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QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail being about law and order situation in the province

Overall law & order situation satisfactory in 8 divisions & 36 districts: Establishment of sustainable peace inevitable for political stability & economic dev: Governor Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has categorically stated that establishment of sustainable peace is inevitable for the political stability and economic development. He said that there is a key role of owners of mines and minerals in economy and trade of the province. If all traders especially mines and minerals owners were not provided complete protection, then other sectors may also be affected. Therefore, the living standard of the people would be raised by improving law and order, promoting economic activities and protecting traders' community, but new opportunities of livelihood would also be available to the people. The Governor was of

the view that the overall law and order situation is satisfactory in all eight divisions and 36 districts of the province, but still there is a need to take some more steps in this regard. He also stressed the need to establish strong coordination among the law enforcement agencies to cope with the terrorism in the province including Quetta. The Governor was speaking during the briefing conducted on the latest situation of law and order in the province, here on Monday. Those who were present on the occasion were: Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem, Inspector General of police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, Principal Secretary to Govern-

nor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat and Director General Levies, Naseebullah Kakar and others. The Governor on the occasion expressed concern over increasing crimes in urban areas of the province for comprehensive strategy is needed. Taking notice of the incidents of increasing street crimes, traffic issues in the provincial capital, the Governor directed to the district administration to take result-oriented steps for bringing improvement in the situation. He strongly believed that the protection of life and property of the people and elimination of crimes can open up the avenues of sustainable peace and development in the province.

Big relief for PTI

Imran, Qureshi acquitted in cipher case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has acquitted PTI founder Imran Khan and former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi in cipher case. Rigorous imprisonment of 10 years each was awarded to Imran Khan and Shah Mehmood Qureshi on January 30 this year. Appeal was filed against this conviction in IHC. Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamir Farooq announced short order. Barrister Suleman Safdar counsel for PTI founder said Azam Khan gave cipher to PTI founder. There are no documents in this regard. This is responsibility of prosecution to prove. Law is very clear. Decisions of Supreme Court are there. Prosecution has to discharge this obligation. The CJ IHC Aamir Farooq inquired has prosecution nothing more than the statement of Azam Khan. Prosecution case had

been easy when they would have presented copy of cipher in the court. Justice Mian Gulhasan Aurangzeb remarked why one man is imprisoned in jail on the misplacement of a paper. It is pertinent to note that two cases were registered against Imran Khan, Shah Mehmood and other leaders in Golra police station in 2022. Earlier, former PM Imran Khan was acquitted in two May 9 cases. Violent clashes were broken out across Pakistan after former prime minister Imran Khan was arrested on May 9, 2023. The protests were held in remote and major cities as the party workers were agitated due to their chairman's arrest, with Balochistan, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad summoning the armed forces to ensure law and order. Army installations, including Corps Commander's house in Lahore, had come under attack during the protests by

PTI workers. It is pertinent to mention that the PTI founder is named as main accused in all the May 9 riots cases. Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub hailed the verdict and called for their immediate release. "A big day for the leader and the party. A fake, frivolous and fraudulent case is sent packing by IHC. Other cases will also meet their Waterloo soon. Khan will step out of Adiala as the undisputed leader of a resurgent nation. Congratulations everyone," said PTI spokesperson Raouf Hasan. Talking to the media, PTI leader Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said: "The nation saw today that the just verdict came and the banner of justice was held high and that baseless case was eliminated in which Imran Khan spent around 10 months in jail and for which he was kept in jail all the time.

Barrister Aqeel Malik says Cipher case a reality which cannot be denied

Spokesperson says prosecution to decide on challenging verdict. Govt, army to never compromise on national security ISLAMABAD (Agencies): After the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and Vice-Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi got relief from the Islamabad High Court (IHC) in cipher case, a federal government's spokesperson on legal affairs said on Monday that the courts should be "mindful" of national security while deciding on the sensitive matters. Barrister Aqeel Malik, the federal government's spokesperson for legal affairs, stated this while addressing a press conference in Islamabad shortly after the IHC acquitted the top PTI leaders in the cipher case. In a major relief to the embattled former ruling party, the IHC annulled Imran and Qureshi's conviction in the infamous cipher case containing charges of misusing and misplacing the classified diplomatic document. "Detailed verdict of the case is due to arrive," Barrister Malik said, insisting that the cipher case was a "reality" which cannot be denied. He said that the former prime minister waved a classified document at a public gathering, whereas, then-principal secretary Azam Khan also confessed about a "missing copy of the cipher".



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister, Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani addresses during seminar on Provincial Assessment of Students Learning organized by Balochistan Assessment and Examination Commission (BAEC) held at local hotel in Quetta.

Highlighting historic decrease in inflation, Tarar reaffirms govt's commitment to revive economy

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Monday termed a historic and record decrease in inflation a positive indicator for the country and reaffirmed the government's commitment to work hard till the complete revival of the economy. Addressing a press conference here at the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Secretariat at Model Town, the federal minister said, "The inflation rate has dropped to 11 percent during this month beyond expectations, as reported by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics while Bloomberg, Asian Development Bank, UNDP, World Bank and other international departments are also acknowledging progress of Pakistan's economy and also see it on right direction".



