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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.

#### 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, announces CM

**Independent Report** 

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that the Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has accepted all demands of zamindars of the province and as such all the agricultural tube wells would be converted on the solar energy in one month

The Chief Minister said that electricity would be supplied to zamindars for six hours till one month. As long as the tube wells are converted on the solar energy, increase in the duration of electricity would cost Rs. 4 billion, he ing with him after negotia- the province.

The Chief Minister was addressing a hurriedly called press conference along with the provincial ministers and representatives of Balochistan Zamindar Action Committee here in his chamber of provincial assembly on Wednesday.
The Chief Minister

said that our zamindars protested for their demands outside the provincial assembly, what's good that they didn't take law in their hands during the protest.

He said that the delegation of zamindars held meet-

On this, he went to

Islamabad and met with the due course of time. Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif on the issues and demands of zamindars of the

He put forth the issues of zamindars before the Prime Minister who gave patient hearing to them, as mentioned by the Chief Minister.

He said that the Prime Minister has accepted all demands of zamindars of

tions.

Besides, the arrears of

He said that the de- QESCO against the mands of zamindars are zamindars are under consideration and the issue would also be resolved in

> Referring the educational related issues including the financial ones of the public sector universities of the province, Chief Minister said that there is a need to improve the educational system in the province.

He said that we are looking into the issues of employees of the universi-

Continued on page 2

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

and China on Wednesday House, spoke about agreed to advance their joint their in-depth discusproject - China Pakistan sion on the multiple facets Economic Corridor (CPEC), and endorsed finalizing the modalities for third-party participation.

Pakistan's Deputy
Prime Minister and Foreign

Minister and Foreign

Son on the multiple lacets of their bilateral relactions including CPEC and cooperation on counter-terrorism.

Terming the Sino-Pak ties as "all-weather strate-

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 co-chairing the fifth Pakistan-

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan at Diaoyutai State Guest

gic partnership", Dar and Wang expressed commitment to continue extending support to each other on issues of core interest.

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

eliminating power outages and by developing a robust infrastructure network.

The two sides, he said, would pace up the implementation of Main Line-1 railway line project, Gwadar Port development, realignment of Phase 2 of the Karakorum Highway and boost cooperation in agriculture, mining, minerals, energy, information technology, and industry

sectors. "As we embark on second phase of CPEC, we look forward to developing corridors of growth, liveli-hood, innovation, green development, inclusivity," he added.

government

ISLAMABAD (APP): The

Economic Coordination

Committee (ECC) on Wednesday approved the summary for "Provision of

Rs. 23 billion as an addi-

tional grant for the Azad Jamu Kashmir (AJ&K)

Finance and Revenue

Senator Muhammad

Aurangzeb chaired the

meeting of the Economic

Coordination Committee

The ECC gave approval to the summary for

Provision of Rs. 23 Bil-

lion as Additional Grant

to the AJ&K Government'

through Technical Supple-

mentary Grant as proposed

by the Ministry of Kashmir

Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan,

said a press release issued

here. Ŝecretary Kashmir Af-

fairs and Gilgit-Baltistan

briefed the Committee that

during a high-level meet-

ing held on Monday, the

Prime Minister of Paki-

stan, Mr. Shehbaz Sharif,

had authorized an addi-

tional grant of Rs. 23 Bil-

lion to the Government of

AJ&K, in the paramount

for Finance and Revenue,

Aurangzeb presided over a

meeting of the Economic

Coordination Committee

The Federal Minister

Muhammad

national interest.

Senator

Federal Minister for

government.

(ECC).

#### PM directs addressing issues, concerns of Sindh govt. over development

Muhammad Sharif on Wednesday directed for removal of issues and concerns of the Sindh government with regard to

a press release.

During the development.

He also directed for expediting work on the ongo-ing federal funded uplift projects in the province. The prime minister is-

sued these directives during a meeting with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah who called on him. Federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Ahad Khan Cheema and Sardar Awais Khan Leghari, Deputy Chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Planning Commission Prime Minister Jehanzeb Khan and relevant Shehbaz senior officials also attended the meeting, the PM Office Media Wing said in

During the meeting, the prime minister said that for the revival of economy, the cooperation among the federation and the provinces was imperative, stressing that economic stability was their main objective.

The prime minister directed the federal ministers to seek permanent resolution to the financial, economic and other issues of the Sindh province.



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

#### 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 meet-

The President on the occasion congratulated Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail on assuming the office of Governor

He also expressed best wishes for the Governor. Moreover, both the leaders stressed on strengthening the relations between the federation and provinces.

Massive

decrease in

petrol,

diesel price

announced

**Monitoring Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: In a move

aimed at providing relief

to the public, the federal

government has an-

nounced massive reduc-

tions in the prices of pe-

cation issued by the Fed-

eral Ministry of Finance,

the price of petrol has

been slashed by Rs 15.39,

while the price of high-

speed diesel sees a reduc-

tion of Rs 7.88. Addition-

ally, the price of light die-

sel oil has been de-

creased by Rs 7.54.

According to a notifi-

troleum products.

#### hearing arguments from the respondents. Balochistan

the short order. The detailed verdict would be issued later on.

#### ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Ac-The Islamabad High Court countability Bureau (IHC) on Thursday granted (NAB)'s Special Prosecupost arrest bail to Pakistan tor Amjad Pervaiz had Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) adopted the stance that the founder in a NAB reference trial court had testified 39 pertaining to £190 million witnesses in the cases. As the trial was at the final The IHC bench comprising Chief Justice stage, the accused could

not be granted bail, he said

Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri instruct the trial court for instructed the accused to early conclusion of the submit surety bonds of Rs 1 million to secure the bail. He stated that the said The bench announced amount should have been the verdict which it had reshifted to the government's served on Tuesday after account instead of the account of Supreme Court

Aamer Farooq and Justice and prayed the court to

PTI founder gets bail in

£190 million scam reference

The court pronounced He said that the top court had also stated that the money was wrongly



ISLAMABAD: Governor Balochistan, Shaikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

#### CM expresses contentment on successful operation of security forces in Zhob

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has expressed his satisfaction over the successful operation of security forces against terrorists in

Following these adjustments, the new prices stand at Rs 273.10 for petrol, Rs 274.08 for highspeed diesel, and Rs 161.17 for light diesel.

"New prices of petroleum will be effective for next fortnight from May 16," it added.

Sambaza area of Zob. In a tweet on his social media account on late Tuesday night, the Chief Minister expressed satisfaction over the successful operation against the terrorists, however, expressed grief over martyrdom of Major Babar Khan in the opera-

He said that the mar-

tyrdom of Major Babar Khan can't be forgotten in the history. He said that the successful operation by the security forces against terrorists is commendable.

He said that our brave jawans are embracing martyrdom for protection of the motherland. He said that it is responsibility of the government to protect life and property of the masses besides maintaining law and order in the province.

He said that the people of Balochistan are security forces are unitred for establishing peace in the prov-

#### China Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue held here economic landscape by Haq hails PM Shahbaz's

efforts to resolve AJK

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

protesters' issue MUZAFFARABAD ernment was enabled by this package to slash the Kashmir (AJK) Prime power tariff and increase wheat flour subsidy as demanded by the protesters however, he said that Joint Action Committee leadership 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 being identified, were behind the chaos on the behest of enemies," Haq added say-



package announced by the Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif for the people of AJK despite the economic constraints in the country.

He said the AJK govPakistan and AJK

ing law will take its course against them after due process and no one will be alship between the people of

Two-day Pakistan Literary Festival begins at BUITEMS

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

**Independent Report** QUETTA: Two-day grand Pakistan Literary Festival commenced at the Balochistan University of Information Technology,

Engineering and Manage-

ment Sciences (BUITEMS)

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

The Provincial Minister for Culture, Sindh, Syed Zulfiqar 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-

Prominent among them were included former caretaker Federal Minister and poet, Fawad Hasan Fawad Noorul Huda Shah, Ghazi Salahuddin, Sohail Ahmed, Saleem Safi, Sadiqa Salahuddin, Munir Ahmed Badini, Mazhar Abbas, Shahzada Zulfiqar, Sarwar Javed, Ustad Nooral, Dr. Huma Mir, the Vice Chan

#### Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing. PTI to face consequences if ECC grants Rs. 23 billion refuses to apologise over for AJ&K May 9 mayhem, warns Bilawal

A view of 5th round of China-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue, co-chaired by

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

Amid the opposition's Continued on page 2

#### 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.



According to an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the launch was aimed at perfecting the launch drills and procedures.

Equipped with the state-of-the-art navigation system, 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's 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-

# Continued on page 2 (ECC) of the Cabinet.

QUETTA: Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai and others addressing Pakistan Literary Festi-

#### SC seeks progress report on appointment of VCs in universities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Wednesday sought progress report from authorities regarding appointment of vice chancellors in public sector universities.

The court also sought details of percentage of academic and non-academic ment. staff in universities and di-

rected the respondents to annoyance with additional submit the details of vacant posts of controller examinations and director fi-

The top court asked the universities to present their budget report and tell how much money they were given by the govern-

The court expressed

advocate general of Sindh province. Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa asked that whether the AAG was aware of rule 27-A regarding the assisting the court. The CJP said that the additional advocate general

even didn't know about the Continued on page 2

Chancellors of AJK univer-

sities Dr Mohammad

Kaleem Abbasi, Brig Rtd

Dr Mohammad Yunis

Javed, Dr Zakriya Zakir,

Dr Abdul Hameed, Dr

educationists.

Rehmat Ali and other top

counted a wide range of

atrocities being committed

by India against the people

of occupied Kashmir. He

said that India was doing

terrorism not only in oc-

cupied Kashmir but was

also involved in killing of

Sikhs, including one in

India has exported its

home-made terrorism

abroad for revenge killings

This, he said, shows

AJK President re-

Sultan directs establishment of Kashmir Studies

**Institutes in AJK varsities** 

MUZAFFARABAD Mukhar Ahmed and Vice-

(INP): AJK President Bar-

rister Sultan Mohammad

Mehmood Chaudhry has

ordered the establishment

of fully functional Kash-

mir Studies Institutes in

each university of Azad

Kashmir to highlight vari-

ous aspects of Kashmir

culture and Kashmir dis-

pute to the outside world.

Media Service, his direc-

tion came during a meeting

with him by Secretary

General of Kashmir-

American Awareness Fo-

rum Dr Ghulam Nabi Fai

the world renowned

Kashmiris rights move-

ment leader Present on the

According to Kashmir

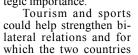
#### Pakistan, Kazakhstan agree to speed up work on bilateral tourism & economic integration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Kazakhstan on Wednesday agreed to speed up work on bilateral tourism and economic integration for opening new avenues of bilateral coop-

The agreement to the effect was reached during a meeting between Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal and Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin, a news release said.

Minister Ahsan Iqbal said that both Pakistan and Kazakhstan had a major role in regional economic integration, while bilateral tourism could open new avenues of cooperation between them.

He said that besides being the largest economy Central Kazakhstan had geo-stra-



should frame comprehen-

sive plans, he added. Ashan said that Pakistan should nominate 10 to 15 best tour operators to work with their counterparts in Kazakhstan for the promotion of tourism.

The minister said that Pakistan would had a main role to play for enhancing connectivity between Central Asia and Afghanistan through railways which ultimately strengthen regional inte-

Ambassador Yerzhan Kistafin said that a twosports tourism festiwould be held in Almaty on May 23-24. The chess federations of the two countries were



ISLAAMBAD: Ambassador of Turkmenistan Atadjan Movlamov called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.

other, which was step towards strengthening bilateral cooperation in indoor sports, he added.

The ambassador said that all major Pakistani logistics companies were planning to set up offices in Kazakhstan as their representatives had visited the country for purpose. He said the direct flights between Lahore and Almaty had started last year. The duration of flight between the two cities around two hours.

#### Pakistan qualifies for Central Asian Volleyball League final

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan team has reached the final of the Central Asian Volleyball League here at the Liaquat Gymnasium of Pakistan Sports Complex on Wednesday. Pakistan defeated Kyrgyzstan in the semifinals with a convincing 3-0 set victory, winning 25-18, 27-25, 27-25. This marks Pakistan's fourth consecurive win in the tournament.

The Pakistan Volleyball Federation is hosting the event, where Pakistan has continued its winning streak, defeating Kyrgyzstan with its aggressive gameplay.

#### PTI to face consequences if....

Continued from page 1

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 practising "double standards" 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. APP adds: Chairman Pakistan People's Party

1

2

(PPP) Bilawal Bhutto with the implementation of Zardari on Wednesday demanded the federal government to announce special

incentives for farmers in the upcoming budget and provide direct relief to small farmers by subsidizing the He underscored the neagriculture sector.

Speaking here in National Assembly, Bilawal Bhutto emphasized the provision of subsidies to small farmers and landlords through the implementation "Kisan Card" system.

