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Vol. XIV No. 124 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Tuesday May 28, 2024, Zeeqad 19, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12



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

On Youm-e-Takbeer

Gilani emphasises constant efforts to make country's defence impregnable

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

The acting president, in his message to the nation, termed the day a pivotal moment in the nation's history and called for a renewed pledge to continue working towards a peaceful and stable world.

He said on that day, Pakistan successfully demonstrated its nuclear capabilities and joined the ranks of nuclear powers. "Youm-



ment to our nation's resilience, unwavering determination, and commitment to maintaining regional peace and stability," he added.

He said the journey to was not without its difficulties as the national leadership and scientists braved various challenges to pelled us forward, achieve the remarkable feat.

this journey, we acknowledge the hard work of our scientists and engineers without whom this achievement would not have been possible. Today, we also recognize the contributions of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto whose efforts led to making Pakistan a nuclear state. We also appreciate
Mohtarma Benazir
Bhutto's decision as the
opposition leader of the time to support Nawaz Sharif for conducting nuclear tests. Indeed, it was the collective determination of our civil and military leadership becoming a nuclear state as well as our scientific acumen, and unwavering dedication to national defence that pro-

President



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi and Federal Minister for Energy Sardar Awais Ahamd Khan Laghari in a meeting with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur.

Centre, K-P govt to jointly work to end province's power woes

ISLAMABAD (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin not against the institu-Khan Gandapur Monday said that the federal and provincial governments have agreed to eliminate load shedding, recover electricity dues, and reduce line losses from the province aiming to provide relief to the people of the province.

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

Gandapur mentioned that ongoing discussions with the Federation concerning load shedding in KP discussions were exclu-dressed jointly. have led us to meet and re-sively with the country's

kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was tions. He has no differences with Governor KP.

He stated that the people of KP have demanded that despite the province generating electricity for the entire counincreased load shedding. He assured addressing electricity arrears and launching a community-based campaign to minimize line

He said that agreements have been reached with the federation and expressed gratitude to the federal government for addressing the concerns related to the province's law

solve the issue. He said Pa- Interior Minister and En-

and order and economic inces. He said line losses conditions. Ali Amin and power theft issues in Gandapur clarified that his the country would be ad-

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

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

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

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

On May 26, an intelligence based operation was conducted in general area Hassan Khel, Peshawar District, where six terrorists were successfully neutral- brave soldiers; Naik

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif on Monday de-

clared a public holiday on

May 28 to mark Youm-e-

Takbeer, the day when

Pakistan's defence became

impregnable after nuclear tests in the hills of Chagai,

Balochistan in the year

minds how the entire

Pakistani nation got

united on that day to

make the country's defence invincible," the

prime minister said in a

statement issued by the

said, the nation decided that

there would be no compro-

mise on the country's in-

tegrity and defence by not

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed

Asim Munir on Monday,

along with a large of mili-

tary and civil officials, at-

tended the funeral prayer of

martyrs who had embraced

martyrdom during an in-

tense exchange of fire with

the terrorists in Bagh area

of Khyber district, offered

prayer was offered included

Sepoy Taimoor Shaheed

(age 32, resident of Layyah

district), Sepoy Nadir Sagheer Shaheed (age 22,

resident of Bagh district),

Sepoy Muhammad Yaseen

Shaheed (age 23, resident of

Those whose funeral

in Peshawar Garrison.

On the day in 1998, he

PM House.

"Youm-e-Takbeer re-

RAWALPINDI (APP): A ized by the security forces Captain among seven sol- and multiple hideouts were (age 32 years; resident of in Tank, Dera Ismail Khan busted. Captain Hussain Jehangir and Havildar Shafiq Ullah also embraced Shahadat on May 26, while fighting gallantly. On May 27, in another operation conducted in Tank District, the Army troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, as a result of which ten terrorists were killed.

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

However, during the intense exchange of fire, five

Both the political and

PM Shehbaz said it was

defence forces got united on

the day under the National

Flag to strengthen the country's defence, he

the day of renewing pledge that "we will always remain

ready to thwart the nefari-

ous designs of both exter-

nal and internal enemies,

who want to endanger the

country".

"May 28 is also the day
"butes to the

of paying tributes to the steps taken by the then

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the Pakistan

Army to make the national

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto for ini-

tiating the atomic programme and the scien-

Naik Syed Danish Afkar Shaheed (age 30, resident of Poonch district) and Naik

Ashfaq Butt Shaheed (age

32, resident of Kahuta dis-

trict) was offered, an Inter

Services Public Relations

(ISPR) news release said.

Later on, the COAS visited

the Combined Military

Hospital (CMH) Peshawar

to inquire after the well-be-

ing of troops injured during

the operation. The Army

Chief appreciated their high

morale and reaffirmed the

resolve of the nation to fight

the terrorism with full

laid to rest with full mili-

tary honours in their re-

The martyrs will be

vigour and spirit.

