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No country allowed to interfere in Pakistan domestic affairs: DPM

Pakistan weighs tit-for-tat resolution after US election probe demand; "We must show our unity, we must show that we mean business," says Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar informed the National Assembly on Thursday that the government would bring a resolution in the House to counter the resolution passed by the US House of Representatives on June 25.

Winding up the discussion on a cut motions, he said, "The government has taken note of the resolution passed by the US House of Representatives on June 25. We will also pass a resolution in response to the US's resolution, and the draft resolution will be

shared with the opposition and treasury benches." He said, "We must show our sovereignty and unity. We must show we mean business... I will request all to come together and present a clear resolution in response to the US resolution."

The deputy prime minister also read out a statement earlier issued by the Foreign Office saying, "Pakistan has taken note of the passage of House Resolution 901 by the US House of Representatives on June 25. We believe that the timing and context of this particular resolution do not align well with the positive

dynamics of our bilateral ties and stem from an incomplete understanding of the political situation and electoral process in Pakistan. Pakistan, as the world's second-largest parliamentary democracy and fifth-largest democracy overall, is committed to the values of constitutionalism, human rights, and the rule of law in pursuance of our own national interest."

He said that Pakistan believed in constructive dialogue and engagement based on mutual respect and understanding. Such resolutions, he noted, were nei-

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding promotion of Pakistan-Azerbaijan economic ties.

PM directs strategy formulation for stronger economic ties with Azerbaijan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday instructed the formulation of a comprehensive strategy to strengthen cooperation and trade partnership with Azerbaijan in the fields of economy and investment. Chairing a high-level meeting on enhancing relations with Central Asian States, particularly Azerbaijan, in the areas of economy and investment, the prime minister stated, "Pakistan geographically offers a natural economic corridor to the sea for Central Asian states."

He highlighted the enduring fraternal relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, which had

spanned decades. He believed that there were significant opportunities for trade and investment between Azerbaijan and Pakistan.

"Foreign investment in the country is on the rise due to the government's business and investment-friendly policies, the prime minister mentioned.

The prime minister directed the development of a comprehensive action plan to boost trade efficiency and expand current trade between the two countries. During the meeting, the prime minister was briefed on initiatives aimed at enhancing trade volume, capacity, and trade and investment between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.



QUETTA: Advisor to Chief Minister Balochistan for Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi expressing her views during a consultation meeting organized by a NGO

Good governance plays vital role in development & prosperity of country: Dr. Rubaba Buledi

QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has said that good governance plays a vital role in the development and prosperity of a country. She emphasized that transparency, accountability, and responsiveness are essential for effective governance. She expressed these views while address-

ing a consultative session of the provincial assembly members organized by a non-governmental organization.

Dr. Buledi said that the provincial government is prioritizing good governance and over 60 reform proposals are under consideration in various departments, which will improve the delivery system. She added that the parliament

has a crucial role in ensuring effective governance and protecting citizens' rights.

She reiterated the resolve that the parliament will continue to play its role in highlighting the voices of the people and protecting their rights. She said that the democratic system is essential for the country's economic and social progress and stability.



CHAMAN: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti offering Dua after inaugurating Chaman Master Plan

Court rejects PTI founder & his wife's appeals for suspension of sentence in marriage case

PTI announces to challenge decision regarding rejection of appeals

ISLAMABAD (APP): The District and Sessions Court on Thursday rejected the petitions of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and his Bushra Bibi for suspension of their sentences in the marriage case.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majoka announced the verdict which he had reserved on June 25.

The court, in its 10-page written order, observed that the accused had not provided any valid reason to justify their plea for the suspension of sentence. Bushra Bibi's status as a woman also did not justify suspension of the sentence or her release on bail.

It may be added that on February 3, 2024, Senior Civil Judge

Qudratullah had convicted the PTI founder and his wife in the marriage case with seven years jail term.

Bushra Bibi's ex-husband Khawar Manika filed the case against their marriage.

The PTI founder and his wife's appeals against their conviction were filed on February 23, 2024, in the court of Sessions Judge Shah Rukh Arjumand. On May 23, Judge Arjumand reserved the verdict on the appeals. On May 29, Khawar Manika expressed no confidence in the court, leading Judge Arjumand to request the Islamabad High Court to transfer the appeals to another court.

On June 3, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) transferred the appeals to Additional Ses-

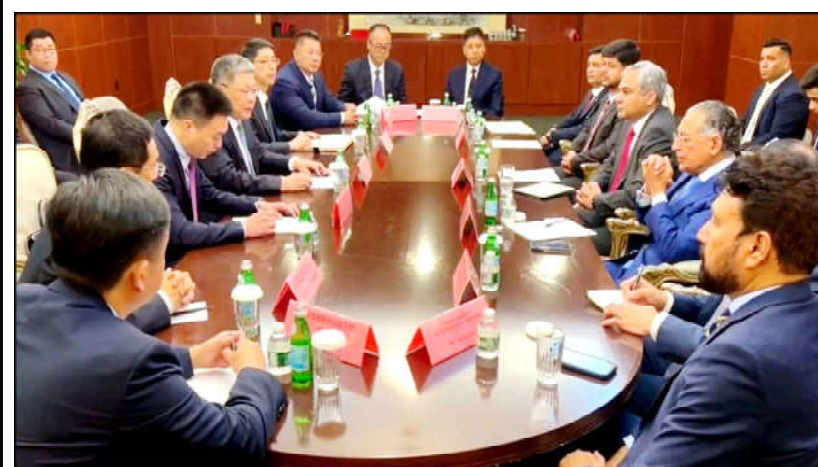
sions Judge Afzal Majoka.

Online adds: PTI has announced to challenge in high court the decision of rejecting appeal pleas seeking suspension of conviction of PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in Nikah during iddat

PTI central leader Umar Ayyub while talking to media men said the court did not accept the plea seeking suspension of sentence in nikah during iddat case. We will challenge this decision in high court.

He went on to say this matter related to husband and wife. There was no complication in this case. We had legal right in this regard but were deprived of it.

Our movement will gear up after this decision.



NEW YORK: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi attending meeting with his counterpart from the People's Republic of China Qi Yanjun.

China lauds establishment of SPU in Islamabad for foreigners

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi held an important meeting with his counterpart from the People's Republic of China (PRC), Qi Yanjun, in New York on Thursday.

The meeting took place at the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations.

The two leaders engaged in a detailed discussion on Pakistan-China relations and security matters. They also discussed cooperation between law enforcement agencies and China's support in training and modern technology.

Qi Yanjun said that China would provide full cooperation in training and capacity building of Pakistani law enforcement agencies.

He also appreciated the establishment of the Special Protection Unit (SPU) in Islamabad for the security of foreign nationals, particularly Chinese citizens. He also assured the

Federal Minister for Interior full cooperation in the training and other related matters of the SPU.

Regarding Pakistan-China relations, the PRC Minister said that Pakistan and China are all-weather friends and their friendship is stronger than steel.

The federal minister for Interior briefed his PRC counterpart on the progress made in the Dattu incident.

Qi Yanjun expressed satisfaction over the progress in the case and praised Pakistani agencies for their hard work and professional approach in tracing the unfortunate incident.

The Chinese counterpart invited the Federal Minister for Interior to participate in the Global Security Forum to be held in China in September this year.

The minister thanked Qi Yanjun and accepted the invitation.

The Federal Minister for Interior also invited his PRC counterpart to visit Pakistan.

Two killed, 20 injured in rain-related incidents in Balochistan

QUETTA (INP): At least 20 people were killed and several others injured in different rain-related incidents in Balochistan's Dera Bugti district, said PDMA in a statement.

According to the PDMA report, two people died and 20 people were injured due to heavy rains in the Sui area of Dera Bugti. The condition of most of the wounded is said to be critical, the report said.

After the rains, emergency was declared in the hospitals to treat the injured person. Most of the areas in Dera Bugti were without electricity due to the collapse of several electricity poles.

According to the weather department, rain with wind/thundershower is also expected in Balochistan's Lasbella, Khuzdar, Awaran, Jhal Magsi, Kalat, Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Dera Bugti, Kohlu, Zhob and Barkhan districts from 26th to 28th June.

CM inaugurates Chaman Master Plan, maintains: Opportunities of livelihood & trade to be available to local people with execution on Chaman Master Plan

Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti says development projects in Chaman are guarantor of economic stability of local people

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti inaugurated the Chaman Master Plan in Chaman on Thursday.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by the Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, provincial Ministers, Mir Ziaullah Langove, members of the provincial assembly, senior military officers and other concerned high ups.

The Chief Minister was briefed about the Chaman Master Plan by the concerned authorities.

While speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister congratulated to all the stakeholders on implementation and completion of Chaman Master Plan.

He said that Chaman Master Plan is very important and the trade activities

would be expedited through the projects linked with the Chaman Master Plan.

He believed that the opportunities of livelihood and trade would be made available to the local people with implementation of the Chaman Master Plan.

He said that the development projects in the Pak-Afghan bordering area, Chaman are the guarantor of the economic stability of the local people as such the steps are being taken for development of Chaman and livelihood of its people.

He assured that the feasible policies are being formulated for provision of livelihood to the local people of Chaman. Earlier, upon reaching in the border Chaman, the Chief Minister, Speaker provincial assembly, provincial ministers and members of assembly were warmly welcomed by the higher authorities.



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail addresses during ceremony in connection of World Refugee Day organized by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) held in Quetta.

Governor addresses World Refugee Day event: Afghan children grown & born in Pakistan to further strengthen relations between two countries

Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail urges International donor agencies to play role for development of communities hosting refugees in their areas

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the refugees are playing effective role in development and construction all over the world.

However, he called upon the international institutions and donor agencies to come forward and play their effective role for development and prosperity of the communities which are hosting the refugees in their areas so as to reduce their burden. The Governor was speaking at the function organized to mark the world refugees day at the BUITEMS on Thursday.

The prominent among those present in the event were the Head of UNHCR sub-office, Tesfaye Beketele, Vice Chancellor BUITEMS Dr. Khalid Hafeez, and Chief Commissioner Afghan Refugees, Arab Talib Kasi besides others.

Addressing the participants, Governor said that the Afghan refugees are present in the province for last four decades. We have accepted them as guest. We have religious, social and other strong relations in the province, he said adding that we thank all those international organizations who reduced our pressure in education, health and other sectors for Afghan refugees.



Attaulah Tarar says: Opposition's cut motions unrelated to Law Ministry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar on Thursday said that the cut motions of the opposition members had noting to do with the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Instead of demands for grants of the Law Ministry, their discussions focused solely on the judiciary's internal matters, he said while speaking in the National Assembly.

The minister said the opposition legislators high-

lighted issues unrelated to the Law Ministry. They even did not mention the funds specifically allocated for ensuring common people's access to justice, he added. Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, who was chairing session, put the cut motions pertaining to the Law and Justice Division for the approval of the House.

However, the same were ultimately rejected and the demands for grants put forth by the Ministry of Law and Justice received approval.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Sadiq Umrani, Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa, Bakht Muhammad Kakar, Parliamentary Secretaries Samad Khan Gorgage, Haji Abdul Majeed Badini, Sanjay Kumar, Hadia Nawaz Baloch and MPAs Farah Azeem Shah, Shahnaz Umrani, Prince Umar Ahmedzai, Asghar Ali Tareen, Zafar Agha, Kalsoom Baloch and Safia Fazal expressing views on provincial budget 2024-25 during Balochistan Assembly session chaired by Speaker Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai

South Africa crush Afghanistan to reach first T20 World Cup final

NEW YORK (INP): A clinical South Africa skittled Afghanistan for 56 on their way to a comprehensive nine-wicket victory in the first Twenty20 World Cup semi-final in Trinidad on Wednesday, sending the Proteas into their first ever final.

It was a first victory in eight short-format World Cup semi-finals going back to 1992 for South Africa, who will now take on the winner of Thursday's second semi-final between India and holders England for the title in Barbados on Saturday.