He highlighted that Pakistan's annual import of agricultural goods exceeds Rs. 10 billion and stressed the importance of facilitating small farmers to minimize this dependency.

He demanded the government to engage all stakeholders, including farmers' organizations, and proposed the declaration of a 10-year emergency along

Quantity

21

TSE-232405412071

PRQ No 2372/14-05-2024

ينڈر برائے فراہمی واٹر ڈسپنیر ،ائیر کنڈیشنر ،سلینگ فین

مرالت عاليه بلوچستان کوئيزکو (Judicial Development Fund (JDF) کے تحت مندرجہ ذیل اشیاء ک

راہی کیلیےخواہشمندا کا نگی*س ایلونیس ا*بلوچیتان سیلزنیکس رجیٹر ڈویلرز جن کےنامATL کی ATLلسٹ میں شال

وں ، سے سر بمبر ٹینڈ رمطلوب میں جو کہ زیر تحظی مور در 2024-05-30 کو دن 12:00 بج تک ال جانے

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شرائط : ـ (1) نینڈر بلوچتان بیک بروکیومنٹ ریگولیٹری اتھارٹی (BPPRA)روٹر 2014ء کے مطابق ہوگا (2) قابلیت : ـ فرم / کنٹریکٹر کا آئم کیس ایملز تیس فریبار شنٹ کے ساتھ رجشرڈ ہونا لازی ہے اور ان کے نام

FBR کے ATL کسٹ میں شامل ہونا ضروری ہے۔(3) طریقہ کار:۔ سر بمبر شینڈ رلفائے میں بند ہونے جا ہمیں کی

تم كامشروط نينڈرنا قابل قبول ہوگا (4) بڈز كالعين معياراور قيت پر بخي طريقة كار كے تحت ہوگا (5) نينڈر وارم اشتہار

شائع ہونے ہے مقررہ تاریخ تک جاری کئے جائیں گے ٹینڈ رفارم بعوض ملٹے۔1000 (نا قابل واپسی ) ادائیگل پر

فتر زیر چھلی سے حاصل کئے جاسکتے ہیں (6) مندرجہ بالاشرائط میں ردوبدل کا اختیار آفیسر مجاز از برد بخطی کوحاصل ہوگا

(7) نینیڈر کے ہمراہ کل قیت کا 24 واطور کال ڈیپازٹ مسلک کرنا ہوگا۔ بینک ڈیپازٹ یا بڈ بانڈ نا قابل قبول ہوگا

(8)ائم نَکِس اسلِز ثیل اور دوسرے نیکس رواز کے مطابق بل ہے منبا کئے جا نمینگے (9) نرخوں میں اوڈ نگ اان اوڈ نگ

اورتمام فتم کے مقامی اغیر مقامی تیکس شامل ہونے جاہئیں (10) منیڈر کی کا بی عدالت عالیہ بلوچستان کوئید کی ویب

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consistent agricultural poli-

He emphasized that such measures would significantly contribute to the country's development.

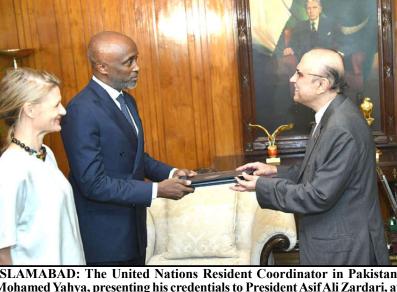
cessity for the government to restore the confidence of wheat-growing farmers by announcing support measures. This, he emphasized, is essential to ensure there is no shortage of wheat in the coming year.

Bilawal Bhutto urged the government to take decisive action to resolve the wheat import controversy and hold accountable those responsible during interim set-up in the wheat import scandal. He stressed that the Prime Minister should identify the bureaucrats and former ministers involved in the scandal and take prompt action against them

without any further delay. He emphasized that all major parties have consistently recognized agriculture as the backbone of the country in their mani-

festos. Bilawal Bhutto pointed out that the funds involved in the scandal were derived from the tax contributions of the people of Pakistan, and those responsible for misusing them should be held accountable.

He highlighted that as a result of this scandal wheat procurement by provinces and the government has decreased, adversely affecting farmers



ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Pakistan, Mohamed Yahya, presenting his credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari, at

#### Sardar Ayaz meets **Ambassadors of** Turkmenistan, Belgium

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of National Assembly Ayaz Sadiq here on Wednesday held separate meetings with the Ambassadors of Turkmenistan and Belgium, at the Parliament House.

During the meeting with Ambassador Atadjan Nurlyevich Movlamov of Turkmenistan, Ayaz Sadiq expressed Pakistan's commitment to enhancing parliament-to-parliament cooperation with Turkmenistan, along with expanding collaboration in trade, energy, and connectivity.

He emphasized the importance of regular highlevel exchanges between the Turkmenistan parliamentary friendship group in the National Assembly.

The Ambassador/Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Islamabad Atadian Nurlvevich Movlamov congratulated Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on his reelection and expressed optimism about stronger relations under his leadership. He also assured coop-

eration in areas of mutual interest, including the TAPI gas pipeline project. In a separate discussion with Belgian Ambassador

Charles Delogne, the Speaker acknowledged Pakistan's longstanding relations with Belgium, both two parliaments and acti-vating the Pakistan- bilaterally and within the EU context.

Meanwhile,

Zamindar Action Commit-

tee ended their seven-day

long protest sit-in after

meeting with the Chief

Zamindar Action Commit-

tee told the media persons

The Chairman of

Minister the same night.

#### All agricultural tube wells... the bereaved family.

Continued from page 1

He said that the new buildings of universities were built and new departments were established on one hand while funds were not available for the salaries of employees on the other hand, he regretfully pointed out.

He said that he is committed not to let anyone sell obs at all He said that the law and

order situation is disturbing for him. He said that the law and order situation is not better

for three / four years. He paid homage to Major Babar Niazi on martyrdom in Zhob saying that Prime Minister in he is grieved over his martyrdom and share grief with Zamindars of the province

that their demands have been met so they have decided to end their protest continued for last seven days outside the assembly. Earlier, the Chief Minister also addressed the zamindars at their protest

He spoke about the details of his meeting with the Islamabad on issues of

nalized for each university

but it were not made pub-

lic. The CJP asked that

what was the enmity with

public for keeping the

marked that these things

were used to be kept secret

just to fit favorite people

on the slots. Petitioner's

lawyer Umar Gilani argued

that there was over-staff-

marked that see what hap-

pened with Pakistan Inter-

national Airline as it was

also overstaffed. Unfortu-

nately every wrong acts are

done with the connivance

of bureaucracy, the CJP

that the whole country would come on right track

if the education sector is

streamlined. The court also

expressed wonder on the stay orders by Lahore and

The top court also instructed the courts to early

dispose of cases related to

the appointments of VCs.

Peshawar high courts.

Justice Isa remarked

The chief justice re-

ing in the universities.

The chief justice re-

names secret.

#### SC seeks progress report on...

Continued from page 1 basic rules.

The CJP asked the AAG that from where he got his degree of law and whether he pleaded a case?

During the hearing, the of Khvher awver Pakhtukhwa adopted the stance that the process of appointments of vice chancellors in 19 universities of KPK was underway. He said that the process delaved due to the refusal by acting government and stay

orders of the high courts. The lawver said that





رجسترار عدالت

عاليه بلوچستان كوٺ

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Tender Fee Rs.1500/- and Bid Security 3%

Name of Work/s 1 CONSTRUCTION OF DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM 67,212,000 FOR FLOOD CANALS MOOSAWAH, BULEDI WAH AND MUHARAM ON NARI RIVER TEHSIL BHAG DISTRICT KACHHI

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 30,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. The bidder has to submit 3% of Estimated Cost as Bid Security i. The bidder has to submit Tender fee of amount Rs. 1500/- PEC Category Code is C-4 and above (Upto 200 million) and Specialized Code is Ce04 Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee. Deposit at Call of 3 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 03 June, 2024 till 10:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 11:00 AM on EPPS System Address: Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Dhadar Phone no: 0832415200

Email: sikandarnotani@gmail.com **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER** 

PRQ No.2389/14-5-2024

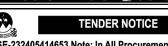
KECHHI IRRIGATION DIVISION AT DHADAR 🗲 www.dpr.gob.pk. 🔻 @dpr\_gob 🎅 dpr.gob 🛨 @dgpr.bale

# يكش كميشن آف ياكستان كى بدايات كے مطابق آب تمام نامزداميد داران حلقه PB-41 كوئد IV كو بحوالد وُثرسز

ر بعد ڈاک مطلع کیا گیا تھا کہ آپ ایپ اکیکشن اخراجات (FORM-C)ریٹرنگ آفیسر کے دفتر میں جمع کروائیں الرآپ نے اس بابت کوئی توجہ ندری ہے اور ابھی تک آپ الکٹن اخراجات جمع کروانے سے قاصر ہے لہذا آپ کو نیری بار بذر بعدوش بذاتا کیدی جاتی بے کدایے ایکش افراجات (FORM-C) اندرسات (07) يوم ،ريز مگ

رمشرندگ آفد PB-41کائٹہ IV

PRQ No.2390/14-05-2024 y www.dpr.gob.pk. 💌 @dpr\_gob 📋 dpr.gob 🔟 @dgpr.balochistan



TSE-232405414653 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandator For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Enginee Irrigation division Pishin invites bids from Eligible Bidders fo execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee Rs.1500/-and Bid Security 2% S.No Name of Work/s E/Cost

1 CONSTRUCTION OF PCC RAIN CHENNELAT 9,904,768 GOLAIAGHASB & 1500 FT KLILI HAMIDABAD MANZAKI TEHSIL PISHIN DISTRICT PISHIN (PSDP#4326-2023-24)

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 6.933.33 PKR Amount in5 subsequent previous years showing financia capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering counci (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million)In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE10(i) (General Civil Engineering Works)
Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security**: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee, Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,500 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 31 May 2024during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 31 May, 2024 till 11:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM

Address: Office of the Executive Engineer irrigation division pishin Phone no: 0331802784Fax no: 0826420533 Email: irrigationdivisionpishin@gmail.com

PRQ No.2378/14-05-2024 🕏 www.dpr.gob.pk. 🔻 @dpr\_gob 🌀 dpr.gob 🚹 @dgpr.balochis

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION PISHIN

#### in electricity tariff for next fiscal year

cation.

CPPA has sought an increase of Rs4.16 per unit in electricity tariff.

All power distribution companies including LESCO have demanded to raise the tariff based on operational cost, capacify charges and fuel

The LESCO during the current year has been billing the consumers Rs22.95 per unit and now demanded to bill the consumers during the next financial year Rs25 to Rs27.11.

## Govt seeks Rs4.16 rise

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) on Wednesday has sought a hefty increase in power tariff for the next financial year while the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has fixed May 23 for conducting hearing of CPPA appli-

Through its request, the

#### occasion were Chairman High Education Commission of Pakistan Dr. of its political opponents.

others.

cluding

Continued from page 1 ary festival being held in Ouetta would become cellor of BUITEMS, source of enlightenment. Dr. Khalid Hafeez besides

Pakistan Literary Festival to....

Canada

He also said that Balochistan is the region of Later, in the following different cultures and just sessions, the political and like a bouquet of different literary personalities in-Nawabzada He said that our youth Lashkari Raisani, renowned has the capacity and capaintellectual and writer, bility of reigning the coun-Anwar Maqsood, film and try as such they should de-

TV celebrities Mahira vote them to serve the coun-Khan, Adnan Siddiqui and others joined different ses-Earlier, the President Arts Council, Muhammad Speaking on the occa-Ahmed Shah presented sion, Speaker Balochistan welcome address and high-Assembly hailed the Litlighted the objectives of the erary Festival and welfestival in Quetta.

comed all those partici-Meanwhile, different pating in it from all over the cultural stalls have also been established in the literary He said that the power festival. In addition to this, of literature unites the a book exhibition has also people. He said that those been organized at the sideuse good words to express line of festival. their point of view have cre-

The literary festival is scheduled to continue to-He said that the literday (Thursday) as well



ative capabilities.

