

# Independent

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## NEC approves 13th 5-year National Development Plan, economic growth target for 2024-25

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Economic Council on Monday approved in principle the 13th five-year National Development Plan along with the annual economic growth targets for the financial year 2024-25 and macroeconomic framework for annual planning.

The NEC meeting, presided over by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, was informed that the key objectives of the plan included development of every part of the country, especially the less developed areas; increase in exports; promotion of the small and medium industry; social protection and poverty alleviation; increase in the capacity building of the work force; and a framework to protect from the impacts of climate change.

The NEC directed the Planning Ministry to ensure the positive role of the provinces in the national economy and to present a comprehensive framework to increase the exports.

The ministry was also directed to include the provinces in the consultation process to achieve the overall economic growth target of the country.

The prime minister emphasized that the government would ensure the best utilization of the existing resource for revival of the economy and prosperity of the people.

He further said that in all important decisions regarding the economy, the Federation would ensure consultation with the provinces and other stakeholders so that as a result of

the collective vision for the development of the country, such decisions were made that were positive and involved the consent of all.

"The National Economic Council is the biggest forum for important decisions regarding the country's economy, which will be used for important decisions for the recovery of the economy," he added.

The prime minister also directed the National Economic Council to set up a committee which in consultation with the provinces and other stakeholders, should formulate the proposals to not only make the Council active but also to harmonize it with the modern requirements.

The meeting was informed about the performance and the annual development projects for the year 2023-24 and proposals for the upcoming fiscal year 2024-25.

It was told in the meeting that the growth rate target for the upcoming fiscal year had been increased significantly.

The prime minister on the occasion said that as the agriculture sector was the backbone of the country's economy, therefore consultation with the provinces for its development was very important.

He directed to ensure inclusion of the provinces' proposals regarding agriculture and other sectors in the plan. The Council was also informed about the national goals for the recovery of the economy and the measures to achieve them.

The meeting was told that measures such as pro-

duction of export products, innovation of agriculture sector, artificial intelligence and information technology sector in line with international standards, sustainable and renewable energy, effective use of water resources, development of youth and women, effective and speedy implementation of the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), those of foreign investment and the ones close to completion.

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Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with the Chief Minister of all four provinces prior to the meeting of National Economic Council in Islamabad.

## CM Bugti assures to provide every possible facilities to zayreen during movement in Balochistan

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has assured that the provincial government would provide every possible steps to the zayreen during their movement in the province.

The Chief Minister also assured that the hardships and issues of zayreen would be resolved on priority basis in the jurisdictions of Balochistan.

The Chief Minister was speaking to a representative delegation of Jafria Zayreen Group organizers who called on him along with the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, in Islamabad on Monday.

During the course of meeting, matters about provision of facilities to the zayreen and other related issues were discussed.

Speaking to the members of delegation, Chief Minister assured that improvement would be brought in the traveling facilities to zayreen from Taftan border and Balochistan.

He also assured that number of immigration counters would be increased for facilitation of zayreen at the Taftan border on occasion of Ashura and Arbaeen.

He said that the provincial government would provide every possible facilities to the zayreen.

Meanwhile, there was consensus on running Pakistan House Taftan under the Public-Private partnership.

The delegation of Jafria Zayreen Group Organizers Association thanked the Chief Minister Balochistan on assurance made by him for resolving issues of zayreen and providing them the necessary facilities.

The members of delegation hoped that the hardships of zayreen would be removed by increasing number of immigration counters and running Pakistan House Taftan under public-private partnership.



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Austria, Mr. Muhammad Kamran Akhtar, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## President directs payment of compensation to 1500 affectees of Diamer-Bhasha Dam

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday directed the authorities concerned to ensure the payment of compensation worth Rs 4.7 million each to 1500 affectees of the Diamer-Bhasha Dam.

The president said this in separate meetings with Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam and Energy Minister Dr Musaddik Malik, according to a President House press release.

Highlighting the necessity of establishment of a medical college and hospital in GB, he instructed the relevant departments to take measures on priority for the purpose.

## Govt set to present FY2024-25 budget tomorrow

ISLAMABAD (APP): Amid challenges both at internal and external levels, the incumbent government is all set to present its first budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 in the Parliament on June 12 (Wednesday).