The perennial under-achievers looked anything but as they ripped through the Afghan batting in less than 12 overs at Brian Lara Stadium to restrict their shellshocked opponents to their lowest ever score in T20 internationals.

South Africa's batting has stuttered at times dur-

ing the tournament and Fazalhaq Farooqi bowled Quinton de Kock early, but Reeza Hendricks and skipper Aiden Markram got the Proteas into their target without further losses inside nine overs.

"Really chuffed for us to have one more crack at lifting a trophy," Markram said.

"A lot of our games have been really close and I know there's a lot of people back at home in the early hours of the morning waking up, and we've given them a lot of grey hairs."

"So hopefully this evening was a little bit more comforting for them."

Afghanistan, playing their first semi-final after a thrilling victory over Bangladesh in their last Super Eight match in St Vincent on Monday, won the toss and chose to bat.

Rahmanullah Gurbaz, the highest run-scorer at the

tournament, and Ibrahim Zadran had been the mainstay of the Afghan batting with three century opening partnerships on their fairytale run to the last four.

Left-arm quick Marco Jansen (3-16) removed Gurbaz for a duck with just four runs on the board in the opening over, however, and returned in the third over to bowl Gulbadin Naib for nine.

There was no respite from the other end as paceman Kagiso Rabada (2-14) found a nice line and length to bowl Zadran and Mohammad Nabi for a couple of runs apiece in the fourth over.

The third quick Anrich Nortje (2-7) chipped in with a couple of wickets and left-arm wrist spinner Tabraiz Shamsi (3-6) mopped up the tail as Afghanistan became the first team to score fewer than 100 runs in a T20 World Cup semi-final.



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail presenting the shield to the Country Head UNHCR during ceremony in connection of World Refugee Day organized by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) held in Quetta.

SC adjourns SIC's case regarding reserved seats till July 1

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Thursday adjourned hearing of an appeal of the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) regarding reserved seats till July 1.

A 13-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa and comprising justices Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Munib Akhtar, Yahya Afridi, Amin ud Din Khan, Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Ayesha Malik, Athar Minallah, Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Shahid Waheed, Irfan Saadat Khan, and Naeem Akhtar Afghan heard the case.

During the course of proceedings, Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) lawyer Sikander Bashir argued that Hamid Raza had stated in the nomination papers that he was associated with the SIC and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), but in documents he showed his affiliation with the PTI Nazriati. The latter was a different party from the PTI.

He said Hamid Raza was given the symbol of "tower" on his request to contest elections and he participated in the polls as an independent candidate.

He said Hamid Raza did not submit the ticket of PTI Nazriati and instead gave the certificate of affiliation with the PTI. However, in its affidavit he stated that he was in the

PTI Nazriati.

Sikander Bashir said that the ECP accepted the last request of Hamid Raza.

The chief justice remarked that it was necessary to attach a certificate of party affiliation with the nomination papers from which the election was to be contested. He asked the lawyer to clarify the party affiliation of the said candidate.

The ECP's lawyer said that the candidate's declaration and affiliation with the party must be shown. "If the declaration and political affiliation do not match, then the candidate is considered as independent."

Justice Yahya Afridi asked whether it happened that a candidate gave a certificate that he was affiliated with a party, but the ECP declared him as independent.

The lawyer replied that there were such candidates but they withdrew the nomination papers.

The CJ said, "Don't confuse with the election symbol, why should we not consider them as the PTI candidates. There is no contradiction in the certificate and the ECP is changing the candidate's status. Why the candidate's affiliation is not being considered with the party whose certificate is submitted?"

Justice Munib Akhtar remarked that the SC up-

held the decision of the ECP regarding the election symbol but it didn't not order to keep the PTI out of elections.

Justice Athar Minallah asked whether it should be believed that the PTI was ousted from the general elections. Whether the ECP misinterpreted the top court's decision, he asked.

Justice Yahya Afridi noted that six candidates gave certificates and declarations of the same party but they were also declared as independent ones.

Justice Munib Akhtar said that the candidate did not declare himself as independent rather it was the ECP which did so. The candidates then wanted to join the party but the ECP raised the objection.

The CJ said that there is a contradiction in the documents submitted by the ECP before the court. How could a candidate's connection with a party break if he did not get the election symbol, he added.

The ECP lawyer further said that a political party had to win at least one seat in the general election if it wanted to claim reserved seats. The SIC did not win a single seat, while the independent candidates had no affiliation with it, he added. To a court's query, he said that the PTI had given a list of candidates for reserved seats but the SIC did not file it.

Govt taking steps to provide maximum relief to common man: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that the government had taken historic measures in the budget for the upcoming fiscal year to provide maximum relief to the common man.

He was talking to a delegation of young parliamentarians, which called on him at the PM House.

The delegation included members of National Assembly Raja Usama Sarwar, Barrister Aqeel Malik, Barrister Danyal Chaudhry, Ahmed Ateeq Anwar, Nousheen Iftikhar, Rana Iradat Sharif Khan, Muhammad Usman Awaisi, Ammar Ahmed Khan Leghari, Dr Shaista Khan, Zainab Baloch, Saad Waseem and Shahid Usman.

The prime minister told the MNAs that Allah Almighty had given them a great opportunity to serve the people. He hoped that they would work diligently for the country's development and prosperity, and public welfare.

The government, he said, would distribute

laptops among the efficient and talented students. "The government has set aside an amount of Rs 100 billion in the budget to promote the Information Technology sector, which is a historic step."

Similarly, he said, the government had also allocated funds for the skills development and the sports sector.

It was also working on several projects for skills development of the youth and to create maximum employment opportunities for them, he added.

PM Shehbaz said the government was taking steps to reduce burden on the national exchequer by privatizing the state-owned enterprises and bringing reforms in the public departments.

He also expressed his government's resolve to continue the diplomatic and moral support of the oppressed Muslims of Palestine. During the meeting, matters of the relevant constituencies and overall political situation of the country also came under discussion.



ISLAMABAD: Representative of National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and K-Electric (KE) exchange documents after agreement signed.

NA passes 11 more demands for grants for FY 2024-25

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly on Thursday passed 11 more demands for grants relating to various ministries, divisions and departments for the fiscal year 2024-25.

The demands for grants were moved by Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb. All the cut motions moved by the opposition parties were rejected.

These demands were related to Foreign Affairs Division, Foreign Missions, Interior Division, other expenditure of Interior Division, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Combined Civil Armed Force, National Counter Terrorism Authority, National Food Security and Research Division, Pakistan Agriculture Research Council, Council of Islamic Ideology and National Accountability Bureau.

On Wednesday, the House passed 121 demands for grants relating to various ministries, divisions, and departments for the next fiscal year.

These demands were related to Aviation Division, Cabinet, Intelligence Bureau, Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority, Prime Minister's Office (Public), National Disaster Management Authority, Federal Public Service Commission, Council of Common Interests (Secretariat), Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Division, Commerce Division, Communications Division, expenditure of Communication Divisions, Pakistan Post Office Department, Defence Services, Defence Production Division, Economic Affairs Division, miscellaneous expenditure of Economic Affairs Division, Geological Survey of Pakistan, Federal Education and Professional Training Division, Higher Education Commission, National Rahmatul-Lil-Allameen Wa Khatamun Nabiyyin Authority, National Heritage and Culture Division, other expenditure of Finance Division, Controller General of Accounts, superannuation allowance and pension, Housing and Works Division, Human Rights divi-

sion, National Commission for Human Rights, National Commission on the Right of Child, National Commission on the Status of Women, Industries and Production Division, Information and Broadcasting Division, miscellaneous expenditure of Information and Broadcasting Division, Information Technology and Telecommunication Division, Combined Civil Armed Forces, National Counter Terrorism Authority, Inter-provincial Coordination Division, Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Division, Federal Judicial Academy, Federal Shariat Court, District Judiciary, Islamabad Capital Territory, Maritime Affairs, Division, Narcotic Control Division, National Assembly, the Senate, National Health Services Regulations and Coordination Division, Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Division, Parliamentary Affairs Division, Planning Development and Special Initiatives Division, Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division, Benazir Income Support Programme, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Privatization Division, Railways Division, Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony Division, Science and Technology Division, States and Frontier Regions Division, Water Resources Division, Federal miscellaneous investments and other loans and advances, Development Expenditure of Aviation Division, Development Expenditure of Board of Investment, Development Expenditure of Special Technology Zones Authority Division, Development Expenditure of Establishment Division, Development Expenditure of Supra, Development Expenditure of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Division, Development Expenditure of Commerce Division, Development Expenditure of Communications Division, Special Technology Zone Authority, National School of Public Policy, National Security Division, Power Division, Petroleum Division, Finance Division, and Federal Board of Revenue.

Professional Training Division, Development Expenditure of Higher Education Commission, Development Expenditure of National Heritage and Culture Division, Development Expenditure of Revenue Division, Development Expenditure of Human Rights Division, Development Expenditure of Information and Broadcasting Division, Development Expenditure of Information Technology and Telecommunication Division, Development Expenditure of Law and Justice Division, Development Expenditure of Narcotics Control, Development Expenditure of National Food Security and Research Division, Development Expenditure of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination Division, Development Expenditure of Planning Development and Special Initiatives Division, Development Expenditure of Science and Technology Division, Development Expenditure of Stats and Frontier Regions, Development Expenditure of Water Resources Division, Capital Outlay on Development of Atomic Energy, Capital Outlay on Development of Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority, Capital Outlay on Petroleum Division, Capital Outlay on Federal Investments, Development Loans and Advances by the Federal Government, Capital Outlay on Civil Works, Capital Outlay on Industrial Development, Capital Outlay on Maritime Affairs Division and Capital Outlay on Railways Divisions, Cabinet, Cabinet Division, Emergency Relief and Repatriation, Atomic Energy, Naya Pakistan Housing Development Authority, Prime Minister's Office (Public) Board of Investment, Prime Minister's Inspection Commission, Special Technology Zone Authority, National School of Public Policy, National Security Division, Power Division, Petroleum Division, Finance Division, and Federal Board of Revenue.

Chief Election Commissioner, Sikandar Sultan Raja chaired a meeting on local body elections in Islamabad and Punjab at ECP Secretariat.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner, Sikandar Sultan Raja chaired a meeting on local body elections in Islamabad and Punjab at ECP Secretariat.

Chris Silverwood steps down as Sri Lanka head coach

COLOMBO (INP): Sri Lanka head coach Chris Silverwood stepped down from his position on Thursday following the Asian side's dismal ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 campaign.

The former England pacer cited personal reasons for his resignation from the post which he held since April 2022.

"Being an international coach means long periods away from loved ones. After lengthy conversations with my family and with a heavy heart, I feel it is now time for me to return home and spend some quality time together," said Silverwood.

"I would like to thank the players, coaches,

background staff, and management of the SLC for their support during my time in Sri Lanka. Without your support, none of the successes would have been possible."

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Sri Lanka won the Asia Cup 2022 under Silverwood's tenure and reached the final of the 2023 edition, where they were decimated by India.

The Asian side also defeated Australia in a home ODI series, however, they failed to reach the knockout stage of any of the ICC tournaments with Chris Silverwood at the helm.

They were eliminated from the Super 12s in the ICC Men's T20 World

Cup in 2022, meanwhile, in the ODI World Cup in 2023, they were knocked out from the group stage.

The abovementioned campaigns were followed by a disastrous T20 World Cup 2024, where Sri Lanka lost their group stage matches against South Africa and Bangladesh while their fixture against Nepal was washed out. They were officially eliminated after Bangladesh defeated the Netherlands and qualified for the Super 8s stage.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail giving away memorial shield of PPAF to Military Secretary to Governor Balochistan Col. Tanveer Hussain on eve of World Environment Day

Pakistan decides to participate in Doha talks

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan has decided to participate in Doha talks on Afghanistan taking place this week.

According to diplomatic sources Pakistan special representative on Afghanistan Asif Durrani and Assistant foreign secretary (West Asia) Ahmad Naseem Warraich will represent Pakistan in the talks. Pakistan delegation led by Asif Durrani and Ahmad Naseem Warraich will leave for Doha within next few days.