QUETTA: Commissioner and Administrator Quetta, Hamza Shafqat along with officers of Metropolitan Corporation are inspecting the cleanness drive

during his inspection visit, at Mahmoudabad area in Quetta.		
PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Gloria Bibi with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Mr. Shabeer Masin citizen number 5440003844965 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Shumaila Shabir (Daughter) 2.Gloria Bibi (Spouse)3.Zaib Haris (Son)4.Muhammad Shoaib Danish (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggreeved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Isbal Salah with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Mr. Salah Ud Din Dotari Salah Ud Din Khan (Daughter)2.Saman Salah (Daughter)2.Saman Salah (Daughter)3.Gul E Nau (Daughter)4.Seher Salah Uddin (Daughter)5.Isbal Salah (Spouse)6.Muhammad Yasir (Son)7.Muhammad Fahad Dotani (Son)7.muhammad Fahad (Son)7.muh	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration Succession Certificate by Ms Rozi with regards to moveable a immoveable assets of decases Mr. Javed Masih Naz citizen number 5440091672283 habeen received. Following andeclared as legal heirs.  1.Rozi (Spouse)  On the above application the objections of public at large an invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteel (14) days after publication of thinotice.
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA QUETTA-SFU	INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA QUETTA-SFU	INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEG. QUETTA-SFU
PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Lotter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Khalil Ullah with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Ms. Zar Bano citizen number 5440021356166 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.  1.Bibi Hawa (Daughter)2.Bibi Naseema (Daughter)3.Bibi Naseema (Daughter)3.Bibi Naseema (Daughter)4.Bibi Zakira (Daughter)5.Khalil Ullah (Son)6.Safi Ullah (Son)8.Atta Ullah (Son) (Son) (Son) (To the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieves person invited. Any aggrieves person invited. Any aggrieves of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.	Application for issuance of Lotter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Treeza Arif with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of decased Mr. Arif Bakhshi citizen number 5440098002185 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Arifa Root (Daughter)2. Komal Zareen (Daughter)3. Sheeza Arid (Daughter)4. Treeza Arif (Spouse)5. Yashwa (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.	Application for issuance Letter of Administration Succession Certificate by Nabul Samad with regards in moveable 8 immoveable same citizen number 544000528030 has been received. Followin are declared as legal heirs 1. Hurman Khatoon (Daughte Laubuhammad Ayub (Soi 3. Abdul Samad (Son)4. Abdul Samad (Son)5. Muhamma Yaqoob (Son)6. Muhamma (Son)6. Muha
INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA QUETTA-SFU	INCHARGE SFU, NADRA QUETTA-SFU	PID(I)6941/23

TENDER NOTICE The Upscaling of green pakistan programme forest component

quetta (M&E) invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-232405414691 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Rs. 1000/-

Name of Work/s 1 Manufactured Vehicles & Accessories (Total Item(s) Count: 1)

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 4,000,000 in Previous 3 Years. Turn over of at least 4,000,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years. Presence in Active Tax Payer List. Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is not permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security In case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and nonresponsive. Submission of the required Bidding document Fee. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee, Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 30 May, 2024 till 10:30 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 11:30 AM on EPPS System Address: Office of PD UGPP (TBTTP)Forest Spini Road Quetta

Phone no: 3337816543 Email: kakarfarooq7@gmail.com

CONSERVATOR OF FOREST (M&E)

UPSCALLING GPP (TB TTP)FORESTRY BALOCHISTAN, QUETTA 👣 www.dpr.gob.pk. 🔻 @dpr\_gob 🌘 dpr.gob 🛨 @dgpr.balochist

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-232405414683 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer Irrigation division Pishin invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates Tender Fee Rs.1500/-and Bid Security 2%

Name of Work/s

CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION 9,904,770 WALL FOR SHAMS ABAD & KHAIR ABAD TEHSIL PISHIN DISTRICT PISHIN (PSDP# 4325-2023-24)

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders**: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authorities Registration is required. The bidder must have completed gnment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 6,933,339 PKR Amount in5 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million)In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE04(ii) (Irrigation & Flood Control Syste CE10(i) (General Civil Engineering Works) . Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee, Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under signed 1,500 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 31 May, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 31 May, 2024 till 11:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM Address: Office of the Executive Engineer irrigation division pishin

Phone no: 0331802784Fax no: 0826420533 Email: irrigationdivisionpishin@gmail.com

PRQ No.2380/14-05-2024 www.dpr.gob.pk. 🗸 @dpr\_gob 👩 dpr.gob 🛨 @dgpr.balochistar

**IRRIGATION DIVISION PISHIN** 

## President for all-weather road infrastructure in Gilgit-Baltistan

President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday called for establishing an all-weather road infrastructure in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) to boost trade, economic and tourism activities in the region.

He said that an all-season transport infrastructure, particularly between Gilgit and Skardu, would help ensure continuous and reliable transportation in different weather conditions, besides facilitating goods movement and enhancing connectivity.

The president expressed these views while talking to a delegation led by President of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians GB, Amjad Hussain Advocate at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The delegation apprised the president about the problems being faced by the residents of Gilgit-Baltistan, besides highlighting the need to focus on the development of health and education infrastructure.

mitigating the impacts of climate change, promoting tourism and economic activities, and providing uninterrupted power supply

Talking to the delegation, the president stressed the need to accelerate the development activities in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), saying that it was his life's mission and dream to see the GB as a developed and prosperous region.

He remarked that constructing all-weather roads and tunnels between Skardu and Gilgit would not only improve logistics and transportation for businesses but also enhance the people's access to public services such as healthcare, education, and employment opportunities.

He also highlighted the need to improve the airport in Gilgit, which would help promote tourism in GB.

The president informed the delegation that steps would be taken to establish a cardiology hospital and nursing college in the GB on a priority basis

ISLAMABAD: PM's coordinator on Climate Change & Environmental Co-

ordination Romina Khurshid Alam held meeting with Italian NGO EVK2

role for the betterment of

the country," she added. She said, "PML-N

wants to work for the de-

velopment of the country

and bring out the citizens

from crises who have been

left in miserable condition

for so long." The MNA said

the country's development

should not be compromised

lead to the economic stabil-

tion, she said, "Our govern-

ment policies are attracting

foreign investors; however,

foreign investment will

help put the country on the

path of progress and soon

will bring economic stabil-

Federal Ombudsman to ensure

justice at doorsteps: Ejaz Qureshi

Institutions, he said that

wider public awareness

was the key to ombudsman

cal and expert organization

of 47 member ombudsmen

in Asia, whose permanent

secretariat is located in the

Federal Ombudsman Sec-

Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi, who

is also the current president

of AOA, while addressing

Federal Ombudsman

retariat, Islamabad.

AOA is a non-politi-

institutions.

"Political stability will

Replying to a ques-

for the sake of politics.

Mansab said.

Political stability,

national dialogue vital

for progress: PML-N

ISLAMABAD (APP): and it will play an active

Member National Assembly (MNA) PML-N

Shazra Mansab Ali Khan

Kharal stressed on Wednes-

day that political stability,

grand national dialogue, and

continuity of fruitful poli-

cies were vital for ensuring

Insaf (PTI) needs to play

an active role in Parliament

as a real opposition to

strengthen the democratic

ing to the PTV news chan-

nel, she asked that PTI sup-

national issues.

port the government over

is the only solution to re-

solve issues faced by the

Federal Ombudsman Ejaz

Ahmad Qureshi on

Wednesday said that Fed-

eral Ombudsman is con-

stantly working to ensure

that administrative justice

reaches the people at their

pants at webinar organized

under the aegis of Asian

Ombudsman Association

(AOA), on public aware-

ness about Ombudsman

Addressing partici-

doorsteps.

She said, "Democracy

"PML-N is a demo-

cratic force in the country, ity.

"Pakistan Tehreek-e-

the country's progress.

to provide high-quality health services to people of the area at their doorsteps. He said that the provision of health and educa-

tion facilities in the GB was essential for ensuring socioeconomic uplift and pros-

tained that the GB had great potential for economic development and commercial activities, especially in tour ism, which if fully capital ized upon, could prove to be an engine of growth for the entire country.

He said that the GB's hydroelectric potential should be harnessed to fulfill the local and national energy requirements.

The delegation apprised the president about the environmental issues of GB and suggested that promoting afforestation in Gilgit-Baltistan, especially the plantation of walnut trees, could help save melt-

The president assured the delegation of his cooperation for the development of Gilgit-Baltistan.

ICT goes digital:

E-Stamps set

to simplify

legalities

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a

significant move aimed at

modernizing administrative

processes, Deputy Com-

missioner Islamabad, Irfan

Nawaz Memon, spear-

headed the transition from

traditional stamp papers to

Spokesman of ICT's Ad-

ministration, this decision

promises enhanced conve-

nience for citizens engaging

in property transactions

and other legal matters

Islamabad aimed at to

streamline the cumbersome

process of acquiring manual

with representatives from Punjab Bank, DC Memon

discussed the implementa-

the webinar, said that for

immediate redressal of the

complaints of the people of

remote and backward areas

a comprehensive coordi-

nated awareness campaign

was being conducted about

the Ombudsman Institu-

tions. The Federal Ombuds-

man further said that all the

member states have been

urged by the United Na-

tions and other interna-

tional organizations to raise

awareness about the insti-

tutions of the Ombudsman

with the cooperation of the

relevant stakeholders and

take initiatives at the na-

tional level that will benefit

Hussain Syed while ad-

dressing the webinar dis-

cussed various ways of in-

creasing public awareness

and government institu-

tions from a professional

Senator Mushahid

the common man.

point of view.

In a recent meeting

technology,

According to the

e-stamp papers.

bracing

stamp papers.

tion of e-stamping



Parliamentarians Gilgit-Baltistan, Amjad Hussain Advocate, calls on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

#### Romina says: PM committed to building country's climate resilience

Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam has said that global warming is adversely affecting glaciers, ecosystems, lives and livelihoods of the people in mountain regions around the world. However, addressing the challenges of rapidly melting glaciers, loss of ecosystem and protection of lives and livelihoods is not possible without the global community join hands to tackle the drivers of the global warming, particularly containing emissions of heat-trapping gases.

Chairperson BISP

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Chairperson Benazir In-

come Support Program

(BISP), Rubina Khalid

Wednesday conducted vir-

tual meetings with all Zonal

Directors-General (DGs) of

BISP and concerned staff,

to review the pre-tranche

arrangements across the

country. During the meetings, Chairperson Rubina

Khalid emphasized the

organization's commitment

to serving the needy people,

stating that it is their due

right. She urged all staff

members to justify their

positions and work dili-

gently to dispel any allega-

tions or misconceptions

against BISP.

Italian non-governmental organisation EvK2CNR here on Wednesday, the PM's Coordinator observed that soaring temperatures in the mountain regions including Pakistan are accompanied by changes in seasonal weather patterns, the melting of glaciers, the thawing of permafrost, and reductions in the extent and duration of snow cover.

As a result, water flows and its availability for industrial, household and agricultural uses has been shrinking and becoming increasingly unreliable, she added. "Initiatives, which Chairing a meeting with can help slow down global

officers, emphasizing zero

tolerance on complaints re-

garding money deduction

from the stipends of BISP

beneficiaries. She also in-

structed them to ensure

that payment campsites are

equipped with proper fa-

cilities such as shelters.

chairs, and clean drinking

stressed the importance of

treating needy women with

respect and dignity, empha-

sizing the need for good behavior towards them.

She directed the deploy-

ment of lady police offic-

ers to prevent any incidents

of stampedes during pay-

Chairperson Khalid

to overcome devastating impacts of climate change on glaciers, mountains, ecosystems, water flows, agriculture, public health and education," Romina Khurshid Alam stressed.

Since the early 1900s. many glaciers around the world have been rapidly melting. Human activities are at the root of this phenomenon. Specifically, since the industrial revolution, carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions have raised temperatures, even higher in the poles, and as a result, glaciers are rapidly melting.

#### reviews pre-Kafaalat tranche arrangements sued clear directives to all

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least three people were killed and two others injured after unknown assailants opened fire on the Charsadda Motorway on

#### Three killed, two injured on Charsadda Motorway

Wednesday.
According to police

the attack appeared to be driven by personal enmity. Investigations into the matter are currently underway to unravel the motives behind the assault, private news channels reported.

The deceased have been transferred to the Lady Reading Hospital for post-mortem examinations, while the wounded individuals are receiving medical attention for their



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Ms. Rubina Khalid, during virtual meetings with all Zonal Directors-General (DGs) of Benazir Income Support Programme to review the pre-Kafaalat tranche arrangements across the country at BISP HOs.

#### Nikah during iddat case Court adjourns hearing of appeal pleas of PTI founder, Bushra Bibi till today

District and Sessions Court Islamabad has adjourned till today (Wednesday) hearing of appeal pleas of PTI founder Îmran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in Nikah

during Iddat case. The decision is likely to be reserved today after completion of arguments in the case. The appeal pleas against conviction of Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi in Nikah during iddat case came up for hearing before district and sessions judge Shah Rukh Arjumand Tues-

Abbasi will come by one p.m There are cases in high court and supreme court.

Usman Gull counsel for Bushra Bibi said Rizwan Abbasi has sought adjournment repeatedly in

Judge Shah Rukh Arjumand remarked don't be late than one p,m. He should appear in the case

today at every cost. Usman Gul said our petition for suspension of conviction is there. arguments have been completed. It is requested to court to decide our petition for suspension of conviction.

Judge Shah Rukh Arjumand said it has been written in previous hearing that if Rizwan Abbasi does not appear then I will decide petition seeking suspension of conviction. Later interval was an

nounced till 1 p,m. On resumption of hearing after interval, Raja Rizwan Abbasi advocate

started giving arguments.

