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Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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SHENZHEN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses Pakistan China Business Conference.

PM guarantees facilitation, security to Chinese investment

Repeatedly lauded the Chinese model of development and economic transformation and vowed to replicate the same in Pakistan

SHENZHEN (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday, assuring all-out facilitation to Chinese investors, and security of Chinese individuals, projects and investments in Pakistan, emphasised that mutually rewarding business-to-business cooperation was key to a bright future for the two people.

The prime minister, addressing the Pakistan-China Business Forum during his five-day China visit, highlighted bilateral trade and investment potential, especially in key sectors including transfer of Chinese technology, industry and partnership in IT, agriculture, mining, steel, textiles and renewable energy.

The prime minister repeatedly lauded the Chinese model of development and economic transformation and vowed to replicate the same in Pakistan.

"I will go back to Pakistan with this resolve, come what may, we will follow this model of great economic transformation in Pakistan. This model is enough to copy and simulate if we are sincere to our purpose and people. By God, I can tell you this is difficult but not impossible," he told the gathering of hundreds of business leaders from Pakistan and China.

As the Business Forum

Continued on page 2

GoB spokesman says No objection on observing peaceful protest in Chaman; instigating public on mutiny intolerable

Chaman district administration says Levies force took action against miscreants attacking DC & ransacking his office; traffic restored on Quetta-Chaman highway

Independent Report

QUETTA: The spokesman, Government of Balochistan, Shahid Rind has stated that there's no objection on the peaceful protest (parlat) in Chaman, however, it is intolerable to instigate the people on mutiny or other than under the garb of protest.

In an official statement issued here on the situation of Chaman on Wednesday, the spokesman of provincial government said that the government made efforts to resolve the issue through negotiations time and again.

The Speaker Provincial Assembly and Ministers also visited Chaman on di-

rectives of the Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, however, the laghris observing protest maintained deadlock by not showing seriousness in the dialogue. The writ of state and law was challenged for several times during the protest continued for months, Shahid Rind mentioned adding that the FC forte as well as the DC complex and anti-polio team were attacked.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner Chaman, Raja Athar Abbas said that the district administration held negotiations with the Chaman Parlat (protest) committee on Tuesday night for maintaining law and order situation

in Chaman city.

However, during the course of dialogue in DC office Chaman, the laghris attacked the DC and ransacked his office.

However, the Levies force apprehended the miscreants taking immediate action against them. The DC Chaman escaped unhurt in the attack, a press release issued by the district administration mentioned.

The district administration said that the laghris has crossed the red line and now case of anti-terrorism would be registered against the assailants. It was also mentioned that the laghris have made the whole district hostage for last one month.

President Zardari stresses upon further strengthening Pak, Jordan bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday said that Pakistan and Jordan enjoyed close cordial relations and stressed upon further strengthening of these bilateral ties between the two countries.

The president expressed these views during a meeting with Ambassador of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Pakistan Dr Maen Khreasat who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The Jordanian envoy invited the president to a conference be-

ing held in Jordan on human relief activities in Gaza on June 11. The president assured him of Pakistan's participation in the scheduled conference. The ambassador apprised the president that Jordan had signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Akhuwat Foundation for provision of relief assistance in Palestine.

The president lauded Jordan for its efforts to provide relief in Palestine.

The ambassador also conveyed a felicitation message from the Jordanian King to the President Zardari on assuming his office.

PM brought innovation in CPEC: Tarar

SHENZHEN (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday said that Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif had brought an innovation with China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Talking to the media here, the minister said that a new era was beginning in CPEC under the vision of the Prime Minister. More than 500 Pakistani and Shenzhen businessmen participated in Business to Business Conference in Shenzhen, he added.

"The relations between Pakistan and China are entering a new era which is an important milestone for the Pakistani economy," the minister said.



ISLAMABAD: President, Asif Ali Zardari exchanging views with Dr. Maen Khreasat, Ambassador of Jordan to Pakistan during meeting held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad.

Zia condemns attack on DC Chaman; directs to take action against miscreants

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has strongly condemned the attack at Deputy Commissioner Chaman by some miscreants in his office and it's ransacking.

In an official condemnation issued here on Wednesday, the Provincial Minister for Home contacted the Deputy Commissioner Chaman, Raja Athar Abbas and got detail from him.

He directed to the concerned authorities to take wholehearted action against the miscreants involved in the incident.

He asserted that we can't allow anyone to provoke the people of Chaman on mutiny and treason

against the State under the garb of protest in Chaman.

However, he added that the peaceful protest is everyone's democratic right, on which there's no objection. Still attacking the FC Forte and Levies and anti-polio teams is unacceptable, he added.

The Minister Home said that the peace would be restored through action against the miscreants.

He recalled that he himself and Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Abdul Khaliq Achakzai had gone to Chaman to hold talks with those observing protest and stayed for couple of days there.

He said that we are well aware of the hardships of the people of Chaman, and as such steps are being taken to resolve them.

Pakistan, Italy to undertake joint efforts against drug trafficking

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan and Italy have agreed to a coordinated and effective action plan against illegal immigrants and human trafficking.

This came at a meeting between Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Italian Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi in Rome. Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Chaudhry Salik Hussain was also present in the meeting.



The two sides also agreed to undertake joint efforts against drug trafficking.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said steps have been taken at all levels to stop illegal entry of Pakistanis to Italy and to counter drug trafficking. A zero tolerance policy has been adopted against human trafficking and drug mafia.

In his remarks, Chaudhry Salik Hussain said Italy can benefit greatly from Pakistan's skilled manpower. He emphasized the early finalization of the Skilled Manpower Agreement will discourage illegal immigration.

The Italian Interior Minister said his country will cooperate with Pakistan in matters pertaining to border security and human and drug trafficking.

Bilawal urges govt to focus on public issues, not Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday expressed his discontent with the politics of hate and urged the government to shift its focus from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan to addressing public issues.

"The people of Pakistan are not interested in the politics of hatred. They want solutions to their problems. Our information department should also focus on resolving issues, not on what Imran Khan is doing. It makes no difference to people; he has his own cases to deal with," Bilawal said while speaking at a meeting of the PPP's parliamentary party in Sindh.

The PPP chairman emphasised the importance of genuine democratic behaviour, warning that the absence of such an approach leads to continual losses. "We must focus on our work. It is our responsibility to deliver performance," he added.

Acknowledging the high expectations of the public, Bilawal said that Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has apprised him of the challenging economic situation and uncertainty regarding funds from the federal government for various projects.

"We will make every effort [to address these challenges]. I know Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will fulfil his promise and resolve these issues before the budget," he added.

Imran being asked strike deal and leave country, claims Dr. Arif Alvi

FAISALABAD (INP): A day after clarifying his party's position on political dialogues, former president and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Dr Arif Alvi has claimed that the incarcerated party founder Imran Khan is being told to "strike a deal and leave the country". Alvi, while talking to journalists in Faisalabad on Wednesday, said that Khan rejected the offer and decided not to leave the country "at any cost".

The former president predicted that those who were colluding to sentence Khan — the former prime minister — would face a complete failure.

Commenting on dialogue offers, the politico said that his party is ready to hold talks with "stakeholders but not with the non-stakeholders". He asked the stakeholders to let go of hatred and practice compassion.

FIA takes social activist Sarim Burney into custody over human trafficking charges

KARACHI (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) took social activist and entrepreneur Sarim Burney into custody from the Karachi airport on Wednesday.

According to sources in the FIA, Burney was arrested by a team from the FIA Anti-Human Trafficking Wing on Wednesday afternoon following a human trafficking complaint received from the US government. It is alleged that Burney was involved in illegal adoption practices, including human trafficking, spanning across the United States, Canada and other countries.

Governor exhorts civil officers to resolve public issues sans coming in any pressure

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has exhorted the civil officers to resolve the issues being faced by general public without coming any sort of pressure.

He stressed that it is the human and national duty of the officers to perform their duties remaining above all kinds of personal interests.

He said that the government officers basically are the public servants not their rulers and marked improvement can be brought about by utilizing their authorities and duties for the public interests.

The Governor was ad-

ressing the participants of Midcareer Management Course (MCMC) at the Governor House on Wednesday.

The ceremony was organized by the Balochistan Civil Service Academy on completion of the MCMC.

Also present on the occasion were the Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Development, Hafiz Abdul Basit, Director General of Civil Service Academy, Dr. Abdul Hafeez Jamali, administrative secretaries of the provincial government departments, vice Chancellor of Balochistan University of IT, Engineering and Management Sciences, Dr.

Khalid Hafeez, Provincial Ombudsman Nazir Baloch and Principal Secretary to Governor, Muhammad Hashim Ghilzai.

Addressing the participants of MCMC, Governor extended congratulations to the civil officers on completion of their training at the Civil Services Academy, e said that the institutions and laws are formed for the public welfare, therefore, it is your duty to perform your duties honestly with dedication.

He said that heavy responsibilities rests with the government officers with regard to establish good governance and become voice of the voiceless people of the society.

Balochistan police determined to make province polio-free: IG

QUETTA (APP): Inspector General (IG) Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh on Wednesday said that the eradicating polio was a significant national duty and Balochistan Police was determined to make the province polio-free.

He expressed these views while chairing a high-level meeting at Central Police Office.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Quetta Hamza Shafaqat, Coordinator

Balochistan Polio Zahid Shah, AIG Operation Dr. Sami, SSP Operation Muhammad Baloch, Captain Retired Anwarul Haque Coordinator National Emergency Operation Center Polio Islamabad, Brigadier Retired Abdul Hasan, and Ghulam Dastgir Ghalzai.

In the meeting, a detailed briefing was given on the measures taken to protect the anti-polio teams in the province this year.

Coast Guards seize 1176 kg hashish worth billions in Jiwani operation

QUETTA (INP): The Pakistan Coast Guard in a major counter-narcotics operation, seized a large haul of hashish worth billions of Pakistani rupees during an operation near Jiwani, Gwadar district.

According to PCG spokesperson, acting on intelligence, Coast Guard personnel intercepted a vehicle in the General Area Kaldan Jiwani. A search uncovered 1176 kilograms of hashish concealed within the vehicle.



BEIJING: Vice Foreign Minister of People's Republic of China, Sun Weidong receives Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at Beijing Capital International Airport.

Live streaming appearance of Imran is not violation of law: Justice Athar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Athar Minallah of Supreme Court (SC) has issued his dissenting note on SC decision for not live-streaming proceedings of NAB amendments case.

The dissenting note contains 13 pages.

Justice Athar Minallah said live streaming is must for the protection of fundamental rights. NAB amendment case has already been live-streamed.

PTI founder is head of the largest political party of the country. Live-streaming appearance of PTI founder is not violation of law.

It has been further said in the dissenting note all cases of 184-3 were live

streamed from bench 3 after success of pilot project.

The appeal is against the case of 184-3 in NAB amendment case. When Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was executed he was not an ordinary prisoner. Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif too were not ordinary prisoners. NAB kept on misusing powers against former Prime Minister (PM) . Former PM was humiliated being public representative and was harassed. PTI founder is not ordinary prisoner. He has several millions followers. The result of the recent polls bear witness to it. Non making SOPs is not impediment in live streaming the case.



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani presiding over meeting of Vice Chancellors of Universities of Balochistan

Pakistan-China Friendship:

Building a brighter future for upgraded version of CPEC in the new era

BEIJING (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Wednesday that China and Pakistan are determined to take the upgraded version of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to new heights to advance regional connectivity, integration, and common prosperity, thus forging a new era of growth and development for nations in the region and beyond.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to Pakistan in 2015 was a milestone event of epoch-making significance for the development of bilateral relations, leaving me with fond memories and injecting new momentum into enhancing mutual trust and economic cooperation between the two countries.

This visit has also pushed forward the construction of the CPEC to new heights, attracting more Chinese investment into key sectors in Pakistan, creating more job opportunities, stimulating economic growth, and promoting macroeconomic stability and development in my country. There can be no better practice to achieve a vision of common prosperity in the modern era.

"We are thankful to President Xi and the Chinese government for this strong support for Pakistan during challenging times," the prime minister wrote in an article published by Global Times ahead of his important meeting with the Chinese leadership here.

While highlighting that the upgraded version of the CPEC promises an even brighter future, he said, both sides have jointly built a growth corridor, a livelihood-enhancing corridor, an innovation corridor, a green corridor, and an open corridor, which resonate with the people-centric development agenda of the Pakistani government.

The CPEC has already taken off at a swift pace, promoting cooperation in industrialization, agriculture, IT, and mining as priority sectors under the framework of the CPEC. Infused with the spirit of win-win cooperation, the upgraded version of the CPEC envisions over 60 high-quality cooperation projects. Pakistan is dedicated to realizing this goal by further elevating its time-tested and enduring partnership with China to greater heights, he added.

On his official visit to China at the invitation of Chinese Premier Li Qiang, he said, this is his first official visit to China since assuming the office of the Prime Minister this time.

"I see the visit as a vital opportunity to further strengthen cooperation between Pakistan and China across political, economic, trade, and investment domains. Personally, it will also be an opportunity for me to, once again, benefit from Chinese wisdom on issues of peace, security, and development," he added.



SHENZHEN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits Nanshan One-Stop Services for Establishment of Enterprises.



ISLAMABAD: Participants in a group photo as NDMA conducted National Simulation Exercises Focusing on Monsoon Preparedness at NEOC, NDMA HQS.

Pakistan to request UAE for \$1bn loan rollover

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan to 'request' United Arab Emirates (UAE) for rollover of \$1 billion loan, before maturity period, sources said on Wednesday.

As per details, the finance ministry has completed the working on the matter and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is likely to pen down a letter to the UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan, for the rollover of the loan.

Sources said, overall UAE kept \$3 billion as the safe deposit in the State Bank of Pakistan out of

which \$2bn loan has already been rollover by the UAE at Pakistan's request, while a rollover for the remaining \$1 bln will be sought.