The budget will be presented by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb.

The budget had been formulated while considering the existing challenges being faced by economy at domestic and international fronts. Hence, mitigating the people's sufferings, transforming the agriculture sector, promoting information technology (IT), and boosting exports would be the main focus of the document, sources said.

In addition to fiscal management, revenue mobilization, measures for economic stabilization and growth, reduction in non-development expenditures, job creation,

## Debt of soldiers, citizens to be repaid by relentlessly eliminating terrorism: PM

Attends Namaz-e-Janaza of Shaheed Captain Faraz Ilyas

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday attended Namaz-e-Janaza of Shaheed Captain Faraz Ilyas in Kasur who was martyred in an improvised explosive device (IED) attack in District Lakki Marwat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The funeral prayer was attended by Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar, IG Police Punjab and a number of senior military officers, civil authorities and residents.

The prime minister also met with the parents of shaheed captain and expressed condolences.

He announced to transform the native village of martyred officer as model village and renamed it as "Faraz Ilyas Shaheed".

He told the parents that the sacrifice of their son would not go in vain and prayed for the bereaved family to bear the loss with fortitude.

Under the Quranic teachings, a shaheed had an elevated place in Jannah, he said, adding that a large number of Jawans of armed forces had laid down their lives for the motherland.

The prime minister said that the nation was proud of its brave sons and the coward terrorists could not succeed in shaking their strong resolve.

Separately, on X account, the prime minister said that he was deeply saddened by the martyrdom of Pak Army personnel including a captain in a targeted attack in District Lakki Marwat.

"The sacrifices of our brave soldiers and citizens is a debt on us that we must repay by relentlessly eliminating terrorism from our nation. Heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families," he further posted.

## Awareness seminar at BUTEMS: Climate change posing serious threat to Balochistan, says Governor Mandokhail

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has noted with concern that the changing climate is posing serious threat to

Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUTEMS) on Monday.

The Advisor to Chief Minister for Environment, Nasimur Rehman, con-



QUETTA: Provincial Advisor for Environment Naseem ur Rehman Mulakhail presenting a shield to Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail during a ceremony held on eve of World Environmental Day

Balochistan.

The Governor said that "we have destroyed our environment by cutting trees and contributing to the environmental pollution". "It would take at least 300 years to restore Quetta in its actual condition."

These and similar other views were expressed by the Governor while addressing an awareness seminar on World Environment Day organized by the Balochistan University of

cerned high ups, environmental experts and others participated in the seminar.

Addressing the seminar, Governor said that while the climate change issue is taking heavy toll of the environment, therefore, there is a dire need to improve the environment and nature.

He said that improving nature and environment is vital for improving environment and prevention of the pollution.

## PM Shehbaz greets Modi on swearing in as Indian PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday felicitated Narendra Modi as he took the oath of the office of the Prime Minister of India.

"Felicitations to Narendra Modi on taking oath as the Prime Minister of India," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline.

Modi was sworn in as Indian PM on Sunday for a third term after the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance won the general election with 293 seats - a much lower margin than predicted, contrary to the 234 seats won by the opposition.



ISLAMABAD: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi.

## Governor KP praises CM Sarfraz Bugti's endeavours for welfare of people in Balochistan

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi has praised the endeavours of Chief Minister Balochistan for welfare of the people of the province.

The Governor KP was speaking to Chief Minister Balochistan who called on him in Islamabad on Monday.

During the course of meeting, different matters of mutual interests came up for threadbare discussion.

While praising the efforts being made by Chief Minister Balochistan for the public welfare, the Governor KP expressed the hope that the incumbent provincial government would play active role for

resolving the public issues while meeting their expectations.

On the occasion, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti invited Governor KP to visit Balochistan. While accepting the invitation of Chief Minister, Governor KP assured that he would visit Balochistan.

The Chief Minister informed the Governor KP that we are working to bring improvement in good governance, health and education sectors in Balochistan.

He said that we are determined to put the province on path of development and prosperity as per the vision of President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

## No water shortage, provinces given 100% share: Minister told NA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Water Resources Musadik Malik informed the National Assembly on Monday that there is currently no water shortage in the country, and all provinces are receiving their full water share as per the agreed accord in the Indus River System Authority (IRSA) meeting.