He said " I want to give arguments on a few legal points. I want to give arguments on lodging complaint and withdrawing complaint before indict**ICCI President** inaugurates water filtration plant at G-11 Markaz

ISLAMABAD (APP) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Wednesday said that ICCI would extend complete cooperation to the Traders Welfare Association of G-11 Markaz to address the issues of its members. The President ICCI said this while addressing a ceremony after the inauguration of a filtration plant installed at the Markaz from his own pocket. He said that as per his Corporate Social Responsibility he would organize Medical Camps at different business centres of the capital city for the benefit of the traders as well as the general public, adding that it is his earnest desire that the business community of Islamabad could have its own hospital, school, university and even an airport. He reaffirmed his resolve to continue to work for the resolution of business community's problems relating to CDA.

#### OIC, EAEU create common standards in healthcare S L A M A B A D The OIC in its latest report

Kazan Forum

APP):International Economic Forum for "Russia and Islamic World, Kazan Forum" Wednesday proposed to use the experience of the Organization of Islamaic Countries (OIC) and the Eurasian Economic Union countries for creating a common standard in healthcare.

"New medicines and treatment options may appear in Islamic countries, Kazan Forum" said a press release.

Such a decision will help to change the situation with providing the population of Islamic countries with necessary medicines and medical equipment, believes Dr Qutayba Hassan, Chairman of the Board of Commercial Institution "Dr Outayba Hassan" (Syrian Arab Republic). The expert cited fig-

ures. "According to the latest WHO statistics, the average government spending on healthcare was 11 per cent of the global average.

indicated that the similar figure for OIC member states was about 4-5 per cent.

Dr Qutaiba Hassan considers "the difference in the registration requirements for companies producing medical drugs and equipment between the ministries of health in each of the Islamic countries," which leads to "a decrease in trade turnover."

At the same time, Syria, according to the speaker, independently produces up to 90 per cent of pharmaceutical products for the domestic market and imports only 10 per cent. And there are great opportunities to increase the level of co-operation between Islamic countries, Russia and the Eurasian Economic Union countries he said.

The expert suggested three effective solutions at KazanForum 2024 based on the experience available in



ISLAMABAD: Mehtab Akbar Rashdi and Mehmet Turan, Educational Counselor of Turkey visiting an exhibition held at PNCA in the Federal Capital.

#### **IHC** reserves judgment on the petition filed against arrest of Shireen Mazari

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has reserved judgment on the petition filed against arrest of former federal minister Shireen Mazari

by Anti Corruption Punjab. The petition against arrest of Shireen Mazari from Islamabad in 2022 came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Justice Mohsin Akhtar

Kayani Tuesday.

Faisal Chaudhry and Emman Mazari counsels for the petitioner appeared in the court.

Additional Attorney General (AAG) Munawar Iqbal Duggal also appeared in the court

During the hearing of the case the court inquired from Anti Corruption Punjab (ACP) authorities had your team come to arrest her.

#### Traffic volunteer students of Igra University visits Safe City and Operation division

**Independent Report** SLAMABAD: According to the details, the student volunteers of Iqra University visited the Safe City Islamabad and SSP Operations office under the friend of police program and met with the senior police officers. Following the special directives of the Inspector General of Police (ÎGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the SSP Operations Division and SSP Safe City

volunteer of Igra University at Safe City and Operation division and briefed them about operational police work, a public relations officer said

He said that, the delegation visits the command and control center, the data hub unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, and the police operations center hall. They were fully briefed about the proce-Division and SSP Safe City dures and advantages of welcomed the student delegation of Traffic Police project.

#### **Students volunteers completed** Friends of Police program with Islamabad Police

**Independent Report** to the details, following the

Muhammad Sarfraz Virk SLAMABAD: According university students, and members of the Islamabad



spector General of Police ÎGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Police has launched a special Friends of Police program to raise awareness among citizens about traffic laws and road safety, a public relations officer said.

He said that, the 36th batch comprising 25 stu-dents from the Shaheed Zulfigar Ali Bhutto University of Science and Technology (SZABIST) has completed their program.
On this occasion, students from Iqra University were also present, who will now participate in the program under the Friends of Police initiative.

In this regard, a dignified ceremony was held at the Police Lines Headquarters Islamabad. The ceremony was attended by IGP Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi as a chief guest. SSP Traffic

On the occasion, the IG Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi welcomed the Friends of Police volunteers, highlighted the significance of completing their training

also present

and the arrival of a new batch. For me, the most important thing was visiting schools and colleges to shape students' minds for a better society. Changing public perception of the police is extremely difficult. We are presenting our processes and services to the public so that people understand what the police are, said IG. I do not believe in

lofty claims but in working practically 24/7. He further said that from constable to IG, everyone works as a team. Those who serve the public are chosen by God. The police department is the first to respond in diffi-

#### Kashmiris on Int'l day of Families demanded right to self-determination in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the world observes the International Day of Families, the Kashmiri families in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K) continue to face misery and victimization at the hands of the Indian army and police and demanding their right to selfdetermination.

A report released by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service on the occasion of the International Day of Families revealed that Jammu and Kashmir, being the most militarized zone in the world, has witnessed killings, enforced disappearances, torture, rapes, and other brutalities by the Indian forces over the past three

The report highlighted that more than 8,000 people have vanished in custody after being arrested by the Indian army, police, and paramilitary forces during cordon and search operations and house raids since

Thousands of families of victims of enforced disappearances have been working tirelessly to trace their missing ones.

The families of those who disappeared suffer economically because, in most cases, the breadwinner of the family is targeted Kashmiris of every age and gender are being mercilessly killed, tortured, and humiliated for demanding free-

#### **AIOU holds** seconds session of 68th BASR meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP) The second session of 68th meeting of the Board of Advanced Studies and Research (BASR) was held at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) yesterday to review the synopsis of students. The Directorate of BASR organized the meeting and the Director BASR, Prof Dr. Syed Amir Shah moderated the session, said a press release on Wednesday. All four Deans, prominent scholars, subject specialists, supervisors, heads of departments attended

the meeting. Nineteen students resented synopses, including 12 scholars from the Department of English and from the Department of Pakistani Languages

#### Usman Riaz Gull counsel for Bushra Bibi appeared in the court. The assistant advocate of Rizwan Abbasi counsel for Khawar Manika told the court Rizwan

ment. I want to talk on jurisdiction of hearing of the

ISLAAMBAD: Program Manager SPARC, Dr. Khalil Ahmad in a group photograph after media briefing on Saving Public Health and Increasing Tobacco

## Daily soice of Masse Independent

Thursday May 16, 2024

### **Reserved seats**

After the Supreme Court took exception to its decision to hand over reserved seats one another from the Sindh claimed by the Sunni Ittehad | fallout of leaks like Balochistan assemthis vast wealth disclass car with their tate and other value upon conviction on Council-PTI alliance to its rival parties, the ECP has suspended the notifications of revelations concern- former Prime Minis- income distribution, as Director General cians and civil ser- assets gained through 77 lawmakers belonging to ing Dubai properties. ter Shaukat Aziz, governance, and eco- of the Minister's Ofthe different assemblies. Following the development, any tions of power police chief, an amover 40% of the that politicians can legislative influence to alties and violations plans that the ruling coali- through compliant bassador, and a sci- populace struggles barely sustain their create loopholes or of the Foreign Cortion had about tinkering with Federal Board of entist. the Constitution without Revenue (FBR) and seeking the opposition's buy- rubber nose account- with certainty that tax concentration of such earnings, let alone ac- wealth. They may fines and imprisonin lie dead in the water — at ability bodies to mini- authorities across Pa- immense wealth cumulate significant also utilize personal ment and forfeiture to least for the time being.

Also in question is the fate of the senators who were voted in in the most recent fact that serious con- and civil and military socioeconomic in- tained through illicit tricate corporate other hypothetical round of elections to the Upper House. The 77 lawmak- gins of these funds termine if the proper- efforts to uplift sources of income as complicating the politicians, bureauers who have been sus- and potential illicit ties leaked were de- marginalized commu- civil and public ser- tracing of asset own- crats, civil and military pended from office had par- practices such as cor- clared, undeclared, nities and foster in- vants are prohibited ership. ticipated in the senatorial ruption, money laun- or undervalued. Tax- clusive growth. election, thereby colouring dering, and tax evapayers and their lawits massiful of undervalued. Taxpayers and their lawits results. Given what is at stake and the consequences financial systems but moned to negotiate the tip of the iceberg. for Pakistani democracy, it is hoped that the apex court will not dally on the matter.

case as one which requires infrastructure. constitutional interpretation, a bench comprising at least five judges has to decide how the Constitution intended for come Tax for more chequer. reserved seats should be di- than ten years (1994vided. The court must an 2005) I can tell with viduals whose wealth contributes to the im- These funds undergo assets, they effect close the gift or avoid nounce a bench at the earli- certainty that the en- statements are avail- poverishment of our a series of transactively launder their il- decisions benefiting est so that the functioning of parliament is not affected tire accountability able in the public donarion. It's a stark tions to obscure their legal wealth freely, the giver could lead to representation of the origins, including use or invest it withof parliament is not affected for any longer than is absolutely necessary. It is a rectifying the gaps in or undervalued them, plagues our society, ments across differshame that more than three the income tax and they and their income draining resources ent markets, and in-hypothetical scenario reputational damage months after the general wealth tax records of tax lawyers are likely that should be in-ternational wire that individuals impli-with added conseelection, we still do not have prominent Pakistani scrambling to initiate vested in uplifting our transfers through mul-cated in illegal asset quences of legal risks, a clear picture of where things stand politically. The stability which, it was hoped, the exercise would bring rethe exercise would bring re- Nawaz Sharif, the Dubai starkly con- as the Press Secre- economy disguised der U.S. law. This in- certainty that in Pakimains a pipe dream. Though spouse of Interior trasts with the eco- tary to the President as legitimate assets, cludes potential stan everyone will get some leader or the other Minister Mohsin nomic realities facing in BS 21, I can attest often through the sale charges for money away. 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 Seldom before has the anmuch faith in such words, especially since it is clear that Eurovision Song Contest the various institutional conflicts that have shaped our run-up to this year's edipolycrisis are far from being ton in Sweden and median polycrisis are far from being to the end. Not surprisingly, it revolved around the glo-bal volved around the glo-bal vo

The role played by the ECP in perpetuating this sorry state of affairs, in particular, deserves strict scrutiny. De- contest. It needs to be spite being vested with all the powers it needed to re- have evolved since name. sponsibly steer the country Eurovision's inception in 1956, allow room for mathrough a democratic transi- nipulation, which is invarition, it could only manage an ably guided by political concerns. As far back as 1968, election that fell far short of Spain's fascist Franco rethe promise of being 'free, gime reportedly lobbied for vote rigging to score a vicfair, impartial and inclusive'. tory that relegated Cliff It then bungled the manageRichard's popular Congratula-tions to second ment of election results, place. which gave rise to serious controversies regarding the The Iberian Peninsula was Europe's last fascist stronghold, but Portugal has 'fixing' of final results.

Since then, the ECP has tionship with Eurovision: its 1974 entry, E Depois Do been either unwilling or unable to address the deluge signal for a coup by younger of post-election complaints: for example, it defies under- liberation of Lisbon's colostanding why it refuses to nies — from Angola, Mozam-bique and Guineanotify more election tribu- Bissau to East Timor. nals for Punjab despite being in receipt of nominees first Eurovision victor to from the Lahore High Court. transform its win (Waterloo) into global acclaim, few Its decisions and actions other acts have scored the clearly need to be reviewed same level of global success, including the four Israeli in light of the country's laws, performers since 1973, and its controversial decision regarding reserved were admitted, regardless of seats seems to be a good place to start. The nation ever, has often reared its deserves to understand what its motivations have after its shortlisted acts rebeen 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

liamentarians, and Memon, Senator eign exchange re- throughout their en- high-value assets at from transactions inmembers of both civil Faisal Vawda, Farah serves far below this tire service, whether deflated prices fol-volving proceeds of and military bureau- Gogi, Sher Afzal figure and a signifi- civilian or military, any lowed by reinvest- corruption or bribery. cracy create a formi- Marwat, several cant portion of the bureaucrat can only ment in legitimate This would have led dable force to shield members of the population living be- afford a modest businesses or the ac- to hefty fines and

Wikileaks, the blies, the late Gen parity underscores legal income. Simi- able assets. Panama Papers, or Pervez Musharraf, systemic challenges in larly, my experience This network safe- over a dozen retired nomic development. fice for four Federal guards those in posi- generals, as well as a In a country where Ministers confirms mize or completely kistan will be dili- abroad not only wid-

sion not only under- yers have likely al- worth of leaked mine the integrity of ready been sum- properties is merely revenue needed for cess that benefits discreetly acquired Since it has taken up the public services and themselves, their le- and stashed away in funds are injected into

neutralize the adverse gently examining the ens the gap between effects of such leaks. records of individuals the rich and the poor youd these modest shore banking sys-gally. Notwithstanding the beyond politicians but also exacerbates means is likely obtems or establish incerns about the ori- bureaucracies to de- equalities, hindering means or illegal structures, further scenario in which the

assets.

from engaging in during their service.

ready have started mentioned properties and greed that accounts, invest- percussions.

