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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

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar informed the National Assemgovernment would bring a resolution in the House to counter the resolution passed by the US House of Representatives on June

Winding up the discussion on a cut motions, he said, "The government has taken note of the resolution passed by the US House of stan. We will also pass a draft resolution will be align well with the positive

and treasury benches." He said, "We must

show our sovereignty and unity. We must show we bly on Thursday that the mean business... I will request all to come together and present a clear resolution in response to the US fifth-largest democracy

ment earlier issued by the of law in pursuance of our Foreign Office saying, "Pakistan has taken note of the passage of House Resolution 901 by the US House Representatives on Paki- of Representatives on June on mutual respect and un-25. We believe that the timresolution in response to ing and context of this parthe US's resolution, and the ticular resolution do not

ISLAMABAD (APP): shared with the opposition 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 overall, is committed to the The deputy prime minister also read out a state-human rights, and the rule

> own national interest." He said that Pakistan believed in constructive dialogue and engagement based derstanding. Such resolutions, he noted, were nei-

Continued on page 2



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): spanned decades. 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 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.3

He highlighted the enduring fraternal relations between Pakistan and

He believed that there were significant opportunities for trade and investment between Azerbaijan and Pa-

"Foreign investment in the country is on the rise due to the government's business and investmentfriendly 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



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

Power tariff likely to hike by Rs3.41/unit

power tariff is likely to hike by Rs 3.41 per unit on account of monthly fuel adjustment (MFA)

As per details, the National EÎectric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) s set to hear an application by the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) to hike the power tariff by

Rs3.41 per unit.
The CPPA has filed an application to NEPRA seeking an increase in the electricity tariff, citing an increase in the monthly fuel idjustment for May.

Minister Home condemns hand grenade attack at FC caravan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Ziaullah Langove has strongly condemned the hand grenade attack on the caravan of Frontier Corps (FC) in Quetta.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Thursday, the Minister Home expressed sympathy with those injured in the

He said that all necessary medical treatment facilities are being provided to the injured of the attack.

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

Independent Report
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-

non-governmental organi-

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

ing a consultative session of has a crucial role in ensurthe provincial assembly ing effective governance members organized by a 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 ecothe delivery system. She nomic and social progress and stability

The District and Sessions Court on Thursday rejected the petitions of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and his Bushra Bibi band Khawar Manika filed for suspension of their senthe case against their martences in the marriage case. Additional District and

after inaugurating Chaman Master Plan

essions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majoka announced the verdict which he had reserved on June 25. The court, in its 10-

ISLAMABAD (APP):

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

It may be added that

Qudratullah had convicted the PTI founder and his wife in the marriage case with seven years jail term. Bushra Bibi's ex-hus-

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

CHAMAN: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti offering Dua

Court rejects PTI founder & his

wife's appeals for suspension

of sentence in marriage case

PTI announces to challenge decision regarding rejection of appeals

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 on February 3, 2024, Se- (IHC) transferred the ap-Civil Judge peals 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 han 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 ĥad legal right in this regard but were deprived of

Our movement wil gear up after this decision



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 Na-

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 agen-

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

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 Dassu 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 in-

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

The minister thanked Qi Yanjun and accepted the

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

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

OUETTA (INP): At least 2 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 criti-

cal, the report said. After the rains, emerncy was declared in the hospitals to treat the inured person. Most of the areas in Dera Bugti were without electricity due to the collapse of several electricity

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

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

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

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz 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 on 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 included the Head of UNHCR sub-office, Tesfaye Beklele, Vice Chancellor BUITEMS . Dr. Khalid Hafeez, and Chief Commissioner Afghan Refugees, Arbab 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.



ISLAMABAD: Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan talking with media persons outside district court in the Federal Capital, as the court rejects Imran Khan, wife appeal in

Attaullah Tarar says:

Opposition's cut motions unrelated to Law Ministry

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

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 Úmrani, 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**

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 semifinal between India and holders England for the title in Barbados on Satur-

The perennial underachievers 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-

NEW YORK (INP): A ing the tournament and clinical South Africa Fazalhaq Farooqi bowled Zadran had been the main-Quinton de Kock early, but Reeza Hendricks and skipper Aiden Markram got the Proteas to their target without further losses inside nine overs

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

"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."

their first semi-final after a thrilling victory over Bangladesh in their last Su-Vincent on Monday, won the toss and chose to bat. Rahmanullah Gurbaz,

the highest run-scorer at the Cup semi-final

stay of the Afghan batting with three century opening partnerships on their fairvtale 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 Afghanistan, playing Nortje (2-7) chipped in with a couple of wickets and left-arm wrist spinner Tabraiz Shamsi (3-6) per Eight match in St mopped up the tail as Afghanistan became the first team to score fewer than 100 runs in a T20 World



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

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

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 cut motions moved by the opposition parties were

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 Health Services Regulations Ideology and National Accountability Bureau.

