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UAE President commits \$10 billion investment in Pakistan

PM Shehbaz highlights Pakistan's "huge human resource potential" that can be engaged in multiple sectors; UAE president accepts invitation by PM Shehbaz for an official visit to Islamabad; Broke the begging bowl as nations prospered through hard work, not aid: PM

ABU DHABI (APP): President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Thursday assured his Pakistan in all circumstances, pledging to invest \$10 billion in its multiple sectors. The UAE President made the commitment during a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the whole gamut of bilateral relations, including co-

fidence

He

TTEL

operation in political, eco-nomic, social, cultural and mentation of investment regional and global devel-opments. defence sectors.

cooperation agreements in The prime minister the areas of energy, port underscored the impor- operations projects, waste water treatment, food setance of galvanizing existcountry's full support to ing cooperation and curity, logistics, minerals, partnership including in the services. PM Shehbaz exfields of information techpressed gratitude to the nology, renewable energy UAE leadership for hosting 1.8 million Pakistani and tourism. He highlighted the steps taken by diaspora and highlighted the government aimed at Pakistan's huge human resource potential that could ensuring socio-economic stability in the country and be engaged in multiple secbuilding the investors' con- tors.

Both leaders exchanged reiterated views on other issues of Pakistan's commitment to mutual interest, including

The prime minister reiterated his invitation to the UAE president for an official visit to Pakistan, which was accepted by the latter. PM Shehbaz was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Special Assistant to Prime Minister Syed Tariq Fatemi

Meanwhile Prime sacrifice, hard work, sweat Minister Shehbaz Sharif and blood," he said.

on Thursday said that he had broken the begging bowl as no nation had ever achieved prosperity through the begging bowl or aid rather through sacrifice and hard work.

"Gone are the days when I will go to a brotherly country with a begging bowl. I have broken that bowl. The bowl will lead us nowhere. When was the last time that a country prospered through aid and bowls? Only the nations made their mark and left indelible footprints through

Germany praises Pak Army's counterterrorism efforts

German Army

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir has held meetings with the civilian and military leadership of the Federal Repubic of Germany.

ervices Public Relations (ISPR) on Thursday, the COAS, who is on an official visit to Germany, visited the Federal Ministry of Defence, where he was received by General Carsten

Breuer, Chief of Defence. General Asim was presented with Honour Guard by a contingent of the Ger-

man Armed Forces. The Army Chief also

met Lieutenant General Alfons Mais, Chief of the of Defence.

The COAS visited the Army Combat Training Centre, Gardelegen along with the German Army Chief. He was briefed on various facets of the Cen-According to the Inter tre and the training being

imparted to the German Army and contingents of other armies. He also witnessed a demonstration on urban warfare and visited different training facilities. The COAS also met

Jens Plötner, Foreign Policy and Security Advisor to Federal Chancellor; Tobias Linder, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Nils Hilmer, State

Secretary at the Ministry

led through baseless propaganda. have to be overcome.

Balochistan.

wardness.

In this regard, there is a people.

These and similar other

years. He said that the govern-

ment would provide inter-The Chief Minister est free loans to the gradumaintained that the people ates on bringing business think that there is a war of plan. State and separatists in While on the other Balochistan, which is a wrong impression.

forts to bring about reforms

of 70 years in few months,

However, it is not pos-

He said that the oppor-

youngsters of the province

in these two sectors.

hand, the Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Scholarship Rather it is the war of Programme has been all of us as we would surstarted in the province. vive as long as the State We would be offering

educational scholarships to Referring the reforms in the students from the basic education and health sec-tors, the Chief Minister to higher level. said that we are making ef-

Besides, the students going to do Ph.D in the sciences would be given scholarships, adding he announced sible to correct the system

Similarly, complete scholarships would be given to the students for tunities of livelihood would be provided to some 30,000 gious universities of the studies in 200 most prestiworld

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti addressing participants of 13th National Workshop Balochistan. Dialogue on "Journey to peace & stability in Balochistan":

Governor calls for making serious decisions to resolve complex issues facing Balochistan

Thursday.

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Dilty in Balochistan" orga-nized by the Voice of Dilty in Balochistan" orga-nized by the Voice of

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Min-

ister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically stated that every one in the province desires peace, however, the youngsters are being mis-

However, the gaps between the State and youth

He said that one has to be familiar with the history to understand the issue of

> One thing which is clear is that the reason behind insurgency is the personal interests not back-

need to tell facts to the

views were expressed by the Chief Minister while

Enemy countries investing in enticing youth of Balochistan, says Mir Zaiullah Langove **Independent Report** QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Àffairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has stated that our enemy countries are making investment to entice youth of Balochistan for their nefarious designs. However, he exhorted the young generation to become ambassadors of Pakistan denying the provocation against the country. The Minister Home stressed that we have to be sincere with our homeland first of all. He said that we have to defend our country. Mir Ziaullah Langove was addressing the dialogue organized by Voice of Balochistan on the topic "a journey towards peace and stability in Balochistan" here at the auditorium of Balochistan Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) on Thursday



ABU-DHABI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of

Participants of National Security Workshop Balochistan meets:

Every citizen desires peace; personal

UAE H.H Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan during a meeting.

survives

he added.

Khan Mandokhail has underlined the need to make Balochistan University of serous decisions to resolve the complex issues being faced by the province immediately.

He said that the lawlessness and insurgency is a political issue, and the sustainable solution to that issue exists too. We should keep the doors of consultation and talks open no matter there is turbulence and situation is disappointing.

He insisted that sill there are bright chances to find out the acceptable to all solution to the tense situation and political crisis.

The Governor Balochistan was addressing the one-day dialogue on "a

BUITEMS.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Advisor to the Prime Min-

ister for Inter-Provincial

Coordination (IPC) and Po-

litical and Public Affairs,

Rana Sanaullah said on

Thursday laws to regulate

social media and mitigate its

negative effects on the gen-

eral public was much needed.

Speaking to a private news channel, he highlighted

the necessity, justification,

and effectiveness of such

legislation, provided if it was

organizations and other

stakeholders have also ac-

regulatory framework.

He said that journalist

not misused.

to be very necessary to find Balochistan at the out solution of a collective nature issue because we can IT, Engineering and Manface numerous social and agement Sciences (BUITEMS) here on political risks and hazards if the collective issue is

verlooked. The provincial Ministers, Mir Ziaullah Langove, reciated Gulzar Imam and Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi Sarfraz Bangulzai for joinand Ms. Rahila Hameed ing the national mainstream Durrani, members of proand termed it welcoming. vincial assembly and other dignitaries, spokesman of ally values it a lot to hold provincial government, Vice result oriented negotiations Chancellor BUITEMS, Dr. with the "angry" brothers Khalid Hafeez, participated

besides their surrendering in in the dialogue. The former the national interest. Ferrari commander joining He said that we are facthe national mainstream,

ing numerous hardships re-Gulzar Imam Shambay and garding insurgency and tur-Sarfraz Bangulzai also parmoil in the province, which ticipated in the dialogue. have also caused human and Addressing the diafinancial losses.

> One dead, three missing after attack on coal trucks in Duki **Independent Report**

QUETTA: A convoy of six coal-laden trucks en route

to Punjab from Duki coal **OUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar** fields in Balochistan came Khan Mandokhail addressing the participants of under a gun attack in the a seminar organized Voice of Balochistan in Sanjavi area of Ziarat on Tuesday night, resulting in the death of a driver and causing injuries to another.

The unknown assailants targeted the convoy from nearby mountains. Three drivers, however, remained missing as the security forces could not trace their whereabouts following the attack. Officials said that the

from Duki had reached the Baghao area of district Ziarat when unknown oppose the defamation law armed men perched on the but felt that the consultation nearby mountains opened process with them was infire late Tuesday night.

