ndenemant

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Hub

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 97, Zeeqad 07, 1445 AH Thursday May 16, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs. 15

PM directs addressing

issues, concerns of Sindh

govt. over development

ISLAMABAD (APP): tended the meeting, the PM Prime Minister Office Media Wing said in

Shehbaz

a press release.

During the meeting, the

prime minister said that for

the revival of economy, the

cooperation among the

federation and the prov-

inces was imperative,

stressing that economic

stability was their main

objective. The prime min-ister directed the federal

ministers to seek permanent resolution to the finan-

cial, economic and other is-

sues of the Sindh province.

ing of all the provinces on

board and including them in

the consultation process

during the preparation of the upcoming development

budget.

He also asked for tak-

Zamindar Action Committee ends protest sit-in outside Balochistan Assembly:

All agricultural tube wells of Balochistan to be converted on solar energy in one month: CM

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that the Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz riedly called press confer-Sharif has accepted all de- ence along with the provinmands of zamindars of the province and as such all the agricultural tube wells would be converted on the solar energy in one month time. The Chief Minister

As long as the tube wells are converted on the

said that electricity would

duration of electricity protest. would cost Rs. 4 billion, he added. The Chief Minister was addressing a hurcial ministers and representatives of Balochistan Zamindar Action Commitprovincial assembly on

The Chief Minister province. be supplied to zamindars said that our zamindars protested for their defor six hours till one

solar energy, increase in the in their hands during the Minister. He said that the

He said that the delegation of zamindars held meeting with him after negotiations. e said that the demands of zamindars are genuine. On this, he went to Islamabad and met with the Prime Minister tee here in his chamber of Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif on the issues and demands of zamindars of the

of zamindars before the Minister said that there is mands outside the provin- Prime Minister who gave a need to improve the educial assembly, what's good patient hearing to them, as that they didn't take law mentioned by the Chief

Prime Minister has accepted all demands of zamindars of the province. Besides, the arrears of

QESCO against the zamindars are under consideration and the issue would also be resolved in due course of time.

Referring the educational related issues including the financial ones of the public sector universities He put forth the issues of the province, Chief cational system in the

Sharif on Wednesday directed for removal of issues

and concerns of the Sindh government with regard to

pediting work on the ongo-ing federal funded uplift

sued these directives dur-

ing a meeting with Sindh

Chief Minister Syed Murad

Ali Shah who called on him. Federal ministers Ahsan

Igbal, Ahad Khan Cheema

and Sardar Awais Khan

Leghari, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jehanzeb Khan and relevant

senior officials also at-

projects in the province.

He also directed for ex-

The prime minister is-

development.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti along with officials of the Zamindar Action Committee addresses to media persons during press conference held at CM House in Quetta.

Pakistan, China agree to promote **CPEC** with third-party participation

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan at Diaoyutai State Guest eliminating power outages and China on Wednesday House, spoke about and by developing a robust agreed to advance their joint their in-depth discus-infrastructure network. project - China Pakistan sion on the multiple facets Economic Corridor of their bilateral rela-tions including CPEC and would pace up the implementation of Main Line-1 nalizing the modalities for cooperation on counter-ter-railway line project.

third-party participation.
Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at a joint press stakeout expressed satisfaction over the steady pace of CPEC and vowed to "further upgrade and expand this cooperation".

The two sides, after cochairing the fifth Pakistan-China Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue held here

Terming the Sino-Pak ties as "all-weather strate-Wang expressed commitment to continue extending support to each other on issues of core interest.

Ishaq Dar said the country looked forward to under the country looked forward the country looked forwa further enhancing China's "development footprint" as in last 10 years, the CPEC transformed Pakistan's economic landscape by

ISLAMABAD: Governor Balochistan, Shaikh

Jaffar Khan Mandokhail called on President Asif

CM expresses contentment

on successful operation of

security forces in Zhob

Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Min-

ister Balochistan, Mir

Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has

expressed his satisfaction over

the successful operation of

security forces against ter-

rorists in Sambaza area of

Zob. In a tweet on his social

media account on late Tues-

day night, the Chief Minis-

ter expressed satisfaction

over the successful opera-

tion against the terrorists,

however, expressed grief

over martyrdom of Major

Babar Khan in the operation.

He said that the mar-

The two sides, he said, Gwadar Port development, realignment of Phase 2 of the Karakorum Highway, gic partnership", Dar and and boost cooperation in agriculture, mining, minerals, energy, information technology, and industry

> look forward to developing corridors of growth, livelihood, innovation, green development, inclusivity," he added.



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Chinese For eign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing.

PTI to face consequences if refuses to apologise over May 9 mayhem, warns Bilawal

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Šenator

ECC grants Rs. 23 billion for AJ&K

government SLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) on Wednesday approved the summary for "Provision of Rs. 23 billion as an additional grant for the Azad Jamu Kashmir (AJ&K) government.

Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC).

The ECC gave approval to the summary for "Provision of Rs. 23 Billion as Additional Grant to the AJ&K Government' through Technical Supplementary Grant as proposed by the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, said a press release issued here. Secretary Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan briefed the Committee that during a high-level meeting held on Monday, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Shehbaz Sharif, had authorized an additional grant of Rs. 23 Billion to the Government of AJ&K, in the paramount national interest.

He said that the martyrdom of Major Babar lishing peace in the province. Two-day Pakistan Literary Festival begins at BUITEMS

Khan can't be forgotten in the history. He said that the successful operation by the

security forces against ter-

jawans are embracing mar-

tyrdom for protection of the

motherland. He said that it

is responsibility of the gov-

ernment to protect life and

property of the masses be-

sides maintaining law and

of Balochistan are security

forces are unitred for estab-

He said that the people

order in the province.

He said that our brave

rorists is commendable.

Pakistan Literary Festival to become source of enlightenment, says Speaker BA

Independent Report QUETTA: Two-day grand Pakistan Literary Festival commenced Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Manage-Sciences (BUITEMS) here on Wednesday.

Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai was the chief guest at inauguration val ceremony of the Literary Festival held at the Arfa Karim Hall of the

The Provincial Minister for Culture, Sindh, Syed Zulfigar Ali Shah as well as other eminent personalities from literature, arts, culture and journalism from all over the country participated in the inaugural session of the Literary Festi- ative capabilities.

Speaking on the occasion, Speaker Balochistan Assembly hailed the Literary Festival and welcomed all those participating in it from all over the

country. He said that the power of literature unites the people. He said that those use good words to express their point of view have cre-

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has warned the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of consequences if the "non-serious party" refuses to tender an

apology over May 9 riots. "No one should be permitted to commit terrorism," Bilawal said while speaking on the floor of the

National Assembly on Wednesday, adding:

"The opposition leadership committed terrorism on May 9 by disrespecting the monuments of martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the

country Amid the opposition's lawmakers sloganeering, the former foreign minister took a dig at the PTI-backed Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) lawmakers.