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, Civil Services Academy, Council of Common Interests (Secretariat), Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Division, Commerce Division, Communications Division, expenditure of Communication Divisions, Pakistan Post Office Department, Defence Division, 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 Divi-

sion on the Status of and Telecommunication Armed Forces, National Counter Terrorism Authority. Inter-provincial Coor-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 and Coordination Division. Overseas Pakistanis and On Wednesday, the Human Resource Development Division. Parliamentary Affairs Division, Planning Development and Special Initiatives Division. Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division, Programme, Pakistan Baitul-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 inand advances, Develop-Investment, Development Technology Zones Authority Division, Development Expenditure of Establish-Change and Environmental Coordination Division, Deopment Expenditure of Communications Division, Development Expenditure of Defence Division, Devel-Defence Production Division, Development Expenditure of Power Division,

ISLAMABAD (APP): sion, National Commission Professional Training Divifor Human Rights, National sion, Development Expen-Commission on the Right diture of Higher Education of Child, National Commis-Commission, Development Expenditure of National Women, Industries and Pro-Heritage and Culture Dividuction Division, Informassion, Development Expen-The demands for grants tion and Broadcasting Di- diture of Revenue Division. were moved by Minister for vision, miscellaneous ex- Development Expenditure Finance and Revenue penditure of Information of Human Rights Division, Information Technology of Information and Broadcasting Division, Develop-Division, Combined Civil ment Expenditure of Inforsion, Development Expendination Division, Kashmir diture Inter-Provincial Coordination Division. Devel-Law and Justice Division Initiatives Division, Develence and Technology Divi-Benazir Income Support Regions, Development Expenditure of Water Re-Outlay on Development of Pakistan Nuclear Regulavestments and other loans velopment Loans and Adment Expenditure of Avia- ernment, External Develoption Division, Development ment Loans and Advances Expenditure of Board of by the Federal Govern-Expenditure of Special Civil Works, Capital Outlay on Industrial Development, Affairs Division and Capiment Division, Develop- tal Outlay on Railways Diment Expenditure of visions, Cabinet, Cabinet Supraco, Development Ex- Division, Emergency Relief penditure of Climate and Repatriation, Atomic

mation Technology and Telecommunication Diviopment Expenditure of 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 opment Expenditure of Scision, Development Expenditure of Stats and Frontier sources Division, Capital Atomic Energy, Capital Outlay on Development of tory Authority, Capital Outlay on Petroleum Division, Capital Outlay on Federal Investments, Devances by the Federal Govment, Capital Outlay on Capital Outlay on Maritime Energy, Naya Pakistan Housing Development Auvelopment Expenditure of thority, Prime Minister's Commerce Division, Devel- Office (Public) Board of Investment, Prime Minister's Inspection Commission. Special Technology Zone Authority, National School opment Expenditure of of Public Policy, National Security Division, Power Division, Petroleum Divi-

sion, Finance Division, Rev-

enue Division, and Federal



Development Expenditure

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



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

A 13-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Oazi 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) lawver 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 re-

marked 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 candi-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 indepen-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 CJP 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 elec-

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 CJP 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 won 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.



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 cam-

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, backroom staff, and management of the SLC for their Cup in 2022, meanwhile, in the ODI World Cup in 2023, they were knocked support during my time in out from the group stage. Sri Lanka. Without your support, none of the success would have been pos-

Follow us on our Official WhatsApp channel Sri Lanka won the Asia 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 knock-Silverwood at the helm.

from the Super 12s in the ICC Men's T20 World

No country allowed to...

Continued from page 1 ther constructive nor objec-

"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 coun-

tries," 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 out stage of any of the ICC tournaments with Chris They were eliminated

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 nonpermanent member of the UN Security Council by securing 182 votes out of 187, which showed the confidence of the international community in Paki-

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

to common man: PM SLAMABAD (APP): laptops among the efficient Minister Shehbaz

Govt taking steps to

provide maximum relief

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 Awaisi, Ammar Ahmed Khan Leghari, Dr Shaista Khan, Zainab Baloch, Saad Vaseem and Shahid Usman.