As a result of firing a He suggested that this truck driver lost his life and consultation could still be another got injured. "In the carried out to ensure comarmed attack the trucks prehensive input from all loaded with coal caught fire relevant parties. and were completely gutted Answering a question,

before the security force reached the spot," Ziarat he said that he regularly called for political dia-Deputy Commissioner knowledged the need for a logue over the past two Liaquat Ali Khan Kakar months



COAS General Syed Asim Munir meets German military officers during official visit to Germany

BA adopts condemnation resolution against torching trucks in Harnai; solarization of 11,000 tube wells

trucks and setting a blaze seven of them, here in its session on Thursday. The Assembly also adopted a resolution demanding so-

larization of 11,000 unregistered agricultural tube wells in the province after their registration.

The Speaker, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai presided over the session. The condemnation trucks loaded with coal resolution against attacking the trucks in Harnai was tabled by the Provincial Minister. Noor Muhammad Dummar.

In his resolution, Mr. Dummar pointed out that the anti-state elements resorted to fire on several trucks on May 21 in Harnai area. They torched seven trucks, as a result one person died and several others got injured, the resolution mentioned.

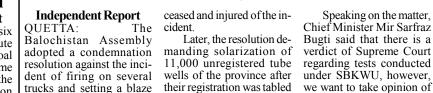
It was demanded of the government to pay financial compensation to the destanding committee.

we want to take opinion of the Advocate General on it. The Provincial Minister for Education, Ms. Rahila Hameed Durrani called for making early decision on the matter about tests of SBKWU for recruitments.

She said that a contempt of court notice has been served to the Vice Chancellor of SBKWU in this regard. The Leader of Opposition Mir Younas Aziz Zehri also demanded decision on the tests conducted for recruitments in Education department.

During the course of session, the opposition staged token walk out in the ovincial assembly.

session. Besides, the amended draft ordinance of Meanwhile, a motion the Defence Housing Auwas approved about names thority (DHA) was also of the chairman of standing deferred. MPA Dr. Abdul committees of the provin-Malik Baloch demanded of cial assembly. The Provinthe House to hand over the cial Minister for Home, Mir draft act to the concerned Ziaullah Langove tabled the motion



Nawaz Kibzai.

Meanwhile, the debate

on results of the test con-

ducted under Sardar

Bahadur Khan Women Uni-

versity (SBKWU) for re-

cruitment in Education de-

ferred because of absence of

the Advocate General in the

The debate was de-

partment was deferred.

by the member provincial assembly, Asghar Ali Tareen. Similarly, another resolution was adopted in which it was demanded to include the construction of Zhob-Maikhtar road in the federal PSDP. The resolution was tabled by the MPA Dr.





QUETTA: Chief Justice Balochistan High Court, Mr. Justice Hashim Khan Kakar being briefed about newly constructed building of Balochistan Civil Services Academy.

Planning Commission released Rs 29.28b to NHA: BHC told

ning Commission on Thursinformed the day Balochistan High Court (BHC) that following the court orders, the Planning Commission of Pakistan released Rs 29.28 billion to the National Highway Authority (NHA) Balochistan for the dualization of N-25 Road. Imran Ali, a representative from the Planning Division, in this connection presented a letter confirming the fund release dated May 23, 2024.

A divisional bench of the Balochistan High Court, comprising Justice Abdullah Baloch and Justice Rozi Khan Baraich, was hearing the case re-garding the N25 Karachi-Khuzdar-Quetta-Chaman road

Member Balochistan Basharat Hussain confirmed that land acquisition issues were being addressed with the Commissioners of June 30, 2024.

QUETTA (APP): The Plan- Quetta and Kalat divisions. The process is expected to be completed within two weeks, with directives issued to all relevant Deputy Commissioners to cooperate with the NHA. The NHA plans to finalize technical and financial bids for the N-25 by June 30, 2024, and issue work or-ders promptly," the Authority's member said adding that a focal person has been appointed by the Chairman NHA in Islamabad to oversee the project's expedited completion.

Earlier, General Manager NHA West Syed Ashraf Ali Shah informed the court that repair work on the Surab, Panjgur and Gwadar CPEC road has commenced.

General Manager NHA South Noor ul Hassan reported that the construction of the Hub River Bridge is in its final stages and will be completed by



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and MPAs expressing their views on resolution presented in Balochistan Assembly session chaired by Speaker Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai.

However, he noted that the barriers to prevent misuse of the law must be carefully considered in drafting the law. Advisor said that journalist organizations did not

Rana seeks stakeholder

consensus on social media

regulation to curb misuse

complete.

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OPINION

Daily **Independent**

Daily A oice of Masse Independent

Friday May 24, 2024

Energy inflation

On Tuesday, the Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority slashed the average prescribed gas prices of SNGPL by 10pc and SSGC by 4pc in view of the revenue requirements of the two public utilities for the next financial year. On average, SNGPL consumers should pay Rs179.17 per mmBtu less during the next fiscal year, while SSGC customers should get relief of Rs59.23 per mmBtu.

However, that will not happen where SNGPL customers are concerned, because the government intends to recover from them the tariff differential of Rs581bn not passed on to them during the last six years. A report in this paper estimates that the Ogra determination of SNGPL's financial losses on account of average price increases from FY19 to FY24, which were not passed on to consumers in full by the government for fear of a political backlash, provides the authorities room for a hike of up to 87pc in the company's gas prices next year. Chances inflation in Pakistan and are the government might not recover the entire amount from inflation-stricken gas consumers in one year and may spread it over a few years. The authorities have already shared their plans to raise reason is because there both gas and electricity prices are glaring blind spots in from the new fiscal year.

Energy inflation has been a major cause of the surging cost of living over the last couple of years. Even though gests that inflation in Pa-headline inflation came signifi-net the state of the signifi-control of the signifi-text of text of the signifi-text of the signifi-text of text of the signifi-text of text of text of text of the signifi-text of text couple of years. Even though down to just above 17pc last cantly a monetary phe-nomenon". But then, they what do the authors as-riods of time. During this in the data, do a such as these will not see knowledge its own role in lighting this fire, rather month from its peak of over 38pc last May, the planned hike in energy rates could again push up prices during ferent conclusion. FY25. With the government trying to secure yet another loan from the IMF to preserve the country's new-found economic They are all dead: the feisty Italian journalist Oriana 'stability' and improve its Fallaci and her 14 credit rating, the authorities interviewees - prominent amongst them Henry have also shared with the amongst tnem Henry Kis-singer, King Hussein of Jordan, Yasser Arafat, Mrs Fund their plans to raise gas prices from August and the Golda Meir, Indira Gandhi, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, base electricity tariff from Mohammed Reza Shah Pahlavi, the Cypriot presi-July. In addition, the governdent Archbishop Makarios, ment would be required to inand the Vietnamese freedom fighters Gen Giap and crease taxes to boost its rev-Nguyen Van Thieu. All that enues by 1.5pc of GDP. These remains are their words, uttered during the often provocative, testy convermeasures will again drive up inflation, burdening the sations she had with them, later published in her book people with even more costs. Interview with History The household budgets of the (1976) majority, especially those in tory. She felt it was "a novel the low- to moderate-income full of events" and secondhand ju--dgements. She prebracket, are already stretched ferred modern reportage: thin; further erosion in their "Today's history is written the very moment it happurchasing power and reducpens [.] It can be transmittions in real wages will thrust ted immediately through the press, radio, television.' them far beyond breaking point. professional, taped every The upcoming budget and interview. Often though, these precautions were not the financial measures accom- enough. The tapes of her sessions with Israeli leader panying it will determine who Golda Meir mysteriously will bear the ever-increasing disappeared from a locked hotel room in Rome. Col burden of IMF-mandated ad-Qadhafi's detailed mention justments: the elite classes, of their contents made or the hapless majority. The Fallaci suspect him of mas-terminding the theft. She Fallaci suspect him of maswidening gap between the transcribed her notes faithfully but found that some haves and have-nots is already of her interviewees like Gen tearing apart Pakistan's social Giap wanted her to print only their version. She fabric. humoured Giap, and then printed her own report with Unless the government can it. (Her interview with plug this gap, matters will spi-Giap so impressed Dr ral out of control, and it will Kissinger, he agreed to be interviewed by her.) be difficult for politicians and policymakers to deal with the remarks afterwards and demanded that their indiscreensuing chaos. Protests tions should be excised. Dr against economic policies and Kissinger did not share her humour when she quoted high prices are growing and his admission that he saw are not likely to subside withhimself as "an amazing, romantic character [,] the out financial relief. cowboy who rides alone

