is the growth of this nexus of strong economy and defense

The Commission now holds sway over utilization of nuclear technology for a wide array of national development initiatives .Incidentally these initiatives are also key tools used to support the UN Sustainable Goals (SDGS). Out of the 17 SDGs of UN agenda, PAEC

Insight Special Issue on Youme e Takbeer p27-30). The President of USA Bill Clinton had telephoned the PM, a few times and offered lucrativeeconomic packages. At the same time he elucidated the difficulties to be faced as economic sanctions. In addition President of USA, sent a delegation headed by Mr. Strobe Talbot, the then Deputy Security of State, and General Anthony Zinni, head of US Central Command to persuade Pakistan not to respond. The delegation was initially declined but later allowed to visit Pakistan. It met several times the PM, his Ministers, Gen mously supported (CISS Jehangir Karamat but was

organisms.

Likewise, at Pakistan Radiation Services (PARAS), a subsidiary of PAEC, a 10 MeV, 20 kW E-Beam plant caters for sterilization of healthcare products manufacturing as well as fulfilling the requirements of export food items to Australia, America, New Zealand, and other European countries. In the human health

domain, PAEC has been providing services in cancer care through use of radiation since 1960s. PAEC's 60 years' experience of designing, executing and operating cancer hospitals has resulted in 19 Atomic Energy Cancer Hospitals (AECHs) throughout Pakistan. One more hospital is under construction at Muzaffarabad, AJK. Patients receive high quality diagnostic and treatment facilities here.

AECHs are equipped with latest SPECT-CT Gamma Cameras, PET-CT Scanners, Cyclotrons, Radionuclide therapy and

YOUM E TAKBEER

DAY OF REVIVAL AND PRIDE

28 MAY 1998

C-2, C-3, & C-4) of cumulative 1,330 MWe capacity are located at the Chashma Nuclear Power Generating Station (CNPGS). Ground breaking for another similar plant named C-5 at Chashma has also taken

Two NPPs (i.e., K-2 & K-3) of the total 2,200 MWe capacity are operating near paradise point of mega polis Karachi. K-2 is operating commercially since May, 2021 and K-3 since April, 2022. During the year 2023, these six nuclear power plants supplied 22,372 million kWh to NTDĆ system.

An elaborate and diversified engineering set up of PAEC successfully caters to design, manufacturing & testing of mechanical equipment for medium and heavy industries in accordance with the International Codes and Standards especially for Power Plants, Chemical and Petrochemical Plants and other Industrial Projects for itself and the national industry. These setups are well equipped with modern engineering manufacturing and fabrication facilities geared

toward attaining excellence.
A set up of PAEC,viz Heavy mechanical complex-3,HMC-3 is one of the largest industrial projects in the heavy engineering sector of Pakistan. One of PAEC entity National Centre for Non-Destructive Testing (NCNDT) is providing, inspection, testing, training, calibration, qualification, certification, condition assessment and root cause analysis services to PAEC and national industry to meet the requirements in accordance with local and international standards.

International collaboration is highly valued by PAEC and this aspect is covered mainly through technical cooperation with International Atomic Energy Agency IAEA, European Organization for Nuclear Research CERN and other such organizations and also the scientific discourses of International Nathiagali Summer College INSC which help its manpower both personnel as well as students of its Human Resource Development institutes to engage with the latest technologies and add to their technical acumen.

Even this cursory summary of the scope and achievements of the organization presented here makes it clear that PAEC is uniquely placed to cater to national needs of both socio-economic development and strategic edge. Whereas this special occasion of Yaum-e-Takbeer calls for renewing the self less dedication of PAEC personnel to remain motivated and strive to excel in both domains of national development in future as well, it also reiterates the critical generation is economically support needed from all relcompetitive in the power evant stakeholders if we

pledge to serve our nation

and see it prosper.

Theranostics facilities. Supportive radiology equip-

ment like MRI, ČT Scanner, digital X-ray, Mammography and ultrasonography/Color Doppler is also available These PAEC cancer hospitals are equipped

with Linear Accelerators, techniques, so far more than 150 crop varieties of cot-Cobalt-60 Teletherapy, ton, wheat, rice, oilseed, Cyber Brachytherapy, Digital Simulator and Treatment pulses and fruits and vegetables have been developed which are popular among Planning System. Additionally these AECHs are the farming community of equipped with up-to-date hematology, chemical and pathology laboratories to These PAEC agriculture institutes have also develgive diagnostic tests seroped technologies to improve irrigation techniques vices along with treatment under one roof at these hosthat reduce water losses. Alternate cheap sources of pitals.