The politico urged the opposition party to avoid

Pakistan successfully tests Fatah-II rocket system

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Pakistan Army on Wednesday conducted the successful training launch of Fatah-II Guided Rocket System with a range of 400 kilometres.



news release, the launch was aimed at perfecting the launch drills and procedures. Equipped with the state-of-the-art navigation sys-

tem, unique trajectory and manoeuvrable features, Fatah-II is capable of engaging targets with high precision and defeating any missile defence system.

Fatah-II is being inducted in the Pakistan Army' artillery divisions for stand-off and precision engagement of deep targets. The rocket system will significantly upgrade the reach and lethality of Pakistan Army's conven-

practising "double stan

dards" in politics. He described the opposition members of the Imran Khan-founded party as 'non-political and non-serious", lacking interest in the country's politics. He claimed that their leader was "crying" in jail for re-

Bilawal Bhutto said that PPP has been struggling to strengthen democratic institutions for three generations and this struggle for Pakistan would continue.

Governor calls on **President Asif** Ali Zardari Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail called on the President Asif Ali Zardari in President House Islamabad on Wednesday.

During the course of meeting, different matters including those related to the federal development projects were discussed. Besides, the matters of mutual interests were also discussed during the meeting. The President on the occasion congratulated Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail on assuming the office of Governor Balochistan. He also expressed best wishes for the Governor. Moreover, both the leaders stressed on strengthening the relations between the federation and provinces

trial court had testified 39 witnesses in the cases. As the trial was at the final client.

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday granted post arrest bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) founder in a NAB reference pertaining to £190 million The IHC bench com-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri instructed the accused to submit surety bonds of Rs 1 million to secure the bail.

The bench announced the verdict which it had reserved on Tuesday after hearing arguments from the respondents.

The court pronounced the short order. The detailed verdict would be is-

£190 million scam reference The National Ac- that there was no signatures countability Bureau of the PTI founder on the document, and he and his tor Amjad Pervaiz had adopted the stance that the

stage, the accused could prising Chief Justice not be granted bail, he said Aamer Farooq and Justice and prayed the court to instruct the trial court for early conclusion of the He stated that the said

PTI founder gets bail in

amount should have been shifted to the government's account instead of the account of Supreme Court He said that the top

court had also stated that the money was wrongly sent to its account.

Defence lawyer Latif tion witness had admitted previous PTI government.

wife Bushra Bibi had not derived any personal benefit from the transactions.

He prayed the court to grant post arrest bail to his

In December, NAB had filed a corruption reference against the PTI founder, his wife and six other accused alleging their involvement in the 190 million pound scam pertaining to the Al-Qadir Trust. It was claimed that the accused had obtained land worth billions of rupees from Bahria Town Ltd for legalizing its Rs 50 billion (190 million pounds) that was laundered abroad and returned to the country by the National Crime Agency (NCA) of the Khosa said that a prosecu- United Kingdom during the

Govt slashes petrol price by Rs15.39 per litre in major relief

New petrol price stands at Rs273.1 per litre while diesel is now Rs274.08 after Rs7.88 cut.

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: In a move aimed at providing relief ally, the price of light dieto the public, the federal government has announced massive reductions in the prices of petroleum products.

According to a notification issued by the Fed-

speed diesel sees a reduction of Rs 7.88. Additionsel oil has been decreased by Rs 7.54.

Following these adjustments, the new prices stand at Rs 273.10 for petrol, Rs 274.08 for high-speed diesel, and Rs 161.17 for eral Ministry of Finance, light diesel. "New prices the price of petrol has of petroleum will be efbeen slashed by Rs 15.39, fective for next fortnight while the price of high- from May 16," it added.

Haq hails PM Shahbaz's efforts to resolve AJK protesters' issue

Minister Anwar- Ul- Haq while paying tribute to Prime Minister Shahbaz

MUZAFFARABAD ernment was enabled by (APP):Azad Jammu and this package to slash the Rashmir (AJK) Prime power tariff and increase wheat flour subsidy as demanded by the protesters



Sharif's swift response to the demands of protesters has categorically denounced the malicious propaganda that AJK was being turned into a province of Pakistan.

Addressing a crowded press conference along with all members of his cabinet here on Wednesday, Prime Minister Haq said nobody was expecting the huge package announced by the Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif for the people of AJK despite the economic constraints in the country. He said the AJK govship was failed to timely announce the acceptance of their demands which led to few untoward incidents leaving loss of lives and property of the law enforcement agencies. 'Some miscreants be-

Action Committee leader

ing identified, were behind the chaos on the behest of enemies," Haq added saying law will take its course against them after due process and no one will be allowed to weaken the relationship between the people of Pakistan and AJK



QUETTA: Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai and others addressing Pakistan Literary Festival at BUITEMS.

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Reserved seats

After the Supreme Court took exception to its decision to hand over reserved seats claimed by the Sunni Ittehad Council-PTI alliance to its rival parties, the ECP has suspended the notifi-cations of 77 lawmakers belonging to the different assemblies. Following the development, any plans that the ruling coalition had about tinkering with the Constitution without seeking the opposition's buy-in lie dead in the water — at least for the time being.

Also in question is the fate of the senators who were voted in in the most recent round of elections to the Upper House. The 77 lawmakers who have been suspended from office had participated in the senatorial election, thereby colouring its results. Given what is at stake and the consequences for Pakistani democracy, it is hoped that the apex court will not dally on

Since it has taken up the case as one which requires constitutional interpretation, a bench comprising at least five judges has to decide how the Constitution intended for reserved seats should be divided. The court must announce a bench at the earliest so that the functioning of parliament is not affected for any longer than is absolutely necessary. It is a shame that more than three months after the general election, we still do not have a clear picture of where things stand politically. The stability which, it was hoped, the exercise would bring remains a pipe dream. Though some leader or the other regularly appears on TV to assure the people that the nation has turned a corner and better days are not too far off, it is difficult to put much faith in such words, especially since it is clear that the various institutional conflicts that have shaped our polycrisis are far from being resolved.

The role played by the ECP in perpetuating this sorry state of affairs, in particular, deserves strict scrutiny. Despite being vested with all the powers it needed to responsibly steer the country through a democratic transition, it could only manage an election that fell far short of the promise of being 'free, fair, impartial and inclusive'. It then bungled the management of election results, which gave rise to serious con-

troversies regarding the 'fixing' of final results. Since then, the ECP has been either unwilling or unable to address the deluge of postelection complaints: for example, it defies understanding why it refuses to notify more election tribunals for Punjab despite being in receipt of nominees from the Lahore High Court. Its decisions and actions clearly need to be reviewed in light of the country's laws, and its controversial decision regarding reserved seats seems to be a good place to start. The nation deserves to understand what its motivations have been thus far.

Dubai Leaks: Will Everyone Get Away?