The third two days Doha talks will start from June 30 under UN.

Afghan interim government will formally participate in third Doha talks and conference in the current

year.

Afghan interim government had boycotted second Doha talks due to participation of representatives of Afghan women and civil society representatives.

Sources said for the first time special representatives from world on Afghanistan will sit face to face with Afghan Taliban in Doha talks.

UN will make consultation with representatives of Afghan civil society inside and outside Afghanistan ahead of Doha talks.

The representatives of Afghan women and Afghan civil society will talk to special representatives on Afghanistan on July 2 after Doha talks.

AC Khuzdar presides price control committee meeting

KHUZDAR (APP): A meeting of the Price Control Committee was held under the chairmanship of Assistant Commissioner Khuzdar, Rizwan Qadir on Thursday.

The meeting was attended by Chief Officer of the Municipal Committee, Izzatullah Muhammad Hasni, representatives from the Bazaar Panchayat, members of civil society, and media representatives.

During the meeting, the Assistant Commissioner stated that transfer and postings are a part of the job. He emphasised that as long as he holds the position of Assistant Commissioner in Khuzdar, he will take legal measures to benefit the people of Khuzdar and provide them with relief. He urged the Bazaar Panchayat, media representatives and citizens to cooperate with him in the development of the area.



QUETTA: DG NAB (Balochistan) listening complainants during Khuli Kacheri held at NAB's Complaint Office at DC Office

No country allowed to...

Continued from page 1

ther constructive nor objective.

"We hope that the US Congress will play a supportive role in strengthening Pakistan-US ties and focus on avenues of mutual collaboration that benefit both our peoples and countries," he added.

Dar highlighted that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's government was actively addressing the issue of Palestine, making clear Pakistan's stance on the matter.

He said that Pakistan had boldly condemned the situation in Palestine at the OIC, demanded an end to the war, removal of obstacles to humanitarian assistance, a ceasefire based on pre-1967 borders, and that Al-Quds should be the capital of Palestine.

The Palestine issue has also been raised at the G-8 foreign ministers' summit in Turkey and at Heads of State Summit held in Oman.

The deputy prime minister said, Pakistan had

dispatched 24,000 metric tons of humanitarian goods to Palestine, with more aid in the pipeline.

Regarding the Kashmir issue, he said that it had been raised at the OIC, and a Contact Group on Kashmir meeting was also held.

He thanked friendly countries for their support on the matter.

He said that due to Pakistan's lobbying efforts, the OIC had appointed a permanent envoy on Islamophobia for the first time.

The deputy prime minister rejected the impression that Pakistan faced isolation at the international level, pointing out that Pakistan had been elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council by securing 182 votes out of 187, which showed the confidence of the international community in Pakistan.

Pakistan would use this important forum to highlight important issues including Palestine and Kashmir, he added.

Notice of Tender DW&CE/6002-Adv/147/E-6 June 2024

MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES

NOTICE OF TENDER

01- The Office of DW&CE (PAF) Chaklala invites sealed tenders for the following Emergency work in the light of PPR Rule 42-C (V) of 2004:-

02.	(a). Rehab of Certain Facilities	(NN)	Costing Approximately Rs. 13.727 Million
3.	The contractors are required to submit their applications for issuance of tender documents alongwith their complete credentials as shown at (serial 9). The applications shall be scrutinized and the tender documents will only be issued to the firms who have sufficient experience in the relevant field and satisfy other special conditions required for the job and area. Tenders will only be issued to the scrutinized contractors. The tender must be received in the accepting office by 1130 hours on 12 July 2024 and will be opened at 1200 hours on the same date.		

Note: Contractors shall provide certificate that they are not involved in any type of litigation with Government Department in the Court of Law and that no special report of Directorate of Inspection and Evaluation (E-in-C's Branch GHQ) is outstanding against them.

- All contractors, irrespective of their enlistment or non-enlistment with MES will certify in writing that they are registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), and will submit a copy of their registration. Contractors not registered with PEC are ineligible to apply.
- Contractors born on approved list of MES in category 'A' and 'B' and also having experience of this type of work may only apply.
- Contractors who desired may present at the time of opening of tenders.
- The accepting officer reserves the right to accept or reject the tender. Rejected tenders will be dealt with as per para 33(i) of PPR Rules.
- The interested parties should contact CMES (PAF) Samungli / authorized representative for further details from 0715 to 1335 hours on all working days.

09	Name of Works	Amount of Work	Time Allowed (Months)	Date of Commencement	Date of Completion	Percentage Progress of Works in Hand	Departmental Performance Report on each Work by the Engineer-in-Charge
SI	Executed during Last 2 Years and in Hand	Agency					

PID (I) No. 8028/23



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam addressing a seminar on "Global Assessment of State of Nature and Biodiversity Safeguarding Actions in Northern Pakistan".

Senate body briefed on Flood Protection Plan, preparedness for monsoon season

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Senator Shahadat Awan chaired the inaugural session of the Senate Standing Committee on Water Resources convened at Parliament House on Thursday to receive a comprehensive briefing from the Chairman of the Federal Flood Commission on the Flood Protection Plan and Preparedness of the commission for the forthcoming monsoon season and its potential impacts.

The meeting was attended by Senators Faisal Saleem Rahman, Muhammad Humayun Mohmand, Muhammad Faisal Vawda, Poonjo Bheel, Hidayatullah Khan, and Senator Khalil Tahir. Later, Federal Minister for Water Resources Senator Musadik Malik joined the proceedings as well. The Committee Chair expressed disappointment at the absence of ministry officials, emphasizing the importance of their presence during such crucial times of the monsoon.

The Committee while highlighting the onset of the monsoon season, stressed upon the proactive nature of their meeting, aimed at preemptive measures. Senator Humayun Mohmand underscored the significance of managing water flows from Tarbela, stressing the annual deadline of August 20 for reservoir levels.

In response, officials outlined protocols for managing floodwaters through Tarbela, including controlled releases during heavy rainfall. The Committee sought a ten-year performance report from the Chairman of the Federal Flood Commission.

Concerns were raised about the ongoing damage to Right Bank Outfall Drain (RBOD) One and Two, with suspicions of irregularities by WAPDA prompting a demand for a detailed report. Regarding the cause of floods in Kalam, it observed that the encroachment in the affected areas were the prime reason for the same.

The Committee reiterated that eradication of encroachments was under federal jurisdiction.

Resolving public issues purely on merit is our foremost priority: IGP

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, held a Khuli Katchery at the Central Police Office Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

During the katchery, he listened to the issues of citizens and police officers and issued directives on the spot for their resolution.

He said that, resolving citizens' issues on merit is our top priority. Negligence and carelessness in duties will not be tolerated. Any

grievances on merit within the stipulated time frame and report back to the Central Police Office.

He directed all SDPOs and SHO's to adhere to the designated office hours and prioritize resolving citizens' issues. He strictly directed the officers to continue the crackdown against land grabbers and bring them to justice.

On this occasion, the IGP Islamabad said that the Islamabad Police are taking various measures for the facilitation of citizens. The daily holding of Khuli Katchery helps in resolving

Let us pledge today, every day to stand in solidarity with refugees, their host communities: Muqam

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Engr Amir Muqam Thursday said let us pledge today and every day, to stand in solidarity not only with refugees but also with the communities that host them, for our collective future depends on this unity. He stated this while addressing an event as the chief guest organized by UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to celebrate World Refugee Day here in Islamabad, said a press release.

The event was aimed to bring together key government counterparts,

members of the diplomatic community, UN Agencies, partner organizations, and most importantly representatives of the refugee community. Mohammad Yahya, Resident Coordinator UN, Philippa Candler, Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Ambassadors, Representatives of UN Agencies were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the ceremony, Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam said that today, we are gathered here to commemorate World Refugee Day, a day dedicated to honoring the courage, resilience, and strength

of millions of refugees around the world.

This year's theme, "Solidarity with Refugees and Solutions for Refugees," highlights the urgent need for collective action and sustainable solutions to address the refugee crisis, he added. Engr Amir Muqam said that for over four decades, Pakistan has demonstrated unparalleled generosity and compassion by hosting one of the largest refugee populations in the world. Currently, we provide sanctuary to approximately 1.4 million P.O.R and about 0.8 million Afghan Citizen Card holders, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for States & Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam shaking hand with UNHCR's Goodwill Ambassador, Ms. Mahira Khan during a seminar on "World Refugee Day-2024" organized by UNHCR.

IFA disposes off 4000 bottles of hazardous soda drinks

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (INP): Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) disposed off 4000 bottles of hazardous soda drinks during a crackdown in the federal capital.

According to details, with rise in temperate the sale of harmful beverages has surged and people to seek relief rushes to soda and drink shops, many of which are selling their products without meeting health standards.

Deputy Director Operations (DDO) of IFA, Dr. Tahira Siddique, revealed that many beverage sellers were not maintaining a proper healthy environment.

After Iddat verdict, PTI thinking of setting Pakistan on fire: Danyal Ch.

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N leader Barrister Danyal Chaudhary has said that we were sent to the IMF with our hands and feet tied, we did not let the burden of inflation fall on the people.

Talking to the media persons on Thursday, PML-N leader Barrister Danyal Chaudhary said that after the Iddat decision, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf is thinking to destabilise the country.

In the by-election, he said, the people had rejected the arsonists in the country. "Whatever they do, the country will move towards improvement".

Danyal Chaudhary said that they (PTI) are running the government on social media.

He said the founder of PTI says that only he is Pakistan, adding, today the country is in crisis and PTI is responsible for it. He said that Tehreek-e-Insaf has weakened Pakistan.

He went on saying that the government succeeded in reducing the rate of inflation by working hard day and night.

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citizen facing any issue related to the police can come to the Khuli Katchery. My office is always open for my citizens, the IGP said.

IG Islamabad further directed the concerned officers to resolve the citizen

ing issues on a priority basis, he added.

More over, all zonal officers and SHO's are directed to meet citizens during the designated office hours and resolve their issues promptly and on merit.

Yasin takes charge as AIG Motorway Police

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (APP): A senior official of the Police Service Group Yasin Farooq on Thursday took charge as Additional Inspector General (AIG) of the National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) North Zone.

According to Motorway Police spokesman Muhammad Saqib, the AIG while presiding over the meeting of Zonal Commanders, Sector Commanders and Beat Commanders directed to provide the best kind of possible facilities to the users of the motorway.

He directed the officials to deal with the people politely and ensure help timely which is the hallmark of the success of NHMP.

Yasin further directed to create awareness about road safety education and traffic rules which will help control accidents.

He further said that all possible support would be provided to the martyrs and their families.

3-day Theatre Extravaganza ends at PNCA

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (APP): The three-day Theatre Extravaganza concluded after presenting Shahid Nadeem's International masterpiece "Dara" on Thursday evening among the audience applauding wholeheartedly the outstanding performances of the artists at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).

Based on the amazingly dramatic story of the conflict between Princes Dara Shikoh and Aurangzeb, the play was adapted in English by the prestigious National Theatre London and was declared as "play of the decade" by the English press. The play has also been performed in India and USA.

The Theatre Extravaganza was arranged by PNCA in collaboration with the Ajoka Theatre with an objective of fostering healthy theatrical activities for the people belonging to the federal capital as well as surroundings.

The festival marked Ajoka Theatre's 40th anniversary by featuring three stories to mesmerize the art enthusiasts with vibrant performances, thought-provoking themes and touching messages.

Tajikistan's Somon Air starts direct flights b/w Islamabad & Dushanbe

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (APP): Tajikistan's Somon Air on Thursday started its flight operations in Pakistan as its inaugural flight from capital Dushanbe landed in Islamabad.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi and Ambassador of Tajikistan in Pakistan Yusuf Sharifzoda received 14 passengers of the flight SMR-129 on their arrival at the Islamabad International Airport.

Fire tenders from the Civil Aviation Rescue and fire-fighting service pre-

sented a traditional cannon salute to the aircraft.

The flight was handled by the Shaheen Airport Services, a subsidiary of the Pakistan Air Force.

