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PM highlights ancient heritage of Pakistan

Minister Shehbaz Muhammad Sharif on Wednesday highlighted that Pakistan was proud of its ancient Buddhist heritage, which flourished in the northwest Pakistan in the shape of Gandhara art and culture, over two thousand years ago. He underscored the importance that his government attached to interfaith

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of esteemed Buddhist leaders who called on him.

The delegation is visiting Pakistan to attend a symposium and an exhibition titled "From Gandhara to the World," organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PM Office Media

Wing said in a press release. The delegation included Sri Lanka's Minister for Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs Vidura Wikramanayaka, Most Venerable Thich Duc Tuan Pakistan and the Buddhist

able Anil Sakya from Thailand and Dr Keshabman Shakya from Nepal. Minister for Religious Affairs, Ch. Salik Hussain, Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Cultural Heritage Attaullah Tarar, SAPM Syed Tariq Fatemi also attended the meeting.

The prime minister warmly welcomed the delegation and expressed his gratitude for their participation in the symposium, being held in connection with the 'Vesak Day' that commemorates the birth, enlightenment and passing away of Lord Buddha. He also acknowledged

the valuable contributions of the Buddhist scholars and monks to the promotion of interfaith harmony and understanding. During the meeting, the prime minister and the delegation discussed ways to strengthen interfaith dialogue and cooperation, as well as opportunities for cultural and academic exchanges between from Vietnam, Most Vener- majority countries



QUETTA: Chief Executive Officer of Arya Hospital Dr. Sohail Khan shaking hand with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sardar Ahmed Bugti

Arya Hospital Chief calls on CM Bugti

OUETTA (APP): Head of Arya Hospital Quetta, Dr Sohail on Wednesday in a called on meeting briefed the Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti about the medical services provided by the hospital, which was established according to international standards. The provincial government of Balochistan was keen to provide quality healthcare facilities through public-private partnerships, similar to the model in Sindh, so that people in Balochistan can also access quality medical facilities at the local level. The Chief Minister expressed his desire to visit Arya Hospital

lack of quality private hospitals in Balochistan, due to which most people travel to Karachi and other cities for medical treatment.

The Chief Minister praised Dr. Sohail Ahmed's services, saying that his decision to return to Quetta, Pakistan, from United States, and serving his province and people, is commendable.

On this occasion, D Sohail Ahmed thanked the Chief Minister for his appreciation and said that the provincial government's determination to improve the health sector in Balochistan is commend-



QUETTA: Benazir Income Support Program Chairperson, Rubina Khalid along with Director General Balochistan Abdul Jabbar interacts with women during her visit to camp site located on Saryab Mill in Quetta.

Rubina Khalid reaffirms federal govt commitment to alleviate poverty in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Chair-person Benazir Income Benazir Income Programme Abdul Jabbar, Support Programme (BİSP), Rubina Khalid Wednesday reaffirmed the federal government's dedication to alleviate poverty in Balochistan by providing substantial economic support to the women of the province.

This announcement was made during a highlevel meeting with key stakeholders to discuss the coordination and implementation of BISP initiatives in Balochistan.

The meeting was attended by Secretary IT Ayaz Khan Mandukhel, Secretary Industries Noor Ahmed Perkani, Secretary Colleges Hafiz Tahir, DG sized.

and other relevant officials.

The discussion centered on enhancing the effectiveness of BISP in the province and introducing new initiatives aimed at poverty reduction.

Rubina Khalid stated that her visit was in accordance with the directives of the President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, who has shown a keen interest in the welfare of Balochistan. "The President has instructed us to pay special attention to the needs of Balochistan, particularly focusing on the economic empowerment of its women," she empha-



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Buddhist Monks led by Minister of Budhassasana and Religious Affairs of Sri Lanka Vidura Wickramanayaka

Prices of petroleum products likely to be reduced from June 01

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prices of petroleum products are likely to be reduced once again from June 01.

According to sources price of petrol per liter is likely to be slashed by Rs 5.50 for next 15 days while diesel price is likely to be decreased by Rs 4.30 per liter Kergegne il price may liter. Kerosene oil price may go down by Rs 2.15 per liter while light diesel price is likely to be reduced by Rs 5.08 per liter.

International market witnessed reduction in price of petroleum prod-

OGRA will send working to government on May 31 in proportion to reduction in international market. Final approval to re-

duction in price of petroleum products will be accorded by Prime Minister ehbaz Sharif. Ministry of finance will issue notification in respect

eum products. Govt cracks down on smuggling, hoarding with zero

of reduced prices of petro-

tolerance policy
ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant crackdown on smuggling, hoarding, and power pilferage, the government has made substantial progress in its zero-tolerance policy, yielding impressive results.

Since September last year, the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has been instrumental in facilitating the recovery of billions of rupees and scores of arrests. PTV reported. In a major anti-smuggling operation, authorities foiled the smuggling and illegal movement of 3,036

metric tons of fertilizer. Additionally, 281 metric tons of wheat and flour were seized from smugglers. preventing the smuggling of essential items.

The government's efforts have also led to the seizure of 34,640 metric tons of sugar, putting an end to illegal profiteering.

Furthermore, authorities recovered 2,503 metric tons of wheat, 56,948 metric tons of ghee, and 10,379 metric tons of sugar from

market price manipulators.
The government's commitment to upholding the rule of law and protecting Pakistan's economy is evident in the registration of 145,365 FIR's against individuals involved in power theft, resulting in the arrest of over 70,000 power thieves and the recovery of PKR 93 billion.

Interior Minister leaves for UK

ISLAMABAD (Online): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has left for the United Kingdom on the first leg of his visit to Europe.

He will hold meetings with the British Interior Minister and other top officials. Later, the Interior Minister will also visit Italy and Vatican City where he will have important meetings including with the Italian Interior Minister in Rome and Pope Francis at Vatican city.

to transfer PTI founder's marriage case to another court ISLAMABAD (APP): (on Wednesday)tried to Judge Sharukh Arjmand of disrupt the hearing. disrupt the hearing. At the onset of the hear-

Judge writes letter to IHC

the District and Sessions Court of Islamabad on Wednesday wrote a letter to the Registrar of the Islamabad High Court (IHC), urging him to transfer the marriage case of PTI founder and his wife to another court, as the plaintiff, Khawar Manika, had ex-pressed no confidence in his

Judge Sharukh Arjmand earlier in the day left the courtroom without pronouncing the verdict in the case, which was reserved on

May 23. The judge, in the letter, took the position that the plaintiff had expressed no confidence in his court for the second time, therefore. it would not be prudent to pronounce a verdict in the

Citing the misbehaviour of Khawar Manika, he stated that the defence counsel and the plaintiff throughout the proceedings

ing, defence counsel Rizwan Abbasi was not present in the courtroom. When asked by the judge in that regard, his assistant lawyer informed the court that Rizwan Abbasi was in the Supreme Court and requested for some time.
Subsequently, the court

directed Rizwan Abbasi to appear before the it by 10:30 a.m. The court then asked

the assistant lawyer to consult with Rizwan Abbasi and clarify their intent on

pursuing the case.

The assistant lawyer responded that they wanted that the case be transferred to another court, because the plaintiff was not satisfied with the proceedings in his court.

The judge inquired about the reason and requested him to furnish concrete evidence in support of his arguments.