By Qamar Bashir

Former Press Secretary to the President; Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC

The politicians, parlia- Mohsin mentarians, and mem- Sharjeel military bureaucracy Farah Gogi, Sher create a formidable Afzal Marwat, several other from the fallout and Balochistan asing Dubai properties. through compliant and a scientist. Federal Board of Revber nose accountabil- authorities across Paity bodies to minimize kistan will be diligently or completely neutral- examining the records ize the adverse effects of individuals beyond of such leaks. Not- politicians and civil withstanding the fact and military bureauthese funds and poten- were declared, unde- communities and fos- vants are prohibited asset ownership. tial illicit practices clared, or undervalsuch as corruption, ued. Taxpayers and money laundering, their lawyers have worth of leaked propand tax evasion not likely already been erties is merely the tip only undermine the in- summoned to negotitegrity of financial ate the cost of recti-

my experience of ernment exchequer. working as Deputy Commissioner In- viduals whose wealth abroad significantly come Tax for more statements are avail- contributes to the imthan ten years (1994- able in the public do- poverishment of our These funds undergo tively launder their il- ties. Failure to disclose 2005) I can tell with main and who either nation. It's a stark a series of transac- legal wealth freely, use the gift or avoid decicertainty that the en- failed to declare the representation of the tions to obscure their or invest it without sions benefiting the framework, including or undervalued them, and greed that plagues transfers between ac-sions. the FBR, would al- they and their income our society, draining counts, investments rectifying the gaps in scrambling to initiate wealth tax records of sures. prominent Pakistani

Minister eign exchange re- entire

Naqvi, serves far below this whether civilian or value assets at de- from transactions in-Memon, figure and a signifi- military, any bureau- flated prices followed volving proceeds of bers of both civil and Senator Faisal Vawda, cant portion of the crat can only afford a by reinvestment in le-corruption or bribery. population living be- modest house and a gitimate businesses or This would have led to low the poverty line, middle-class car with the acquisition of real hefty fines and lengthy force to shield one an- members of the Sindh this vast wealth dis- their legal income. estate and other valu- imprisonment upon parity underscores Similarly, my experi- able assets. of leaks like Wikileaks, semblies, the late Gen systemic challenges in ence as Director Genthe Panama Papers, or Pervez Musharraf, income distribution, eral of the Minister's cians and civil ser- port income or assets revelations concern- former Prime Minister governance, and eco- Office for four Fed- vants frequently ex- gained through illicit Shaukat Aziz, over a nomic development. eral Ministers con-This network safe- dozen retired generals, In a country where firms that politicians authority and leverage them to IRS prosecuguards those in posi- as well as a police over 40% of the popu- can barely sustain their legislative influence to tion and civil penalties tions of power chief, an ambassador, lace struggles amidst household expenses create loopholes or fa- and violations of the inflation rates exceed- with their legitimate vorable conditions for Foreign Corrupt Prac-I can also assert ing 35%, the concenearnings, let alone acconcealing illicit tices Act (FCPA) carenue (FBR) and rub- with certainty that tax tration of such im- cumulate significant wealth. They may rying fines and imprismense wealth abroad assets. not only widens the gap between the rich youd these modest ence to access off- assets acquired illeand the poor but also means is likely ob- shore banking sys-

> ter inclusive growth. The \$11 billion of the iceberg.

systems but also de- fying their records, a properties have been prive the government process that benefits discreetly acquired of essential revenue themselves, their legal and stashed away in vices and infrastruc- the tax officials, en- worldwide, potentially financial suring that not a single totaling billions upon Drawing from penny goes to the gov-billions of dollars.

This rampant ac-For those indi- quisition of assets oping our nation.

from engaging in busitheir service.

Countless other an intricate web of fi- clare previously un- ers. intriguing.

through depositing supporters. cash into third-party bank accounts, ac- nominal taxes, which quiring high-value as- are often a fraction of honest services fraud sets, or establishing the true value of their charges for comproshell tire accountability mentioned properties systemic corruption origins, including Nawaz nomic realities facing I can attest to the fact legitimate assets, often cludes

ploit their positions of means, subjecting Any wealth be- connections and influ- to seize properties and exacerbates socioeco- tained through illicit tems or establish intri-nomic inequalities, means or illegal cate corporate struc- other hypothetical scethat serious concerns cracies to determine if hindering efforts to sources of income as tures, further complinario in which the poliabout the origins of the properties leaked uplift marginalized civil and public ser- cating the tracing of ticians, bureaucrats,

black money through schemes. They denancial transactions is disclosed assets or in-The illicit funds ing them to gifts reneeded for public ser- representatives, and various countries are injected into the ceived from friends, and recipient for exsystem relatives, or loyal party

> Through paying companies. assets, they effecfear of legal repercus-

Letus create a hyready have started tax lawyers are likely resources that should across different mar- pothetical scenario feit the gift, facing civil be invested in uplifting kets, and international that individuals implithe income tax and damage control mea- our people and devel- wire transfers through cated in illegal asset reputational damage multiple jurisdictions. acquisition were US with added conseprominent Pakistani The properties As a senior civil Subsequently, laun-citizens. They could figures including three worth \$11 billion in servant who retired as dered funds are rein-have faced various le-Subsequently, laun-citizens. They could quences of legal risks, children of President Dubai starkly con- the Press Secretary to troduced into the gal ramifications un- careers and undermin-Asif Ali Zardari, trasts with the eco- the President in BS 21, economy disguised as der U.S. law. This in- ing public trust. But we Hussain Nawaz nomic realities facing I can attest to the fact legitimate assets, often cludes potential all know with certainty Sharif, the spouse of the nation. With for- that throughout their through the sale of ini- charges for money that in Pakistan everyservice, tially purchased high-laundering, stemming one will get away.

conviction on two ac-Moreover, politi- counts, failing to realso utilize personal onment and forfeiture

Let us create ancivil and military impli-The parliament cated in the Dubai leaks ness activities during and the executive of- were US citizens and ten collaborate to in- had acquired assets as How they launder troduce Tax amnesty gifts from friends, supporters or well wish-

They could face come, often attribut- charges of bribery targeting both the giver changing something of value for official fa-

They could face mising their public dugiver could lead to conflict of interest violations requiring to for-

Commerce News

Aleem Khan says: Govt taking steps to facilitate investment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan has said that the government was trying class and create a congenial its best to facilitate investment in the country.

He said that the government was making it further said that when busieasier for the business community to start new initiatives, said a press release issued here Wednesday.

Expressed his views while addressing as Chief Guest at the 16th All Pakistan Chambers Presidents' Conference organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he said that the Board of Investment was providing fast-track platforms of "Ease of Doing Business" and "One Stop Shop" which would ultimately boost investment in the

"Áccording to the busi-

government's job to do for the privatization of business but its responsibility is to provide all kinds of facilities to the business environment which can at-

Abdul Aleem Khan ness flourishes it will automatically increase foreign exchange reserves and benefits will reach the common man at the grassroots level. He said that the government has decided to privatise 24 institutions, in which PIA is at the top while the privatisation of PIA will be shown live on TV, as well.

tract investment.

He assured that transall costs in the privatisation of all projects including PIA, for which we will also seek help from the media.