They said Pakistan is currently paying 3 to 6.5 per cent interest rate on the overall \$3 billion safe deposit of the United Arab Emirates.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will write a letter to the UAE president, in which he will thank the Emirates for its support to Pakistan and will seek rollover of \$1 billion on the current terms and conditions, the sources said.

PM guarantees facilitation...

Continued from page 1

discussions. I want to ensure you not as prime minister but as Chief Executive of Pakistan that I will give you the fullest support so that businessmen of Pakistan and China get benefits jointly," he remarked.

He informed the Forum that Pakistan had mineral deposits of around \$10 trillion while the country's exports stood at \$30 billion. The minerals deposits offer huge potential to dig out and convert them into finished and semi-finished goods for exports, he added.

He assured the Chinese side that his government had already initiated structural changes in Pakistan to control corruption.

Prime Minister Shehbaz drew a comparison between the \$500 billion GDP of the 13-million city of Shenzhen and the \$380 billion GDP of Pakistan with 250 million population and called it the Chinese city's swift transformation a "miracle of this century" and the "eighth wonder of the world", necessitating for others to learn the lesson from.

He appreciated Chinese President Xi Jinping's

Omar Ayub seeks Hamood-Ur-Rehman Commission report from FIA

ISLAMABAD (INP): Opposition leader Omar Ayub replied to the notice to FIA over the 'controversial' video uploading case on founder PTI Imran Khan's X account and asked the agency for a copy of the Hamood-Ur-Rehman Commission report.

Omar Ayub also announced to challenge the issue of the FIA notice in Parliament and challenge it in the court as well.

The defamatory notice was 'vague, dubious and illegal questions'.

"The notice is related to the collapse of Dhaka on which the government had constituted a commission. The government never rejected the commission report nor denied its contents. Hamood-Ur-Rehman Commission is available in Cabinet Division."

FIA's sole objective is to target PTI leadership for revenge.

"A copy of the Hamood-Ur-Rehman Commission report should be given to prepare the answer," Umar Ayub.

I will not apologize, I have not committed any wrong thing: Vawda

ISLAMABAD (Online): Senator Faisal Vawda said he has not committed any wrong thing therefore, he will not apologize.

"Apologizing is not a sin. But there is mistake in this regard. Neither I have indulged in wrong doing nor will I tender apology, he said this while talking to media men after hearing of contempt of court case Wednesday.

He held he has no problem in appearing in the court. The major part of my press conference is against

Mustafa Kamal said there was nothing of contempt of court in his press conference. What stance I have presented in the court, if any thing said by me was wrong then I apologize.

Kamal said he considers today's proceedings in supreme court positive. I did not utter any sentence like Rauf Hassan with reference to court.

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CANCELLATION
This office advertisement published on 28 th May, 2024 in Daily National Leading Newspapers having PRQ No.2623/27-05-2024, and as well as hoisted on BPPRA website. The tenders is hereby cancelled.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (BUILDINGS), CW, PP & H
Department, District Killa Saifullah
PRQ No.2838/05-6-2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Duki invites sealed rate tenders based on Composite schedule of Rates, 2023 Government of Balochistan from interested Contractors for the works mentioned below: The Tender fee Rs.1000/- will be deposit through Green Challan in National Bank of Pakistan under the head account CO-2726. Earnest Money 2% Through Call Deposit, and Time limit June 2024 for each work.

S#	Name of Work	Qty	E/Cost (M)
1	WSS Solar Based and Killi Rabat, Killi Nana Sahib Ziarat, Killi Hazar Shafer, Killi Jahangir Shafer, Yaroo Shafer and Killi Banikot Duki Under PSDP No.8051 FY 2023-24		
1	WSS Killi Rabat		
	D/Dev. of Bore TSE-232406449123	1 No	2.014 M
	Civil Work TSE-232406448863	1 Job	1.137 M
2	WSS Killi Nana Sahib Ziarat		
	Open Surface well TSE-232406449093	1 No	0.840 M
	Civil Work TSE-232406448923	1 Job	1.743 M
3	WSS Killi Hazar Shafer		
	D/Dev. of Bore TSE-232406448723	1 No	1.718 M
	Civil Work TSE-232406448933	1 Job	1.654 M
4	WSS Killi Jahangir Shafer		
	D/Dev. of Bore TSE-232406448733	1 No	1.423 M
	Civil Work TSE-232406449013	1 Job	1.137 M
5	WSS Killi Ismail Shafer		
	D/Dev. of Bore TSE-232406448753	1 No	1.718 M
	Civil Work TSE-232406449003	1 Job	1.762 M
6	WSS Killi Yaroo Shafer		
	D/Dev. of Bore TSE-232406448793	1 No	1.718 M
	Civil Work TSE-232406449043	1 Job	1.063 M
7	WSS Killi Banikot		
	D/Dev. of Bore TSE-232406448813	1 No	1.718 M
	Civil Work TSE-232406449063	1 Job	1.118 M

The procurement will be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Rule 2014. Eligibility: The contractors must have registration with, Tax authorities' i.e (NTN & Sales Tax department & BRA), valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in Category who have renewal for the year 2023-24. The contractor should be active tax payers List AT of FBR & BRA. The bidder must have completed relevant civil work assignment in the any of the past five years. The contractor must submit audit balance sheet of last three year showing financial capacity of the minimum average annual turn of Rs.10.00 M or above. The contractor must submit the latest bank credit line certificate or latest bank statement. The contractor must not be either black listed nor involved in any litigation / Arbitration (Attached all certificates and the affidavits (on non judicial stamp paper) Method of Procurement: Single stage, Single envelope. Bidding / Tender Documents: Issuance: Tender forms/documents will be issued from the date of advertisement published in newspaper on presentation of requisite documents i.e Tender Fee (Not-Refundable), Bid security/earnest money, valid Engineering Council Certificate in relevant required category, ITax certificate (NTN & BRA) etc. only original Contractors are allowed to participate in the tender with original CNIC. Agent/Representative will not be allowed. Submission: Last date for submission of documents from advertisement published in newspaper up to 21-06-2024 at 12:30 AM. Opening: The tenders will be opened on 21-06-2024 at 01:30 PM Place of issuance, submission inquires and opening will be: Address: Public Health Engineering, Division DUKI. The terms and conditions can be seen / Obtain from Office of the undersigned. Email Address: - XEN-pheduki@gmail.com.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION DUKI
PRQ No.2845/05-6-2024

TENDER NOTICE
TSE-232406448843 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 DIRECTOR GENERAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH QTA ARI- QUETTA 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 2000/- and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	Tube Well Installation along with Soler System at Agriculture Research Farms	18,500,000

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 12,950,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is EE04 (Low Voltage Installation), CE09(ii) (Water Supply), EE11(iii) (Solar Energy system), ME06(vi) (Miscellaneous Mechanical Equipment). Firm / Bidder must have latest Valid ISO-9001 certified quality management system certificate or equivalent. Firm / Bidder must have valid Electrical Contractor License Firm / Bidder must be enlisted as a Government Contractor for Drilling. Firm / Bidder must be active Sales Tax Payer 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 2,000 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 11:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM Address: Directorate General of Agriculture Research, ARI, Village Aid Sariab Road Quetta. Phone no: 0819330016 Fax no: 0819330022

DIRECTOR GENERAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH QTA ARI- QUETTA
PRQ No.2828/05-6-2024

TENDER NOTICE
Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer Irrigation Department ZhoB 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% for each work.

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION WALL MINA BAZAR KILLI MUSAZAI, MUHAMMADABUZAR KILLI SANKSAI UC SAMBAZAR DISTRICT ZHOB PSDP NO 4783 (2023-24) TSE-232406447413	20,000,000
2	CONST. OF FLOOD PROTECTION WALL AT KILLI HASSAN KHAN HARIFAL ZARA AGHBARGAI AND HARIFAL AREAS OF DISTRICT SHERANI PSDP NO 4626 (2023-24) TSE-232406447403	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 2 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 14,000,000 PKR Amount in 2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE04(ii) (Irrigation & Flood Control Systems). Rate analysis in case of rate offered below estimated cost must be submitted with financial bid. Bank Guarantee OR CDR in case of rate offered below 10% of the total cost must be submitted with financial bid. 2 No's Projects of similar nature (i.e Protection wall) Completed in Last 5 Years Minimum value of each project is 8.00 Million OR above. For serial No 1 2 No's Projects of similar nature (i.e Protection wall) Completed in Last 5 Years Minimum value of each project is 10.00 Million OR above. For serial No 2 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 21 June, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 21 June, 2024 till 11:30 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:30 PM Address: office of Executive Engineer irrigation ZhoB Phone no: 0331247696 Email: fazalrehmanir@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION ZHOB
PRQ No.2825/05-6-2024

IHC bars FIA to take action against Barrister Gohar, Rauf Hassan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday restrained the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) from taking any action against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and Spokesperson Rauf Hassan in the video case.

IHC's Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani gave the directives in his written order against the summons of PTI leaders issued by the FIA in the case of a controversial post on the social media platform 'X' from the handle of PTI founder.

The court directed the PTI chairman and spokesperson of PTI to record their statements before it.

The court also issued a notice to the FIA and sought a reply by June 25.

QUETTA: A polio delegation led by Commissioner Quetta Hamza Shafiqat meeting with Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh. Coordinator for Polio Balochistan Zahid Shah is also present

WHEREAS, it appears to the Deputy Commissioner/ Collector District Kalat that the land measuring 4-Acres (Four acres) Khata No. 04 Khatooni No. 04 Khasra No. 76 owned by Agha Muhammad s/o Khan Sulaiman Khan Caste Baloch Ahmedzai r/o Kalat City situated in Mouza Ghous Abad Jadedee Mahal Tehsil Kamp; District Kalat required to be acquired by Registrar High Court of Balochistan, Quetta for construction of Judicial Complex Kalat. It is hereby noted that the land in the localities are likely to be acquired for the above purpose.

This declaration is made Under Section-4 of Land Acquisition Act-1894 (1 of 1894) to all whom it may concern. In exercise of power conferred by the said section, the Collector of District Kalat is pleased to authorize the Officers / Staff for the time being engaged in the under taking with their servants and workmen to enter upon and survey the land locality and do all other its required as permitted by the said section. Any persons having interest in the land or who has any objection to the acquisition of the said land Under Section-5A LAA 1894 of said Act may file objections in written before the Collector Kalat District within 30-days from the date of Publication of this notification.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER/ COLLECTOR, KALAT.
PRQ No.2842/05-6-2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Killa Saifullah invites sealed percentage rate tenders based on composite schedule of rates 2023, Government of Balochistan amended up to date from interested contractors / firms for the works listed below:-
Tender Fee Rs.2000/-, Earnest Money 4% of Bid Cost and Time limit 30-06-2025

S.No	Name of Works.	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF WARE (Weir) WACHA KANDA, KILLA SAIFULLAH. TSE-232406449673	30.00

The office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division KILLA SAIFULLAH invites technical proposal of Contractors/firms along with sealed financial proposals (Single Stage-Two Envelope Bidding Procedure) as above mentioned. Interested firms / Contractors. All interested bidders are required to submit documents as per following brief 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. Eligibility of bidders: - Registrations with relevant taxation department i.e (NTN), Income Tax / Sales Tax Department, Balochistan Revenue Authority (BRA) updated. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in Relevant Category C-5 and Above and Discipline Code CE04(ii) (Irrigation & Flood Control Systems), valid for the year 2023-24. The Technical Proposal shall consist of the Following Documents: - Name of Firm / Contractor with year of establishment along with postal address and telephone number. Name of Technical Supervisory staff/Management Staff along with their qualifications/ Experience and proof of their stay with the firm, with fresh affidavit (duly attested by first class Magistrate) as per criteria specified in bidding data. Detail of Works Machinery as per details mentioned in bidding documents. Complete with all respect giving their model, make, condition and location. No of Projects completed (Details should be given as per criteria Specified in bidding documents). Fresh Registration / Clearance from income tax Department and BRA Original must be shown on submission/Opening the technical Proposals. As per BPPRA rule 25 sub rule (2) serial 3 only one bid can be submitted against one NTN. Under taking on judicial paper (duly attested by First Class Magistrate) that the firm has never been black listed and involved in litigation. Non satisfactory performance in past or present with any executing agency will lead to the disqualification of Firm/Contractor. Detail of bases of evaluation of technical proposal is referred to the bidding documents (B-3-3.2). The Financial Proposal shall consist of the Following Documents: - Detail BOQ with Quoted Rates in sealed envelope mentioned the name & Title of scheme. Bid Security @ 4% of bid quoted amount must be in the form of call deposit Only from the Firm Account in favor of the office Name of the under signed from a scheduled bank of Pakistan. No any Bank Drafts & Banker Cheque will be acceptable. TENDER DOCUMENTS: The bidders can obtain the bidding document from the address mention above on production of green Challan of (Rs) Mentioned against Each work deposited in the head of account C-03434 Civil works through Govt Treasury/National Bank of Pakistan or can be downloaded from the Website of BPPRA (www.bppra.gov.pk), during working hours, from the date of publication of this invitation in newspapers till one day prior to the last date of submission. 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 24th June, 2024 at 11:00 AM. OPENING: The envelope containing "Technical Bids" will be opened on the same day 24th June, 2024 at 12:00 Pm. Before procurement committee in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend. The Second sealed envelope containing "financial bids" of technically responsive / qualified bidders will be opened later, the date of which will be communicated after evaluation of the technical bids. In case of any holiday or force majeure the opening will be on the next official day. Bids Validity: Ninety (90) days Place of issuance and submission will be: Address: Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division KILLA SAIFULLAH, Telephone No : 0311 8429541, Email: Engnoormuhammadmamdokhail@gmail.com Terms and Conditions: Terms and conditions are mentioned (incorporated) in detail in bidding documents.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION KILLA SAIFULLAH
PRQ No.2823/05-6-2024

President Zardari desires building "technology highways" in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday emphasised upon the need of building "technology highways" in the country by enhancing students' access to IT infrastructure, strengthening of educational programmes and equipping them with modern skills to help them fully benefit from the knowledge economy.