> and nuclear reactors now being installed in the world are far superior to their predecessor in term of performance and safety. PAEC currently operates six nuclear power plants at two sites generating 10 percent of electricity through nuclear of the country's total and almost a quarter of its ow-carbon electricity. Nuclear power

> market of Pakistan. Among

Production of electricity

through nuclear power has

evolved over the decades

these six, four NPPs (C-1, unable to convince them not to carry out the nuclear test (Daily Dawn, June 6, 2004. Sharif Government refused to receive USN-delegation). Seventeen days before the nuclear devices were detonated, were very difficult, for the PM, Ministers and Army Chief to sustain external pressure not to detonate especially from USA. On 27 May a day before tests US President called the PM about five times not to carry out tests and used carrot and stick (Sartaj Aziz, Between Dreams and Realities, p194). In the decision making process, the government also sought the views of retired defence and eco-

nomic experts. According to Air Marshal Asghar Khan (We Have Learnt Nothing from History p243) Nawaz Sharif sent one of his ministers to seek my advice and I advised him not to do so. On 28th Mayat 3:15 PM, the button was pressed by saying "Allah-o-Akbar" by a member of the team headed by Dr Samar Mubarakmand in the presence of Dr AQ Khan. A total 5 nuclear bombs were exploded. Soon after the tests, the Prime Minister announced that Pakistan has become the seventh nuclear power. The sixth was exploded on 30 May. This day is remembered as Youme -e-Takbeer



Apart from defense, PAEC is also the torchbearer in ensuring sustainable development for the country in all spheres of life by using nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes.International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in line with its velopment' mandate, supports countries in their efforts to reach the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.Many countries use nuclear science and technology to contribute to and meet their development objectives in areas including energy, human health, food production, water management and environ-

Being member of the Board of Governors of the IAEA. Pakistan has been utilizing nuclear technology for peaceful purposes since the inception of PAEC, which has contributed immensely in achieving the

meeting of topnotch researchers and scientists of adopted by the then Chairman Muneer Ahmed Khan and his successor Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad and all successive chairmen of PAEC.

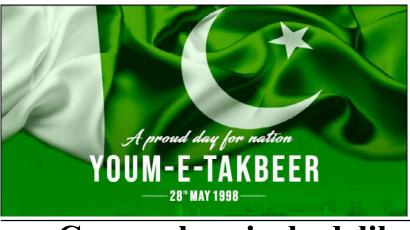
Nathiagali Summer College identification for entry at Atoms for Peaceand De- (INSC) on Physics and the power plants are some been organized every year since 1976, mostly at the scenic hill resort of Nathiagali. So far, 7 Nobel laureates and 41000 scientists, out of which 1000 were foreigners, from 72 countries have participated in the annual springs of sci- power plants. The safety entists in Pakistan to exchange valuable knowledge with their local colleagues and science students.

Owing to the untiring efforts of PAEC scientists, engineers, technicians and various research activities

an emerging player in the field of nuclear power genthe world in Pakistan was eration, Pakistan takes pride in ensuring impeccable security arrangements at all of its nuclear power plants. Stringent entry protocols in the form of controlled ac-'International cess of personnel and retina Contemporary Needs' has of the measures that help

> As per international best practices in the field of nuclear power, Emergency Preparedness Measures are well in place for timely intervention at these and security are the two

highlights of nuclear power plants operating in the PAEC has taken the lead in utilizing nuclear technology to improve producresearchers, Pakistan is tivity of agriculture sector proudly an Associate through the introduction of Member of European Or- new crop varieties, pest ganization for Nuclear Re- control technologies, plant search (CERN) and scien- nutrition, water managetists from the country are ment, animal health and actively participating in productivity and food decontamination and preser-