Abdul Aleem Khan further said that if a better environment is provided in ness trends of the world, we Pakistan, investors will be and Gilgit-Baltistan and also have to make changes immediately interested as in our system", he said add-so far many leading busi-

ing that it is not the ness groups have contacted

Appreciating the role of the Chamber of Commerce, Abdul Aleem Khan said that this forum should continue to play a positive role in maximum investment in the country. He congratulated the Chamber for organizing the 16th All Pakistan Chambers Presidents' Con-

President Rawalpindi

Chamber of Commerce Saqib Rafique said that the Special Investment Facilitation Council is playing an important role in economic improvement and restoring the confidence of the busiparency will be ensured at ness community. Group Leader Sohail Aftab highlighted that the confidence of local and foreign investors has to be restored. In this two-day Conference, Presidents of Chambers of four Provinces, Kashmir Presidents of Women's Chambers participated.

Rupee loses 08 paisa against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Wednesday lost 08 paisa against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.26 against the previous day's

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.25 and Rs 279.80 respectively.

The price of the Euro



meeting to address the issues Confronted by Industrial Sector Related to

Fertilizer manufacturers of Pakistan, Advisory Council to reduce prices of fertilizer urea

ISLAMABAD (APP): The fertilizer manufacturers of the Pakistan Advisory Council have agreed to reduce the prices of fertilizer urea to provide relief to the agriculturists in the

The Managing Director and CEO, Fauji Fertilizer Company, Jhanagir Paracha called on the Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain here on Wednesday and informed that the Fertilizer Manufacturers of Pakistan Advisory Council have unanimously agreed to reduce the prices of fertil-

He said that all fertilthe kharif season. izer plants should formally be allocated and supplied gas exclusively from the

Mari Gas field under bilateral arrangements in accordance with applicable gas pricing policies. The minister stated that the proposal submitted by the Fertilizer Manufacturers of Pakistan Advisory Council will be taken to the relevant forum of the

Council for a decision on He said the government is committed to taking every step to ensure the

Economic Coordination

As per the proposal submitted by the Fertilizer Manufacturers of Pakistan Advisory Council, the government should ensure uninterrupted gas supply to the fertilizer industry for the next 10 years from Mari Gas Field. This will ensure the availability of affordable urea for our farmers and would also save foreign exchange on the import of If the proposal is

agreed by the government then the fertilizer industry does not require any subsidy in the future.

78.97 percent cotton cultivation target achieved in Faisalabad

Pakistan, US agree to boost coop. in IT, **Telecom sector** ISLAMABAD (APP): the field of IT and Telecom.

Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja and US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome on Wednesday agreed to enhance cooperation in the IT and Telecommunication sector.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest related to IT and Telecommunication, digitalisation of Pakistan's judicial system and the promotion of the gaming industry were discussed, said a

news release. While talking to US Ambassador, Shaza Fatima said that the IT and Telecom sector of Pakistan is progressing. She said that Pakistan wanted to enhance

The minister said that Pakistan wanted to work on the promotion of gaming industry with the col-laboration of the United States. She also emphasised increasing business-to-busi-

ness relations between Pa-

kistan and US.

Pakistan aspired to benefit from the experiences of America in the field of technology and exchange of IT experts between the two countries.

The minister of State for IT said that the present government is focusing on digitalisation in the country Economy, governance and society are being digitalised under the Prime Minister's National Digitalisation its relations with the US in Plan, she maintained.



ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Donald Blome calls on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja.

ADB sells \$3.5bln 2-Year Global **Benchmark Bond**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has priced a 2-year global benchmark United States (US) dollar bond worth \$3.5 billion, proceeds of which will be part of ADB's ordinary capital resources. "We are grateful for the consistently robust support from our investor community that resulted in an orderbook of over \$9 billion and enabled the issuance of a \$3.5 billion global benchmark bond with 2-year maturity," said ADB Treasurer Pierre Van Peteghem, according to press release received here.

port ADB's commitment to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific," Peteghem said. The 2-year bond, with

a coupon rate of 4.875% per annum payable semiannually and a maturity date of 21 May 2026, was priced at 99.904% to yield 9 basis points over the 4.875% UŜ Treasury notes due April 2026.

The transaction was lead-managed by Credit Agricole CIB, Deutsche Bank, J.P. Morgan, and

KP Governor for creating awareness among farmers about new types of wheat

PESHAWAR (APP): wheat at AUP. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday emphasized on creating awareness among farmers about new types of wheat to get maximum yield besides meeting the demand of the

augurating the new type of wheat harvesting technology during a ceremony here landowners, adding that at the Agricultural University Peshawar (AUP).

Governor termed the production of special types of wheat by AUP in collaboration with Washington State University and Agricultural University Faisalabad as the best initiative and also appreciated the efforts of Senator Noman Wazir for introduc- tural commodities ening the special variety of

He said that landlords and farmers of the province should get guidance on modern varieties of wheat and use of new technologies in agriculture to increase the productivity of quality wheat.

Kundi directed the He said this while in- vice chancellor of AUP to transfer the modern research to local farmers and serious efforts were needed to improve agricultural self-sufficiency in the

He also called for improving the infrastructure for water use in the province so that the barren land could be irrigated in the province and production of wheat and other agricul-

closing at Rs 278.18.

increased by Rs.1.31 to close at Rs 301.24 against the last day's closing of Rs 299.93, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen went up by 01 paisa to close at Rs 1.78; whereas an increase of Rs1.89 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 350.44 as compared to the last closing of

Planning Minister hopes technology spillover to benefit Pakistan's digital economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Reiterating continued ing discussions on poten-support to Huawei for its tial collaborations in new existing and newly planned initiatives in Pa-kistan, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal expressed the hope that technology spillover would greatly help in boosting county's digital economy. According to press

release by Huawei here,

the federal minister during

his China visit last week

visited company's Head-

quarters in Beijing, leadtechnologies, cellphones, high tech equipment manufacturing, automation and use of big data for industry, governance and security.

The minister held discussion with Vice President of Public Affairs and Communications Department, Huawei, Tiger Wei; Vice CEO Huawei Pakistan, Ray Yu; Regional Representative, Huawei Public Affairs and Communications Department, Ms. Maya Jin.

division

FAISALABAD (APP): Divisional Director Agriculture (Extension) Chaudhry Khalid Mehmood said that 78.97 percent cotton cultivation target had so far been achieved in Faisalabad division while efforts were onto for remaining target within the stipulated period. He stated this while giving a briefing during the 2nd monthly meeting of Divisional Cotton Crop Management Committee held here on Wednesday with Divisional Commissioner Madam Silwat Saeed in the chair.

Maryam stresses quality education in govt schools

LAHORE (APP): Punjab elementary schools.
Chief Minister Maryam The Asian Devel-Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif sought a five-year plan related to the education reforms,

here on Wednesday.
The chief minister granted approval for ciple was granted for the rovincial Min-providing 32,298 tablets Google Certification ister Marriyum to heads of primary schools. She presided over a special meeting pertaining to schools education reforms in which public schools reorganisation programme was comprehensively reviewed.

tion secretary apprised the CM about progress Punjab Education Curschools nutrition project. were reviewed in the It was agreed in the meet- meeting. It was ining to set up STEM IT formed during the meet-

Mirpur Mathelo and reviewed it.

tiative which encourages them.

STEM Labs.