Climate action as equity

Ali Tauqeer Sheikh How can Pakistan overalities both looked at come the credibility gap Pakistan's real estate secand attract international tor in terms of money climate finance? Our economic managers failed to provide safe, profitable, and attractive opportuni-

ties to 1,700 potential investors in the country who, instead, decided to invest \$12.5 billion in 23,000 residential properties in the UAE alone, according to the Dubai leaks. The leaks have shown the Pakistani investor's fascination with the real estate sector

No other sector has harmed Pakistan's physical environment and the economy as much as real estate, and inversely, no other sector at this point offers a better entry point for economic growth, development, and climate action because of its backward and forward linkages

with more than 40 industries. Our roadmap and seriousness to transform the sector for safe, resilient, and low-carbon human settlements through reforms can potentially serve as Pakistan's equity to access international climate investments.

laundering, terror financing, and tax evasion. The issue is, however, far more complicated. Pakistan's real estate sector has also cannibalised the country's ecosystems, water bodies, and communal lands, resulting in the tragedy of the commons, which has only enhanced our vulnerability to climate disasters. Fertile lands that could promise food security and communal lands for grasses, shrubs and trees necessary for biodiversity and citizens' health have been eaten up by housing societies. There will be 367 million Pakistanis in 2047, 100 years after independence, but human settlements are still growing horizontally, instead of vertically, to add to the fast-expanding urban sprawl. This is further increasing our dependence

on fossil fuels, resulting in greater toxicity in the air. This downward joyride has received unbridled formal and informal sup-

The FATF's grey list all civil and military insti-and the IMF's condition-tutions. Every institution of the informal, undocu-20-25 years. This equals that has any influence has joined the race to get engaged in the real estate business, land grabbing, and speculation, ostensibly to protect the interests of its serving and retired employees. The absence of na-

tional and provincial policy compasses and regulatory arms is made worse by the non-existence of local government institutions and land-use planning mechanisms. Housing societies are condemning our future to maladaptation through their archaic engineering designs, architectural layouts, and construction materials, often in periurban fertile agricultural lands or degraded low-lying areas prone to annual floods. The present drive to have masterplans for urban areas, ring-roads, and and motorways are little

more than plans to facilitate influential housing societies. A study by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics estimated the size of real esport from Pakistan's suc-cessive governments and sector is totally unregu-will need more than 20m lated exposures. State in-Courtesy Dawn

mented economy that is estimated at 64 per cent of the national economy. Looking at the same issue differently, of about \$30bn remitted annually policy objectives? by overseas Pakistanis.

more than half is invested of carbon emissions for in real estate. About 40pc housing or the real estate of real estate projects in sector is not available. Pakistan have reportedly Globally, nearly 40pc of come from the Pakistani carbon emissions come diaspora. Several counfrom this sector and it has tries like the Philippines, begun to play a critical role in efforts to meet the Mexico and India have set goals set in the Paris examples by trying to channelise remittances for Agreement promoting tourism infra-This helps de-risk assets while attracting structure. education. health and other sectors. capital committed to net-Pakistan has the option to zero initiatives — an atattract international intractive proposition for vestments by aligning the Pakistan. sector with national cli-Climate change has

mate resilience and lowincreased the frequency of carbon development obextreme weather events, and poses significant risks jectives Population growth to homeowners in Pakiincreasing stan, particularly the poor urbanisation will inevitaand marginalised. bly lead to long-term presreal estate developers can sure on the construction industry. Cement, alucollaborate to implement potential solutions, inminium, and other polluting industries will undercluding encouraging risk take large-scale construcassessment of properties tion activities as the housand providing transpar-

stitutions need to engage the communities and the 20 cities the size of private sector and play a Islamabad. How can Pakipivotal role in mapping stan afford not to develop climate-related vulnerthe direction of its jourabilities to help homeowners, investors, nev and not to set its and real estate developers The exact percentage make informed decisions.

The real estate sector in Pakistan still has a long way to go before it can adapt to climate threats. Bahria, Defence, Emaar, Graana, Zameen, and leading construction companies can follow global best practices and orge partnerships with global companies that are building analytical capabilities to understand physical and transition risks posed by climate change. With extreme weather events increasing in frequency and severity in Pakistan, they will benefit by taking steps to adapt their operations, including measures such as improving flood de-The government and fences and developing disaster response plans, to climate change. Pakistani companies can also help protect communal lands. avoid high-risk locations and develop climate-resilient building designs.

State Bank's blind spot

Khurram Husain

In its latest State of the Economy report, the State Bank has an interesting chapter on inflation dynamics in Pakistan that is worth a close read. It is an ambitious effort, probably the most ambitious that I have seen so far, to study the determinants of try to discern the relative weight that each of the factors studied has in driving inflation.

But not all ambitions are destined to be fulfilled. Sadly, the effort fails to produce a convincing argument, and for good reason. Part of the borrowings) to inflation the way the authors build their variables before plugging them into their

They start by noting that "[m]ost previous empirical research sug-

"Unlike the previous episode, money supply write. In their model they (excluding budgetary borrowings) has not been a define an expansionary major contributor to infiscal stance as a rising flation in the ongoing epiratio of government borsode, even though its contribution was noticeable in FY18 and FY19. During the peak pandemic years FY20-21, its contribution to inflation decreased compared to the preceding two years, despite growth in private expectations' sector credit amid monetary easing. Following the reversal of monetary policy easing and continuous tightening since FY22, the estimated contribution of money supply (excluding budgetary

has turned negative. This is interesting because it runs against what all previous research has said about inflation in the country, as well as much of what a basic study of the underlying

ticularly after FY21 amid the blind spot of the what happens around but masked under a high fiscal deficits," they author's methodology. As 2017. You will see a near flawed economic policy. a friend put it, this is like the drug dealer saying the problem is the addiction, not the drug.

rowing to FBR revenues. Then they separate money supply, fiscal stance and exchange rate depreciation as distinct variables, along with a few others such as "uncertainty" and "inflation But therein lies a sleight of hand, a blind spot, that their own methodology constructs, yielding up results that don't tell us very much at all. For one, using government borrowing as a ratio of FBR revenues as a proxy is fine, except in

a situation where a significant amount of that borrowing is financed with injections into the banking system of printed money by the State Bank

Another problem arises when studies such as these separate out money supply and exchange rate depreciation. It bears repeating that the exchange is a monetary variable and should not be separated from monetary factors. What is the exchange rate, after all, if nothing more than the price of money? It is the price you have to pay in rupees to procure one unit of foreign currency, whether from the open or the interbank market. That is all. This is not rocket science. Once you understand this, it is easy to see that the exchange rate expresses the movements in the monetary variables and is not an invia long-term Open Mar- dependent variable, sepaperiod, the amount of ratio of net foreign assets and net domestic assets since 2015 to the present, and on the same graph,

one-to-one correlation between the two. As the ratio falls, the price of the dollar rises. Simple. Less foreign currency liquidity in the system versus rupee liquidity means a rise in the price of the dollar. When you have too many rupees chasing too few dollars, the price of the latter rises. I repeat, this is not rocket science.