Comprehensively deliberated decision for Youme-e-Takbeer

By Dr Anjum Sarfraz India surprised the world on 11 May 1998 by conducting three nuclear underground explosions and two on 13 May. The PM of India very proudly announced that we have become sixth nuclear weapon state and should be treated by the world as such. At the same time, Indian stance towards Pakistan became aggressive. The senior Indian hierarchy started giving provocative statements. The Indian Home Minister L.K Advani made a statement of Indian intention to cross the LoC under the pretext of hot pursuit. The Corps Cdr in Indian Illegally Occupied Kashmir (ĬĬOJK) held an unprecedented news conference and advocated his plans to attack Azad Kashmir across the LoC. As a declared nuclear state and

to Kazakhstan. He talked to Gen Jehangir Karamat, Chairman JCSC and COAS, it was decided to hold a meeting of Defence Committee of Cabinet (DCC) and upon his arrival. However, (The Genesis of South Asia Nuclear Deterrence: p141) Gen Karamat's acdifferent. The PM called General and told him to start preparations for the test. He suggested the PM the decision would be taken after deliberation in DCC, the institution designed to deliberate and take such decisions. It is relevant to clarify speculation about whether the decision was almost negligible international reaction, India was taken by political leader-

clearly placed in a better position than Pakistan. ship or was it thrust upon it by the military. The DCC The PM, Nawaz meeting was held on 13 Sharif, was on official visit May chaired by the PM, attended by Foreign Minister, Finance Minister, Interior Minister, Chairman JCSC. and Services Chiefs. In addition Dr. A Q Khan Dr. Mubarakmand attended as

Samar according to Naeem Salik, reps of KRL and PAEC respectively. A lot of deliberations had taken place to Pakistan's Perspective decide appropriate response. The opportunity count of the event is little provided by India to become nuclear state and the economic challenges were pondered thoroughly. The meeting was like a war cabito return to Pakistan as net taking the decision in a soon as possible, and then crisis mode where the DCC members were evaluating all the implications of testing, under tremendous economic and international pressures. It was virtually an undeclared emergency situation. Armed forces were alerted for extra safe guards of the

tunnels prepared at Ras Koh have to be provided extra security which was entrusted to Corps Cdr at Quetta, Navy augmented the sea patrol and PAF flew Combat Air Patrol (CAP). On political front all the opposition parties were for the nuclear detonation. A unanimous resolution was passed in Senate for an effective response to the Indian tests. In accordance with Gohar Ayub, the Foreign Minister (Testing Times, p35), General Jehangir Karamat, views were, we could match India, but the decision to do so would have to be political. Dr Samar informed the DCC that PAEC will take 10 days to conduct the tests. Later when Dr. Ishfaq, Chairman PAEC returned from abroad. gave the positive reply about the preparations. The cabinet meeting was called on 14 May, which sup-

Governor calls for paying special attention on constructing new roads, improving civic system in Quetta city, outskirts

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has underlined the need pay wholehearted attention on construction of new roads and improvement of the civic system in the Quetta

He also stressed the need to pay special heed towards construction of new roads as well as resolve the issues related to education, health and cleanliness in the outskirts of Quetta besides restoration of beauty of the

The Governor was speaking to the Secretary Communication and Works, Lal Jan Jaffar, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat and Project Director of Quetta development Package, Rafiq Baloch here at the Governor House on Mon-

The Governor was briefed about the under construction roads as well as the sewerage and sanitation system in the Quetta city and adjoining areas.

that Quetta is provincial capital and as such is the face of Balochistan.

lems are creating due to in flux in the population. The Governor said

solve the issues being faced by the people so that they may get relief from them. He also stressed that the poor and middle class people should benefit from the development projects.

his every possible cooperation to provide basic facilities to the citizens and resolve the issues being faced



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi presenting allotment letter of home to the mother of a martyr.

Naqvi laid the foundation stone of housing project for police martyrs families

Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Monday laid the foundation stone of Mubeen Cottages Project for the families of martyrs of Islamabad Po-

Mohsin Naqvi's good initiative for the families of police martyrs resolved the long-standing issue of accommodation for the families of 64 martyrs of Islamabad Police after 43

5 marle houses will be constructed in Chak Segu Rawalpindi's NPF sego forms for families of 64

Mohsin Naqvi distributed allotment letters of plots to the families of police martyrs.

an elderly woman and gave her the allotment letter words of comfort. It is our responsibility to take care of the families of martyrs, said

Mohsin Nagyi adding this work is not a favor to the families of the martyrs. It was their right He said that this work

cannot pay even a single drop of blood of martyrs. IG Islamabad Ali Nasir Rizvi briefed about the project to the minister and guests, MD National

Police Foundation, Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad. The families of RPO Rawalpindi and Shahada Police were present on the occasion.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for PHE Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran meeting with Provincial Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango.