Federal Minister for Communications, Investment Board and Privatization, Abdul Aleem Khan met with Prime Minister Tajikistan, Kokhir Rasulzoda

Maternal mortality rate in **Balochistan alarming:** Dr. Rubaba Buledi

Independent Report QUETTA: The Advisor to the Chief Minister of Balochistan for Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has expressed concern over the high maternal mortality rate in the province, stating that it is higher than in other provinces. According to a sur-

vey, 298 women out of 100,000 women die during childbirth Dr. Buledi attributed the poor infrastructure in the province as one of the reasons for the high mortality rate, particularly in remote areas. She emphasized the need for legislation and awareness cam-

paigns to address this issue.

The Balochistan Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response Bill 2024 is being introduced for the first time, and consultations with all stakeholders are underway.

Dr. Buledi appreciated the long-term support of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Balochistan's health care system and assured that collaborative efforts will continue to provide quality health facilities to the poor people in remote areas of the province. She stressed that effective measures will be taken to reduce the maternal, Perinatal and infant mortality Balochistan.

Pak Armed Forces pay tribute to martyrs on UN Peacekeeping Day

Pakistan Armed Forces on Wednesday paid tribute to its martyrs who had rendered the ultimate sacrifice while serving as UN peacekeepers in conflict-hit countries across the world on the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.

RAWALPINDI (APP): The the international community in commemorating the International Peacekeepers Day, paying tribute to the brave men and women who have served in the United Nations peacekeeping missions around the world," an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding Finance Bill

Acting President, PM express grief

29 people dead, 21 injured in fatal road accident in Washuk

CM Bugti orders shifting of Basima bus injured to Quetta by Air Ambulance

Independent Report QUETTA: At least 29 people, including women and children, were killed and 21 others injured after a passenger bus turned turtle and plunged into a ditch in Basima area of Washuk district on

Wednesday morning. According to the reports reaching here, about 21 people sustained injuries in the accident and have been moved to the Civil Hospital in Basima from where at least 11 were moved to Quetta

The initial reports suggested that the accident took place after the tyre of the passenger bus burst, said the rescue officials.

was travelling from Turbat to Quetta carrying over 50 passengers.

The levies and local administration rushed towards the spot of accident. The bodies and injured persons were retrieved from the bus and shifted to the civil hospitals of Basima, Panjgur and Khuzdar

Later, the seriously injured persons were brought to Quetta by the air ambulance and shifted to CMH Quetta for treatment where condition of few patients is stated to be precarious.

Balochistan's Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti offered his condolences over ily was going to Khushab.

The ill-fated passenger bus the loss of lives in the horrific accident and prayed for those who were

> In two similar incidents in May, 13 people belonging to the same family were killed and nine others got wounded as a truck plunged into a ditch in Punjab's Khushab district. The accident oc-curred because of a brake failure on Panj Pir Manawan Road Khushab, consequently, the truck driver lost control of the vehicle and it fell into the ditch.

The deceased of the illfated crash included women, too, and the fam-



QUETTA: Chairman Balochistan Public Service Commission Abdul Salik Khan presenting annual report of the Commission to Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Zia takes notice of incident of killing of two persons in

Naseerabad QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has taken notice of the incident of enmity that claimed two lives and left two others injured in Naseerabad.

According to an official handout issued here on Wednesday, the Minister Home sought report from the concerned authorities.

Mir Ziaullah Langove directed to the Deputy Commissioner to form special team for arrest of the culprits involved in the in-

He also directed to review the incident from all the aspects and provide justice to the heirs of deceased on priority basis.

The Minister prayed for the departed souls and grant of patience to the bereaved families.

strengthen BPSC financially for expansion of services at large scale Independent Report discussion. QUETTA: The Governor

Governor stresses need to

Khan Mandokhail has underlined the need to financially strengthen the Balochistan Public Service Commission (BPSC) further so as to expand its services at large scale.

The Governor said that the selection of talented and able officers is possible for different government departments through the competitive exams even to-

He was speaking to the Chairman of BPSC, Abdul Salik Khan and its members who called on him here at the Governor's House on Wednesday.

The Chairman BPSC presented annual report of the Commission to Gover-

During the course of meeting, overall performance of BPSC, implementation on the merit, financial matters and procedure of the tests and interviews for the posts came up for

The Governor was of the view that the issue o unemployment and especially the sense of disappointment among the vouth can easily be removed by ensuring merit in the examinations and interviews of the Commission and giving right to the right

persons. He said that the easiness and facilities can be created for the Commission and candidates appearing in the competitive examinations by building a big hall in the premises of BPSC.

He said that it is responsibility of the government to provide new opportunities of the employment and utilize their hidden potential for the national interests.

He said that there creates big hope for youngsters of the province when hundreds of the poor but able candidates are selected for jobs through different competitive examinations like CSS, PCS and ISSB.



OUETTA: Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango enquring about health of injured of Washuk bus accident at CMH

Langove, Buledi visit CMH to inquire health of accident injured Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove and Minister for Planning and Development, Mir Zahoor Buledi visited the Combined Military Hospital on Wednesday.

During the course of visit, they went to see the injured persons of Washuk passenger coach accident and inquired about their health. They assured their cooperation to the injured being treated at CMH.

They also directed the concerned high ups to provide best medical treatment

the injured persons. They also prayed for their early recovery from the injuries caused to them in the fatal accident

Establishment piling up pressure on state institutions, PTI says after iddat ruling delay ISLAMABAD (INP): A Islamabad court had re-

un-Islamic nikah case has apparently shattered Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) hopes of the early release of its founder Imran Khan from prison.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Wednesday, PTI Information Secretary Raoof Hasan said state institutions were trying to keep the party founder behind bars despite him securing bail in several cases.

Establishment's pressure on state institutions is piling up," he stated while reacting to the delay in the announcement of a reserved verdict in the iddat case against the PTI founder and his wife Bushra Bibi by an Islamabad sessions court earlier today.

delay in the ruling on the served the verdict last week on appeals filed by the PTI founder and his wife against their conviction in the iddat case However, District and Sessions Judge Shahrukh Arjumand sought his recusal from the case because it would not be appropriate for him to announce the verdict owing to repeated expression of noconfidence by Khawar Maneka, Bushra's ex-husband and the petitioner in the case.

In the presser today, the PTI spokesperson said the party has been witnessing "murder of justice" for the last two years and expressed fears that the former prime minister would have to spend more time in jail.

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

First steps

It is, without doubt, a positive development. The chief minister of KP seems to have reached an arrangement that will allow him to stick to his party's politics while he works with Islamabad on matters related to the governance and administration of

In the context of present-day politics in Pakistan, this is no mean feat. There has been considerable tension between the centre and KP — the only province where the PTI managed to seize power and form a government — ever since the

From reserved seats to provincial funds, an electricity supply crisis and non-invitation to the Special Investment Facilitation Council meetings, Peshawar has clashed bitterly with the government in Islamabad, demanding that its 'rights' be restored and that it be given a seat at the table. However, from recent developments, it appears that the federal and provincial governments have finally managed to break the ice.

On Saturday, KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur finally attended the SIFC meeting to which he had previously not been invited, and it seems to have gone well. The federal information minister later issued a glowing appraisal of the development, stating, "I think today's meeting was held in a very cordial atmosphere with great positivity [...] I think the good thing is that a message of unity was sent after today's SIFC meeting that the centre and the provinces are on one page."

Mr Gandapur, too, described it as "a very good meeting", while iterating that his province's resources should benefit both its residents and the larger country. He promptly apprised his party chief, Imran Khan, of the discussion in a visit to Adiala Jail. Then, on Monday, the KP chief minister also managed to reach an understanding with the ministers of interior and power over his province's power issues, signalling a shift away from his government's confrontational stance.