The prime minister old 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.

said, would distribute sion.

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

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 coun-The government, he try also came under discus-



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

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

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

Afghan interim government will formally participate in third Doha talks and

conference in the current

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 e with Afghan T 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. e urged the Bazaar Panchayat, media representatives and citizens to cooperate with him in the development of the area.

Notice of Tender DW&CE/6002-Advt/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 PPRA Rule 42-C (V) of 2004:-

(a). Rehab of Certain Facilities

The abovementioned

campaigns were followed

by a disastrous T20 World

Cup 2024, where Sri Lanka

lost their group stage

matches against South Af-

rica 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.

Costing Approximately Rs. 13.727 Million

Departmental

Performance

Report on each

Work by the

Engineer -in-

Charge

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 PPRA Rules. The interested parties should contact CMES (PAF) Samungli / authorized representative for further details from 0715 to 1335 hours on all working days.

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|----------------|------------|----------------------|---------------------|---|--|
| 09 SI No | Agency | Amount of Work | Allowed (Months) | Date of Commencement D (I) No.8028/2 | Percentage Progress of Works in Hand |



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

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

Mohammad Humayun Mohmand, Muhammad Faisal Vawda, Poonjo Bheel, Hidayattullah 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 Committee while highlighting the onset of the monsoon season, stressed

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 lev-In response, officials

outlined protocols for man-

aging floodwaters through Tarbela, including controlled releases during heavy rainfall. The Committee sought a ten-year performance report from the Chairman of the Fed-

upon the proactive nature eral Flood Commission Concerns were raised about the ongoing damage to Right Bank Outfall Drain (RBOD) One and Two, with suspicions of irregu-larities 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

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

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

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 SHOs 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 On this occasion, the

IG Islamabad said that the Islamabad Police are taking various measures for the facilitation of citizens. The daily holding of Khuli Katchery helps in resolv-



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

ing issues on a priority basis, he added. Moreover, all zonal

officers and SHOs are directed to meet citizens during the designated office directed the concerned of- hours and resolve their isficers to resolve the citizen sues promptly and on merit.

Over Rs 50 bln disbursed among beneficiaries under Benazir Kafaalat scheme

The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has disbursed over Rs.50 billion among over 47,00,000 beneficiaries from across the country so far under the Benazir Kafaalat quarterly payments (April-June).

"Till June 26, over Rs. 50 billion has been disbursed among over 47,00,000 beneficiaries which make 70 per cent of the total beneficia-

ries", said an official source. The disbursement of the quarterly tranche (April-June) of Benazir Kafaalat cash assistance to the beneficiaries is continued across the country in two phases to disburse Rs. 10,500 per household among over nine million registered beneficiary families. phase

ISLAMABAD (Online):

Islamabad High Court

(IHC) has given indication

to initiate contempt of

court proceedings against

Deputy Registrar (DR)

IHC in connection with the

application of advocate

lawyers strike.

IHC has also directed

Islamabad High Court Bar

Association (IHCBA) to

file detailed reply till July

the court. Registrar and DR

presented the report in

inquired had any complaint

replied no such report had

hearing Thursday.

The case came up for

Registrar appeared in

Justice Babar Sattar

Registrar high court

payments were being is-

Peshawar, Mardan and all districts of Malakand and Hazara Division in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, all districts of Karachi Division and District Hyderabad in Sindh province and Gujranwala, Sahiwal, Rawalpindi and all districts of Sargodha Division and

While the payments to the beneficiaries in the remaining districts are being issued in the second

Justice Babar Sattar

Justice Babar Sattar

DR said it is not his

DR said yes respon-

Justice Babar Sattar

Justice Babar Sattar

said this is contempt of

court case. Audio has what

relevance with it. what is

inquired from deputy reg-

istrar that registrar has re-

report but it is police re-

with security of IHC.

sibility of security of IHC

rests with Islamabad Police.

remarked if the doors of

high court are closed then

inquired Bar councils and

Associations go on strike

will we say to IG.

under what law.