He said that providing laptops to students would increase their access to education, bridge the digital divide, and equip them with technology skills to help them compete in the national and international job markets. The president expressed these views while talking to Professor Dr Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, Vice Chancellor of Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) Islamabad, who called on

him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The vice chancellor briefed the president about the role of QAU in providing quality education, its educational programmes, and other administrative affairs. Talking to the vice chancellor, the president said that Pakistan was blessed with abundant human resources, which needed to be converted into a strength by imparting the latest education and skills to them. He highlighted that Pakistan required to train and educate its human resources that could be exported to foreign countries facing a shortage of trained professionals, so as to help Pakistan earn foreign exchange. The president said that universities were pivotal in producing skilled

professionals, who could fulfill local and international market needs.

He also underlined the need to focus on producing more professionals such as doctors, engineers, nurses, and teachers.

During the meeting, the vice chancellor informed that QAU was one of the top-ranking universities in Pakistan and was ranked at 315th position globally. He apprised that the QAU was focusing on research that could have a positive impact on society, adding that digitalization was the top priority of the university. The president urged to further improve the quality of education, besides focusing on the character-building of students, adding that top position holders of QAU should be given Presidential Awards with cash.



ISLAMABAD: President, Asif Ali Zardari exchanging views with Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, Vice Chancellor of Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad during meeting held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Romina says: Land degradation serious risk to Pakistan's food, water security amid Indian violations of IWT

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam on Wednesday said land degradation due to rising impacts of climate change was a serious risk to Pakistan's food and water security amid Indian violations of Indus Water Treaty (IWT).

She was addressing the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS)'s High-Level Panel Discussion on UN World Environment Day under the theme Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience.

Romina said the country was facing the worst impacts of climate change

that emanated interconnected challenges of food security, water scarcity, and land degradation.

"Land degradation is damaging millions of hectares land annually and forcing millions of masses to displace around the world. Agriculture is the life one of Pakistan and land degradation would cast serious impacts coupled with forest degradation that would further aggravate the problem," she said. The PM's Coordinator mentioned that the Indian construction of dams on rivers providing water to Pakistan was also a concern for the latter as a low riparian country.

She added that declining soil quantity and salinization directly caused reduced crop yields that was

driving poverty, and rural to urban migration.

Romina noted that sustainable development was only possible through a holistic policy initiative to address land degradation whereas resource pooling for technology and capacity building of farmers on use of modern technology solutions was pertinent for improving crop resilience.

She urged partners to provide platform in tandem with Ministry of Climate Change to scientists for knowledge sharing.

She highlighted the Ministry's various projects intended to enhance climate resilience, mitigate land degradation and forest degradation addressing community and biodiversity resilience collectively.

PRIME, QAU sign MoU to strengthen policy linkages

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Policy Research Institute of Market Economy (PRIME), Pakistan's leading economic think tank, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the prestigious School of Economics at Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU).

This partnership aims to bridge the gap between academia and policy research, enriching the intellectual development of students, particularly in economic policy.

The MoU establishes a collaborative framework

where PRIME will facilitate seminars, internships, and mentorship programs to educate and build capacity among QAU students and faculty. Both institutions will contribute resources, with PRIME providing experts and QAU offering logistical support for events. PRIME will also host quarterly policy seminars featuring QAU faculty research. This partnership represents a significant step forward in advancing policy education and fostering collaboration among future public policy leaders.

Malik Jamil assume charge as DG Safe City

ISLAMABAD: According to details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, transferred and ap-

pointed Malik Jamil Zafar as Director General (DG) Safe City, Islamabad.

The newly appointed DG Safe City took charge. Upon assuming his respective position, DG Safe City Malik Jamil Zafar met with all staff members and conducted a detailed briefing about various branches. He visited all branches and issued appropriate instructions for further improvement.

He also directed officers to enhance the efficiency of Safe City cameras



ISLAMABAD: Malik Jamil Zafar as Director General (DG) Safe City, Islamabad.

through the use of modern technology and improve surveillance and monitoring systems across the city. He emphasized the need to improve e-challan, traffic management systems, Pukar-15 helpline, and other services, and encouraged all officers and officials to work hard with dedication.

Telenor reaffirms commitment to greener, sustainable future on World Environment Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): As the global community unites to celebrate 'World Environment Day', Telenor Pakistan has reaffirmed its commitment to a greener and more sustainable future through reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and sustainable practices to ensure a healthier and more resilient planet for the future generations.

This year's theme, 'Land Restoration,' deeply resonates with Telenor Pakistan's mission to minimize environmental impact and champion sustainable practices. As part of its environment protection strategy, Telenor Pakistan is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 said a news release.

This ambitious commitment will be achieved through the deployment of advanced technologies and substantial investments in renewable energy.

For Telenor Pakistan, sustainability is not just a

goal, but a fundamental value embedded in the company's operations.

By adhering to rigorous environmental standards and prioritizing sustainable practices, the company aims to minimize resource consumption and ensure responsible use of natural resources.

Recognizing the transformative power of collective action, Telenor Pakistan is deeply engaged in creating awareness and driving advocacy for environmental sustainability.

The company's efforts include targeted campaigns, strategic partnerships, and empowering employee-led initiatives. By fostering a culture of environmental responsibility, Telenor Pakistan aims to lead by example within the telecommunications industry and beyond. Through its ongoing commitment and initiatives, Telenor Pakistan continues to champion the cause of environmental sustainability.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui exchanging views with Uzma Yousaf, Country Director of Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE) during meeting held in Islamabad.

Khalid emphasizes revamping country's education system

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Wednesday emphasized the need to revamp the entire education system in the country in line with the modern day requirements.

He was addressing at the Award Distribution Ceremony of Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) Seed Funding Phase-1 for engineering start-ups, held at a local hotel. Speaking on the occasion, the federal minister said that the world is rapidly changing and embracing emerging and new technologies in every section of life.

"Pakistan is fortunate to have a major chunk of youth population which if

equipped with knowledge and education can reshape the destiny of the country", he said. The minister lamented that our country could not achieve the desired progress in Information Technology sector. "We must conduct research that from which level we can impart IT education to our children so that they can compete with this digital world", he observed.

He said that the present government has imposed education emergency considering the low literacy rate in the country.

Khalid Maqbool said that the country is producing 20,000 IT graduates every year but only 5000 or 6000 graduates get jobs which is very unfortunate.

KP Governor meets federal law minister

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday met with Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar in Islamabad and discussed matters relating to provision of justice to people. KP Governor also discussed with federal law minister matters pertaining to supremacy of law and the role of judiciary and lawyer fraternity in provision of speedy and inexpensive justice to people, said a press release issued here.

He also highlighted problems being faced by district and high court bar councils and stressed the need of providing special grant to bar councils of KP. He said that supremacy of law is vital to protect basic right of each.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar exchanging views with a delegation of Lawyers from Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Association during meeting.

Jimmy highlights positive image of Pakistan through art pieces: NA speaker

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Wednesday said the contribution of renowned artist and social worker Jimmy Engineer in the field of art and paintings reflected his unparalleled creativity and artistic skills.

"The services of Jimmy Engineer to highlight the positive image of Pakistan through his Art pieces render his artwork valuable and praiseworthy," he expressed these views while inaugurating an Art Exhibition with the theme "A Tribute to the People of Pakistan By Artist and Social Worker Jimmy Engineer" here at the Pakistan

National Council of Arts (PNCA).

The speaker added, "The way the Jimmy Engineer highlights the common people of Pakistan pulls us back to Partition days and it is a reliving experience to observe the moments of creation of Pakistan in his Artwork."

He also reiterated that the Parliament of Pakistan would take initiatives to protect and promote artistic work. Jimmy Engineer expressed gratitude to Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that he always prioritized highlighting the positive image of Pakistan through his artwork especially at abroad.

40th MCMC officers briefed about functions, plans of ICT admin

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chief Commissioner's Office Islamabad on Wednesday hosted a delegation of the 40th Mid Career Management Course (MCMC) officers from the National Institute of Management (NIM) in Peshawar, in a bid to share knowledge and best practices.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Islamabad welcomed the participants and briefed them on the functions, achievements, and future plans of the Islamabad Capital Territory

Administration, said the Spokesman of Chief Commissioner Office, Nouman Nazim here.

During the visit, the officers engaged in discussions on administrative strategies and challenges faced by the ICT Administration. They also learned about recent initiatives aimed at enhancing public services. The briefing session was followed by a question-and-answer session, allowing the officers to gain a deeper understanding of the ICT Administration's operations.

IFA inspects 1460 food outlets, discards 13635kg/L unhygienic food items

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Director Operations (DDO) of Islamabad Food Authority (IFA), Dr. Tahira Siddique, while sharing a last month report of the authority, stated that the authority inspected 1,460 food outlets and imposed fines totaling Rs 2,706,000 on errant shopkeepers found flouting regulations.

Talking to APP, she said that with an unwavering commitment to quality assurance, the authority's latest report underscored its relentless pursuit of adherence to food safety stan-

dards across the Federal Capital.

On the directions of Director Food, Irfan Nawaz Memon, she accompanied by the Food Safety Teams (FSTs) inspected 1,460 establishments and sealed 37 outlets due to substandard food quality and inadequate arrangements, with legal actions initiated against three offenders, the DDO added.

Additionally, she said a staggering total of 437 oral warnings and 613 improved notices were issued, signaling a zero-tolerance approach towards violations.



ISLAMABAD: PM's Coordinator on Climate Change & Environmental coordination Romina Khurshid Alam in a group photo with Customs & Enforcement officers on Montreal Protocol & HCFC control on the eve of World environment day.

Zero tolerance policy being pursued against timely, quality meals to Hujjaj

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Hajj Mission in Makkah Mukaramah Director Food Asghar Yousafzai Wednesday said that a zero-tolerance policy was being pursued regarding hygiene, cleanliness, the quantity of food, and its timely supply to pilgrims this year where teams are visiting kitchens of the companies daily.

Talking to a private news channel, he said those who came under the government scheme were being served a healthy diet, adding, the entire team of Pakistan Hajj would remain active throughout the Hajj operation without repeating mistakes of the past.

ing companies were being religiously checked and monitored by hajj mission teams, he added.

He said the Pakistan Hajj Mission in Makkah Mukaramah has imposed 17 penalties amounting to 263,580 Saudi Riyals on six catering companies over Food Safety Violations.

He said the Pakistani Authorities warned the caterers to maintain Food quality otherwise their contracts could be terminated.

He also asked the officials to ensure due care of all those Pakistani Hajj pilgrims who arrived at the Holy Land under the private scheme as well to perform Hajj.



ISLAMABAD: Students and faculty members of premier public high School Pakpattan visiting senate museum at Parliament House.

NUST rises in global rankings

ISLAMABAD (APP): Demonstrating phenomenal progress in the global rankings, the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST-Pakistan) has ascended 14 places to stand at #353, as per QS World University Rankings 2025.

NUST has made significant headway in key performance metrics, improving 100 positions in Sustainability, 86 positions in International Research Network, 54 positions in Citations per Faculty, and 42 positions in the Academic Reputation.

Lt Gen (Retd) Engr Javed Mahmood Bukhari, Rector NUST, has attributed the improvement in NUST's global ranking to the dedicated efforts of its faculty and staff along with the hard work of students.

He said, "As NUST celebrates this impressive milestone, it reaffirms its commitment to excellence and innovation in education and research."

With a diverse community of scholars and learners, NUST is committed to excellence in transformative learning, disruptive research and innovation, and collaborative partnerships.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Thursday June 06, 2024

A sobering election?

It is likely to be a bittersweet victory for the BJP and its ideological cohorts in the Sangh Parivar as India finishes counting the votes from its massive electoral exercise.

While Narendra Modi is poised to form his third consecutive government, electoral trends at the time of writing indicate that the BJP and its allies will be nowhere near translating their boastful claims of winning 400 seats in the Lok Sabha into reality.

The projections predict a simple, albeit thin, majority for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance. The INDIA grouping, led by Congress, has made surprising gains, with a likely tally of around 200 seats. It should be remembered that in 2019, Congress was walloped; in fact, India's grand old party has spent the last decade in the political wilderness, as the BJP played up the Hindutva card, tearing apart the political structure built by Nehru and Gandhi. But the latest results indicate that things may be changing.

For the BJP, Muslim-baiting and communal rhetoric appear to have backfired, even in its political heartland or 'Hindi belt'. Instead of praising the glory of a new Hindu rashtra, Indian voters were more concerned about pressing issues, such as jobs and the cost of living.

The Ram Mandir, inaugurated by Mr Modi in January, may have been a grand spectacle, but tens of millions of voters were clearly not swayed by this dangerous mixing of politics, mythology and communalism. Mr Modi's hounding of India's Muslims — the anti-Muslim rhetoric was particularly pronounced during the poll campaign — has failed to translate into electoral dividends for the Sangh this time around.

It is hoped that the sobering election results lead to a dialling down of the inflammatory rhetoric against Muslims, and that the toxic communalism that has been promoted in India for political gains over the last decade is discarded.

Coming to relations with Pakistan, from 2019 onwards, bilateral ties have been at their lowest in decades under Mr Modi's watch. India's unilateral decision to annex held Kashmir has perhaps been the biggest obstacle standing in the way of better ties. Moreover, Mr Modi and his ministers have also used provocative language aimed at Pakistan, including during the election campaign, which has hardly served the cause of peace.

Once the dust settles in Delhi and the BJP forms the next government, we hope that Narendra Modi reviews his foreign policy. India should reach out to Pakistan, and the state should respond positively to any Indian overtures. Naturally, rebuilding trust will take time, but long-term peace in South Asia is impossible without better Pakistan-India ties. India cannot skirt around the Kashmir question; both sides should at least start talking, even if they agree to disagree. Let India's incoming government start afresh with Pakistan.