Both parties said they had arrived at a mutually acceptable solution to address prolonged loadshedding in the province, which seems to be rooted in rampant power theft. Signalling his commitment to mobilising his own party to lead the initiative, the KP CM revealed that the federal government, too, would play a part by extending some relief and relaxations. When asked what prompted the sudden thaw, Mr Gandapur deftly explained that his discussion with the two representatives of the federal government was a negotiation between institutions rather than a parley between individu-

als or the politics they represented. This is a commendable approach. There is no reason why ordinary people should suffer because of the differences between their leaders. It is mature of the KP government to set aside its differences for the good of its people, and one hopes that this small change will pave the way for bigger things.

World War III?

Mahir Ali

Thursday May 30, 2024

The president of Ukraine has lately devoted a great deal of his energy to soliciting international attendance at a supposed peace conference scheduled to be held in Switzerland in mid-June. He is particularly keen on the participation of Joe Biden and Xi Jinping. Vladimir Putin has not been in-

Kyiv's idea is to persuade the Global South to ditch its purported neutrality and help persuade Moscow to end the war it launched more than two years ago. Convincing China to reassess its alignment with Russia would be the biggest prize, but that is almost certainly out of same could probably be said about the bulk of nations economically (or politically) reliant on China or Russia.

others, as well as a dustry, the Russian economy has not tanked because of Western sanctions: earlier this year, the IMF predicted a 3.2 per cent growth rate, higher than what lies in store for Britain, France and Germany. What's more, many of the Western imports coveted by the Russian elite that helps to sustain Putin flow in via Dubai and other such entrepôts. It is unlikely that recent Western initiatives to deploy frozen Russian assets in the aid of Ukraine will make much difference.

Nor can a peace conference that excludes Russia produce a meaningful result. Putin would not anyhow have accepted an invitation without an embarrassing Swiss assurance of immuconference, given the International Criminal Court's warrant against

Russia. It could even be argued that he has committed far worse crimes both within Russia and on its periphery. What stands out, however, is the Western hypocrisy in hailing Putin's indictment

while placing Benjamin Netanyahu — whose regime has slaughtered children, rather than transporting them to Israel on a pedestal of impunity, and hence immunity in the face of an ICC war-It would appear that

the Western-designed 'rule of law' applies chiefly to Russia and China. The US and its close allies are exempt from this much-ballyhooed standard of civilisation. A vengeful reach for now — the killing spree by Israel apparently does not violate those norms. An International Court of Justice injunction against deadly operations in Rafah can-Thanks largely to not be supported, even China and India, among though it echoes similar suggestions by the US stepped-up military in- and many of its allies perhaps because they had factored in the unlikelihood of Netanyahu administra-

tion heeding their pleas. Were the West so inclined, switching off military supplies to Israel would help to stem the hostilities in Gaza and the West Bank. Ukraine is a far trickier proposition. For all its foibles, Kyiv isn't the aggressor. Russia's historical paranoia about influence, infiltration or aggression from the West, even when combined with EU and US efforts to woo Kyiv, cannot even begin to justify its military assault and the subsequent war of at-

Fortuitously, the attempted invasion initially went badly for Russia, but lately the tide appears to nity for the duration of the have turned — to the extent that the US and Nato are considering openly deploying 'military trainhim from last year for the ers' within Ukraine, and war crime of transferring Washington is debating Dawn

Ukrainian children to whether to allow US-supplied weapons to target Russian territory. That seems like a potent recipe for facilitating a third world war, regardless of

who lobs the first missile. Putin has lately purged his defence hierarchy, ostensibly on grounds of corruption (and incompetence). Volodymyr Zelensky has done the same now and then, recently purg-ing his personal bodyguard amid suspicions of a plot to assassinate him as a gift to Putin on the eve of the latter's umpteenth inauguration as president. Such indications serve as a reminder that both countries have much in common beyond the historical connections absurdly exaggerated by Putin and crudely emphasised by Kyiv's rulers. There have been indications that some territorial concessions -Crimea and the Donbas region, for instance would quench Putin's thirst for expansion. Back when the Soviet Union was intact, which region belonged to which constituent republic did not matter much. Potential geographical disputes ought to have been settled before the USSR split up in 1991, but the

Belarusian architects of its demise were in too much of a hurry to worry about such niceties. Among others, Xi Jinping and Pope Francis both reckon that reasonable territorial concessions would be an acceptable price to pay for peace. Reports suggest that Donald Trump — once and, appallingly, possibly the future US president does not disagree.

Russian, Ukrainian and

Zelensky and most other Ukrainians would understandably question the idea of rewarding aggression. But is there a feasible alternative for ensuring more Ukrainians don't perish? -- Courtesy

Termination limits

Parvez Rahim

There is an acute misconception that employers in Pakistan possess an unrestricted right to hire and fire their workers. The phrase 'hire and fire' is used primarily to denote the employers' unfettered right to sack workers. On the other hand, the idea of unlimited hiring is laudable as it provides employment to the populace.

The 'right' to anything is only derived from the law and not assumed by people. In labour laws, the provisions relating to the termination of workers' employment are governed by the Industrial and Commercial Employment the devolution in 2010, this ordinance was re-enacted and promulgated by all the provinces but with minimal amendments. SO 1 (Section 2) the title implies, it beclassifies the workman in comes difficult for the six categories: permabadlis, temporary, apprentices and contract worker. SO 12 provides the mode of termination of workmen other than the apprentices and the

contract workers. A probationer is provisionally employed for a period of three months to fill a permanent vacancy. A badli is appointed in the post of a temporarily absent workman. A temporary workman is engaged for provisional work, which is scheduled for completion within a nine-month period. The apprenticeship conditions are governed by the Apprenticeship Ordinance, 1962, including the termination of contract. The contract worker works on a contract basis for a specific period but the law is silent on his termination before the stipulated pe-

riod ends. Under SO 12 (2), the services of temporary appear before a do-workmen, badlis and mestic inquiry and his ees. -- Courtesy Dawn

However, the written order of termination should explicitly state that the services of a perworkman shall not be terthan in the manner pre-

scribed in SO 15"

SO 12 also contains the provision for 'termination simplicitor' in certain conditions. The services of a permanent trenchment, the emworkman may be terminated for "any reason the last person emother than misconduct" with a month's notice or payment of one month's salary in lieu of the no-(Standing Orders) Ordia and KP, the employers nance, 1968. Following are required to pay a months' salary has to be

employers to invoke 'terprobationers, mination simplicitor' as there is little reason to do so other than for misconduct. However, termination on the pretext of misconduct, carried out in the garb of termination simplicitor, is reversed by petitioner reinstated.

SO 12 also stipulates that "a workman shall be entitled to receive the amount standing to his credit in the provident amination by the petifund, including the contioners' lawyers on my tributions of the employer to such fund, the court, but this is even if he resigns or is dismissed from service". SO 15 is the most im-

ordinance of 1968 with a managements, but list of offences constituting misconduct. A workman accused of process is expensive misconduct is required to explain the Therefore, only the exlevelled charges against him. If the employer is not satisfied way for labour litigawith the explanation, tion to become consehe will ask the latter to quential and beneficial

probationers may be ter- services will only be minated without notice. terminated if the complaint against him is declared valid

The ordinance the reason for the action also prescribes procetaken. SO 12 (5) provides dures for the closure of establishment (SO manent or a temporary 11-A) and retrenchment of workers (SO minated on grounds of 13). In the case of clomisconduct "otherwise sure, the empl-oyer cannot terminate more than 50 per cent of the workmen without prior permission from the labour court. In the context of reployer is to retre-nch ployed in a category. While the afore-

said terms prove that the employers do not tice. In Punjab, Sindh have unrestrained powers to terminate the services of their month's salary, whereas workers, aggrieved in Balochistan, three personnel face numerous impediments in their pursuit of rein-Contrary to what statement. At the outset, they need a lawyer conversant with labour cases and laws to pursue their cases before the court. People who have never witnessed the functioning of courts are often fearful of appearing before a judge. Besides, cases the labour court and the are adjourned frequently for various reasons