Naeem petition against lawyers strike:

IHC gives indication to

initiate contempt of court

proceedings against DR

Naeem Bokhari against lied on his report.

sued among the beneficiaries in all districts of Islamabad, Balochistan. Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan. The payments are also being disbursed in

and their families. **3-day Theatre** Extravaganza ends at PNCA District Vehari in Punjab. ISLAMABAD (APP):

The three-day Theatre Extravaganza concluded after presenting Shahid Nadeem's International masterpiece 'Dara" on Thursday evening among the audience applauding whole heartedly 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 Shikoh 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 per-

formed in India and USA. The Theatre Extravaganza was arranged by PNCA in collaboration with Justice Babar Sattar the Ajoka Theatre with an inquired is Islamabad police objective of fostering answerable in connection 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 touch-

Let us pledge today, every day to stand in solidarity with refugees, their host communities: Muqam ISLAMABAD (APP): members of the diplomatic of millions of refugees

Tajikistan's Somon Air

starts direct flights b/w

Islamabad & Dushanbe

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

The event was aimed to bring together key government counterparts,

Yasin takes

charge as AIG

Motorway

Police

ISLAMABAD (APP): A

senior official of the Police

Service Group Yasin

Farooq on Thursday took

charge as Additional In-

spector General(AIG) of

the National Highways and

Motorway Police spokes-

man Muhammad Saqib, the

AIG while presiding over

the meeting of Zonal Com-

manders, Sector Command-

ers and Beat Commanders

directed to provide the best

kind of possible facilities to

the users of the motorway.

timely which is the hall-

mark of the success of

to create awareness about

road safety education and

traffic rules which will help

possible support would be

provided to the martyrs

control accidents.

He directed the offi-

s to deal with the people politely and ensure help

Yasin further directed

He further said that all

(NHMP)North Zone.

According

a press release.

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 ers, he added.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Tajikistan's Somon Air on

Thursday started its flight

operations in Pakistan as its

inaugural flight from capi-

tal Dushanbe landed in

Governor Faisal Karim

Kundi and Ambassador of

Tajikistan in Pakistan Yusuf

Sharifzoda received 14 pas-

sengers of the flight SMR-

129 on their arrival at the

Islamabad International

Civil Aviation Rescue and

fire-fighting service pre-

Fire tenders from the

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Islamabad.

Airport.

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 hold-

sented a traditional cannon

by the Shaheen Airport Ser-

vices, a subsidiary of the

emony was also held on the

occasion. Shaheen Airport

Services Executive Director

Air Commodore ® Wasim

Ahmed Khan, General

Manager Shaheen Airport

Services Islamabad Air Ĉdre

(retd) Shahid Nadeem and

of the Somon Air expressed

The flight was handled

A cake-cutting cer-

salute to the aircraft.

Pakistan Air Force.

IFA disposes off 4000 bottles of hazardous soda drinks

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

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

Deputy Director Op-erations (DDO) of IFA, Dr. Tahira Saddique, revealed the Chief Executive Officer that many beverage sellers were not maintaining a satisfaction over the mileproper healthy environ-



on fire: Danyal Ch. ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- ning the government on sokistan 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

said, the people had rejected the arsonists in the country. "Whatever they do, the country will move

towards improvement". said that they(PTI) are run-

cial 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 Paki-He went on saying that the government succeeded

in reducing the rate of inflation by working hard day PTI leaders' thinking

In the by-election, he is to break Pakistan, set it on fire and shut it down.In the by-election, he said, the people had rejected the arsonists in the country. 'Whatever they do, the Danyal Chaudhary country will move towards improvement'



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with officials from Ministry of Interpro Distt admin

Chairman PRCS meets US Ambassador

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

targets illegal encroachments in ICT Expressing gratitude for the steadfast support ex-ISLAMABAD (APP): On tended by the United States the directive of Deputy during times of disaster and Commissioner(DC) İrfan emergencies, Chairman Nawaz Memon, a large-Laghari underscored the scale anti-encroachment pivotal role played by the operation is underway in United States in aiding PRCS's relief efforts. He

the federal capital. Assistant Commishighlighted the significant sioners (ACs) are actively contributions made by the involved in removing illegal United States in addressing structures across various various calamities, including areas. The Islamabad Capi-Territory earthquakes and floods, which had affected Pakistan administration's spokesin recent years. Chairman man said that AC Nilore, Laghari engaged in discussions along with district teams. with Envoy Blome about pocarried out a raid in Khanna tential areas where the United Pul. They cleared temporary encroachments from

Contempt of court case for not removing name of Shireen Mazari from EC ISLAMABAD (Online): Pirzada.