We also pay tribute to

defence invincible.'

minister remarked.

tegrity and defence by not yielding to any external in continuing it," the prime

COAS offers funeral prayer of martyrs of Khyber operation

PM announces

public holiday

on Youm-e-Takbeer

added.

district Kahuta), Lance and Bagh, Khyber dis-Naik Syed Danish Afkar trict. The prime minister (age 30 years; resident of district Poonch), Sepoy Taimoor Malik (age 32 Ashfaq Butt, Lance Naek years; resident of district Layyah), Sepoy Nadir Sageer (age 22 years; resident of district Bagh) and Sepoy Muahmmad Yasin (age 23 years; resident of district Khushab), having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat

Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday paid tribute to the of-Pakistan Army for carrying out successful opera-

Syed Danish Afkar, Sepoy Taimoor Malik, Sepoy Nadir Sagheer and Sepoy Muhammad Yaseen who embraced martyrdom during the operation in Bagh.

He said the Pakistan Army soldiers took part in the operations against the terrorist elements by putting their lives at risk.

"May Allah Almighty elevate the ranks of the ficers and soldiers of the martyrs in the paradise and grant courage to the bereaved family members

to bear this loss with patience," he said in a message issued by the PM House. PM Shehbaz said the entire nation including himself paid tribute to the family members of the

He emphasized that the officers and soldiers of Pakistan Armed Forces always preferred the country's integrity and solidarity over their lives.

"We will continue the war till complete elimination of the menace of terrorism from the country, he resolved.

He said the entire nation stood shoulder to shoulder with its armed



LAHORE: Chairman Prime Minister Youth Program Rana Mashhood Ahmed calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

CJCSC, Services Chiefs greet nation on Youm-e-Takbeer

Independent Report

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



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

The Armed Forces and the nation pay tribute to the unwavering dedication and selfless sacrifices of all those who contributed to this remarkable feat, achieved against overwhelming odds. The scientists, engineers, and officials who devoted their lives to realizing this dream rightly deserve the gratitude and admiration of the nation and its Armed Forces.

A convicted person can't acknowledge Govt's diplomatic achievements, initiatives for developments: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP) Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Monday said that a convicted person in prison could not digest and acknowledge multiple achievements of current government on diplomatic front and initiatives for the development of the country.

"Definitely, there is a sinister plan to compare the current situation with that of 1971 but theses tactics are doomed to fail; InshaAllah, Pakistan will remain on the map of the world and make march towards progress and prosperity", he said while addressing a press confer-

He said during the tenure of the present elected



stan had achieved many milestones on the diplomatic front.

"The Prime Minister had a telephonic conversation with the Prime Ministers of Norway and Ireland in the backdrop of their strong stance on Middle East situation", he remarked.

He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had telephonically contacted the prime ministers of Norway and Ireland who had con-

called fort immediate for ceasefire.

The minister said that PM Shehbaz Sharif informed the two Prime Ministers Pakistan's position on the situation.

"Pakistan has always raised its voice for the rights of Palestinians," he said adding PM Shehbaz Sharif during his address to UN General Assembly had stated categorically that Pakistan will continue to government, by the grace of Allah Almighty, Pakiof Allah Almighty, Paki-

Missing persons problem calls for political solution: IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): ing Baloch students case. As Islamabad High Court (IHC) has remarked missing persons issue calls for political solution.

every person who is alleged family at every cost. The missing persons issue warrants political solution, this was said by IHC in its written order issued on Mon-

per order counsel Imaan Mazari has handed over list of 3 missing students talks have been held at high to AG. We expect that on level always to address "Attorney General next hearing the court (AG) has assured court that will be informed about these 3 missing persons. It to be missing will reach his was said in 4-page order issued by Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani that AG assured the court that every person about who it is alleged that he is missing will court after cabinet apday during hearing of miss-reach his family at every

The order further said the AG told the court the missing persons issue. It was said therein that the committee comprising ministers pertaining to enforced disappearances worked out its recommendations. The recommendations will be presented in the proval.

Nawaz Sharif likely to elect PML-N President

kistan Muslim League-Nawaz election commission will issue nomination papers for election of the party's new president today.

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

other members of the commission. Candidates can get nomination papers upto 5:00 in the evening, a party spokesperson said. "The papers could be submitted from 10:00am to 12;00 noon tion

tomorrow," spokesman said "Scrutiny of the papers will be held between 1:00 to 2:00pm". "The central general council of the party will elect new president at 4:00pm tomorrow," election commission announced.

Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif could likely to return unopposed as the PML-N president. According to the agenda of the PML-N general council session, it will elect the party's president and approve amendments in the party's constitu-

ergy Minister.

Minister for Power Di vision Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari on Monday said a comprehensive plan has been devised in collaboration with Chief Minister Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa to sort out issues related to try, they continue to face power pilferage, load-shedding and recovery from the defaulters.

Addressing a joint press conference along Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi and CM KP Ali Amin Gandapui here, Awais Leghari said the plan would be finalized by tomorrow, adding the model which was devised for KP would also be replicated in the other prov-

Khushab district), Lance spective native towns. US Ambassador calls on **Finance Minister**

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

On the occasion, the finance minister underscored the long-term mutual relations between Pakistan and the USA. He informed the Ambassador about successful completion of the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) and that the Government of Pakistan was engaged with the fund to build upon the reforms under the SBA.