Since 2018, I have visited the court 10 to 15 times for cross-exaffidavit filed before yet to take place. Such inordinate delays may not cause any difficulportant provision of the ties for resourceful victimised parties suffer immensely as the and time consuming. peditious delivery of justice can pave the

Commerce News

Jam Kamal says: Govt all set to resolve rising production costs, industry issues

LAHORE (APP): Federal unemployment and emphasised that the involvement of relevant Minister for Commerce promote the SMEs (Small government's top priority stakeholders in addressing Jam Kamal Khan has said that the government has devised a well-tailored, well-thought-out and doable strategy to overcome rising production (LCCI) on Wednesday. cost issue for the sake of promotion manufacturing sector in the Ministry of Commerce to institutions, which burden

business environment understand and resolve Prime Minister Shehbaz would be ensured to cut their

and Medium Enterprises)," he said while talking to the related to trade, export, business community here import, manufacturing, and at Lahore Chamber of tariff competitiveness. Commerce and Industry Additionally, issues like

responsibility of the inefficiency of various currency, rising costs of maintain contact with the consumers, needed to be interest rates, MDI conducive business community to tackled. He promised that

issues.

government's top priority was addressing challenges circular debt, the IMF He said that it was the conditions, and the

He Sharif had guaranteed the

stakeholders in addressing economic issues. LCCI President Kashif Anwar welcomed the Minister and highlighted the challenges being faced by the business community including inflation, depreciating electricity, gas, fuel, highcharges, axle load laws, and increased cargo delivery



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan addressing during his visit to Lahore



QUETTA: A delegation of Zhob led by President Anjuman Tajiran Zhob Hakeem Khan Mandokhail meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar

Punjab govt to offer better incentives to Chinese investors: Ch Shafay

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Industries, Commerce & Investment Chaudhry Shafay Hussain has assured All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) of offering better incentives to attract Chinese investors to boost apparel exports through industrial parks in the province.

"A mechanism is being evolved to ensure no change in policy irrespective of the coming in or going out of any government," he said, adding that the Punjab government would also ensure full scale security for the Chinese investors working in the province.
He visited APTMA

delegation including Javed Iqbal, Chairman PIEDMC,

Jalal Hassan Chief Executive Officer Punjab Investment Board, and Asif Ali Farrukh, DG Industries to get a briefing on the proposed industrial parks in Punjab. APTMA (North) Chairman Kamran Arshad, Senior Vice Chairman Asad Shafi, Vice Chairman Ahmed Shafi, former Chairman of the Association Abdul Rahim Nasir, Executive member Anjum Zafar, Muhammad

informed that Punjab Chief Minister has recently set up a high-powered Lahore office along with the committee to examine and provincial government's understand the best practices across the world in general

Ali and Secretary General

Mohammad Raza Baqir

welcomed the delegation on

the occasion.

Shipping activity at **Port Qasim** KARACHI

Shipping activity was report at the port where two ships, Maersk Valencia and PVT Venuscarrying Container and Chemicals, berthed at Container Terminal and Engro Terminal respectively on Tuesdav

Meanwhile three more ships, Atlantic Ibis, MSC Positano and Milaha Raslaffan carrying Container and LNG also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Oasim on today. A total of 09 ships

were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a Bulk cargo carrier'Sunny Bay left the port on today morning while five more ships, Sea Steller, Atlantic Ibis, PVT Venus, Blue Bird and Maersk Valencia are expected to sail on today afternoon.

to boost trade, investment NEW YORK (APP): signature organization Pakistani Consul General uniting foreign consuls in in New York, Aamer world largest consular Ahmed Atozai, Tuesday corps.

Pak consul general discuses

with New York mayor need

Ahmed Atozai, Tuesday corps. held "fruitful" discussions with City's Mayor Eric were productive," Atozai, Adams that focused on the the Pakistani consul potential for increasing trade and investment between Pakistan and New York, one of the biggest and wealthiest American

The two officials met during a breakfast hosted by Mayor Adam for foreign consuls at his residence. The event was organized by the Society of Foreign Consuls in New York, a capital'

general, said after his exchange of views with the mayor.
"We are committed to

deepening our cooperation in various sectors to benefit both our communities," he added. New York City, a metropolis of 8.8 million people, hosts the United Nations Headquarters and is often called the 'world

Speakers call for removing bottlenecks for promoting oil, gas sectors

speakers at a conference while highlighting the importance of deregulation of the petroleum sector, on Wednesday stressed the need for removing bottlenecks for promoting oil and gas sectors

in the country. They were of the view that all stakeholders, government and regulators should set together and devise a concrete strategy in the larger national interest of the country.

The Oil and Gas

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Conference Pakistan (OGCP-2024), organized by Energy Update in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) and the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA).

Speaking on the occasion, Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) Chairman Masroor Khan said that OGRA was providing facilities to the industry through OGRA regulatory framework

to grow local economy BEIJING (APP): Chinese corridors under CPEC, Corridor, and the Regional experts said that the while Pakistani officials continuously strengthened have reportedly expressed cooperation in the Chinahope to revitalize meeting, Pakistan Economic cooperation within the BRI

Pakistan eyes on ramped-up

CPEC cooperation with China

framework to bolster the

Corridor (CPEC) under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is poised to foster greater economic development momentum in Pakistan. It will also create new market potential for Chinese businesses.

made as China and Pakistan recently unveiled five new

morning and arrived in

Karachi in nearly six hours,

Xinhua reported. The

plane will return to Guiyang

loaded with blue crabs from

country's stagnating economy. The identified five new corridors for the second phase of the CPEC

The remarks were

include the Growth Corridor, the Economic Corridor, the Green bilateral cooperation.

Connectivity Corridor.

Minister Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the revival of projects in Gwadar and the newly identified corridor programs were the latest progress made under CPEC, which he hailed as a milestone in Pakistan - China Development Projects friendship, laying a Corridor, the Innovation robust foundation for

Southwest China Malaysian HC for launches new enhancing bilateral air cargo route trade up to \$12b to Pakistan

BEIJING (APP): A new air ISLAMABAD (APP): trade potential and that cargo route was launched linking southwest China's Malaysian High Commissioner to Pakistan Guizhou Province and Pakistan's largest city Mohammad Azhar Bin Mazlan Wednesday said Karachi.Marking the official start of the air route, that the current volume of bilateral trade between an all-cargo plane carrying 6 tonnes of freight, \$1.8 billion as compared to including clothing, its existing potential of \$12 electronic products and other commodities, took billion annually. off from Guiyang, capital of Guizhou, on Tuesday

Addressing Commerce and Industry (ICCI), he said that the was less than the mutual

ICCI can play a significant role in its advancement, said a press release.

There are many opportunities development in the halal both countries stood at industry in Malaysia and Pakistan, in which the private sector of both countries should play their full role by businessmen at the taking tangible steps, he Islamabad Chamber of said adding that his country would extend full cooperation to current volume of trade Pakistan to become a between the two countries regional hub of halal industry

Governor pledges constitutional role for betterment of province

Independent Report AHORE: Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has reaffirmed

his commitment to play a constitutional role for betterment of the province. the Governor's House with delegations from the

delegations, stressing that his role transcends party lines During a meeting at and that he serves all of the province. He reiterated that the Governors' House Pakistan People's Party remains accessible to both workers and the general (PPP) Sargodha, the People's Students Federation (PSF) Punjab, public. "The PPP holds its workers in high esteem," he and the PPP Minority said, promising that the Wing, he emphasised the importance of setting aside internal differences to addressed promptly. delegations would be

LAHORE: Khawaja Jalaluddin Rumi, a well-known

industrialist and former president Chamber of

Commerce and Industry, Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan,

meeting with Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem

Pakistan, China ties

strengthening with every

passing day: KP Minister

(APP):

of Local

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Government and Regional

Development Arshad Ayub

Khan on Wednesday said that

China was a trusted friend

and neighbour of Pakistan.

