

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on preparation of his upcoming visit to China.

Will visit China from June 4-8 PM for plans on B2B meetings, attracting Chinese industry during his China visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday chaired a meeting to review the preparations for his upcoming visit to China, wherein he directed the formulation of comprehensive plans to hold result-oriented business-to-business meetings between the two countries.

The prime minister directed Pakistan's Ambassador to China to extend all-out facilitation to the Pakistani business delegation during its visit there. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, federal ministers including Jam Kamal Khan, Ahmad Khan Cheema, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Attaullah Tarar, Dr Musaddik Malik, and Abdul Aleem Khan, Minister of State Shaza

Governor Balochistan says Youth are not only builders of our bright future but they are also partners of our present

Assures resources being mobilized for resolving the issues related to late selection on the quota allocated for male and female students of Balochistan in the medical colleges of the country especially of Punjab

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that all available resources are being mobilized for resolving the issues related to late selection on the quota allocated for male and female students of Balochistan in the medical colleges of the country especially of Punjab.

In this regard, we are in constant contact with Governor Punjab and heads of the concerned institutions. He hoped that the sustainable solution would be



LAHORE: Ambassador of Norway Per Albert Ilsaas meeting with President PML (N) Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

Health officials, others vow to eradicate polio virus from Balochistan province

ISLAMABAD (APP): A ceremony was organized to mark the commencement of the seven-day anti-polio campaign here at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) on Friday.

The ceremony coincides with the painting exhibition arranged focusing on the awareness about prevention and eradication of polio virus.

The Secretary Health, Saleh Muhammad Baloch was the chief guest at the ceremony with Coordinator Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Polio Eradication, Syed Zahid Shah, Deputy Commissioner, Lt. (Retd) Saad bin Asad and other concerned high ups

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Two culprits involved in killing of labourers in Gwadar arrested, says Home Minister

Mir Ziaullah Langove asserts those attacking stability and sovereignty of Pakistan to be given befitting response; says talks about fencing in border false & baseless

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has disclosed that two culprits involved in the assassination of seven labourers in Gwadar have been apprehended.

He said that the arrested culprits have confessed their crime in their statement recorded. According to their statement, they were given the task of murdering the "Punjabi labourers" who come in Gwadar, stated the Minister Home while addressing a hurriedly called press conference at the Sikandar Jamali Auditorium, Civil



Secretary on Friday afternoon.

The Deputy Inspector General of Police, Aitezaz Goraya was also present on the occasion.

The Provincial Minister Home referred the gory incident of killing of seven

labourers in Gwadar. He asserted that terrorists who are involved in killing of innocent people have nothing to do with the rights of people of Balochistan.

He said that the terrorists are not fighting for the rights of people of province, rather it is their fight for their vested interests and nothing else.

He said that we would move two steps ahead to talk to those who would speak about rights of the province.

He said that we are standing with our security forces in the war against terrorism.

To a query, the Minis-

ter Home clarified that the talks about fencing in Gwadar is mere propaganda and as such there's no truth in it. He said that some elements are defaming the state through false propaganda in this regard.

About the violation of border by Iranian forces, Mir Ziaullah Langove said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is talking to the Iranian authorities on the violation of border in Mashkail.

As the matter comes in the domain of Federal government, so it (federal government) can give better stance in this regard, he added.

PM announces major fuel price cut

Premier directs finance ministry to reduce petrol price by Rs15.4 per litre and HSD by Rs7.9 per litre

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a major decision on Friday, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has directed the Ministry of Finance to cut the price of petrol by Rs 15.4 per litre and that of diesel by Rs 7.9 per litre. The government's pro-people policies have led to a notable decline in inflation and a stabilization of the economy, the prime minister said in a statement released by the PM Office.

He stated that these policies have resulted in a noticeable reduction in inflation and have contributed to economic stability.

This move is expected to bring significant relief to the public, who have been grappling with high fuel prices in recent months.

On May 15, the government had announced a welcome reduction in petrol and HSD prices for a fortnight by Rs15.39 per litre and Rs7.88 per litre, respectively.



LONDON: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a group photo with Home Secretary of UK James Cleverly.

Pak, UK sign LOI for coop. on illegal immigration, criminal justice issues

LONDON (APP): Pakistan and the United Kingdom on Friday signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) to promote bilateral collaboration on law enforcement and criminal justice issues.

Federal Minister for Interior Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi and Home Secretary of UK James Cleverly witnessed the signing of the LOI held at the UK Home Office.

Pakistan's High Commissioner to UK Dr Muhammad Faisal signed the LOI on behalf of the

Government of Pakistan, according to a press release.

The LOI is aimed at collaboration between Pakistan and the UK to work together on law enforcement and criminal justice issues.

It specifically addresses the issues to tackle illegal migration and organised immigration crime, and to exploring future opportunities that benefit both countries.

It will also facilitate liaison between the UK and

Continued on page 2

Pakistan, US vow to further strengthen bilateral relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and the United States have expressed satisfaction on the current trajectory of bilateral relations and reaffirmed commitment to further strengthen these ties in future.

This understanding was reached during a meeting between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Min-

ister Ishaq Dar, and US Ambassador Donald Blome in Islamabad today.

During the meeting, a wide range of bilateral issues including security and economic cooperation came under discussion.

Donald Blome briefed Ishaq Dar about recent visits from the US side.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Health Saleh Baloch inaugurating polio campaign. Coordinator Emergency Operation Center Balochistan Syed Zahid Shah and Deputy Commissioner Quetta are also present



RAWALPINDI: The Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, Jeyhun Bayramov, called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at the General Headquarters (GHQ).

PM felicitates newly elected CPNE office-bearers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has extended felicitations to the newly elected office bearers in the annual elections of Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors.

In his message, he congratulated President Irshad Ahmed Arif, Secretary General Ejazul Haque, Senior Vice President Anwar Sajdi and other elected officials.

The Prime Minister expressed hope that newly elected office bearers will take steps for further improving the quality of journalism and eradicating fake news in the country.

He commended the role of Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors for rendering valuable services in the promotion of quality journalism in the country.

He termed resolving the problems of the journalistic community as the topmost priority of the government.

Shehbaz Sharif said that government is taking effective measures for the freedom of media in the country.

Ringleader among two terrorists killed in Hassan Khel operation

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Pakistan Army on Friday killed two terrorists including a ringleader and injured as many during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Hassan Khel area of Peshawar District on the night of May 30 and 31.

The Army troops, during the operation, effectively engaged the terrorists as result of which their ringleader Ayaz alias Muhammad and his accomplice Ahmedey alias Koochi were killed, and two others were injured, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The killed terrorists remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces and killing of innocent civilians, whereas weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from them.

Sanitization of the area was being carried out to eliminate any other terrorist if found in the area.

"Locals of the area have appreciated the operation," the ISPR said, adding the security forces were determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country.

COAS, Azerbaijan's FM discuss regional stability

RAWALPINDI (Online): The Foreign Minister (FM) of Azerbaijan, Jeyhun Bayramov, called on General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at the General Headquarters (GHQ).

During their meeting, they engaged in in-depth discussions on matters of mutual interest, including regional peace and stability.

The COAS emphasized Pakistan's longstanding fraternal ties with Azerbaijan and reiterated the country's unwavering

commitment to providing comprehensive assistance and cooperation in the spheres of defense and security.

Furthermore, the COAS praised the Azerbaijani Armed Forces for their exemplary professionalism and valor.

The visiting dignitary expressed his sincere appreciation for Pakistan's steadfast support to Azerbaijan and acknowledged the country's pivotal role in maintaining regional stability.

Imran refuses to join FIA probe in controversial social media posts

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder refused to join the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cybercrime Cell against posting controversial social media posts from his official X (Twitter) account. FIA team reached Adiala Jail to meet the PTI founder.

"PTI founder also refused to answer any question of FIA team," jail sources said. "I will answer any question in the presence of lawyers. PTI founder's answer to FIA". Sources claimed the

FIA team has obtained the stance of the founder of PTI in writing. Earlier, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cybercrime Cell penned down a letter to the authorities seeking access to incarcerated PTI founder to inquire about 'controversial' post from his social media X handle.

The text of the letter stated that anti-state propaganda was disseminated through the official social media account of the PTI founder, targeting institutions, particularly the Pakistan Army.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Trump becomes first US president convicted of a crime

NEW YORK (INP): Justice Juan Merchan set sentencing for July 11, just days before the Republican Party is scheduled to formally nominate Trump for president ahead of the Nov. 5 election. The crime of falsifying business documents carries a maximum sentence of four years in prison, though those convicted often receive shorter sentences, fines or probation. Incarceration would not legally prevent him from campaigning, or taking office if he were to win.

Trump watched the jurors dispassionately as they were polled to confirm the unanimous verdict.

LHC seeks response on admissibility of plea over PM's black sheep remarks

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) has sought a response from the federation regarding the admissibility of a petition seeking initiation of contempt proceedings against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif over his "derogatory" remarks about judges. Taking up the plea on Friday, LHC's Justice Muhammad Waheed Khan asked Additional Attorney General Munawar Iqbal Duggal to tell the court whether or not the petition brought against the premier was admissible. At this, the additional attorney general said the Supreme Court had raised the same question yesterday [during Thursday's hearing on the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Ordinance 1999 amendment case].

"Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan had made it clear to the apex court that the prime minister's remarks were not directed at the serving judges," the state lawyer added. At this, the court inquired of the AAG if he was in possession of a

written order from the Supreme Court. He said the written order had not yet been received from the apex court. Subsequently, the court, while issuing a notice, sought a response from the federal government regarding the admissibility of the contempt petition against the prime minister.

Ashba Kamran, a lawyer, had moved the petition on Thursday, seeking the initiation of contempt proceedings against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for his alleged use of inappropriate words regarding judges. The petitioner had listed the federal government as a respondent through the principal secretary to the prime minister.

On March 28, PM Shehbaz had stated that some "black sheep" in the judiciary were bent upon giving relief to the incarcerated former premier, Imran Khan, in various cases. "You are Pakistanis; you are judges. If development does not return to Pakistan, then there will be no judges, no politicians, and no one else."



QUETTA: A delegation of Committee Member of Lady Dufferin Hospital Quetta led by former caretaker Provincial Minister Sardar Yahya Nassar meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail



GWADAR: Vice Chancellor University of Gwadar Prof. Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir presiding over 6th Academic Council meeting of the University

Pak, UK sign LOI for coop....

Continued from page 1

Pakistan law enforcement agencies, in support of joint efforts to tackle transnational crime, including narcotics control, investigations of serious criminality and organised immigration crime.

Under the implementation mechanism, the cooperation will be overseen by a joint steering committee, chaired by the Ministry of Interior (MOI) and comprising representatives of Interior Ministry, National Police Bureau, British High Commission (supported by the UK Home Office), the programme team and other relevant agencies.

This agreement will help establish cooperation in the ability to share international criminal conviction data and analytics to prepare pre-emptive plans for crime prevention. Improving joint collaboration to tackle illicit finance threats, detecting criminality at air and sea

borders, improving ability to facilitate extradition requests from the UK to Pakistan and Pakistan to the UK are also part of the LOI.

The LOI will also help in creating awareness and understanding of the mutual legal assistance process in both countries.

An important feature of the LOI is capacity building that encompasses exchange of information and knowledge; exchange of experts; field trips; training of staff; joint projects; conferences, workshops and provision of specific equipment.

Progress on achievements under the LOI would be undertaken through yearly review.

Earlier, during their meeting, Minister for Interior Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi and Home Secretary of UK James Cleverly discussed measures to further strengthen Pakistan-UK bilateral relations and collaborations to re-

solve issues jointly.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that the UK was a long-term partner of Pakistan and that government-to-government and people-to-people contacts between Pakistan and the UK were at unprecedented levels.

Home Secretary Cleverly said that the UK highly valued relations with Pakistan and appreciated Pakistan's support and cooperation in evacuating British citizens from Afghanistan.

James Cleverly said that contribution of Pakistani diaspora in the UK was extremely significant in the areas of cultural, social and economic domains.

He lauded Mohsin Naqvi's dedication to public service during his stint as Caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab.

High Commissioner of Pakistan to the UK Dr. Mohammad Faisal, UK's High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott and senior officials were present during the meeting.

Khawaja Asif rebuke Imran Khan for making provocative statements

ISLAMABAD (APP): Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has rebuked Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan for making provocative statements, saying that his actions are escalating political tension in the country.

Asif made these comments in an exclusive interview with a private news channel on Friday, in response to a controversial social media post attributed to Khan's official X account.

The post in question referred to the Hamood-ur-

Rahman Commission Report, which investigated the events leading to the separation of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) in 1971.

Asif accused Khan of attempting to create a situation similar to the unrest on May 9, and criticized him for trying to retract the tweet after it sparked backlash.

The minister also expressed his own views on the history of East Pakistan and the tragedy of its separation, stating that exaggerating the issue only serves to increase tension.

LHC orders to transfer all cases of rape, death and violence to FIA

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has ordered to transfer all cases of violence, deaths and rape to FIA.

Justice Ali Zia Bajwa of LHC issued 17-page written order.

The petition was filed by Surriya Bibi. Mian Ali Haider advocate assisted the court.

It was said in the written decision that immediate implementation of custodial death and prevention of violence related act-2022 be ensured. FIA wields special powers regarding investigation in connection with this act. Therefore, police is directed to avoid from becoming involved in these matters.

According to decision

subjecting any accused to any kind of violence to obtain confession of any crime or evidence is strictly prohibited. The matter of implementation of act-2022 be brought to the notice of chief minister Punjab formally. This matter be presented to federal minister, ministry of interior and government of Pakistan through federal secretary interior. Further delay in implementation has to be stopped.

As per court orders, a copy of decision be sent to chairperson National Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and director general of agency. Any complaint about violence in police custody, death or rape be sent to agency forthwith.

Sino-Pakistan discuss bilateral cooperation in satellite technology

ISLAMABAD (APP): China and Pakistan on Friday discussed cooperation in satellite technology to promote bilateral cooperation in science and technology for enhancing digital connectivity between both sides.

Minister for Planning Prof. Ahsan Iqbal held a meeting with Vice President of the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC), Lin Yiming to discuss the ongoing collaboration between Pakistan and China in the field of satellite technology, said a press release issued here on Friday.

The minister said the satellite, a testament to the strong partnership between

the two nations, will provide crucial connectivity, access to digital education, healthcare services, and e-commerce opportunities to underserved communities across Pakistan.

During the meeting, the minister commended the dedicated efforts of CASC and China Great Wall Industrial Cooperation (CGWIC) in their joint endeavour to produce a satellite that will benefit millions of Pakistanis living in remote areas.