A cake-cutting ceremony was also held on the occasion. Shaheen Airport Services Executive Director Air Commodore @ Wasim Ahmed Khan, General Manager Shaheen Airport Services Islamabad Air Cdre (ret) Shahid Nadeem and the Chief Executive Officer of the Somon Air expressed satisfaction over the milestone.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with officials from Ministry of Interprovincial Coordination.

Chairman PRCS meets US Ambassador

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari held a productive meeting with His Excellency Ambassador of the United States, Donald Blome, at the US Embassy in Islamabad. According to a PRCS spokesman, the meeting, which took place on Wednesday, aimed to explore avenues of collaboration between PRCS and the United States in humanitarian assistance.

The USAID Pakistan Senior Advisor, James Fleming and Secretary General PRCS Muhammad Abaidullah Khan were also

present on the occasion.

Expressing gratitude for the steadfast support extended by the United States during times of disaster and emergencies, Chairman Laghari underscored the pivotal role played by the United States in aiding PRCS's relief efforts. He highlighted the significant contributions made by the United States in addressing various calamities, including earthquakes and floods, which had affected Pakistan in recent years. Chairman Laghari engaged in discussions with Envoy Blome about potential areas where the United States can support PRCS's humanitarian initiatives.

Distt admin targets illegal encroachments in ICT

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (APP): On the directive of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Irfan Nawaz Memon, a large-scale anti-encroachment operation is underway in the federal capital.

Assistant Commissioners (ACs) are actively involved in removing illegal structures across various areas. The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration's spokesman said that AC Nilore, along with district teams, carried out a raid in Khanna Pul. They cleared temporary encroachments from the green belt in the area.

IHC seeks report from ministry Contempt of court case for not removing name of Shireen Mazari from EC

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has sought report from interior ministry in contempt of court case for not removing the name of former leader PTI Shireen Mazari from ECL despite court orders.

The court has directed interior ministry to present report within next 24 hours. Justice Saman Rafat Imtiaz heard the case Thursday.

Shireen Mazari appeared in the court along with her counsel Ahsan

Pirzada. The court has summoned report from interior ministry till 9.30 a.m today (Friday).

It is pertinent to mention here Shireen Mazari has filed contempt of court plea due to non implementation of court's orders.

The court had ordered on April 4 to remove name of Shireen Mazari from ECL. Earlier IHC had ordered on December 01, 2023 to remove name of Shireen Mazari from Passport Control List (PCL).



ISLAMABAD: Women workers of PTI shouting slogans during protest outside district court in the Federal Capital, as the court rejects Imran Khan, wife appeal in unlawful marriage case.

Youth, women-led consultations crucial to achieve inclusive Healthy Diet Policy: Speakers

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD (APP): The speakers at the seminar on National Healthy Diet Policy demanded the government to ensure holistic consultations with all stakeholders including the youth and women to ensure robust policy document intended to curb growing child diseases.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) organised the seminar titled "From Concept to Action: Food Pathways Through Healthy Diet Policy" here at the SDPI Conference Hall.

Associate Researcher SDPI Khansa Naem informed the participants that 37.6% of children under 5 years of age were

stunted while 7.1% children under the age of 5 were wasted whereas obesity was recorded among 7.5% of women and men in the country. She added that diet is an important component of health that has less focus of the masses and stakeholders. Vice Chancellor and Dean Health Services Academy Dr Shahzad Ali Khan said unhealthy diet has emerged as a universal phenomenon in Pakistan, whereas there is no convincing model to persuade poor population on quitting unhealthy diet. He added that bad eating habits and lifestyle has created universalization of poor and unhealthy diet across the country.

He said Pakistan has a law on breast feeding for

mothers to administer their milk to babies for two years and banned advertisement of mother's formula milk.

"According to a survey, 72% women are feeding formula milk and 90% of those respondents claimed that their doctors had prescribed them which is illegal as per the law. SDPI should take the lead to incorporate a right-based approach component in the policy on breast feeding," Dr Shahzad Khan said.

He informed that there was 11% more risk of contracting diarrhea among children who were not fed mother's milk. It should be declared as the fundamental right of the baby to get human milk through breast feeding, he added.

needs to be addressed from mother's feed as it will help reduce disease risk among children," he added.

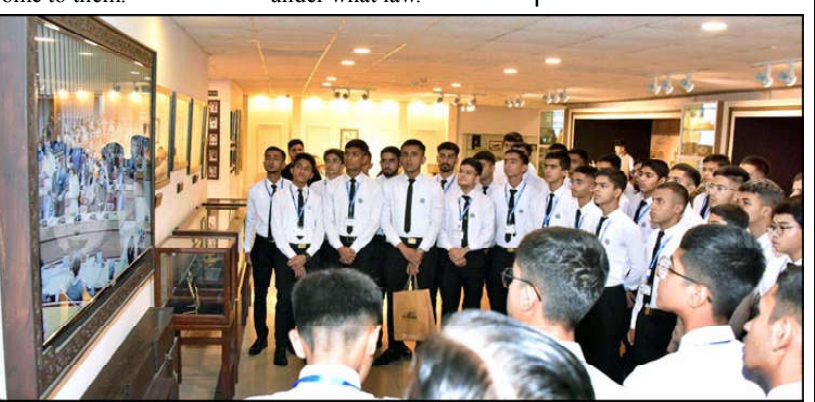
He added that 72% health of an individual is determined by the diet nutrition intake. "Healthy diet policy is an important consideration because without healthy diet no health is possible." Pakistan, he said is currently having double burden of infectious and non-communicable diseases (NCDs). He mentioned that the problem of unhealthy diet was highly prevalent in upper income groups along with lower income groups.

He urged the stakeholders to ensure effective advocacy and communication campaigns to manage bad advertisements pro-

moting unhealthy diets.

Dr Mehreen Mujtaba, Director Nutrition, Ministry of National Health, Services, Regulations and Coordination said 67% of our population did not have access to healthy diet, whereas the data of the national nutrition survey was old and repeatedly quoted at different forums. "17.7% of children in Pakistan are wasted and the World Health Organisation has declared it an emergency. Pakistan required strong political leadership to champion the goal of healthy diet," she said.

She added that the Ministry of Health along with partners intends to support policy making process on healthy diet through inclusive feedback from the provinces.



ISLAMABAD: Students and faculty members from Cadet College Petaro, visiting Senate Museum at Parliament House.

CM reviews development schemes, orders early completion of projects

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, during a meeting at the Planning and Development Board, reviewed each development project of Annual Development Program 2024-25.

The CM directed the authorities concerned to ensure timely completion of projects in any case. She directed the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) to create a dashboard for real-time monitoring of all projects. "We have a lot of work to do; PC-1 of all schemes should be submitted by July 15," she instructed and stressed for timely completion of all schemes.

The CM said if funds were spent on cars and

offices, why not on hospitals, directing the departments concerned to form a company for export of meat, prawns, animals and garments.

The meeting was briefed that ambulance service was being started at every interchange of motorways in Punjab. As many as 106 development projects would be completed with the support and collaboration of foreign funding.

The CM ordered to immediately release Rs 400 million for the ongoing development projects, besides the release of remaining allocated funds based on the utilisation of funds. She also ordered to release 25 per cent of the Universal Health

Insurance fund on monthly basis.

Details of 83 projects of the District Development Committee and 431 projects of the Divisional Development Working Party were presented in the meeting. The CM reviewed progress on 282 projects of the Departmental Development Sub-Committee and 378 projects of the Provincial Development Working Party. She had a detailed briefing on special schemes of the Department of Health, and directed the authorities concerned to take all possible measures to ensure early completion of renovation and rehabilitation of health centers across Punjab.



LAHORE: A group photo of Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, with Vice Chancellor, Shaughta Naz, Dr. Arifa on the occasion of the closing ceremony of the three-day International Conference on Challenges in Global Sustainability (Economics, Environment, and Science) at Lahore College for Women University in the provincial capital.

Sindh Governor inaugurates 1294th annual Urs of Abdullah Shah Ghazi

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tesori inaugurated the 1294th annual Urs of Hazrat Abdullah Shah Ghazi (R.A) at the shrine of the famous saint here on Thursday.

The Governor also laid a wreath on the shrine and offered special prayers for the development of the country.

Later, the Sindh Governor also distributed clothes, water, juices and free meal among the pilgrims. Talking to the media on the occasion, the Governor of Sindh said that he has a strong hope that Allah Almighty will not

reject the prayers for the economic stability of Pakistan.

The Governor said that today, he has also prayed for a reduction in the intensity of the hot weather and for the rain in the province and Karachi.

To a question, the Governor Sindh said that due to climate change in the world, Pakistan suffered a lot during last two years.

He said that the spiritual leader of the Bohra community intends to visit Pakistan on his request. Although letters were also written to the spiritual leader of the Bohra community from

five other countries.

The members of Bohra Jamaat told the Governor that the spiritual leader of Bohra community has expressed his desire to come to Pakistan, which is a matter of honor for the Governor, he added.

He said that over 50,000 people will come to Karachi due to visit of the spiritual leader of the Bohra community, which will increase the economic activity.

In response to another question, the Governor Sindh said that K-Electric should stop unannounced power cuts in extreme hot weather.

Pakistan has long-standing deep brotherly relationship with Turkiye: Sardar Saleem

Independent Report
LAHORE: The Governor of Punjab met with the Consul General of Turkiye, Durmus Bastug, at the Governor's House, Lahore. In the meeting, issues of mutual interest, strengthening bilateral relations in trade, education and other sectors were discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider said that Pakistan has a long-standing deep brotherly relationship with Turkiye. He said that both the countries have stood by each other in every difficult time. Governor Punjab said that he was grateful to Turkiye's for its unwavering support for Pakistan's stance on international forums, especially on the Kashmir issue. He said that there is a need to increase the volume of trade between Pakistan and Turkiye. Governor Punjab said that

there should be exchanges of delegations of businessmen between Turkiye and Pakistan. He said that the student exchange program between Turkiye and Pakistan should be expanded. The Governor of Punjab said that there is a need to make a comprehensive strategy regarding scholarships for Pakistani students to study in Turkish universities.

Consul General of Turkiye Mr. Durmus Bastug said that there are strong religious and cultural ties between Pakistan and Turkiye. Consul General of Turkiye, Durmus Bastug, congratulated Pakistan for being elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. Durmus Bastug said that he would do his best to take the relationship between Pakistan and Turkiye to new heights.



LAHORE: Consul General of Turkiye, Durmus Bastug meeting with Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider at Governor's House.

CS chairs meeting to review Muharram arrangements

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: A high-level meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry to review the arrangements for Muharram ul-Haram in the province.

The meeting was attended by IG Police Akhtar Hayat Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Home Department, Member Board of Revenue, relevant secretaries, commissioners, deputy commissioners, security officials, and other officers. During the meeting, a detailed review of the security arrangements for Muharram ul-Haram was conducted. Additional Chief Secretary Muhammad Abid Majid provided a comprehensive briefing, stating that control rooms would be established in both the Police Department and the Home Department to maintain strict vigilance on all activities during Muharram ul-Haram.

Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry directed that all possible measures be taken to

maintain national unity and religious harmony during Muharram ul-Haram.

He emphasized the importance of strictly adhering to the designated routes and security SOPs for processions and majalis. The Chief Secretary assured full administrative support to the police for the security arrangements.

The meeting was also attended by all divisional commissioners, regional police officers, deputy commissioners, and district police officers via video link. Officials from PESCO and TESCO were directed to ensure an uninterrupted power supply on the 9th and 10th of Muharram.

All relevant district officers were instructed to remain in their districts during Muharram ul-Haram and maintain strict oversight on all matters.

In addition, measures to curb hate speech on social media were discussed. The IG Police

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assured that security personnel would be deployed as needed in all districts.



LAHORE: U.S. Consul General in Lahore Kristin K. Hawkins being welcomed by Punjab Social Welfare Minister Sohail Shaukat Butt during her arrival at Office of Welfare and Baitul Maal.