Attaullah Tarar highlighted the government's tireless efforts from day one, focusing on the economy, leading to several positive outcomes. "These include a significant drop in inflation, lower fuel prices, unprecedented growth in the stock exchange, increased foreign reserves, enhanced direct investment, and record tax collection by the Federal Board of Revenue," he

added. He expressed optimism about Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's upcoming historic visit to China with a delegation of approximately 100 businessmen. Tarar anticipates fruitful B2B meetings, business conferences, and the signing of agreements, which he believes will further bolster the country's stability. To a question about China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Tarar praised the historical rapid pace of work on CPEC projects during Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's tenure, highlighting the commendable role of Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the then Chief Minister of Punjab, in ensuring their swift completion. He ensured these projects would be completed with more pace.

PM directs immediate abolishment of Pak PWD

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed for immediate dissolution of the Pakistan Public Works Department (Pak PWD) due to years' long poor performance and corruption. The prime minister issued the directive during a high level meeting held on reducing the government expenditures and the size of its infrastructure, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. During the meeting, the prime minister observed that the Pak PWD as a department had failed to achieve its objectives and asked for an alternate mechanism for the development projects which were tasked to it. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahsan Khan Cheema, PM's Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jehanzeb Khan and other relevant senior officials.

Those attacking anti-polio team are enemies of safe future of our children: Zia Langove

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has condemned the incident of firing at the anti-polio team in Chaman. In a condemnation issued here on Monday, the Provincial Minister Home has issued directives to take stern action against the elements involved in the attack at anti-polio team in the border town. He said that those attacked the anti-polio team are enemies of safe future of our children. Mir Ziaullah Langove said that the extremist elements have been involved in the attacks at anti-polio teams. He said that these elements want to create chaos and harass the people through such cowardly acts. He prayed for early recovery of those injured in the attack at anti-polio team and said that best medical treatment is being provided to them.

PM's China visit to become a milestone in bilateral relations: Chinese ambassador

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong said on Monday that under the guidance of two leadership and strong support from the people of both countries, the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China would achieve complete success and become a milestone in the development of China-Pakistan relations. The ambassador in an interview with APP, a day before the prime minister's five-day visit from June 4-8, 2024 to China, said that all preparatory works had entered the final stage, and discussions on Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were in progress. At the invitation of Premier Li Qiang, Prime Minister Shehbaz will pay an official visit to China. This is his first visit to China after assuming the office this year. Highlighting the components of the visit, he said the prime minister would meet and have talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Zhao Leji. The leaders will have an in-depth exchange of views on China-Pakistan relations and issues of mutual interest, and jointly draw up a blueprint for the growth of bilateral relations. In addition to Beijing, the prime minister will visit Guangdong and Shaanxi. "China stands ready to work with Pakistan through this visit to make greater progress in our all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and take new steps in building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new



era," the envoy remarked. Calling China and Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partners and ironclad friends, he said "Our friendship has stood the test of time and remained rock-solid and—to use a Chinese expression—"steady as Mount Tai." He said in recent years, both countries had close high-level exchanges, conducted fruitful and high-quality cooperation on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and maintained sound communication and coordination in international and regional affairs. Regarding CPEC, he said the landmark BRI project brought a total of US \$25.4 billion in direct investment, 236000 jobs, 510km of highways, more than 8000 megawatts of electricity and 886km of

core transmission network, generating a strong impetus to Pakistan's economic and social development. Under the second phase of CPEC, he said both countries would implement the important consensus reached by their leaders including the strengthening synergy of development strategies and policy coordination and accelerate progress on mega projects including upgradation of ML-1, the Gwadar Port and realignment of Karakoram Highway Phase II. Moreover, the two countries will strengthen cooperation in industry, agriculture, mining, new energy, information technology and other fields based on local conditions and further negotiate and promote trade liberalization.

Coal mine company Manager, contractor among 11 persons suffocated to death in Sanjdi

Independent Report QUETTA: At least 11 persons including a Manager of private coal mine company, contractor and nine mine workers died due to suffocation in a coal mine located in Sanjdi mine field near Quetta on Monday evening. The Chief Mines Inspector Abdul Ghani confirmed the casualties occurred due to the suffocation after poisonous gas filled in the coal mine while they were busy in mining

activity. He said that the bodies of all dead persons have been retrieved from the affected coal mine. The coal mine has also been sealed, he added. The Chief Mines Inspector further informed that the bodies of the ill-fated mine workers are being dispatched to their native areas. He said that the deceased mine workers belonged to Sawat area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Meanwhile, the

spokesman, Government of Balochistan, Shahid Rind said that the preliminary report of the Mines and Mineral Development regarding the coal mine mishap has been received. According to the report, the poisonous gas was spread in the coal mine which caused suffocation and death of 12 persons including a contractor and Mines Manager. Shahid Rind said that the incident was occurred in coal mine of a private mines company.



QUETTA: Relatives of missing persons are holding protest demonstration for recovery of their loved one, at Quetta press club.

Daily Voice of Masses
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Large projects again?

The PML-N is back with its signature infrastructure development model, which has been responsible for much of our economic crisis.

While setting an ambitious national development programme target of over Rs3tr for FY25, including a federal PSDP of Rs1.2tr, to pursue a growth rate of 3.6pc, the planning ministry is reported to have opposed the finance ministry's proposal to cut development spending to meet IMF goals. How the lender—with whom Islamabad is negotiating a larger and longer bailout to shore up its international reserves and unlock international funding—will react to the proposals will soon become apparent.