Yet another problem arises in these kinds of studies that look at correlations between different variables in search of causality. There are sustained periods in Pakistan's economic nal sector situation. timeline where inflationary pressures are dissipated through channels other than the price level. In situations where the government keeps exchange rates artificially fixed, and finances the resultant drain on foreign

During these years what might otherwise be inflation in the country would be dissipated by the trade deficit, putting pressure on the reserves, which might be replenished with borrowed money. The State Bank can consult its own quarterly reports from the period 2014 to 2017 for an example of how this works. In those reports, it repeatedly warned the government that "one-off inflows" of the sort Mr Ishaq Dar was bringing in was no way to finance an otherwise unsustainable exter-

The whole chapter reads like an elaborate exercise by the State Bank to absolve itself of responsibility for the inflationary fire that engulfed the country in the last few years. and that continues to burn today. But what is more important at this point is for the State Bank to ac-

cribe the latest bout of inflation to?

"[T]he prominent these OMOs crossed 20 driver of inflation during per cent of broad money the ongoing episode has supply, but this vast they come to a very difbeen fiscal policy, par- monetary overhang lies in

Deniable truths

into the town with his F.S. Aijazuddin horse"

Fallaci is kinder to Yasser Arafat, accepting his ascetic assertion that he remained a bachelor because he was married to Palest-ine. (He took a second human wife later).

She found nothing to praise in the wily prelate Archbishop Makarios: "He has the gift of survival, gained and regained through fast stepping, contortions, cleverness, cynicism." She catches him out with the recollection of a party (which he attended and enjoyed) featuring "a wild belly dance". He did not deny his earthy observation that "the beauty of a woman is a gift of God".

For many in the sub-Fallaci mistrusted hiscontinent, Fallaci's interviews with Mrs Indira Gandhi in February 1972 (fresh after success in midwifing Bangladesh) and Z.A. Bhutto's impatient riposte in April are riveting even today.

Fallaci recalled that Fallaci, a consummate Kissinger had described Bhutto as "very intelligent, very brilliant", and Mrs Gandhi in a single derogatory word rhyming with rich. She noted Bhutto's opinion of Mujibur Rahman: "A congenital liar [.] He talks at random, depending on his mood and the disorders of his sick mind.

Of Mrs Gandhi, Bhutto had no softer words: "She's a mediocre woman with a me--diocre intelligence [.] A diligent drudge of a schoolgirl, a woman devoid of initiative and imagination." He told Fallaci: "What bothered him was the prospect of an honour gua-rd from the Indian army and physical Others regretted their cont-act with her." (Nevertheless, he shook hands with her at Shimla three

months later.] Bhutto's vanity knew no bounds. An apocryphal story is that in October 1963, president John F. Kennedy met Bhutto. Kennedy told

him: "Too bad you are not American, because if you were, I would have appointed you to my cabinet." Bhutto retorted: "If I was American, I would not be in your cabinet but president of the United States! "What did Mrs

money outstanding under

Gandhi say about me?" he asked Fallaci. Mrs Gandhi had told her: "Bhutto is not a very balanced man. When he talks, you never understand what he means." She resisted the bait in Bhutto's daring suggestion of a confederation with In--dia. In his own interview with Fallaci aft-erwards, Bhutto boa--sted that "if India and Pak-istan were to become confederated

countr-ies, I'd have no trouble in carrying off the post from Mrs Gandhi. I am not afraid of intellectual confrontations with From New Delhi, a

her.

stung Mrs Gandhi asked for a full transcript of the Bhutto interview. A contrite Bhutto immediately sent his ambassador in Rome to persuade Fallaci to 'kill' the interview, to aver that his remarks about Mrs Gandhi had been 'imagined' by Fallaci. She refused. Today, against the backdrop of Narendra Modi's strident BJP chauvinism, Mrs Gandhi's question to Fallaci, even half a century later, remains unbearably poignant: "How is it possible for people [to] kill each other for religion?" She added this humane advice for her successor Modi: "Minorities cannot be eliminated from a country." Modern interviewers could learn from Fallaci's forensic subtlety. While she used a scalpel, they

prefer the hacksaw. Today's media is less a fount of informed disclosure than a noisy abattoir, in which interviewers turn butchers and their subjects become bloodied victims. -- Courtesy Dawn

researcher might be tempted to conclude there is no relationship.

plot the exchange rate over be otherwise. The rela- edies they wish to prothe same period. Notice tionship would be there, pose. -- Courtesy Dawn

than trying to deflect blame. Only after they have done this can we take

In hot & sour soup

lasso,

nationwide.

The English language

food texture. Despite be-

'kurkura' (crunchy), 'phusphusa' (soft),

Shahzad Sharjeel

Sometimes the most innocuous acts, involving seemingly harmless objects, can trigger a torrent of events, washing away the best-laid plans in tides of blood. One of history's worst massacres, the Partition frenzy of 1947 saw the involvement of some Muslims in Amritsar. These violent elements mocked their Lahore counterparts by sending them cribed to Chinese restaugifts of henna and bangles rants. Before the Belt and in the aftermath of RSS attacks; the gift was Road Chop-stick Sphere marked publicised by some news-Chinese influen--ce in

Southeast Asia to the ex-The hyperbole of Pakistan-China relations is summarised in the prologue of Andrew Young's book The China-Pakistan Axis: "The Pakistanis love gion, we, in the subconti-China for what it can do nent, have proudly hung for them, while the Chion to fingers and chamchay to provoke and nese love Pakistanis despite what they do to satiate alternately. themselves." Irrelevant?

On June 24, 2007, the Lal Masjid brigade attacked a Chinese massage parlour in the heart of Islamabad and bundled off seven Chinese nationals to the mosque complex. Tomes have been written a local twist on food carts in favour and against the ensuing military operation. There is never a single reason that dictates policy decisions in such matters. However, one of them could have been the packets of calcium tablets sent by concerned Chinese citizens to its foreign ministry. Among its interpretations was that this was a test of the Communist Party's backbone in the face of threats to its citizens abroad. Food, like religion, is

a big part of culture that have outdone their historipermeates societies as a cal competitor with 444 precursor and a consequence of influence or such words. However, dominance. My first enthey may have cheated a counter with anything Chinese in a middle-class sensations and texture. Karachi neighbourhood in the '70s was a restaurant

named Nanking. How- namesakes of the Tang ever, one had to wait a dynasty capital, Changan. couple of decades to cross However, much earlier, Qingqi had elbowed out the dragon-imprinted threshold of this red edithe Italian Vespa rickshaw fice. Regarding cultural infrom our commutes. fluence, the nondescript Changan is also known for facade of Bundoo Khan its cultural bequeath: the Kebab House on Bandar terracotta army. The Punjabi folk song 'Bol miti Road did not hold a candle to the Chinese eatery's deya baweaa' (speak, you earthen figurine) see-ms to colourful, silken adornbe addressed to our idols ments. The gentrification with clay feet of many neighbourhoods across Pakistan can be as-

It is great that Chinese language centres are sprouting in Pa--kistan. Hopefully so---on, we'll the have you-ngsters proficient in Mandarin and Cant-onese dialects, and be able to pronounce our tent that the erstwhile friends' names better than Champa Sea became we can now. While we are known as the South China at it, we should also Sea. While chopsticks en--courage learning the gai-ned currency in the re- Brahmi scripts in Pakistan

Among the reasons for the British Raj to attack and subjugate Sindh, the least cited is the one The much-abused that the opium foisted on chicken corn soup ushered China was at first mainly in the democratisation of sourced from UP and foreign cuisine in Paki- Bihar. When the stan. By the time we got Maharashtra traders into the hot and sour soup jum-ped into the fray, they into the hot and sour soup of Indo-China and UStried to dodge the USSR geopolitics, corn im--perial tax on opium soup was being sold with export using the Sin-dh coastline, particularly Karachi. Charles Napier was thus assigned by the has 77 words to describe governor general to plug this loophole, and hence the ing gluttons, our languages much-cited but fictional "Peccavi" (I have sinned) cannot throw up more than a dozen or so. Before telegram to the governor feeling offended, readers upon achieving this abomishould try to enrich this list: 'kadak' (crisp), nation. Yesteryear's brothel owners of Karachi's Napier Road 'phusphusa' (soft), 'chipchipa' (sticky), and 'tarbatar' (dripping). The would have protested had they known their neighbourhood was named Chinese language has 144 after him. Israeli atrocities words describing cooked in Gaza have made it next food's outward appear- to impossible for the US ance. Only the Japanese to continue to provide unconditional support to Israel. We need to put our house in order, especially the economy, lest Chinese bit, as their list contains Gen Xiong Guangkai's purported declaration come The little cars zip-ping around our roads are Israel." -- Courtesy Dawn

papers in Lahore, stoking violence there.