"The relationship between Pakistan and China has always been strong, but with this satellite project, we are taking it to new heights, literally touching space," said Minister Iqbal.

"This collaboration not only strengthens our bond but also brings tangible benefits to the people of Pakistan, particularly those in remote and hard-to-reach areas", he added.

The satellite project is a significant step towards bridging the digital divide in Pakistan, providing essential services to those who need them most.

The satellite will trigger a revolution in communication and connectivity across Pakistan. It is expected to have a transformative impact on the lives of millions of Pakistanis, empowering them with the tools and resources needed to thrive in the digital age.

Punjab qualify for finals of Inter-Provincial Women's Softball C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Punjab team has qualified for the final of the 1st PNSC Inter-Provincial Women's Softball Championship at KPT Sports Complex football ground.

The decision of the second round of the final would take place on Saturday after the match between Sindh and Balochistan, said a press release.

The final match would be played on Saturday evening. Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Qaiser Sheikh would be the chief guest on the occasion.

Earlier, two matches were played in the ongoing championship under the supervision of Softball Federation of Pakistan and managed by Sindh Softball Association.

In the first match, Punjab defeated Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by eight runs in the third innings and made it to the final, while in the second match, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa overcame Sindh after a sensational match.

On behalf of Punjab, Iram and Kiran scored two each while Fiza, Noor, Mehek and Ramsha scored one run each.

On behalf of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Hina, Sidra and Aasia scored two runs each while Nayab scored one run. In the match played in the second session, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa overcame Sindh 10-9 in the fifth innings after an interesting contest.



XICHANG: Planning Minister, Ahsan Iqbal and Vice President China Aerospace Science & Technology Corporation, Mr. Lin Yiming discussing their successful joint endeavor to produce a satellite to bolster Pakistan's internet and communication infrastructure.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-232405442753 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The On Farm Water Management Kalat invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates.

Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	Provision of Agriculture Tube well system at U/C Nichara District Kalat, Ghulam Rasool S/o Mazar Khan PSDP No.62 (Z2023.0085)	25,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 17,50,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above (Up to 25 million) in Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE10(i) (General Civil Engineering Works) - EE11(iii) (Solar Energy). Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed, 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents; From the date of publication of NIT to 20 June, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 20 June, 2024 till 12:00 PM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:00 PM Address: On Farm Water Management Kalat Phone no: 3337808587 Email: mohammadyousofzehr076@gmail.com

DEPUTY DIRECTOR ON FARM WATER MANAGEMENT KALAT

PRQ No.2730/31-5-2024

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TENDER NOTICE

The District Health Officer Kech at Turbat invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-232405442061 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Rs.1000/-

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Cleaning & Janitorial Supplies (Total Item(s) Count: 1)	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 5,000,000 in Previous 3 Years. Turn over of at least 3 PKR in 5000000 Subsequent Previous Years. Presence in Active Tax Payer List. Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is not permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and non-responsive. Submission of the required Bidding document Fee. Must agree to serve the Contract within-05 days from the date of issuance of work order Registration certificate or application for renewal of firm / bidder with any one of following: Registrar of Firms / DRAP/SECP / Chamber of Commerce / Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed, 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents; From the date of publication of NIT to 14 June, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 14 June, 2024 till 10:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:00 AM Address: District Health Officer Kech at Turbat Phone no: 3218623955 Fax no: 0852413332 Email: balochrahi@gmail.com

DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICER KECH

PRQ No.2726/31-5-2024

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TENDER NOTICE

The District Health Officer Kech at Turbat invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-232405441901 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Rs.1000/-

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Medical Equipment and Accessories (Total Item(s) Count: 1)	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 5,000,000 in Previous 3 Years. Turn over of at least 4,000,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years. Presence in Active Tax Payer List. Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is not permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and non-responsive. Submission of the required Bidding document Fee. Must agree to serve the Contract within-05 days from the date of issuance of work order. Registration certificate or application for renewal of firm / bidder with anyone of following: Registrar of Firms / DRAP/SECP / Chamber of Commerce / Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed, 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents; From the date of publication of NIT to 14 June, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 14 June, 2024 till 10:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:00 AM Address: District Health Officer Kech at Turbat Phone no: 3218623955 Fax no: 0852413332 Email: balochrahi@gmail.com

DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICER KECH

PRQ No.2731/31-5-2024

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Deputy Director, Agriculture (On Farm Water Management) Washuk, invites sealed Tender/Bid for execution of various development schemes under the following project PSDP 2023-24 S.No. 138 (Z2022.3415) from interested contractors/firm with the Bid Security @ 2% of estimated cost/offered rate in shape of Call Deposit (Refundable). The non-refundable Tender Form Fee Rs.1500/-to be deposited in any National Bank of Pakistan Branch situated in Balochistan Province through Green Bank Challan in a head of account (C03136) (verified by the District Accounts Officer). Bid Security 2%

S#	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM THROUGH WATER MANAGEMENT RESOURCES (OFWM) DISTRICT WASHUK PSDP 2023-24 S.No. 138 (Z2022.3415)	16,628,000

Procurements shall be made under BPP Rules 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 11,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above (Up to 25 million) in Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE04(v) (Irrigation Only), CE09(ii) (Water Supply), CE10(i) (General Civil Engineering Works), EE11(iii) (Solar Energy). Income Tax Registration certificate is required. The bidding firm must submit Income Tax Return of Taxation Year 2023 The Bidding Firm must submit Audit Report / Audit Balance Sheet of FY 2020-21, 2021-22 & 2022-23 The bidding Firm must submit Company's latest Bank Account Statement or Bank Credit Line Certificate. The bidding firm must submit Income Tax Return of last 05 Taxation Year. The bidding firm must submit the Tender Fee in the Head of Account C03136 on Green Challan duly verified by District Treasury. Method of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security (2%) in the form of Call Deposit or Bank Guarantee (Bank's certificate is mandatory) in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be downloaded from BPPRA website. Bid Validity Period: 60 days Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication, during office hours of any working day. Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders should be submitted on 21 June, 2024 till 10:00 AM Sharp at the office of the undersigned. Tender opening: The Technical Proposals will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:00 PM. Stamp Duty: The successful bidder must submit the Stamp Duty in shape of Judicial Stamp Paper or Special Adhesive Stamps as per policy. Address: Office of the Deputy Director Agriculture On Farm Water Management, Washuk Contact No. 0333-8324642

DEPUTY DIRECTOR AGRICULTURE ON FARM WATER MANAGEMENT WASHUK

PRQ No.2724/31-5-2024

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Health officials, others vow...

Continued from page 1 officials informed.

Meanwhile, the Secretary Health and other concerned high ups vowed to play wholehearted part for eradication of the polio virus from the province.

They urged all segments of the society to cooperate with the health workers for making the anti-polio campaign success.

They particularly appealed to the parents to ensure vaccination of their children below five years of age against the polio virus.

It may be mentioned here that more than 7,000 teams have been formed to administer anti-polio drops to above 1.8 million children in 20 districts during upcoming campaign.

It may be mentioned here that three cases of polio have been reported from even districts of the province this year. Similarly, the polio virus has also been detected in the environmental samples of different districts of the province during 2023.

TENDER NOTICE

The Deputy Director, Agriculture (On Farm Water Management) Khuzdar, invites sealed Tender/Bid for execution of various development schemes under the following project PSDP 2023-24 under CSR-2023 from interested contractors/firm with the Bid Security @ 2% of estimated cost/offered rate in shape of Call Deposit (Refundable). The non-refundable Tender Form Fee to be deposited in any National Bank of Pakistan Branch situated in Balochistan Province through Green Bank Challan in a head of account (C03136) (verified by the District Accounts Officer). Tender Fee Rs.1500/- and Bid Security 2% for each work.

S#	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	D/D OF BORE, INST. OF SOLAR SYSTEM & LAND LEVELING UNDER THE PROJECT AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE UTILIZATION THROUGH VARIOUS OFWM COMPONENTS IN TEHSIL ZEHRIDIST KHUZDAR PSDP 2023-24 S.No. 180 (Z2023.0001)TSE232405442653	48,927,055
2	D/D OF BORE, INST. OF SOLAR SYSTEM & LAND LEVELING UNDER THE PROJECT AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMPONENTS THROUGH OFWMANJIRA TEHSIL ZEHRIDIST KHUZDAR PSDP 2023-24 S.No. 181 (Z2023.0002). TSE232405443033	47,976,268
3	D/D OF BORE, INST. OF SOLAR SYSTEM, LAND LEVELING & INST. OF TUNNEL (100x30) UNDER THE PROJECT MITIGATING THE NATURAL CALIMATES IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR BY PROVIDING VARIOUS OFWM COMPONENTS IN THE TEHSIL MOOLA DIST KHUZDAR PSDP 2023-24 S.No. 182 (Z2023.0003)TSE232405443123	48,846,670

Procurements shall be made under BPP Rules 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turnover against each TSE in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council as per Bidding documents. Income Tax Registration certificate is required. The bidding firm must submit Income Tax Return of Taxation Year 2023. The Bidding Firm must submit Audit Report / Audit Balance Sheet of FY 2020-21, 2021-22 & 2022-23. The bidding Firm must submit Company's latest Bank Account Statement or Bank Credit Line Certificate. Method of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security (2%) in the form of Call Deposit or Bank Guarantee (Bank's certificate is mandatory) in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be downloaded from BPPRA website. Bid Validity Period: 90 days Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication, during office hours of any working day. Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders should be submitted on 20-06-2024 as per mentioned time in bidding documents at the office of the undersigned. Tender opening: The Technical Proposals will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at as per mentioned time in bidding documents. Stamp Duty: The successful bidder must submit the Stamp Duty in shape of Judicial Stamp Paper or Special Adhesive Stamps as per policy. Address: Office of the Deputy Director Agriculture On Farm Water Management, Khuzdar. Note: The Tender Opening Committee/ Bid Evaluation Committee reserves the right (Delegated by the BPPRA Rules 2014) that either accept or reject any or all the offers/quotations prior to the acceptance of a bid. a) The Contractor/Firm not qualifying the basic eligibility criteria will not be entertained in the bidding process. b) The bidder / firm should quote all the rates in BOQ's otherwise the bidding would be considered as non-responsive. c) As per policy, the Procuring Agency reserves the right to increase or decrease quantum of work. Contact No. 0333-7988610

DEPUTY DIRECTOR AGRICULTURE ON FARM WATER MANAGEMENT KHUZDAR

PRQ No.2722/31-5-2024

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Shehbaz Sharif calls for joint efforts to build a 'tobacco-free' Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the World No Tobacco Day, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has pledged to intensify his efforts to reduce tobacco production and consumption, with the ultimate goal of creating a tobacco-free Pakistan.

The prime minister, in his message on Friday, urged the stakeholders including the civil society, professional associations, non-governmental organizations, and the media to collaborate with the government in its national efforts for eliminating the menace from the society.

"By firmly rejecting tobacco, we can establish the groundwork for a healthier and more prosperous Pakistan. Let's resolve, say 'No to Tobacco' and work together for building a tobacco-free Pakistan," he added.

He said the Day served as a powerful reminder of the collective effort needed to combat the pervasive and devastating impact of tobacco use on public health.

This year's theme "Protecting Children From Tobacco Industry Interference" focuses on safeguarding our future generations by ensuring that tobacco use continues to decline.

It is important to note that tobacco not only impacts the individuals who consume it but also has detrimental effects on the well-being of those in close proximity. PM Shehbaz said Pakistan was amongst the 15 countries of the world, having a heavy burden of tobacco-related ill health and "faces a double burden of disease primarily cancers, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and chronic

respiratory diseases".

The government, he said, had taken stringent measures to curb tobacco use which included placing large-sized pictorial health warnings on tobacco packages, banning the sale of loose cigarettes, banning point-of-sale displays and increasing tobacco taxation. However to completely eliminate from Pakistan, both production and consumption of tobacco must be reduced.

He said the government had raised taxation on cigarettes to about 150% to discourage the use of tobacco.

"Moreover, all forms of tobacco advertising and promotion are prohibited, including advertising on national TV, radio, print media, billboards, point of sale advertising and product display.



ISLAMABAD: German delegation led by head of development cooperation Sebastian Paust called on PM's Coordinator on Climate change Romina Khurshid Alam at her office.

IsDB Organizes four day, Country Procurement, financial management Workshop

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) organized a four-day financial management and integrity workshop to enhance the transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness of financial management and procurement processes in Pakistan.

The workshop saw active participation from international partners, executive agencies, and Provincial departments across the country, including representatives from Government Ministries and De-

partments, according to a press release issued here on Friday. The Ministry of Economic Affairs announces the successful completion of a four-day workshop conducted by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in Islamabad, focusing on Country Procurement, Integrity, and Financial Management. The event, held from 27th May to 30th May, brought together key stakeholders to enhance the transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness of financial management and procurement processes in Pakistan.

The collaboration between these entities and the IsDB underscores Pakistan's commitment to adopting international best practices in financial management and procurement to ensure sustainable development. The Workshop provided comprehensive training and Participants received in-depth training on the latest procurement policies, financial management strategies, and integrity measures essential for ensuring transparency.

Pakistani Pilgrims advised to take extra heats-related cautions during Hajj

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General & Head of Pakistan Hajj Mission Abdul Wahab Soomro, Friday advised Pakistani pilgrims to take all necessary precautions against heatstroke during the Hajj days and reassured that Pakistani pilgrims would be provided additional facilities upgraded services during Hajj 2024 as compared to previous years. In an exclusive interview with PTV news channel, he said this year's Hajj season occurs during the summer, pilgrims can expect to deal with the high summer temperatures and humidity, therefore, Hajj are urged to take some necessary health precautions. To combat the challenges of extreme heat

during the hot season, it is important for pilgrims to maintain proper hydration by drinking plenty of water, he said, adding, it is advisable to avoid excessive consumption of caffeine and sugary drinks as they contribute to dehydration.

Wearing suitable attire, such as loose-fitting, lightweight, and preferably light-colored clothing enables the body to breathe and stay cool. Pilgrims should not forget to protect their head and face with a hat or an umbrella and reapply sunscreen frequently, he mentioned. The "Pak Hajj App," through which online monitoring of all Hajj-related activities is being performed where we are receiving an overwhelming response in a short span.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Balochistan branch Abdul Wali Ghabizai meet with Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari in his office.

Romina says: Task force to spearhead policy & action endeavors for public safety in hot weather

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Friday said the PM's Task Force on Global Warming and Heatwave would spearhead policy and action endeavors for public safety during simmering hot weather.