He highlighted the priority reform areas of the government including increasing tax-to-GDP ratio through end-to-end digitization, bringing the under-taxed sectors into the tax net, and tax administrative reforms

The minister reiterated the Prime Minister's commitment to privatizing State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), which has sparked interest from local and foreign investors in the case of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain offering condolences with the Iranian ambassador on tragic demise of Iranian president, foreign minister and other officials.

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Mercury rising

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

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

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

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

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

Moving bombs

the fitted explosives from

fortified positions, IS de-

signed specific SVBIEDs

capable of removing

concrete blast barriers to

use parked VBIEDs,

SVBIEDs but are parked

at a location and deto-

nated remotely. Parked

VBIEDs lack drivers and

function as larger, dis-

guised stationary IEDs. Different vehicles pro-

vide varying storage ca-

pacities to place explo-

sives as needed, effec-

tively targeting and en-

suring maximum damage.

Usually, VBIEDs are em-

ployed by terrorists

against large targets to

facilitate forced entry

and create significant

explosion's impact, a few

SVBIEDs were designed

and used on some occa-

sions by IS with rooftop

rocket pods and a firing

the drivers to suppress

fire from the SVBIED's

target. In some in-

stances, explosives are

mounted on the doors

and windshields' interi-

To increase the

impact.

The militants also

resemble

clear the passage.

Mohammad Ali Babakhel

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

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

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

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

the front exterior, shield- the sides. The payload ing the engine block, arrangement also inwindscreen, and tyres. cluded crude oil to in-These were used during crease the primary blast conflicts in Iraq and effect upon detonation of the main payload and Syria. The improvised shielding protected the ensure that the remnants

incoming fire until the in-From 2014 to 2024, a tended point of detonatotal of 85 suicide attion. After capturing Mosul in 2014, IS seized tacks, including 26 VBIEDs, resulted in the deaths of 557 civilians many military-armoured and 143 policemen in KP. vehicles, modified them, The highest number of VBIED attacks was eight A two-man SVBIED in 2014, followed by four is operated by two attackers: one driver and in 2023. Between 2014 and 2024, Peshawar one rooftop gunner. The faced the highest numgunner provides supber of attacks, with 26 pressing fire until the suicide and 11 VBIED atvehicle reaches its detotacks, followed by 14 nation point. This type suicide attacks in North of SVBIED was used in Waziristan and six VBIED attacks against hardattacks in Bannu. Ground ened military targets in realities suggest that suicide bombing, includ-Iraq and Syria. To target

ing VBIEDs, is primarily

an urban or bordering

at the site were burned

causing more losses.

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

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

Boiling point

Huma Yusuf

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

treme heat.

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

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

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

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

Women are espe-

cially hard hit by extreme

heat. According to an

FAO report published in March, female-headed will need to endure the households lose 8pc of stress; in the case of female farm labour — a key working constituency in extreme high temperatures reduces the value of crops produced by women by 3pc as compared to men. This is because when the mercury rises, women focus more on unpaid domestic work sourcing water, caring for heat-affected dependents, and cooking under prohibitive conditions. The physical toll of extreme heat on women, particularly pregnant ones, is also more ad-

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

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

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

Children are also susceptible to extreme heat — and it's not just about dehydration. Frequent heatwaves can have a long-term effect on a child's educational attainment. Half of our country's school-going population has lost a week of learning to the current heatwave. Globally, according to the FAO, higher temperatures their income due to heat also result in 49 more minutes of child labour per week as children pick up chores that women can-Pakistan — each day of not attend to while they manage the extra domestic burden of hot days.

Given this, heat can-

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

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

Commerce News

ECC approves Rs 4272 million TSGs

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

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

Economic 2.363 million for the subsistence allowance for

million for the Ministry of approved Law & Justice and Rs committee, to ensure 4,050.686 for Strategic smooth supply of urea Division Muhammad Aurangzeb SUPARCO to meet the

ISLAMABAD (APP): committee approved Rs Mission Communication for Commerce, Jam Kamal Satellite System".

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

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

Khan; Minister for Power, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari; Minister for Petroleum, Musadik Masood Malik; Minister

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



over a meeting of Economic Coordination Committee (ECC).



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

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

Pakistan and Netherlands Jam Kamal Khan on Monday discussed the requested to renew the opportunities for technical programs like economic and trade ties CBI and PUM for from the National Bureau and also eye new investment opportunities for increasing the bilateral economic ties.

Netherlands Henny Fokel De Vries Commerce Jam Kamal Khan. Both discussed to Pakistan. deepen the trade The minister relations, said a press highlighted Pakistan's

release issued. The Ambassador various Minister of Commerce energy, support for resolving the resources, fisheries, and Dutch o f

ISLAMABAD (APP): companies. Minister benefits of SMEs in Pakistan. He also extended an

invitation to the Dutch Minister for Trade to Ambassador to Pakistan, visit Pakistan along with a business delegation as called on Minister for many Dutch companies operating

significant potential in sectors. appreciated the role of including renewable services in coordinating and agriculture, IT, human

textiles.