"The 73-year bilateral ties

between the two countries

are strengthening with every

passing day," he said during

a ceremony held in Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa house in

Islamabad in connection

with the 73-year Pakistan-

Pakistan should learn from

The minister said that

Association.

Friendship

development, adding that opportunities.

China's experiences for Chinese investors and

socio-economic companies to tap the

China has been Pakistan's

largest trading partner for

eight consecutive years and

a network of development

projects was being laid

between Pakistan and China

under the China Pakistan

Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said both countries share

boundaries and good

relations between the two

nations. The student

exchange program would

opportunities to the youth

besides bringing them closer.

The minister said that there

were vast investment

opportunities in Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa and invited

provide

Haider Khan at Governor House.

country's development meeting included General Secretary PPP Central and stability. In his address, the governor Punjab Hassan Murtaza, welcomed the party Information Secretary Shehzad Saeed Cheema Tasneem Qureshi from Sargodha, PSF President Musa Khokhar, and Imran Athwal and Edwin Sohotra from the PPP Minority Wing. The governor's inclusive approach and dedication to public service were well-received by the issues raised by the attendees, underscoring a collective effort towards the province's progress.

Thursday May 30, 2024

Dacoit killed, constable injured in

police encounter FAISALABAD (APP): A dacoit was allegedly killed while a police constable sustained injuries during an encounter in the area of Mansoorabad police station.

Police spokesman Talish Abbas Jutt said here on Wednesday that dolphin force team signaled three suspects riding on a motorcycle near Abadi 80 Murabba Chak No.203-RB on Sheikhupura Road ate Tuesday night but the accused opened fire and injured a constable Al Raza Cheema.

3 killed over domestic dispute

SARGODHA (APP): At least three people were in firing over a domestic dispute in Kot Momin police station precincts, here on Wednesday. Rescue-1122

Emergency Officer Mazhar Shah said that 25-year-old Maratib, son of Nawaz, 22-year-old Ali Shehbaz son of Shehzad and 17year-old Bilal Muneer, son Muneer Ahmed, resident of Dera Shiekh Saleem, Chak No. 66-SB, had a dispute over on some domestic matters.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of representative of South Waziristan Angoor Ada meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi.

Kundi directs establishment of **NADRA** citizens facilitation centres at tehsil level

PESHAWAR Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi here Wednesday directed the Director General (DG) National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) Regional Head Office KP, Khalid Inayatullah to establish citizens facilitation centres at tehsil

population of the province. The governor passed these directives during a meeting with DG NADRA here at the Governor's

level to facilitate the local

The meeting discussed the ongoing campaign from NADRA the setting up of a new

Community Development

& Environment Society of Civil Services Academy

(CSA) has initiated the

'Heat wave mitigation

campaign, aiming to address the challenges,

bу

have been set up as part

of the endeavour, each

serving a dual purpose of

providing refreshments

and disseminating vital

Two relief camps

posed

temperatures.

Mobile Van in Khyber NRC at Khasoor would Pakhtunkhwa and NADRA services provided to citizens including issuance of CNIC and attestation process. The DG NADRA said that every possible service is being provided to the citizens of KP at NADRA offices and open katcheris (open courts) for the resolution of people's complaints are being arranged in Khyber

Besides establishment of National Registration Centre (NRC) at Panyala in DI Khan, he said that the upgradation of registration the NRC at Paharpoor and

Khawaja, Director PS

Sadiq Chohan led the

campaign which was arranged by Community

Environment Society

President Talha Rafiq

Alam, General Secretary

Dr. Aleena Shakeel Nagra

assistant commissioners,

located at The Mall road.

was made possible through

here on Wednesday.

under-training

The inaugural camp,

Development

Pakhtunkhwa.

Civil Services Academy

initiates 'Heat wave

mitigation campaign'

LAHORE (APP): The General Farhan Aziz

provide the best possible services to the area people. The governor directed the establishment of

passport offices at NADRA Offices in KP. The governor said residents of rural areas especially senior citizens and women confronted with problems in the renovation and registration of CNICs and emphasized mobile registration services in the morning and evening in rural areas. He also directed the simplification of collective services including the acquisition of identity cards of NADRA to facilitate people.

01 killed, 6 injured over land dispute

BUREWALA (APP): A person was killed while six others including a woman sustained injuries over brawl between two groups on land dispute in limits of Saddar police.

According details, there was a two kanal land dispute between Lagrial community in Chak No 457/EB on which one group consisted of over 20 armed post-20 armed persons including Malik Asghar Lagrial, Ehsan Langrial, Muzamil, Farooq and others attacked on opposite group

Minister says: Entrepreneurship to fortify economy, empower women

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for School Education Rana Sikandar Hayat has said promotion of entrepreneurship is necessary empowerment of women and stability of the

country's economy. post-graduate students' conference students' conference, organised by the Punjab Jniversity Institute of Education and Research on the theme of 'Education for Entrepreneurship' at Waheed Shaheed Hall, here on Wednesday.

Punjab University (PU) Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood, IER (Institute of Education and Research) Director Prof Dr Tariq Mehmood, Conference Secretary Iffat Alvi, senior faculty members, researchers and

a large number of students

În his address, Rana Sikandar said that in Bangladesh, India and Malaysia, women were brought forward in every sector to develop the country. He said that students must learn to use technology to promote entrepreneurship. He said that 64 per cent of Pakistan's population consisted of youth; if they were provided with skills along with education, they could take the country far ahead.He said Punjab Čhief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif was working day and night for development of youth and women. He said that for the high quality of education in the country, it was necessary to make education free



LAHORE: Former Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider meeting with Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan.

Establishment of South Punjab Secretariat marks new era of progress: ACS

members of the business and farming communities on Wednesday met Additional Chief Secretary

(ACS) South Punjab, Fuad Hashim Rabbani. The delegation was led by Malik Khalid Bhutta. President of Oaumi Tajir Ittehad South Punjab, and Abdul Ghafoor Babar, District President Kisan

Ittehad, Muzaffargarh.

MULTAN (APP): A Maqbool Khokhar, Ishfaq delegation comprising Malik, Iqbal Khan and others.

highlighted that the establishment of the South Punjab Secretariat marks a new era of progress and development in the region. He emphasized the focus on agricultural development and increasing literacy rates to eradicate poverty. Rabbani said that the recommendations from Other members included, international organizations.

International News

information on preventive measures.CSA Director a collaboration with Pearl Continental Hotel.

and

Unrepentant Israel kills 21 in strike on another camp

Monitoring Desk

RAFAH: Another str-ike on a camp for displa-ced Palestinians claimed 21 lives on Tuesday, tanks rolled through the centre of the southern Gaza city, which has been a refuge for those fleeing Israeli bom-

bardment. The tank strike in Al Mawasi came a day after a similar deadly attack on a separate tent city in Rafah set off a fire that killed 45 people, incinerating many. Sunday's strike had prom-pted global outrage and even let to Israeli leaders expressing some remorse about their actions.

However, Tuesday's attack indicated that Israel has no intention of changing course or abiding by an

International Court of Justice ruling to stop the offensive in Rafah.