Punjab govt conducting first school census to introduce skill based program: Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Punjab's Education Minister, Rana Sikandar Hayat Thursday said that all-out measures would be taken to standardise the education system in public schools of Punjab where for better policies, the first school mapping programme to collect data about all school kids will be conducted soon transparently.

Talking to a Private news channel, he stressed on conducting school census at the national level, adding that the Punjab government is taking the lead among all other provinces and recently with the direction of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif school mapping was being conducted to count kids.

Through NADRA data will be checked about the enrollment data of students at every district level, he said, adding that long-term policy-making for government schools and enhancing the quality of education will be the top priority of the Punjab government.

He also praised that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has also announced the formation of a 19-member Education Task Force to address the pressing issues related to the national education emergency which is another historic step.

He said that collective efforts of all provinces related to out-of-school children's need of hour, adding, that Punjab government authorities.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tesori talking to media persons during 1294 Urs of Abdullah Shah Ghazi (R.A).

Nigerian delegation visits PDMA, lauds its working

LAHORE (APP): A delegation of the Nigerian government comprising government officials and governors of three states visited the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), here on Thursday.

The delegation learnt about the natural disaster management system of the Punjab government. In view of the ongoing work on disaster risk reduction in Nigeria with the support of the World Bank, information was exchanged with the Punjab government authorities.

According to a PDMA spokesperson, Director General Irfan Ali Kathia informed the delegation about the PDMA working. He said 24-hour communication with all districts was

ensured in the provincial control room. The PDMA was alert to all challenges including flood, covid, dengue, drought, smog and heat wave, he added and said advance warnings and alerts are issued to management about heat waves, rain floods and other disasters.

The DG briefed the delegation about the flood simulation model. The Nigerian delegation was impressed with the PDMA control room and emergency response system.

The participants in the delegation said they benefited from the experiences of the Punjab government. Nigeria would use the PDMA mechanism to prevent natural disasters, the participants added.



LAHORE: People filling drinking water from the Badami Bagh water filtration plant in the provincial capital.

Punjab govt decides to amend 'Kite Flying Prohibition Ordinance'

LAHORE (APP): To prevent kite flying in Punjab, the government has decided to amend the Kite Flying Prohibition Ordinance 2001.

Official sources told APP that in this connection, the Punjab Law Department had sent a draft to the Chief Minister's Office in consultation with the Standing Committee on

Law. According to the sources, in the amended ordinance, imprisonment from 6 months to 3 years and a fine of up to five lakh rupees have been proposed for the kite makers, also in the ordinance, there will be a fine for the children while the parents of the children have also been recommended to be punished.

Four killed, 3 injured in armed clash over property dispute

PESHAWAR (INP): At least four people were killed and three others injured in armed clash between two groups over property dispute here on Thursday.

According to details, armed men of two groups which were in dispute over ownership of a property exchanged fire in Nahaqi area in jurisdiction of Daudzai police station of Peshawar.

In cross firing, four people were killed while three others sustained injuries.

2 killed, 3 injured in Gujranwala firing incident

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least two persons were killed and three others injured on Thursday in a firing incident in Gujranwala.

According to police, the gunmen broke into the residence and opened fire on the victims while sleeping on the roof, a private news channel reported. The rescue official shifted the dead bodies and injured to the hospital. The police registered a case and started further investigation.

Three killed, seven injured in Hyderabad road mishap

HYDERABAD (INP): Three people including a woman were killed and seven others injured in a dreadful road mishap here on Thursday.

According to details, gravel laden over speeding truck rammed into two motorcycles and a rickshaw near Mehran Arts Council in Latifabad area of Hyderabad. As a result of accident, three people including a woman were killed on the spot while seven others were injured.

KP govt decides to form judicial commission to probe into May 9 incidents

PESHAWAR (Online): KP government has decided to constitute judicial commission to probe into May 9 incidents.

The resolution passed by provincial assembly will now be presented before provincial cabinet for approval.

Through the resolution the withdrawal of cases against Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi has been demanded too.

Text has been worked

Two children drowned in fish pond

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Two children, a minor boy and his sister, drowned while bathing in a pond at a fish farm in the suburbs of the city on Thursday, rescuers said.

Rescue 1122 spokesman said that they received information that five years old Khadeeja and seven years old Hadi s/o Shakir had drowned. They reached the site at Khanga Shumali, Jhang Road, within thirteen minutes but by that time, the relatives had retrieved their bodies.



PESHAWAR: Deputy Country Representative UNHCR Pakistan Fumiko Kashiwa and Head of UNHCR Sub-office Peshawar Mr. Kofi Ohenenana Dwomo along with other officials visiting different stalls during the ceremony on World refugee Day.

Khawaja Salman says: Punjab aims for enhanced universal health insurance

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique announced the government's intent to enhance the universal health insurance program during a meeting at the Punjab Health Initiative Management Company on Thursday.

The session, attended by representatives from various insurance companies, focused on improving the existing framework of the health insurance system.

The minister emphasized that all stakeholders are being engaged to refine the program. He highlighted the effective administration of the health card program under PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's leadership but acknowledged challenges in universalizing the health card facility. "We want to provide the real benefits of the Universal Health Insurance Program to the people," he said.

Mutilation of dead bodies in armed conflicts is war crime: Wani

MIRPUR (APP): Altaf Hussain Wani, the World Muslim Congress' permanent representative to the United Nations, emphasized on Thursday that the protection, documentation, identification and investigation of bodies and human remains of victims of unlawful deaths were obligatory under international law. Speaking at an interactive dialogue with the Special Reporter

on extrajudicial and summary executions during the 56th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Wani highlighted that the mutilation of dead bodies in armed conflicts is classified as a war crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. He stressed that violations of the right to life implicate the dignity of the dead and the rights of families to their loved ones.

15 dead, 1,237 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least 15 people were killed and 1,237 others injured in 1,173 road traffic crashes in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 547 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 690 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

Furthermore, the analysis showed those 692 drivers.



THATTA: A view of large numbers of people suffering from hot days visits Keenjhar Lake Thatta to take some sigh of relief.

Agriculture top priority for government: Tanveer Hussain

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday said the agriculture sector is a top priority for the government.

Discussing the Opposition's cut motions on the Ministry's demands for grants, he said that efforts were underway to incorporate research and modern technology into the sector to boost per-acre yield.

Rana Tanveer said a National Development Regulatory Authority has

been established to enhance productivity and targeted subsidies for the Kharif crop are in progress. He said prompt payment to sugarcane farmers is also being ensured.

The minister expressed gratitude to the Opposition for raising critical points. He highlighted that food security was a major global challenge today and the current government had focused on agriculture, which formed the backbone of the national economy. He said several initiatives have been

undertaken for farmers, including subsidies for the Kharif crop, overseen by a cabinet committee headed by the finance minister, ensuring transparency. He said the prime minister has directed the swift completion of these measures.

Rana Tanveer assured that fixed prices for crop production would be guaranteed and outstanding payments to sugarcane farmers would be made.

The minister noted improvements in agricultural output and ongoing technology

transfer efforts, with collaborations with China and Belarus. "Plans are in place to send students to China and double the per-acre yield," he added.

He emphasized the importance of agricultural research, stating that the federal government has allocated Rs.5 billion, with 26 universities and research centers working on this front.

Rana Tanveer said subsidies for solar-powered tube wells are being introduced by the federal and Punjab governments.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecom Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja addressing Roundtable on IT and Digitalisation with Swedish companies.



Brain storming session headed by Chief statistician Dr.Naeem-uz-zafar (SI) regarding 7th Agricultural Census at Pakistan bureau of statistics, Islamabad.

Senate Committee reviews strategic initiatives, operational reforms of maritime sector

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senator Faisal Vawda on Thursday chaired the maiden meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Maritime Affairs convened to deliberate on the current state and future trajectory of Pakistan's maritime sector.

The meeting was also attended by Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Senators Pervez Rashid, Rubina Qaim Khani, Chairmans KPT, PQA, GPA, and other officials of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs.

Federal Secretary for Maritime Affairs Syed

Zafar Ali Shah presented an in-depth briefing to the Committee, highlighting critical aspects of maritime policies and departmental operations.

He elucidated the working mechanisms of various departments under the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, providing a detailed account of their functions and operational challenges.

A significant portion of the discussion was related to the questions about the feasibility of managing Karachi Port Trust (KPT) and Port Qasim Authority (PQA) as separate entities versus a

potential merger.

The federal minister responded by underscoring the unique business model of PQA, which includes an industrial complex with 18 berths, a unique blend of public-private partnerships (PPP). He highlighted the competitive advantages of PQA, such as lower tariffs compared to KPT and its strategic location near LNG zones, projecting its operational sustainability until 2040.

Qaiser Sheikh emphasized that maintaining two distinct ports fosters healthy competition and enhances overall performance.

Shaza Fatima urges Swedish companies to invest in IT, Telecom sector of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Thursday urged Swedish companies to invest in Pakistan's Information Technology and Telecom sector.

"The present government is taking steps to promote Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in the country, as the growth of ICT is a vital factor for progress," she expressed these views while addressing the Roundtable on IT and Digitalization with Swedish tech companies held at the

Ministry of IT & Telecom. Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan Henrik Persson and representatives of Swedish companies including Ericsson, Need Insights, LCC/Talkpool, Quixel, Saab, and Mahaana Wealth Ltd were present on the occasion.

Shaza Fatima said, "Ministry of IT & Telecom is working on fulfilling Digital Pakistan vision through multiple cross sectoral initiatives including laws, policies and rules and regulations for enablement of true digital landscape."

The Minister of State for IT said, "Digital Pakistan Policy is paving way for taking Digital transformation to the next level."

She said, "The government is committed for provision of affordable and quality ICT services to masses. Shaza Fatima said that atmosphere for investment in Pakistan is conducive."

She said, "Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is facilitating investment in Pakistan, urging Swedish tech companies to invest in IT & Telecom sector of Pakistan."

Pakistan aims to boost trade with Central Asia: Aleem Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Privatisation, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Thursday said that Pakistan wants to promote bilateral trade and business activities with all the countries of Central Asia for which practical efforts have already been initiated.

Talking to the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov, who called on him, the minister said that States of Central Asia can be beneficiaries of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project which will significantly increase economic activities in the region, said a press release.

Abdul Aleem Khan apprised the Ambassador about his recent visit to

Central Asia and the trade agreements held at the Ten Shen Conference in Tajikistan.

Speaking on the occasion Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan expressed his gratitude to the minister for offering promotion of bilateral cooperation and said that there is a large capacity for manpower from Pakistan in various fields of professional expertise for which steps would be welcomed.

Khazar Farhadov reiterated his determination that Pakistan and Azerbaijan will increase bilateral cooperation in various fields and in this regard, the visit of the President of Azerbaijan to Pakistan will be a milestone.



Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov called on the Federal Minister for Privatisation, Investment Board and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan in Islamabad.

PBS organizes session for execution of agriculture census

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on Thursday organized a comprehensive session for the confidence building and successful execution of the upcoming 7th Agricultural Census 2024 operations to achieve the desired objectives.

The main objective of the session was to present the design, the implementation plan and the proposed census tools to the academia, researchers and the relevant departments for the broader involvement, ownership and their valuable feedback for improvement before implementation.

Dr Naeem-uz-Zafar, Chief Statistician, PBS, highlighted the pivotal role of an integrated approach in conducting an effective agricultural census and stressed on the importance of the pre-training brainstorming session, said a press release.

He, underscored that an integrated agricultural census is vital for capturing comprehensive

PSX stays bullish, gains 252 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 252.61 points, a positive change of 0.32 percent, closing at 78,528.25 points against 78,275.65 points on the last working day.

A total of 283,542,503 shares were traded during the day as compared to 469,756,007 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 11,067 billion against Rs 19,777 billion on the last trading day.

Around 426 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 211 of them recorded gains and 150 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 65 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 27,558,409 shares at Rs 1.25 per share, K-Electric Limited with 21,974,252 shares at Rs 4.67 per share.