Qaiser inaugurates renovated KPT **Staff College**

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh along with Chairman KPT Syedain Raza Zaidi inaugurated the renovated KPT Staff College, which was established in 1979 and had not undergone proper renovations until now.

Additionally, the minister distributed cash awards and certificates of appreciation to students and teachers of KPT Schools in recognition of their outstanding performance in the SSC exams.

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh praised the KPT for its dedication to train officers in line with international standards. He lauded the organization's proactive approach in preparing its personnel to meet the requirements in maritime industry. The minister emphasized that KPT serves as Pakistan's gateway and has consistently delivering

outstanding performance. He further said that KPT has the potential for improvement and expressed confidence in achieving maximum benefits through collaborative efforts. During his address. Chairman KPT, expressed contentment with the reno vation of the KPT Staff College and performance of KPT schools. He praised the relevant general managers and their teams for relentless efforts in achieving this milestone.

scored KPT's historical commitment to serving the nation and the people of Karachi through various CSR initiatives. These include funding 6 schools for underprivileged students, operating a hospital for workers and nearby residents, maintaining a Fire Station with modern equipment available round the clock for Karachi

Chairman KPT under-



HUB: Pakistan Coast Guard Officials are exposing huge quantity of recovered Chew Tobacco and foreign cigarettes seized during routine check of passenger buses on Uthal Coast Guard Check Post, to media persons during a press conference.

The Governor said

However, new prob-

that it is necessary to re-



the other provinces. He said line losses and power theft issues in the country would be ad-

which was devised for KP

would also be replicated in

Lauding the Interior Minister for playing a key

PM commends efforts to timely extinguish Margalla Hills fire

SLAMABAD (APP) Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday commended the swift response and efforts of all the departments concerned and officials in controlling the Margalla Hills fire.

He appreciated the Pakistan Army, National Disaster Management Au-(NDMA). thority slamabad Administration Coordinator Ministry of Climate Change Rumina Khursheed Alam and officers and staff of the ministry for their tireless efforts in extinguishing the fire.

He also expressed gratitude to the Pakistan Army for providing helicopters to extinguish the

Salik offers condolence on tragic demise of Iranian

president ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Monday visited the Iranian embassy and offered condolences over the sad demise of Iranian President Seved Ebrahim Raisi, foreign minister and other officials in the heli-

copter crash. Recording his condoence message in the visitors' book, he said the entire Pakistani nation was saddened by the passing of the Iranian president.

IED blast kills one, injures another in Bajaur

PESHAWAR (APP): A gen erator mechanic was killed and his driver was injured when the vehicle they were travelling in was targeted with an improvised explosive device (IED) in Mamond tehsil of Bajaur district, the police said on Monday.

They said the blast occurred in Bandagai area of Mamond tehsil where the vehicle of a generator mechanic namely Etebar Khan targeted. The police regstered a case and started investigation.

As result of the explosion, Etebar Khan, resident of Babulai, Khar tehsil was illed while the driver, Muhammad Noor was in-

The police said both were shifting some machinery when the blast ripped through their vehicle. The police registered

ligious Affairs has received more than 20,000 complaints, which have been resolved and disposed of in a case and started investian efficient manner.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti talking to journalists during his visit to Quetta Press Club. President Quetta Press Club Abdul Khaliq Rind and President Balochistan Union of Journalists Khalil Ahmed are also present.

Joint plan chalked out to sort out power pilferage, load-shedding, recovery issues in KP: Awais

KP, Federal gov't agree to cooperate for eliminating load shedding, reducing electricity line losses: Gandapur

> role in this regard, he said the federal and provincial departments would jointly work to sort out issues pertaining to load-shedding, power theft and recovery. The power load-shedding could be over-powered through elimination of power pilferage, he said. The minister said PTI, PML-N and allied parties

jointly took a step to rethe country's economy. Praising the CM KP, he said that today all political parties have recogthe Pakistan's agenda. Under the plan, parliamentarians and general public would be involved to create awareness among the masses about elimination of power theft and payment of outstand-

Meanwhile Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minis-

Ali Amin Khan dapur Monday Gandapur said that the federal and provincial governments have agreed to eliminate load shedding, recover electricity dues, and reduce line losses from the province aiming to provide relief to the people of the province.