In the latest bloodshed, a Gaza civil defence agency official said 21 people were killed in an 'occupation strike targeting the tents of displaced people" in west Rafah.

In Rafah, residents and a Palestinian security source said Israeli tanks had now penetrated the heart of the southern city.

At least 12 of the dead were women, according to medical officials in the Palestinian enclave.

But Israel's military later said in a statement: "Contrary to the reports from the last few hours, the Forces) did not strike in the

since the advent of democ-

racy, the African National

Congress risks losing its outright majority. The ANC

may be forced to negotiate,

to form a coalition govern-

ment. "This is certainly South Africa's most unpre-

dictable election since

1994" says a political ana-

lyst, Daniel Silke.

Polish Minister of Defence Wladyslaw Kosiniak-

Kamysz presents details of "East Shield", a 10 bil-

lion zloty (\$2.55 billion) program to beef up de-

fenses along its eastern border with Belarus and

South Africa gears up for

Russia, in Warsaw, Poland.

now seem to be fed up with

unemployment, crime and

running, 1.6 million "spe-

cial voters" including the

elderly, essential workers,

police and prisoners, were

permitted to cast early bal-

lots The rest of South

Africa's 27-million-strong

For the second day

corruption

Mawasi." Tuesday's incident in Al-Mawasi occurred in an area designated by Israel as an expanded humanitarian zone. İsrael had urged Palestinian civilians in Rafah, including around one million displaced by the almost eight-month-old war, to evacuate there when it launched its incursion in

early May. In central Rafah, tanks and armoured vehicles mounted with machineguns were spotted near Al-Awda mosque, a city landmark, witnesses told Reuters.

The Israeli military said its forces continued to operate in the Rafah area, without commenting on re-IDF (Israel Defence ported advances into the

Trump's lawyers brand hush money case 'lies'

Monitoring Desk NEW YORK: Defence lawyers in Donald Trump's hush money trial made their final pitch to the jury on Tuesday, insisting the first ever criminal prosecution of a former US president was based on "lies".

Meanwhile, a federal judge refused a request by prosecutors to impose a gag order barring Trump from making inflam- ${
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Trump is accused of falsifying business records to reimburse his lawyer, Michael Cohen, for a \$130,000 payment to porn star Stormy Daniels, when her account of a 2006 sexual encounter could have doomed his 2016 presidential campaign.



tent camp destroyed by an Israeli strike in the southern Gaza Strip.

Israeli incursion could halt Rafah's last functioning hospital, says WHO

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: A World Health Organisation official said on Tuesday the last hospital in Rafah could stop functioning and a substantial number of deaths could be expected if Israel launches

southern Gaza city. "If the incursion would continue, we would lose the last hospital in Rafah," Richard Peeperkorn, the WHO representative for Gaza and the

"full incursion" into the

West Bank, said on the side-

Israeli tanks were reported to have advanced into the centre of Rafah.

He said that in the case of a "full incursion", a contingency plan involving treating patients in a string of ill-equipped field hospitals "will not prevent what we expect: substantial additional mortality and morbidity'

Israel's three-weekold Rafah offensive stirred renewed outrage after an airstrike on Sunday ignited a blaze in a tent camp in a lines of the World Health Assembly in Geneva, as least 45 people.

Iran's Khamenei seeks trusted hardliner to replace

complicate efforts by the authorities to manage a task of even greater consequence - the succession to the supreme leader.

Once seen as a possible successor to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, İran's ageing ultimate decisionmaker, Raisi's sudden death has triggered a race among hardliners to influence the

be a trusted ally who can ensure stability, amid manoeuvring over the eventual succession to his own position, insiders and ana-

The next president is likely to be a hardliner unwaveringly loyal to Khamenei with a background in the Revolutionary Guards

Mines, unexploded ordnance a daily menace for Afghanistan's

children **Monitoring Desk** GHAZNI: The black mushroom cloud had barely faded in Ghazni province before kids clustered around the

edge of the crater created by the mine, one of the devices that kills a child every other day in Afghanistan. Afghans have been able to return to fields, schools and roads since the Taliban authorities ended their insurgency and ousted

the Western-backed gov

ernment in 2021.

Volcano in **Iceland erupts** for fifth time since December

COPENHAGEN: A volcano in southwestern Iceland sent glowing hot lava shooting more than 50 metres into the air on Wednesday, its fifth eruption since December and the most powerful one since its volcanic system became active three years

Authorities had warned of the risk of renewed volcanic activity in the area just south of the capital Reykjavik as studies showed magma accumulated underground

US presses for probe, says ground operation in Rafah not warranted

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: Urging Israel to conduct a thorough investigation into a tent city bombing and uphold its obligations under international humanitarian law, the US on Tuesday said it didn't believe a major ground operation in Rafah was warranted.

White House spokesperson John Kirby maintained that the Israeli strike that killed dozens of Palestinians in Rafah did not cross a "red line" set by President Joe Biden.

"We still don't believe that a major ground opera- community with the mantion in Rafah is warranted. We still don't want to see the Israelis, as we say, smash into Rafah with large

that and we haven't seen that at this point," he told reporters at a White House

"As a result of this strike on Sunday I have no policy changes to speak to," he added. "It just happened. The Israelis are going to investigate it. We're going to be taking great interest in what they find in that investigation. And we'll see where it goes from there." Kirby told reporters Tuesday that there was a real danger that Israel could become further iso-

So this is of concern, clearly, because it's units over large pieces of territory. We still believe est," Kirby said.

lated from the international

ner in which it is conduct-

ing operations.

Israel says Gaza war likely to last another seven months

Monitoring Desk

CAIRO: Israel sent tanks on raids into Rafah on Wednesday and predicted its war on Hamas in Gaza would continue all year, after Washington said the Rafah assault did not amount to a major ground operation that rather than staying put would trigger a change as they have in other in US policy. Israeli tanks moved

into the heart of Rafah for the first time on Tuesday, despite an order from the International Court of Justice city, where many Palestinians had taken ref- eas," the deputy direcuge from bombardment elsewhere.

said Israel had not explained how it would keep evacuees from Rafah safe and provide food, water and medicine. Its ruling also called on Hamas to release hostages taken from Israel on Oct. 7 immediately and uncon- the militants deny.

said Israeli tanks had pushed into Tel Al-Sultan in the west and Yibna and near Shaboura in the centre before retreating towards a buffer zone on the border with Egypt, offensives.

"We received distress calls from residents in Tel Al-Sultan where drones targeted displaced citizens as they moved from areas to end its attacks on the where they were staying toward the safe artor of ambulance and where. emergency services in Rafah, Haitham al

Hams, said. Palestinian health officials said 19 civilians had been killed in Israeli air strikes and shelling across Gaza. Israel accuses Hamas militants of hiding among civilians, which

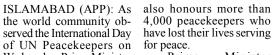
'most unpredictable' vote matory comments about law enforce-Raisi in June vote **Monitoring Desk** Monitoring Desk JOHANNESBURG: South registered electorate will be ment, after his camcalled forth on Wednesday, paign falsely claimed **Monitoring Desk** selection of Iran's next to elect the provincial leg-Africans on Tuesday DUBAI: Iran fires the startislatures and a new national authorised to assasbraced for an 'evenly Khamenei, 85, seeks a ing gun this week on an elecparliament. The national sinate him during its fiercely loyal president in the June 28 election to run matched' general election, tion to replace President parliament will then handsearch of his Florida which may loosen the rul-Ebrahim Raisi, whose death ing ANC's 30-year grip on pick the countries new estate. the country day-to-day and in a helicopter crash could president. For the first time power. Numerous voters

On UN Peacekeepers Day, PM lauds Blue Helmets³ contributions to peace

the world community observed the International Day of UN Peacekeepers on Wednesday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid tribute to their services saying that the UN missions had been critical in maintaining peace and protecting civilians in conflict zones.