The politicians, par- Naqvi, Sharjeel the nation. With for- to the fact that of initially purchased laundering, stemming and low the poverty line, house and a middle-quisition of real es-lengthy imprisonment two accounts, failing Moreover, politi- to report income or vants frequently ex- illicit means, subjectploit their positions of ing them to IRS prosauthority and leverage ecution and civil penamidst inflation rates household expenses favorable conditions rupt Practices Act I can also assert exceeding 35%, the with their legitimate for concealing illicit (FCPA) carrying connections and in-seize properties and Any wealth be- fluence to access off- assets acquired ille-

Let us create an-

implicated in the The parliament Dubai leaks were US The \$11 billion business activities and the executive of- citizens and had acten collaborate to in-quired assets as gifts How they launder troduce Tax amnesty from friends, supportblack money through schemes. They de- ers or well wishers. also deprive the gov- the cost of rectifying Countless other an intricate web of fi- clare previously un- They could face ernment of essential their records, a pro- properties have been nancial transactions is disclosed assets or charges of bribery tarintriguing. The illicit income, often attrib- geting both the giver uting them to gifts re- and recipient for exgal representatives, various countries the financial system ceived from friends, changing something of Drawing from and the tax officials, worldwide, poten- through depositing relatives, or loyal value for official famy experience of ensuring that not a tially totaling billions cash into third-party party supporters. vors. They could face working as Deputy single penny goes to upon billions of dol- bank accounts, ac- Through paying honest services fraud Commissioner In- the government ex- lars. This rampant quiring high-value as- nominal taxes, which charges for comproacquisition of assets sets, or establishing are often a fraction of mising their public du-For those indi- abroad significantly shell companies. the true value of their ties. Failure to disthe FBR, would al- failed to declare the systemic corruption transfers between out fear of legal re- lations requiring to forfeit the gift, facing Letus create a civil penalties and

## Malmö mixtape

Mahir Ali

nual festival of schmaltz and schlock known as the issue du jour: Israel's genocide in Ğaza.

Russia was excluded after its invasion of Ukraine — the latter won the 2022 noted, though, that the

The Iberian Peninsula a somewhat different rela-Aeus by Paulo de Carvalho, was deployed to serve as a officers that presaged Portuguese democracy and the

when members of the European Broadcasting Union their geographical standing.

Controversy, howhead. In 2019, Ukraine withdrew from Eurovision fused to commit to not touring Russia. Ten years ear-

lier, Georgia's entry, I Don't spelt out 'cea-sefire' and Wanna Put In, was rejected on the grounds that it could be construed as a derogatory reference to Russia's

into relative insignificance after Israel's initial entry this year, October Rain, was deemed problematic because of its references to rage (but none to the ensuing atrocities in Gaza). Israel was miffed, but it modified the lyrics and came up with Hurricane — not to be confused with Bob Dylan's anti-racist song of the same

Eden Golan, was surrounded by Shin Bet-sponsored armed guards throughout her stay in segments to placate my mingle with fellow artists, who might have enlightened her with their views on Israel's military excesses. Ironically, Golan bilge. That impression was until recently a pop star in Russia who per- many of the acts began formed for its troops in

None of that seemed to matter once her family moved back to Israel and she shifted her allegiance to the equally deplorable Benjamin Netanyahu. According to the Washington Post, she faced "loud boos [on Saturday] and finished fifth" — despite considerable efforts by countries such as the UK to manipulate yet another win for Is-

huge pro-Palestinian promptu concerts in Malmö that dwarfed the the run-up to the extrava-

Among the performers, antagonists of Israeli fascism stretched from the unfairly disqualified Dutch singer Joost Klein to Ire-land's Bambie Thug, whose dress rehearsal included facial make-up that Courtesy Dawn

'freedom for Palestine' which they were obliged to remove before the re-

The latter's home na-Much of that fades tion, meanwhile, sta-ged Shine on Palestine: An Alternative Eurovi-sion in Galway on the eve of the finals in Malmö. I confess I have never

last year's Hamas-led out- taken Eurovision seriously as a musical proposition, and on the few occasions I have been obli-g--ed to witness parts of it — the first time was in 1981, when I was a baby-sitting a niece who was thrilled by Bucks Fizz gaining the top The Israeli performer, slot on the basis of an execrable tune — I held back my opinion.

Years later, I watched Malmö, and not allowed to own kids, but my impression was always the same: with occasional exceptions, it was a load of codswallop expertly choreographed only deepened when all too performing mostly in English rather than in their native tongues. Back in 1982, France described it a "monument to drivel" and refused to send an entrant

This year's French contestant, Slimane, declared: "We need to be throughout her performance united by music, yes, but with love for peace. Many of the contestants appeared to share his view, even if they didn't withdraw from Eurovision.

Music has for millen-The popular mood in nia provided a soundtrack Sweden was reflected in to distress, disillusion, revolt and revolution. mobilisations and im- Eurovision was never intended to be a part of that — and, by and large, that tiny Zionist gatherings in reactionary impulse has been sustained. But in recent days one is reminded yet again that the real world can't be excluded, with the drivel-fest's "united by music" signposts in Malmö being graffitied over to spell "united by genocide".

#### Mirza Moiz Baig

As Pakistan endeavours to attract foreign invest-ment amidst dwindling reserves, the legal the arbitral process. system's ability to enforce contractual disputes and protect investors from capricious regulatory changes is under the scanner again.

While traditional pipelines of justice are bill mandates courts to clogged due to archaic procedures, paucity of judges, and capacity constraints, alternative dispenses with the re-forms of dispute resolu-quirement of making an tion too have borne little award the order of the ar-bitral pro-cee-d-ings. fruit. With domestic arbitrations still governed thus, obviates judicial inby the Arbitration Act, tervention in arbitral pro-1940, the purpose of resorting to arbitration is often defeated, given that dens courts from particularly in the realm the Act compels parties micromanaging arbitra- of commercial disputes is to repeatedly approach tions, and promises the witnessing a sea change. courts through various stages of arbitration.

In the realm of international arbitration and investor disputes, the ghosts of the Chaudhry court entangling itself in investment projects continues haunt Pakistan's image, despite the adoption of the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards. Still, even as political disputes have dominated the politicolegal landscape, Pakistan awards. is also witnessing a silent revolution in the realm of dispute resolution.

Law Review Committee of commercial disputes, constituted by the Su-preme Court (SC) under last week, submitted its proposed Arbitration Bill, 2024, to the federal law minister.

Departing from the 1940 Act which primarily envisages ad hoc arbitrations, thus, necessitating frequent judicial intervention, the draft bill payes the way for the arbitral institutions. Such

institutions have a des- Faisal Zafar and Shehzad ignated panel of arbitrators for the parties to choose from and their own institutional rules to govern various stages of Second, unlike the

**Courts unburdened** 

1940 Act, which vests courts with the discretion to stay proceedings in respect of matters that are the subject of an arstay such proceedings.

Third, juxtaposed court. The draft bill, ceedings, streamlines the swift disposal of arbitral disputes.

The draft bill follows the Lahore High Court (LHC) and the SC's landmark judgements in the Tradhol and Taisei cases. Laying the ghosts of Reko Diq to rest, the judgements en- rating with bar associa-'pro-enforcement bias', assuaging investors' concerns about Pakistani can thrive. Most imporcourts' recalcitrance to enforce arbitral agree- have to spearhead a culments and foreign arbitral

However, while developments in the arbitral regime are likely to The Arbitration facilitate the resolution the expenses involved in arbitrations often mean Justice Mansoor Ali Shah that the fruits of such the precipice with more endeavours may not be than two million cases availed by most litigants. Nonetheless, the judiciary's contemporathe systemic and structural issues which con-

creation of specialised High Court's recent proforest? nouncements in the Dawn

tribute to delays and pen-

Arshad cases, where they held that the judiciary possesses the power to compel unwilling parties to participate in and share the costs of mediation, underscore the judiciary's aware-

ness regarding the unviability of our existing dispute resolution framework. bitral agreement, the draft bill mandates courts to mented by the draft bill, Sec-tion 33 of which provides that an arbitral triwith the previous Act, it bunal may employ mediation or conciliation at quirement of making an any time during the

With the propo-sed changes to the arbitral regime and recent judicial pronouncements, the fu-However, the road to reform ought to be paved with more than good in-

tentions. The success of mediation would ultimately depend on imparting training, revamping the legal curriculum, collabotrench the doctrine of tions, and evolving an ecosystem where alternative dispute resolution tantly, the judiciary will tural shift to preclude courts from being used as tools for the abuse of process.

> Just as it is the law of life, change is also the life of the law.

With Pakistan standing on the edge of pending in courts, will the legal community reinvent itself and embrace neous focus on mediation change, or will it continue promises to ameliorate to arrest any attempt to unburden our courts? Will we choose the forest over the trees before the flood of pending The LHC and Sindh cases ravages the entire -- Courtesy

## Maryam stresses quality education in govt schools

LAHORE (APP): Punjab and Science Labs in 1000 Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif sought a monthly schedule for the five-year plan related to the education reforms, here on Wednesday.

The chief minister granted approval for providing 32,298 tablets to heads of primary schools. She presided over a special meeting pertaining to schools education reforms in which public schools reorganisation programme was comprehensively re-

The School Education secretary apprised the CM about progress being made on the schools nutrition elementary schools. The Asian Develop-

ment Bank (ADB) will provide financial assistance worth \$100 million for establishment of STEM Labs. An approval in principle was granted for the Google Certification Agreement for 3 lakh children in the government schools. Students will be provided opportunities to avail Google Certification under the Digital Journey for TECH Valley Project. The proposals and recommendations for establishment of Punjab Education Curriculum and Training were reviewed in the meeting. It was informed during the meeting that

Senator Pervez Rashid, Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Provincial Minister for School Education Rana Sikandar Hayat, MPA Sania Ashiq, Chief Secretary, Secretary Education, Secretary Finance, MD Punjab Curriculum & Text Book Board, MD Punjab Education Foundation, CEC Punjab Initiative Manage ment Authority, MD Punjab Education Sector Reforms Programme and other concerned officers at-

Governor

visits home of

deceased

People's

Youth leader

LAHORE (APP): Punjab

Governor Sardar Saleem

Haider Wednesday visited

the residence of Asghar Ali,

popularly known as Nooni

Mehr, the general secretary

of People's Youth Lahore Urban, who had died in a

Syed Hassan Murtaza, the

general secretary of PPP

Central Punjab, and MPA Neelum Jabbar, the gover-

nor extended his heartfelt

condolences to the bereaved

family. He met Nooni

Mehr's mother, widow, and

brothers—Akmal Mehr

and Mehr Ajmal, offering

his sympathy and support during this difficult time.

13 dead,

**1.358** injured

in Punjab

road accidents

**Independent Report** 

LAHORE: At least 13

people were killed and

,358 others injured in

1,263 road traffic crashes in

Punjab during the last 24

people with serious injuries

were shifted to different

hospitals, while 796 vic-

tims with minor injuries

were treated at the incident

site by the rescue medical

showed that 771 drivers, 55

underage drivers, 157 pe-destrians and 443 passen-

gers were among the victims

of road crashes. The statis-

tics show that 315 acci-

dents were reported in

Lahore, which affected 341

people, placing the provin-

cial capital at top of the list

Dacoit killed

during police

encounter

MUZAFFARGARH

(APP): A dacoit was killed

with the firing of own ac-complices during police en-counter in limits of Khair

Pur Sadat police station.

Sheher Sultan police along

with Khair Pur Sadat po-

lice on a tip off raided for

the arrest of a proclaimed

firing on a police party in

which police personnel re-

mained safe. The police van

The suspects opened

spokesperson,

According to police

The data analysis

As many as 562

Accompanied by

road accident.



MULTAN: Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani in a meeting with the Saraikistan Democratic Party delegation at Circuit House.

#### Several projects being initiated to address drop-out issue: Tarakai

PESHAWAR: KP Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education, Faisal Khan Tarakai has said that several crucial projects including community based education centres, Sabawoon Education Programme, rented building programme and others are being initiated to address the issue of dropping out of children

the province. He expressed these views during a meeting with the Managing Director (MD) Merged Areas Education Foundation, Mian Ainullah here on Wednes-

and increase literacy rate in

In a briefing to the provincial minister, the Managing Director Merged Areas Education Foundation said that the organization is taking revolutionary steps for the promotion of education at gross-root level in all sub-divisions of the tribal districts.

He said programmes of the foundation include Literacy for All, community based education centres and centres of tricts.

for Human Development (NCHD) wherein over 47000 boys and girls are enrolled in 600 schools with 800 teachers.