China's industrial profits swing back to growth in April

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Development Policy Institute (SDPI) organized the consultative discussion "Pre-Budget Seminar: Tax Reforms in

Real Estate Sectors".

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

Ahsan Bakhtawri, President, Islamabad Chamber of

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

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

He said that products should not supplied to Commerce, and Industry retailers who lack NTN or (ICCI) said the retail sector national tax numbers.

Gold rates up by Rs 800 per tola

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

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

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

CDNS collects Rs 1.5tlln targets in fresh bond

the annual target in the target and achieved the current fiscal year, from target of Rs 1.6 trillion

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

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

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

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

Youm-e-Takbeer: A proud day for nation

Four PAEC agriculture

research centers have been

established in the three

provinces of Pakistan hav-

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

Agriculture (NIA) in Tando

Jam, established in 1962

was the first such institute

followed by Nuclear Insti-

tute for Agriculture and Bi-

ology (NIAB), in Faisalabad; Nuclear Insti-

tute for Food and Agricul-

ture (NIFA), in Peshawar

and National Institute for

Biotechnology & Genetic

Engineering (NIBGE), in

agriculture centers have de-

veloped and evolved more

than one hundred and fifty

(150) crop varieties for Pa-

kistan. For utilization of

marginal lands, PAEC has

developed technology for

the utilization of salt-af-

fected lands and this tech-

nology is being provided not only to the local farm-

ers but also at international

a fair share in human re-

through training courses,

workshops and internships. These courses

equally benefit researchers,

students and academia from

various research organiza-

tions and universities.

NIAB and NIBGE in

Faisalabad are also affiliated

with Pakistan Institute of

Engineering and Applied

Sciences (PIEAS) – the leading university of the

country, for award of MPhil and PhD degrees in

Biology and Biotechnology.

wards agriculture industri-

alization and commercial-

ization, PAEC recently or-

ganized a huddle of agricul-

ture scientists, agricultur-

ists and business leaders in

the field of agriculture. The

Agriculture symposium

cum exhibition was orga-

nized at NIAB and NIBĞE

vation to Harvest Business

Growth", the two-day

event was sponsored by

Support Industries and

Technologies (SITECH), in

line with Government's

Green Pakistan Initiative.

Its ultimate aim was to

commercialize and popu-

larize the latest technical

advancements in the field of

agriculture and biotechnol-

perts and researchers from

seed companies, progres-

sive farmers, corporate sec-

tors, researchers, academia

from agri and biotech fields

and representatives from

government, Fongrow Coy

participated. The partici-

pants appreciated the event

and they hoped that orga-

nizers will provide more

such opportunities of es-

tablishing linkages among

agricultural researchers,

farmers and allied depart-

ments as well as businesses.

striving to prove a catalyst

in all key areas of national

development, May 28 will

always remain a feather in

its cap asit made Pakistanis

hold their heads high with

pride.- The writer is a PR

practitioner. He can be

journalistinmaking@gmail.com

Although PAEC is

in future.

reached

Leading agricultural ex-

Titled "Cultivate Inno-

institutes in Faisalabad.

Taking a big step to-

source

These centers also have

development

So far, these PAEC-run

Faisalabad.

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



By Muhammad Aftab

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

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

Bait-ul-Mal (PBM). In the field of international cooperation and promotion of the culture of sharing and learning from fellow scientists' research, PAEC started conducting annual meetings of researchers and scientists in Pakistan. A brainchild of the Nobel Laureate of Pakistani origin, Dr. Abdul Salam, the nuclear state, a founding idea of holding the annual member of the IAEA and

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

Tuesday May 28, 2024

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

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

As a responsible



Nuclear Technologyan imperative for national defense and development

By Saima Durrani

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

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

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

progress And if this dedication is coupled with capability in science and technology, the real engine for economic growth, we have the recipe for success at our hands. Science and technology (S&T) are fundamental for social and economic progress in developing countries as they have been central in the progress and development of virtually all the nations of the world. Nuclear technology, a top notch specialty in its own domain offers a wide array of applications leading to the development push we all aspire. Moreover, in today's geo-political scenario, the strategic and defense portfolio of any country is measured up against

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

its potential economic vi-

ability. And it is the growth

of this nexus of strong

The Commission now holds sway over utilization of nuclear technology for a wide array of national development initiatives .Incidentally these initiatives are also key tools used to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS). Out of the 17 SDGs of UN agenda, PAEC contributes to 11 of them

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

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

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

Subsequently, first fullfledged Atomic Energy Agriculture Research Center was established in 1962 at Tandojam which was followed by Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB) in 1972 at Faisalabad, Nuclear Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) at Peshawar in 1982 and National institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (NIBGE)

The Commission took lead in utilizing nuclear technology to improve productivity by developing new crop varieties, pest control technologies, plant nutriorganisms.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

under one roof at these hos-Even this cursory summary of the scope and Production of electricity achievements of the orgathrough nuclear power has nization presented here evolved over the decades makes it clear that PAEC is uniquely placed to cater to and nuclear reactors now being installed in the world national needs of both are far superior to their presocio-economic development and strategic edge. decessor in term of perfor-Whereas this special occasion of Yaum-e-Takbeer calls for renew-PAEC currently operates six nuclear power plants at two sites genering the self less dedicaating 10 percent of election of PAEC personnel tricity through nuclear of to remain motivated and the country's total and strive to excel in both almost a quarter of its domains of national development in future as well, it ow-carbon electricity. Nuclear power also reiterates the critical generation is economically support needed from all relcompetitive in the power evant stakeholders if we

pledge to serve our nation

and see it prosper.