Rafia Zakaria

If words could cool people down, writers would be very busy these days. As the heat index rises to previously unheard levels, it is tempting an author to write columns that evoke the very opposite of the fiery hot reality that most Pakistanis are enduring these days.

Alas! Words fail when it comes to making the discomfort of such unbearable heat any more tolerable. The sweat, the dehydration and the danger of heatstroke are real threats that can kill a human being and cannot be imagined away. Even more troubling is the fact that the prognosis for the future threatens a continuation of, even an increase in, the hellish heat of the present.

Another strategy of diversion from the cataclysms of the present is to place them in a historical perspective. The wider the lens and the further back one looks, the more one realises that nearly every catastrophe that confronts human beings in the present moment is one that people in the

past have already had to endure. One of the highest temperature readings these past days was in the ancient site of Mohenjodaro, where the temperature reached 52 degrees Celsius. The settlement, which is said to date back to 2500 BCE, may be among the places that tell us most about climate catastrophes of the past.

Analyses of Mohenjodaro's layers of sand and soil reveal that the city was flooded multiple times during its period of inhabitation. These floods are believed to have caused destruction on the scale of the recent ones in Sindh. Scholars have long argued over what caused the Indus Valley Civilisation, of which Mohenjodaro was a central settlement, to simply disappear. Archaeological findings suggest that this city, which was a highly developed metropolis complete with a proper sanitation system and well-maintained roads, was abandoned and left to crumble.

Climate change may not have been the definitive reason why the

civilisation fell or why Mohenjodaro was abandoned, but it is known that the area was suffering the consequences of tectonic shifts. Evidence of this can be seen in prehistoric 'beaches' in Pakistan. These beaches, which have evidence of marine life in a place that is far inland, reveal that during prehistoric times, many places were closer to the ocean than they are today.

Tectonic shifts in Sindh and Balochistan possibly caused the seas to recede and the coastline to be altered. It may well have been that it was these shifts that caused migration and demographic shifts, which meant that even advanced cities like Mohenjodaro could not tolerate the onslaught of repetitive climate catastrophes.

The climate shifts taking place in Pakistan, one of the world's most vulnerable countries threatened by the effects of climate change, are palpable and terrifying. Temperatures like 52 degrees Celsius were unimaginable even as recently as a couple of decades ago. The flash floods and rains that

now ravage cities were rare.

Even as they wreak utter havoc and destruction on Pakistani cities, there are few lessons learned, and inhabitants are restricted to self-help measures as they deal with the consequences of widespread corruption, apathy and disinterest in preparing for the consequences of climate change. This year, after people have borne the unbearable heat, the rain and the floods are predicted to come again; once more, our cities will face a wave of destruction brought on by urban flooding.

A recent report released by the German development agency GIZ shows just how terrible things are going to get. By 2080, the temperatures in the country will have risen by over 4°C. This means that places that are seeing temperatures in the upper 40s will become uninhabitable as human beings cannot tolerate such heat without severely suffering its effects.

Sea levels are expected to rise by 40 centimetres, which means that large swathes of the

coastal area, including where construction has been carried out on reclaimed land, will be submerged. In prehistoric times, it was the rising of tectonic plates that caused the sea to recede; now the rising of the seas may reclaim the land that emerged thousands of years ago.

Prehistoric-era climate change led to drought conditions. The unpredictability of the water supply, something modern-day city dwellers will identify with, meant that infrastructure and agriculture both suffered drastically. It is plausible then that a combination of foreign invasions and natural catastrophes wiped out the Indus Valley Civilisation thousands of years ago.

The gargantuan climate-related challenges, which drought-struck and heat-harried cities along the Indus valley all the way to Karachi face today, create the feeling of a cataclysmic ending. It is impossible not to wonder whether the inhabitants of civilisations that fell in the past were conscious of the fact that their way of life,

the place they called home, their basis of existence, could be wiped out in the manner that it was.

My guess is that they were not. People by nature are optimists, who have great faith in the ultimate victory of survival. People in Pakistan are enduring the scalding heat, trying to find shade or water or respite and, like all optimistic humans, imagining better times ahead. Unfortunately, the data shows that respite is unlikely and that conditions are already such that large swathes of areas occupied today will either disappear into the sea or be subjected to very high temperatures and extreme drought — in a nutshell, no one will be able to live here.

The entire world is living in momentous times, when deep civilisational changes are happening right before our eyes. Glaciers are melting, rivers are flooding, seas are rising, and heat and havoc are the only certainty. These momentous times are not comfortable, but it seems there is no escape from them. -- Courtesy Dawn

Zahid Hussain

The return of Narendra Modi as prime minister for a third term was foretold, but many doubted a landslide victory for his party. While they may be correct, he is still on the verge of winning his third consecutive term. Apparently, this time the BJP has also made some inroads in the south.

Voting ended on June 1 in India's seven-stage elections, the longest and largest in the country's history, that began in mid-April with almost a billion eligible people casting their votes across the country. The BJP-led coalition was challenged by the rival INDIA group, an alliance of disparate political parties led by Congress, in the contest for 543 seats. The opposition alliance has made significant gains, despite the BJP's ultra-nationalist narrative.

Had Modi and his allies managed a two-thirds majority, it would have allowed the prime minister to bring some fundamental changes to the constitution, undermining India's secular structure. In any case, a record third term would have serious implications not only for Indian democracy but also for regional

geopolitics.

It is a personal triumph for the strongman prime minister whose Hindu nationalist politics have reshaped India's secular democracy. No prime minister since Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first premier, has won three consecutive terms. Modi's last two terms brought the world's most populous nation close to authoritarianism.

His election campaign pivoted around anti-Muslim and anti-Pakistan rhetoric. He vowed to establish a Hindu state, shedding India's long-standing secular identity, and his tenor against Pakistan turned extremely belligerent. A third term for right-wing Hindu nationalists is bound to have serious implications for the world's largest democracy as well as regional geopolitics.

There is a fear that the efforts to establish a Hindu supremacist state would formalise the second-class status of over 250 million Muslim citizens in law and practice. Under the Modi government, attacks on Muslims increased exponentially. There has been an increase in the number of lynching cases as well, as exemplified by reports of

attacks on Muslim places of worship by Hindu extremist groups affiliated with the ruling party, with the connivance of the administration.

Modi's dehumanising anti-Muslim language on the campaign trail was more direct than that of his past speeches. The BJP campaign fuelled concern among the Hindu majority that a victory for the opposition would lead to Muslim domination. In one of his election speeches, Modi asserted that the opposition Indian National Congress, if elected, would give the people's property and gold to the Muslims. The party would "calculate the gold with [Hindu] mothers and sisters" and transfer it "among those who are infiltrators and have more children".

The brazen continuation of such anti-Muslim rhetoric is what has differentiated this campaign from the two previous elections that Modi won. Modi's campaign narrative made it absolutely clear that under his dispensation, the Muslims will be politically disempowered, economically marginalised, and deprived of their constitutional rights. He has vowed

to expunge India of any historical Muslim influence.

Throughout the election campaign, the BJP constantly looked for issues that would click with the voters. The inauguration of the Ram temple on the ruins of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya a few months before the polls was a prime example of Modi's increasingly communal politics.

Some Hindutva leaders have openly called for the extermination of Muslims. Human rights groups have been warning against an escalation in the scale of mass atrocities and an increased level of state involvement in such actions with the return of the BJP government.

A third term for the Modi government could destroy India's secular identity and democracy altogether. A majoritarian Indian state, a Hindu rashtra, would strengthen bigotry, discrimination, and violence. The persecution is not limited to Muslims but extends to other religious minorities, such as Christians and Sikhs, too. Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians make up nearly one-fifth of the country's population.

Hate speech is a criminal offence in India, and it

is specifically barred during election campaigns, but no action was taken against Modi and other BJP leaders for indulging in it, thus raising questions about the impartiality and independence of the election watchdog.

Modi's victory, even if diluted, is certainly not a good omen for Pakistan. Relations between the two countries hit a new low under the two previous Modi governments. It's not surprising that the Indian prime minister had upped the ante against Pakistan on the election trail. Anti-Pakistan rhetoric has been one of the factors behind Modi's previous electoral victories.

On the eve of the 2019 elections, the Indian prime minister launched an air strike inside Pakistan after false-flag attacks at Pulwama in India-held Kashmir that killed dozens of Indian soldiers. Retaliatory action by the Pakistan Air Force brought the two countries close to war. The Pulwama incident was used by the BJP government to whip up nationalist sentiments that contributed hugely to Modi winning his second term. Following the 2019 election victory, the

second Modi government illegally annexed IJK in August that year. The action led to further weakening of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and India, blocking any possibility of normalisation.

BJP leaders are now threatening to take over Azad Kashmir. In a recent interview, the Indian defence minister boasted that India could easily annex Azad Kashmir, which is a part of the BJP's election manifesto. The party's rhetoric is built around taking control of all of Kashmir. Such provocative claims demonstrate the BJP's growing belligerence.

Political instability and an economic crisis in Pakistan have also provided the hard-line Hindu nationalists an opportunity to increase pressure on Pakistan. Now, a third Modi term promises to have disastrous consequences not only for India but also for Pakistan and the rest of the world.

The increasing social schisms created by Hindu nationalism has made the situation in India extremely combustible. That could damage India's ambition to achieve superpower status.

Weaker but still lethal

Modi's hat-trick

Mahir Ali

At the cusp of yesterday, most of his troubles seemed so far away. The published exit polls pointed to a third landslide for Narendra Modi and his allies, even though the aspiration of 400-plus seats seemed far-fetched. The INDIA bloc-led opposition was justifiably sceptical about the projections.

There was never much doubt about Modi's hat-trick — the likelihood that he would become the first prime minister since Jawaharlal Nehru to win three elections in a row. His Bharatiya Janata Party's vote share, however, has never come close to the Congress tally between 1951 and 1962 — which always fell short of 50pc. Even when the Congress registered its highest percentage under Rajiv Gandhi in 1984, in the wake of his mother's assassination (and the appalling anti-Sikh pogroms that followed), it's unprecedented tally of 404 seats (out of 514) was based on 49pc of the popular vote.

As in all other first-past-the-post set-ups, the number of Lok Sabha seats a party or alliance wins does not have to match its percentage of votes. The same barrier to a more representative democracy applies in Britain — which may have to take the overdue leap into some form of proportional representation before former colonies such as India and Pakistan follow suit.

This year's polls in India were extended across six weeks — an unnecessarily long ordeal. In the customary publicity surrounding the polls that involve the world's largest electorate, some attention (as usual) was focused on, for example, how far electoral officials trek to obtain a handful of votes from barely accessible outposts. There were also reported

instances — notably in UP — of Muslim voters being brusquely (and often violently) turned away from polling stations.

Nonetheless, at the time of writing, the INDIA bloc appeared to have a decisive lead in UP — a setback for the state's obnoxious chief minister, Yogi Adityanath. INDIA also boasted a substantial lead in Maharashtra, and the NDA's dreams of inroads into Kerala and Tamil Nadu appeared to have been put on hold.

Likewise, the 'chaar sau paar' (more than 400) illusion appears to have fallen short by about 100. Modi spent 45 hours during the final stage of the election in a 'meditation' retreat in Tamil Nadu, apparently surviving on coconut water and grape juice (one can only wonder about the vintage); his 'isolation' heralded by dozens of TV cameras. Notwithstanding his desperate claims of divinity (or at least a divinely inspired mission), a sizeable chunk of the electorate appears to have decided that this would-be deity is encumbered by feet of clay.

Those who feared that another thumping majority lay in store have been pleasantly surprised. Even though a Modi exit remains distant, it seems closer than it appeared a few weeks ago. Since his advent as PM a decade ago, Modi has been courted and feted by Western counterparts who ought to have known better. His overbearing demeanour and attitude may not change in the near future. But his compearance in the latest polls may spell the beginning of the end for the RSS stranglehold in Delhi.

There are no grounds for complacency, but India appears to be on a more hopeful trajectory. The initial winner of three successive elections, Nehru, was a dedicated foe of communalism in both

its Hindu and Muslim manifestations. He noted more than once in his autobiography, though, that the relative dignity of the Muslim communalists was not reflected among their Hindu counterparts. Notwithstanding the 'pandit' title he inherited, Nehru was devoutly irreligious — but well aware that several of his Congress colleagues harboured co-munal prejudices beneath their secular garb.

He would have been disappointed by several of his successors at the helm of the Congress, possibly including his daughter and grandson, both of whom suffered brutal deaths. He might have found cause for pride, though, in the endeavours of his great-grandson. Whether or not Rahul Gandhi will ever be PM is not written in the stars, and dynastic politics are in many ways a curse in the subcontinent and the rest of Asia.

A few decades ago, India looked like a plausible role model to Pakistanis irked by their nation's descent into military-sponsored religious fundamentalism. India turned the tables by going the same way in 2014. Pakistan has never quite turned away from the obscurantism it encountered after July 1977. At a stretch, Indian voters have now indicated that they resent that formula in the Hindu context, particularly when it fails to deliver the promised levels of employment and leveling up.

Modi will henceforth be a depleted leader, and the justifiably reviled Amit Shah might have reached the end of his tether.

The BJP-led coalition is expected to rule for the next five years. But, given current trends, it might not stretch that far. Fingers crossed. -- Courtesy Dawn

Upended by climate

Abdullah Fadil

A new global stocktaking report released today by Unicef shows that climate change is impacting almost every aspect of child health and well-being, from pregnancy to adolescence. Nowhere is the impact more visible than on children in Pakistan, which recorded the wettest April this year in over 60 years. Torrential and unseasonal rains swept through Pakistan, killing 144 people. In KP, 33 children died; 24 injured were children.