Responding to a calling attention notice regarding a 29 percent water shortage observed in Sindh province during the early Kharif season and the diversion of flow into the Link Canal, he said that the IRSA meeting on May 13 decided that water would be provided to provinces according to

their shares.

"At present, there is no shortage of water, and all provinces are receiving 100 percent of their water share as agreed in the accord," he said.

He said that IRSA included representatives from all provinces and that all decisions are made by consensus.

Regarding the Link Canal, he mentioned that only provinces with canals can decide on the provision of water to canals.

He also shared the water release figures to canals with the lawmakers.

The minister further informed the lawmakers that there is no water shortage for the Kharif season.

## Pakistan's enemies perturbed over its rapid progress under PM: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting and National Heritage and Culture Attaulah Tarar on Monday said Pakistan's fast-track progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had stunned its enemies in contrast with their dreams of its downfall economically.

The disgruntled elements were fully perturbed as the prime minister had charted the country on path of progress and development, he said while addressing a press conference.

The minister said a so-called leader while being at the helm of affairs in 2018



had adversely affected Pakistan's relations with the brotherly countries thus causing serious problems on the diplomatic front.

On the other hand, the government led by PM Shehbaz Sharif had not only mended relations with the brotherly states, be-

sides restoring the country's prestige in the global community, he added.

Tarar said the prime minister's historic visit to China was "highly successful", which had been marked by an unprecedented level of enthusiasm and mutual cooperation.

A multitude of issues, he said, were addressed during the visit, fostering the dawn of a new era in the bilateral relations of two countries which had been enjoying exemplary bonds for decades.

Their unparalleled friendship stood steadfast against all odds over the years, he added.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Mir Ali Madad Jattak and others addressing a ceremony for distribution of appointment orders on deceased quota in Irrigation Department





**PM invites AKDN to invest more in Pak tourism sector**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday invited the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) to increase its investment in Pakistan's tourism sector. He extended the invitation in a meeting with Chairperson Executive Committee of Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development Prince Rahim Aha Khan, who called on him along with a five-member delegation. The prime minister also congratulated Prince Rahim Aga Khan on receiving the Nishan-e-Pakistan Award from the Government of Pakistan. He expressed gratitude to Prince Rahim Aga Khan for establishing various social welfare projects in less developed and remote areas of Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral. He said setting up of various welfare projects in Pakistan's education, health, agriculture, tourism, IT and other sectors was commendable. The establishment of a software technology park and solar power plants organized by the Aga Khan Development Network in Hunza were also highly commendable, the prime minister said. He also expressed his appreciation for the establishment of the microfinance banking center of Habib Bank Limited in Gilgit under the auspices of Aga Khan Development Network.



QUETTA: MPA Zarak Mandokhail meeting with Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango

**CM meets Maulana Attaur Rehman, inquires about Maulana Fazlur Rehman**

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti met the senior leader of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), Maulana Attaur Rehman at the Quetta airport. The Chief Minister met Maulana Attaur Rehman, the younger brother of JUI-central Ameer, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, at the departure lounge of Quetta airport before departing for Islamabad. Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti inquired about the JUI-central Ameer from Maulana Attaur Rehman and extended best wishes for him. Also present on the occasion were the leader of National Party, Mir Kabir Ahmed Muhammad Shahi besides other leaders of JUI.

**Salik attends symposium on Saudi Arabia's Hajj arrangements**

MAKKAH AL MUKARRAMAH (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Monday attended a daylong annual symposium organized by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to share its elaborate Hajj arrangements for serving the guests of Allah Almighty in the holy land. The minister was accompanied by Director General (Hajj) Abdul Wahab Soomro, Director (Hajj) and other senior officers of the Pakistan Hajj Mission and the ministry. The 48th Grand Hajj Symposium, titled "No Hajj without permission," was an initiative of the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and was attended by ministers and religious scholars from various countries. The symposium is a primary platform for intellectual leadership and knowledge exchange, fostering deeper understanding, appreciation, and comprehension of the spiritual, cultural, and social dimensions of the Hajj rituals. Speakers highlighted the Kingdom's achievements in serving pilgrims, showcasing pioneering projects and developments in the two Holy Mosques. They emphasized the cultural and civilizational role the Kingdom undertook to serve Hajj pilgrims, consolidating the principle of peaceful intellectual dialogue on issues concerning the Hajj season. The symposium aimed to establish unified principles of collective work for the Islamic world in responding to suspicions about faith, nation, and culture.