The next budget will be part of the prior actions required by the IMF and key to a staff-level agreement for a new Fund programme. The planning ministry has also disregarded the fact that the current cash crunch may force the country to slash its PSDP estimates going forward and hold back funds for the proposed projects in order to meet Fund conditions—projects that only add to the existing development throw-forward of above Rs9.8tr.

The PSDP for the outgoing fiscal year has been reduced to Rs717bn from the original estimate of Rs950bn due to fiscal constraints as well as to create space for a primary surplus of 0.4pc of GDP to meet the most important condition of the last IMF programme. The proposed PSDP focuses on energy, transport and water projects, but it is not yet clear whether the government plans to complete the ongoing schemes or start new ones.

Considering our current financial condition, the growth target of 3.6pc appears overly ambitious. The Planning Commission itself has stated that growth prospects are subject to “political stability, exchange rate stability on the back of improvement in external account and external inflows, macroeconomic stabilisation under the IMF's programme and expected fall in global oil and commodity prices”.

Likewise, an inflation target of 12pc for the next fiscal year may also be missed by a wide margin because of taxation measures, such as a 1pc increase in consumption tax to 19pc and a hike in taxes on petrol—to be included in the budget and the IMF's exchange rate depreciation projections.

The government's high indebtedness and its growing expenditure on debt servicing has put pressure on the upcoming budget, especially with the economy and private investment grinding to a halt. Any further fiscal slippages and succumbing to the temptation to showcase “progress and recovery” through large but deferrable infrastructure projects will worsen the situation.

The current state of the economy demands that the government focus on debt sustainability by curtailing its spending and mobilising more resources through the expansion of its tax base. The public has already paid dearly for the rulers' fiscal profligacy in recent years.

Global gangsters

Zarrar Khuhro

Remember the letter written by six judges of the Islamabad High Court alleging interference by intelligence agencies and state actors? The list of complaints included allegations of illegal surveillance of the judges and their families—presumably in the hopes of uncovering compromising material—all the way to direct and indirect threats. None of this came as a huge surprise to those who know how the system works, nor is the subsequent campaign waged against those judges unexpected. Most of us, I presume, simply shook our heads and said something to the effect of ‘this is Pakistan, this is just how things are’, and moved on with a lingering sense of shame at how impure our land is and how embarrassing it must be for the world to see all this. What would they think?

If you're one of those people, I have some good news for you: we are not alone. No, sir! The fact is that the entire world is rotten to the core. In fact, we're amateurs; the smallest of fries when compared to the truly global gangsters who play on a much wider international stage. Literally. In the sense that the court they tried to compromise is no less than the International Criminal Court (ICC) itself.

A detailed investigation by The Guardian and Israel's 972 magazine has unveiled a decade-long operation by Israel to undermine, intimidate and compromise the ICC itself; the operation was led by then Mossad chief Yossi Cohen with the full personal approval of Benjamin Netanyahu and the complete support of “the highest branches of Israel's government, the intelligence community, and both the civilian and

military legal systems”.

The mission was to derail a possible war crimes investigation into Israel by the ICC, and then head of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, wasn't playing ball, and America wanted him to step down. Bustani refused, and that's when US official John Bolton threatened him, saying: “We have ways to retaliate against you... we know where your kids live. You have two sons in New York.”

Over at the ICC, Be--n--souda was replaced by Karim Khan, whose appointment Israel initially welcomed. Karim also seemed to be playing ball with the Empire by ensuring that a war crimes investigation in Afghanistan did not focus on American actions. But then he went and completed the task Bensouda had begun despite the pressure the likes of which we can only imagine; in a recent interview he alluded to that pressure saying that he had been told by a Western diplomat that the ICC was for Africa and “thugs like Putin”, and not, naturally, for the sainted leaders of the ‘Free World’.

Consider that this is just what we know, and imagine the kind of tactics these states and leaders have and continue to use to further their blood-soaked imperial interests. Also consider that, after the investigation was published, a Haaretz journalist came forward to say he had all these details in 2022 but was warned not to publish them by Israel's authorities. He was told that if he were to publish he would “suffer the consequences and get to know the interrogation rooms of the Israeli security authorities from the inside”. Sound familiar? -- Courtesy Dawn

Such thuggery is par for the course for the US. In the run-up to the invasion of Iraq, when

America was building a fake casus belli for attacking Iraq, it turned out that José Bustani, then head of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, wasn't playing ball, and America wanted him to step down. Bustani refused, and that's when US official John Bolton threatened him, saying: “We have ways to retaliate against you... we know where your kids live. You have two sons in New York.”

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Stateless workers

Naeem Sadiq

Of the 79 miners who have died since Jan 1, 2024, in Pakistan's deadly coal mines, not a single one was registered with the EOBI. They were all born as citizens of Pakistan. They were not refugees. They did not give up their citizenship. They did not give up on the state. But the state gave up on them. The state abandoned them, refused to recognise their existence, and reduced them to ‘stateless’, benefitless nonentities. By excluding them from the EOBI, the state gave them a future of poverty and dependency. This cruelty is orchestrated by a single government department: the Employees' Old-age Benefits Institution (EOBI).