The new programme includes Middle School and Sabawoon Programmes, saying the establishment of 200 community schools is included the budget for next financial year. He said that these programmes will ensure the promotion of education to

the tribesmen at their door-

The provincial minister appreciated the projects and ongoing initiatives of the Merged Areas Education Foundation and said that the foundation is playing remarkable role for promotion of education in the

merged districts. He assured that he will make all-out efforts and let dropping of any Merged Areas Education Foundation proposed scheme from the provincial annual development programme to extend their benefits to the people of the tribal dis-



KARACHI: Students stands their pick and drop vehicle on their way to home after attend class in the Provincial Capital, which may cause any incident any time as needs to attention for concern authority.

#### Sindh Govt believes in promotion of industrial development: Dharejo

cial minister for Índustries and Commerce Jam Ikramullah Dharejo has said that Sindh Government believes in promotion of industrial development in the province and was planning to establish new industrial zones across the province, mainly in Karachi, under a new industrialization policy to attract investors and businessmen including foreign investors.Jam Ikramullah Dharejo said that he would like to invite intellectuals and authors to suggest ways how the industrial issues could be

He said this while speaking as a chief guest in a book launching ceremony at ICMA International, Head Office ICMAP Building here on Wednesday.

On this occasion Shehzad Ahmed Malik President ICMA International and Shaham Ahmed Honourary Secretary ICAM also spoke.

appreciated ICMA's pivotal role in driv-

KARACHI (APP): Provining economic development and nurturing skilled professionals across both corporate and government sectors in Pakistan.

Dharejo commended ICMA and its members for their unwavering commitment to our nation's economic prosperity. He also extended his warm congratulations to the author of the Cement Book for his diligent efforts in assessing the performance of Pakistan's cement industry.

He added that the Sindh Government believes in promotion of industrial and business activities in the province and it has taken a number of steps to boost up economic progress in Sindh and following the vision of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, we are trying to bring industrial revolution in Sindh.

Jam Ikramullah Dharejo said that he would like to invite intellectuals and authors to suggest ways how the industrial issues could be overcome.

#### books have been delivered. The CM stressed the need to improve quality of education in the government schools under any circum-



the 3rd National Labour Conference held in Lahore.

#### **KP Governor asks** universities to pay special attention to modern research

facing the education sector,

we have to find unconven-

tificial intelligence and in-

formation technology.

PESHAWAR (APP): Gov-Khyber to overcome the challenges Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday emphasized on universities to pay special attention to modern research, artificial intelligence and information technology to cope with present era challenges.

Addressing the fifth convocation of Qurtaba University of Science and Information Technology as a special guest, he said that effective use of natural and human resources was essential for the development of the province.

He said the educational services of the public sector as well as the private sector in the province were commendable

Kundi said that the future of the country was safe in the hands of talented youth who were the precious asset, adding that it was common responsibility

He said that in order of the government and civil society to provide proper guidance to youth.

Earlier, the Governor distributed gold medals to tional solutions including use of modern research, ar-39 students who secured prominent positions in the session 2017 to session 2023. President Qurtaba University Abdul Latif Khan Niazi, Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Hamidullah Alizai, Registrar Prof Dr Musa Kaleem, Controller of Examinations Prof Dr Azhar Khan Niazi, faculty members, students and parents participated in the con-

#### **Health Minister hands** over mobile hospital to adviser tourism KP

**Independent Report** PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah and Advisor Tourism Zahid Chanzeb visited the Directorate of General Health Services on Warsak Road here on Wednesday.

During a simple ceremony organized on this occasion, Health Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah handed over keys to the Tourism Advisor Zahid Chanzeb of a modern mobile hospital for patients from remote and tourists' areas of his constituency PK 38 Mansehra. Additional DG Health Adminis-

tration Dr Siraj and DHO ward areas of Mansehra, Mansehra Mushtaq Tanoli this mobile hospital will

Giving a briefing about the mobile hospital, Additional Director General Health Dr. Siraj said that modern treatment facilities including first aid, gynae, children and general check-up are available in this mobile hospital and it was spe-cially built for extending medicare services in remote areas. Zahid Chanzeb on the occasion said the people of his constituency are grateful to the Minister of Health and the Directorate General of Health for providing this facility while such facilities will be made available in future too. He said apart from the backplaces of Mansehra.

#### stresses importance of attracting top-tier By Haroon Siraj

VC UoS

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

The meeting 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 departments.



KARACHI: Members of civil society chant slogans during a demonstration against Israeli airstrikes on Gaza, and to show solidarity with Palestinian people, in the Provincial Capital.

#### PA special committee-3 takes strong notice of illegal sand mining, overloading

augural meeting of the Special Committee-3 of the Punjab Assembly, chaired by Minister for Mines and Minerals Sardar Sher Ali Gorchani, marked a decisive step towards tackling the pressing issues of illegal sand mining and the damage caused by overloaded vehicles on highways. The meeting, held here on Wednesday, also observed the attendance of Minister for Transport Bilal Akbar Khan and Minister for Communications and Works Sohaib Ahmed Malik, alongside Punjab Assembly members Mushtaq Ahmed, Shaukat Raja, Sardar Muhammad Ali, and officials concerned. The committee engaged in

a comprehensive discussion

LAHORE (APP): The in- of overloaded sand trollevs on road infrastructure. Participants voiced significant concerns over the unlawful extraction and transportation of sand, highlighting the severe repercussions of such activities on public

property and safety. The meeting underscored the urgent need to fortify mechanisms that prevent vehicles exceeding proposed weight limits from accessing highways. There was unanimous agreement on the necessity for strict enforcement of load management policies to safeguard the integrity of the road network. Sardar Sher Ali Gorchani asserted the government's zero-tolerance stance on illegal sand leases and mining. He emphasized that highways

with taxpayers' money. "We will not allow overloaded heavy vehicles to destroy these vital assets", he added. Addressing past mismanagement, Sardar Sher Ali Gorchani lamented the exploitation of the department of Mines and Minerals under previous administrations, which he described as treating public resources like a free-for-all. "Under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's leadership, we are committed to using Puniab's mineral wealth for the public good. Holding those who have plundered public as-

accountable is imperative."Highlighting the financial toll of illegal activities, Sardar Sher Ali Gorchani revealed that the national treasury incurs losses amounting to millions of rupees daily



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi addressing to 5th Convocation of Qurtuba University in Peshawar

#### 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 Punjab 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

MULTAN (APP): Senate 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 Society Forum led by Shahid Mahmood Ansari invited the Senate chairman to join their campaign to plant 500 saplings in the city. Mr Gilani promised to join the campaign. Delegations of All Pa-

kistan Tenure Track Association and Sarakistan Democratic Party (led by Rana Sarfraz Noon), besides Altaf Khar, Malik Naseem Labar, Iftikhar Shah, Malik Khurram, Malik Athar Maral, Siddiq Labar, Malik Ajmal Labar, Muhammad Talha and others also called on the Senate chairman.

Rana Sarfraz Noon presented a traditional Ajrak to the Mr Gilani.



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

#### Azma Bokhari says: **Defamation law is not** against any journalist

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that the law of defamation is not against any journalist, it is against those who disrepute others respect by telling

She said that all journalistic organizations should write down their concerns and give them to her by Sunday as their legitimate issues will be taken into account. She said that it is being said that freedom of expression is going to be banned as this is a black law

said that the need to introduce defamation law arose because in the old defamation law no case could go beyond a notice.

She said that the police will have no role in this law, adding that a High Court Judge will be given the status of a tribunal, the Judge will have to hear only 2 cases a day and the cases will be completed in 180

She further said, "We do not want to use this law for politics and we do not want to disrepute people. This law is being brought in our country which are not so that people's respect is published in foreign counnot put at stake to earn dol- tries because the laws are lars and cheap fame. She strong there.'

#### **LHC** gives time to state counsel for fixation of new price of wheat

AHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has given time to state counsel for filing reply on the petition for fixation of new price of

A two members bench of LHC presided over by Justice Ali Baqar Najafi took up for hearing petition filed by Ahmad Bilal Mehboob advocate here Tuesday.

The petitioner took the plea federal government imported 40 lac metric tons wheat despite having 35 lac ton wheat in store.

This act of importing wheat by the government caused loss of one billion dollars to the national kitty.

It was further said in the petition government of Punjab has maintained the price of the wheat which was fixed in previous year. Inflation has risen by 20 percent but rate of wheat for farmers has not been increased.

The petitioner requested the court to order government to fix new price

During the hearing of the case the state counsel requested the court to give time to him for filing reply on this matter.

The court while giving time to state counsel for filing reply adjourned the



PESHAWAR: Secretary Relief Yousaf Raheem handing over rescue equipment to Director General Rescue1122 Dr. Muhammad Ayaz Khan at Rescue 1122 Headquarters.

#### **SACM** directs utilization of capabilities to meet industries' needs

**Independent Report** PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Khyber sistant to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Abdul Karim Khan Tordher Wednesday directed the Cluster Development Section of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC) to utilize their capabilities for meeting the engineering and machinery requirements of the

He issued these directives while presiding over a meeting Cluster Development Section of KP-EZDMC, the Special Assistant said earlier the role of the department was limited only to the manufacturing of hunting and sporting arms, but after its merger with KP-EZDMC its responsibilities and professional affairs have been multiplied. Therefore, he said the cluster should now expand its mechanical engineering services to various

# Aleem Khan says: Govt taking steps to facilitate investment

Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan has said that the government was trying its best to facilitate investment in the country.

He said that the government was making it easier 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

"According to the business trends of the world, we also have to make changes in our system", he said adding that it is not the ness groups have contacted government's job to do business but its responsibility is to provide all kinds of facilities to the business class and create a congenial environment which can attract investment.

Abdul Aleem Khan further said that when business 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.

He assured that transparency will be ensured at all 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 Pakistan, investors will be immediately interested as so far many leading busi-

for the privatization of

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' Conference.

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 business 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 and Gilgit-Baltistan and Presidents of Women's

**PSX stays** 

bullish, gains

132.79 points

ISLAMABAD (APP)

The 100-Index of the Paki-

stan Stock Exchange (PSX)

witnessed a bullish trend on

points, a positive change of

0.18 per cent, closing at

74,663,98 points against

shares valuing Rs 25.947

billion were traded during

the day as compared to

574,182,210 shares valuing

Rs 23.425 billion on the last

transacted their shares in

the stock market; 148 of

them recorded gains and

213 sustained losses

whereas the prices of 21

Rupee loses

08 paisa

against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa

kistani Rupee on Wednes-

day lost 08 paisa against US Dollar in the interbank trad-

ing and closed at Rs 278.26

against the previous day'

of the British Pound, which

traded at Rs 350.44 as com-

pared to the last closing of

Rs 348.55.

closing at Rs 278.18.

respectively.

remained uncĥanged.

Some 382 companies

A total of 572,420,772

73,531.19 points the pre-

vious trading day.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi harvesting special types of wheat by AUP in collaboration with Washington State University and Agricultural University Faisalabad during a ceremony here at the Agricultural University Peshawar.

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

PESHAWAR (APP): ing the special variety of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim He said that landlords Kundi on Wednesday emphasized on creating awareness among farmers about new types of wheat to get maximum yield besides meeting the demand of the

province. He said this while inaugurating the new type of wheat harvesting technology during a ceremony here at the Agricultural Univer-

sity 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- commodities enhanced.

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 vice chancellor of AUP to transfer the modern research to local farmers and landowners, adding that serious efforts were needed to improve agricultural self-

sufficiency in the province. 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 agricultural



LAHORE: Activists of All Pakistan Clerk Association (APCA) shouting slogans during protest in favor of their demands in front of civil secretariat in the Provincial Capital.

#### Railways introduces **Premium Lounge dining** car in Tezgam Express

LAHORE (APP): The Pa- dining car in the Bahauddin kistan Railways has unveiled a new premium lounge dining car for the Tezgam Express, inaugurated by PR Chief Executive Officer Aamir Ali Baloch at Lahore Railway Station on Wednesday.

The new dining car will be operational from May 20, offering enhanced dining options and increased comfort for pas-

According to a PR spokesperson, the new dining car can accommodate 35 passengers and will serve a diverse menu featuring over 40 food items, including soups, burgers, pizza, karahi, sandwiches, paratha rolls, French fries, and

This addition follows the successful introduction of a premium lounge

Zakaria Express, prompting further expansion. The addition of the

new dining car will significantly enhance the travel experience for passengers," stated CEO Aamir Ali Baloch on the occasion. He highlighted that railway revenue has surpassed Rs 70 billion, exceeding this year's target by Rs 7 billion. The increased revenue will be used to improve passen-

ger facilities. He also announced improvements to station washrooms, with executive washrooms being built at Rawalpindi, Multan, and Lahore railway stations, set to be operational by June 1. He emphasized the importance of cleanliness in trains, warning of strict actions against any



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

kistan, Federal Minister for Planning, Develop-

ment and Special Initia-

tives Ahsan Iqbal ex-

pressed the hope that technology spillover would greatly help in boosting county's digital

According to press release by Huawei here,

the federal minister during

his China visit last week

He said that all fertilizer 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 **Economic Coordination** Council for a decision on the matter.