In 2022, I saw firsthand how 10 years' worth of rains were dumped on villages in southern Sindh, triggered by climate change. Five hundred children lost their lives due to unprecedented rainfall, the highest recorded since 1961. The rain swallowed 12-year-old Mehreen's house and belongings. Together with her parents and four siblings, Mehreen lived in a makeshift shelter for months. I met hundreds of children like Mehreen, whose lives were upended by the floods.

Despite aid efforts, almost 9.6 million children still needed humanitarian assistance in flood-affected areas in December 2023. Many children didn't have enough food to eat or safe water to drink. Thousands were malnourished. Living and working in Pakistan, I am an eyewitness to the devastation caused by climate change. Year on year, children in Pakistan are caught in a vicious cycle of drought, water scarcity and floods. From the moment of conception until they grow into adulthood, the health and development of children's brains, lungs, and immune systems are affected by their environment.

Children are more likely to suffer from air pollution than adults,

leading to life-threatening respiratory diseases. As a result, about 12 per cent of deaths in Pakistan children under five are due to air pollution. Children suffer unequally because of global warming. Poorer children simply don't have the ability to cope like the privileged. In fact, the hardest-hit districts in Pakistan are amongst the most vulnerable. With an event like the 2022 floods, we could expect to see an 18pc increase in the prevalence of child marriage, which could erase five years of progress.

I am also concerned. As a father of four children, I worry about their future and that of every child and generation who will inherit from us. Despite children's unique vulnerability to climate change, only 2.4pc of climate finance from climate funds supports projects for children. In September 2022, for the first time, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child published General Comment 26, recognising children's rights to live in a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

While I am an eyewitness, I am also a polluter. As an emitter with a carbon footprint, I contribute to climate change with my choices, work and sheer existence. Every time I eat, consume, buy or travel, I add to global emissions. But blame does not fall equally. According to Oxfam, the world's richest 10pc is responsible for half of all global emissions. That, among other things, is heating up the planet. Everyone is accountable — individuals, families, businesses, and activists. We need to act on climate change beyond emergency relief for the Pakistan floods. We need to plan over the long term. This is everyone's business.

For the first time, decision-makers at

COP28 in Dubai paid attention to the unique impacts of climate change on children's health and well-being. They proposed an "expert dialogue" at COP30. Now we urge world leaders to work towards making COP30 a children's COP — where we secure the 1.5 degrees Celsius temperature limit that the next generation needs. But as a collective, we can and must do more.

First, businesses must review practices that pollute the water and air, and companies should play a stronger role in reducing fossil fuels. Second, world leaders should take climate finance seriously. It can give countries, parents and social workers the power to help children deal with climate change. That means more money to build schools, wells, tanks, and health centres that can withstand climate shocks such as floods and cyclones. Third, for our children's future, financing mechanisms like the Loss and Damage Fund should be even more responsive to the needs of children.

If nothing changes, in 2030, emissions will be 22 gigatonnes higher than the 1.5°C limit will allow. Many more children could die, and the climate catastrophes will not be confined to vulnerable countries like Pakistan. Radical action is needed now. So, I ask every person and organisation to reflect on what they can do. Personally, I am making a commitment to go plastic-free, recycle more, buy more consciously, and conserve energy. What will you do?

As 15-year-old Selena Khawaja, the world's youngest mountaineer, says "remember that if there is a problem on this Earth, we don't have another planet". -- Courtesy Dawn

Tribal areas need better infrastructure for development: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday said that people of erstwhile Fata and all tribal districts including Mohmand need better infrastructure for the progress and prosperity of the region.

He was talking a representative delegation of Mohmand Chamber of Commerce and Industry here at Governor House.

The delegation requested the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor to play his constitutional role for establishment of special economic zone and industrial estate at Mohmand for promotion of marble industry. The delegation said it would help bring foreign investment besides generate employment opportunities for youth.

The delegation also emphasized the need for construction of Yakagund

Road upto Pak-Afghans border and Warsak dam royalty to Mohmand district.

The delegation further apprised the governor about their concerns pertaining to electricity, enforcement of taxes and security challenges. The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi assured full support to the office bearers of Mohmand Chamber for continuity of business activities.

The governor assured to play his constitutional role in resolution of their issues and bringing funds for the province.

Provincial President of Pakistan Peoples Party Syed Mihmmad Ali Shah Bacha, former MNA Nisar Khan and President Mohmand Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdul Qadoos besides other officer bearers were present.



ATTOCK: Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider in a group photo with students during his visit to Government Pilot School.

Alternate energy usage vital for reducing environmental pollution effects: Nasir Shah

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Environment Minister Nasir Hussain Shah on Wednesday said the use of alternate energy resources should be increased to reduce environmental pollution and avoid negative effects of environment changes.

He said this in a message issued here on the occasion of World Environment Day, being observed on today across the globe.

Shah said the use of alternative energy and increase forests were indispensable to mitigate sufferings being faced by the people due to environmental pollution.

He said that the government was making all possible efforts at the national and regional level to deal with the challenges of environmental problems.

The rate of air pollution in Pakistan and especially in Sindh was alarming, Nasir Shah said and added that smoke

evicting from vehicles and factory chimneys was a major cause of air pollution.

The minister was of the opinion that alternative energy was the best solution to prevent air pollution and the Sindh government was busy taking measures regarding usage of the alternate energy.

Nasir Shah said the process of gradual solarization of all government buildings was under progress in Sindh province, 34 government buildings had so far been fully solarized, 23 government buildings solarization would be completed by June 2024 and 100 government building's solarization was planned to be completed by July this year.

The minister said that under the direction of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto, work on urban forestry projects was going on, steps were being taken for green and clean Sindh.



LAHORE: Senior Provincial Minister Maryam Aurangzeb inaugurating the third Environment ICE 2024 International Conference and Exhibition in the local hotel of the provincial capital.

Minister asks ETEA to take strict action against leakage of various ETEA tests

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Local Government Arshad Ayub Khan on Wednesday presided over a meeting of Cabinet Committee for Educational Testing and Evaluation Agency and directed to take strict legal action against the persons found guilty in the leakage of various tests of ETEA.

He said that merit and transparency are the first priority of the present government and no there would be no compromise in this regard.

He also directed to take steps to issue separate merit lists for minority and special persons so that their recruitment process is not delayed.

Earlier, the committee member Sajjad Barkwal told the forum that along with the recommendations to increase the manpower of ETEA, the agency was taking steps to make it compatible with the

modern requirements of using digitalized technology and prevent duplication etc.

The committee was briefed regarding the implementation of the decisions taken in the last meeting.

The minister issued instructions that within a week all the institutions should provide the details of all the advertised posts for which the process has not yet started as well as the already advertised posts which have not been advertised through ETEA.

He said that the main objective was to make the provincial testing agency more active and stable so that the posts of all the institutions across the province are advertised through ETEA.

He said that the provincial government is also taking important steps to increase the efficiency of the agency.



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi talking to representatives of Imamia Council Peshawar at Governor House.

KP CM inaugurates new feeder route DR-14 of BRT service

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur inaugurated the new feeder route DR-14 of the Peshawar Bus Rapid Transit System at the Central Park Regi Model Town on Wednesday.

This new route will connect Board Bazaar to DHA via Regi Model Town, on Nasirbagh Road.

This much awaited addition to the Zu Peshawar network brings the total number of routes to 16, further enhancing the city's public transportation infrastructure. The inauguration event was attended by Secretary

Transport, CEO TransPeshawar and other officials.

The route consists of a total of 16 stops namely Islamia College, Board Bazaar, Canal Bank Colony, Naseer Teaching Hospital, PSO Stop, Police Colony, Askari 6 Phase 2, Askari 6 Phase 1, Mian Khan Garhi, Badezai, Regi Model Town, Zone 3 Ground, Government Girls Primary School, Masjid-e-Hamza, Ladies Park and DHA.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, the chief minister emphasized the importance of efficient and accessible public transit in promoting sustainable urban

development and improving the lives of the residents of Peshawar.

He said, "Zu Peshawar caters to approximately 350,000 passengers daily, making it a lifeline for the city's residents and commuters. The new route is expected to further enhance the accessibility and convenience of public transportation, contributing to the city's sustainable growth."

He said that the Zu Peshawar network was testament to the commitment of the government and stakeholders to meet the growing transportation needs of Peshawar's residents.

This development reflects the government's forward-looking approach to urban planning and sustainability, he added.

The residents of Peshawar had been eagerly awaiting this route, and its opening represents a significant step forward in TransPeshawar's efforts to enhance its service.

A spokesperson for TransPeshawar told the media that the route would be beneficial to the people living in Regi Model Town, DHA, Askari, Police Colony etc., as well as students of Islamia College and University of Peshawar, residing in these areas.

Pakistani doctor gets first position in MRCP exam in Qatar

PESHAWAR (APP): Dr Dolat Khan, a doctor from Pakistan brought laurels for his country on international level by obtaining first position in Magnetic Resonance Cholangiopancreatography (MRCP), examination held in Qatar.

A report said that Pakistani doctor from Lower Dir area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa got first position in MRCP exam.

Dr Dolat Khan went to Middle East after obtaining his MBBS degree from Peshawar.

For further enhancing his knowledge in medical field, he got admission in Hammad Medical Corporation, one of the best medical institutions of Qatar and obtained first position in the exam.

Dr Dolat Khan did his FSc from Islamia College Peshawar and then completed his MBBS degree from Khyber Medical College Peshawar.

CM fulfils promise to send on Hajj 10 elderly women living in Aafiyat

LAHORE (APP): On special direction of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, arrangements were made to send 10 elderly women living in Aafiyat (Darul-Aman) on Hajj.

They had requested the CM for the same during her visit to Aafiyat on Eid.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif while meeting the 10 elderly women living in Aafiyat (Darul-Aman) before sending them to perform Hajj directed the authorities concerned to take proper care of these elderly women of Daeul-Aman as they are like our mothers.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif also came there to meet the elderly ladies on their request.

The CM requested them to offer prayers for the security and prosperity of beloved homeland, Pakistan. "Allah has given me the opportunity to fulfill my promise, I am very happy to see you going on Hajj." She added that it is an honor to meet the pilgrims.

The CM presented the ehraam, suit and daily-use items to all the women.

During their meeting,

the elderly women expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif for this great favour.

PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said "We will uplift workers economically, good time for the poor have come." He requested the intended Hajj pilgrims to pray for Pakistan during Hajj.

10 women living in Aafiyat, their in-charge Sumaira Aslam and assistant are leaving for Saudi Arabia on a 21-day Hajj journey.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Transport Bilal Akbar presides over the steering committee meeting for provision of Bikes.

Shaista Khoso says: People's trust increases in Ombudsman institute by providing speedy justice

SUKKUR (APP): The Chairperson, Step Foundation, Ms Shaista Khoso has said that the commitment of Regional head Federal Ombudsman office Sukkur, Syed Mahmood Shah to provide justice to the public of the region has significantly increased trust in the Federal Ombudsman institution.

Addressing in a ceremony, organized in honour of Syed Mahmood Shah on Wednesday, Shaista said the institution strives to deliver affordable and prompt justice, earning the status of a people's court where individuals from all walks of life can approach without fear to resolve their issues.

Syed Mahmood Shah thanked the Chairperson of the Step Foundation and stated that the primary priority of the Federal Ombudsman institution is to promptly address complainants' grievances within the bounds of the law, with zero tolerance for negligence.

He said that under Article 17 of the Federal Ombudsman's jurisdiction, surprise inspections of various departments are conducted to ensure timely resolution of public issues suffering from negligence and delays.

Once a decision is made in any case, its implementation is ensured without compromise, he added.

Boy killed in armed clash between two groups

FAISALABAD (APP): An armed clash between two groups left a child dead in Sadar police area on Wednesday.

Police said that an armed clash took place between two groups living in street No 11, Elahiabad area. As a result, a passerby named Ameer Hamza (10), was killed on-the-spot. Police removed the body to mortuary for postmortem. Police have collected forensic evidence and started legal action.

Meanwhile, the women police arrested one Adeel Ashraf for teasing a woman and registered a case against him. Separately, Mamukanjan police registered a case against a man allegedly involved in throwing acid on his wife and brother-in-law in Ghousia Colony.



HYDERABAD: Activists of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are holding protest demonstration for release of PTI Founder Imran Khan, at Hyderabad press club.

Steps being taken to resolve issues of higher education institutions: Minister

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Higher Education, Meena Khan Afridi has said that steps were being taken by the government to solve financial problems of universities.

During his visit to historic Islamia College here Wednesday, he said that the process to finalize rules and regulation was underway, adding that it would resolve all the issues including financial problems of Islamia College. He said that the government was also making incessant efforts to

resolve the issues being faced by higher education institutions. He also appreciated the education standard of the College and efforts of the faculty members to strengthen financial position of the institution.

The minister also planted a sapling in the College and assured cooperation to the College administration in resolution of their problems. He was also briefed by the faculty about various properties of the College in Khyber Bazar, Charsadda and Harichand.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali exchanges views with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Country Representative, Dr. Luay Shabaneh during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

Counsel for Sindh tells SHC Sindh govt will not give permission to hold Aurat March, dance

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) has issued written order on the petition filed against Aurat March and dance program in Arts Council.

According to written order counsel for Sindh government had said district administration had not accorded permission in connection with March 8 Aurat March. Permission will also be not given of such program in future as well which runs contrary to constitution.

The court said in written order the petitioner has expressed satisfaction over the reply of Sindh government and district administration. However the petitioner said how the program took place without permission.

The petitioner was of the view why the district administration and police did not take action against Aurat March which was held without permission.

Lanjar orders digitization of arms dealers' licenses & enhanced CTD measures

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar on Wednesday ordered the initiation of the process to digitize licenses for arms dealers across the province.

During his visit to the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), he mandated that data collection and geo-tagging of seminars be conducted by a committee comprised of the District SSP, Special Branch, and CTD.