YOUM E TAKBEER DAY OF REVIVAL AND PRIDE 28 MAY 1998

Theranostics facilities. Sup-

portive radiology equip-

ment like MRI, ČT Scan-

ner, digital X-ray, Mam-

mography and ultrasonog-

raphy/Color Doppler is

hospitals are equipped

with Linear Accelerators,

Cobalt-60 Teletherapy,

Brachytherapy, Digital Simulator and Treatment

Planning System. Addition-

ally these AECHs are

equipped with up-to-date

hematology, chemical and pathology laboratories to

give diagnostic tests ser-

vices along with treatment

mance and safety.

These PAEC cancer

also available

Cyber

pitals.

tion and water management, animal health and productivity and food decontamination and preservation.

Combining conventional breeding methods with mutation breeding, marker assisted selection and genetic engineering techniques, so far more than 150 crop varieties of cotton, wheat, rice, oilseed, pulses and fruits and vegetables have been developed which are popular among the farming community of

Pakistan. These PAEC agriculture institutes have also developed technologies to improve irrigation techniques that reduce water losses. Alternate cheap sources of nutrients have been identified to efficiently manage plant nutrition and reduced application of chemical fertilizers. Exports play a vital role in the economy of a country and as our exports are mainly (70%) based on agriculture therefore any efforts in this sector contribute directly toward the development of Pakistan. Services are being provided by PAEC institutes for removal of contaminants from export commodities through irradiation, identification of aflatoxins and drug residues in food and dairy products and DNA

Insight Special Issue on Youme e Takbeer p27-30). The President of USA Bill Clinton had telephoned the PM, a few times and offered lucrativeeconomic

based testing of basmati rice

packages. At the same time he elucidated the difficulties to be faced as economic sanctions. In addition President of USA, sent a delegation headed by Mr. Strobe Talbot, the then Deputy Security of State, and General Anthony Zinni, head of US Central Command to persuade Pakistan not to respond. The delegation was initially declined but later allowed to visit Pakistan. It met several times the PM, his Ministers, Gen mously supported (CISS Jehangir Karamat but was

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

market of Pakistan. Among

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

Apart from defense, PAEC is also the torchbearer in ensuring sustainable development for the country in all spheres of life by using nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes.International chairmen of PAEC. Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in line with its Atoms for Peaceand De- (INSC) on Physics and the power plants are some

velopment' mandate, supports countries in their efforts to reach the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.Many countries use nuclear science and technology to contribute to and meet their development objectives in areas including energy, human health, food production, water management and environ-

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

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

been organized every year since 1976, mostly at the scenic hill resort of Nathiagali. So far, 7 Nobel laureates and 41000 scientists, out of which 1000 were foreigners, from 72 countries have participated entists in Pakistan to exchange valuable knowledge with their local colleagues and science students.

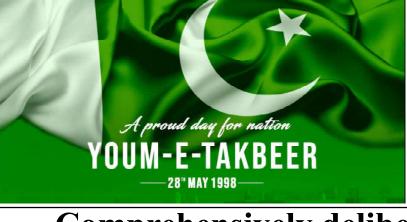
Owing to the untiring efforts of PAEC scientists, engineers, technicians and various research activities

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

As per international best practices in the field of nuclear power, Emergency Preparedness Measures are well in place for timely intervention at these in the annual springs of sci- power plants. The safety and security are the two highlights of nuclear power plants operating in the

PAEC has taken the lead in utilizing nuclear technology to improve produc-

researchers, Pakistan is tivity of agriculture sector proudly an Associate through the introduction of Member of European Or- new crop varieties, pest ganization for Nuclear Re- control technologies, plant search (CERN) and scien- nutrition, water managetists from the country are ment, animal health and actively participating in productivity and food decontamination and preser-



Comprehensively deliberated decision for Youme-e-Takbeer

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

The PM, Nawaz meeting was held on 13 Sharif, was on official visit May chaired by the PM, to Kazakhstan. He talked to Gen Jehangir Karamat, Chairman JCSC and COAS, it was decided to hold a meeting of Defence Committee of Cabinet (DCC) and upon his arrival. However, according to Naeem Salik, reps of KRL and PAEC re-(The Genesis of South Asia Nuclear Deterrence: Pakistan's Perspective decide appropriate rep141) Gen Karamat's account of the event is little provided by India to bedifferent. The PM called General and told him to start preparations for the test. He suggested the PM to return to Pakistan as net taking the decision in a soon as possible, and then crisis mode where the DCC the decision would be taken after deliberation in DCC, the institution designed to deliberate and take such decisions. It is relevant to clarify speculation about whether the decision was tional reaction, India was taken by political leader-

clearly placed in a better position than Pakistan. ship or was it thrust upon it by the military. The DCC attended by Foreign Minister, Finance Minister, Interior Minister, Chairman JCSC. and Services Chiefs. In addition Dr. A Q Khan Dr. Mubarakmand attended as