Romina Khurshid Alam, in a statement, said "The task force would give its immediate response to the heatwave across the country. It would issue an early warning on the heatwave and formulate its action plan on preventive

measures, and time line, the task force will deliver comprehensive information for public awareness with the support of Ministry of Information and Information Technology," she added.

She added that the forum would identify, assess and plan for causes of water scarcity for the agricultural sector. It would develop medium and long-term recommendations on the challenges of global warming and heat waves. It may be added, the prime minister Shehbaz Sharif has modified the Task Force on Global Warming and Heatwave.



ISLAMABAD: Japan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Wada Mitsuhiro, and WHO Representative and Head of Mission in Pakistan Dr Luo Dapeng, posing for a group photograph along with participants during a celebrate ceremony of Rebuilding Together initiative that revitalized healthcare infrastructure in flood-stricken areas, at the WHO office in the Federal Capital.

PAKSAT MM-1 to enter orbit in next few days; Director Suparco

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco), A.K.M Shafaat Ali said on Friday that PAKSAT MM-1 satellite will enter in its orbit above earth surface in next few days.

PAKSAT MM-1 satellite is a five-ton multi-mission satellite, equipped with advanced communication gadgets, will enable effective internet provision in remote areas such as Gwadar and Gilgit Baltistan, where optical fiber was not available, he told a private news channel.

"The satellite will provide a range of communication services, including

broadband internet, TV broadcasting, mobile banking, and VSAT connectivity," he said and added, this will also contribute to the establishment of a sophisticated communication network, meeting the growing demands of the telecom sector and addressing the increasing demand for high-speed internet and seamless connectivity.

Dr Ali said that the primary objective of PAKSAT MM-1 was to strengthen Pakistan's communication infrastructure, paving the way for broadening the horizons for connectivity, serving the underserved, and transforming Pakistan into a digital powerhouse.

DC says: Operation underway to douse fire on Margalla Hills

ISLAMABAD (APP): An operation to extinguish a fire on Margalla Hills is currently underway after the blaze reignited on Friday.

Speaking to a private news channel, Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon said that the district administration, CDA officials, and the Pakistan Navy were actively engaged in efforts to control the fire.

The DC was confident that the fire would be controlled soon, despite challenges posed by strong winds and hot weather.

ATC orders to present PTI founder on June 28

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Anti-Terrorism Court on Friday ordered the presentation of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder before it on June 28 in a case pertaining to vandalism and violation of Section 144 registered at the Ramna Police Station of Islamabad. Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra, in his written order, issued the bailable arrest warrants for the absent accused, including Hammad Azhar, Farrukh Habib, Murad Saeed, and Hassan Khan Niazi. The court, in its order, stated that the accused founder of PTI was currently lodged in Adiala Jail Rawalpindi.

ICT cracks down in Tarnol against traffic violations

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a coordinated effort to enforce traffic regulations, the Islamabad Capital Territory Administration Friday has conducted a vehicle inspection drive in Tarnol area.

According to the spokesman of ICT Administration, on the instructions of the Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, the Assistant Commissioner Sadder, along with teams from the police, Islamabad Traffic Authority (ITA), and the Excise Department, carried out the operation.

The inspection focused on several key violations. Vehicles found without proper registration and fitness permits were impounded. Drivers were fined for failing to display notified routes and fare information. Additionally, vehicles with tinted windows and unauthorized flash lights were penalized.

CDA launches digital transformation of property services from August 14

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa said on Friday that the CDA will commence digitising the E-Registry and property transfer services from August 14, 2024.

Chairing a meeting regarding land digitisation, he said the e-registry initiative will facilitate transactions such as property purchases, sales, gifts, power of attorney, mortgages, and other related services. Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad and other board members of CDA were also present in the meeting.

Chairman Randhawa was told that digitisation aims to eradicate fraud and forgery in property transactions. The chairman was informed that scanning and

indexing of records would be completed within two months as part of the project. Additionally, the digitisation of maps is included in the scope of work.

He was informed that the scope of work includes digitising historical records and correcting discrepancies found during the process.

Data scanning and entry will be conducted, including the digitisation of historical and old records, which will undergo correction during the process. This initiative ensures immediate access to data, allowing people to access their property records.

Furthermore, land records will be integrated with the NADRA system as part of this process.

Saudi Civil Defense prepares 30 centers to ensure safety, security of pilgrims

ISLAMABAD (APP): Saudi Arabia's General Directorate of Civil Defense is exerting tremendous efforts through the 30 centers.

It set up at the land crossings and highways leading to Makkah and Madinah during this year's Hajj season to ensure the safety and security of pilgrims, SPA reported.

The 30 centers work to implement the general plan to deal with emergency situations, support the main civil defense centers in those locations, and undertake preventive measures and field operations to provide the highest levels of security and safety in cooperation with the relevant authorities.



Students and faculty members of the International Islamic University, Islamabad visiting Senate Museum at Parliaments House, Islamabad.

UAJK Staff Associations sound alarm over reduced HEC budget

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Presidents of the Academic and Administrative Staff Associations of the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK), Dr. Nazneen Habib and Israr Saeed Qadri, have expressed profound concern over the federal government's recent budget cuts to the Higher Education Commission (HEC).

In their joint statement, they said that the Ministry of Finance recently announced a significant reduction in the HEC budget for the fiscal year 2024-25, slashing it from 59 billion PKR to 25 billion PKR.

"This reduction is alarming, given the HEC's pivotal role in supporting higher education institutions across the country," Dr. Habib asserted, said a press release.

Israr Qadri added that the HEC had earlier informed the federal government that a budget of 160 billion PKR is essential to sustain the operations of the 126 universities it oversees.

Both the leaders highlighted that this budget cut is both surprising and regrettable. They emphasized that universities will face severe financial crises due to these reductions.

"The Higher Education Commission is instrumental in promoting higher education in Pakistan. A robust HEC is crucial for the development of our universities," they stated.

Dr. Nazneen Habib and Israr Saeed Qadri said that if the HEC's budget is reduced, many students from underprivileged backgrounds will miss out on opportunities for higher education.

They added that the impact of this budget cut on already struggling universities is expected to be devastating as many institutions are already grappling with inadequate funding, which affects their ability to maintain infrastructure, pay faculty salaries, and support research initiatives.

Blaze on Margalla Hills: three arrested for arson

ISLAMABAD (APP): A fire broke out in the Margalla hills on Friday, leading to the arrest of three individuals suspected of arson.

According to the spokesman of the ICT Administration, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon was on-site to oversee the firefighting efforts, which involved both ground teams and helicopters.

He said that measures had been taken to protect nearby residential areas from the spreading flames.

The Deputy Commissioner said, "the fire is spreading due to the high temperatures and strong winds."

Dialogue only way to peace in IIOJK: Farooq

ISLAMABAD (APP): President National Conference Dr Farooq Abdullah has said that despite facing criticism, he would continue to emphasize that dialogue was the only way to spread peace in the region.

According to Kashmir Media Service, in an interview with Indian media outlet, the former chief minister of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) also expressed the hope for a change in the government in power in India after the Lok Sabha election results are announced and that the new dispensation will pursue dialogue with Pakistan.

"I hope we see good election results with a new government in Delhi that

will pursue dialogue with Pakistan," Abdullah affirmed. "Even though I have been labeled as a Pakistani, Khalistani, and American agent, I will not cease to advocate for dialogue between India and Pakistan."

"The IIOJK will not be fine until these two big countries realize that war is no longer the way forward," Abdullah called for international investigation into recent shooting incidents, saying, "International pressure must be created, and international investigating agencies must probe the matter." He expressed his desire for assembly elections, stating, "I think Assembly elections will take place after the Amarnath Yatra concludes this year."



ISLAMABAD: A view of car engulfed in flames after a fire erupts at H-9 in the Federal Capital.

SP Dolphin orders Dolphin Squad officers to perform their duty efficiently

ISLAMABAD (APP): According to details, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the SP Dolphin gave a briefing to the Dolphin Squad officers, a public relations officer said.

He said that the SP Dolphin Syed Kazam Naqvi emphasized the need to make patrols more effective in combating crimes in Islamabad, particularly by positioning themselves strategically in areas with higher crime rates.

Encouragement was extended for arrests of criminals, and a strict zero-tolerance policy against corruption within the police force was underscored.

Furthermore, the SP Dolphin reiterated the importance of all police officers in the prevention and

control of crimes, emphasizing their role in ensuring the safety of lives and property of the citizens.

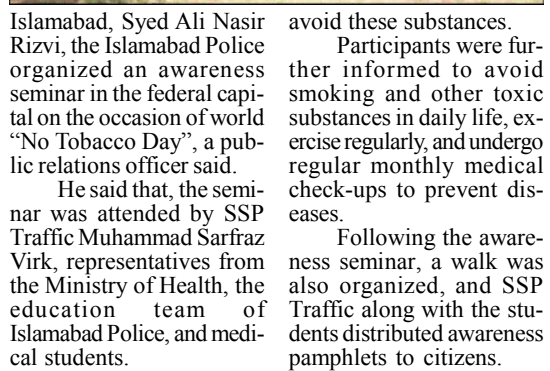
The formation of the Dolphin Squad aims to instill confidence in citizens regarding their safety, not tarnish the department's reputation. It's essential for officers to exhibit good conduct and adhere to clear policies aimed at crime control, he added. Officers were reminded of their duty to respond promptly to reports of crimes and to conduct searches for suspicious individuals or vehicles without license plates.

He further said that protecting the lives and property of citizens remains the top priority of Islamabad Police. He expressed the hope that all officers would play a vital role in ensuring the safety of citizens.

I'abad Police organizes seminar on world 'No Tobacco Day'

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, following the special directives of Inspector General of Police (IGP)

The seminar educated participants about the harms of smoking, gutka, and paan, and provided precautionary measures to



Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Police organized an awareness seminar in the federal capital on the occasion of world 'No Tobacco Day', a public relations officer said.

He said that the seminar was attended by SSP Traffic Muhammad Sarfraz Virk, representatives from the Ministry of Health, the education team of Islamabad Police, and medical students.

Participants were further informed to avoid smoking and other toxic substances in daily life, exercise regularly, and undergo regular monthly medical check-ups to prevent diseases.

Following the awareness seminar, a walk was also organized, and SSP Traffic along with the students distributed awareness pamphlets to citizens.



ISLAMABAD: A large numbers of youngsters are bathing in the water on a hot summer day in the Federal Capital.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Saturday June 01, 2024

Uncertain budget plans

With the Shehbaz Sharif-led government still fine-tuning the next budget, it might be too early to speculate upon the contents of the document. We will have to wait for a few more days before the budget proposals are firmed up and their contents finalised.

But what is certain is that in trying to achieve a balance between its political compulsions — providing succour to households no longer able to hold up against backbreaking inflation — and the necessity of plugging a deep fiscal hole in the economy, the government is faced with one of its most difficult challenges.

The confusion in the minds of the party leadership on how to deal with this paradox became even more evident on Wednesday when a PML-N meeting chaired by party leader Nawaz Sharif and attended by the prime minister decided to prepare a 'people-friendly' budget while adhering to IMF dictates. Not surprisingly, there was no official word either from the PML-N or the federal government on the outcome of the discussions. However, it is abundantly clear that the prime minister, caught between public expectations and harsh IMF demands, is in a fix.

The confusion in the PML-N over what shape the budget should take is reflective of the country's volatile political situation. On the one hand, the ruling party is not ready to lose more political capital by taking harsh measures, and on the other, it must swallow the bitter pill of stern IMF demands, if it wants to access international funding, which is crucial for reviving the economy.

At the same time, PML-N president Nawaz Sharif, who resumed his position some days ago after a long hiatus of six years following his disqualification, needs something tangible on the economic front to not just defeat the narrative of his popular arch-rival Imran Khan in Punjab but also maintain his existing public support. His party has already suffered in the February elections due to the extremely poor economic performance of the previous Shehbaz Sharif administration, which saw monthly inflation skyrocket to 38pc and interest rates jump to a record high of 22pc, besides industrial closures and job losses.

It is, therefore, safe to assume that the PML-N will do its best to meet the IMF's macroeconomic targets at the federal level, whilst taking populist measures in the Punjab budget to revive its party network in the province.

The PTI government in KP, which announced its next budget last week — much before the federal budget in a break from convention — has already shown other provinces how they can use their respective budget resources to execute the party programmes to keep their electorate happy without diverging from the IMF's conditions. There is little likelihood of other parties not giving in to this temptation.

Zafar Mirza

Every issue in Pakistan is linked to political instability and bad governance. These are two sides of the same coin, and they feed off one another. We have come to the point where people are losing hope, especially young men and women and those with small children. Who can blame them when political instability and uncertainty continue to grow, with no light at the end of the tunnel?

The quagmire is evident in our debt-driven economy and shameful human development indicators. Our neonatal mortality rate is second only to that of Lesotho, a sub-Saharan African country. If considered by region, the neonatal mortality rate in Balochistan alone would be the highest in the world. Two indicators put together speak volumes about the mess we have created in Pakistan by ignoring the people: 26 million of our children are out of school, which is the highest number in the world and around 40 per cent of children suffer from stunted mental and physi-

cal growth — that is, uneducated, stunted children. But these children are not yours or mine. They are out there somewhere. Sometimes we catch a glimpse of the tip of these icebergs from the windows of our air-conditioned cars, but we never realise the depths of the submerged mountains.

People are cracking under inflation. Bereft farmers and losing 'winners' with complaints of stolen mandates are running from pillar to post for respite against the scandalous wheat crisis and manipulated elections, respectively. These two contemporary crises amply reflect our overall state of affairs. A three-legged termite of helplessness, hopelessness and haplessness is busy eating us within.

The biggest problem of all is that there is 'no problem'! With our heads in the sand, we constantly click 'Inshallah' and 'Mashallah' on our digital counters wrapped around our index fingers. A small orchestra is playing and a game of musical chairs is underway on the deck of, God forbid, the Titanic.

In a recent article,

Miftah Ismail, twice finance minister of Pakistan, wrote, "we are fast reaching the point of no return...". While elaborating on the rationale for why Pakistan needs a new political party, he lamented, "unfortunately, our existing political leaders are outdated, out of touch, and devoid of any vision for the nation's future. I am sorry to say they lack both the courage and the competence to change the course of this country." Difficult to disagree with this heavily evidence-based assertion, isn't it?

Indeed, over the last five years, during which all the main political parties have been in power, the polycrisis has only proliferated. The last spike of 'change' has changed us in a strange way; only a battered and mindless popularity remains — nobody knows for how long and nobody knows what to do with it. Meanwhile, sight is blurry, breathing laboured and hope morbid.