According to the United Nations, since 1948, more than two million uniformed and civilian personnel have helped countries in transition from war to peace. Today, more than 70,000 peacekeepers serve in 11 missions deployed in hotspots around the world.

Besides paying tribute to the service and sacrifice of peacekeepers, the Day



Shehbaz expressed special gratitude for the Pakistani peacekeepers who had made significant contributions. "230,000 military personnel, including our brave Pakistani female peacekeepers, have made the nation proud for 64 years of our commitment to the UN peacekeeping Among these were 183 martyrs who sacrificed their lives for global peace, we also pay tribute to them. Their selfless act of cour age and sacrifice will forever be etched in our hearts," he wrote on his X timeline.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister, Mir Shoaib Nosherwani exchanging views with Younas Aziz Zehri, Opposition Leader in Balochistan Assembly during meeting held in Quetta.

CPEC second phase to be successful with best dividends ahead: Sen Mushahid

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Chairman Senate Defence Committee, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed on Wednesday said the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project's second phase would be successful as its best dividends would be received in the coming years. He was addressing the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and the PCI jointly organised high-level policy dialogue on "Reforms Agenda for CPEC 2.0: Op-portunities and the Way Forward" under its Green

CPEC Alliance.

Mushahid Hussain said CPEC is the pillar of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) launched by Presi-

of Chinese confidence in world

Pakistan as China came to help Pakistan at a critical stage when the country barely had any other nation's support.

"Pakistan and China

want to be the regional hub of connectivity from North to South and East to West that has contrasting visions of connectivity and cooperation that includes all and conversely there is a negative vision of new cold war and curtailment, and we reiect that vision as 21st century cannot support zero minus sum vision. It's connectivity and CPEC is the way forward. The next decade will be more successful as the best part of the CPEC is yet to come," he

On this occasion, Exdent Xi Jinping which is ecutive Director, Sustainundoubtedly the diplomatic able Development Policy and development initiative Institute (SDPI), Dr Abid of the century encompassing Asia, Africa and bestan and China can collaborate for exploring the un-The BRI, he said has tapped potential of "Green brought nations of the Minerals" under the world together, whereas CPEC's second phase as it CPEC is the manifestation is the future fuel of the



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Planning and Development, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Baledi listening the problems of citizens, at Civil Secretariat.

One-day workshop and seminar on Fistula at **Teaching Hospital Loralai**

day workshop and seminar was held at the Teaching Hospital Loralai under the auspices of the Fistula Foundation and PNFWH on Wednesday.

According to details, the event was attended by doctors, paramedics, nurses, lady health workers, lady health visitors, and community midwives. The seminar focused on raising awareness about fistula, its potential harmful effects, treatment options, and the available centers for its

Provincial Coordinator of the Fistula Foundation PNFWH, Ashir Javed, spoke about the objectives of the project, treatment methods, and training for healthcare providers.

Additionally, Muhammad Usman from the SOMNCH program informed the participants trained healthcare workabout the goals of the ers, and absence of basic MNCH program, health is- facilities at the regional sues faced by women and level.

by women during natural disasters, and the steps taken by the MNCH pro-Assistant Professor

Dr. Safia Khan from the Gynecology Ward of the Teaching Hospital addressed the audience stating that fistula is a severe disease but can be treated if diagnosed in

proximately 2 million women worldwide suffer from this debilitating condition, which often leads to social isolation.

4,000 to 5,000 women are affected by fistula, primarily due to social inequalities, outdated customs, poverty, lack of education and awareness, unavailability of family planning facilities, shortage of

LORALAI (APP): A one- children, challenges faced

She noted that ap-In Pakistan, about

girls of Balochistan.

This global event, crucial for the well-being of millions of women and girls, was organized in collaboration with GIZ, IRC, Mercy Corps, UNICEF, UNFPA, Water Aid, Qatar Charity, Islamic Relief, and other members of the MHM Working Group. Officials from relevant government departments, including Health and Education, along

Stressing the need to raise awareness and educate

Abdullah Khan, Secretary Population, Balochistan, said, "the stigma and ignorance related to MH can be a serious health hazard. Therefore, we need to edu-



Pakistan ready to cooperate with regional countries in economic, trade sectors: Aleem

Federal Minister of Communications, Investment Board and Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan, who is on visit to Tajikistan, held a meeting with Prime Minister Kokhir Rasulzoda in Dushanbe and discussed with him matters of bilateral relations and important

While welcoming the ederal minister, the Prime Minister of Tajikistan Kokhir Rasulzoda reiter-

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor

Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar

Khan Mandokhail has

stated that we are well

aware of the issues of edu-

cation, health and clean

drinking water being faced

by the people of Zhob and

it's adjoining areas and as

such we are determined to

resolve these issues very

speaking to a delegation

who called on him under

leadership of the President

of Anjuman Tajran Zhob,

Hakim Khan here on

bers of delegation, Gover-

nor said that the people of

Zhob and it's adjoining ar-

eas are facing numerous is-

sues due to lack of basic

ASI shot dead

PESHAWAR (APP): Un-

known assailants on

Wednesday shot dead a

police Assistant Sub In-

spector (ASI) in the vicin-

ity of Sarband police sta-

Ali Akbar, son of Akbar

Khan was on the way for

duty on his motorcycle

when unknown assailants

fired at him, killing him on

Police said another

asserby also sustained

ullet injuries in the firing.

he martyred ASI Ali

Akbar was deputed at the

PAL office in Hayatabad.

LHC rejects

Fawad plea

for appearance

thru video link

LAHORE (Online): Lahore

High Court (LHC) has re-

jected plea of former fed-

eral minister Fawad

Chaudhry in connection

with his attendance through

video link in the cases regis-

tered against him in Punjab.

Announcing reserved judg-

ment the two members bench

of LHC led by Justice Farooq

Haider dismissed the peti-

tion of Fawad in connection

with his attendance

Police said ASI, Haji

Speaking to the mem-

Vednesday

The Governor was

open for bilateral cooperation for Pakistan, said a press release issued here on

Aleem Khan thanked Prime Minister of Tajikistan and said that the two countries are historically bound in religious and cultural ties and in future this relationship can be further strengthened by the promotion of trade activi-

Earlier, while addressated that the doors of ing the International Con- of Central Asia while also

Governor assures to take practical

steps to resolve issues faced

by people of Zhob district

facilities it is his desire and

endeavour to resolve the

issues of people of Zhob

and provide them basic fa-

cilities to them at their door-

of delegation apprised the

Governor about the issues

and hardships being faced

by Dr. Asfandyar Sherani.

QUETTA: The Deputy

Speaker Balochistan As-

sembly, Mrs. Ghazala Gola

has stated that although

Benazir Bhutti is not

present among us, but her

vision is still alive. The

Balochistan Assembly was

speaking to the Chairper-

son Benazir Income Sup-

port Programme (BISP), Mrs. Rubina Khalid who

called on her here at her

chamber on Wednesday.

During the course of meet-

ing, different matters were

discussed related to the

women rights and issues.

Mohtarma

Speaker

Speaking on the occa- sional lives.

QUETTA: APCA Balochistan activates hold pro-

Shaheek

Deputy

by people of Zhob.