Samar spectively. A lot of deliberations had taken place to sponse. The opportunity come nuclear state and the economic challenges were pondered thoroughly. The meeting was like a war cabimembers were evaluating all the implications of testing, under tremendous economic and international pressures. It was virtually an undeclared emergency situation. Armed forces were alerted for extra safe guards of the sensitive areas. The test tunnels prepared at Ras Koh have to be provided extra security which was entrusted to Corps Cdr at Quetta, Navy augmented the sea patrol and PAF flew Combat Air Patrol (CAP). On political front all the opposition parties were for the nuclear detonation. A unanimous resolution was passed in Senate for an effective response to the Indian tests. In accordance with Gohar Ayub, the Foreign Minister (Testing Times, p35), General Jehangir Karamat, views were, we could match India, but the decision to do so would have to be political. Dr Samar informed the DCC that PAEC will take 10 days to conduct the tests. Later when Dr. Ishfaq, Chairman PAEC returned from abroad. gave the positive reply about the preparations. The cabinet meeting was called

on 14 May, which sup-

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

Israel's deadly war in

WASHINGTON (APP): United States and other community. The comity of Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, has called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and a surge in urgently needed humanitarian assistance for the suffering Palestinians in the war-torn enclave who, he said, were being pushed from one location to another in search

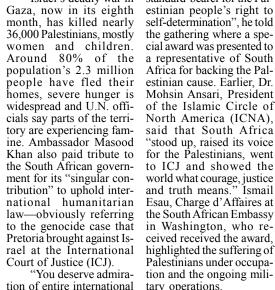
Addressing the 49^{th} Convention organized by Muslim bodies — ICNA and MAS—in Baltimore, Maryland, he urged the United States to demonstrate leadership in ensuring the implementation of two-state solution to resolve the deadly Middle East crisis. The annual three-day convention is being attended by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

Gaza, now in its eighth month, has killed nearly 36,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children. Around 80% of the population's 2.3 million people have fled their homes, severe hunger is widespread and U.N. officials say parts of the territory are experiencing famine. Ambassador Masood Khan also paid tribute to the South African govern-

parts of the world.

rael at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). tion of entire international

nations respects you as a standard-bearer for the Pal-





PESHAWAR: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Asim Munir inquires about the health of troops injured during an intense exchange of fire with terrorists at general area Bagh, Khyber district, at CMH Hospital in Peshawar.

Ahsan inaugurates 'Clean and Safe **Drinking Water' plant**

NAROWAL (APP): Un- was suffering from fatal der the community engagement program, Clean and Safe Drinking Water facility was formally inaugurated by Federal Minister for Planning, Development 8 billion rupees, through and Special Initiatives Ahsan Igbal and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Nestlé Pakistan Limited Jason Avancena here in

occasion, the federal minister said that the modern Healthy Kid program water filtration plant should be started at every ters of clean water to could learn about a bal-10,000 people on a daily basis which was a blessing."I thank Nestle Pakistan for providing this Limited Jason Avancena facility on behalf of the while addressing the parpeople of Narowal",he maintained.

He said that there was a severe shortage of clean drinking water in our country due to which Pakistan

diseases like hepatitis. Ahsan Iqbal said that Prime Minister had launched the National Nutrition Program at a cost of which malnutrition will be

"A healthy nation can only be build by focusing on clean drinking water and balanced nutrition", he

He said that Nestlé for anced diet and its importance in daily life.

CEO Nestlé Pakistan ticipants, told about the community development projects across Pakistan under the Community Engagement Program on behalf of his company.



KARACHI: Police official restore baton charge and arrest to repel protesters during the protest demonstration of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for release PTI Chairman Imran Khan, at Karachi press club.

Opposition voices solidarity with Tribal jirga

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

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

House and advocate for their rights outside the Assembly. The leadership of the Tehreek-e-Tahaffuz-e-Ayeen-e-Pakistan vowed to support the demonstration of the residents of

They collectively de-

manded for compensations to address the damages inflicted by military operations in the region and urged the Federal government to honour its commitments made to the people of the tribal areas. They highlighted the destruction of homes, displacement of families, loss of livelihoods, and the overall disruption of socio-economic infrastructure as key areas requiring compensations. They

urged the Federal government approve Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government's demand for compensation and demanded allocation in this regard in the upcoming budget. It was regretted that despite promises, only tokens are issued to the residents of the region and no compensation has been made since last eight years.

They submitted that the tribes on both sides of the bor-

PPP leadership reiterates belief in noble cause championed by BISP

noble cause championed by Benazir Income Suppositively towards its ini-

Chairperson, Rubina Khalid held here, President and General Secretary of the Pakistan reoples Party (PPP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha and Muhammad Shuja Khan congratulated her on assuming new role

They presented her with a bouquet and extended their best wishes for her success in this significant responsibility.