Read on

But the facts would seriously the other rem-

Daily _ oice of Masse Independent

Kundi assures to address problems, concerns of tribal people

protection of Sikhs residing

in tribal areas and

punishment to those

involved in target killing of

delegation of his cooperation to solve

problems and suggested

tribal to form a five

member committee for

compiling

that concerns of tribal people would be raised in

available forums while

police department would

be contacted to provide

safety to Sikh community

members. He said that both

provincial and federal

mainstream

The governor assured

(APP): of concerned authorities. PESHAWAR Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi Thursday Faisal highlighted the sacrifices of tribal people for the protection of motherland and said that pledges and promises made to them would be fulfilled.

He was talking to a 120 member delegation of merged areas tribal elders the minorities. at Governor House. The delegation that was led by former federal minister, Sajid Turi included tribal elders from Bajaur, Mohmand, Orakzai, Mohmand, Orakza Kurram and Waziristan.

Governor recommendations. He said The delegation assured resolution of problems and said that their concerns and reservations would be conveyed to relevant authorities for necessary action. He said that a Jirga would be arranged for tribal elders to meet President, and Bilawal Bhutto. He said their problems relating to law and order would be bring them into national resolved with the assistance and cooperation development



KARACHI: Ambassador of Turkiye, Mehmet Paçacý addressing Meet the Press programme of Karachi Press Club.

Sharjeel Memon says; Random drug tests of some students will be conducted

KARACHI Information Sindh Sharjeel Memon has be criticized. If drug test of said random drug tests of any student comes positive some students will be then it does not mean legal

will be kept secret. Talking to a private TV Channel, Sharjeel electricity supply to that Memon said if drug test of consumer who is not any student comes positive paying bill. Punishment be the departed souls and then they will talk to his not given to entire

(Online): matter of drug test in Minister educational institutes will conducted and their names action will be taken



LAHORE: A delegation of Asian Development Bank meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

US, provincial govt launch \$9 million initiative to combat **Tuberculosis in Sindh**

Sindh"

services.

positive change in the lives

of people of Sindh," she

added, emphasising the

importance of joint efforts

First flight carrying 205

students from Kyrgyzstan

arrives Karachi

KARACHI (APP): United primary goal is to provide but I am proud to say, we States of America's expert guidance and are changing that with this resources for Pakistan to Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome, and Sindh effectively tackle TB. Minister for Health and Through direct engagement Population Dr Azra Fazal with affected communities Pechuho launched a and individuals, the collaborative initiative program will tailor authorities would work for aimed at addressing solutions to meet specific provision of basic facilities tuberculosis (TB), a significant health challenge needs. to tribal people and to in Pakistan.

more TB cases in Sindh and This joint effort significantly reduce the between the United States number of people affected and Pakistan signifies a by the disease. Ambassador Blome crucial step forward in

combating this disease. emphasised the strong Funded by the US partnership between the US and the Sindh Agency for International government stating, "Tuberculosis is not just a Development (USAID), the newly launched program, named the disease affecting millions in Tuberculosis Local Organization Network Pakistan, it's an illness that disrupts lives, livelihoods (TB-LON), is an and communities. Pakistan investment of \$9 million ranks fifth among countries over five years. Its

Shafay visits Iranian consulate

to condole demise of Raisi LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for

Industry and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain on Thursday visited the Iranian Consulate to express condolences to the

Acting Iranian Consul General Ali Asghar Moghari on the death of Iranian President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, Iranian foreign minister, and others in a helicopter accident.

The provincial minister offered Fateha for

CM receives first flight of stranded students from Kyrgyzstan KARACHI (APP): The students on board the flight special arrangements made the provincial

government. Talking to the media at Karachi Airport, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said 205 students including 55 girls and 150 boys, have so far been Badin, Dadu, Mirpurkhas relatives of the students returned while the and Jacobabad, 3 from belonging to different cities remaining 180 will soon be from the belong of the students are also belong to different cities remaining the belong to different cities the students are also belong to different cities are also belong to different cities

As many as 205 their condition is stable, Tharparkar.

Despite

being preventable and treatable, groundbreaking \$9 million initiative that will provide TB remains the world's expert guidance and leading infectious disease resources to help eradicate killer, sickening 10.6 TB, exemplifying our million people and taking constant commitment to 1.3 million lives annually and Pakistan ranks fifth amongst high TB burden the resilient people of Dr Pechuho expressed countries.

USAID leads the US appreciation for the government's global TB ongoing support from the US government and reaffirmed the Sindh efforts, working with partners around the world government's commitment including Pakistan, on the to enhancing healthcare shared goals of reaching every person with TB, "We are confident curing those in need of that our joint efforts in treatment, and preventing addressing critical health the spread of new challenges will bring a

infections. USAID prioritizes local community involvement, recognizing its critical role in ensuring sustainable and with the highest rate of TB, in addressing critical health effective outcomes

CM informed.

The CM said out of

205 students who returned

from Kyrgyzstan, 99

belong to Karachi, 22 from

Hyderabad, 13 from Khairpur, 15 from

Naushehro Feroze, 12 each

from Sukkur and

Nawabshah, 5 each from

Federal Ombudsman commends Sindh's prison reforms

Independent Report KARACHI: Federa Qureshi and Chief Secretary Sindh Syed Asif Hyder Shah presided over a meeting regarding prison

ational

ews

talk with their families via video links. The Chief Secretary further stated that 500 acres of land will be allocated for the construction of a new prison in Karachi.

Page

03

This development is expected to alleviate overcrowding issues and improve living conditions for inmates. Furthermore, the budget for providing quality food to prisoners has been significantly increased from 1200 million to 2400 million,

underscoring the commitment to ensuring the well-being of inmates. To strengthen oversight and accountability within the prison system, Chief Secretary Shah announced the formation of 22 oversight committees, each dedicated to monitoring the conditions within a specific prison facility. Highlighting efforts to empower inmates through education and skillbuilding initiatives, it was announced that educational and vocational training programs are being extended to 2824 prisoners



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah receives stranded Pakistani students from Bishkek-Kyrgyzstan on their arrival at Jinnah Terminal.

Govt intensifying efforts for health insurance reforms

LAHORE (APP): The recommendations from experts regarding Universal Punjab government is intensifying efforts to enhance the health insurance programme, aiming to make it more Health Insurance would be presented to Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif. beneficial for people.

Khawaja Imran Nazir, This was stated by Punjab Minister for Primary the departed souls and recorded his condolence remarks in the Visitor's casion. The visitor's remaining 180 will solve the remaining during the third meeting of universal health insurance programme. "We aim to encourage private practice in government hospitals," the minister remarked. He underscored the meeting's primary goal: to improve the universal health insurance programme. He noted that the gathered experts provided valuable insights and suggestions. Key figures in attendance included Secretary Health Punjab Ali Jan Khan, Special Secretary Development Syed Wajid Ali Shah, Vice Chancellor University of Child Health Sciences Professor Dr. Masood Sadiq, and CEO PHIMC Dr. Ali Razzaq, among others. Additionally, Vice Chancellor King Edward Medical University Prof. Mahmood Ayaz and Principal Bahawalpur Medical College Prof. Dr. Sophia Farrukh joined the meeting via video link.

first flight carrying 205 have returned home with stranded students in Kyrgyzstan here arrived at Jinnah International Airport from Bishkek on Thursday morning and was received by Sindh Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah.