While assessing the CTD's performance, Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar reviewed details of the investigation into the recent case of a youth killed during a robbery in Gulshan Iqbal. He instructed that the CTD

oversee investigations of robbery-related murder cases. He emphasized that the national action plan should be executed with its intended spirit and priorities.

Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar urged CTD officers to enhance the department's performance, pledging to personally monitor their progress.

The Minister guaranteed that the Sindh government would provide all necessary support and assistance to the CTD.

He stressed the need for reforms and innovation within the CTD, highlighting the importance of adopting modern techniques to address emerging challenges.



GILGIT: Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Nazir Ahmad Advocate addressing during the ceremony of World Environment Day 2024 on the theme of Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience "OUR LAND OUR FUTURE" at KIU organized by GB-EPI and Gilgit-Union of Journalist.

Welfare of families of martyrs, veterans, employees first priority: CCPO Lahore

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Police is taking historic steps for welfare of families of martyrs, veterans, and employees.

This was stated by Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana in a press release, issued here on Wednesday.

He underlined that over Rs 35 million financial assistance has been disbursed from the District Welfare Fund to 1,494 police employees during the year 2023-24. Cheques amounting to over Rs 91 million have been distributed as educational scholarships to the children of police employees. Additionally, Rs 18.7 million have been provided as subsistence allowance to 549 deserving families. More than 400 police employees have been honored with the title of Ghazi.

In terms of medical financial aid, Rs 2.7 million have been distributed among 365 police employees. The families of 15 martyrs have been provided with homes, purchased by Lahore Police. Furthermore, wedding gifts worth over Rs 3.7 million have been given to the daughters of martyrs on their weddings.



SHENZHEN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visiting Huawei exhibition centre.

Pak-China Business forum sign MoUs to boost bilateral trade: Aleem Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The minister highlighted that during the Prime Minister's current visit to China, detailed discussions were held regarding the promotion of business activities between the two countries. Ministers for the Board of Investment and Commerce also held meetings with chief executive officers of major Chinese companies. Abdul Aleem Khan emphasized that this was an excellent opportunity for the Pakistani business community to encourage Chinese investments, ultimately boosting exports. He indicated that this conference provided a platform for long-term business ties between the two sides.

In discussions with business entrepreneurs, Abdul Aleem Khan assured that Pakistan would fully support Chinese companies in establishing business activities. Moreover, the private sector will have complete freedom to invest in energy, infrastructure development, farming, engineering construction, and logistics sectors.

He noted the encouraging participation of prominent Pakistani businessmen in a visit to China, mentioning significant investment opportunities in various sectors including the hotel industry, tourism, and culture.

Shaza discusses telecom infrastructure, innovation, ICT solutions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The delegation of Hunan Sunwalk Group called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja in Shenzhen, China. She also ensured the government of Pakistan's full support to Sunwalk Group in its future initiatives. Meanwhile, the ZTE team called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima and discussed matters related to Information and Communications Technology (ICT) solutions, innovation and connectivity in the meeting. ZTE will propose the establishment of a device manufacturing factory, fiberization factory and data centres in Pakistan within two months.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where five ships, Maersk Hartford, Kypros Sea, Chem Leona, Clyde and Lima Trader carrying Container, Canola Seed, Chemicals, Gas oil and Coal, berthed at Container Terminal, Grain Terminal, Engro Terminal, Oil Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on Tuesday. Meanwhile two more ships, Hyundai Busan and Simaisma with Container and LNG also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on today. A total of 10 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them Liquid Natural Gas carrier Al-Marrouna left the port on today morning, while three more ships, MSC Positano, Chem Leona and Clyde are expected to sail on today. Cargo volume of 170,812 tonnes.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Ahad Khan Cheema exchanging views with Ludger Schuknecht, Vice President and Corporate Secretary of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) during meeting held in Islamabad.

UNDP, China govt to empower youth, SMEs for manufacturing capacities

ISLAMABAD (APP): United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) held a ceremony to celebrate the completion project 'Strengthening P P E - r e l a t e d Manufacturing Capacities in Pakistan' with support from the Government of China. High-level officials including the Counsellor for Economic Commercial Affairs from the Government of China, Yang Guangyuan and the Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan were present to celebrate the occasion. Representatives from the Planning and Development Departments in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Sindh Education Foundation, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority and Technology Upgradation and Skill Development Company, as well as selected project beneficiaries from Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces, were also present at the event. The closing ceremony highlighted the collaborative efforts between the Government of China, UNDP Pakistan, Federal and Provincial Governments to support youth and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in pursuing employment, income generation, and business development opportunities in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. The project equipped 17 Common Facility Centres in the three provinces with 858 new and state-of-the-art industrial training and production equipment, which will be used by the youth workforce, as well as MSMEs to increase the supply of their products and match the quality demands of the markets. The initiative will benefit 10,000 young people over three years with at least 50% of the beneficiaries being young women.

PSX stays bearish, losses 447 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Wednesday, losing 447.22 points, a negative change of 0.60 per cent, closing at 74,219.44 points against 74,666.66 points the previous day. A total of 348,549,582 shares valuing Rs16,389 billion were traded during the day as compared to 414,479,234 shares valuing Rs 18,311 billion the previous day. As many as 441 companies transacted their shares in the stock market.

PM invites Huawei to invest in Pak safe city, taxation, e-governance sectors

Reiterates commitment to advancing innovative, sustainable digital transformation for Pakistan

SHENZHEN (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday visited the Huawei headquarters here and invited the company to invest in Pakistan's taxation and e-governance sectors besides enhancing its presence in Pakistan's Safe City projects.

On his arrival at the headquarters, Huawei Chairman Liang Hua welcomed him which followed the playing of national anthems and his visit of the Exhibition Center.

The chairman briefed the prime minister about Huawei's operations

worldwide, particularly in Pakistan and expressed keen interest in investing in the country's different

sectors. He was also briefed about different sectors including e-governance, digital

telecommunication and artificial intelligence. Prime Minister

Shehbaz, who is on a five-day visit to China, appreciated the innovative operations of Huawei and urged the company to increase its investment in Pakistan.

The prime minister, who later held a bilateral meeting with Chairman Liang Hua along with his delegation, appreciated the Safe City projects executed by Huawei in Pakistan and invited the company to invest in the projects, particularly in the cities where the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects were being executed.

Chinese firm shows interest in investing in Pakistan's mobile phones, e-bikes, Fintech sectors

SHENZHEN (APP): Chairman of Chinese firm Transsion Holdings Zhu Zhaoliang on Wednesday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here and conveyed his company's interest in enhancing investment in mobile phone manufacturing unit and investing in electric bikes, modern agriculture, mobile phone manufacturing and Fintech sectors. The prime minister, who is in China for a five-day official visit, urged the relevant federal ministers and Pakistan's Ambassador in China to formulate an early strategy, in coordination with the Chinese company. He said the incumbent government was extending all-out-facilitation to foreign investors and businessmen. He also invited Transsion Holdings to manufacture goods in Pakistan for export purposes, citing the country's immense resources and youth bulge.

AIIB, Pakistan discuss strategic partnership, future development plans

ISLAMABAD (APP): Vice President and Corporate Secretary of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Ludger Schuknecht on Wednesday met with the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema and discussed strategic partnership and future development plans.

The Secretary and Special Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs were also present attended the meeting.

The minister

expressed gratitude for the valuable support and assistance provided to the people of Pakistan.

He commended AIIB's crucial role in delivering assistance to Pakistan, especially during the 2022 floods, and briefed him on the country's improving economic outlook.

The Vice President of AIIB expressed his gratitude to the Minister for the strong partnership and collaboration on development issues such as poverty reduction.



SHENZHEN: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain witnessing MOUs at Pakistan China Business Conference.

ADB approves financing to boost Public-Private Partnerships in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$250 million policy-based loan to help the Pakistan drive sustainable investments in infrastructure and services through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). "ADB's Promoting Sustainable Public-Private Partnerships Program supports implementation of government policies to create an enabling environment for fiscally affordable PPPs and

promote inclusive economic growth," according to press release received here.

"This program is part of our comprehensive and integrated package of public sector management support that balances the country's fiscal consolidation and growth objectives," said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov.

"The program will help the Government of Pakistan create an

environment that is conducive to strategic, fiscally affordable PPPs that will bring the country closer to its development goals," Zhukov said.

ADB's program supports reforms that will increase the absorptive capacity of PPP infrastructure investments by creating a more robust and integrated legal and institutional framework for public investment management and public financial management for PPPs.

Using its name unlawfully WAPDA initiates legal proceedings against housing societies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) has initiated legal proceedings against those cooperative housing societies that have been using WAPDA's name unlawfully.

According to a statement issued on Wednesday, WAPDA has been approaching all legal forums including Registrar Cooperative Housing Societies and FIA to curb this practice.

The statement says that WAPDA, a statutory body corporate established under WAPDA Act 1958, publicly renounces its association, nexus, and unlawful direct or indirect affiliation

with any cooperative housing society, except WAPDA Town Cooperative Housing Society (Phase I and II), situated in Lahore, which is authorised to use the name of WAPDA.

As such, the unlawful and illegal use of a registered name i.e. WAPDA, for other housing societies or projects, by any other entity or person, amounts to a gross misrepresentation.

Therefore, WAPDA cannot be held responsible for liabilities, if any, that may be raised by the public, pursuant to investment in such rogue, illegal, and unlawful housing societies.

Pakistan can achieve its objectives through 'soft-core' diplomacy: FCCI President

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) President Dr Khurram Tariq has said Pakistan can achieve its prime political and economic objectives in the fast-changing global scenario through evolution of 'soft-core' diplomacy.

Addressing a delegation of under-training officers of the 44th Specialized Diplomatic Course of Foreign Services Academy (FSA), he welcomed the guests and said that Faisalabad was only one hundred years old. This city was established by British rulers to colonize and strengthen its administrative writ on this

area. He said that the city was designed on the pattern of Union Jack.

He also quoted his address to the senate of Pakistan last year in which he had termed it as one of the biggest non garrison cities of Pakistan. He said that cotton was cultivated in abundance in this area and hence the textile industry made tremendous progress here. He said that about one and half years ago, he took over the charge of President FCCI and in his maiden speech, he had unequivocally announced a plan to transform the textile city into "tech & style" by exploiting IT and AI.

He said that Faisalabad is the third largest city of Pakistan.

Gold rates dip Rs 400 per tola to Rs 240,600

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs 400 and was sold at Rs 240,600 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs 241,000 on the last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 343 to Rs 206,276 from Rs 206,619 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs 189,086 from Rs 189,400, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola silver decreased by Rs.20 to Rs2,800 whereas that of ten-gram silver went down by Rs.17.1 to Rs.2400.54.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$4 to \$2,332 from \$2,336, the Association reported.

Arrangements Finalized for 1st mango and handicrafts expo 2024

HYDERABAD (APP): The District Administration has finalized the arrangements for the 1st Mango and Handicrafts Expo 2024, scheduled to take place on June 8-9, 2024, at H.T Sorley hall, Bhitshah. A high-level meeting, presided over by the Deputy Commissioner Matiari Muhammad Yousuf Shaikh, reviewed the preparations for the event.

7th Agri Census to help devise best policy: Livestock secretary

FAISALABAD (APP): The 7th Agricultural Census 2024, being conducted currently, will provide complete statistics of agriculture, livestock and agricultural machinery under integrated approach in order to devise the best policy for agriculture sector in addition to achieving the goals of food security.

This was stated by Secretary Livestock & Dairy Development Muhammad Masoud Anwar while addressing

the awareness building workshop on the 7th Agricultural Census-2024 "Integrated & Digital Count" held in collaboration with Pakistan Bureau of Statistics at CAS Auditorium University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) here on Wednesday. He expressed concerns about livestock statistics and said that growth rate of livestock in Pakistan is 2.7 percent whereas we have 40 per cent malnourished population.



LAHORE: Members of All Pakistan WAPDA Hydro Workers Union are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Lahore press club.

CDA embarks on ambitious solar power project to reduce electricity bills

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has taken a significant step towards sustainability and cost-efficiency by announcing a comprehensive solar power project for its buildings, street lights, tube wells, and water pumps.

According to Member Engineering Khalid Hafeez, the project, expected to save the agency a substantial Rs. 250 million monthly, has been approved by the CDA Board, which has also given the go-ahead for a feasibility study to ensure the project's success, a private news channel reported.

Hafeez said the solarization project will be implemented in three

phases, starting with the conversion of tube wells and water pumps to solar power, followed by street lights, and finally, CDA buildings. The project, the Member Engineering said was aimed at generating 4.5 megawatts of electricity through solar panels installed on tube wells and waterworks across the capital, covering the installation cost of Rs. 80 million within the first four years.

The feasibility study, he stated to be conducted in accordance with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules of 2004, will evaluate various aspects, including site characteristics, system design.



A representative delegation of Mohamand Chamber of Commerce & Industry calls on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor House.

Israel strikes, shelling kill 19 in Gaza amid manoeuvring on ceasefire quest

Monitoring Desk

CAIRO: Israeli shelling and airstrikes killed at least 19 people in central and south Gaza on Tuesday including two policemen who were helping protect humanitarian aid deliveries in the southern city of Rafah, Palestinian media said. Seventeen of the deaths, they said, occurred in separate Israeli airstrikes on the al-Bureij and al-Maghazi refugee camps and the city of Deir-al-Balah in central Gaza, and by late Tuesday tanks were shelling an area just east of the al-Nusseirat camp, residents said.

Some told Reuters via chat app that the renewed Israeli military push was sowing panic, with some families living in al-Maghazi starting to flee under tank fire, with four shells crashing near a clinic in the camp.

In a brief statement issued earlier in the day, the

Israeli military said jets were hitting Hamas targets in central Gaza while ground forces were manoeuvring "in a focused manner with guidance from intelligence" in the al-Bureij area.