Rupee gains 03 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Rupee on Thursday gained 03 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.37 against the previous day's closing at Rs 278.40.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market, however, were Rs 277.6 and Rs 280.5 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 31 paise to close at Rs 297.55 against the last day's closing of Rs 297.24, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.73, whereas a decrease of 36 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 351.67 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 352.03.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham decreased by 01 paise.

B2B cooperation with China upgrading Pakistan's technology

KARACHI (INP): Business to Business (B2B) cooperation with China is upgrading Pakistan's technology.

"Ten years ago, if a Pakistani wanted to use a smart phone, he probably needed to get one from smuggling.

Now, the majority of demand can be met with local production, with 8 of the top 10 mobile manufacturers, mostly Chinese companies, have established presence in Pakistan", said Adnan Aftab, CEO of smartphone manufacturer Airlink Mobile at a seminar held by KASB Ktrade Securities themed "CPEC 2.0: Business Collaboration Between Pakistan and China".

Earlier this month, the

company inked an MoU with Chinese technology company IMIKI to manufacture smart wearable devices in Pakistan.

This collaboration is an epitome of the transformative B2B cooperation between the two countries going on recently.

In a review of the latest bilateral business dynamism, a number of Pakistani companies which have signed agreements of cooperation with Chinese counterparts during PM Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China at the beginning of this month gathered at the seminar, discussing joint endeavors in mobile payment, pharmacy, agriculture, logistics, and communications, etc.



KARACHI: The Deputy Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Saleemullah, visiting a stall set up at SBP building on the occasion of UN Day of Micro, Small and Medium sized Enterprises.

Livestock cards, foot & mouth disease program great initiative: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Syed Ashiq Hussain Karmani Thursday chaired a meeting to review progress on approved initiatives of Chief Minister's Punjab in the Livestock Sector.

Secretary Livestock Punjab, Masood Anwar, DG Livestock (Extension) Asif Salman Sahi, DG (Production) Asif Rafique, representatives of Punjab Bank, Urban Unit, and Punjab IT Board attended the meeting.

Secretary Livestock Punjab, Masood Anwar gave a detailed briefing on the current status of initiatives including livestock cards, foot and mouth disease control programme.

While addressing the meeting the agriculture minister said Chief

Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif had allocated Rs 9 billion for the developmental programmes of the Livestock sector in the fiscal year 2024-25. He said that new era of development would be initiated while implementing on this package.

Ashiq Hussain Karmani directed to highlight the achievements of the Chief Minister's initiatives on Livestock department's Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube channels. He underscored the importance of conducting an effective media campaign through electronic and print media. The agriculture minister stressed on the verification of all initiatives of the CM through Urban Unit Wing and mandatory third-party.



LAHORE: Vice President of Lahore Chamber of Commerce Saad Chaudhry Muzaffar, Faheem Sehgal holding a joint press conference in the press club of the provincial capital.

LCCI, SBP jointly organise event on Micro, Small & Medium-sized Enterprises Day

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Thursday organised an event, in collaboration with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), in connection with the Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day observance. The day, declared by the United Nations, is marked every year on June 27.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar was the chief guest while Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry, SBP Chief Manager Tariq Riaz, Senior Deputy Chief Manager Muhammad Tahir, Hamza Talib of State Bank and a large number of industrialists and traders participated in the event. More than 15 banks set up stalls at the event, while Zain-ul-Abidin, Deputy Manager of State Bank of Pakistan Lahore, gave a presentation during the event.

The LCCI president, speaking at the event, said that just as different days were celebrated on different occasion, a

business day should also be celebrated because the sector holds significant economic importance. He said that whatever schemes the State Bank launched should be shared with the LCCI so that members can be informed about them.

The LCCI president also said that SBP and other institutions should provide maximum facilities, especially for women members. He emphasised that an immediate reduction in interest rates is crucial so that industry can access affordable capital and receive assistance in industrialization.

Kashif Anwar stated that the recent budget would pose challenges for industry and policy makers should consult stakeholders. He highlighted that Lahore Chamber is fulfilling social responsibilities in an excellent manner. Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry has signed MoUs with educational, medical, and other institutions aimed at providing maximum facilities.

SECP chairman calls on Federal Insurance Ombudsman

KARACHI (APP): Chairman Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) Akif Saeed called on the Federal Insurance Ombudsman Syed Mumtaz Ali Shah here at Insurance Ombudsman Secretariat on Wednesday.

Matters related to improvement, development and transparency of the insurance sector were discussed in the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Syed Mumtaz Ali Shah said, "Until there is transparency in the insurance industry neither it will develop, nor people's confidence in the insurance sector be restored." The SECP Chairman supported the stance of the Federal Insurance Ombudsman and assured full cooperation from the SECP to ensure transparency of the insurance sector and to work together in future to tackle the issues.

Gold rates up by Rs 400 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of per tola of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 400 and was sold at Rs 241,000 on Thursday against its sale at Rs 240,600 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 343 to Rs 206,619 from Rs 206,276 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs 189,400 from Rs 189,086, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

Influx of grey imports continues to undermine auto industry: PBF

KARACHI (INP): Highlighting the critical issues facing Pakistan's automotive CKD sector in its letter to the ministry of industries and production, Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) has stated that the automobile sector employs over 3.5 million people and is vital for our industrial development. With an installed capacity of 1.1 million units per annum, the sector struggles to produce and retail merely 100,000 units annually, representing less than 10% of its potential.

PBF President Khawaja Mehboob ur Rehman said, "Unfortunately we don't have any vision for putting the country's economy on a self-sustained path of growth. Most decisions for running the economy are based on appeasing the political constituencies that support the government at the political level."

In a statement issued here, he said that the influx of grey imports continues to undermine our local industry, siphoning off foreign exchange and impacting all segments of domestically assembled vehicles. Equally concerning are the new Completely Built-Up (CBU) units, often imported with vague promises of future local assembly, such as the recent case of MG. These imports not only compete directly with local assemblers but also bypass commitments to investment, technology transfer, and local employment.

The PBF President urged that to safeguard our national interests, stringent measures should be implemented without delay. Companies seeking to import CBU units must provide a detailed plan outlining their timeline for local assembly.



LAHORE: A delegation of Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry meeting with Punjab Minister for Industries and Commerce.

Israel says it can send Lebanon 'back to Stone Age' as UN warns against war

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Israel said it does not want war in Lebanon but could send its neighbour "back to the Stone Age", as the UN's humanitarian chief warned such a conflict would be "potentially apocalyptic".

The border between the two countries has seen daily exchanges of fire between Israeli forces and Iran-backed Hezbollah militants ever since the October 7 attack on Israel by Hezbollah's ally Hamas, which triggered the war in Gaza.

Fears those exchanges could escalate into full-blown war have only grown in recent weeks as cross-border attacks intensified, and after Israel revealed it had approved plans for a Lebanon offensive, prompting new threats from Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said dur-

ing a visit to Washington on Wednesday that his country could "take Lebanon back to the Stone Age, but we don't want to do it".

"We do not want war, but we are preparing for every scenario," he told reporters. "Hezbollah understands very well that we can inflict massive damage in Lebanon if a war is launched." Israel's allies, including key defence backer the United States, have been keen to avoid such an eventuality. A US official said Washington was engaged in "fairly intensive conversations" with Israel, Lebanon and other actors, and believed that no side sought a "major escalation".

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin told Gallant on Tuesday that another war with Hezbollah could have "terrible consequences for the Middle East", and urged a diplomatic solution. Germany on Wednesday, echo-

ing a Canadian warning from the day before, "urgently requested" its citizens in Lebanon leave the country. "The current heightened tensions in the border area with Israel could escalate further at any time," updated foreign ministry advice in Berlin said.

UN humanitarian coordinator Martin Griffiths told reporters in Geneva on Wednesday that Lebanon was "the flashpoint beyond all flashpoints".

"It's beyond planning. It's potentially apocalyptic," warned Griffiths, whose term ends this week. A war involving Lebanon "will draw in Syria... it will draw in others", he added. "It's very alarming."

Lebanon's national news agency reported about 10 Israeli strikes on areas near the border on Wednesday, including one around 10:00 pm that destroyed a building in Nabatiyeh, wounding five people.



Palestinians flee their homes following an Israeli military operation in Shejaiya, amid Israel-Hamas conflict, in Gaza City.

Russia has nuclear advances for an AI era, top arms control diplomat says

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia's top diplomat for arms control said on Tuesday that Russia had made advances in nuclear deterrence that would allow it to ensure its security for decades to come even in an era dominated by advances in Artificial Intelligence.

Asked at a conference in Moscow if Russia could ensure nuclear security in an era of AI competition, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said it could.

"In recent years, such groundwork has been done in the field of nuclear deterrence that will allow us to ensure our own security for decades to come," Ryabkov, Russia's arms control point man, said.

Ryabkov also oversees relations with the US, which diplomats in both

countries say are at their lowest point since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis due to a confrontation over the conflict in Ukraine.

He warned that if the West underestimated Moscow's resolve, it could lead to "tragic and fatal" consequences because the US and its allies were confronting a major nuclear power - Russia.

Ryabkov said the West underestimated "Russia's readiness to stand up for itself and ensure its own interests in any situation."

"I don't even want to assume that this underestimation could become tragic and fatal," he said.

He said Russia had the resources to convey signals to the West in the field of nuclear deterrence but there was a danger the West could make a mistake.

Germany brings in new rules to make it easier to get nationality

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: The change is expected to prompt thousands of requests to become German - especially from Turkish people who moved to Germany for work.

"People have now fully taken in that there will be dual citizenship. And many are now applying as quickly as possible."

The law, formally passed in March, comes nearly three years into the reign of the centre-left coalition of Social Democrats, Greens and the Free Democrats.

The reform will bring Germany into line with other European countries such as Italy, Sweden, Ireland and France allowing dual citizenship.

Before the changes, dual citizenship was possible only for European Union and Swiss nationals as well as children in a couple where one of the parents was from abroad.

Britain's Rishi Sunak struggles with missteps while trying to lift Conservatives ahead of elections

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has portrayed himself as thorough and evidence-led throughout his relatively brief political career, but there's always been a nagging question over the keenness of his political antenna.

The general election campaign over the past five weeks has clearly shown that he hasn't got the instinctive touch of some of his predecessors, such as Tony Blair or even Boris Johnson.

Sunak's campaign has seen several missteps since he announced the July 4 election date in the pouring rain in late May, including his suspension of candidates mired in a scandal over betting on the date of the election - a week after Labour Party leader Keir Starmer pressed him to do so.

The biggest blunder - one that prompted him

to apologize - was his decision to leave the 80-year D-day commemorations in northern France on June 6 early.

Critics said the decision to skip the international event that closed the commemorations showed disrespect to the veterans and diminished the U.K.'s international standing.

Other world leaders including President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy were all present. As was Starmer, who is the favorite to replace Sunak as prime minister.

Since then, Sunak hasn't been able to lift the poll ratings for his Conservative Party, which have been depressed over the past few years as a result of the actions of his two immediate predecessors.

Arctic wildfire emissions rise as blazes sweep Russia's North

Monitoring Desk
RUSSIA: Wildfires above the Arctic Circle in June have unleashed carbon emissions that are the third highest for the time of year in two decades of monitoring, European scientists said on Thursday.

As climate change raises Arctic temperatures, wildfires have shifted north where they blaze through boreal forest and tundra, releasing vast amounts of greenhouse gases from carbon-rich organic soils.

The latest data from European Union's Copernicus Atmospheric Monitoring Service (CAMS) showed some 6.8 megatonnes of carbon have been released this month, only less than in June 2019 and June 2020.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and European leaders attend a family photo session, during the European Union leaders' summit in Brussels, Belgium.

Ukraine signs security pacts with EU, Lithuania and Estonia

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: The European Union and two of its member countries, Lithuania and Estonia, signed security agreements with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at a summit in Brussels on Thursday.

The documents signed with Lithuania and Estonia - is intended to complement other similar agreements sealed between Ukraine and its allies as it continues its defence against Russia's invasion.