TB-LON will treat

The parents and

occasion

Company.

Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed

reforms on Thursday. Senior Advisor to the Ombudsman Anwar Haider, the Secretary of Health, the Inspector General of Prisons and officials from the Home Department attended the meeting. The primary focus of the meeting was to comprehensively assess the current state of prisons across Sindh and devise strategies for their

enhancement and reforms. Chief Secretary Syed Asif Hyder Shah informed the meeting about several key initiatives aimed at enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the province's correctional

facilities. Chief Secretary Sindh said that the provincial government plans to introduce audio and video link systems in all prisons across Sindh. This will enable prisoners to appear in court proceedings and

parents and will ask from mohallah. You cannot the said student who has award punishment to

Book.

Minister discusses steps for completion of Dir Motorway

PESHAWAR (APP): complete project at the Provincial Minister for earliest. It also stressed to Provincial Minister for Communication and Works, Shakil Ahmad here Thursday chaired a meeting to discuss timely completion of Dir motorway.

The meeting was also attended by Managing Director, KP Highways Authority, Assad Ali, Secretary Communication,

Dr Assad Ali, Project Director Dir Motorway, Barkat Ali and concerned officials.

The deliberated various aspects of Dir Motorway and the development and growth measures needed to



LAHORE: CTO Lahore Amara Athar distributing side glasses to motorcyclists in Faisal Chowk of the provincial capital.

KP IGP suspends SHO over maltreatment with senior journalist

the

the

unfortunate incident.

journalist

including

(APP): conveyed the resentment PESHAWAR Inspector General of Police of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa community over the (KP) Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur on Thursday ordered the suspension of SHO Gulbahar Śhakirullah Afridi for misbehaving with senior journalist Saiful Islam Safi and putting him behind bars despite

proving his identity. The IGP issued the of community was valuable in instruction of suspension highlighting the security of the SHO in a meeting issues. He vowed that no with President Peshawar police official would be allowed to misbehave with Press Club Arshad Aziz Malik here at the Central anyone, Police Office. The latter journalists.

utilize resources for project completion and directed steps to ensure quality of work.

Speaking on the occasion, provincial minister said that project that include 6.2 kilometer tunnel would be completed with an estimated cost of Rs. 49 billion.

directed He authorities to take steps for project initiation with in two week adding that meeting motorway would open avenues new 01

kills mother of

PESHAWAR (APP): In a gruesome attack, a wild bear killed a woman in the

Thursday. Police said the unfortunate incident occurred in the Juggan area where an enraged wild bear attacked and killed the mother of three children. The relatives of the deceased woman staged a protest demonstration in front of the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Office and demanded action against the responsible officials.

Talking to the protestors, DSP Balakot Syed Murad Ali Shah. Information was Circle, Muhammad Farood said after the identification exchanged with the officers of Public Health, Forest of the responsible wildlife Department and other officials, legal action will be departments informing the meeting, Director General, Urban initiated against them. He asked the protesting and Regional Policy Imtiaz people to remain calm saying that no one was Bhatti said that under the above the law and they master plan, the problems of the city such as water will be provided justice at all cost. supply,

proposed master plan of Nawabshah city was held on Thursday in the Darbarhal of the Deputy Commissioner's office. Public representatives of the city and district officers participated in the seminar to plan for the development of the city under the master plan on

development of city HYDERABAD (APP): A environmental pollution seminar about the health, education and proposed master plan of traffic problems will be

Seminar held on

planning for

LAHORE: Provincial Ministers Khawaja Salman Rafique and Khawaja Imran

Nazir preside over the meeting of Punjab Health Initiative Management

development. Master plan is being drawn up for Larkana, Islamkot,Nosharoferoz, Sanghar, Mirpur Khas, Umarkot, Mithi, Thatta, Badin, Sajawal, Tando the instructions of the Chief Minister of Sindh Mohammad Khan. Tandwalhiyar, Matiari, Dadu and Jamshoro and all relevant stakes before provincial Cabinet for

approval and notification. The DG further said while that a master plan will also be prepared for 12 more cities of Sindh through Annual Development Plan (ADP) schemes on behalf of the Directorate of Urban Planning. drainage,

Three killed in road accident DG KHAN (APP): City Police Taunsa Sharif registered a case against three nominated and two unknown accused after sa incident of death of thre people including a kid int sewerage manhole i Taunsa Sharif last night an

arrested three outlaws. The case wa registered against th accused on the applicatio of Assistant Commissione Taunsa Azhar Tariq.

The two contractor Khurram Saeed, Qari Saee and Municipal officer/ su engineer Fazal Elahi wer nominated and tw unknown farmers wer found guilty in the tragi incident. Commissione DG KHAN Division D Nasir Mahmood Bash took notice of the incider and directed DC DG Kha Shahid Zaman Lak to reac the spot. DC launched a inquiry. Police hav arrested two contractor and sub engineer Faza

Elahi

are said to be injured but Kandhkot, Panoaqil and working group on health insurance, held at the Punjab Health Initiative Management Company (PHIMC) on Thursday. ministers The

reviewed ongoing reforms and discussed future strategies for the health insurance sector. Punjab Minister for Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Khawaja Salman Rafique emphasised the need to address existing flaws in the programme. We are striving to increase the capacity of government hospitals," he stated. He highlighted the government's efforts to enhance the financial model of the health insurance programme, stressing that the primary focus remains on patients utilising government hospital services. He also mentioned that the final

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Paind Khan with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Ms. Bib Yasmeen taizen number 5440059427874 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. I.Paind Khan (Father) On the above application the objections of public at large are nvited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen hid days after publication of this notice.	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Bibi Rubina with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Ms. Bibi Maryam citizen number 5440003853078 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Bibi Rubina (Daughter) 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 of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Alam Khatoon with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Usman citizen number 5440005287035 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Alam Khatoon (Spouse) 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.
NCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA QUETTA-SFU	INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA QUETTA-SFU	INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA QUETTA-SFU
PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Babar Ali with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Mr. Gull Wuhammad citizen number 5440004834367 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1. Chazail Gul (Daughter) 2. Kanwal Gull (Daughter) 3. Kainat Gul (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. NCHARGE SFU. NADRA MEGA OUETRASFU	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Samina Mushtaq with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed citizen number 5440016027457 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Aisha Mushtaq (Daughter) 3.Samina Mushtaq (Daughter) 3.Samina Mushtaq (Spouse) 4.Muhammad Zahid (Son) 5.Muhammad Zahid (Son) 5.Muhammad Zahid (Son) 0. On the above application the objection of submission of objection (f any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. NOFLARCE_SEU_NADRA MEGA	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Farzana Aslam with regards to moveable & immoveable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Islam Qureshi citizen number 5440003874935 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Farzana Aslam (Daughter) 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. INCHARGE SFU. NADRA MEGA QUETTA-SFU PID (I) No.7240/23



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi talking to a 120 member delegatio of merged areas tribal elders at Governor House

provided him drug. Sharjeel Memon said consumers collectively. K-Electric should improve its " I know that initially the performance.

Speaking on the occasion, Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said that he is deeply grieved over the death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, and others in the helicopter accident, and

that every Pakistani is deeply saddened by this tragic incident. The whole Pakistani nation equally shares the grief of their Iranian brothers and sisters. They stand with the grieving

Iranian nation in this hour of grief and sorrow. Wild bear

three children

in Balakot

Juggan area of Balakot tehsil of Mansehra on

Daily **Independent**, Quetta

Houses

Naqvi presides meeting,

directs NADRA to make

national registration policy

PM says in UAE to seek joint investments, not loans

Expresses resolve to transform economy through collaboration with UAE

ABU DHABI (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Thursday he was on a day-long visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) not to seek loans but to explore opportunities for joint investment and collaboration that would pave the way for "mutual benefits" for both nations.