Pakistan has an informal workforce of around 80 million workers engaged in industrial, agricultural, domestic, and commercial activities. It is their sweat and labour that turn the wheels of industry and commerce. In return, 60 per cent of them are not even given the minimum legal wage. The monthly EOBI contribution is deposited for only 4.7m or 6pc workers. The state has no concern or interest in knowing about the remaining 94pc. Do they exist at all? What and where do they work? Who are their employers? How will they survive with zero post-retirement pensions? It is impossible to fathom why a state knowingly designs a dark and miserable old age for its workers.

Imagine if there was a law that prohibited pension for any Grade 22 government officer, unless there were at least five or more Grade 22 officers working in the same department. Bizarre as it may seem, this is the law we have for Pakistan's workers. It permits all those employers who employ fewer than five employees (and there are

millions of them) to not register their employees with the EOBI. No Pakistani leader has ever understood that every worker above the age of 18 years ought to be registered with the EOBI, regardless of the nature of the work, the number of employees or the type of employment (regular, temporary, contracted, daily wage or through a third-party contractor). Millions of daily wagers and third-party workers in government and statutory bodies are currently outside the ambit of the EOBI for no fault of their own. Even an unemployed or self-employed individual should be able to obtain EOBI registration by personally contributing the requisite amount.

The existing EOBI ought to be dissolved, replaced with professional management, completely digitised, and linked with Nadra. The bureaucratic and cumbersome procedure for enrolment of a new worker and payment of his/her monthly contribution ought to be simplified with a mobile phone app; it should require no human interaction, visiting offices or banks, filling forms or producing photocopies. The EOBI monthly contribution rate ought to be standardised across Pakistan to enable seamless continuity for workers changing jobs or locations.

An alleged ‘inspection’ system at the institution is said to follow the 10pc rule. You register only 10pc employees, and we look the other way—in return for an amicable under-the-table ‘settlement’.

The EOBI ought to jettison all its inspectors and two-thirds of its existing 657 employees, and control all its functions using a handful of professionals and electronic databases. A publicly accessible online database should reflect

each registered employee's name, CNIC, phone number, employer's name, the latest EOBI contribution and the total contribution made thus far. An effective database can monitor and ensure that every single worker in Pakistan is included in the EOBI scheme.

Every registered worker must receive an automatic SMS, by the 10th of each month to confirm the amount contributed on his/her behalf. The system should automatically in--v--oke progressively increasing penalties for employers delaying payments beyond the 10th of any month. On reaching the age of 60 years, workers should be given the choice to either opt for the regular monthly pension or to accept the lump sum amount accumulated during his/her entire years of contribution.

In both cases, the amount must be immediately deposited in the worker's designated bank, instead of involving the worker in a bureaucratic runaround of visiting EOBI offices or providing fresh affidavits, photographs, or certificates.

Pakistan is the only country in the world that pays a pension of Rs1 million to superior judges and a pittance of Rs10,000 to its workers. This amounts to an obscene and immoral pension ratio of 1:100. We ought to slash all government pensions above Rs200,000 to half and increase workers' pension to 75pc of the applicable minimum legal wage.

It is time for Pakistan to end its fixation on the rich, and instead, focus on the 80m abandoned stateless children awaiting recognition, minimum wage, the EOBI and a sliver of humanity. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

CPI inflation decelerates further to 11.8% in May

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation came down to 11.8 per cent during the month of May 2024 as compared to 17.3 per cent recorded during April 2024, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported Monday.

According to PBS data, the CPI based inflation during the same month of last year was recorded at 38.0% (May 2023).

On month-on-month (MoM) basis, it decreased to 3.2% in May 2024 as

compared to a decrease of 0.4 in the previous month and an increase of 1.6% in May 2023. According to data, CPI inflation Urban, increased to 14.3% on year-on-year (YoY) basis in May 2024 as compared to an increase of 19.4% in the previous month and 35.1% in May 2023. On month-on-month basis, it decreased to 2.8% in May 2024 as compared to a decrease of 0.1% in the previous month and an increase of 1.5% in May 2023. CPI inflation Rural, increased to 8.2% on year-

on-year basis in May 2024 as compared to an increase of 14.5% in the previous month and 4.2% in May 2023. On month-on-month basis, it decreased to 3.9% in May 2024 as compared to a decrease of 0.9% in the previous month and an increase of 1.7% in May 2023.

The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) inflation on YoY increased to 15.3% in May 2024 as compared to an increase of 21.6% a month earlier and 43.0% in May 2023. On MoM basis, it decreased by 4.0%

in May 2024 as compared to a decrease of 0.7% a month earlier and an increase of 1.3% in May 2023. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation on YoY basis increased to 9.9% in May 2024 as compared to an increase of 13.9% a month earlier and an increase of 32.8% in May 2023. On MoM basis, it decreased by 2.5% in May 2024 as compared to a decrease of 0.7% in the previous month and an increase of 1.0% in corresponding month of last year i.e. May 2023.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with Regional Head of Technology and Tax, McKinsey & Co. Tom Isherwood.



Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan presided meeting of Privatization Commission Board.

Trade deficit contracted 15.25% in 11 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The trade deficit contracted 15.25 per cent during the first 11 months of the current financial year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding period of the last year.

During the period from July-May 2023-24, local exports grew by 10.65 per cent as it was recorded at \$28.07 billion as compared to the exports of \$25.368 billion of the same period of the last year, according to the trade figures released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics on Monday.