They emphasized the importance of her role in serving and improving the welfare of underprivileged segments of society. On behalf of the Pa-

kistan Peoples Party, both leaders assured Rubina Khalid of their full support and cooperation in her mission to serve the poorest of the poor.

They expressed their commitment to aiding the BISP's efforts in alleviating poverty and enhancing the quality of life for the most vulnerable populations in Pakistan.

USC reduces

ISLAMABÂD (APP) announced a reduction of Rs 18 per kilogram in the price of subsidized ghee with immediate effect.

spokesperson, the corporation has reduced the price of ghee by Rs 18 for registered families of Benazir Income Support Program

PCG seize Indian gutka, foreign cigarettes from coach

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG) on intelligence information intercepted a passenger coach traveling from Quetta to Karachi at Uthal, Balochistan, and recovered a significant quantity of Indian Gutka and foreign brand cigarettes. A PCG spokesperson reported on Monday that during a routine road check in the Uthal area of Balochistan, 4,650 packets of Indian Gutka and 35 sticks of foreign brand

cigarettes were found on the

passenger coach

ISLAMÁBAD (APP) The leadership of Pakistan People's Party, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Monday reiterated their belief in the port Programme (BISP) and pledged to contribute

In a meeting with airperson, BISP,

as Chairperson of BISP.

through which online monighee price by toring of all Hajj-related activities is performed, has Rs 18 per kg received an overwhelming response in a short span of time, with over 70,000 active intending Pakistani Hajj

The Utility Stores Corporation (USC) on Monday

According to the USC

Eight of a family die as jeep falls into gorge in Shangla

SHANGLA (INP): Eight eight family members inmembers of a family including women and children died and several others injured when a jeep fell into a gorge here on Monday. Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Saffron, Engr Amir Muqam grieved over loss of

the precious lives According to details, a jeep heading to Pagorai from Balay Baba skidded off road and plunged into a ditch.

As a result of accident,

cluding women and children were killed. The local people and

rescue teams through collective efforts pulled up the bodies and shifted them to District Hospital Alpuri.

Minister Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit Baltistan and Safron, Engr Amir Muqam expressing deep grief over the loss of eight precious lives in the dreadful accident has expressed his sympathies with the bereaved families.

PM commends efforts to timely extinguish Margalla Hills fire

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad

Aurangzeb called on by Abdul Rehman Al Raheem Al Nooriyani, Chairman

Etisalat Int'l Pakistan accompanied by Hatem Bamatraf, CEO & President

Addressing a press

conference accompanied

with Ulema and Mashaykh

here at Deputy Commis-

sioner Office, PUC Chair-

man Hafiz Muhammad

Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi

said the incident in question

involved allegations of blas-

phemy, a highly sensitive

and incendiary topic in Pa-

kistan, which had histori-

cally led to significant so-

stance, the swift and mea-

sured response from local

law enforcement agencies

played a crucial role in pre-

escalating, he said adding

that their prompt action was

lauded by religious leaders,

who recognized the impor-

tance of maintaining peace

and order in such volatile

situations. Ashrafi stated,

"We will not allow anyone

to destabilize our country

through interfaith dishar-

Counsel for Sardar

Tanvir Ilyas argued the

maximum punishment

under these clauses is 3

years. Therefore, the ac-

cused should be granted

bail. Passport has also been

case FIA presented record

During the hearing of

venting the situation from

However, in this in-

cial unrest.

Religious leaders unite to combat

interfaith disharmony following

Sargodha blasphemy incident

SARGODHA (APP): Re-

ligious scholars and leaders

from various schools of

thought, in the wake of a

recent blasphemous incident in Sargodha, on Mon-

day came together under

the auspices of Pakistan

Ulema Council (PUC) to

pledge a united front against

attempts to incite interfaith

disharmony in the country.

has stirred tensions within

the community, is being

seen by many as a deliber-

ate effort by certain ele-

ments to destabilize Paki-

stan by exploiting religious

expressed their firm com-

mitment to countering any

attempts to sow discord

among different religious communities in Pakistan.

They emphasized that

unity and mutual under-

standing were essential to

safeguarding national stabil-

ISLAMABAD (Online):

District and Sessions Court

Islamabad while accepting

bail of former Prime Minis-

ter (PM) Azad Kashmir

Sardar Tanvir Ilyas has or-

Abbas Shah approved bail

against surety bonds in the

sum of Rs 100000 in the

case of using diplomatic

MAKKAH AL-MUKARRAMAH (APP):

The innovative approach

adopted to bring together all

the wings and departments

of the Pakistan Hajj Mis-

sion under the DG Facilita-

tion Cell and Complaint

Management System seems

to be effectively working in

the overall Hajj operation

pilgrims registered so far.

service, the Ministry of Re-

ligious Affairs has received

more than 20,000 com-

plaints, which have been

resolved and disposed of in

provides all the required in-

formation, including per-

sonal details of Hujjaj,

Mehram details, helper in-

formation, additional facili-

ties, Hajj dues, nominee in-

The Pak Hajj App

information,

an efficient manner.

Through this online

The 'Pak Hajj App,'

Judicial magistrate

dered to release him.

ity and preventing violence. mony.