Countries including the United States, Britain, France and Germany have sealed such pacts with Kyiv. Officials say the agreements are not the same as the mutual defence pact between NATO nations, but are pledges to provide Ukraine with weapons and other aid to bolster its own security and deter any future invasion.

The agreement with the EU lays out the bloc's commitment to help Ukraine in nine areas of security and defence policy - including arms deliveries, military training, defence industry cooperation and demining, according to a draft seen by Reuters.

The pact - along with

Three men were arrested last week over the alleged harassment of an elected official after they gathered outside Harris' home.

21 children are set to exit Gaza in first medical evacuation since early May

Monitoring Desk
KHAN YOUNIS: Twenty-one critically ill children were set to exit Gaza on Thursday in the first medical evacuation since the territory's sole travel crossing was shut down in early May, Palestinian officials said.

The nearly nine-month Israel-Hamas war has devastated Gaza's health sector and forced most of its hospitals to shut down. Health officials say thousands of people need medical treatment abroad,

including hundreds of urgent cases.

Family members bid a tearful goodbye to the children as they and their escorts left the Nasser Hospital in the southern Gaza town of Khan Younis bound for the Kerem Shalom cargo crossing with Israel.

It was not clear where they would receive treatment. The Israeli military body that coordinates civilian affairs in Gaza did not immediately respond to a request for comment.



Military troops are deployed at the Plaza de Armas in La Paz.

Kenyan police face off against protesters day after president's tax climbdown

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: Kenyan police fired teargas at dozens of protesters and blocked off streets leading to the presidential palace on Thursday as small demonstrations continued in several cities, even after the president bowed to pressure to withdraw a tax hike bill. Turnout was well down from the height of the mass rallies sparked by the bill over the past week. President William Ruto withdrew the legislation on Wednesday, a day after clashes killed at least 23 people and parliament was briefly stormed and set alight.

Ruto is grappling with the most serious crisis of his two-year-old presidency as the youth-led protest movement has grown rapidly from online condemnations of the tax hikes into mass rallies demanding a political overhaul.

Lacking a formal leadership structure, however, protest supporters were divided on how far to carry the demonstrations. "Let's not be foolish as we fight for a better Kenya," Boniface Mwangi, a prominent social justice activist, said in an Instagram post. He voiced support for demonstrations on Thursday but opposed calls to invade State House, the president's formal offices and residence, a move that he said could spur more violence and be used to justify a crackdown.

Panama Canal agency warns water shortage 'is not over'

Monitoring Desk
PANAMA CITY: The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) said Wednesday that the famed waterway continues to face a water shortage despite recent rains alleviating most restrictions imposed following last year's drought.

"The waterway continues to face the impact of a prolonged dry season from this past year that limited the capacity of daily passages through the canal," the ACP said in a statement. "Despite the start of the rainy season, the water

problem for Panama and its Canal is not over."

Unlike other waterways such as the Suez Canal, the Panama Canal, which usually handles about six percent of global maritime trade, operates with rainwater from the artificial lakes Gatun and Alajuela. Due to the meteorological phenomenon known as El Nino this past year, the drought-stricken canal has had to reduce the number of shipping vessels that pass through each day.

Irish prime minister condemns bomb hoax at his home

Monitoring Desk
DUBLIN: Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris said a hoax bomb threat made to his home on Wednesday night is "utterly unacceptable" and that the intimidation of politicians and their families cannot be allowed to continue.

There have been increased instances of people gathering outside the homes of Irish ministers, sometimes wearing masks and erecting anti-migrant banners.

Former Chinese defense minister expelled from ruling Communist Party over graft allegations

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Former Chinese defense minister Li Shangfu was expelled from the ruling Communist Party and is being investigated for corruption and bribery, the official Xinhua news agency reported Thursday. Li was removed from office in October 2023 after disappearing from public view for almost two months. China's former defense minister Li Shangfu has been expelled from the ruling Communist Party.

meeting this weekend is due to focus on engagement going forward, along with sessions on private sector business and counter-narcotics. Rights groups criticised the UN for not having Afghan women at the table with the Taliban in Doha. UN officials and the country envoys attending the Taliban meeting are also due to meet separately with Afghan civil society groups. "I want to emphasize - this is a process. We are getting a lot of criticism: Why aren't women at the table? Why aren't Afghan women at the table? Why is civil society not at the table? This is not an inter-Afghan dialogue," DiCarlo said. "I would hope we could get to that someday, but we're not there."

UN-led Doha meeting with Taliban not about recognition, says UN

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: A United Nations-led meeting with Afghanistan's Taliban in Qatar this weekend will not be a discussion about international recognition of the group, UN political affairs chief Rosemary DiCarlo said on Wednesday. The meeting, which will also be attended by envoys from some 25 countries, will be the third such meeting in Doha, the first attended by the Taliban, which has not been internationally recognized since seizing power in August 2021 as US-led forces withdrew after 20 years of war.

"This is not a meeting about recognition. This is not a meeting to lead to recognition... Having engagement doesn't mean recognition," DiCarlo told reporters. "This isn't about the Taliban. This is about Afghanistan and the people."

The UN-led meeting aims to engage with the Taliban, who have cracked down on women's rights since returning to power, on a way to improve the lives of millions of Afghans. The

Two hardline candidates drop out on eve of Iran's presidential race

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Two hardline candidates dropped out of Iran's presidential election on Thursday, a day ahead of the landmark vote, and called for unity among forces supporting the country's Islamic revolution, state media reported. Iran's tightly controlled election on Friday follows Ebrahim Raisi's death in a helicopter crash last month, with the outcome expected to influence the succession to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the top decision-maker in the clerically-ruled state. Tehran's mayor Alireza Zakani and head of the Martyrs' Foundation Amirhossein Ghazizadeh-Hashemi exited the race.

US slams India in religious freedom report

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States offered rare criticism of close partner India in a report published on Wednesday on religious freedom, while also voicing alarm over rising bigotry worldwide against both Jews and Muslims.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken unveiled the annual report and said that the United States was also facing its own sharp increase of both anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in connection to the Gaza war.

2 Bolivian army leaders arrested after coup attempt

Monitoring Desk
LA PAZ: Two Bolivian army leaders have been arrested after soldiers and tanks took up position in front of government buildings on Wednesday in what President Luis Arce called an attempted coup.

The troops and tanks entered Plaza Murillo, a historic square where the presidency and Congress are situated, in the afternoon, prompting global condemnation of an attack on democracy. One of the tanks tried to break down a metal door of the presidential palace.

Surrounded by soldiers and eight tanks, the now-dismissed army chief General Juan Jose Zuniga said the "armed forces intend to restructure democracy, to make it a true democracy and

not one run by the same few people for 30, 40 years". Shortly thereafter, AFP reporters saw soldiers and tanks pulling back from the square. The uprising lasted about five hours. Later Wednesday, Zuniga was captured and forced into a police car as he addressed reporters outside a military barracks, footage on state television showed.

"General, you are under arrest," Deputy Interior Minister Jhonny Aguilera told Zuniga. "No one can take away the democracy we have won." Arce said from a balcony of the government palace in front of hundreds of supporters.

A second senior military officer Juan Arnez Salvador, who was head of the Bolivian navy, was also arrested on Wednesday night.

Taiwan raises China travel alert over death penalty threat

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: Taiwan's government on Thursday urged the public to avoid "unnecessary travel" to China after Beijing announced "diehard" supporters of the island's independence could face the death penalty.

China claims democratic Taiwan as part of its territory and has refused to rule out using force to bring the self-ruled island under its control.

Last week, Beijing published judicial guidelines on criminal punishments for supporters of Taiwanese independence, including the death penalty for "particularly serious" cases involving "diehard" independence advocates, state media reported.

Taiwan's top China policy body, the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC), on Thursday raised its travel

warning to the second-highest "orange" level as a result.

"After an overall assessment, the government deems it necessary to raise the travel alert on mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau... and advises people to avoid unnecessary travel," said MAC spokesman Liang Wenchieh.

If Taiwanese people must go to China, Liang advised them to refrain from discussing sensitive issues, photographing military sites, airports and ports, and "carrying books related to politics, history and religion".

Beijing has not conducted top-level communications with Taipei since 2016 and has branded the island's President Lai Ching-te a "dangerous separatist".

Rahul Gandhi promises to be voice of Indians

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was appointed leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, a crucial post that had remained vacant during both terms of the Modi government.

Signalling a robust challenge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's fragile coalition, Mr Gandhi shook hands with him and with Speaker Om Birla before addressing the Lok Sabha.

Earlier, Mr Birla was re-elected to the post on Wednesday by a voice vote. The fact that the opposition had put up its candidate to contest Mr Birla but did not force a division of votes was described by opposition MPs as a tactical retreat and not a defeat.

Mr Gandhi congratulated the speaker, and assured him of the opposition's support but also pushed for the side's opinions to be heard. "It is very important that cooperation happens on the basis of trust. It is very important that the voice of the opposition is allowed to be represented in this house," he said.

As opposition leader, Mr Gandhi will be part of high-profile committees

headed by the prime minister. These committees are responsible for appointing key posts such as the director of India's top crime investigation agency and members of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

He said the opposition wanted the house to function "often and well" and added that it was very important that cooperation happens with trust.

Since 2014, no opposition party had won 10 per cent or 55 of the 543 seats required to claim the post, but Congress took 99 seats in the recent general election.

The Congress party said Mr Gandhi would ensure the government was held to account at all times. On Wednesday, Mr Gandhi made his first appearance in parliament in his new role and wore a white khadi kurta and pyjama instead of his regular t-shirt. Pointing out that this time the opposition represents significantly more voices of the Indian people than last time, Mr Gandhi stressed that it was very important that the voice of opposition is allowed to be represented in the house.



Supporters of reformist Iranian presidential candidate Massoud Pezeshkian lift his portraits during a rally in Tehran.

Higher educational institutions need to improve rankings besides attaining financial autonomy, stresses Governor

Independent Report
 QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stressed that the higher educational institutions are needed to improve their rankings along with attaining financial autonomy. These institutions can be able to run on the path of sustainable development besides maintaining their existence. The Governor was of the view that it would become difficult to maintain their existence for the institutions which lag behind in the financing and ranking. It is necessary for every university to follow the rules and regulations of Higher Education Commission (HEC) in its all affairs, and the Vice Chancellors should ensure it. The Governor expressed these views during visit to the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIITEMS) here on Thursday.

The Vice Chancellor of BUIITEMS, Professor Dr. Khalid Hafeez, Principal Secretary to Governor, Hashim Ghilzai, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BUIITEMS, Dr. Abdul Rehman Achakzai and senior teachers of the university were also present on the occasion.

The Governor was briefed about the overall functioning of the BUIITEMS. The Governor stressed that the cooperation and partnership between the University and Industry must be kept in view in all the decisions. He pointed out that some departments were also opened in University in the past, where there were least students. As a result of the wrong decisions, not only the goal of academic development and expansion could not be achieved but it also increased financial burden of the university, he added.

The same carelessness was done while establishing campuses of the university. Therefore, the ground realities and especially the requirement of market should also be kept in view on occasion of the expanding departments and opening new campuses, adding he stressed.

He observed that there would not only be increase in the expenditures of universities in near future, but hefty amount would also have to be paid to the retiring employees. Therefore, the planning should be made for funds gathering from right now, he stressed.

The Governor also stressed the need to benefit from the knowledge and experience of experts and researchers of the concerned sectors for finding new sources of income. Earlier, he inspected different sections of the university.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail in a group photo with students during his visit to BUIITEMS.