He said the governagreed to reduce the prices ment is committed to takof fertilizer urea in the couning every step to ensure the

technologies, cellphones, high tech equipment

manufacturing, automation and use of big data for

industry, governance and

cussion with Vice President

of Public Affairs and Com-

munications Department,

Huawei, Tiger Wei; Vice CEO Huawei Pakistan, Ray

Yu; Regional Representa-

tive. Huawei Public Affairs

and Communications De-

The minister held dis-

security

Planning Minister hopes

technology spillover to benefit

Pakistan's digital economy

visited company's Head- partment, Ms. Maya Jin.

facilitation of the farmers in the kharif season.

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 in Faisalabad ISLAMABAD (APP): quarters in Beijing, lead-Reiterating continued ing discussions on poten-support to Huawei for its existing and newly planned initiatives in Pa-linter the support of the support of

#### cotton cultivation target achieved 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 2<sup>nd</sup> monthly meeting of Divisional Cotton Crop Manage-ment Committee held here on Wednesday with Divisional Commissioner Madam Silwat Saeed in the chair.



the Federal Minister for Industries and Production at Islamabad.

#### Mian Mujtaba stresses on documented economy

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Finance Minister Mujtaba Shujaur Rehman said on Wednesday that in order to facilitate the documentation of the economy in Punjab, all services under the Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA) would be brought under the tax net.

Presiding over the

However, according to fourth meeting of the Rethe Forex Association of source Mobilization Com-Pakistan (FAP), the buying mittee 2024-25 here, he and selling rates of the Doladded that the tax rate on lar in the open market stood at Rs 277.25 and Rs 279.80 all services included in the tax net should be uniform. The inclusion of exempt The price of the Euro services in the tax net with increased by Rs.1.31 to a nominal rate would ensure close at Rs 301.24 against the promotion of a docuthe last day's closing of Rs mented economy. The fa-299.93, according to the State Bank of Pakistan cility of reducing rates on sales tax on services would (SBP). The Japanese Yen continue for those paying went up by 01 paisa to close through credit or debit at Rs 1.78; whereas an in-"We are well aware crease of Rs1.89 was witof the problems faced by nessed in the exchange rate farmers. A significant relief

> the next budget," he added. The Provincial Minister informed the committee

will be given to farmers in

that the Board of Revenue (BoR) was reviewing the tax rates after five years and a formula would be determined for changing tax rates under the BoR which would automatically increase tax rates after a certain period. He mentioned that stamp duty was a provincial tax, and the FBR rates were affecting the rev enue collection.

Mian Mujtaba directed the Board of Revenue to rationalize the tax rate on stamp duty. He added that enforcement under the PRA had also affected revenue collection in the last five months, but hoped that PRA would achieve its target. The Provincial Minister also directed the Additional Secretary Finance to bring the proposed amendments to the Punjab Revenue Authority Act 2012 for approval as soon as possible so that they could be implemented before the start of

the new financial year.

HYDERABAD: A worker busy in preparing cloth on power loom in a local

#### Gold rates up by Rs 2,900 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP) The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 2,900 and was sold at Rs 244,000 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs 241,100 on last trading

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 2,487 to Rs 209,191 from Rs 206.790 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs 191, 758 from Rs 189, 479, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs 2,650 and Rs 2,271.94 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$28 to \$2,365 from \$2,337.

#### Shipping activity at **Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port, where seven ships—Maersk Columbus, Capricorn, Scorpio Glory, Zhe Hai-511, Asia Inspire, Victoria Kosan, and Jag Pavitra-were scheduled to load and offload containers of iron ore, rice, coal, palm oil, chemicals, and mogas at the Container Terminal Multi-Purpose Terminal Grain Terminal, Liquid Terminal, and Oil Terminal, respectively, on Tues-

Meanwhile, two more ships, Ammos and Alba Gas, carrying steel coil and LPG, also arrived at the outer anchorage of Port Qasim during the last 24 hours

#### Pakistan, US agree to boost coop. in IT, **Telecom sector**

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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 its relations with the US in the field of IT and Telecom.

The minister said that Pakistan wanted to work on the promotion of gaming industry with the collaboration of the United States. She also emphasised increasing business-to-business relations between Pakistan 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 Plan, she maintained.

Shaza Fatima noted that connectivity is the foundation of digitalisation, adding that steps are on for the provision of connectivity and quality broadband services in the country.

Shaza said that the private sector has a very important role in the uplift of the economy, adding that the private sector is being fully supported under the vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. US Ambassador Donald Blome said that the US will fully cooperate with Pakistan in the field of IT and Telecommu-



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**

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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 2year maturity," said ADB Treasurer Pierre Van Peteghem, according to press release received here.

This will help support ADB's commitment to achieving a prosperous, intainable Asia and the Pa- and other types of inves

cific," 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 9.9 basis points over the 4.875% US Treasury notes due April 2026. The transaction was

lead-managed by Credit Agricole CIB, Deutsche Bank, J.P. Morgan, and Nomura.

The issue achieved wide primary market distribution, with 51% placed in the Americas; 38% in Europe, Middle East, and Africa; and 11% in Asia. By investor type, 66% went to central banks and official institutions, 19% to banks, clusive, resilient, and sus- and 15% to fund managers

#### PTCL launches SHOQ TV Box to revolutionize TV viewing experience in Pak

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest telecommunications and

integrated ICT services provider, PTCL has launched SHOO TV Box powered by Android TV by Google, to revolutionize the TV viewing experience and is poised to raise the bar in news and entertainment offering. The unveiling of the new product took place here in



Islamabad at an intriguing event, attended by the leader ship of PTCL Group and ZTE. Besides revolutionizing Pakistan's TV landscape, the development heralds new avenues for global collaborations to bring innovative digital solutions to the Pakistani market, said a news release.

SHOQ TV is meticulously designed to provide a truly gratifying TV viewing experience for the entire family, empowering them to exercise their undeniable freedom of choice during leisure time. With an extensive selection of 200 Live Television channels with 60 channels in HD and a staggering 15,000 hours of on-demand content, SHOQ TV offers an enriched entertainment bouquet.

#### **KPOGDCL** signs **PCA** with Govt over **Petroleum Block**

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Oil & Gas Company Limited (KPOGCL) has signed the Petroleum Concession Agreement (PCA) with the Government of Pakistan over the Prospective Miran Petroleum Block Located in North Waziristan and Kurram Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In a statement issued here on Wednesday, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) KPOGCL Nasir Khan has termed the agreement a milestone in the strategic expansion efforts of KPOGCL and reaffirmed its commitment in contributing to the current energy landscape of Pakistan. He further extended

the sincere gratitude to the Federal and Provincial Governments especially to the Chief Minister KP, Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, Secretary Energy & Power and Board of Directors KPOGCL for their unwavering support throughout the execution process of Miran Block.

The CEO KPOGCL further explained that the recent discovery of oil and gas by the OGDCL and MPCL in the adjacent blocks has made Miran Block more prominent.

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

**Monitoring Desk** 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 humanitar-RAFAH: Tens of thousands of civilians fled the and around 100,000 from northern Gaza, UN agencies

> That means around a quarter of Gaza's population of 2.4 million people have been displaced again in about one week.

UN chief Antonio Guterres repeated his call for a humanitarian ceasefire to allow more aid into the 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 crossing to be re-opened immediately and for the unimpeded humanitarian access throughout Gaza," he posted Tuesday on social media site X.

The war and siege on the road.

Foreign Affairs

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Ukrainian Foreign Minister

Dmytro Kuleba hold a joint press conference, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine,

ficials - could offer a

nology.

Co-founder Jason

Coagha Secu-

Glassberg of Casaba Security in Redmond, Washing-

ton, an expert on new and

concrete results, but get the

tant right now is that both

sides realize they each

have a lot to lose if AI be-

volved are equally at risk.

Right now, one of the big-

gest areas of risk is with

deepfakes, particularly for

Houthi

spokesman Brig. Gen.

Yahya Saree said the rebels

targeted the USS Mason

with missiles and launched

an attack on a ship he iden-

tified as the Destiny. Mul-

military's Central Command

said. The U.S. Navy's Mideast-based 5th Fleet did

not immediately respond

to a request for comment

'What's most impor-

two sides talking.

**Top US and Chinese** 

officials begin talks

on AI in Geneva

GENEVA: Top envoys from the U.S. and China huddled in closed-door talks in Geneva on Tues-

The talks, which emerging threats posed by

Presidents Joe Biden and Xi AI, handicapped the meet-

Jinping agreed to launch in ing as a get-to-know-you

last 2023, are meant to open that will likely yield few

consequences for trade, lifestyles, culture, politics, national security and denational security and d

by high-level White House use in disinformation cam-

Yemen's Houthi rebels acknowledge

attacking a US destroyer that shot

down missile in the Red Sea

Monitoring Desk

day to lay out their na-

tional approaches to the

promise and perils of

emerging artificial intelli-

up bilateral dialogue be-

tween the world's two big-

gest economies — and increasingly, geopolitical ri-

vals — on a fast-moving

technology that already has

U.S. technology ex-

and State Department of- paigns.'

perts say the meeting — led on the American side

**Monitoring Desk** 

DUBAI: Yemen's Houthi

rebels on Wednesday

claimed targeting a U.S. Navy

destroyer and a commercial

ship in the Red Sea. How-

ever, the attack on the war-

ship apparently happened

nearly two days earlier and

saw the vessel intercept the

from the Houthis comes as

their attacks on shipping,

which have disrupted trade

through a vital corridor lead-

ing onto the Suez Canal and

the Mediterranean Sea,

have slowed in recent

weeks. Though the rebels

have not acknowledged the

slowdown, the U.S. mili-

tary has suggested its

airstrikes and interceptions

of Houthi fire have dis-

rupted their assaults and

chewed into their weapon

stockpiles. Recently, the

The latest statement

missile targeting it.

fense and much more.

gence technology.

ian crisis in Gaza, with the UN repeatedly lamenting aid restrictions as famine stalks the north. Since Israeli troops

Thursday May 16, 2024

moved into eastern Rafah, the aid crossing point from Egypt has remained closed and the nearby Kerem Shalom crossing lacks "safe and logistically viable access" a UN report said late Mon-

Qatar, which has been mediating peace talks, said Gazans "have not received any aid" since May 9.

Israeli police on Tuesday said they had opened an investigation after right-wing activists 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, cap-

ping off a carefully cali

brated power transfer

aimed at ensuring continu-

ity in the wealthy city-

state. Wong, 51, comes

from among a crop of so-

generation of politicians

that were hand-picked by

the long-ruling People's Ac-

tion Party (PAP) to take over

the reins of the key Asian

Singaporean leader born af-

ter its independence in

1965. Wong will retain his

current position as finance

minister and takes charge of

a country led for two de-

cades 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 2015.

Google to

introduce

answers in

He is the first

trade and financial centre.

called "4G



Palestinians hold Palestinian flags as they take part in a protest to mark the 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 Reuters witness heard several shots fired after the 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," treatment and was referred to the capital Bratislava.

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

treatment and was referred

#### Former US military intelligence official says he resigned over Gaza war

**Monitoring Desk** 

WASHINGTON: A former US military intelligence of-ficial 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 Palestinians.

Harrison Mann, an Army major, would be the first known DIA official to quit over US support to Israel, AUS airman fatally set himself on fire in February outside Israel's em-

bassy 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.

I'm sure some of you will feel that way reading this," Mann wrote in a letter shared with colleagues last month and published on his LinkedIn profile on

#### Jordan foils arms plot as kingdom caught in Iran-Israel shadow war

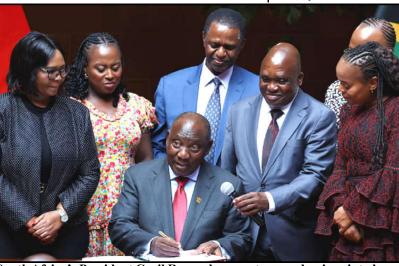
**Monitoring Desk** AMMAN: Jordan has foiled a suspected Iranian-led plot to smuggle weapons into the US-allied kingdom to help opponents of the ruling monarchy carry out acts of sabotage, according to two Jordanian sources with knowledge of the matter. The weapons were sent by Iranian-backed militias 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 de-

fence 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.

The helicopter crashed as it attempted an emergency landing, the ministry added.



South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa gestures as he signs into law a national health bill that aims to provide universal coverage to South Africans. at the Union Building in Pretoria, South Africa.