Addressing a round-table session "Innovate Together: UAE-Pakistan Tech Collaborations," in Abu-Dhabi today, the Pa-kistani Prime Minister said the government is fully focusing on how to promote information technology, and artificial intelligence in various sectors of Pakistan's economy, including agriculture, mines and minerals, and industry to enhance exports.

Shehbaz Sharif has said that he had broken the begging bowl as no nation had ever achieved prosper-

ity through the begging delegation amid a concerted bowl or aid rather through sacrifice and hard work.

"Gone are the days when I will go to a brotherly country with a begging bowl. I have broken that bowl. The bowl will lead us nowhere. When was the last time that a country pros-pered through aid and today, Thursday. The UAE is one of bowls? Only the nations Pakistan's closest allies and made their mark and left inhas frequently bailed out

the South Asian country, joining Saudi Arabia and delible footprints through sacrifice, hard work, sweat China in rolling over bil-lions of dollars of loans to and blood," he told the roundtable conference. Pakistan last year to help it This event was organized by Pakistan Software clinch a last-gasp deal with the International Monetary Association (P@SHA) and Pakistan Fund (IMF) and avoid a Software Export Board (PSEB) in collaboration sovereign debt default. The UAE is Pakistan's with Ministry of Informa-tion Technology and Tele-

third-largest trading partner, after China and the United States. Policymakers in Pacommunication and Pakistan Embassy in Abu Dhabi. Shehbaz Sharif arkistan consider the Gulf state an optimal export desrived in Abu Dhabi on tination due to its geographi-Thursday with a high-level cal proximity.

push by Pakistan to seek foreign investment as it navigates a challenging path to economic recovery. Sharif is scheduled to meet UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi later

> to boost economy: Qaiser ISLAMABAD (APP): In a continued effort to boost economic growth and streamline trade operations, a follow-up meeting was

convened under the chairmanship of Federal Minister Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Thursday. As per the directives of the prime minister, this was the second important meeting in a series, focused on enhancing measures to increase business activity through "Gwadar Port" and sought proposals from stakeholders, said a press elease issued here.

The key stakeholders including representatives from the Ministry of Mari-time Affairs (KPT, PQA, GPA, KoFHA, PNSC) Commerce, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of National Food Security, Ports

Plans to upgrade port facilities, including the expansion of storage capacities and the modernization of loading and unloading

equipment, were also re-

QUETTA: A delegation of Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) led by

central General Secretary Abdul Rahim Ziaratwal meeting with Governo

viewed in the discussion the discussion session. The discussions censession. These improvetered around optimizing ments aim to reduce turnthe port's operational caaround times and increase pacity, improving infrathe volume of goods structure, and implementhandled. The meeting emphasized the need for more ing efficient customs procedures to facilitate smooth efficient customs processimport and export proing. Steps to integrate advanced digital tracking sys-The minister said that tem and streamline bureauwe are gathered to work cratic procedures were also out a comprehensive plan discussed to ensure faster in making Gwadar Port a

clearance of goods. The potential of pivotal hub in Pakistan's trade network according to granting industrial status to the dynamic vision of the fisheries sector was prime minister. By addiscussed recognizing its dressing the challenges and importance in boosting implementing strategic imeconomic activity and provements, we are poised exports as there has been to enhance our import and a considerable increase export capabilities, which in fish export over the will have far-reaching benlast year making it the third efits for the entire country. in the list of top expo items

This status would provide the sector with various incentives, enhancing its growth and contri bution to the economy.

Speaker summons

QESCO CEO on

issue of electricity

in Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Speaker

Captain (Retd) Abdul

Khaliq Achakzai sum-

moned the Chief Executive

Officer of Quetta Electric-

The Speaker sum-

QESCO to appear for ex-

plaining the situation of

load shedding in his cham-

ber after Jumma prayer

today.

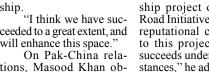
Balochistan Assembly

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan and the United served that the relationship was productive, adding States are engaged in pro-moting shared objectives China is not at expense of through a dialogue process and working on an agenda that is mutually beneficial our friendship with the United States. for the two countries, Amstan Economic Corridor bassador Masood Khan has (CPEC) project "very sig-

"We are looking towards the future with confidence," the Pakistani envoy said in an interview with China Global Television Network-America's new show, The Heat. The two countries, he

said, had worked on "perception management" which was critical after the "messy" war on terror, and using the space available given the geostrategic complexities of the region to build a stand-alone relation-

ship. "I think we have succeeded to a great extent, and will enhance this space." On Pak-China rela-





Hameed Khan Durrani is addressing a function organized by Voice of Balochistan held at Balochistan University of Information Technology, **Engineering and Management Sciences** (BUITEMS) in Quetta.

CM assures to review increase in annual grant of Quetta **Bar Association**

Bugti announces to make old Baldia Tea House Quetta hub of literary activities after it's restoration

outside the High court and other subordinate courts in Quetta. ister Balochistan, Mir

Besides, the directives have also been issued to Commissioner Quetta for settling the matter of rent of offices of the lawyers located in the Baldia plaza The Chief Minister through mutual talks. He was speaking to a represen- also assured that the provision of basic facilitie

ing. Apart from Karachi Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta Islamabad, and Rawalpindi Multan had been decided to be included in this plan. The plan should be finalized and implemented in the next few days, so that people could avoid unnecessary rush and hassle, said

the Interior Minister. NADRA counters should also be started in service centers for the convenience of the people, he directed.

Home Minister's visits and subsequent measures

Enhancement in sugar price is not acceptable at any cost: PM

Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has said hike in sugar prices is not acceptable at any cost.

'The decision to export additional sugar will be made by Economic Coordination Committee (ECC). A special meeting was

held under PM Shehbaz related to export of sugar PM was told that

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi chairing a meeting regarding and Shipping members of Quetta & Lahore Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders also attended

SLAMABAD (Online):

Sharif to review the matters PM was briefed if crushing is not started then sugar mills will become bankrupt.

about 40 sugar mills are near to be shut in next seahave reduced the waiting son due to financial probtime from 120 minutes to lems. 75 minutes, Mohsin Naqvi PM was told in the was informed in a briefing. briefing that sugar mills However, the minister dipaid Rs 760 billion out of rected measures to further 800 billion to growers of



Friday May 24, 2024

Pakistan, US working to promote mutually beneficial ties: Masood

said

nificant", the ambassador said that after completing early harvest projects, the two countries realized that the mega project should also have a holistic programme, including investments in tourism, tech-

nology, vocational training. agriculture and people-topeople exchanges. "Up to now we've al-ready disbursed about \$25 billion and by 2030, we will be able to complete the re-

'Our relationship with

Terming China-Paki-

ship project of Belt and Road Initiative, so we have reputational commitment to this project so that it

maining projects," he said. "Since it is the flag-

succeeds under all circum-stances," he added.

cause union council has the status of foundation and access of NADRA to Union Councils is necessary in this connection. He said that the policy will make citizen's registration transparent and foolproof.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Federal Interior Minister

Mohsin Naqvi while pre-

siding over a review meet-

ing regarding National Da-

tabase Registration Author-

ity (NADRA) on Thurs-

day directed to make Na-

tional Registration Policy.

ing said that authenticity of

identity card and citizenship

is of utmost importance,

therefore, a comprehensive

policy should be evolved in

this regard. He also directed

to develop consensus of all

provinces on this policy be-

The minister in a meet-

The new policy will also prevent illegal registration of citizenship, due to which the issue of releasing identity cards and passports to foreigners came to light, the minister said. The plan to increase NADRA centers in six major cities was also reviewed in a meet-



General

the meeting

OUETTA: Voice for Baloch Missing Persons Leaders, Mama Qadeer along with others addressing to media persons during press conference, in Quetta.