QUETTA: MPA Ali Hassan Zehri meeting with IGP Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh

**Enemy cannot shake our firm resolve by cowardly actions, Ali Hassan Zehri**

Independent Report QUETTA: Provincial Advisor for Industries and commerce Mir Ali Hassan Zehri has expressed deep sorrow and anger over the martyrdom of the security personnel in the barrage attack on the convoy of Pakistan Army in Lakki Marwat. In his statement, he strongly condemned the incident and said that the spirit of the nation will not be weakened by such cowardly acts. He paid tribute to the sacrifices of all martyred security personnel including Captain Muhammad Faraz Ilyas in the incident and said that every single drop of blood of the martyrs will be counted. The whole nation is standing by the side of the army until the end of terrorism from the country. Terrorists will never succeed in their evil intentions. Provincial Advisor for Industry and commerce Mir Ali Hassan Zehri further said that Pakistani nation is fighting terrorists with determination and courage alongside its security forces and very soon these cowardly terrorists will be brought to their end. He said that the entire nation is with its security agencies until the elimination of terrorists from the country and will not hesitate to make any sacrifice for this purpose. Mir Ali Hassan Zehri expressed his condolences to the families of all the martyrs, including Captain Muhammad Faraz Ilyas, and prayed that Allah Almighty grants the martyrs a high place in His mercy and gives patience to the bereaved. He said that the determination of the security forces and the nation will not decrease until the end of the last terrorist. Pak forces and other security forces are vigilant day and night in the defence of the homeland and stand like a leaden wall in front of the terrorists and give a full response to any such action.



ISLAMABAD: Prince Rahim Aga Khan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

**Over 0.255 mln tonnes plastic bottles discarded per annum in country, Senate told**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate session during a motion tabled by the Opposition benches on Monday was informed that over 0.255 million plastic bottles were being discarded per annum in the country choking and polluting its natural water bodies, drains, rivers and the ocean. Senator Mohsin Aziz of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) moved the motion demanding the House to discuss the need to ban manufacturing or use of 500 ml plastic bottles for drinking water as the same causes environmental hazards, chokes drainage system in the cities and is a source of pollution. Senator Mohsin Aziz while explaining the motion said the non-degradable one-time use plastics particularly bottles of 500ml and smaller in size have drastically degraded and damaged the scenic and pristine natural beauty of the country's iconic water bodies and rivers in the past four decades. The rivers, lakes, drains, tourist sites and water bodies were overflowed by plastic waste and plastic bottles comprising a major chunk of it including 500ml and below, he said. The Senator noted that the developed and developing states recycling plastic waste were promoting on-source segregation to ensure effective recycling of the plastics. "It's a non-degradable material that cannot decompose for centuries. There are 13 billion plastic bottles used globally. The developed country implementing recycling and responsibly managing plastic waste are reporting satellite images of plastic islands in its territories indicating colossal scale of plastic waste," he added. According to estimates, by 2035 there would be more plastic bottles captured in fishnets of local fishermen of Pakistan than fish due to increased plastic pollution in the ocean.

**PM greets Israr on election as Oxford Union president**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday congratulated Pakistani student Israr Khan on his election as the President of the Oxford Union. Israr Khan has been elected Oxford Union President for Hilary Term 2025 with 617 first preferences, winning by a significant margin over Izzy Horrocks-Taylor's 393 first preferences. Hailing from Balochistan province, Israr Khan is pursuing a DPhil in Law at Regent's Park College and served as the Union's Chief of Staff. "I join the people of Pakistan in extending heartfelt congratulations to Israr Khan for being elected. The minister said that monitoring on both sides of the Iran-Pakistan border has been tightened to prevent iron smuggling on bordering areas. Ali Pervaiz said that the only way to escape the

**Govt implementing measures to control iron smuggling on border areas: Ali Pervaiz**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Economic Affairs Ali Pervaiz on Monday informed the National Assembly that the government is implementing measures to control iron smuggling at Taffan border area. During the question hour in the House, the minister said that all out resources would be utilized to protect the production of the country's local industries including the iron industry. The minister said that monitoring on both sides of the Iran-Pakistan border has been tightened to prevent iron smuggling on bordering areas. Ali Pervaiz said that the only way to escape the



QUETTA: Activists of Muslim League hold protest outside QPC.