An approval in prin-Digital Journey for TECH Valley Project.

The proposals and The School Educa- recommendations for establishment and Science Labs in 1000 ing that more than 92

Getting education is

basic right of every

child: DC Ghotki

By Tanveer Ahmed Soomro

MIRPUR MATHELO: Deputy Commissioner Ghotki Dr.

Syed Muhammad Ali visited Special Education Center

On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner said that

He said that the Special Education Center is a

getting education is the basic right of every child, provid-

ing vocational training to special children is a good ini-

good institution, he will try to provide more facilities to

the institution so that the special children can get maxi-

mum benefit. On this occasion, Deputy Director

Saifullah Mahar told the Deputy Commissioner that all

the children are provided transport facility from school

to home while also providing vocational training along

have been delivered. opment Bank (ADB) will The CM stressed the monthly schedule for the provide financial assis- need to improve quality tance worth \$100 million of education in the govfor establishment of ernment schools under any circumstances.

Thursday May 16, 2024

Senator Pervez Agreement for 3 lakh Aurangzeb, Provincial children in the govern-ment schools. Students will be provided oppor-tunities to avail Google

Adataggeo, Tovinetai
Minister for School Edu-cation Rana Sikandar
Hayat, MPA Sania
Ashiq, Chief Secretary, Certification under the Secretary Education, Secretary Finance, MD Punjab Curriculum & Text Book Board, MD Punjab Education Foundation, CEO Punjab Initiative Management Aubeing made on the riculum and Training thority, MD Punjab Education Sector Reforms Programme and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

Brother killed his brother in Shikarpur

Independent Report SHIKARPUR: An other shameful Act of killing the real brother on the matter of property was District on Wednesday in the jurisdiction of Rahimabad police sta-

According to initial reports reached here that one accused Muhammad Hashim Pahore accompanied with his nephews murdered his real brother identified as Qasim Pahore at village Muhammad Shujrah and threw his dead body in ditch and buried there while tightening his arms and feet with rope

While receiving the nformation, area police recovered the buried dead body of deceased Qasim Pahore and arrested to he accused Muhammad brother Hashim Pahore.

Police is busy in collecting further evidence and such matter is in

No FIR was registered till late evening.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan addresses during the 3rd National Labour Conference held in Lahore.

VC UoS stresses importance of attracting top-tier

By Haroon Siraj SWAT: The Vice Chancellor of the University of Swat, Prof. Dr. Hassan Sher, convened a meeting with all heads of departments and administrative sections on Wednesday to discuss various university issues and the upcoming Alumni Gathering event.

aimed to foster a sense of community among alumni, providing a platform for networking, sharing experiences, and contributing to the university's growth and development. Head of Departments briefed the meeting on their interactions with alumni from their respective demeeting partments.

Dacoit killed during police encounter

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): A dacoit was killed with the firing of own accomplices during police encounter in limits of Khair Pur Sadat police station.

According to police spokesperson, Sheher Sultan police along with Khair Pur Sadat police on a tip off raided for the arrest of a proclaimed offender.

The suspects opened firing on a police party in which police personnel remained safe. The police van was partially damaged.

Gilani says he feels proud in serving South Punjab people

Chairman Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Wednesday said that he felt proud for the services he and his family had rendered for the uplift of education sector and vowed to take the same to new highs in the South Punjab. The Gilani family always served the people as their duty and obligation, he said while talking to different delegates at the Multan Circuit House.

Gilani said that his bond with the people of South Punjab, particularly Multan, would remain intact as they were like a family for him. Former Member of the lings in the city.

MULTAN (APP): Senate Puniab Assembly Malik Saleem Labar called on him and discussed matters of mutual interest. Gilani Law College Principal Dr. Samza Fatima along with Associate Professor Dr Muhammad Bilal held a meeting with Gilani and congratulated him on his election as Senate chairman. They acknowledged the services of Gilani family in establishing and upgrading education sector facilities in the South Punjab. A delegation from Civil Soci-

ety Forum led by Shahid Mahmood Ansari invited the Senate chairman to join their campaign to plant 500 sap-



LAHORE: Information and Culture Minister of Punjab Azma Bukhari addressing a press conference at D.G.P.R office in the Provincial Capital.

Scabies transmits person to person through close skin contact: Skin specialist

HYDERABAD (APP): Scabies is a parasitic infestation caused by tiny mites that burrow into the skin and lay eggs, causing intense itching and a rash. Scabies can lead to skin sores and serious complications like septicaemia (a bloodstream infection), heart disease and

kidney problems. Dermatologist / Skin specialist Dr Rajendar Dhirani expressed these views while talking to APP here on Wednesday. He informed that Sca-

bies spreads easily from person to person, especially among people who live close together. Children and older people in resource-poor areas are at

ticularly common in many resource-poor tropical settings, particularly in children and older people. Prevalence among children in these settings may vary from 5% up to 50%. Recurrent infestations are common, he added.

He said that Scabies is transmitted person-to-person through close skin contact (e.g. living in the same residence) with an infested individual. The risk of transmission increases with the level of infestation, with highest risk due to contact with individuals with crusted scabies. Transmis-

in every country but is par- is unlikely with common scabies but may be important for individuals with crusted scabies. As there is an asymptomatic period of infestation, transmission may occur before the initially infested person develops symptoms

To a question about the symptoms he said that it include severe itch, often worse at night; itchy lines (linear burrows) and bumps (papules) on the fingers, wrists, arms, legs and belt area; larger rash in infants and small children, including on the palms, soles of the feet, ankles and scalp.

About the precaution sion due to contact with he said that avoid skin-toinfested personal items skin contact with an infected

members of the household if someone has scabies to prevent the mites from spreading to others; wash and dry bedding and clothing that has been in contact with the infested person, using hot water and drying in direct sunlight, a hot dryer cycle or dry cleaning; seal items that can't be washed in a plastic bag for a week to help eliminate the mites; and clean and vacuum or sweep

crusted scabies. He said that Scabies can be treated with topical creams or oral medication in more severe cases. Itchi-

rooms after an infected per-

son has been treated, espe-

cially for people with

have an itchy rash; treat all 1-2 weeks after treatment starts. Ivermectin taken orally is also highly effective, but it should not be taken by pregnant women or children who weigh less than 15 kg.

Treatments do not kill the parasite's eggs, and treatment should be re-peated to kill newly hatched mites. People do not experience symptoms in the early stages of infestation. To reduce spread, al people in the household should be treated, even if they do not have symptoms. Other treatments may be needed to treat the complications of scabies Antiseptics or antibiotics are used to treat bacteria higher risk. Scabies is found (e.g., clothes and bed linens) person, especially if they ness often gets worse for skin infections or impetigo.

International News

Palestinians mark 'Nakba' anniversary as thousands flee Gaza's Rafah

Monitoring Desk RAFAH: Tens of thousands of civilians fled the southern Gaza city of Rafah ahead of a threatened Israeli ground offensive, as Palestinians on Wednesday mark the anniversary of their "Nakba" or "catastrophe" of 1948.