Speaking to the media, Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, accompanied by Minister for Energy Sarfaraz Awais Khan Leghari and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, he said that a formal agreement between the federal govern-ment and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would be signed soon.

Gandapur mentioned that ongoing discussions with the Federation con-cerning load shedding in KP have led us to meet and re-



QUETTA: Senator Dostain Domki meeting with Balochistan Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan

Religious leaders unite to combat interfaith disharmony following Sargodha blasphemy incident

SARGODHA (APP): Religious scholars and leaders from various schools of thought, in the wake of a recent blasphemous incident in Sargodha, on Monday came together under the auspices of Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) to pledge a united front against attempts to incite interfaith

disharmony in the country. The incident, which has stirred tensions within the community, is being seen by many as a deliberate effort by certain elements to destabilize Pakistan by exploiting religious sentiments.

Key religious figures expressed their firm commitment to countering any attempts to sow discord among different religious communities in Pakistan. They emphasized that unity and mutual understanding were essential to safeguarding national stability and preventing violence.

Addressing a press conference accompanied with Ulema and Mashaykh here at Deputy Commissioner Office, PUC Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi said the incident in question involved allegations of blasphemy, a highly sensitive and incendiary topic in Pakistan, which had historically led to significant social unrest.

However, in this in-

stance, the swift and mea-

sured response from local law enforcement agencies played a crucial role in preventing the situation from escalating, he said adding that their prompt action was lauded by religious leaders, who recognized the importance of maintaining peace and order in such volatile situations. Ashrafi stated, We will not allow anyone to destabilize our country through interfaith disharmony



tion hold protest rally.

Over 70,000 intending pilgrims actively using 'Pak Hajj App'

MAKKAH AL-MUKARRAMAH (APP): The innovative approach adopted to bring together all the wings and departments of the Pakistan Hajj Mission under the DG Facilitation Cell and Complaint Management System seems to be effectively working in the overall Hajj operation for 2024.

The 'Pak Hajj App,' through which online monitoring of all Hajj-related activities is performed, has received an overwhelming response in a short span of time, with over 70,000 active intending Pakistani Hajj pilgrims registered so far. Through this online

established this year for improved coordination among all wings and departments of the Pakistan Hajj Mission to extend maximum facilities to intending Pakistani pilservice, the Ministry of Regrims. "It is greatly helping in the timely redressal of complaints of pilgrims and their proper guidance to

to them." he said.

provides all the required information, including personal details of Hujjaj, information, Mehram details, helper information, additional facilities, Hajj dues, nominee information, bank account details, and training schedules. Commenting on the role of the DG Facilitation Cell and Complaint Management System, its incharge Muhammad Ahmed Usmani told APP that it was

minimize any inconvenience passenger coach.

Chief Minister chairs review meeting on FY budget 2024-25: Education, health and better service delivery to be top priorities in next FY budget, states Sarfraz Bugti

CM directs to spend available resources on collective public welfare projects after reviewing the unbeneficial ongoing development projects

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically stated that the education, health and better service delivery would be among top priorities in the next financial year's budget for 2024-25.

He directed the concerned authorities to keep in view the collective interests of the people of Balochistan instead of the interests of individual as well as liking and disliking in the upcoming budget.
The Chief Minister

was chairing a meeting held to review the next financial year budget of the project, here on Monday.

attendance at the meeting were included the Provincial Minister for Finance, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani, Minister for Planning and Development, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Additional Chief Secretary Develop-ment, Hafiz Abdul Basit, Secretary Finance, Babar Chairman Khan, Balochistan Revenue Authority, Noorul Haq Baloch, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Imran Zarkoon, Special Secretary Asfandyar Baloch besides other concerned high ups of

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister directed to complete DAC of all the

the Finance and Planning

and Development depart-

projects within a month. He also directed to spend the available resources on collective public welfare projects after reviewing the unbeneficial ongoing projects. Besides, unnecessary vacancies should be converted in the vacancies having much importance, he added.

He said that major surgery is needed in the PSDP to make the development projects compatible with the public requirements.