Meanwhile, imports into the country during the period under review decreased by 2.37 per cent as it was registered at \$49.802 billion as against the imports of \$51.010

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was report at the port where three ships, Zhida-6, Shalamar and TRF Kobescheduled to load/offloadRice, Furnace oil and Chemicals, berthed at Multi-Purpose Terminals, Oil Terminal and Elengy Terminal respectively on Sunday. Meanwhile five more ships, MSC Positano, AU Taurus, Kypros Sea, Chem Leona and Al-Marrouna with Container, Palmoil, Canola, Chemicals and LNG also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim during last 24 hours.

A total of 7 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them four ships, APL Miami, Shalamar, TRF Kobe and Enjanarare expected to sail on today.

06 parties pre-qualify for PIACL divestment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Privatization Commission, Abdul Aleem Khan, said a press release.

The meeting reviewed the recommendations of the pre-qualification committee in light of the results of the scrutiny/evaluation of Statement of Qualifications (SOQs) submitted by eight interested parties for divestment of PIACL.

The 219th meeting of Privatization Commission Board was held under the chairmanship of Minister for Privatization and

Punjab govt to set up Sahulat Centres for farmers

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government has decided to establish Sahulat centers in every tehsil to provide quality pesticides to farmers at a controlled rate.

Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman presided over a video link meeting of all divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners to review cotton cultivation targets, measles situation and Sutra Punjab programme, at the Civil Secretariat on Monday.

The chief secretary directed the commissioners of Bahawalpur, Multan and

Rupee sheds 4 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Rupee on Monday lost 04 paise against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.36 against the previous day's closing at Rs 278.32.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market, however, were Rs 277.5 and Rs 280 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 44 paise to close at Rs 301.67 against the last day's closing of Rs 301.23, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

PSX witnessed bearish trend, losses 303 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Monday, losing 303.22 points, a negative change of 0.40 per cent, closing at 75,575.26 points against 75,878.48 points the previous day.

A total of 441,261,756 shares valuing Rs 18.634 billion were traded during the day as compared to 523,299,973 shares valuing Rs 20.574 billion the previous day.

Atif Ikram Sheikh says: Businesses to provide equal opportunities to women to promote gender equality

Gender equality is essential for economic development, M. Akram Farid

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Chairman Central of Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP) and Chairman FPCCI TVET and Skill Development Committee



Mian Akbar Farid has called on Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, International Labor Organization and Employers' Federation. A seminar was held on the issue of Pakistan's gender equality and elimination of workplace discrimination.

While addressing, Atif Ikram Sheikh President FPCCI said

regional countries, women's participation and contribution to economic development in Pakistan is very low and its basic reason is women's lack of access to education, training and economic opportunities. FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh said that business organizations have the responsibility to provide a favorable environment and work.

KP CM directs admin for immediate repairing of power transformers

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, in view of the current scenario of power load-shedding has directed all Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners to immediately make arrangements for the repair and maintenance of out of order electricity transformers in their respective areas.

He issued these directives while chairing a meeting of Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners held here at Chief Minister's House on Monday.

Advisor to KP CM

on Finance Muzzamil Aslam, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Additional Chief Secretary Syed Imtiaz Hussain Shah, Principal Secretary to CM Amjad Ali Khan and other relevant authorities attended the meeting.

All Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners participated in the meeting via video link.



KARACHI: Workers of Mohajir Qaumi Movement participating in the protest demonstration against the worst load-shedding and over-billing of electricity in the port city.

Director General Health terms story regarding shortage of ORS, medicines baseless

HYDERABAD (APP): Director General Health Sindh in his rebuttal regarding a news story published in an English national daily related to acute shortage of ORS and other medicines at Civil Hospital Karachi and other hospitals of the province on Monday termed the news story as concocted and baseless.

He said that there was no shortage of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) in Karachi and other hospitals of the province.

He further said that in

letter and spirit in their respective districts.

The chief minister said that Divisional and District Administrations are frontline team of the government in implementation of its policies and reforms initiatives at grass root level, they need to work out of the book for the enforcement of good governance strategy and providing relief to general public.

He stressed that nobody will be victimized on political grounds, government machinery should focus on public service delivery with enthusiasm and satisfaction.

Cop injured in attack on polio team

PESHAWAR (APP): A police constable sustained bullet injury in an armed attack by unknown persons on a polio team in Vargari area, district Lakki Marwat.

Former CM GB announces land donation for special school

ASTORE (APP): Former Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid on Monday announced the provision of 30 kanals of land for the construction of a special school for hearing-impaired children in Skardu.

The school named Nargis Khatoon Hair Improvement School is currently operating in a rented building.

Pro-Kremlin activist couple quit Germany, move to Russia

LONDON: Two pro-Russian activists in Germany, whose ties to the Kremlin were revealed in a Reuters investigation last year, have left Germany and moved to Russia, the couple's lawyer said in a statement on Monday.

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Elena Kolbasnikova and her romantic partner Max Schlund have been active in Germany, organising pro-Kremlin rallies to urge Berlin to abandon its military support to Kyiv.



LAHORE: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi in a group photo with children during his visit to Aghosh Orphan Care Home. Khuram Nawaz Gandapur, Barrister Amir Hassan, Colonel (ret'd) Mubashir Iqbal and Raja Zahid Mehmood are also present.