Steps taken for preparation, delivery of pending 80,000 certificates: BBISE chairman

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BBISE), Chairman Mir Ejaz Azeem Baloch on Thursday said that steps were taken to ensure the preparation and delivery of more than 80,000 certificates of students pending for decades. He expressed these views while talking to media regarding two-year performance of Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education as BBISE chairman. He said that he was taking measures to develop BBISE in each sector by introducing reforms in this board since he took charge of his office in 2022. Baloch said that he had brought initiatives based on innovation to provide facilities to students in the province in limited resources of the board. He said that he introduced mobile application "Digital Attendance and Monitoring System" for examination invigilators, with the help of the application, online attendance data of candidates and examination staff, online roll number slips through QR code. The chairman informed that under the BBISE Act 2019, two new fully functional board offices (Makran and Loralai) have been approved and their functioning has been ensured. Establishment of three new board office sub-branches including Rukhsan, Job and Sabl, where the facilities related to the board office are available to the students at their doorstep, he said. Baloch said that electronic screen marking based on Standard Learning Outcomes (SLOs) has been started in board examinations and provision of item banks for questions in various subject examinations where thousands of different methods of questions have been made available.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Sadiq Umrani listening problems of people at his office.

Rural community living in extreme poverty receives financial assistance

By Rafiullah Mandokhail
 ZHOB: "The Balochistan Rural Support Program (BRSP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) under the National Poverty Graduation Program (NPGP) have been working jointly on various poverty-alleviation initiatives to improve the livelihoods of those living in extreme poverty in Balochistan," says, District Programme Manager BRSP Quttab Khan Afaqi. In order to reduce poverty in northern Balochistan's bordering area Shaghlo, assets (live-stock) have been distributed among the beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP). A large number of community members participated in the assets distribution ceremony. The BRSP official says the BRSP-IFAD collaboration is aimed at poverty reduction and rural development in Balochistan, and it has made significant strides in improving the livelihoods of rural communities through asset distribution and other development initiatives. The community has appreciated the BRSP's generous contribution and financial support to the far-off rural areas of poverty-hit Balochistan. Living below the poverty line and deprived of all basic life amenities, the rural community in the remote Shaghlo Kakar Khurasan area have also thanked the DPM BRSP Quttab Khan Afaqi's tireless efforts.

ECP to conduct LB elections in Punjab, Islamabad peacefully

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) here on Thursday held a high-level meeting regarding the holding of local body elections in Punjab and Islamabad. Chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, the meeting was attended by Federal Secretary for Interior, Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Chief Secretary Punjab, Secretary Local Government of Punjab and Secretary Election Commission of Pakistan and other senior officials, said a press release.

Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja said that it was the constitutional and legal responsibility of the ECP to conduct local bodies' elections in Punjab province and the federal capital. He said that the ECP was fully prepared to conduct local body elections in Islamabad and Punjab province in peaceful manner.

Petition filed in SC seeking restoration election symbol of bat to PTI

ISLAMABAD (Online): Petition has been filed in Supreme Court (SC) seeking restoration of election symbol of bat to PTI. The petition was filed by a citizen Engineer Qazi Muhammad Saleem under clause 184(3) of the constitution requesting the court to restore bat as election symbol besides giving reserved seats to PTI Thursday.

The petitioner while making Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) and Election Commission (EC) respondents has taken plea PTI secured more votes than other parties in general election. PTI secured more than 18460000 votes in the general election.

The petitioner prayed that PTI contested general election without electoral symbol. Now election symbol be restored. After restoring the election symbol the independent candidates be allowed to join PTI. The petitioner further said that reserved seats be given to PTI under the principle of proportionate representation.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti talking with MPAs after Assembly session.

Urges probe of missing youth Pak deplores UN report for omitting Kashmiri children's suffering

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Highlighting the plight of Children living under foreign occupation, Pakistan on Wednesday criticized the United Nations for ignoring the suffering of Kashmiri children in its report on "Children and Armed Conflict", calling the omission "unjust."

Speaking in the UN Security Council, which met under South Korea's presidency, Ambassador Munir Akram said the situation of children in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir had been unjustly omitted this time, despite their ongoing suffering under foreign occupation.

"Generations of Kashmiri children have grown up amidst fear of violence and repression under foreign occupation," the Pakistani envoy told the 15-member Council.

"The report's most glaring and persistent failure and double standard has been its selective omission of certain situations, most importantly, the children of Palestine. It has taken the killing of 14,000 children in the (ongoing) Gaza war for Israel to be included in the report (this year)."

Meanwhile, Ambassador Akram added, "the plight of children in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, previously included in the reports, has been unjustly omitted, despite their ongoing suffering under foreign occupation."

Detailing the plight of children in the occupied territories, where human rights violations are "tragically routine", the Pakistan envoy said, adding "We vividly recall the heart-wrenching image of a three-year old Kashmiri boy sitting in shock on his grandfather's lifeless body just murdered by Indian soldier; we remember 18-month-old Hiba, her eyes ruptured by pellet guns fired by security forces inside her home in Kapran village of Kashmir."

AJK President urges overseas Kashmiris to oppose Modi's plans

MIRPUR (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has called on overseas Kashmiris to unite and actively work to counter the agenda of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the region.

Addressing various delegations of overseas Kashmiris at the Jammu Kashmir House on Thursday, the President highlighted the critical role the expatriate community can play in raising awareness about human rights abuses in Occupied Kashmir.

President Chaudhry emphasized that Modi's attempts to divert global attention from the ongoing atrocities in Kashmir through the pretense of holding fake elections must be exposed.

He encouraged Kashmiri expatriates, particularly those in the UK, to strengthen their political influence by supporting candidates of Pakistani and Kashmiri descent in upcoming elections.

He pointed out that increasing the number of pro-Kashmiri voices in the British Parliament, especially within the All-Parties Kashmir Committee, could significantly enhance the effectiveness of their advocacy for Kashmir's right to self-determination.

BISP, MOIT join hands to combat fraudulent activities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and the Ministry of Information Technology (MOIT) have agreed to devise a strategy to combat fraudulent activities targeting innocent people.

During a meeting with Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Chairperson of Benazir Income Support, Senator Rubina Khalid, emphasized the need for a national-level strategy with MOIT's assistance to protect people from deceptive practices exploiting the BISP name.



A view of towers of 132 KV Sui-Dera Bugti transmission line fell due to heavy rains and stormy winds

PM's dialogue offer noting but political point scoring: Abbasi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Awam Pakistan Party convener Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has criticized Shabbaz Sharif's offer of talks to the opposition, labeling it as mere political point scoring.

In an interview with a private TV Channel, the former prime minister commented on the conditions of PTI founder Imran Khan's imprisonment, stating that he is receiving the same facilities as common prisoners. Abbasi highlighted that Imran Khan is housed in a section of the prison that was designated during his own tenure. Abbasi expressed discontent with all political parties in Pakistan, including his former party PML-G for their inability to address the country's current issues.

He acknowledged his 35-year involvement with PML-G, accepting responsibility for both its successes and failures. Abbasi also criticized the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) for being used for political purposes.

Intl Day of MSMEs celebrated under EU funded GRASP project

Independent Report
 QUETTA: The International Day of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) was celebrated under the EU-funded Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) project, which the International Trade Centre is implementing in partnership with FAO, SMEDA, and the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF).

GRASP is working in 22 districts across Sindh and Balochistan to strengthen MSMEs in the horticulture and livestock value chains. Balochistan Rural Support Program (BRSP) is implementing this project with the support of PPAF in two districts of Balochistan, Khuzdar, and Lasbela. In Khuzdar, the event was graced by the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Fida Hussain, while in Lasbela, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Siraj Karim.

Lightning kills man, woman commits suicide

QUETTA (INP): Lightning killed a man while a woman committed suicide over domestic disputes in different districts of Balochistan on Thursday.

According to details, lightning struck Shah Noorani Kohan area of Tehsil Wadh of district Khuzdar resultantly a man identified as Muhammad was killed.

Wife of Abdul Razzaq hailing from Goth Allahdina committed suicide by consuming toxic spray.

The bodies were shifted to different hospitals and handed over to heirs after legal formalities.

Sheikh Rashid says: Dialogue with establishment only way to end political stalemate

ISLAMABAD (INP) - Former federal minister and Awami Muslim League chief Sheikh Rashid said on Thursday that whoever intended to hold negotiations with the government would end up ridiculing himself.

Speaking to media outside the Islamabad sessions court, the former minister said the situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan was worsening.

Planning Minister says: CPEC 2.0 to bolster Pakistan's 5E initiative

KARACHI (INP): CPEC 2.0 will bolster Pakistan's 5E initiative, said Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal while addressing a seminar held here by KASB Ktrade Securities.

The 5Es initiative is centred around five key pillars, which include exports, E-Pakistan, environment and climate change, energy and infrastructure and equity and empowerment.

The seminar themed "CPEC 2.0: Business Collaboration Between Pakistan and China". Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the opportunities of the new phase of CPEC featured by B2B cooperation with a view to the outcomes of Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China earlier this month.

According to Gwadar Pro, the Planning Minister summarised that over 1000 business meetings were held during PM's visit to China, which has brought together over 150 companies from Pakistan and over 200 firms in China in a grand business conference.

In terms of the first "E", exports, he cited the success of sesame seeds and chilies. "The exports of sesame seeds to China just started around 3 years ago, and today we have an export of \$300 million. Similarly, exports of chilies have expanded exponentially. There are huge potential for Pakistani products to hit the Chinese market", he said.

In building E-Pakistan, the Planning Minister mentioned the framework agreement signed with China's technology giant Huawei during PM's China trip, under which Huawei will provide free training to 200,000 Pakistani youth in the field of information technology.



ISLAMABAD: NCSW Chairman Nilofer Bakhtiar Presenting Shield to Minister for law and Justice and Human Rights Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar.

Project being started to bring out of school children in schools: Secretary Education

Independent Report
 QUETTA: The Secretary Education Department, Saleh Muhammad Nasar has stated that the government is going to start a project aimed at bringing out of school children in schools in the province.

Talking to media, the Secretary Education informed that around 3.1 million children are out of schools in the province. In view of this situation, a project is being started to bring out of schools in the schools.

The Secretary Education told that the notices of termination have been issued to some 1800 teachers on the charges of absence from their duties. Besides, 323 absentee teachers have also been dismissed from the service, the Secretary Education added.

He also informed that biometric system is being installed for attendance of the teachers in schools from July 1, 2024. The project of installation of biometric system would cost Rs. 200 million, he maintained.

Survey started for assessment of losses: PDMA dispatches relief goods to rain hit Dera Bugti for 1,000 families

Independent Report
 QUETTA: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has dispatched relief goods for 1,000 rain affected families in Dera Bugti on Thursday.

According to an official hand out issued here, rains were reported from Dera Bugti, Naseerabad, Khuzdar, Lasbela, Hub and adjoining areas.

The hand out mentioned that human and financial damages were reported due to heavy rains from Dera Bugti the other day.

The rescue and relief activities are continued by the PDMA, district administration and other concerned authorities in the rain hit district. The survey has been started to make assessment of the losses caused due to the rains in Dera Bugti. Besides, the PDMA is in contact with the administration of all the districts to tackle any emergent situation well in time. Meanwhile, more rains have been expected in Lasbela, Hub, Khuzdar Kohlu, Dera Bugti, Naseerabad, Sohbatpur, Zhoab and adjoining areas.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme, Senator Rubina Khalid, meets with Minister of State for IT & Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, to devise a national-level strategy with the assistance of MOIT to protect people from deceptive practices exploiting the name of BISP.

NAB holds Khuli Kehchhari in Quetta

QUETTA (APP)-A Khuli Kehchhari (Public hearing session) was arranged by NAB Balochistan at its Complaint Cell located at DC Office, Anson Road, Quetta on Thursday.

NAB demonstrates its unwavering commitment to transparency, accountability, and public engagement. This initiative fosters trust and provides a direct platform for the public to voice their concerns about corruption, said in press release issued here.

The NAB is dedicated to addressing corruption complaints promptly and effectively, ensuring justice for all.

The Khuli Kehchhari showcases NAB's determination to combat corruption in all its forms, encouraging the public to continue reporting corruption cases to the National Accountability Bureau. DG NAB stressed to ensure the efforts to eradicate corruption and protect the people of Balochistan from fraud and deceit, leaving no stone unturned in pursuit of justice.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, Speaker Balochistan Assembly Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, Provincial Ministers, MPAs and others attending dinner hosted by Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Sadiq Umrani