**Abbasi warns stern action against timber mafia**

QUETTA (APP): Assistant Commissioner Bela Ali Shah Abbasi on Monday held a meeting with transporters and forest department officials regarding the deforestation in Lasbela. The meeting was attended by transporters and forest department officials. Talking to the meeting, Assistant Commissioner Ali Shah Abbasi issued strict orders concerning deforestation, stating that trees are the adornment of the land and must not be wasted under any circumstances. He vowed to take stern action against the timber mafia, with no leniency towards anyone.

**Bilawal expresses deep sorrow over Neelum river tragedy**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed deep sorrow over the tragic loss of lives following a tourist vehicle's fall into the Neelum River. According to a press release issued by the Media Cell at Bilawal House, he expressed deep shock upon hearing the news of the Neelum Valley accident. He extended his heartfelt condolences to the victims' families and prayed for their strength during this difficult time. "I share the grief of the families who lost their loved ones in this tragic accident.

**CPEC cooperation to focus on industry, agriculture, IT in next phase: Ahsan Iqbal**

BEIJING (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof Ahsan Iqbal emphasized that in the next phase, the focus of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) cooperation, will be on industry, agriculture and information technology. In an interview with the Global Times in Beijing, Ahsan Iqbal, who accompanied Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on his five day China visit, emphasized that the focus of cooperation under CPEC, a flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative will be on industry, agriculture and information technology in the second phase. Ahsan Iqbal cited the recent successful launch of a Pakistani satellite into space using a Chinese rocket as an example, saying, people used to say that the relationship between Pakistan and China was higher than the Himalayas. "Now we are also cooperating in space technology. Our cooperation has reached space, even higher than the sky," he added.

**Senators condemn operation at Shibli Faraz's house**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Lawmakers in the Senate while condemning operation at Shibli Faraz's house on Monday called for appropriate action against the concerned officials besides referring the matter to the House Privilege Committee. Speaking on a point of order, PTI Senator Saifullah Abro said that the House should not only condemn the act but also hold inquiry into the matter. All officials of the civic agency should be made accountable for their action, he added.



QUETTA: National Party Central President MPA DR Abdul Maik Baloch addressing on condolence reference ceremony organized by NP and BSO.

**Digital agriculture census to be conducted in August: Provincial Minister Revenue calls for putting agriculture sector on modern lines, increasing income sources**

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Revenue, Mir Muhammad Asim Kurd has underlined the need to put agriculture sector on modern lines in the province. He also stressed the need to increase sources of income so as to meet the shortage in this regard. The Minister for Revenue was addressing awareness building workshop on 7th agriculture census - 2024 organized by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics in collaboration with the Balochistan Agriculture College, Quetta here on Monday. The Chief Statisticians, PBS, Dr. Naemuz Zafar (SI) and other federal and provincial high ups were present. Mir Muhammad Asim Kurd said that there should be arrangement of food for the people in proportion with the increasing population. He pointed out that the crisis of wheat and other food stuff was created due to the flashfloods in Balochistan last year. Besides, the cattles were also perished along with agriculture because of the drought situation in province in the past, he added. He noted with concern that the agriculture is affecting due to depletion of underground water table. The Minister Revenue stressed that we would have to promote agriculture and livestock in proportion with the population. He said that the province is facing resources constraints, and the development and non-development budget is equal. Referring the forthcoming agriculture census, he said that collection of data is necessary to make assessment of the needs in agriculture and other related sectors. Earlier, during the briefing, it was informed that the 7th agriculture census would be conducted in the month of August this year. It was informed that the data of agriculture, livestock and agriculture machinery would be collected in the digital agriculture census. The digital agriculture census would also determine that which crops are cultivated in which districts, it was further informed.