He stressed that there is a need to keep public interests in view irrespective of the political opportunism as it is very necessary to benefit from the fruits of



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb called on by Abdul Rehman Al Raheem Al Nooriyani, Chairman Etisalat Int'l Pakistan accompanied by Hatem Bamatraf, CEO & President

Pakistan calls for Gaza ceasefire, relief for besieged Palestinians at Islamic convention in a US city

Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, has called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and a surge in urgently needed humanitarian assistance for the suffering Palestinians in the war-torn enclave who, he said, were being pushed from one location to another in search

Addressing the 49th Convention organized by Muslim bodies — ICNÁ and MAS—in Baltimore, Maryland, he urged the United States to demonstrate leadership in ensuring the implementation of two-state solution to resolve the deadly Middle East crisis. The annual three-day convention is being attended by thousands of Muslims from across the

Israel's deadly war in

Gaza, now in its eighth month, has killed nearly 36,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children. Around 80% of the population's 2.3 million people have fled their homes, severe hunger is widespread and U.N. officials say parts of the territory are experiencing famine. Ambassador Masood Khan also paid tribute to the South African governtribution" to uphold interlaw—obviously referring to the genocide case that Pretoria brought against Israel at the International

Court of Justice (ICJ). 'You deserve admiration of entire international

United States and other community. The comity of nations respects you as a standard-bearer for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination", he told the gathering where a special award was presented to a representative of South Africa for backing the Palestinian cause. Earlier, Dr. Mohsin Ansari, President of the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), said that South Africa "stood up, raised its voice for the Palestinians, went to ICJ and showed the ment for its "singular con- world what courage, justice and truth means." Ismail national humanitarian Esau, Charge d'Affaires a the South African Embassy in Washington, who received received the award, highlighted the suffering of Palestinians under occupation and the ongoing military operations.



tary Education Hafiz Muhammad Tahir, Vice Chancellor UoB Professor Dr. Zahoor Ahmed Bazai, Pro-VC Professor Dr. Muhammad Alam Tareen talking to leaders of Joint Action Committee Professor Dr. Kaleemullah Bareach, Shah Ali Bugti, Nazeer Ahmed Lehri regarding Financial issues and non payment of Pay and Pension to Employees of University of Balochistan.

USC reduces ghee price by Rs 18 per kg

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Utility Stores Corporation (USC) on Monday announced a reduction of Rs 18 per kilogram in the price of subsidized ghee with immediate effect.

According to the USC spokesperson, the corporation has reduced the price of ghee by Rs 18 for registered families of Benazir Income Support Program PMT 40.

PCG seize Indian gutka, foreign cigarettes

from coach KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG) on intelligence infor mation intercepted a pas senger coach traveling from Quetta to Karachi at Uthal Balochistan, and recovered a significant quantity of Indian Gutka and foreign brand cigarettes. A PCG spokesperson reported on Monday that during a routine road check in the Uthal area of Balochistan, 4,650 packets of Indian Gutka and 85 sticks of foreign brand cigarettes were found on the

Opposition voices solidarity with Tribal jirga ISLAMABAD (Online): House and advocate for

The senior leadership of the Opposition in the National Assembly voiced solidarity with the tribals elders and vowed to raise their concerns on the floor of the House. A delegation of the tribal elders from the South Waziristan comprising Wazir and Mehsud tribes called on the senior leadership of the Opposition bench including Omar Ayub Khan, Asad Qaiser, Mehmood Khan Achakzai and others at Parliament House on Monday. The tribal elders ap-

prised the Opposition leaders on the objectives of their demonstrations and highlighted the problems arising from lack of compensation for the damages by the Federal Government, 'One Document Regime' and the subsequent closure of Angoor Ada border. The participants of the meeting jointly passed a resolution underlining the redress of grievances and joint effort to demonstrate for the constitutional rights of the people of ex-FATA. The Opposition Leader endorsed their demands and vowed to raise their grievances on the floor of the

their rights outside the Assembly. The leadership of the Tehreek-e-Tahaffuz-e-Aveen-e-Pakistan vowed to support the demonstration of the residents of Waziristan. They collectively de-

manded for compensations

to address the damages inflicted by military operations in the region and urged the Federal government to honour its commitments made to the people of the tribal areas. They high-lighted the destruction of homes, displacement of families, loss of livelihoods, and the overall disruption of socio-economic infrastructure as key areas requiring compensations. They urged the Federal government approve Pakhtunkhwa Government's demand for compensation and demanded allocation in this regard in the upcoming budget. It was regretted that despite promises, only to-

kens are issued to the residents of the region and no compensation has been made since last eight years They submitted that the

tribes on both sides of the border have familial ties and restricting their movement