In the midst of these, human resilience is raising its head and a breath of fresh air seems to be finding its way in.

Former prime minis-

ter Shahid Khaqan Abbasi started distancing himself from the PML-N as he disagreed with the party's familial power-at-all-costs politics. He asserted that our problems have grown much too complicated, and no single existing party could resolve them without all stakeholders sitting down and planning seriously for the long term. But the 'stakeholders' are too busy sabotaging each other. Miftah Ismail was unfairly elbowed out and replaced by a returning finance minister, but he didn't remain silent and started calling a spade a spade. Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar was asked to resign as the chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights for his 'political positions' and raising his voice against the custodial torture of political opponents. He smilingly said goodbye to the Senate and the party. How many such examples do we know of in our archaic game-of-thrones politics?

The three then joined hands and started 'reimagining Pakistan'. A series of seminars were held across the country. I travelled to attend a few

myself. One ran for seven hours non-stop, and another for nine, in severely cold weather. The halls were jam-packed. It is heartening to note that young people were the most active participants. They expressed their frustrations, hopes, efforts and suggestions. I came back from these seminars with a rekindling of hope.

Now a party is in the making. Not just a party, the foundations of a political institution are being laid, something none of us have ever experienced in the country.

Although we have beaten meanings out of words, don't we want to see a party that is truly democratic, transparent in its decisions — including those involving its financing base — in which hereditary politics has no place, where all party offices are time-bound, and where a young party member at the lowest rung has equal opportunity to rise in the ranks? A party that provides Pakistanis with the opportunity to experience functional democratic politics, something none of us have ever experienced in our na-

tional lives? A party squarely focused on economic and human development in one go, not as a trickle-down that never trickles, and with a sharp focus on youth and women's development? A party that restores Pakistanis' confidence in their country and in responsible democratic politics? A party that not only reflects the aspirations of young people but also works hard to create equal economic opportunities for them by identifying, developing and realising Pakistan's multiple comparative advantages in trade, in services, and import substitution manufacturing? A party that believes in restoring peace within and with neighbours?

And very importantly, a party that actually believes in the Constitution and does not hesitate to commit and uphold the principle of the establishment's non-interference in politics?

All this sound too good to be true, and yet there is a 'need for a new political party'. A new politics seems to be emerging at last! -- Courtesy Dawn

New politics at last

Negotiating effectively with IMF

Saeed Ahmed

Following the completion of the ninth-month Stand-By Arrangement (SBA), discussions are ongoing between Pakistan and the IMF for a successor programme. Given that Pakistan's fiscal and external vulnerabilities remain high, another Extended Fund Facility (EFF) arrangement seems inevitable. The country also faces heightened risks of political instability.

IMF programmes result from a negotiation process between governments and IMF staff, producing an 'adjustment programme' of economic reforms or 'conditionality' that the borrowing government must undertake. Typically, the EFF is a 'high conditionality' programme with specific targets and policy measures. For any IMF programme to be effective, it must include policies and programmes that are genuinely owned by the borrowing country's authorities. The success of such programmes depends on the quality of negotiations and a well-defined medium-term economic agenda that addresses the root causes of persistent economic problems, without alienating domestic interest groups.

The professional net-

works and ideological orientation of the IMF staff and borrowing governments, can significantly influence negotiation outcomes. The Fund staff wield significant authority during negotiations. Professional networks, often based on similar academic and professional backgrounds, increase staff trust and form the political basis for power and influence.

Cross-country research on IMF programmes shows that as ideological ties and similarity between the Fund and borrower country officials increase, IMF programmes become larger, with fewer binding conditions. This indicates that borrowing governments can influence negotiations through narrative strategies based on shared ideology.

Our experience with the IMF during the last EFF programme supports this notion. When Pakistan's team at the finance ministry, the central bank, and IMF Executive Board included professionals with strong academic credentials and experience in multilateral institutions, the design and implementation of an extended arrangement and approval of eight reviews under the 2019-2023 EFF programme proceeded smoothly despite

challenges. The country also received emergency financing support of \$1.386 billion during the Covid-19 pandemic. However, after the departure of this team of professionals, the ninth review faced delays, and the programme remained incomplete for various reasons, including the stringency shown by the IMF staff and management.

Given the capacity constraints currently faced by Pakistan's team, it is likely that economic policymaking will be outsourced to the IMF. Pakistani authorities may then end up merely signing off on a 'Letter of Intent' and 'Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies', crafted by Fund staff. Notwithstanding his vision and commitment, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurang-zeb needs a robust team of economists and professionals to negotiate effectively with the IMF.

Another critical aspect of negotiations involves agreement on key assumptions related to the forecasts of the exchange rate, inflation, GDP growth, and balance-of-payments as fiscal planning and monetary policy decisions depend on these variables.

Previously, projections by State Bank economists, based on advanced forecasting models, have proven more accurate than projections used by IMF teams. For instance, during the EFF programme negotiations in April-May 2019, the SBP accurately projected the dollar to rupee average exchange rate for FY20, following the transition to a market-determined exchange rate regime, to be around Rs162, whereas IMF projected it to be between Rs177 and Rs182 with a view to exerting harsh conditions on Pakistan. The actual exchange rate (Rs161.91) aligned with the SBP's forecast. This difference between the SBP and IMF on such projections led to the departure of SBP governor Tariq Bajwa and finance secretary Younus Dagher from their offices, as they resisted the IMF-projected exchange rate and inflation numbers and associated policy prescriptions. History has proven that their stance was correct. Sadly, there is no accountability within the IMF for producing erroneous projections.

Another example is the FY24 current account deficit, which the IMF projected at \$5.649bn at the start of the SBA programme, but re-

vised to \$3bn. Based on these inflated current account deficit estimates, the IMF had untenably asked Pakistani authorities to arrange for financing assurances to meet the full external financing needs for completing the ninth review. The off-the-market current account deficit projections have vindicated the stance taken by then finance minister Ishaq Dar who had protested against IMF's exaggerated projections to put undue pressure on Pakistan. Also, the SBP has consistently produced more robust and accurate inflation forecasts than the IMF.

That said, it is critical for the government to exercise caution while agreeing to the contours of the next IMF programme. These must include domestic resource mobilisation and expenditure efficiency, structural reforms to improve the business climate, solid measures to increase non-debt-creating external inflows, and solutions to address the root causes of long-standing energy problems. There must also be a commitment to implementing the agreed privatisation agenda to get rid of loss-making SOEs.

Further, tax reforms must focus on equity issues

within the tax policy. To prevent social unrest, tax reforms should target raising revenues from untaxed and under-taxed sectors rather than squeezing existing taxpayers further. Tax credits should encourage business investments and private expenditure on education and health by individual taxpayers. Similarly, within the energy sector, previous IMF programmes failed to resolve the burgeoning circular debt through tariff increases and unjust fuel taxes alone. The circular debt swells due to inefficiency, theft and losses faced by power distribution firms. The new IMF programme must have realistic policies and targets, instead of relying on outdated structural conditionality, which has not yielded fruitful results, has alienated citizens, and stifled economic growth.

Pakistan's initial experience under the 2019-2023 EFF programme underscores the importance of having a capable team that can negotiate effectively. Without such a team to formulate home-grown economic policies and get the IMF to agree to these, the country risks embarking on yet another programme like the previous 23.

Youth and longevity

Zubeida Mustafa

Muna Khan's interesting column titled 'Forego the FOGO' (fear of getting old) published recently on these pages was food for thought. She is spot on, especially in her observation that FOGO is driven by the global beauty industry. Muna also writes about seniors in the newsroom today not being valued for their experience. This is probably the consequence of glorifying youth to create FOGO.

When I was young, this phenomenon was called the 'generation gap'. It existed in every profession and also in family life. But unlike what happens today, the gap was managed in a very civilised manner. When I reached the age of seniority, younger colleagues like Muna and most others of her generation gave me great respect and cooperation, for which I still feel grateful. Obviously, they didn't suffer from FOGO and so acted their age and observed the courtesies they had learnt. This gap must be accepted in a positive manner if mankind has to progress, otherwise we would still be hunter-gatherers.

My concern today, however, focuses more on the many challenges 'senior citizens' face. These issues must be discussed, more so because people are reluctant to talk about them.

One issue pertains to longevity and mortality. In 1950, after the country had somewhat stabilised in the wake of the social upheaval caused by the massive transfer of population during Partition, average life expectancy at birth in Pakistan was estimated at 36.2 years for males and 33.4 for females, according to Wikipedia. Then began the multinational

pharmaceutical giants' global race in quest of alchemy.

Rooted in earlier global discoveries, research and studies, the manufacture of wonder drugs and medical technologies took off, revolutionising healthcare the world over. Vaccinations dramatically lowered childhood, infant and maternal mortality rates and life expectancy at birth shot up. For instance, in 2023, Pakistan's life expectancy at birth was estimated to be 65 years for males and 69.7 for females (Worldmetre.info).

The increase in lifespan has been a universal phenomenon. Hong Kong's life expectancy in 2023 stood at 83 years for males and 88.6 for females. However, in Pakistan, the higher life expectancy has hardly been noticed. Combined with a high birth rate of 2.5 per cent, the increasing lifespan has called for greater focus on issues with a demographic dimension. This has given rise to economic and social problems for the country. No heed has been paid to the advice of a German doctor: "We must add life to years and not years to life." As has been our wont, the emphasis has been on curative medicine, with little effort to adopt preventive health measures.

Efforts by activists over the decades have failed to secure even basic financial support for seniors. As a result, we have a huge sandwich generation that is doubly burdened. It takes care of its parents as well as offspring with no social security to fall back on. The youth bulge that was supposed to be an asset to the nation is now a liability. The government has failed to give the bulk of the youth a decent education or provide them with a livelihood. It is

seeing with discontent.

As for seniors, they mainly need support to sustain themselves and for healthcare. Some activities to engage them are also important to create conditions that facilitate mental well-being. Those fortunate to receive a pension have to make do with what is now a pittance at a time when the country's economy is on the brink.

Not that the government is not aware of these problems. In 2014, the Sindh Asse-mbly adopted the Senior Citizens Social Welfare Act that came into force in 2016. But it never produced any change as the chairman of the council that was set up passed away and the law remained only on paper. In 2019, the Legal Aid Society went to court and some hearings were held, but the issue seems to have been put on the back-burner as normally happens in such circumstances.

Thus the twilight years of many in our society raise questions that call for a discourse to change expectations and produce doable suggestions. A discourse would provide relief from the stresses and strains that come with loneliness. It has been observed that when changes have come after a discourse, the situation has become more manageable.

Some of the sensitive issues pertaining to life and death include: palliative medicine, the question of a 'living will', which involves medical options, medical treatment, etc.

I hope this article will not give a boost to FOGO among the young. I must remind them that Botox is not the answer to their fears. It is one's approach to life, rather than one's looks, that matters. -- Courtesy Dawn

Tragedy of the commons?

Umer Farooq

In 2012, Northern Ireland launched an environmental initiative that escalated into the notorious Cash for Ash scandal. Originally designed to tackle energy issues, the plan ironically made the problem worse. The scandal unfolded around the Renewable Heat Incentive; a programme aimed at encouraging businesses to switch to green energy. However, this 20-year scheme backfired. Subsidies for using renewable energy were higher than the energy's actual cost. This glitch led businesses to increase their energy consumption to make profits, going as far as heating empty buildings. Pakistan's rooftop solar net metering is now a classic example of the same flawed policy design, making it a tragedy of the commons. Worse still is the government's mishandling of the situation.

The Pakistan government has decided to reduce the incentivised tariff for net metering on new solar installations. This policy gives the impression that the government is turning against solar energy, even if that's not the case. As new solar installations emerged, the government started to panic about consumers relying less on the traditional power grid. Should they have panicked? No.

A Lums electricity outlook report projects that in the coming years, the difference between peak load demand with and without distributed solar generation will be negligible; hence, there will be negligible impact on the capacity infrastructure of the grid. This also leaves little room for the argument that only 0.3 per cent of households, presumably

wealthy, benefit from net metering with solar rooftops. If net metering for 0.3pc of households is causing difficulties with capacity payments, then the problem lies elsewhere, not with net metering. The real issues are the expensive take-or-pay guarantee model and a lack of demand for excess generation capacity.

Rolling back the incentivised net metering policy highlights the government's poor preparation. The government launched the Fast Track Solar Initiatives which aimed to replace costly imported fossil fuels with solar energy, generate solar power on 11 kV feeders, and solarise public buildings. This project pulled the interest of investors in renewable energy production like none other.

However, the government's current policy against net metering contradicts this initiative. Net metering was supposed to add only 500 MWp per year for the next few years, according to the latest Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion Plan. More than 5,000 MW of existing thermal power projects are set to be retired from the NTDC system at the same time. Solar could have replaced them. It is a no-brainer.

The government has declared the grid sacred. This enthusiasm emerges from the agreements with independent power producers (IPPs) that require us to complete the capacity payments, whether we use the national grid or not. This situation makes it tricky for the government to ensure consumers stay connected to the grid. Grid reliance, tied intrinsically to capacity payments, will perpetually stand in opposition to the adoption of any renewable technologies in

the future — which, of course, is not the way to go. Owing to the capacity payments, we are about to enter an era of grid nationalism.

At this stage, the government's main concern should not be regulating solar net metering. Instead, it should focus on navigating the committed capacity factor and the IPP agreements for which the capacity component is anticipated to rise significantly. Curtailing net metering will hardly solve the problem. As a wise man once said, "The reason most ma-jor goals are not achieved is that we spend our time doing second things first."

With a new generation surplus on the horizon, the weighted average cost of generation will burden poor consumers, which it should not. We must avoid repeating western Australia's mid-2000s mistake, where a projected surplus never materialised under the capacity electricity agreement, forcing them to pay \$85 per MWh compared to \$35 per MWh in eastern Australia. We are in a dire situation where the economic outlook does not support increased electricity demand. Our dollar exchange rate projections were incorrect, worsening the problem. To resolve this, the government must expand the base load by introducing commercial and industrial energy demand. Designing a sensible gross metering concept could also benefit domestic consumers significantly. The situation also makes a case for electric vehicles that can not only reduce the need for imported fuel but also use the surplus capacity. Studies show that half a million EVs can be fully charged with 1,000 MW — an excellent solution. There are alternatives. -- Courtesy Dawn

Health minister emphasises importance of patient care in govt hospitals

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique has reiterated the government's commitment to providing quality healthcare in government hospitals, emphasising that patient care was top priority for the health department.