During her visit, Rubina Khalid interacted with the women beneficiaries, listened to their concerns, and personally guided the needy and elderly women in receiving their cash amounts. Recognizing the need for efficiency, she directed the officials to increase the number of Point of Sale (POS) agents at the campsites to reduce the waiting time for the beneficiaries. Following her inspections, Chairperson Rubina Khalid addressed the media, emphasizing the commitment to transparency in the disbursement process as directed by President Asif Ali Zardari. "We have established these payment campsites to ensure transparency in the mechanism of payment disbursement," she stated. "We are heading towards a better payment mechanism and soon we will be able to open bank accounts for these beneficiaries for direct payments, minimizing human involvement." She also highlighted the importance of skill development and technical education for BISP beneficiaries to help them overcome poverty.



MAKKAH AL-MUKARRAMAH: Saudi officials welcome the Hajji pilgrims from different countries on their arrival.

**Chairperson BISP visits Payment Campsites in Sindh to check facilities**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Rubina Khalid made significant visits to the Benazir Income Support Programme payment campsites in Bachal Shah, Sukkur, and Babarloe, Khairpur on Monday. The purpose of these visits was to personally monitor the payment disbursement process and to inspect the arrangements and facilities provided for women beneficiaries receiving their Kafaalat and Taleemi Wazaif stipends, said a news release.

MAKKAH AL MUKARRAMAH: Saudi officials welcome the Hajji pilgrims from different countries on their arrival.

**Ishaq Dar to embark on two-day visit to Jordan**

ISLAMABAD (Online): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar will embark on a two-day visit to Jordan today to participate in the high-level conference on prevailing situation in Gaza. The conference titled "Call for Action: Urgent Humanitarian Response for Gaza", has been jointly organized by King Abdullah-II of Jordan, President of Egypt Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, and Secretary-General United Nations Antonio Guterres.

**Stern action to be taken against those keeping private gunmen wearing Levies uniform: DG**

Independent Report QUETTA: The Director General of Levies Force in Balochistan, Naseebullah Kakar has warned that stern action would be taken against those keeping private gunmen wearing Levies uniform in the province. According to an official press release issued here on Monday, the Director General Levies said that a letter has been issued to Deputy Commissioners of all districts. In the letter, it has been conveyed to the Deputy Commissioners to take action against those



QUETTA: Provincial Minister PHE Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran presiding over meeting of WASA Board of Directors

**Smart robot service launched in Madinah to assist pilgrims**

ISLAMABAD (APP): A smart robot service has been launched in Madinah to assist pilgrims visiting the Prophet's Mosque. The robot, a project from the Ministry of Health branch in Madinah province, is positioned in the courtyard next to the Prophet's Mosque. The service aims to display and broadcast educational messages, guidance, and health instructions for the safety and awareness of pilgrims in over 96 languages from around the world. Meanwhile, the volunteer and awareness teams of the Health Ministry branch of Madinah continue their fieldwork with 220 male and female volunteers and over 12 teams working around the clock to serve the guests of Allah. They provide health and emergency services during the Hajj season at the Prophet's Mosque and its access roads.

**Samina Zehri says Brave security forces determined to end scourge of terrorism**

Independent Report QUETTA: The entire nation is standing by the side of the army until the end of terrorism from the country; Terrorists will never succeed in their evil intentions. These views were expressed by Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri while expressing deep sorrow and regret over the martyrdom of 7 security personnel including Captain Muhammad Faraz Ilyas in a landmine explosion near a security forces vehicle in Lucky Marwat area. In her condemnation statement, she said that cowardly enemies cannot shake our firm resolve with such actions. All the martyrs are heroes of the nation and the entire nation and their families are proud of the eternal sacrifice of the martyrs for the country. She further said that anti-national elements and cowardly enemies do not have the courage to come forward and fight,

that's why they attack in secret. Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said that the determination of the security forces and the nation will not decrease until the end of the last terrorist. Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said that those who sacrificed their lives for the protection of the homeland proved that the protection of the Pakistani homeland is in strong hands and any enemy of Pakistan can't see with the naked eye. She said more that brave soldiers and officers of Pakistan Army sacrificed their lives for the survival of the country, for which the nation pays tribute to the martyrs. The courage, perseverance and patience of the families of the martyrs is a source of strength for the nation and the security forces. Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said that the Pakistani nation is fighting the terrorists with determination and courage.