Pakistani Hujjaj's "Advanced Caravans" get high-tech escort from Madinah to Makkah

to

of Žilhajj.

Dr Shahid added.

ing from Madinah, bring-

ing Pakistani Hajj pilgrims

Mukarramah, the final

Makkah

MAKKAH AL-MUKARRAMAH (APP): :Pakistan is utilizing a Live Bus GPS tracking system for the first time to monitor the movement of Hajj pilgrims' caravans arriving in Makkah after offering 40 prayers at Masjid-e-Nabvi (SAW) during their eight-day stay in Madinah.

"This innovative approach aims to ensure a seamless and timely journey for the pilgrims,' Incharge of the Madinah Departure Cell Dr Shahid Ur Rehman Marth told APP in an interview.

A dedicated team, he said, of highly skilled professionals were monitoring the 100 percent movement

reduce waiting time. sugar cane in this running At present NADRA season. Mills have yet to registration is 85% of the pay Rs 40 billion to cultitotal population, the vators in current season. minster was briefed.

Secretary Interior Khurram Ali Agha, Chair-Fateha offers for departed souls of man NADRA Lieutenant Mohammad Iranian President. Munir Afsar and senior officers also participated in companions in

BA session **Independent Report**

of Quetta.

QUETTA (APP): General Secretary of Pakistan QUETTA: The fateha was offered for the departed Peoples Party (PPP)'s Usta souls of Iranian President, Muhammad, Ebrahim Raisi and other Qudratullah Jamali met Provincial Health Minister dignitaries died in the Helicopter crash, here in the session of Balochistan As-Balochistan Sardarzada Faisal Khan Jamali in sembly on Thursday after-Quetta on Thursday. noon. The

Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul matters of mutual interest were discussed in detail during the meeting. Khaliq Achakzai was in the chair at session. general secretary of PPP's

Earlier, the session re-Usta Muhammad, Dr sumed around an hour late Qudratullah Jamali infrom the scheduled time afformed the minister about ter two days break. the problems being faced by

Governor takes notice of abduction of

child from **Muslim Bagh**

convergence destination Independent Report for the obligatory acts of UETTA: The Governor Hajj starting from the 8th Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Currently, around 80-Khan Mandokhail has taken 85 buses operate daily be-tween Madinah alnotice of the kidnapping of four-year old boy from

Muslim Bagh area. Munawwarah and Makkah The Governor has dial-Mukarramah, covering a 450-kilometer distance in rected the Inspector General of police, Abdul Khaliq approximately 8-9 hours, Sheikh and district admin-He said the live moniistration to take immediate toring enabled the team to measures for safe recovery track the journey, including stopovers at Miqat Dhu al-?ulayfah (Masjid ash-Shajarah) to enter the Ihram, and the rest areas

of the child namely Rehan Khan son of Muhammad Rahim. It may be mentioned here that Rehan Khan was abducted from Killi Karezgai area of Mus-

Independent Report Agha, here at the Governor House on Thursday. QUETTA: The Governor During the course of Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar

Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Governor assures to resolve

issues of Quetta traders

Khan Mandokhail has asmeeting, the issues being faced by the shopkeepers sured that every possible and traders were discussed cooperation would be ex-The Governor was aptended to resolve the issues being faced by the traders prised about the increase in

fares of different markets, incidents of theft and The Governor was speaking to the delegation of traders who called on him under the leadership of President Anjuman Tajran Balochistan, Abdul Rahim situation of the city.

ty Supply Company (QESCO) on the situation dacoities in Circular road of electricity load shedding and other areas due to nonin the province, in his availability of street lights chamber today (Friday) and the poor cleanliness moned the CEO of

Dr Jamali calls on provincial health minister

Muhammad area

Dr.

Political situation and

On this occasion, the

the people of the area. Provincial Health Min-

ister Sardarzada Faisal

Khan said that provincial

The Provincial Minisgovernment under the lead-ership of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti ter Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa pointed out that long hours load shedding o was taking measures to adelectricity is going on in dress public problems at their doorsteps. He said that protection Naseerabad and Jaffarbad Therefore, the QESCO Chief may be summoned in of life and property of the

the assembly over the iscitizen was the top priorsue of electricity, he ity of the government. pleaded. He said that he was try-

ing to improve quality of health services at district **PCG** seizes large level in the province so that quantities of drugs, contraband

significant operation, the Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG) have successfully intercepted and seized a substantial quantity of drugs, betel nuts, and other contraband items during routine road checks in Balochistan. The seizures occurred on passenger buses traveling from Quetta to Karachi and a vehicle on the Jiwani Coastal Highway.

spokesperson, the first major bust involved the recovery of 9 kilograms of hashish from a passenger coach. In another op eration, PCG personnel confiscated 4700 kilolion from already approved budgeted allocation, to pay gas bills of Pakistan Steel Mill (PSM). The Committee also grams of mixed betel nuts considered the summary of Finance Division to make amendfrom a different passenger coach on the same exports. Similarly, the ECC considered and approved proroute.

In a separate incident during a routine check on the Jiwani Coastal High way, the PCG found 680 cartons of cigarettes and 45 bags of gutka in a single-cabin vehicle.

The Pakistan Coast Guards have taken custody of the recovered three-day camp, where thousands of patients from hashish, betel nuts, ciga rettes, and gutka, initiat far-off areas were examined. ing legal action against and received free medicines those involved

Ouetta Bar Association who called on him here at the CM's secretariat on Thursday. The President QBA,

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Min-

Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has

assured that the govern-

ment would review the in-

crease in annual grant of

Quetta Bar Association

(QBA).

Qari Rehmatullah Advocate led the delegation. The Chief Minister said that the necessary directives have been issued to

be ensured in the Baldia plaza. He said that two elevators would be installed after establishing a restaurant in the rooftop of the Baldia plaza. The Chief Minister also announced to make the old Baldia Tea House hub of literary activities after its restoration.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti expressing his views during Balochistan Assembly session.

OGDCL, Al-Shifa Eye **Trust Hospital hold free** medical, surgical camp

By Rafiullah Mandokhail and glasses. ZHOB: Oil and Gas Development Company Limited under its Corporate Social Responsibility programme and Al-Shifa Eye Trust

Hospital organized a three-

According to the OPD data, 2294 patients have been screened and provided them free medicines and glasses, while 220 cataract surgeries have also been carried out during the day free eye medical and



dering town Zhob. Thousands of patients suffering from eve ailment benefited from the camp set up at the district headquarters civil hospital. Assistant Commissioner Zaheer Ahmed Zehri flanked by the Regional Director OGDCL Ikramullah Kasi, camp supervisor Abdul Jabbar Memon, Ageel Khoso and general secretary Para medical staff association Qasim Khan Mandokhail inaugurated the camp. Prominent ophthalmologists and surgeons participated in the

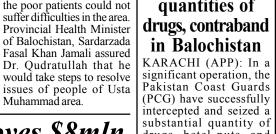
Regional Director OGDCL Ikramullah Kasi told journalist Rafiullah Mandokhail that OGDCL in collaboration with Al-Shifa Eye Trust Hospital organizes free eye camps in different remote parts of Balochistan, with the aim at providing free eye care services to the poor and needy patients belong to the marginalized communities.

'Besides free examination of patients in the camp, cataract surgeries are also performed. Those pa-tients who cannot afford the medical expenses in adjacent districts have fully taken advantage of the free camp" he said



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ments in policy for equity investment abroad to facilitate IT



would take steps to resolve issues of people of Usta

According to a PCG

ECC approves \$8mln for Roosevelt Hotel ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Thursday approved \$8 million to pay severance packages and operational expenses of the Roosevelt Hotel.

Ministry of Aviation presented a summary to allow the utilization of \$8 million available with National Bank of Pakistan to pay severance and other operational ex-penses of Roosevelt Hotel. The meeting was met under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, said a news release. The ECC also allowed the request of Industries and Production Division for the release of Rs. 2,159.53 mil-