During a meeting held at the Department of Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education on Friday, he stressed the importance of performance evaluations and clinical audits in the government teaching hospitals.

"Ensuring the best possible treatment for patients in government hospitals is our primary focus," he said. "We will conduct clinical audits to improve our services and will not tolerate any form of corruption."

The minister highlighted that the Health Department supported dedicated health professionals and distances that disrupt hospital operations. He also noted that under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister

Maryam Nawaz Sharif, efforts were being made to address hospital issues and prioritise the revamping project in public hospitals.

Punjab Secretary Health Ali Jan Khan said that the administration was on high alert to manage the measles outbreak across the province and to prepare for Congo virus and heatwave threats. "All types of medicines are being supplied to patients in every DHQ and BHU across the province," he promised. He also emphasised that no negligence regarding hospital sanitation would be tolerated.

During the meeting, Khawaja Salman Rafique and Ali Jan Khan reviewed various health indicators, including measles prevention, heatwave management, Congo virus preparedness, and the progress of the universal health insurance initiative.

The meeting was attended by special secretaries, additional secretaries, and other key health officials through video link.



KARACHI: Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah addressing 2nd post graduate research conference at JPMC Auditorium.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz presides over the special meeting to review price control and other matters.

CM Murad says: JPMC to AI system used at Johns Hopkins Hospital

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah Friday said that the world-renowned firm PAXERA had been engaged to install PACS and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies at JPMC, which were currently being used at Johns Hopkins Hospital and Harvard Medical School's Mass General Hospital in the USA.

This, he said while speaking at the 2nd Postgraduate Research Conference organised by JPMC at its Auditorium.

The Chairman HEC Sindh Prof. Tariq Rafi, Vice Chancellors - Prof. Nurat Shah, Amjad Siraj, Gulshan Memon, CEO AKUH Dr Farhat Abbas, and Executive Director JPMC Prof. Shahid Rasool also spoke on the occasion.

The chief minister said this was not the JPMC inherited from the federal

government.

"At the time of the devolution of Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Center (JPMC), National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) and National Institute of Child Health (NICH) in 2011, their bed capacity was 2092 with a budget of Rs 1.9 billion," he added.

He said currently, we had increased their bed capacity to 4041 and the budget to Rs 25.75 billion and added that within the next three years, he aimed to further improve the bed capacity to 5000, which would make them the largest healthcare facility in Asia.

Murad Shah said that in 2011 the JPMC had 1185 beds, NICH 443 and NICVD 464, adding that his government enhanced the bed capacity from 2000 to 4000 in just 12 years.

"And In-sha-Allah within the next three to four

years, we will raise it to 5000 beds which will make this the largest health care facility in Asia," he vowed.

The chief minister said that his government was fully committed to health care. "At the time of devolution, the Annual budget of these three institutes, JPMC, NICVD and NICH was Rs 1.9 billion and today it is Rs 25.75 billion."

Giving the breakdown of the budgets, Murad Shah said that in the year 2011, the JPMC had Rs 1300 million, NICH had Rs 218,416 million and NICVD- Rs 242,126 million budget and the total of the three facilities budget Rs.1,915 million.

The chief minister said that in 2023-24 the JPMC had a budget of Rs 11000 million, NICH Rs 2066 million and NICVD Rs 15,674 million - a total of Rs 25,740 million.

Governor stresses unity among political parties to achieve national progress

Independent Report

LAHORE: The delegation of Pakistan Peoples Party Lahore Division called on Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan here today at Governor House Lahore. The delegation comprised presidents of four districts and party workers of Pakistan Peoples' Party Lahore.

The delegation congratulated Sardar Saleem Haider Khan on becoming the Punjab Governor.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider said that the coalition government should be strengthened for the development and stability of the country. He said that all political parties should be on one page and should play positive role in the development of country. Governor Punjab said that

public service is the basis of the manifesto of People's Party. He said that the doors of Governor House Lahore are open for the people of Punjab. Governor Punjab said that he would try his best to fulfill his constitutional role in a good way and contribute to the improvement of the province.

The residents of four districts of Lahore, Zahid Zulfikar, Asif Nagra, Atif Chaudhry and Amjad Jat also addressed the ceremony. The delegation comprised senior PPP leaders; Shahida Jabeen, Altaf Qureshi, Arif Khan, Hafiz Ghulam Mohiuddin and Haji Azizur Rahman Chan. Ahsan Rizvi performed the duty of moderator on this occasion.

Earlier, Chancellor/Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan held introductory meetings with

Vice Chancellors of various universities of Punjab. Among the vice chancellors who met the Punjab Governor were Vice Chancellor of Government College Lahore, Prof. Shazia Bashir, Prof. Dr. Ahsan Waheed Rathore of University of Health Sciences, Prof. Dr. Ayaz Mehmood of King Edward Medical College University, Prof. Dr. Khalid Mehmood of Punjab University, Nankana. Prof. Muhammad Afzal of the University, Prof. Dr. Shaghfat Naz of Government College Women University Lahore, Prof. Dr. Khalid Masood Gondal of Fatima Jinnah Medical University Lahore and Vice Chancellor of Gujarat University Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mushahid Anwar. Vice Chancellors briefed the Governor of Punjab.



Sri Lanka Minister for Buddhasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs Vidura Wikramanayaka calls on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor House Peshawar.

CM directs concerned quarters to evolve mechanism for proper utilization of social security funds

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has directed the quarters concerned to devise a sustainable model to ensure utilization of social security funds in a proper manner.

The CM has decided to arrange a collective marriage programme of 4000 deserving females hailing from the province and directed the concerned authorities to complete homework in this regard.

Under the program, a grant of Rs 0.2 million per female would be provided from the dowry fund, he said.

The CM issued the instructions during the meeting held here at Chief Minister's House on Friday.

MNA Dr Amjad Ali Khan, Secretary Social

Welfare Nazar Hussain Shah, Special Secretaries to Chief Minister Waqar Ali Khan, Masood Younis and other relevant officials also attended the meeting.

The CM has directed the concerned authorities to collect the actual data of deserving girls from all the districts and to provide quota in proportion to the population of each district, so that the decision regarding mass marriage program would be implemented in a transparent manner.

"We need to have an efficient scrutiny mechanism in order to ensure that only deserving girls would be selected for that programme," he said. He directed that members of the committees to be formed at Village Council level and that should be selected purely on merit. He made it clear that

political recommendations or personal likes and dislikes would not be tolerated in the disbursement of social security funds. Each and every penny of Zakat funds must be spent on the wellbeing of needy and poor people, by giving priority to orphans, widows and persons with disabilities, he instructed. The CM also directed to provide standard electric wheelchairs to the needy persons. He said that the disable persons already registered with the department, and they should be given priority in this regard. He further directed to ensure representation of at least three female members in every forum of Zakat Committees. On this occasion, the participants of the meeting agreed with the proposal regarding creation of Philant.



MUZAFFRABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam addressing a press conference at press club in the city.

LHC issues notice, seeks reply Petition against not allowing PTI to hold public meetings

LAHORE (Online): During the hearing of petition against not allowing PTI to hold public meetings in Punjab, Lahore High Court (LHC) has issued notice to government and sought reply.

The hearing of the case was adjourned for indefinite period.

Petition filed by Umar Ayub came up for hearing before Justice Abid Aziz Sheikh Friday.

The counsel for PTI while giving arguments said holding public meetings in Punjab is our basic right. Whenever our any worker comes outside with flag then criminal case is registered against him. 52 cases have been registered against Hammad Azhar.

The court questioned why you have made LDA

party. PTI counsel said our provincial office has been sealed by LDA.

He requested the court to de-seal their provincial office. The way other parties are given NOC to hold public meetings, we should also be given NOC.

PTI took the plea in the petition that all political parties in the country are allowed to hold public meetings. PTI is being stopped from holding public meetings in Punjab. PTI office located on Jail road Lahore has been sealed. PTI leadership has announced to hold public meetings in different cities in the province. PTI requested the court to issue order to government to stop harassing PTI workers and leaders.

Rs.1b released for Karachi Safe City Project: Zia Lanjar

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Home Minister, Zia ul Hassan Lanjar, Friday said that Sindh government had released Rs 1 billion for the first phase of Karachi Safe City Project aimed at making the metropolis a peaceful and crime free city. While chairing a meeting held here at DIG CTD office to discuss the first phase of the Karachi Safe City Project, the home minister emphasized the need of swift completion

of the project within 12 months.

He mentioned that Sindh government had transferred Rs 3 billion to the project account for expediting the necessary works for launch of the project. The objectives of the safe city project are to eliminate crime and apprehend criminal elements and the government wants to expand it to other cities of the province.

CM orders ensuring ban on smoking at public places

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, in her message on the 'World No Tobacco Day', directed the departments and authorities concerned on Friday to ensure implementation of the ban on smoking at public places strictly.

She said the use of tobacco could be fatal for human health. The chief minister noted with concern that "more than 250,000 deaths are caused due to smoking every year in Pakistan. It is really a matter of grave concern."

Maryam Nawaz said, "Smoking is also a major cause of heart attack in young people. Parents should be vigilant to preventing their children from adopting the habit of smoking."

Sindh Rangers set up heat stroke centers in Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): In response to the scorching heat wave sweeping through Karachi and interior Sindh, the Sindh Rangers have established heat stroke centers to provide relief to the affected citizens.

These centers are offering a range of facilities, including cold water, ORS packets, and medicines to help people combat the extreme temperatures, PTV reported on Friday.

A team of doctors and paramedical staff from the Sindh Rangers are also providing medical assistance to prevent heatstroke and other heat-related illnesses. The centers are equipped to handle emergency cases and provide immediate medical attention to those in need. This initiative by the Sindh Rangers aims to mitigate the effects of the heat wave and ensure the well-being of the people of Sindh. The centers are open to all and are providing services free of cost.

Delegation of Buddhist monks called on Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation representing Buddhist monks of Sri Lanka called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi here Friday and discussed matters of mutual interests including promotion of tourism between two countries. The delegation that was led by Sri Lankan Minister for Religious and Culture also visited various sections of historic Governor House.

Kundi also informed the delegation about history of KP and preservation of Buddha era relics that are situated in the

province. He told that each year followers of Buddhism visit northern areas of Pakistan for meditation and to witness relics and artifacts of Buddha era that are safety protected and preserved in KP. Governor said that relics of Buddha era are well preserved in northern areas in form of Gandhara art.

The delegation expressed gratitude to Governor for his hospitality and lauded the efforts of government to preserve artifacts of Buddha era in various areas of the province.



LAHORE: French Ambassador to Pakistan Nicolas Galey looking at a photograph during France Olympic Games photograph exhibition at Al-Hamra hall, in the Provincial Capital.

Health Minister inaugurates polio vaccination campaign in selected districts of KP

Independent Report

PESHAWAR: KP Health Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah inaugurated the polio vaccine campaign in selected districts of the province here on Friday at Police Services Hospital Peshawar. This five-days Sub-national Immunization Days (SNIDs) campaign is being launched from June 3rd in selected districts of the province. Special Secretary Health and Coordinator Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Abdul Basit, Deputy Coordinator EOC Muhammad Zeeshan Khan, Director General Health Services Dr Muhammad Saleem and officials of UNICEF and WHO as well as other relevant officials were also present on this occasion.

Minister health Syed Qasim Ali Shah while talking to media reiterated the provincial government's strong commitment and unwavering resolve to eradicate polio virus from the province and has emphasized that the only way to root out this

menace is to vaccinate each and every under five child in each campaign.

Shedding light on the highest priority being attached to eradicating polio virus, the provincial health minister said that the whole government machinery including administrative officers from top to bottom, health department and law enforcement agencies are all working hand in glove at all levels to ensure the complete eradication of this crippling disease.

On this occasion, the health minister administered polio drops to a child to formally inaugurate this campaign wherein more than 3.56 million under five children will be administered with anti-polio drops.

Sharing details of the campaign, EOC Coordinator Abdul Basit said that during this campaign, polio drops will be administered to approximately 3.28 million children in nine complete districts of the province including Peshawar, Khyber, Kohat, Swat, Swabi, Dir Lower, Bannu.



LAHORE: A delegation of Pakistan Peoples Party Lahore Division called on Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

CJ PHC administers oath to cabinet of Abbottabad District Bar

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Justice (CJ) Peshawar High Court (PHC), Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim has said that he would not deviate from oath to uphold constitution and law adding that cooperation of lawyers is essential to restore confidence of people.

He expressed these views while addressing the oath taking ceremony of newly elected officials at Abbottabad District Bar. Justice Ijaz Akbar, Justice Faheem Ali, Peshawar High Court Registrar Ikhtiyar Khan, District, Sessions Judge Muhammad Shoab Khan, senior civil judges and lawyers also attended the ceremony.

He remarked that people do not come forward for their rights as they have lost trust in the system and added that cooperation of lawyers is

essential to rectify the situation.

The Peshawar High Court Abbottabad Bench would also hear cases via video link and significant improvement in judicial reforms would be evident in three months, he said.

CJ Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim also emphasized the need of hard work to improve the system and mentioned that more judges are being appointed by federal government to expedite case resolutions.

He stated that criminal, civil, and family cases would be separated in court to enhance judges' performance and provide relief to the people. He pointed that results would increase if judges and lawyers work together. President High Court Bar also presented shields to CJ PHC, Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and other guests.

ATC extends interim bail of PTI founder in 3 cases

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Friday extended the interim bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder in three cases related to May-9 violence until June 7.

The court directed the jail authorities to ensure the attendance of the PTI founder through video-link at the next hearing, besides seeking arguments from parties.

ATC Judge Khalid Arshad conducted the proceedings on the bail petitions of the PTI founder in cases of attacks on Jinnah House, Askari Tower, and torching of Shadman Police Station.

On August 11, 2023, an ATC dismissed the pre-arrest bails of the PTI founder in seven cases over his non-appearance, as he was jailed after conviction in the Toshakhana case.

However, the Lahore High Court (LHC).



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Finance Mujatba Shuja-ur-Rehman presides over the 44th Punjab Pension Fund Committee meeting.

PM urges auto industry to start local manufacturing, implement deletion policy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday urged the automobile industry to start local manufacturing of vehicles and export a considerable ratio of their products to contribute to national development. The prime minister, talking to a delegation of automobile and auto parts manufacturers, asked the industry to implement the Auto Sector Deletion Policy and become a part of the global value chain. He told the delegation that the incumbent government was taking measures to boost the country's exports. The delegation which consisted of Chief Executive Officer of Executive Officer of Toyota Pakistan Ali Jamal.