It gave no update on activity in Rafah, into which Israeli forces swept last month in what the military calls a limited operation to root out Hamas' last intact combat units after almost eight months of devastating war in the Gaza Strip.

The small city fringing Gaza's southern border with Egypt had been sheltering about one million Palestinians who fled Israeli assaults in other parts of the enclave, but most have fled again in the face of Israel's tank-led advance.

Israel launched an air and ground offensive in Gaza last October vowing to destroy Hamas after fighters stormed across the border into southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing around

1,200 people and taking more than 250 people hostage, according to Israeli tallies. About 120 hostages remain in Gaza.

The Israeli military campaign has killed more than 36,000 people in densely populated Gaza, according to its health authorities, who say thousands more bodies are buried under rubble.

Qatar said on Tuesday it had delivered an Israeli ceasefire proposal to Hamas that reflected a three-phase proposal presented on Friday by US President Joe Biden, and that the paper was now much closer to the positions of both sides.

Qatar, which has been mediating on Gaza between Israel and Hamas, also stressed that there should be a clear position from both parties to clinch a deal, its foreign ministry spokesperson said in a press briefing.



Palestinians inspect the damage to a house after it was hit in an Israeli strike in al-Bureij camp in the central Gaza Strip.

US says response from Hamas on ceasefire proposal still awaited

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: A response from Palestinian Islamist group Hamas on Israel's ceasefire proposal that US President Joe Biden revealed on Friday is still being awaited, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters on Tuesday. "We are waiting for a response from Hamas" through the Qatari mediators, Sullivan said.

Modi set to take PM oath for 3rd time on June 8 as allies pledge support

Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to be sworn-in for a record-equaling third term on June 8, after key allies pledged their continued support a day after a humbling election verdict that saw his party lose its majority in parliament.

Modi, a populist who has dominated Indian politics since coming to power in 2014, will for the first time need the support of regional allies whose loyalties have wavered over the years, which could complicate the government's reform agenda. On Wednesday, Modi's Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) agreed with coalition allies to form a government.

"We all unanimously choose respected National Democratic Alliance (NDA) leader Narendra Modi as our leader," the BJP-issued alliance statement read. "The NDA government under the leadership of Modi is committed to serving the poor, women, youth, farmers and exploited, deprived and oppressed citizens of India." Earlier in the day, two allies in his NDA coalition, the Telugu Desam Party, a key regional player in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh,

Burns will be in Doha to consult with Qatari mediators on the Gaza ceasefire proposal, Sullivan added. Qatar has been mediating on Gaza between Israel and Hamas. Qatar said on Tuesday it had delivered the Israeli ceasefire proposal to Hamas that reflected a three-phase proposal presented by Biden, and that the paper was now much closer to the positions of both sides.

Plan to start working from new capital city in July: Indonesia

Monitoring Desk

JAKARTA: Indonesia's President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo said on Wednesday he plans to start working from the new capital city next month amid concerns over the future of the project following the resignations of senior executives overseeing the development.

Jokowi said the progress of several infrastructure developments under the first phase of the \$32 billion capital city, called Nusantara, on Borneo island.

Syrian man arrested after shooting near US embassy in Beirut: army

Monitoring Desk

BEIRUT: A Syrian man was arrested after a shooting on Wednesday near the US embassy in Beirut, the Lebanese army said, with the diplomatic mission saying its personnel were safe.

The embassy, in the northern suburb of Awkar, "was subjected to gunfire by a person holding Syrian nationality", the army said in a statement on X, formerly Twitter.

"Army personnel deployed in the area responded to the sources of fire, wounding the shooter," the statement said, adding that "he was arrested and transported to hospital".

The army said it was investigating the incident. The US embassy said, "At 8:34am local time small arms fire was reported in the vicinity of the entrance" to the high-security mission.

Chinese probe lifts off from moon's far side

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: China's Chang'e-6 probe has lifted off from the far side of the moon, starting its journey back towards Earth, China's national space agency announced on Tuesday.

The probe's successful departure from the moon means China is closer to becoming the first country to return samples from the far side of the moon, which permanently faces away from Earth. The probe, which departed the moon at 7:38am local time successfully completed its sample collection from June 2-3. China National Space Administration (CNSA) said in a statement that Chang'e-6, "withstood the test of high temperature on the far side of the moon".

Compared with its predecessor Chang'e-5, which retrieved samples from the near side of the moon, Chang'e-6 faced an additional technical challenge of operating without direct communications with ground stations on Earth, according to CNSA.

Cyber attack hits hospitals in London

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: Major London hospitals cancelled some operations on Tuesday after a cyber attack on a key service supplier had a "major impact", particularly on blood transfusions, according to internal memos posted on social media.

The attack on pathology partner Synnovis hit King's College Hospital and Guy's and St Thomas' in the centre of the British capital. "I can confirm that our pathology partner Synnovis experienced a major IT incident earlier today, which is ongoing," Ian Abbs, CEO of Guy's and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust.

Russia to provide more military aid, instructors to Burkina Faso

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Russia will send additional military supplies and instructors to Burkina Faso to help the west African country boost its defence capabilities and fight terrorism, Russian state media quoted Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov as saying on Wednesday.

Burkina Faso, under military leadership since a 2022 coup, has played host to contingents of the Wagner mercenary force, whose founder Yevgeny Prigozhin was killed in a plane crash last August.

"From the very first contacts between our countries after President (Ibrahim) Traore came to power, we have been very closely engaged in all areas of cooperation, including the development of military and military-technical ties", TASS news agency cited Lavrov as saying during a visit to Burkina Faso.

"I have no doubt that thanks to this cooperation, the remaining pockets of terrorism on the territory of Burkina Faso will be destroyed," he told a press conference in the capital Ouagadougou.

Lavrov has made a series of visits to Africa since the start of the war in Ukraine as Russia, hit by Western sanctions, seeks new trade partners and tries to rally developing countries behind its vision of a "multipolar world" no longer dominated by the United States and former European colonial powers.

Ukrainian official in Beijing urges China to attend peace summit

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: Ukraine's first deputy foreign minister visited China on Wednesday and urged it to send a delegation to a planned summit on Ukraine this month in Switzerland, in the apparent hope it was still possible to persuade China to attend.

Russia has not been invited to participate in the June 15-16 meeting. Beijing has so far said it will stay away, describing the attendance of both warring sides as a prerequisite for any substantive peace conference.

"The Ukrainian side expressed hope that China's participation in the event could be a good opportunity to make a practical contribution to achieving a just and lasting peace in Ukraine," the Ukrainian foreign ministry said following a meeting in Beijing between First Deputy Foreign Minister Andriy Sybha and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong.

Kyiv says more than 100 countries have accepted its invitation to the summit, to discuss provisions of a peace plan outlined by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to end the full-scale Russian invasion now in its third year.



Police form a cordon at Causeway Bay, near where a candlelight vigil is usually held on the 35th anniversary of the crackdown on demonstrators at Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989, in Hong Kong.

Biden lands in France for D-Day anniversary, democracy speech

Monitoring Desk

PARIS: President Joe Biden landed in France on Wednesday to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day on a trip designed to underscore his commitment to US allies in Europe and contrast his vision of democracy with his 2024 political opponent Donald Trump. Biden will spend five days in France and attend D-Day celebrations in Normandy, where US and allied forces stormed French beaches in an attack that helped defeat Nazi Germany in World War II, as well as deliver a high-profile speech and hold a formal state visit with President Emmanuel Macron.

While in Normandy Biden will sit down for talks with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy about the war effort to re-

pel Russian invaders. White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters aboard the presidential flight to Paris.

Biden's remarks in Normandy, both on Thursday at the formal 80th anniversary ceremony and on Friday at the famed Pointe du Hoc cliffs, will center around the dangers of isolationism and the need to stand up to dictators, Sullivan said.

Biden will draw a connection from World War Two through the Cold War and creation of the NATO alliance to today, "where we face once again war in Europe, where NATO has rallied to defend freedom and sovereignty." In what promises to be an emotional moment, Biden will meet the aged veterans who participated in the D-Day invasion.

Germany considers expelling Afghans after knife attack

Monitoring Desk

BERLIN: Germany said on Tuesday it was considering allowing deportations to Afghanistan, after an asylum seeker from the country injured five and killed a police officer in a knife attack.

Officials had been carrying out an "intensive review for several months... to allow the deportation of serious criminals and dangerous individuals to Afghanistan", Interior Minister Nancy Faeser told journalists.

"It is clear to me that people who pose a potential threat to Germany's security must be deported quickly," Faeser said.

"That is why we are doing everything possible to find ways to deport criminals and dangerous people to both Syria and Afghanistan," she said. Deportations to Afghanistan from Germany have been completely stopped since the Taliban retook power in 2021.

Security tight in China and Hong Kong on Tiananmen anniversary

Monitoring Desk

HONG KONG: Police in Hong Kong on Tuesday detained "several people", whilst Chinese authorities restricted access to Beijing's famous "Tiananmen Square", on the 35th anniversary of the crackdown on pro-democracy protesters.

Cities in Taiwan and elsewhere have marked the date. In China-ruled Hong Kong, police officers tightened security around downtown "Victoria Park", where large June 4 candlelight vigils had been held annually, before "tougher" national security laws took effect (in recent years).

Police took away several individuals in vans, including 68-year-old Alexandra Wong, after she held up a bouquet of flowers and shouted.

World hits streak of record temperatures as UN warns of 'climate hell'

Monitoring Desk

BRUSSELS: Each of the past 12 months ranked as the warmest on record in year-on-year comparisons, the EU's climate change monitoring service said on Wednesday, as UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for urgent action to avert "climate hell".

The average global temperature for the 12-month period to the end of May was 1.63 degrees Celsius (2.9 degrees Fahrenheit) above the pre-industrial average - making it the warmest such period since record-keeping began in 1940, the Copernicus Climate Change Service said.

This 12-month average does not mean that the world has yet surpassed the 1.5 C (2.7 F) global warming threshold, which describes a temperature

average over decades, beyond which scientists warn of more extreme and irreversible impacts.

In a separate report, the UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said there is now an 80% chance that at least one of the next five years will mark the first calendar year with an average temperature that temporarily exceeds 1.5C above pre-industrial levels - up from a 66% chance last year.

Speaking about the findings, UN Secretary-General António Guterres emphasized how quickly the world was heading in the wrong direction and away from stabilizing its climate system.

"In 2015, the chance of such a breach was near zero," Guterres said in a speech marking World Environment Day.



Supporters of Narendra Modi, India's Prime Minister and leader of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) carry his cut-outs as they celebrate vote counting results for India's general election in Varanasi.

TENDER NOTICE

The DG Labour & Manpower invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-232406447191 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Rs. 1000/-

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Security Equipment, Ammunition, Protective Clothing & related items (Total Item(s) Count: 25)	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 50,000,000 in Previous 3 Years. Turn over of at least 100,000,000 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. 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 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 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System Address: Samungli Road Quetta Phone no: 0819204191 Email: pdchil@dlabour2016@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

The Project Director (Civil Works) Construction of Jalawan Medical college Khuzdar invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-2324064451611 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Rs. 1000/-

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Manufactured Vehicles & 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 20,000,000 in Previous 3 Years. Turn over of at least 15,000,000 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. Local presence of 3s dealership in Balochistan. Authorized 3S Dealership. The bidder must communicate in writing a definite delivery period of vehicle on the Company Letter Head. Mobile Workshop Service Certificate of the Manufacturer / authorized distributor / authorized dealer to ensure after sales and services during post warranty period irrespective of further affiliation with the bidder 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 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 21 June, 2024 till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System Address: office of the project director (Civil Works) Jalawan Medical college Khuzdar Zahid abad near PEC office Phone no: 3320376802 Email: nasir071@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

PRQ No.2834/05-6-2024
www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob @dpr_gob f@dpr.balochistan

TENDER NOTICE

The Cadet college panjgur invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-232406448991 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Not required

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Manufactured Vehicles & 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 14,000,000 in Previous 3 Years. Turn over of at least 12,000,000 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 ineligible and non-responsive. Manufacturer Authorization required on the name of Procuring Agency OEM Certificate on Manufacturer Letterhead required Hatchback Car: 100,000 KM or Three (03) Years whichever comes first Bidders SEOP Certificate 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 21 June, 2024 till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System Address: Cadet college panjgur Phone no: 0866643005 Email: mail@ccpr.edu.pk

TENDER NOTICE

AB No.539/05-6-2024
www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob @dpr_gob f@dpr.balochistan

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-232406449413 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 Form Water Management Shaheed Sikandar Abad 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 1500/- and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Works	E/Cost
1	DRILLING/DEVELOPMENT OF BORE 1100 RFT DEPTH WITH M.S.BLIND CASING PIPE 10" DIA/ PROVISION & INSTALLATION OF PVC PIPE 4" DIAB CLASS 6 BAR EACH SCHEME 2000 RFT UNDER THE PROJECT INSTALLATION OF AGRICULTURE BORE/AZIZABAD SURKH KILLI DR MUHAMMAD HASAN MIRWANI SURAB. PSDNO 117 [Z2023-0135]	11,881,000

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 8,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years. showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE09(ii) (Water Supply), CE10(i) (General Civil Engineering Works), EE11(ii) (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. 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 1,500 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 01:30 PM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 02:30 PM Address: Shaheed Sikandar Abad Phone no: 3309266898 Email: nil@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

PRQ No.2834/05-6-2024
www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob @dpr_gob f@dpr.balochistan

TENDER NOTICE

DEPUTY DIRECTOR ON FORM WATER MANAGEMENT SHAHEED SIKANDAR ABAD SURAB

TENDER NOTICE

PRQ No.2834/05-6-2024
www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob @dpr_gob f@dpr.balochistan

On World Environment Day, PM urges countrymen to join global movement for land restoration

SHENZHEN (APP): As the international community observes World Environment Day on Wednesday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif urged the countrymen to join the global movement to restore their land, build drought resilience and combat desertification. The World Environment Day is celebrated annually on June 5 to highlight the environmental challenges of our time. World Environment Day 2024 focuses on land restoration, stopping desertification and building drought resilience. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is the global host of this year's edition. Urging the people to be part of the Generation Restoration program to ensure a better future for all, the prime minister, who is on a five-day visit to China, in his message to the nation, said that the people and Government of Pakistan joined the global community in recognizing their shared responsibility to protect their planet and fight climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

He said the theme of this year's World Environment Day – "land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience," – reminded the world of the humongous challenge that confronting it in terms of the billions of hectares of land that was being degraded, affecting almost half of the world's population and threatening half of global GDP. Rural communities, smallholding farmers and the extremely poor are hit the hardest, he added. "Pakistan stands firm in its resolve to combat environmental challenges and stands committed to contributing to global efforts towards sustainability. Initiatives such as the Green Pakistan Programme, Living Indus Initiative, and National Adaptation Plan, underscore our commitment to restoration and ecosystem restoration, tackling issues of deforestation and biodiversity loss head-on," the prime minister re-

marked. He recalled that Pakistan's climate diplomacy efforts during COP27, particularly in establishing a Loss and Damage Fund were recognized widely and viewed positively by international experts. He said on the domestic front, Pakistan is actively working on developing sustainable long-term low-carbon development strategies with assistance from GIZ, Pathways 2050 platform, UNDP, and the World Bank. Additionally, robust afforestation programs are being implemented. Initiatives like the Recharge Pakistan, GLOF, and Sustainable Land Management Program (SLMP) demonstrate Pakistan's dedication to promoting sustainable agriculture practices and combating land degradation, he added. Prime Minister Shehbaz said that despite facing challenges such as land degradation, desertification, and water scarcity, Pakistan remained steadfast in its resolve.