During the war that accompanied Israel's creation, around 760,000 Palestinians fled or were driven from their homes and many took refuge in what would later become the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Wednesday's commemoration of the "Nakba" comes as multiple battles between Israeli troops and Hamas militants across the Gaza Strip force waves of Palestinian mass displace-

Nearly 450,000 Pales-

tinians have been displaced have triggered a humanitarfrom Rafah since May 6, and around 100,000 from northern Gaza, UN agencies

That means around a quarter of Gaza's population of 2.4 million people moved into eastern Rafah, the aid crossing point from have been displaced again in about one week. UN chief Antonio

Guterres repeated his call logistically viable access" for a humanitarian ceasefire a UN report said late Monto allow more aid into the day. besieged territory. "I reiterate my appeal

for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza and for the release of all hostages. I call for the Rafah access throughout Gaza," he posted Tuesday on social media site X.

The war and siege on the road.



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba hold a joint press conference, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Top US and Chinese officials begin talks on AI in Geneva

Monitoring Desk GENEVA: Top envoys from the U.S. and China huddled in closed-door talks in Geneva on Tuesday to lay out their national approaches to the promise and perils of emerging artificial intelligence technology. The talks, which Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping agreed to launch in last 2023, are meant to open

tween the world's two biggest economies — and increasingly, geopolitical rivals on a fast-moving technology that already has consequences for trade, lifestyles, culture, politics, national security and defense and much more. U.S. technology experts say the meeting - led on the American side by high-level White House and State Deup bilateral dialogue be- partment officials.

mediating peace talks, said Gazans "have not received any aid" since May 9. Israeli police on Tuesday said they had opened

ian crisis in Gaza, with the

UN repeatedly lamenting

aid restrictions as famine

Egypt has remained closed

and the nearby Kerem Sha-

lom crossing lacks "safe and

Since Israeli troops

Qatar, which has been

stalks the north.

crossing to be re-opened an investigation after immediately and for the right-wing activists unimpeded humanitarian stopped and ransacked at least seven Gaza-bound aid trucks coming from Jordan, leaving food spilt

Singapore swears in its first new PM in 2 decades

Monitoring Desk SINGAPORE: Singapore's Lawrence Wong was sworn in on Wednesday as its first new premier in 20 years and only its fourth leader since independence, capping off a carefully calibrated power transfer aimed at ensuring continuity in the wealthy citystate. Wong, 51, comes from among a crop of so-called "4G" leaders, a new generation of politicians that were hand-picked by the long-ruling People's Action Party (PAP) to take over the reins of the key Asian trade and financial centre.

He is the first Singaporean leader born after its independence in 1965. Wong will retain his current position as finance minister and takes charge of a country led for two decades by Lee Hsien Loong, the 72-year-old son of Lee Kuan Yew, the founder of modern Singapore who stayed in politics until his death in



76th anniversary of the Nakba, the "catastrophe" of their mass dispossession in the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation, in Ramallah, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Slovak PM shot after govt meeting, facing life-threatening injuries Neumann told AFP. A

Monitoring Desk HANDLOVA: Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico

suffered life-threatening injuries when he was shot and wounded in an attempted assassination on Wednesday, the government office said. Fico, 59, was shot and hit in the abdomen.

A reporter from the Dennik N daily saw the premier being lifted into a car by security guards and reported that police had detained the suspected gunman. "We confirm the attack on the prime minister," police spokesman Matej to the capital Bratislava.

eral shots fired after the meeting in Handlova northeast of the capital Bratislava. Police detained a man and security officials pushed someone into a car and drove off, the witness said. Similarly, broadcaster TA3 reported that four shots were fired and that the leftist prime minister had been hit in the abdomen. The wounded prime minister was rushed to a hospital in Handlova for

Former US military intelligence official says he resigned over Gaza war

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: A former US military intelligence official released a letter on Monday that explained to

his colleagues at the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) that his November resignation was in fact due to "moral injury" stemming from US support for Israel's war in Gaza and the harm caused to Palestin-

Harrison Mann, an Army major, would be the first known DIA official to

quit over US support to Israel. A US airman fatally set himself on fire in February outside Israel's embassy in Washington and

other military personnel have protested. Mann said he kept quiet about his motives for resigning for months out of

"I was afraid. Afraid of violating our professional norms. Afraid of disappointing officers I respect. Afraid you would feel betrayed.

Jordan foils arms plot as kingdom caught in Iran-Israel shadow war **Monitoring Desk**

AMMAN: Jordan has foiled a suspected Iranian-led plot to smuggle weapons into the US-allied kingdom to help opponents of the ruling monarchy carry out acts of sabotage, according to two Jordanian sources with knowledge of the matter. The weapons were sent by Iranian-backed militias in Syria to a cell of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan that has links to the military wing of Palestinian group Hamas.

One killed, 12 injured in Afghan air force helicopter crash Monitoring Desk

KABUL: A helicopter used by the Afghan air force crashed as it attempted an emergency landing in central Afghanistan on Wednesday, killing one person and injuring 12, the defence ministry said.

The Mi17 aircraft encountered "technical issues" as it attempted to recover the bodies of people who had fallen into a river in the central Ghor province, Afghanistan's Taliban-run Ministry of National Defence said in a statement.

Putin hails China's 'genuine desire' to help resolve Ukraine war

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin hailed Beijing's "genuine desire" to help resolve the Ukraine crisis, in an interview with Chinese state media published ahead of a two-day visit to the country. Putin arrives in Beijing

on Thursday to meet his "dear friend" Xi Jinping, seeking to win greater support from China for his war effort in Ukraine and isolated economy. The visit, where he

will also travel to the northeastern city of Harbin for a trade and investment expo. is Putin's first trip abroad since his March re-election and his second in just over six months to China.

'We commend China's approaches to resolving the crisis in record highs.

Ukraine," Putin told the Xinhua state news agency in a Moscow interview, which was also carried in English on the Kremlin website. "Beijing is well aware of its root causes and global geopolitical significance," Putin said, referring to a 12-point position paper published by China in February 2023 on reaching a political settlement to the crisis. "The ideas and proposals contained in the document show the genuine desire of our Chinese friends to help stabilise the situation," Putin said.

Days before Russia launched its full-scale military assault on Ukraine in February 2022, Beijing and Moscow declared a "no limits" partnership and have since boosted trade to

Qatar sees Israel's Rafah attack as setback for talks

Monitoring Desk DOHA: Israel's military operation in Rafah has

set truce negotiations with Hamas "backward", mediator Qatar said on Tuesday, adding that talks have reached "almost a stalemate" "Especially in the

past few weeks, we have seen some momentum building but unfortunately things didn't move in the right direction and right now we are continue the war. on a status of almost a stalemate," Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani added. told the Qatar Economic

"Of course, what happened with Rafah has set us backward.'

Qatar, which has hosted Hamas's political office in Doha since 2012, has been engaged along with Egypt and the United States in months of behind-theestinian group. 'There is no clarity

how to stop the war from the Israeli side. I don't think that they are considering this as an option... even when we are talking about the deal and leading to a poten-tial ceasefire," Sheikh Mohammed said.