Sharif chairs meeting to review progress of Pakistan Single Window Company

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday chaired a meeting to discuss the expansion of the Pakistan Single Window Company, aimed at facilitating trade and commerce in the country. The prime minister expressed his satisfaction with the company's current operations and directed that its scope be expanded to facilitate the public in obtaining municipal services. He emphasized the need to replicate the company's successful model, inspired by China's Single Window system, which had been a guiding light for Pakistan. Chief Executive Officer of Pakistan Single Window Company Syed Aftab Haider,



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on Pakistan Single Window Company.



ISLAMABAD: IsDB Organizes Country Procurement, Financial Management and Integrity Workshop in Islamabad.

Pak food companies showcase diverse range of products at exhibition in Shanghai

BEIJING (APP): Nine leading Pakistani companies, specializing in logistics, rice mills, frozen meals, and a wide array of fruits, juices, pink salt products, candies, snacks, and dried fruits, had made a strong presence at the imported grocery section of the 2024 Salon International De L'Alimentation (SIAL) in Shanghai. The exhibition, running from May 28 to 30, attracted over 5,000 exhibitors from 75 countries and regions, showcasing more than 350,000 products, representing the latest, innovative and unique food and beverage products from around the world, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday. SIAL Shanghai has become a pivotal platform for Pakistani food exporters to showcase their products to a global audience. The Pakistani contingent's participation highlighted the country's rich agricultural heritage and growing capabilities in food processing and logistics. With a focus on quality and variety, the Pakistani exhibitors aimed to capture the attention of buyers from China and other participating countries. One of the standout companies was the National Logistics Corporation represented by Director Plans Muhammad Yousof. He emphasized the company's capabilities in handling international shipments, especially in the food and beverage industry. "We are here to introduce our logistics services to potential customers and partners, he said. "With our robust network, we can ensure efficient and timely delivery of products from Pakistan to China and beyond."

Chairman PARC for collective efforts to preserve medicinal, aromatic plants

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Agriculture Research Council Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali Friday stressed the need of collective efforts to preserve medicinal and aromatic plants. He was addressing a seminar on Sustainable Conservation Practices for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of Pakistan, said a press release issued here. Dr Ali emphasizing the pivotal role of these plants in maintaining ecosystem balance and human well-being. He urged attendees to approach the seminar with open minds, a spirit of collaboration, and a commitment to do action. He said collective responsibility should be shared by all stakeholders in ensuring the conservation of medicinal and aromatic plants. The event concluded with a call to pave the way for a future where conservation efforts transcend mere goals and become a steadfast commitment upheld with passion and dedication by all. The seminar served as a platform to recognize the intricate interplay between human actions and environmental health. Other pertinent of the event stressed the far-reaching consequences of decisions regarding,



FAISALABAD: A vendor displaying Garlic to attract the customers at roadside setup.

Weekly inflation up by 0.11 pc

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.11 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on May 30, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 308.52 points as compared to 308.19 points during the past week. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 21.40 per cent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732, increased by 0.09 per cent and went up to 298.82 points from the last week's 298.56 points. The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517, Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, increased by 0.12 percent, 0.12 percent, 0.15 and 0.08 percent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 14 (27.45%) items increased, 14 (27.45%) items decreased and 23 (45.10%) items remained stable. The items, which recorded a decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included eggs (6.14 percent).

PSX stays bullish, gains 1,000 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Friday, gaining 1,000.35 points, a positive change of 1.34 per cent, closing at 75,878.48 points against 74,878.12 points the previous day. A total of 523,299,973 shares valuing Rs 20,574 billion were traded during the day as compared to 410,575,241 shares valuing Rs 14,922 billion the previous day. As many as 433 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 236 of them recorded gains and 140 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 57 companies remained unchanged. The top three trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 62,228,161 shares at Rs 4.96 per share, Dewan Cement with 31,643,087 shares at Rs 10.94 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 28,533,919 shares at Rs 1.35 per share.

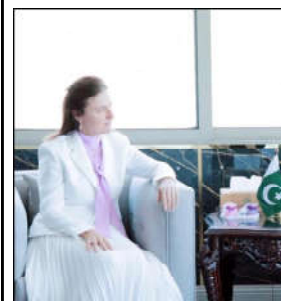
SBP injects Rs 10.47 trillion into market

KARACHI (APP): State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Friday injected Rs 10,470.5 billion in the market through reverse repo purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operation (OMO) cumulatively. According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on May 31, 2024 for tenors of 7 and 28 days. The central bank received 31 quotes for 7-day tenor amounting to Rs 10,122.55 billion offered at the rate of return ranging between 22.06 to 22.13 percent and 4 quotes for 28-day tenor amounting to Rs 145.95 billion at the rate of return ranging between 22.07 to 22.12 percent. Of them, the SBP, accepted all the 31 quotes for 7-day tenor at 22.06 % rate of return p.a. while all the offered quotes for the 28-day tenor were accepted at 22.07 % return rate. Meanwhile, the central bank also conducted Shariah Compliant Mudarabah.

Over Rs 16 billion disbursed among beneficiaries under Benazir Kafaalat scheme

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has disbursed over Rs 16 billion among over 15,00,000 beneficiaries from across the country so far under the Benazir Kafaalat quarterly payments (April-June). "Till May 30, over Rs. 16 billion has been disbursed among over 15,00,000 beneficiaries which makes 46 percent of the total beneficiaries", said an official source. The disbursement of the quarterly tranche (April-June) of Benazir Kafaalat cash assistance to the beneficiaries is continued across the country in two phases to

disburse Rs. 10,500 per household among over nine million registered beneficiary families. In the first phase, the payments are being issued among the beneficiaries in all districts of Islamabad, Balochistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan. The payments are also being disbursed in Peshawar, Mardan and all districts of Malakand and Hazara Division in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, all districts of Karachi Division and District Hyderabad in Sindh province and Gujranwala, Sahiwal, Rawalpindi and all districts of Sargodha Division and District Vehari in Punjab. While payments to the beneficiaries in the remaining districts are being issued in the second phase. The beneficiaries can receive their payment through the nearest centers after receiving message from 8171. The beneficiaries, in case of any complaint, can approach the nearest BISP Tehsil offices or call the toll-free helpline number 080026477 of the Benazir Income Support Program. The special control room has been activated in the BISP headquarters to address the complaints of the beneficiaries promptly.



IMF Resident Representative to Pakistan Ms. Esther Perez Ruiz called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in Islamabad.

IMF representative calls on Shaza Fatima

ISLAMABAD (APP): Resident Representative of International Monetary Fund (IMF) to Pakistan Ms. Esther Perez Ruiz called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja here on Friday. Detailed views were exchanged on digitalization process in Pakistan and IT and Telecommunication sector said a news release. While talking to the IMF Representative, Shaza Fatima said that steps are on for digital transformation in the country. Connectivity, fiberization and availability of digital devices are the foundation of digitalization, she said.

Cattle festival begins in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD (APP): A two-day 'Cattle festival' was inaugurated at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) here on Friday. Beautification, weigh and milk contests of sheep, goat, camel, and calf would be held during the festival. UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan, along with Dean Faculty of Animal Husbandry Dr Qamar Bilal, Chairman Association Chaudhry Atta Muhammad Gujjar, Chaudhry Muhammad Ashraf, Dr Saifur Rehman inaugurated the event. The contest remained a centre of attraction for sacrificial animal lovers as a large number of people thronged the varsity to have a delight of festivity. Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan said that with value addition in dairy and meat production, the country could fetch heavy forex after meeting its demands. He said that our local breeds have great potential.

Minister of State for IT said that government was committed to transform Pakistan into digital economy under the National Digitalization Plan. Digitalization of health, education and agriculture sectors is pivotal for the uplift of the country. About IT sector Shaza Fatima said IT sector of Pakistan has great potential as the sector is full of opportunities. She noted that the IT exports of Pakistan were increasing. Under the vision of the Prime Minister private sector is being fully facilitated, she maintained. Shaza Fatima said Ministry of IT and Telecom industry.

Cosmetics possess potential to fetch 8-10B\$ export earnings: MCCI President

MULTAN (APP): President Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Mian Rashid Iqbal on Friday presented a set of suggestions which he believed can add billions of dollars to the national economy, at an elaborate interactive session held at MCCI as part of an ongoing country-wide consultative exercise to lay groundwork for preparation of a long-term export-oriented national industrial policy. Usman Khan a Professor from Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) was present as the revenue mobilization consultant from Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) at the MCCI to note industry leaders' suggestions so that these are taken into account in his final report on how to enhance revenues, which he would submit to the government. Speaking on the occasion at the consultative session held the other day, Usman Khan said that last interactive session of this initiative will be held at Islamabad with government officials and select members from CCIs from all over the country in attendance. Mian Rashid Iqbal said that cosmetics industry can fetch 8-10 billion US dollars through exports. He suggested that the cosmetics sector be regulated by Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA).



LAHORE: People are buying green net Tarpal at Landa Bazaar, in the Provincial Capital.

Off take from Wind Power Projects to Grid Cheap electricity at Rs. 14.5/ unit should be Utilized: Atif Ikram

Independent Report KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has urged to prioritize immediate and complete off take of power from existing, operational and cheapest 12 wind power projects; wherein these wind power plants are producing electricity at a cost of 14.5 rupees per unit. This aligns with both the Renewable Energy Policy 2006 – pursuant to which local and foreign investment had taken place – and the existing energy purchase agreements (PPAs). Mr. Saqib Fayyaz Magoon, SVP FPCCI, maintained that recently K-Electric has showcased its efforts to achieve a 30 percent share of renewable energy generation in its mix by 2030. Authorities should take some steps to dispatch electricity from these cheapest 12 wind power projects to KE network since transmission infrastructure is available between NTDC's Jhimpir-II grid station to KE's KDA transmission infrastructure; which will prevent the wastage of cheap electricity and utilization of such cheap electricity will give a sigh of relief to common public. Mr. Asif Inam, VP FPCCI & Chairman APTMA, has voiced serious concerns that amidst the sweltering heat of summer, the general public is grappling with frequent load-shedding; causing immense discomfort and disruption to daily life. Paradoxically, the government is imposing generation curtailments on wind power plants that are producing electricity at a cost of PKR. 14.5 Per kWh. This practice has raised concerns and sparked debates about the inefficiency and mismanagement in the energy sector.

CEO IESCO holds Zoom meeting with media person

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the directives of Federal Minister for Energy Power Division, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari and Federal Secretary Power, Rashid Langrial, Chief Executive Officer of IESCO, Dr. Muhammad Amjad Khan, held a Zoom meeting with representatives of print and electronic media to provide timely information regarding load management on 11 kV feeders, shutdowns for development work at the request of district administration, and voltage issues in the system. The Chief Executive stated that the purpose of this meeting was to enhance cooperation and timely information access between the organization and the media, as the media plays a crucial role in identifying and resolving consumer issues, said a press release issued here Friday. He requested media representatives to directly inform him if they encounter any corruption, unscheduled load shedding, mistreatment of consumers by officers or staff, delays in providing electricity connections, etc., within the IESCO region, so that prompt action can be taken against lazy and inefficient officers and employees, and consumer issues can be resolved in a timely manner.



FAISALABAD: A man displayed a goat during 26th All Pakistan Beautiful Goat Competition, At Arid Agriculture University in the city.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Seven ships, MSC Lucy, APL Southampton, Tarsus-M, Kouras Leader, Intuition, Bateleur and Bashudhra Malika scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice, Canola, LPG and Mogas, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminals, Grain Terminal, Engro Terminal and Oil Terminal respectively on Thursday. Meanwhile another edible oil carrier 'Silver Joan' with Palm oil of 28,236 tons also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on Thursday. A total of ten ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Gelico and Milaha Raslaffan left the port on today morning while another containers ship 'APL Southampton' is expected to sail on Thursday.

Minister asks officials to promote modern farming practices

HYDERABAD (APP): The Sindh Agriculture Minister Sardar Muhammad Bakhsh Khan Mehar Friday emphasized the need for modernization in the agriculture sector in order to address the challenges posed by climate change. Speaking at the oath-taking ceremony of the Agriculture Association at the Directorate of Agriculture Research Institute in Tando Jam Mehar urged the agriculture officials to guide farmers on best contemporary practices and emerging issues in the sector. He highlighted the crucial role of agriculture officers in driving progress in the field. He encouraged them to work closely with the farmers to develop innovative solutions and enhance crop production. The minister identified key challenges facing agriculture, including the judicious use of chemical pesticides, development of new crop varieties and seeds, disease control, and boosting crop yields. He stressed on the importance of raising awareness among farmers about these issues to ensure sustainable agricultural practices. Furthermore, the minister also underlined the potential of improving the production and quality of strategic crops like mangoes, dates, wheat and cotton to bolster the country's economy. He believed that by supporting farmers and promoting cutting-edge techniques, Sindh's agriculture sector.

Blinken says Washington approved use of US weapons by Ukraine inside Russia

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden approved Ukraine using US weapons to strike targets inside Russia that were attacking the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv, after Kyiv sought authorisation from Washington in recent weeks, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken confirmed on Friday.

Speaking at a news conference in Prague after an informal meeting of NATO foreign ministers, Blinken did not specifically say whether Biden's authorisation could expand to include other Russian cities and targets deeper inside Russia. Outgunned and out-manned on the battlefield, Kyiv has been increasing pressure on its Western allies to be able to launch offensive strikes at military targets inside Russia to better repel Russian advances.

Blinken said Washington's move, a marked change in policy by Biden, who steadfastly refused to allow Ukraine to use American weaponry inside Russia, was a result of the US adjusting and adapting to the battlefield. Now, he said, the US is responding to what it

has seen in and around the Kharkiv region.

"Over the past few weeks, Ukraine came to us and asked for the authorisation to use weapons that we're providing to defend against this aggression, including against Russian forces that are massing on the Russian side of the border and then attacking into Ukraine," Blinken said.

"And that went right to the president, and as you've heard, he's approved [the] use of our weapons for that purpose. Going forward, we'll continue to do what we've been doing, which is as necessary adapt and adjust," Blinken said.

Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, is 30 kilometres from the border with Russia.

It is the second time this year that Biden has quietly relaxed his policy on weapons supplies for Ukraine. Earlier this year, he bent to calls to send long-range missiles known as ATACMS to Kyiv.

US officials said on Thursday that US policy would continue to prohibit the Ukrainian military from using ATACMS, which has a range of up to

300km, and other long-range US weapons for deep strikes inside Russia.

The US is the biggest supplier of weapons to Ukraine in its battle against the full-scale invasion launched by Russian President Vladimir Putin in February 2022.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Friday that Ukraine using any Western weapon to strike Russian territory is "a question of time".