Court approves bail of former

PM AJK orders to release him

passport.

returned.

Key religious figures

sentiments.

The incident, which

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

He appreciated the Pakistan Ârmy, National Disaster Management Authority Islamabad Administration, Coordinator Ministry of Climate Change Rumina Khursheed Alam and officers and staff of the ministry for their tireless efforts in extinguishing the fire.

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

Salik offers condolence on tragic demise of Iranian president

ISLĀMABAD (APP) Minister for Religious Af fairs and Interfaith Har mony, Chaudhry Salil Hussain on Monday vis ited the Iranian embassy and offered condolences over the sad demise of Iranian President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, foreign minister and other offi cials in the helicopte



Aurangzeb called on by Abdul Rehman Al Raheem Al Nooriyani, Chairman Etisalat Int'l Pakistan accompanied by Hatem Bamatraf, CEO & President

details, and training sched-

ules. Commenting on the

role of the DG Facilitation

Cell and Complaint Man-

agement System, its in-

charge Muhammad Ahmed

Usmani told APP that it was

established this year for im-

proved coordination among

all wings and departments

of the Pakistan Hajj Mission

to extend maximum facilities

to intending Pakistani pil-

grims. "It is greatly helping

in the timely redressal of

complaints of pilgrims and

their proper guidance to

minimize any inconvenience

he added, has a three-mem-

ber National Information

Technology Board (NITB)

team of software engineers,

mandated with removing

technical glitches faced at

the Hajj portal and improv-

ing system efficiency and

quality as per requirements.

mentioned that a five-

member team was available

at the call center to deal with

the complaints received on

system of redressing griev-

Moreover, Usmani

The Facilitation Cell,

to them," he said.

Over 70,000 intending pilgrims

actively using 'Pak Hajj App'

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

ISLAMABAD (Online) Budget session of National Assembly (NA) will take place at 5pm evening on June 05

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

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

IED blast kills one, injures another in **Bajaur**

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

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

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

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

The police registered a case and started investi

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

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

Mohsin Naqvi's good initiative for the families of police martyrs resolved the long-standing issue of accommodation for the families of 64 martyrs of Islamabad Police after 43 5 marle houses will be

forms for families of 64 Mohsin Naqvi distrib-uted allotment letters of plots to the families of po-

constructed in Chak Segu

Rawalpindi's NPF sego

He went to the seat of an elderly woman and gave her the allotment letter words of comfort.

It is our responsibility to take care of the families of martyrs, said Mohsin Naqvi adding this work is not a favor to the families of the martyrs. It was their right.

He said that this work cannot pay even a single drop of blood of martyrs.

IG Islamabad Ali Nasir Rizvi briefed about the project to the minister and guests, MD National Police Foundation, Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad. The families of RPO Rawalpindi and Shahada Police were present on the



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

Qaiser inaugurates renovated KPT **Staff College**

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

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

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh praised the KPT for its dedication to train officers in line with international standards. He lauded the personnel to meet the redustry. The minister emhas consistently delivering clock for Karachi.

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

Chairman KPT underscored KPT's historical commitment to serving the nation and the people of Karachi through various CSR initiatives. These inorganization's proactive clude funding 6 schools for approach in preparing its underprivileged students, operating a nospital for quirements in maritime in- workers and nearby residents, maintaining a Fire as Pakistan's gateway and ment available round the

HEC Chairman for expeditious efforts to ensure food security, mitigate climate changes

FAISALABAD (APP): dustry, and experts have to Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr Mukhtar Ahmed has called for pace-up efforts to ensure sustainable food security, biodiversity, and the strategies to mitigate the climate changes. He was addressing as a

chief guest at the two-day International Conference on Biodiversity and Biosafety arranged by Center for Advanced Studies, University of Agriculture Faisalabad He said that due to cli-

mate change, the imbalance between humans, animals and environment was deepening. "Hence we have to take measures including prevention of deforestation, control of pollution, counter irrational use of water and stop the indiscriminate use of pesticides on crops to provide a better environment for the fu-

ture generation," he added.
He said, "To ensure food security, we have to develop agriculture on scientific basis. Public contribution to address pollution and deforestation issue should be raised so that this challenge can be tackled amicably. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan,

Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, said that the imbalance in the ecosystem is increasing for which scientists, civil society, inmake joint efforts.

He said that 70 percent of the Punjab's agricultural area consists of wheat and rice crops and it consumes 75% of the province's water. He said that steps must be taken to prevent unnecessary use of water.

He said that the tangible research work has been carried out in various projects in University of Agriculture Faisalabad in collaboration with International Center for Development and Decent Work of University of Kessel Ger-

He said that the biosafety measures include the regular monitoring of biosafety in laboratories especially involved in genetic manipulation of living organism including microbes, plant and animals. German Scientist Dr.

Andreas Burkert said that sophisticated price mechanism will have to be set up to prevent irrational use of water in agriculture in the subcontinent. He said that due to solar tube wells, underground water is being used indiscriminately. He said that natural resources should be respected and environment-friendly technologies should be promoted. He said that the melting glacier is a big problem for the world.



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