Earlier, the members

OUETTA: Advisor for Women Development Depart-

ment. Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi. Meets with the

World Health Organization (WHO) delegation led

Vision of Shaheed BB still

alive: Deputy Speaker BA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Tajikistan will always be ference at Dushanbe, ensuring the implementathe federal minister said that Pakistan was ready to cooperate in all kinds of economic and business activities in the region for which practical work was being done to bring trade cor-

> other countries. He said that Pakistan was working on digitizing the "Silk Route Corridor"

> > They said that certain

The Governor gave

issues can be resolved by

giving status of Municipal

Corporation to Municipal

Committee and providing

patient hearing to the issues

and assured his every pos-

sible cooperation to resolve

said that she is pleased to

have meeting with the

the names of women were

places in the province.

she welcomes all.

She mentioned that

Mrs. Ghazala Gola

The Chairperson

said that doors of her office

are open for everyone and

BISP said that presence of

women in very essential.

She said that the women

work with extra zeal and

honesty in their profes-

Chairperson BISE

natural gas to the area.

tion of "Right to Monitor" through satellite technology on the roads under con-Aleem Khan further

said that today is the era of import and export, international trade is the guarridors to global standards antee of development for and connect them with which standard and spacious roads will be constructed while for the countries of Central Asia, like Karachi and Port Qasim, Gwadar Port would also be

Economy improves as indicators stay positive

ISLAMABAD (APP): As increased credit disburse-the fiscal year 2023-24 is ment to farmers. nearing a close, the economy of the country has been showing signs of resilience and growth as indicated by key economic indicators, the finance ministry said in a recent report released here Wednes-

"As the fiscal year is about to end, the economic indicators demonstrate the strengthening of stability in the real, fiscal and external sectors," according to the Monthly Economic Update and Outlook for May According to the re-

port, GDP growth is elevating while inflation rates are on a decline with a positive primary balance, reflecting the effectiveness of recent fiscal consolidation efforts.

The economic performance also indicates that agriculture has been a major contributor to this fiscal vear's economic upswing, registering a growth of 6.25 per cent. The agriculture sector's recovery is mainly attributed to government initiatives through improved input supply and

Large Scale Manufacturing (LSM) growth in 2024 Quarter 3, became positive and is expected to remain moderately positive fiscal year. It witnessed a minor decline of 0.1 per cent during July-March FY 2024 against the contraction of 7.0 per cent same period last year. During this period 11 to 22 sectors witnessed

positive growth.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation stood at 17.3 per cent on a year-on-year basis in April 2024 as compared to 36.4 per cent in April 2023. The major drivers include housing, water, electricity, gas & fuel, perishable food items, furnishing & household equipment maintenance, clothing, footwear and

transport.
On the fiscal front, during July – March FY24, the revenue growth outpaced the growth in expenditures. Within revenues, both tax and non-tax collection grew significantly by 29.3 per cent and 90.7 per cent, respectively.



Meritorious and Distinguished Award 2024 by the Asian Productivity

Audio leaks case:

IHC stops telecom companies from recording phone calls for surveillance

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) while hearing the petition against alleged audio leaks of Bushra Bibi wife of Imran Khan and Najam ul Saqib son of former Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar has restrained telecom companies from seeking access to phone call or data for surveillance.

The court also summoned record of statistics torney General (AAG) Tell us formally. You should from federal government Munawar Iqbal Dogal came about the conversation recorded secretly.

apparatus of telecom companies is used for illegal

not used to be written in the periodicals in the province, but today, the women surveillance then its responare serving at different

Jamal Raisani mourns tragic bus accident

near Washuk OUETTA (APP): The leader of the Pakistan People's Party in Balochistan, MNA Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani, has expressed deep sorrow and regret over the loss of lives resulting from the Quetta-bound bus falling into a ditch near

Washuk. In a statement, Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani said, "This tragic incident has claimed the ves of 24 people.'

He expressed deep grief and condolences to the affected families, urging the government to investigate the tragedy and hold those responsible accountable. Nawabzada Jamal Khan Raisani also wished the in jured a speedy recovery.

PTA conducts **QoS** survey in 16 cities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) on Wednesday has conducted an Independent Quality of Service (QoS) Survey in sixteen cities across Sindh, Punjab, Baluchistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to measure the performance of Cellular Mobile Operators (CMOs).

Survey routes covered main roads, service roads, and various sectors, with 2,270 kilometers traveled per CMO over 60 days said a news release. Mobile handsets in auto-detect mode were used for voice calls, SMS, and mobile broadband/data sessions.

The survey included 0.25 million mobile broadband tests, 45,000 calls and SMS tests, and 0.13 million Ookla speed tests using advanced QoS monitoring tools, ensuring compliance with NGMS licenses and the Cellular Mobile Network QoS Regulations 2021.

sibility will rest with them. Justice Babar Sattar of IHC is hearing the case by clubbing both of the peti-

At the inception of hearing the court inquired from counsel for Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) that PTA has not filed reply.

to holiday. Later Additional At-

on rostrum.

Justice Babar Sattar The court remarked if inquired it should be told who records calls of citizens and under what law.

thorized to record calls under section 54. The court further inquired tell us the law that under what law PTA is conducting surveillance. Under what section PTA is conducting surveillance. AAG replied they are doing it through legal frame-

The court remarked The counsel said we whatever it is, tell us the could not file our reply due calls of citizens are being recorded under what authority. Don't tell verbally. tell us you have allowed whom Who has given authority that calls of people be recorded.

Munawar Iqbal Dogal said please give me some AAG said PTA is autime.

Ahsan honoured by APO for outstanding contributions to socio-economic development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative Prof Ahsan Iqbal received an award from the Lumpur for his outstanding contribution to socio-economic development efforts through policy, strategic thinking, effective leader-

ship and management. He received the award at the 66th meeting of the Governing Body of the and overall development. The Asian Productivity Organization in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia as the organization includes 21 countries,

press release issued by the Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives. He was awarded for his achievements during Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Kuala minister, implementing innovative projects to increase productivity in Pakistan through international networks. Ahsan Iqbal formulated progressive policies and regulations that contrib-

uted significantly to Pakistan's productive agenda award recognizes individuals who have made exemplary contributions to improving national or regional socio-ecoincluding Pakistan, said a nomic productivity.



presenting shield to Prof. Shereen Khan on eve of seminar regarding "Prevention of Fake News" organized by Press Information Department Quetta

Washuk bus accident UoT mourns loss of two esteemed faculty members

Independent Report TURBÂT: Prof. Dr. Jan Muhammad, Vice Chancel-

lor of the University of Turbat (UoT), and the entire UoT fraternity expressed sorrow with heavy hearts over the unexpected and tragic demise of two esteemed faculty members, Dr. Niamatullah Kakar, Associate Professor, and Dr. Amir Zeb, Assistant Professor in the Department of Natural and Basic Sciences and Director of the Office

of the Research, Innovation, and Commercializa-tion (ORIC), who tragically lost their lives in an unfortunate road accident in the Washuk district of Balochistan last

Acknowledging their contributions in his condolence message, the Vice Chancellor said that both faculty members were not only dedicated educators and researchers but also pillars of the university.

Speakers highlights critical role of improved MHM in enhancing women's well-being parents and adolescent girls about Menstrual Hygiene, QUETTA (APP): Speakers ternational MH Day 2024.

test rally in favor of their demands.

on Wednesday highlighted critical role of improved Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) in enhancing women's and girls' well-being and they asserted on the collaborative efforts to improve the lives of millions of women and

To highlight the challenges pertaining to Menstrual Hygiene (MH) faced by women and adolescent girls in Pakistan, the Menstrual Health Management Working Group (MHMWG) Secretariat, Balochistan held a special

event in connection with In-

with representatives from diverse segments of society such as academia, CSOs, and media, participated in the event.