"I think that using any weapon, Western kind of weapon, on the territory of Russia is a question of time. Otherwise, it is not about just peace," Zelensky told reporters on a visit to Stockholm.

Ukraine has stressed the urgency for the use of Western-supplied arms to conduct strikes inside Russia as it defends against Russian advances in the northeastern Kharkiv region.

This spring, Ukraine found itself on the back foot in the 27-month-old full-scale invasion as it faces delays in military aid from the US, increased attacks on its energy infrastructure and Russia's push to expand the frontline.



A woman carries belongings on her head, as Palestinians inspect the damage after Israeli forces withdrew from Jabalia refugee camp, following a raid, in the northern Gaza Strip.

NATO ministers meet in Prague as allies ease restrictions on Ukraine's use of their weapons

Monitoring Desk
PRAGUE: NATO foreign ministers were meeting in the Czech capital Friday to prepare for this summer's leaders' summit as the alliance boosts support for Ukraine and countries one-by-one remove restrictions on how Kyiv can use western-supplied weaponry to combat Russia's invasion.

A day after U.S. President Joe Biden gave Ukraine the go-ahead to use American munitions to strike inside Russia for the limited purpose of defending Kharkiv, numerous minis-

ters, including those from the Netherlands, Finland, Poland and Germany, expressed approval of the decision, saying that Ukraine has the absolute right to defend itself from attacks originating on Russian soil.

The chorus of allied voices backing greater leeway for Ukraine to use their weapons grew louder in recent weeks after Russia launched artillery strikes on Kharkiv from its territory, prompting appeals for help from Kyiv. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken had hinted strongly this week.

US imposes visa restrictions on Chinese, Hong Kong officials

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States is imposing new visa restrictions on Chinese and Hong Kong officials over guilty verdicts in the National Security Law trial of pro-democracy organizers in Hong Kong, the State Department said on Friday.

Fourteen Hong Kong pro-democracy activists were found guilty and two were acquitted on Thursday in a landmark subversion trial that critics say could deal another blow to the city's rule of law and its reputation as a global financial hub.

Beijing wants to work with Arab states to resolve thorny issues: President Xi

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China wants to work with Arab nations to resolve hot spot issues in ways conducive to upholding fairness, justice and achieving long-term peace and stability, President Xi Jinping said in a speech on Thursday that also highlighted the Gaza crisis.

China is seeking to strengthen its relations with Arab states as a model for maintaining world peace and stability, Xi was quoted as saying by state media at the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum in Beijing. In remarks about the war in Gaza, the Chinese leader said war cannot continue indefinitely, justice cannot be permanently absent and a "two-state solution" should be firmly upheld.

"In the face of a turbulent world, mutual respect is the way to live in harmony, and fairness and justice are the foundation of lasting security," Xi was quoted as saying by Xinhua news.

He was addressing the heads of state of Bahrain, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Tunisia as well as foreign ministers from other Arab League nations. Beijing has repeatedly called for a two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli crisis as well as an immediate ceasefire and Palestinian membership in the United Nations — positions which align closely with those of Arab nations.

China is increasingly flexing its diplomatic influence in the region, recently hosting the first talks on Chinese soil between the long-feuding Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah in April. Last year, China also brokered a landmark reconciliation deal between Iran and Saudi Arabia after years of hostilities between the two arch-rivals.

The Gaza crisis has threatened to push the region into a wider conflict, especially after recent tit-for-tat attacks by Israel and Iran.

Sudan at 'imminent risk of famine', UN aid chiefs warn

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: The people of Sudan are at "imminent risk of famine", United Nations agencies said on Friday, more than a year into a war between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

Around 18 million people are already acutely hungry, including 3.6 million children who are acutely malnourished, according to a joint statement by UN chiefs including Volker Turk, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

"Time is running out for millions of people in Sudan who are at imminent risk of famine, displaced from their lands, living under bombardments, and cut off from humanitarian assistance," the statement added.

Fighting broke out in the capital Khartoum in April 2023 and quickly

spread across the country, reigniting ethnic bloodshed in the western Darfur region and forcing millions to flee in the world's largest displacement crisis.

"Without an immediate and major step change, we will face a nightmare scenario: A famine will take hold in large parts of the country," read the statement also signed by UN aid chief Martin Griffiths.

The war broke out as long-simmering tensions over integrating the RSF with the army came to a head. The UN special adviser on the prevention of genocide said last week there was a risk of genocide in parts of Darfur.

A UN-backed report said in March that immediate action was needed to "prevent widespread death and total collapse of livelihoods and avert a catastrophic hunger crisis in Sudan".



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg chairs a meeting of NATO foreign ministers, as British Foreign Secretary David Cameron, United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken, NATO Deputy Secretary General Mircea Geoana, and Czech Republic's Foreign Minister Jan Lipavsky attend, at the Czernin Palace, in Prague, Czech Republic.

At least 15 dead in India's Bihar, Odisha over 24 hours as temperatures soar

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: At least 15 people have died of suspected heatstroke in India's eastern states of Bihar and Odisha on Thursday, authorities said, with the region gripped in a debilitating heatwave expected to continue until Saturday.

India has been experiencing a blisteringly hot summer and a part of capital Delhi recorded the country's highest ever temperature at 52.9 degrees Celsius this week, though that may be revised with the weather department checking the sensors of the weather station that registered the

reading.

While temperatures in northwestern and central India are expected to fall in the coming days, the prevailing heatwave over east India is likely to continue for two days, said the India Meteorological Department (IMD), which declares a heatwave when the temperature is 4.5°C to 6.4°C higher than normal.

The deaths of 10 people were reported in the government hospital in Odisha's Rourkela region on Thursday, authorities told Reuters, while five deaths were reported in Bihar's Aurangabad city due to "sunstroke".

Generative AI deception held in check: Meta

Monitoring Desk
SAN FRANCISCO: Social media giant Meta says its bid to thwart coordinated disinformation campaigns created through ever-improving generative AI is working, despite widespread concerns. Meta's latest study on "coordinated inauthentic behaviour" on its platforms comes as fears mount that generative AI will be used to trick or confuse people in upcoming elections worldwide, notably in the United States.

"What we've seen so far is that our industry's existing defences, including our focus on behavior rather than content in countering adversarial threats.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Communication Works Physical Planning Department (Roads) District Pishin invites sealed bids from eligible bidders who can prove their eligibility and qualification as mentioned in the bidding documents for the work mentioned below. The estimated cost and other information of works as under, percentage tender based on Composite Schedule of Rates 2023, Government of Balochistan amended up-to-date from interested contractors / firms for the work listed below under BPPRA Rules. Earned money 3% in Shape of Call Deposit and Completion Date 30-06-2025 for each work.

S#	Name of Work	E/Cost	T/Fee
1	Construction of B/T Road 1 KM Killi Ismailzai MFTI Zainuddin 1 KM at Killi Khair Abad, 1 KM at Killi Hamid Abad & 1 KM at New Killi Husain Muhla (PSDP No 1678/Z2023.0415) TSE-232405443013	39.618 M	2000
2	Construction of 1 KM b/T Road along with side drain for Malikyar (ii) Muhala, Pishin, (PSDP No 1679/Z2023.0416) TSE-232405443003	9.905 M	1000
3	Construction of Bridge for Flood Protection at Killi Mehmoob Abad Tehsil Pishin (PSDP No 1681/Z2023.0418) TSE-232405442993	9.906 M	1000
4	Construction of B/T Road 1 KM at Killi Malak Kata Tehsil Pishin (PSDP No 1686/Z2023.0423) TSE-232405442973	9.905 M	1000
5	Construction of 1 KM B/T Road at Killi Saeed Abad Tehsil Pishin (PSDP No 1689/Z2023.0426) TSE-232405442933	9.904 M	1000
6	Construction of 1 KM B/T Road at Killi Moheeb Ullah Agha & Muhammad din Kakar Yaro district Pishin (PSP No 1691/Z2023.0428) TSE-232405442913	10.00 M	1000
7	Construction of B/T Link Road 1 KM Mian Khanzai District Pishin (PSDP No 1692/Z2023.0429) TSE-232405442893	9.903 M	1000
8	Construction of B/T Link Road 1 KM at Mian Shekhalzai District Pishin (PSP No 1697/Z2023.0434) TSE-232405442883	9.895 M	1000
9	Construction of B/T Link Road 1 KM at Killi Hafiz Abad District Pishin (PSP No 1698/Z2023.0435) TSE-232405442873	9.907 M	1000
10	Construction of B/T Link Road 1 KM at Killi Tora Ghundai District Pishin (PSDP No 1701/Z2023.0438) TSE-232405442853	9.902 M	1000
11	Construction of B/T Link Road 1 KM at Killi New Husain District Pishin (PSP No 1702/Z2023.0439) TSE-232405442843	9.903 M	1000
12	Construction of B/T Link Road 1 KM at Killi Faiz Abad District Pishin (PSDP No 1706/Z2023.0443) TSE-232405442823	9.906 M	1000
13	Construction of B/T Link Road 1 KM at Killi Abdullah Jan District Pishin (PSDP No 1707/Z2023.0444) TSE-232405442813	9.91 M	1000
14	Construction of Road From Main Bar55555shore Road to Killi Haji Wazir Khan Dab Khanzai (PSDP No 2557/Z2023.1298 TSE-232405442793	19.840 M	2000
15	Construction of B/T Road Sherbaz kakar village in Balozai Tehsil Karezat District Pishin 3.22 KM (PSDP No 2698/Z2023.1439) TSE-232405442743	29.711 M	2000
16	Construction of B/T Road Salah Ud Din to Samiazai Killi Churmaint at District Pishin 2.50 KM (PSDP No 2699/Z2023.1440) TSE-232405442683	49.531 M	2000

The office of the Executive Engineer, (Roads) Communication Works Physical Planning & Housing Department District Pishin invites technical proposal of Contractors/firms along with sealed financial proposals (Single Stage-Two Envelope) for above mentioned works. All interested bidders are required to submit documents as per following briefs in support of their technical/financial proposal. The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Rules 2014 and Pakistan Engineering Council By-Laws. **BASIC ELIGIBILITY:** The Contractor must have valid registration i.e. 2023-24 with Pakistan Engineering Council in required Category C-6 and above for serial No. 1, 15 & 16, C-5 and above for serial No. 2 to 14 C-6 in relevant discipline/specialty code mentioned in the bidding documents and fresh registration with tax authorities i.e. (NTN, sales tax Department and BRA) (4% BRA added), where applicable. The bidder must complete similar nature assignment mentioned in the bidding documents. As per BPPRA rule #25 (3) only one Bid can be submitted against one NTN, only original Contractors with original Documents will be eligible. **METHOD OF PROCUREMENT:** (Single Stage - Two Envelope) bidding Procedure will be adopted. Call Deposit and Green Challan should be attached with Technical proposal. Which will be verified accordingly. **BIDDING/TENDER DOCUMENTS:** Issuance. The bidders can obtain the bidding document from the address mentioned above on production of green Challan form for an amount of Rs. mentioned above (Non-refundable) for each work deposited in the head of account C02716 Civil works through Govt. Treasury/National Bank of Pakistan or can be downloaded from the website of BPPRA (www.bppra.gov.pk), during working hour, from the date of publication of this invitation in newspapers till one day prior to the last date of submission. The contractors/firms who obtain bidding documents by downloading them from BPPRA website will also be required to provide deposited green Challan form of above mentioned Fee. The bids must accompany bid security "Technical Bid" for each work in the form of call deposit or bank guarantee of amount specified above in the office name of the under signed from a scheduled bank. **No any Bank Drafts & Banker Check will be acceptable. DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION:** Technical and financial proposals from intending contractors/firms sealed in two separate envelopes clearly marked with Work title & type of proposal must be delivered by hand or through registered mail to the address mentioned below on or before **20th Jun, 2024, at 12:00 Hrs OPENING:** The envelope containing "Technical Bids" will be opened on the same day specified in the above table before procurement committee in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend with authority letter. Second envelope containing financial bids of technically qualified bidders will be opened later, the date of which will be communicated after evaluation of the technical bids. **BIDS VALIDITY:** Ninety (90) days. **PLACE:** The place of issuance, submission, inquiries and opening will be the office of the Executive Engineer, (Roads) Communication Works Physical Planning & Housing Department (Roads) District Pishin. Telephone No. 0826920562. The Technical Qualification Criteria as mentioned in Bid data sheet and annexures of bidding documents viz. Equipment's, Financial capabilities and staff requirements etc. must be fulfilled besides other requirements as mentioned in bidding document by the participating firms. All bidders are required to examine bidding documents in all respect prior to bid submission. The firms providing unsubstantiated and / or incorrect information are liable to disqualification and / or legal action. The undersigned reserves the right to reject all bids as per the BPPRA Rules.

Executive Engineer (Roads)
CWPP&H Department District Pishin
PRQ No.2727/31-5-2024
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People seen at an emergency ward of the Ram Manohar Lohia hospital in New Delhi.

China says 'hard to meet' discussions on Russia-Ukraine war, citing problems with arrangements

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China said Friday it would be "hard to meet" calls for discussions on the Russia-Ukraine war, citing problems with arrangements that appear to point to Beijing's strongly pro-Moscow stance.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said that "China's hopes appear to be hard to meet at the meeting."

"There is still a clear gap between the arrangements for the meeting and the demands of the Chinese side, as well as the general expectations of the international community," Mao said.

Mao gave no details,

but said that China has "informed parties concerned about our considerations and concerns," and would keep in touch with all parties concerned.

China claims to be neutral in the conflict, but has strongly backed Russia, most recently hosting President Vladimir Putin on a state visit.

In an interview with China's official Xinhua News Agency released Wednesday, Putin hailed his ties with Chinese leader Xi Jinping, saying that "President Xi maintains a respectful, friendly, open and at the same time business-like style of communication."

Webb telescope finds most distant galaxy ever observed, again

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The James Webb Space Telescope has discovered what appears to be a new record-holder for the most distant known galaxy, a remarkably bright star system that existed just 290 million years after the Big Bang, NASA said on Thursday.

Since coming online in 2022, the Webb telescope has ushered in a new era of scientific breakthroughs, peering farther than ever before into the universe's distant reaches — which also means it is looking back in time.

Philippines' Marcos slams illegal actions in South China Sea

Monitoring Desk
SINGAPORE: Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr on Friday denounced illegal, coercive and aggressive actions in the South China Sea, a disputed ocean territory that China has been flooding with coastguard ships in recent months. Speaking at the opening of the Shangri-La Dialogue defence summit in Singapore, Marcos said that the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries had a vision for "peace, stability, and prosper-

ity" in the South China Sea, but that this was being undermined by other actors, without naming China.