QUETTA: Federal Ombudsman Ghulam Sarwar Brohi visiting Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) Office.

PM Sharif visits Nanshan one-stop center; directs to replicate model in Pakistan

SHENZHEN (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday visited the Nanshan One-Stop Service Center and Shenzhen Exhibition Museum and directed his ministers to immediately coordinate with the Center to replicate a similar modern system in Pakistan.

On his arrival at the Center, the prime minister was received by Member of Party Leadership Government of Shenzhen Nanshan District Peoples Government and Deputy Mayor Li Zhenhua.

He was briefed about the digital system established at the Center to register companies and carry out other processes under one roof. He lauded the

modern systems developed at the Nanshan One-Stop Services for the registration of companies and businesses. The prime minister instructed Minister of State for Information Technology Shaza Fatima Khawaja and Secretary IT and other relevant authorities to hold discussions with the Center to establish an identical modern system in Pakistan. He also directed the relevant authorities to take necessary measures to establish a similar system in the country with Chinese cooperation. He also instructed the authorities concerned to introduce a similar modern and swift system in Pakistan to provide basic facilities to the common citizens as well.



QUETTA: Provincial Advisor for Environmental and Climate Change Naseemur Rehman Khan Mulakhail, Secretary Environment Nadeem ur Rehman and Director General Environment Muhammad Yasir Bazai planting saplings on eve of World Environment Day

Quetta police & Customs to take joint action against non-custom paid vehicles

Independent Report QUETTA: The Quetta capital police and Customs department have decided to take joint action against the non-custom paid vehicles in the provincial metropolis.

The decision to this effect was made during meeting of the Chief Collector Muhammad Yaqoob Mako with Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh at the Central Police Office,

on Wednesday. During the course of meeting, it was unanimously decided that the legal action would be taken jointly by the Quetta police and Customs against the luxury non-custom paid vehicles in Quetta. The non-custom paid vehicles would be impounded and handed over to the Customs for further necessary action, it was also decided further.

ICAO team kicks off safety audit of Pakistan's CAA

KARACHI (INP): A team of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has begun a safety audit of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Pakistan, sources said Wednesday.

The audit, started today, will review various aspects of the CAA's operations, including flight standards, licensing, aeromedical, aerospace, and airport safety.

The ICAO team will conduct a thorough examination of the CAA's departments, including flight safety, licensing, and aeromedical, among others.

The audit is expected to conclude on June 13. Earlier on April 29, in a remarkable feat of achievement, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of Karachi surpassed the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) 2023 goals.

Chairman PMYP Multi-billion-dollar projects to create job opportunities for Youth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Wednesday said that signing multi-billion-dollar investment projects with China and Saudi Arabia will create numerous job opportunities for youth in Pakistan.

He said this while addressing the National University of Technology (NUTECH) Job Fair organized in collaboration with Islamabad Industrial Association.

Rana said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was on a visit to China and holding talks to bring multi-billion-dollar investment in Pakistan which would create employment opportunities for youth.

He said that the future of Pakistan is in the hands of the talented and intelligent youth.

Higher turnout in IOK polls reflect rejection of Modi's policies: Fai

UNITED NATIONS (APP): A prominent Kashmiri leader has said that the higher voter turnout in recent elections in Indian-occupied Kashmir that the BJP leadership boasted about was in fact a rejection of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies in the disputed territory.

"The higher voter turnout was the reflection of the rejection of Modi's colonial and anti-democratic ways in Kashmir," Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary-General of the World Kashmir Awareness Forum, an advocacy group, said in a statement, while noting the Indian leaders claims that the 2019 abrogation of Article 370 has enabled the aspirations of the Kashmiri people to find full expression."



KARACHI: A delegation of International Civil Aviation Organization meeting with CAA officials for site follow up at CAA Headquarters



SHENZHEN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnesses the signing of framework agreement between the Ministry of Information Technology of the Government of Pakistan and Huawei.

Pakistan's economic system can be strengthened by creating new openings for traders: Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has emphasized on creating new opportunities for the people associated with the trade and industry so that they may contribute in the national economy to strengthen it further.

The Governor also stressed the need to hold a grand function for those associated with the commerce and industry in Quetta city.

He was speaking to the delegation who called on him under leadership of the President of Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Abdullah Khan Achakzai here at the Gov-

ernor House on Wednesday. During the course of meeting, the matters about establishment of Expo center were discussed besides the hardships being faced by the business community.

The Governor said that there are vast opportunities of profitable investment in Balochistan as such the investors must benefit from them.

He said that there is very important role of Balochistan in development and prosperity of the country. This province can give an access to Iran, Afghanistan and especially to the Central Asia.

He further said that the country's economic system

can be strengthened further by providing the people associated with the commerce and industry necessary facilities besides creating new opportunities for them in backdrop of the existing political and economic situation.

To a query, the Governor said that the representation of our traders is necessary at certain forums besides taking their opinions for formulating the policy regarding trade, industry and minerals.

Referring their problems, the Governor said that he is well aware of their issues just because he has also been part of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

CS visits Naser Khan Noori Complex; directs to preserve historic record

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan visited Mir Naser Khan Noori Cultural Complex here on Wednesday.

The Secretary Culture, Noor Muhammad welcomed the Chief Secretary.

During the visit, Chief Secretary inspected different sections of the Complex, which included digitalization of historic record, library, auditorium and conference hall.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary said

that historic documents are precious assets of the nation. We need to keep the historic documents safe and digital for future generations, he added.

He on the occasion directed to expedite the process of digitalization and preservation of the national archives.

He stressed that the record of national and historic importance must be preserved and complete the process of digitalization of historic record.

He also directed to shift record lying in Sibi to Quetta.



ISLAMABAD: NDMA conducts National Simulation Exercises Focusing on Monsoon Preparedness at NEOC, NDMA HQs.

BTTN holds seminar about addressing issues of higher education

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN) and the Majlis-e-Fikr-o-Danish jointly organized a one-day seminar here Wednesday to chart the right course for the survival of universities and the overall education sector of the province.

Brig. Gul, head of BTTN, extended warm welcome to the guests, highlighting the importance of education and the current status of education ranging from primary to higher education. Moreover, in his critical analysis, he stated that meritocracy must be the guiding principle in educational and administrative practices, skill and technology development should be prioritized over mere acquisition of degrees.

Mateen Akhundzada highlighted a critical oversight in the implementation of the 18th Amendment and emphasized that the failure to establish a Provincial Higher Education Commission (PHEC) represented a significant shortcoming. He

called for immediate corrective measures to address this issue.

In their insightful address, the speakers including Ajmal Khan, Muslim Panezai, and Professor Dr. Masooda Shah called for a paradigm shift in how politicians and government officials approach education.

They urged for a positive and robust strategy toward universities, advocating for a change in perspective to foster higher education and research opportunities. The current needs of all educational institutions, including ten public universities and numerous private and public schools in the province, must be met to prevent looming crises, they noted. They said that a comprehensive review and implementation of the 18th Amendment and the Universities Act 2022 were imperative. An integrated and result-oriented action plan is essential for the advancement of Balochistan's educational landscape, the added.

Rind condemns unpleasant incident in Chaman Press Club

Independent Report

QUETTA: The spokesman of Provincial Government of Balochistan, Shahid Rind has condemned the unpleasant incident occurred in Press Club Chaman.

The spokesman of provincial government has issued orders for probe into the incident from all aspects.

The spokesman said that ransacking in the Chaman Press club is sorrowful.

He said that the provincial government believes in freedom of press.

The spokesman of provincial government said that it is responsibility of the State to provide protection to all segments of the society including media persons.

PTA chairman meets delegation of 40th MCMC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Major General Hafeez Ur Rehman Tuesday met with a delegation of officers and faculty members from the 40th Mid-Career Management Course.

During the visit, the delegation was welcomed by senior officers from PTA, said a news release.

The delegation was given a detailed presentation about the role and functioning of PTA, specifically focusing on cyber security initiatives for the telecom sector, consumer issues.

CJ IHC says There is bar on irresponsible reporting not on court's reporting

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice (CJ) Islamabad High Court (IHC) Aamir Farooq has remarked there is bar on irresponsible reporting and not on court's reporting.

There is no bar on judicial reporting. Media can report court's proceedings. Bar is not on reporting but bar is on irresponsible reporting, he gave these remarks during the hearing of petitions filed by Press Association Supreme Court (PASC) and Islamabad High Court Journalists Association (IHCJA) here Wednesday.

The petitioners Fayyaz Muhammad, Rizwan Qazi and Aqel Afzal appeared in the court.

The CJ IHC remarked there is no bar on court's reporting. Media can report court's proceedings. Bar is not on reporting but bar is there on irresponsible re-

porting. Problem is created when a sensational ticker is run.

PEMRA filed its reply in the court. Barrister Umar Ijaz Gillani and Riasat Ali Azad president Islamabad Bar Association appeared in the court.

The court inquired from Additional Attorney General (AAG) has federal government any relevance with this matter.

AAG Munawar Iqbal Dogal said this is PEMRA related matter and federal government has nothing to do with it.

Barrister Umar Ijaz Gillani said there is no bar on reporting pending hearing cases in the law from which PEMRA has taken help. The court summoned final arguments on next hearing besides adjourning hearing of the case till June 11.



SHENZHEN: Chairman and Founder of Transion Holdings, Zhu Zhaojiang calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

No policy change in net metering policy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik Wednesday said that the government was determined to promote alternative energy in the country to fulfill local domestic and commercial requirements of the energy on affordable prices to achieve sustainable economic development and social prosperity.

In a press statement, the minister ruled out any change in the net metering policy, besides reviewing the agreement and said that no restrictions have been imposed on net metering and no agreement is being revised in this regard.

Termining a news item appeared in a section of local press about the change in net metering policy baseless, the minister said that the government was committed to promote solar energy projects in the country, adding that not any proposal to taxing on solar system was under consideration.

The Minister for Energy Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari had also rejected this news item, he said adding that imposing any kind of duty or tax on solar panels was also not discussed and solar energy projects will be encouraged to ensure provision energy from the alternative resources.

Govt striving to develop Livestock Dept on modern lines: Bakht Kakar

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Minister for Livestock and Dairy Development Bakht Muhammad Kakar on Wednesday said that the provincial government under the leadership of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti was trying hard to develop the livestock sector on modern lines.

He said that the Livestock Department was the backbone of the province's economy.

He expressed these views while talking to media personnel.

He said that most of the people in our province were directly and indirectly related to cattle rearing and shepherding.

Livestock sector is playing a key role in the economy of the province and providing employment to the youth, he said and

adding that most of the families in the province depended on it as a source of income and food.

He said that Balochistan was known for its fertile pastures with pleasant climate which were very suitable for animals.

Bakht Muhammad Kakar further said that Balochistan was home to many breeds of cows, sheep and goats and Balochistan was often referred to as the "livestock hub" of Pakistan.

The areas of Balochistan's rugged terrain and dry climate make it suitable for nomadic shepherds and herdsmen and many communities have mastered the breeding and rearing of livestock over generations which play a central role in the province and economy, he maintained.



QUETTA: Advisor of Chief Minister for Women Development Department Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi being briefed about under construction building of Directorate

BUJ flies attack on Chaman Press Club

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Union of Journalists on Wednesday condemned the attack on Chaman press club, calling for immediate arrest of those involved in the unlawful act.

Khalil Ahmed, President BUJ in a statement issued here, expressed his grave concern over the growing incidents of attack on the media and media houses.

The outraged protesters in the bordering town of Chaman barged into the Chaman Press Club and broke the mirrors and other items early Wednesday.

"The district administration of Chaman shall take immediate action against this lawlessness," BUJ President stressed. He further clarified that a journalist is bound to report the issue without any discrimination. The media has nothing to do with one regime issue of Chaman protesters, as its solution lies with the administration. Media persons are performing their duties as per their professional commitments, and they will continue performing their duties with the same dedication, he maintained. He called upon the district administration to arrest the culprits involved in attacking Chaman Press Club.