# AI-generated

search results **Monitoring Desk** 

MOUNTAIN VIEW: Google said on Tuesday it would introduce AI-generated answers to online queries made by users in the United States, in one of the biggest updates to its search

"I'm excited to announce that we will begin launching this fully revamped experience, 'Al overviews,' to everyone in the US ecutive Sundar Pichai said at an event in California. The feature would soon be available in other countries, he added. With the change, many of Google's search results will feature an AI "overview" at the top of the page before the more typical un-

#### tiple vessels have that name in shipping registries. The Mason, an Arleigh Burkeclass guided-missile destroyer, has been in the Red Sea and the wider region as part of a U.S.-led coalition engine in 25 years. trying to prevent Houthi attacks on shipping. On Monday night, the Mason 'successfully engaged and destroyed one inbound antiship ballistic missile this week," Google chief exlaunched by (the) Iranianbacked Houthis from Yemen over the Red Sea," the U.S.



dent, after a Slovak government meeting in Handlova, Slovakia.

#### **Zelenskyy postpones all upcoming** foreign visits as Ukraine faces a new Russian offensive

**Monitoring Desk** 

KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy postponed all his upcoming foreign trips as Ukraine's army battled to contain a front-line push by the Kremlin's forces, as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday visited a drone manufacturing facility in Kyiv on the second day of a visit meant to reassure Ukrainians of continuing

American support. Zelenskyy canceled all foreign visits "that were planned for the coming days," his office said Wednesday on Telegram. to this and it's done so re-The head of state instructed markably.

his team to reschedule the

our partners for understanding," the announcement said. Zelenskyy had been expected to visit Spain, and perhaps Portugal, later this week. No reason was given for his decision, but Ukraine is having a hard time fending off the latest Russian assault. Blinken also toured a grain transshipment facility and a bionics factory, praising Ukrainian innovation and ingenuity in the face of wartime difficulties. "Ukraine has had to adapt and adjust

#### Indonesia searches for 35 still missing in deadly Sumatra floods

**Monitoring Desk** JAKARTA: The search for 35 people who are still missing from flash floods

and mud slides in Indonesia's West Sumatra province continued on Wednesday, authorities said, as the death toll from the weekend disaster rose

Heavy rain on Saturday evening triggered flash floods, landslides, and cold lava flow – a mud-like mixture of volcanic ash, rock debris and water – in three districts and one town in West Sumatra province. By

Tuesday, the death toll was at 52. The cold lava flow, known by the Indonesian word lahar, came from Mount Marapi, one of Sumatra's most active volcanoes. More than 20 people were killed when Marapi erupted in December. A series of eruptions have followed since.

The national disaster and management agency BNPB will focus the search for the missing people in areas near rivers and clean the main roads from the large rocks, debris, mud brought by the floods.

#### ChatGPT-maker releases latest free model **Monitoring Desk**

FRANCISCO: OpenAI on Monday released a higher performing and more efficient version of the artificial intelligence technology that underpins its popular generative tool ChatGPT, making it free to all users. The update to OpenAI's flagship product landed a day before Google is expected to make its own announcements about Gemini, the search engine giant's own AI tool competing with ChatGPT head on. 'We're very, very excited to bring GPT-40 to all of our free users out there," Chief Technology Officer Mira Murati said at the highly anticipated launch event.

#### **Seed-dropping** drones seek to halt Kosovo's deforestation

Monitoring Desk BUTOVC: A hovering drone drops linden and pine seeds wrapped in soil onto a barren hillside outside Kosovo's capital Pristina, part of an effort to reforest thousands of hectares lost to illegal logging and wildfires. Environmentalists say deforestation, also driven by demand for popular wood-fired stoves, is endangering wild animals such as brown bears, lynx, wild goats and roe deer whose populations are diminishing in Kosovo. A study by nonprofit organisation Sustainability Leadership Kosova (SLK).

#### 'genuine desire' to help resolve Ukraine war Ukraine." Putin told the

Putin hails China's

**Monitoring Desk** MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin hailed Beijing's "genuine desire" crisis, in an interview with

Chinese state media pub-

lished 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 iso-

lated 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. commend

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

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 pa-per published by China in February 2023 on reaching a political settlement to the crisis. "The ideas and proposals contained in the document show the genu-

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

ine desire of our Chinese friends to help stabilise the

#### 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 stale-

"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 on a status of almost a stalemate," Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani told the Qatar Economic Fo-

"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

between Israel and the Palestinian 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 potential ceasefire," Sheikh Mohammed said.

Israeli politicians were indicating "by their statements that they will remain there, they will continue the war. And there is no clarity on what Gaza will look like after this", he added.

Israel continued to fight Hamas in Rafah on Monday, despite US warnings against a full-scale 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 a low boil", but that conversa-States \_ in months of behind-the-scenes mediation continuing.

#### Philippines seeks to ensure safety of civilian mission in South China Sea

MANILA: The Philippines has sent three coast guard vessels to ensure the safety of a civilian flotilla sailing to a shoal in the South China Sea, where Manila and Beijing have been embroiled in heated stand-offs over competing claims.

The three-day mission to hand out provisions for fishermen anchored at the contested Scarborough Shoal is being led by a group called Atin Ito (This is Ours), along with five commercial fishing vessels, organisers said.

Around 100 smaller fishing boats will also join the initial part of the trip.

The Coast Guard was not part of the civilian mission which sailed on Wednesday, but it will provide safety and security for the civilian volunteers, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) spokesperson Jay Tarriela told re-

A PCG aircraft deployed to monitor the situation at Scarborough briefing.

Monitoring Desk Shoal on Wednesday spotted 19 Chinese vessels including one Chinese navy ship around the area where PCG said it also monitored two floating barriers at the southeastern entrance of the shoal.

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV has reported the Chinese Coast Guard recently held routine drills at the shoal. Atin Ito led a similar mission in December to deliver supplies to troops stationed at Second Thomas Shoal, but it cut short its journey due to what it described as shadowing and harass-ment by Chinese coast

guard ships.
"If the Philippine side abuses China's goodwill and infringes on China's territorial sovereignty and jurisdiction, China will defend its rights by the law. The relevant responsibilities and consequences are entirely borne by the Philippine side," foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told a media

northern hemisphere sum-

mer of that period in AD246. Otherwise, it was

Torbenson told reporters

that 25 of the last 28 years

exceeded the summer highs

of AD246 — the hottest

year before modern tem-

perature records began. By

Study co-author Max

1.19 degrees warmer.

#### Summer 2023 was hottest in 2,000 years, study says

**Monitoring Desk** PARIS: Last year's north-

ern hemisphere summer was the hottest in 2,000 years, according to a new study published on Tuesday. Scientists say 2023 was the hottest year globally since records began in 1850, but the study in the journal Nature indicates human-caused climate change pushed northern summer highs well beyond anything seen in two mil-lennia. "We shouldn't be surprised," the study's lead author Jan Esper said.

"For me it's just the continuation of what we started by releasing greenhouse gases" that cause global warming, said Esper, a professor of climatology at Germany's Johannes Gutenberg University.

Scientists used treering data from sites across the northern hemisphere to estimate global temperatures between the first century AD and 1850, before the advent of modern observational instruments.

The conservative estimate found that 2023 was at least 0.5 degrees Celsius hotter than the warmest 2016 respectively.

contrast the coolest summer of that 2,000-year period was nearly four degrees below 2023 summer temperatures in the northern hemisphere due to a major volcanic eruption. Scientists say volcanic activity could bring about cooler conditions in future as they did in the past, but that ultimately humanity's release of greenhouse gases would keep trapping heat in the atmosphere. In 1992, an

eruption the previous year helped soften the impact of the El Nino weather system, which warms the Pacific Ocean and can bring hotter global conditions. After the effect subsided, temperatures soared in 1998, which the study noted was one of the warmest summers after 2023 and

FAISALABAD (Online):

Imran Khan. Our politics is like open book. Our insti-

tutions will have to stay in

their respective parameters.

Establishment has gone into

There is ceasefire from PTI side which is good omen. All political

parties will have to sit to-

gether 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

No one is meeting

meeting Imran Khan.

blind alley.

Maulana Fazal says: I am not going to

meet Imran in jail

JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said no one is PTI and JUI-F. I am not

He stated ceasefire

I don't know as to

He held every election

He underlined that

going to meet Imran Khan

why such questions are be-

ing asked now a days, he

inquired. All politicians will

have to sit together for the

remained controversial.

This will have to be recti-

PPP is getting constitu-

tional slots and is saying

too that it is not part of the

government. PPP is not in

government, it means mi-

nority government is run-

sake of constitution.

fied at every cost.

## PM for PSDP programs ensuring sustainable development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday stressed upon initiation of such projects under Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) that ensured sustainable devel-

validation of all the mega national development projects, he observed that with increase in revenues, enough funds could be made available for the uplift

chaired an important meet-

to the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special

tended 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

The prime minister also directed for constitution of a cabinet committee headed by the minister for planning over the development budget and PSDP.

The committee would furnish a mechanism over PSDP programmes through short, medium and long terms proposals.

The prime minister emphasized upon harmonizing the federal PSDP and provincial annual development programme and the need of improving links.

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



Aurangzab chaired the meeting of Economic Coordination Committee.

## Political stability, persistent policies imperative for

velopment, and Special Ini-

stan Development Summit, the minister said, "Pakistan is 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

would gather expert feedback and prepare a comprehensive plan of action to attain sustainable economic development and social

Speaking on the occasion, 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

the regional countries but to

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

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



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** QUETTA: 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 ex-

horted 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 be-

#### tect 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 strong concerns over the un- could reach a daunting

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 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: MPAAsghar Tareen meeting with Home** Minister Mir Ziauallah Lango.

#### **BME** successfully concludes 8-week internship program for Balochistan graduates

(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.

derscored BME's unwa-

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 amongst 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





tiatives 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 Paki-

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

track to economic uplift. urged the need for an accelerated pace of economic growth and development not only to compete with

Ahsan Iqbal also

expenditure.

paying their due taxes.

**Shaheed Major** 

Babar Niazi

laid to rest with

full military

trict of Balochistan, was

laid to rest with full mili-

tary honors in his native

ing and retired senior offic-

ers of Pakistan Army and

Pakistan Air Force, rela-

tives of the martyr and lo-

cal 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 Af-

fairs and Interfaith Har-

mony, Chaudhry Salik

Hussain has arrived in the

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to

review the Hajj arrangements

for Pakistani pilgrims. Dur-

ing 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 arrange-

**Journalist** 

shot dead in

ments for pilgrims.

A large number of serv-



Ahmed Khosa and Secretary C&W Qambar Dashti being briefed about expansion of Gai Khan Chowk to Western bypass road.

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

were included Custom Flyover, Gahi Khan Flyover, expansion of Gahi Khan chowk to western

The road projects

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**

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah printed at Independent Printers Quarry Road Quetta and Published from Al-Syed Building M.A. Jinnah Road Quetta Ph. 2842938 Fax: 2842941, Cell No. 0331-8383955 E-mail:newsdailyind@gmail.com,dailyindisb@gmail.com

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 hold-ings in Dubai, Hafiz Naeemur-Rehman condemned the pattern of wealth accumulation among the country's political and influential fig-

ures, 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 disclosure from those implicated in the leaks. He challenged the ruling elite to clarify

whether these investments

Muzaffargarh MUZAFFARĞARH (INP): Unidentified motorcyclists gunned a local journalist in a targeted attack here on Wednesday, police According to details, unknown culprits riding a motorcycle stopped a jour-

nalist 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

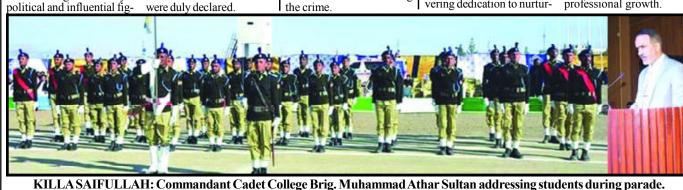
the crime

# QUETTA (APP): Bolan ing young talent and equip-Enterprises

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 un-

vering dedication to nurtur-



#### Initiatives and Public Private Partnership Authority, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The meeting was at-

opment in the country. While underlining the significance of third part

ing on the matters related officials.

The prime minister

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

Îy 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

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 Parliamentarians Forum, Pakistan Insti-

While emphasising the 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 tute of Parliamentary Sertheir age of social media and vices (PIPS), and other pardeveloping 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

QUETTA (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

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

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

He said that a crackdown 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

children of the province should be saved from imitation and equipped with wealth of knowledge because where children would 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

Azeem Baloch said that the

have to become educated citizens but they have to serve the country and the nation today, those nations were developed in the world due to quality of education. He said that those who made knowledge their

weapon and eradicated ig-

norance from their country.

we also have to light the

candle of knowledge for the

development of our coun-

**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 orayed to Allah Almighty for the elevation of the martyr's ranks in paradise and for patience to the bereaved 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 developments 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 Vilumsons called on Foreign Secretary

Baloch and the concerned engineers and officers.