"Unfortunately, this vision remains for now a distant reality. Illegal, coercive, aggressive, and deceptive actions continue to violate our sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction," Marcos said. Encounters between the Philippines and China in Asia's most contested waters have grown more tense and frequent during the past year as Beijing presses its claims to shoals.

Madrid's zoo welcomes new giant panda bear couple

Monitoring Desk
MADRID: Madrid's zoo on Thursday welcomed a giant panda couple to their new home as another phase of China's breeding and reproduction programme for the bears begins in Spain.

Former Queen Sofia, an advocate for pandas since the 1970s, hosted the official introduction of the three-year-old bears Jin Xi and Zhu Yu in Madrid. The pair were flown from Chengdu in southwestern China last month, but were officially introduced on Thursday after a quarantine period.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-232405443483 Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Municipal Committee Mach invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates
Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Bid Security 2%

S.No.	Name of Work	E/Cost
1	Black Top Road & Laying of Tuffites in Municipal Committee Mach, Kachhi	99,005,058

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 4 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 69,309,226 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Affidavit for Not Being Black listed or Not Left any contract. Green Challan of Rs 1000. CDR 2% Estimated Cost. **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee. Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 20 June, 2024 till 12:00 PM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 01:00 PM on EPPS System **Address:** Municipal Committee Mach **Phone no:** 3337841534 **Email:** abdulmalkmh9@gmail.com

AB No.524/31-5-2024
www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dpr_balochistan

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-232405443293 Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Municipal Committee Mach invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates
Tender Fee Rs.1000/- and Bid Security 2%

S.No.	Name of Work	E/Cost
1	Construction of Drain System Mach City Kachhi	99,013,180

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 4 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 69,309,226 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Affidavit for Not Being Black listed or Not Left any contract. Green Challan of Rs 1000. CDR 2% Estimated Cost. **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee. Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 20 June, 2024 till 12:00 PM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 01:00 PM on EPPS System **Address:** Municipal Committee Mach **Phone no:** 3337841534 **Email:** abdulmalkmh9@gmail.com

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PAKSAT-MM1 launch marks new era of Pak-China space technology cooperation: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal has said that the successful launch of PAKSAT-MM1 satellite initiated a new era of space technology cooperation between Pakistan and China.

"The relationship between Pakistan and China has always been strong, but with this satellite project, we are taking it to new heights, literally touching space," the minister shared with Lin Yiming, Vice President of the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC), ahead of the launch of satellite in Xichang, China.

equipped with the cutting-edge technology, would revolutionize communication and connectivity across Pakistan, bridging the digital divide and empowering millions of Pakistanis.

The minister also met Ambassador Wang Fu Kang from the Asia Department of the Chinese Foreign Office and exchanged ideas on future space technology and deepened collaboration between Pakistan and China.

The minister was accompanied by Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi and SUPARCO Chairman Muhammad Yousuf Khan.

Quoting SUPARCO, the statement added that the satellite was equipped with SBAS (Pakistan Space Based Augmentation System), which makes Pakistan the 11th country in the world to have its own SBAS after India, the United States, Russia, China, Japan, Europe, South Korea, Australia, Nigeria and Algeria.

The minister, commending the hard work of scientists and engineers at the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) and all those involved in this mission. Earlier, the minister also met Pakistani scientists, engineers and the SUPARCO team. It is pertinent to mention here that Ahsan Iqbal was on a two-day tour in Xichang to meet the key officials involved in the satellite launch.

He also commended the dedicated efforts of CASC and China Great Wall Industrial Cooperation in their joint endeavour to produce a satellite that will benefit millions of Pakistanis living in remote areas.

The satellite, a testament to the strong partnership between the two nations, will provide crucial connectivity, access to digital education, healthcare services, and e-commerce opportunities to underserved communities across Pakistan.

He termed the launch of PAKSAT-MM1 a new feather in the cap of CPEC, saying now cooperation in the space technology had formally entered the framework of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

According to a press release issued by the Planning Commission here, the minister said the satellite,

session underscored a shared commitment to enhance collaboration across various sectors.

A high-level delegation from Pakistan, representing key ministries including Economic Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Commerce, Overseas Pakistanis and HRD, Interior, Board of Investment, Petroleum Division, and SIFC, engaged in fruitful discussions aimed at fostering mutual prosperity. Ziad Abdullah Al-Najem, undersecretary of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, extended a warm welcome to Pakistan's delegation, highlighting the pivotal role of the session in advancing bilateral relations. Additionally, the Fund expressed its willingness to consider the financing request from the Government of Pakistan for the Kachhi Canal project.

During the JMC proceedings, significant strides were made with the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and agreements in fields such as industrial cooperation.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail giving away appreciation certificates to Hayatullah Khan Durrani, Muhammad Shehryar Aftab, Zahir Shah and SHO Naveed Ahmed Kakar for their performance in provision of flood water to Hanna Lake

Amir assures provision of funds to AJK for timely completion of development projects

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan and States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) Engr Amir Muqam on Friday had reiterated that Pakistan was committed with the cause of the Kashmiri people till they get the right to self-determination in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Addressing a press conference at local hotel after a briefing by AJK top government officials about progress on federal Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) projects and AJK's Annual development program (ADP) besides meeting delegations, the

minister said that the issue of Kashmir and its people was of prime importance to Pakistan which was consistently advocated at international level in the United Nations and different other international forums.

Engr Amir Muqam said that this support to the Kashmir cause is because Pakistan considers Kashmir its jugular vein and will continue to provide support to the freedom of the Kashmiri people in all forms at all costs. The minister said that present regime has taken various measures to support the smooth functioning of the present government in AJK. Engr Amir Muqam said the federal government has transferred the funds,

staff and assets relating to the Kashmir Council in Islamabad to AJK Government. He said that funds amounting to approximately Rs.7.5 Billion have been transferred from Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to the Government of AJK.

"Due to efforts of an Inter-Ministerial Committee signing of a bilateral Agreement on Neelum Jhelum Hydro Power Project in advance stage will resolve issues of water, environmental and other issues, he said, adding that similarly, the prime minister of Pakistan has constituted High Level Committee to resolve other issues of Neelum Jhelum Hydro Power Project.



QUETTA: Provincial Advisor for Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi convening a meeting with delegation of DOCH Private Ltd.

Empowering women economically a matter of social justice: Rubaba

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Adviser to the Chief Minister Balochistan for Women Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has reiterated to support women entrepreneurs to create a more inclusive business environment in Balochistan. Dr. Buledi expressed these views while convening a meeting with Ms. Deedar Mengal from DOCH Private Limited. The meeting focused on initiatives aimed at empowering women economically and fostering women-led startups in Balochistan.

During the discussion, Dr. Rubaba Buledi emphasized the need for comprehensive strategies and programs that would provide women with the necessary resources, support, and opportunities to succeed in entrepreneurial ventures.

"Empowering women economically is not just a matter of social justice; it is a strategic investment in our future. By supporting women-led startups, we are fostering innovation, creating jobs, and promoting sustainable economic growth. Our aim is to ensure that women in Balochistan have equal access to opportunities and the tools they need to succeed," said Dr. Rubaba Buledi.

Pakistan Army boosts girls' education in NW

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant effort to promote girls' education, the Pakistan Army has taken comprehensive measures to ensure access to quality education for girls in North Waziristan. The army has established girls' schools in close proximity to local communities, making education more accessible and convenient for girls, according to a PTV report on Friday.

Numerous schools have been made functional in the region, providing a

conducive learning environment for girls. Moreover, mobile infotainment and education schools are reaching out to remote areas, ensuring that no girl is left behind. To equip women with modern skills, computer labs have been set up at Women's Degree College Miran Shah and Women's Vocational Training Center. This initiative aims to empower women with technological knowledge, enabling them to contribute to the region's development.

Shootout in Pishin Sarkhab, 2 fugitive suspects killed

PISHIN (APP): A shootout erupted on Friday in Pishin Sarkhab, resulting in the deaths of two fugitive suspects and the injury of their accomplice.

According to sources of Pishin Police, the exchange of fire occurred as police attempted to apprehend the suspects, who were reportedly involved in criminal activity. Police sources further revealed that the injured suspect is currently receiving medical attention.

Two people killed as speeding tanker overturned

KHUZDAR (APP): Two persons were killed and several others were injured as a tanker overturned on a bridge in the Qadirabad area of Khuzdar on early Friday.

According to rescue 1122, initial reports suggested that the incident occurred due to over-speeding, causing the vehicle to overturn and the road track was being closed due to a spill of furnace oil at the site while the tanker was removed from the road to the bridge's side, a Private news channel.

Baloch visits Brussels Parliament

BRUSSELS (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to European Union, Belgium, and Luxembourg Amna Baloch on Friday visited the Brussels Parliament.

On her arrival, she was warmly received by Carla Dejonghe, MP of the Brussels Parliament, Lamia Khan, Member of the Council of Koekelberg, and Martine Raets.



XICHANG: Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal with Pakistani scientists and engineers at Mission Control Centre in Xichang city on the launch day of PAKSAT-MM1 satellite.

India must stop campaign to suppress political activists, intimidate Kashmiris: FO spox

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Friday reiterated its call for India to stop its ongoing campaign to suppress political activists and intimidate the Kashmiri public in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

campaign to crush dissent in IIOJK and the confiscation of properties, she told the media that earlier this week, the properties including lands and a shop of two more Kashmiri youth were sealed in Shopian District. The Indian authorities had so far seized hundreds of properties across the occupied territory to punish Kashmiri activists, she added.

The spokesperson reiterated Pakistan's resolve to continue extending political, diplomatic, and moral support to Kashmiris for the just and peaceful settlement of the dispute as per the UN Security Council resolutions.

She told the media that during his visit from May 29-30, Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Act-

"The headquarters of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference in Srinagar also remains sealed. India must stop its ongoing campaign to suppress political activists and intimidate the Kashmiri public. The people of Jammu and Kashmir should be able to freely exercise their right to self-determination as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions," the Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said at her weekly press briefing here.

Highlighting the unabated Indian authorities' and impact consumer spending.

Additionally, the government plans to eliminate sales tax exemptions on certain food items, a move likely to strain household budgets.

Other significant measures include the expansion of withholding tax applications and the removal of existing sales tax exemptions on unspecified products.

Furthermore, higher customs duty rates are on the table, which could particularly affect industries reliant on imported raw materials and components.

The elimination of sales tax exemptions on food items and other products is expected to generate substantial revenue, although it may also lead to increased costs for consumers.

Two members bench of IHC comprising Chief Justice (CJ) Aamir Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb will hear the case.

The court will hear the appeal pleas in respect of PTI founder and Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

The hearing is most likely to be completed and decision to be announced.

The cipher case could not be heard on May 28 being public holiday.

The Pakistan Navy ship PNS ASLAT visited Oman during Regional Maritime Security Patrol.

The Pakistan Navy ship was given a warm welcome by the host naval authorities on its arrival at the port of Salalah in Oman.

The ship's commanding officer discussed issues of mutual interest during meetings with Omani military officials. At the end of the visit, the forces of both countries participated in a joint naval exercise.

The purpose of these exercises is to promote mutual cooperation between naval forces, prevent illegal activities at sea.

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Pak-Kuwait to sign a loan agreement US\$ 25 million in post JMC

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and Kuwait signed a loan agreement worth US\$ 25 million in the 5th session of the Pakistan-Kuwait Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) convened in Kuwait.

The key outcomes of the session included the agreement to sign a loan agreement for US\$ 25 million on June 3, for the Mohmand Dam, with assurances of support from the Kuwait Fund for engaging the Arab Coordination Group in financing the Diyar Bhasha Dam, according to a press release issued here on Friday.

The 5th Session of the Pakistan-Kuwait Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) convened from May 28th to May 30th, 2024, in Kuwait, marking a significant stride in strengthening the ties between the two nations. Chaired by Mr. Abdul Aleem Khan, Minister for Privatization, and Omar Saud Al-Omar, Minister for Commerce and Industry of the State of Kuwait, the

session underscored a shared commitment to enhance collaboration across various sectors.

A high-level delegation from Pakistan, representing key ministries including Economic Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Commerce, Overseas Pakistanis and HRD, Interior, Board of Investment, Petroleum Division, and SIFC, engaged in fruitful discussions aimed at fostering mutual prosperity. Ziad Abdullah Al-Najem, undersecretary of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, extended a warm welcome to Pakistan's delegation, highlighting the pivotal role of the session in advancing bilateral relations. Additionally, the Fund expressed its willingness to consider the financing request from the Government of Pakistan for the Kachhi Canal project.

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QUETTA: Provincial Minister P&D Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi meeting with Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango.

Foreign ministry spox China awaits Sharif's upcoming visit as an 'opportunity for greater development'

BEIJING (APP): The Chinese foreign ministry on Friday said China looks forward to the visit of Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, taking it as an "opportunity to promote greater joint development". Spokesperson Mao Ning at her regular briefing said the official visit would boost the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic partnership and build a closer community of destiny in the new era. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will pay an official visit of China from June 4 to 8 on the invitation of Chinese Premier Li Qiang. This is his first visit to China after the establishment of the new government this year.

Sharing details of the visit, the foreign ministry spokesperson said Chinese President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) Zhao Leji will hold meetings with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. In Beijing, she said, the leadership of two countries would have an in-depth exchange of views on bilateral relations and issues of common concern, and jointly plan the blueprint for the future development of China-Pakistan relations.

PM Shehbaz Sharif will also visit Guangdong and Shaanxi provinces. Mao Ning pointed out that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners and "iron-clad" friends. China-Pakistan friendship has been tested by the winds and clouds of the times, and is as solid as a rock and as stable as Mount Taishan, she added.



ISLAMABAD: Leadership of Tehreek Tahafuz Aine-Pakistan meeting with President National Party Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch

Nasimur Rehman says Global warming affecting Balochistan severely; we have to change our living style

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Nasimur Rehman has expressed deep concern over the issue of global warming saying that it is severely affecting the province.

He warned that if we didn't prepare policies to make ourselves compatible regarding climate changes and didn't change our living style, then the severe issues would be created in future.

He said that if we didn't mend our way and change the life style then we may also suffer from the food shortage besides facing serious issue of water scarcity.

He stressed the need to pay utmost attention and importance to this sector so as to make policies based on the innovation and prevent the complications occurring due to the climate change.

He said that he desires to make the policies of the department compatible with the modern day requirements and take every possible steps for provision of resources.



QUETTA: Chief Executive Officer QESCO Engr. Shafqat Ali briefing mediamen