Pervaiz Elahi could not be indicted in fake recruitments in PA case

LAHORE (Online): Former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi could not be indicted in fake recruitments in Punjab Assembly (PA) case.

The plea in the petition Pervaiz Elahi gave job in grade-17 to those who had failed in written examination. Anti corruption has filed challan in the court against the accused persons.

KP private schools reject imposition of tax

PESHAWAR (APP): Hub of Private Education (HOPE), an organization of the private schools Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has rejected the imposition of fixed tax on private educational institutions, termed it an enemy towards education and demanded forthwith withdrawal of the anti-education tax.

The Sunni-Ittehad-PTI led provincial government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has imposed taxes on the private educational institutions varying from Rs.50,000 to Rs.2,50,000 on each such institute.

Two dacoits killed in encounter

VEHARI (APP): Two unknown dacoits were killed and a constable sustained injuries after an exchange of fire between police and dacoits in the limits of Thingi police station, district Vehari.

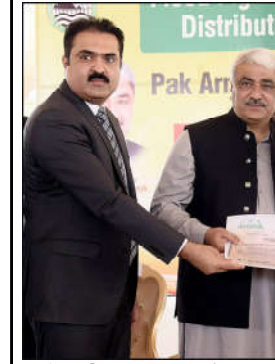
Four drug dealers among seven held in DI Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The district police have tightened a noose around anti-social elements, arresting seven five accused including four drug dealers recovering over 1.6 kilograms narcotics from them.

6 resolutions passes unanimously by KP Assembly

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Monday unanimously passed six resolutions, while one resolution was withdrawn after the government's assurance.

The House passed a resolution of MPA Sajjad ullah and demanded the provincial government to trace the culprits involved in an attack on MPA Riaz Khan in Manshehra and bring them to justice. The speaker said that the police have identified the accused and some have been arrested.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health and Emergency Services, Chairman Cabinet Committee for Disaster Management Khawaja Salman Rafique presenting cheque to Commander of Pak Army for flood affectees.

Director PAC says: Literature is an artistic depiction of society's diverse facets

RAWALPINDI (APP): Literature reflects society's culture, history, and collective experiences. It is a beautiful form of expression through which thoughts, emotions, and experiences are artistically presented. Literature is not only a means of entertainment but also a source of intellectualism and emotional training for individuals. This was said by Director Punjab Arts Council (PAC) Rawalpindi, Sajjad Hussain while chairing a meeting which held on Monday

here at the Arts council. Highlighting the role of the council in the promotion of literature, the director informed that over the past three months, more than 20 literary events have been organized at the Arts Council. These included the weekly meeting and poetry session of Halqa Arbab-e-Zauq every Sunday, the book launch event of Dr. Sajid Raheem, a memorial reference for Farzana Naz, daily poetry sessions during Ramadan and the inauguration of Allama Iqbal Public Library by the Punjab Arts Council.

International News

Beijing 'won't allow war, chaos' in Asia-Pacific

SINGAPORE: China will not allow any country or force to create war or chaos in the Asia-Pacific, its defence minister said on Sunday, warning that there were "limits" to Beijing's restraint on the South China Sea and over the deployment of ballistic missiles in the region.

partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region, which has enraged Beijing.

Given its position in the South China Sea and proximity to Taiwan, which China claims as its own, Philippine support would be crucial for the US in the event of any conflict.

In a keynote speech at the Shangri-La Dialogue, AFP quoted Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun as saying: "China has maintained sufficient restraint in the face of rights infringements and provocation, but there are limits to this."

French govt faces confidence motions ahead of EU vote

PARIS: France's government on Monday faced two confidence challenges in parliament as political temperatures rise ahead of European Parliament elections set to mark a major victory for the far right in the country. The bids to unseat Prime Minister Gabriel Attal and his government, which have little chance of passing, come from opposite ends of the political spectrum—the hard-left France Unbowed (LFI) and the far-right National Rally (RN).

France's government on Monday suggested 33 percent of people could vote for the RN list in the June 9 polls, double the likely score for President Emmanuel Macron's governing Renaissance, whose 16 percent placed them just ahead of the chasing Socialists.

An Ipsos poll released

Monday suggested 33 percent of people could vote for the RN list in the June 9 polls, double the likely score for President Emmanuel Macron's governing Renaissance, whose 16 percent placed them just ahead of the chasing Socialists.



Palestinian sisters Samar and Sahar react as they search for their missing mother Amira Al-Breim at the rubble of a house hit in an Israeli strike, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

Israeli strikes in central Gaza kill at least 11 as the US pushes a cease-fire plan

NEW YORK: Palestinian health officials said Israeli strikes killed 11 people overnight into Monday, including a woman and three children, in central Gaza.

Israel has offered Hamas a three-phase cease-fire and hostage release deal, declaring it was time to end the fighting in Gaza and that Hamas is "no longer capable" of carrying out another large-scale attack on Israel.

Sri Lanka rain floods kill 14, schools shut

COLOMBO: Flash floods, mudslides and falling trees have killed at least 14 people in Sri Lanka as the island nation is battered by monsoon storms, the country's disaster centre said on Sunday.

Israel is expanding its offensive in the southern Gaza city of Rafah, once the main hub of humanitarian aid operations.