Israeli politicians were indicating "by their statements that they will remain there, they will And there is no

clarity on what Gaza will look like after this", he

Israel continued to fight Hamas in Rafah on Monday, despite US warnings against a fullscale assault on the south Gaza city that is crowded with displaced Palestinians.

A senior US official said negotiations were "at a simmer, they are at months of behind-the-scenes mediation be-a low boil", but that conversations with the tween Israel and the Pal- parties were continuing.

Maulana Fazal says: I am not going to meet Imran in jail

FAISALABAD (Online): JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said no one is PTI and JUI-F. I am not meeting Imran Khan.

No one is meeting Imran Khan. Our politics is like open book. Our institutions will have to stay in their respective parameters. Establishment has gone into blind alley.

There is ceasefire from PTI side which is good omen. All political parties will have to sit together and block their way, he said this while talking to media men after condoling with JUI-F Punjab Naib Amir Syed Muhammad Zikria Shah on the death of Syed Javed Hussain Shah here Tuesday.

He stated ceasefire going to meet Imran Khan

I don't know as to why such questions are being asked now a days, he inquired. All politicians will have to sit together for the sake of constitution.

He held every election remained controversial This will have to be recti fied at every cost.

He underlined that PPP is getting constitutional slots and is saying too that it is not part of the government. PPP is not in government, it means minority government is run-



ISLAMABAD: Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal delivering keynote address during Pakistan Development Summit on the theme "5Es Framework: Roadmap to a Trillion Dollar Economy by 2035," at Pakistan China Friendship Center.

Governor exhorts LEAs to take solid steps for elimination of terrorism and extremism

Independent Report OUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of Major Babar Khan during the operation of security forces against terrorists in Sambaza area of Zhob dis-

In a condemnation issued here on Wednesday, the Governor said that it is our responsibility to pro-

strong foundations can be provided to the economy and politics by establishing sustainable peace.

The Governor exhorted the law enforcement agencies to take solid steps for elimination of terrorism and extremism in the province. Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail prayed for the departed soul of martyr Major Babar Khan. He also expressed empathy and condolence with the betect life and property of the masses. He said that the military officer.

IMF expresses serious concerns over uncontrolled circular debt in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): The economy. International Monetary Fund (IMF) has expressed

lar debt in Pakistan. The circular debt in the energy sector has surged by a staggering amount of Rs150 billion, raising alarms about its potential impact on the country's

There are apprehensions that the circular debt strong concerns over the un- could reach a daunting the current fiscal year.
The IMF had set a tar-

get to control the circular debt at Rs 2.31 trillion for the ongoing fiscal year, urging an increase in tariffs for power and gas.



QUETTA: MPA Asghar Tareen meeting with Home Minister Mir Ziauallah Lango.

BME successfully concludes 8-week internship program for Balochistan graduates

QUETTA (APP): Bolan ing young talent and equip-(BME), a pioneering mining joint venture between Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) and Balochistan government has successfully concluded an intensive 8week internship programme designed to nurture local talent and empower young graduates from the region.

The programme, a testament to BME's longstanding commitment to community development and fostering skilled professionals for the mineral sector, the participants of 25 graduates' including seven women, for the first time, marking a progressive step towards gender inclusivity. The ceremony, held at BME's facility in Khuzdar, was graced by PPL's Chief Operating Officer, Sikandar Ali Memon.

In his address, he underscored BME's unwavering dedication to nurtur-

Enterprises ping them with the requisite skills and knowledge to excel in the dynamic field of resource extraction and management through handson training and on-job experience. He also distributed certificates amongs graduating interns, comprising individuals from diverse educational backgrounds such as engineering, geology and management sciences.

Throughout the internship programme that started off on March 8, the interns were provided with invaluable hands-on experience and exposure to BME's operational facilities in Khuzdar, gaining insights into the intricacies of extracting and processing barytes.
BME's internship programme stands as a bea-

con of hope and opportunity for the youth of Balochistan, offering a platform for skills enhancement professional growth.



Aurangzab chaired the meeting of Economic Coordination Committee.

Political stability, persistent policies imperative for growth: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's economic economies Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal Wednesday underscored the need for political stability and continuity of economic policies to put Pakistan on a sustained growth trajectory and attain social prosperity.

Addressing the Pakistan Development Summit, the minister said, "Pakistan s blessed with all natural resources and by mobilizing these resources, we can take the country on the path of rapid economic growth and social development within a ten-year time

The theme of the event was "5Es Framework Road map to a Trillion Dollar Economy by 2035," which aimed to bring together stakeholders from industry, academia and sectoral professionals to shape the future of bring it at par with these

About nine key thematic sessions under the topic of 5EsFramework would gather expert feedback and prepare a comprehensive plan of action to attain sustainable economic development and social Speaking on the occa-

sion, the minister stressed the need to form an economic charter, besides maintaining the continuity of these economic policies to turn around the national economy. He said that peace and political stability in the country were the other prerequisite elements to put the country on a fast track to economic uplift.

Ahsan Iqbal also urged the need for an accelerated pace of economic growth and development not only to compete with the regional countries but to Highlighting the sig-

nificance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project (CPEC), the minister said, "It was a gamechanger project, which will help to transform local industrial and agriculture sec-

He also called for mobilizing domestic resources to meet the financial requirements and reducing the reliance on borrowing.

The minister said that the income of the government was Rs7,000 billion and debt repayment was Rs8,000 billion, adding that it was borrowing 1,000 billion per annum to bridge the gap between income and expenditure

Meanwhile, the min-ister said, "More than half of the country's population does not pay the electricity bill, besides large businesses and traders are not paying their due taxes.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Communication & Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa and Secretary C&W Qambar Dashti being briefed about expansion of Gai Khan Chowk to Western bypass road.

Shaheed Major Babar Niazi laid to rest with full military honours

Major Babar Niazi (resident of Mianwali district), who was martyred during an intelligence-based operation against terrorists in Sambaza area of Zhob district of Balochistan, was laid to rest with full military honors in his native

A large number of serving and retired senior officers of Pakistan Army and Pakistan Air Force, relatives of the martyr and local people participated in the funeral prayer, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

Salik visits Saudi Arabia to review Hajj arrangements

ISLAMABAD (APP) Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain has arrived in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to review the Hajj arrangements for Pakistani pilgrims. During his week-long visit, the minister will hold meetings with officials of the Pakistan Hajj Mission, including a briefing from the Director General Hajj on the arrangements for pilgrims.

Journalist shot dead in Muzaffargarh

MUZAFFARĞARH (INP): Unidentified motor-cyclists gunned a local journalist in a targeted attack here on Wednesday, police

According to details, unknown culprits riding a motorcycle stopped a journalist Ishfaq Ahmed Sial at Thermal Bypass in Muzaffargarh and opened straight fire on him leaving him seriously injured.

The attackers sped the scene after committing

Provincial Minister C&W says Improvement of road infrastructure in Quetta city included in priorities

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial

Minister for Communication and Works, Mir Saleem Khosa has stated that it is included in our priorities to improve the road infrastructure in Quetta city. The Provincial Minis-

ter for C&W was speaking on the occasion of inspection of different roads projects in Quetta city on Wednesday.