Some drowned, including three members of the same family swept away near the capital Colombo on Sunday. Others were buried alive in mudslides, including an 11-year-old girl and a 20-year-old man, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC)

Egypt's Sisi orders prime minister to form new cabinet

DUBAI: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi reappointed Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly on Monday to form a new government after the latter submitted his cabinet's resignation, following Sisi's reelection for a third term last year, the presidency said in a statement.

Maldives to ban Israeli tourists

MALE: The Indian Ocean nation of the Maldives will ban Israelis from the luxury tourist hot spot, the office of the president said on Sunday, announcing a national rally in "solidarity with Palestine".

Claudia Sheinbaum makes history as Mexico's first woman president

MEXICO CITY: Claudia Sheinbaum was elected Mexico's first woman president by a landslide Sunday, making history in a country plagued by rampant criminal and gender-based violence.

Galvez, who conceded defeat. Sheinbaum, a scientist by training, won around 58-60 percent of votes, according to preliminary official results from the National Electoral Institute.

Crowds of flag-waving supporters sang and danced to mariachi music in Mexico City's main square celebrating the ruling party candidate's victory. "I want to thank millions of Mexican women and men who decided to vote for us on this historic day," Sheinbaum said in a victory speech to the cheering crowd.

Zelensky in Manila to promote peace summit, which he says China and Russia are trying to undermine

MANILA: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky met with the Philippine president on Monday in a rare Asian trip to urge regional leaders to support a Swiss-organized global peace summit on the war in Ukraine that he accuses Russia, with China's help, of trying to undermine.

That was more than 30 percentage points ahead of Galvez, and some 50 percentage points ahead of the only man running, long-shot centrist Jorge Alvarez Maynez.

Zelensky arrived unannounced and under heavy security in Manila late Sunday after speaking over the weekend at the Shangri-La defense forum in Singapore. He was given a red-carpet welcome with military honors Monday at the presidential palace before meeting with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., after which he left the Philippines.

She thanked her main opposition rival Xochitl

today from you that you'll participate in our peace steps," Zelensky told Marcos. "It's a very strong signal." Zelensky said Ukraine needs more mental health workers for its soldiers. Marcos promised to help and welcomed a decision by Ukraine to open an embassy in Manila this year which would hasten efforts to deliver assistance.

PBC condemns PTI's demand of CJP recusal from party's cases

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) has strongly condemned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) demand for Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa to recuse himself from hearing cases related to the party.

Rind condemns attack at anti-polio team

Independent Report QETTA: The spokesman, Government of Balochistan, Shahid Rind has condemned the attack at anti-polio team in Chaman on Monday.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani in a group photo with the delegation of World Football and Pakistan Football League (UK) at Parliament House.

Gilani calls for use sports as a vehicle for positive change in society

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Monday called for making concerted efforts to use sports as a vehicle for positive change and transformation in society.

Alvi calls for urgent dialogue among all stakeholders

LAHORE (INP): Former president Dr Arif Alvi on Monday called for urgent dialogue among Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and all other stakeholders to help the country navigate out of its current political turmoil.

Advisor to CM distributes flour bags to deserving families

HUB (APP): Provincial Advisor for Industry and Commerce Mir Ali Hasan Zehri distributed flour bags to more than 1,500 deserving families in various areas of Hub City, on Monday.

Aurangzeb emphasizes significant potential of e-governance in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb has emphasized the significant potential of e-governance in Pakistan.

Talking to Deputy Director, Focus Country Implementation of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Jason Lamb in Islamabad, he said the digitization of the tax system is a pivotal step towards modernizing tax collection, which will enhance transparency and revenue growth.

M u h a m m a d Aurangzeb also mentioned the necessary improvements required in existing data sources to effectively utilize them for tax purposes.

During the meeting, the Federal Minister conveyed his appreciation for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's for their support in engaging McKinsey & Co. for the ongoing digitalization of FBR.

He emphasized the significant potential of e-governance in Pakistan, noting that the digitization of the tax system is a pivotal step towards modernizing tax collection, which will enhance transparency and revenue growth.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb called on by Jason Lamb, Deputy Director, Focus Country Implementation of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Senate committees formation stalled by disagreement

ISLAMABAD (INP): The formation of Senate Standing Committees has hit a deadlock due to a heated disagreement between the government and the opposition.

Mandviwala being handed to Ferooz H. Naik. However, Shibli Faraz has firmly rejected the government's proposed distribution formula. He argues that the standing committees, which have traditionally been chaired by the opposition for the last 12 years, should continue to be allocated to them.

Despite an important meeting between Senate Chairman Yusuf Raza Gilani, Leader of the House Ishaq Dar, and Leader of the Opposition Shibli Faraz, no resolution was achieved. According to sources, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has requested the Finance Committee and the Law and Justice Committee, insisting on the chairmanship of Saleem

of committees is a weak and undemocratic practice that threatens the integrity of our parliamentary system," Faraz stated.

Acquisition of IT education vital to compete with modern world: Commissioner Zhub

QUETTA (APP): Commissioner Zhub Division Tariqur Rehman Baloch on Monday said that the acquisition of information technology (IT) education was necessary to compete with the modern world and information technology training was also very important along with quality and higher education.

He expressed these views while visiting Divisional Information Technology Complex Zhub. Divisional Information Technology Officer, Engineer Asmatullah Khan gave a briefing to the commissioner about the Department of IT Web Division.

The commissioner also inspected the Information Technology Training Center, met the teachers and students and discussed the provision of facilities to them.

Divisional Information Technology Officer gave a briefing to the commissioner regarding the center and told that at present the number of students were more than 200, who were being trained in different fields. He expressed satisfaction over the ongoing educational activities and assured all possible support from his side.



QUETTA: A delegation of students of different girls schools and colleges photographed with Provincial Advisor for Women Development Department Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi.

Climate change authority case: SC summons climate change secretary, all four provincial secretaries

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has summoned secretary climate change and all the four secretaries on next hearing in the case pertaining to establishment of Climate Change Authority (CCA).

The court has directed all the four chief secretaries to appear through video link. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked why the Punjab government could not frame policy regarding climate change so far. What steps have been taken by Punjab government to deal with the floods. Half of the trees planted under billion tree project have finished. Only planting the trees is not enough but they have to be looked after as well.

100 more Green Buses approved for Quetta city: Hamza

Independent Report QETTA: The Commissioner Quetta Division, Muhammad Hamza Shaqqaat has stated that 100 more Green Buses have been approved for the Quetta city and in first phase, at least 25 buses be brought in the city.

The Commissioner Quetta was speaking to the media persons here at the office of Quetta Metropolitan Corporation on Monday.

He said that better facility of public transport has been made available to the citizens with provision of Green bus service in

PTI announces to hold public rally in Swat

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership has decided to relocate its upcoming June 8 rally to Swat after the federal capital's administration refused to permit the party to stage its rally in Islamabad.

The top leadership of the party rejected the Islamabad administration's offer that it should hold a public meeting on June 8 at Rawat.

According to a party spokesperson, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur also attended the meeting.

The meeting was attended by party Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan, who is also the Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly, Asad Qaiser and other prominent leaders. The Islamabad district administration last Friday allowed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to hold a public rally in the federal capital.

Edu ministry, Taleemabad transform a neglected school

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a remarkable turnaround, the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training and Taleemabad transformed a neglected school in Quetta in just two weeks, showcasing the power of love and care that knows no bounds.

According to the Education Ministry, the said school in Quetta, once plagued by decades of neglect, lacked even the basic essentials - maintenance, furniture, and books.

This incredible feat is a testament to the impact of dedication and collective effort, breathing new life into a forgotten institution and illuminating the path to a brighter future for its students, the ministry added.

Ashrafi calls for justice in Nazir Masih's death case

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Monday called for justice in the death case of Nazir Masih in Sargodha.

The PUC chairman, expressing deep grief over the killing, said in a statement that taking the law into one's own hands in matters of blasphemy was both unlawful and illegal.

Rubaba to bear student's expenses participating in "Yaqeen" education camp

Independent Report QETTA: The Advisor to the Chief Minister for Women Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Buledi has announced that she would bear all the expenses of the students participating in the "Yaqeen" education camp, organized by the Institute for Iqbal Research, Islamabad, at Peshawar University's Bara Gali campus.

She stressed the importance of education in the progress of a nation. She said that education is the backbone of national development and without it, societies cannot survive.

Dr. Buledi also emphasized the importance of women's education, saying that women play a crucial role in shaping society and their education is essential for the development of a family and society as a whole.

She made the announcement while talking to the students from various schools and colleges in Quetta, who called on her at Women Development Department.

Dr. Rubaba Buledi said that education plays a vital role in the development of a society and is essential for the progress of a nation. She announced that the government of Balochistan has launched the Benazir Scholarship Program to provide financial support to students pursuing higher education.

LAHORE: Former President of Pakistan and Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Leader, Dr. Arif Alvi talking to media persons, at Punjab Assembly in Lahore.

Heatwave persists in country, rain forecast in some areas

ISLAMABAD (INP): Heatwave continues to dominate most parts of the country, particularly in the southern districts, according to the latest forecast from the Meteorological Department, with a mix of hot and humid conditions and sporadic rain in some areas.

The southern districts remain under an intense heatwave, with temperatures soaring to extreme levels. Coastal areas, including Karachi, are experiencing hot and humid weather, though there is a slight possibility of drizzle along the coastline, offering minor relief.

In contrast, northeast Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) have a chance of rain accompanied by thunderstorms at a few places. Specifically, Islamabad and its surrounding areas are expected to stay partly cloudy with intermittent rain, providing some respite from the heat.

QUETTA: Iranian Consul General, Hassan Darvesh Wand being briefed by Dr. Sohail Khan during his visit to Aria Hospital in Quetta.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail inaugurating new Refugees Students Facilitation Centre during his visit of University of Balochistan.



QUETTA: Opposition leader Mir Younis Aziz Zehri meeting with Provincial Food Minister Haji Noor Muhammad Dummer.

Ahsan Iqbal 'stunned' over no consultation on development budget

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal, has expressed his reservations over the approval of the development budget and annual plan without his consultation.

According to media reports, the deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, Jahanzeb Khan, did not consult Ahsan Iqbal before approving the PSDP worth Rs 1221 billion on May 31. Moreover, the minister was also not consulted on the GDP growth targets of 2.4% for the current year and 3.6% for the next year, sources added.

It stated that annual Plan Coordination Committee meeting is likely to be convened again, it was not



QUETTA: Member Election Commission Shah Muhammad Jatoti addressing women MPs during Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Framework meeting