The road projects were included Custom Flyover, Gahi Khan Flyover, expansion of Gahi Khan chowk to western bypass road and Nawan

Killi to Sheikh Zayed Heart Hospital.

Also present on the occasion were the Secretary C&W, Kambar Dashti, Chief Engineer, Dr Sajjad Baloch and the concerned engineers and officers.

Engineer Aslam Zehri briefed the Minister about the ongoing development projects.
Mir Saleem Khosa on

the occasion expressed displeasure over slow pace of development work on the ongoing projects. He directed to expe-

dite the progress on projects and complete them well in



QUETTA: Provincial Ombudsman Balochistan Nazar Muhammad Baloch presenting a shield to Federal Ombudsman for Anti Harassment Fouzia Waqar.

JI chief calls for resignations from ruling elites over **Dubai property leaks**

LAHORE (INP): Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Hafiz Naeemur-Rehman has demanded immediate resignations from all individuals implicated in the Dubai Property Leaks scandal, citing widespread concerns over the transparency and legitimacy of their overseas investments.

Addressing the latest revelation of Pakistani elite's vast property holdings in Dubai, Hafiz Naeemur-Rehman condemned the pattern of wealth accumulation among the country's political and influential figures, characterizing it as a betrayal of public trust. With over 22 thousand Pakistanis reportedly owning properties worth a staggering \$12.5 billion in Dubai. the scandal has once again laid bare the extent of financial impropriety within the ruling class. Raising pointed questions regarding the origins and legality of funds used to purchase properties abroad, He called for full dis-

closure from those implicated in the leaks. He challenged the ruling elite to clarify whether these investments were duly declared.

> ments and underlined the need for collective efforts to address common challenges, it was added. Separately Deputy State Secretary-Political Director Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Andzejs

PM for PSDP programs ensuring sustainable development

Minister Prime Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday stressed upon initiation of such projects under Public Development Programme (PSDP) that ensured sustainable devel-

opment in the country. While underlining the significance of third part validation of all the mega national development projects, he observed that with increase in revenues, enough funds could be made available for the uplift

The prime minister chaired an important meet-

Development and Special Initiatives and Public Private Partnership Authority, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Igbal, Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jehanzeb Khan, PM's Coordinator Rana Ahsan Afzal and other relevant senior

ing on the matters related officials

to the Ministry of Planning,

also directed for constitution of a cabinet committee headed by the minister for planning over the develop ment budget and PSDP. The committee would furnish a mechanism over PSDP programmes through

The prime minister

terms proposals. The prime minister emphasized upon harmo-nizing the federal PSDP and provincial annual development programme and the

short, medium and long

need of improving links. He also asked for submission of proposals by all the federal ministries over public-private partnership projects.



FAISALABAD: Chairman Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Mahmood Khan Achakzai addressing lawyers at District Bar Association Faisalabad.

NA Speaker says Strengthening standing committees essential for ensuring quality legislation

(APP): robust training. oly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Wednesday said that enhancing parliamentary outreach is key to abridging space between public representatives and the public.

'Digitalisation is key to transforming Parliament into a goal-orientated organization that produces quality and public responsive legislation" he expressed these views while chairing the 1st meeting of the National Assembly Strategic Plan Committee Special in Parliament House.

He, further, emphasized the need to strengthen

While emphasising the need to evolve a strong monitoring system for enhancing the efficiency of parliamentary supporting staff, he said that proper training and effective performance evaluation can render them more productive. He said, "Strengthening standing committees is essential for ensuring quality legislation." He said that the Women Parliamentary Caucus, Secretariat of Sustainable Development Goals, Young Parliamentar-

ians Forum, Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS), and other parparliamentary staff through liamentary forums play proactive social media. **President lauds** security forces for successful anti-terror operation in Zhob

ISLAMABAD (APP) President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday lauded the security forces for conducting a successful anti-terror operation in Sambaza area of Balochistan's Zhob dis-

The president paid tribute to Major Babar Khan Shaheed, who was martyred in line of his duty during the operation, and applauded his bravery, patriotism and services to the

Applauding the pro-fessional capabilities of the Pakistan Army, he reiterated the resolve to eliminate ter-

President Zardari prayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of the martyr's ranks in paradise and for patience to the be-reaved family.

Pak-Latvia **BPC** review positive trajectory in bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP):The 6th Round of Pakistan-Latvia Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) held here on Wednesday reviewed the positive trajectory of bilateral relations and agreed to expand bilateral cooperation in trade and investment, energy, education and technology

and labour mobility.
Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe) Ambassador Shafqat Ali Khan led the Pakistani side while Deputy State Secretary Political Director Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Andzejs Vilumsons, headed the Latvian delegation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a post on X account.

They also discussed regional and global develop-Vilumsons called on Foreign

ciency. Furthermore, he said that the rationalisation of the budget as per the strategic plan would make it more implementable and rational. While deliberating upon the contours for the formation of the strategic plan, Committee members

unanimously decided to make a strategic plan led by parliamentarians. Speaking on the forum, Member National Assembly (MNA) Syed Naveed Qamar said that social media has gained undeniable importance in their age of social media and developing an independent



ABU DHABI: Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Envoy to the United Arab Emirates, CEO Abu Dhabi Airports Elena Sorlini and officials from both sides attended a ceremony that highlighted launch of PIA's flight from Al Ain to Turbat, Baluchistan at Al Ain airport.

Steps being taken for supply of water to people of Gadani City: Balach

OUETTA (APP): Executive Engineer (Xen) of Public Health Engineer (PHE) Hub Balach Amir on Wednesday said that measures were being taken on an emergency basis to continue the uninterrupted supply of water to people of Gadani city.

He expressed these views while talking officers during assuming charge of his office.

The Xen was briefed regarding the shortage of water and other issues of the Department.

district administration district Hub, Xen PHE has taken notice of the problem of water shortage being faced by the

He said that a crack-down would be launched against several water tankers and tractors involved in stealing water from the Gadani hydrant channel of District Hub saying that the operation against water tankers to be started with help of police.

Step afoot to end curse of copying system from examination centers: Ejaz

QUETTA (APP): Chairman of Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BBISE) Quetta Mir Ejaz Azeem Baloch on Wednesday said that measures were being taken to end copying culture from examination centers as it was a curse that was pushing the new generation of the country into the darkness of igno-

He expressed these views while talking to the male and female students on a visit to the various centers of the ongoing examinations centers in Quetta.

On this occasion, Deputy Controller Balochistan Board Qazi Muhammad Anwar was also present.

Chairman of Mir Ejaz

be passed by copying but they never succeed in practical life, today we have to pledge to end the scourge of doubling.

He said that children have to become educated citizens but they have to serve the country and the nation today, those nations were developed in the world

Azeem Baloch said that the

children of the province

should be saved from imi-

tation and equipped with

wealth of knowledge be-

cause where children would

He said that those who made knowledge their weapon and eradicated ignorance from their country, we also have to light the candle of knowledge for the development of our coun-

due to quality of education.