IHC seeks report from ministry

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

Shireen Mazari appeared in the court along

The court has summoned report from interior ministry fill 9.30 a.m today (Friday). It is pertinent to men-

tion 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,

States can support PRCS's the green belt in the area. Abaidullah Khan were also humanitarian initiatives. wife appeal in unlawful marriage case. Youth, women-led consultations crucial to achieve inclusive Healthy Diet Policy: Speakers

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 semi-nar titled "From Concept to Action: Food Pathways Through Healthy Diet Policy" here at the SDPI Conference Hall.

Associate Researcher SDPI Khansa Naeem informed the participants that 37.6% of children under 5 years of age were law on breast feeding for

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

He said Pakistan has a

stunted while 7.1% children mothers to administer their needs to be addressed from moting unhealthy diets. 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, 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. 'Healthy diet concept bad advertisements pro-

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

ome groups. He urged the stakeholders to ensure effective advocacy and communication campaigns to manage

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 Paksitan 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.

Daily soice of Masse. Independent

Friday June 28, 2024

Positive feelers

Hopes were not very high that relations between Pakistan and India would improve greatly under Modi 3.0, and up till now there is little to suggest that Narendra Modi's third stint in power would 3) freedom from want; and 4) freedom from fear. "A change the bilateral equation positively. Pakistan was not invited to the Indian prime minister's oath-taking earlier this month, whereas other regional leaders attended. Moreover, there was a lukewarm exchange of X posts between have one set of rights with-Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif out the other? Unfortuand Mr Modi to mark the lost the core value of freelatter's election victory, and while replying to Nawaz Sharif's congratulatory tweet, the Indian leader highlighted the need for 'security'.

Yet the Pakistani administration has lately sent out positive public feelers, perhaps to gauge the mood in New Delhi. Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, who also oversees linked, but nations are bethe foreign affairs portfolio, while speaking at an event on Tuesday, called for "goodneighbourly relations" with India, at the same time emphasising a "just and peaceful solution" to the Kashmir dispute. Mr Dar added that it is time for "sober reflection" on the status of bilateral ties. Considering Mr Dar's position on the totem pole, the public outreach to India appears to be a serious attempt to mend ties. From here, the onus is on India to reciprocate. One small but crucial step towards in England. According to normalisation can be the restoration of full diplomatic ties. Both capitals have been without the other state's high commissioner for nearly five years, after ties were downgraded in their profit, sell locally and 2019 in the aftermath of India's scrapping of Article 370 of its constitution.

Moreover, the stalled dialogue process should be restarted, both at the official for not from. What seafood is to the Japanese, level and via the backchannel. meat is for the Turks. It The Indian establishment can pretend that Pakistan no of a Japanese is 84 years, a longer matters in its foreign Turk 71 years. Indulgent Pakistanis last only 66 policy calculus, but the truth years. is that a peaceful region will bring economic and other dividends for the entire subcontinent, including India.

As and when this process of talking to each other commences, Pakistan should stick creased from 21 million in 1950, to 86m in 2023. Over to its principled stand on Kashmir, yet it should be willing to discuss all other out- 220m. Birth control is standing issues. While it is expected that India would keep repeating its mantra on 'terrorism' and 'security', New Delhi's negotiators should adopt a less rigid stance if they Kemal Atatürk. On Nov 10 adopt a less rigid stance if they are at all serious about regional peace.

Either the status quo can and observes one minute's silence. Jinnah shares his continue, and with it the mistrust and toxicity that have dominated bilateral relations for over seven decades, or both sides can take bold steps for peace, and create a better future for the more than two billion people of the subconti-

A basic framework for peace exists from the Musharraf era; ter, then president, since this can be dusted up and updated if both sides are committed to leaving the past be- mayor or Snangnar reaching Beijing.) hind and working for a better future. Much will depend on four months in jail for making a speech in which he whether and how New Delhi recited Ziya Gökalp's reacts to Mr Dar's overture.

The despotic state

Tariq Khosa What is a core human value?

It's freedom, says Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz, the economist who, in his book The Road to Freedom, pleads for an economic and political system based on equity, justice and well-be-

The concept of freedom articulated by US Franklin president Roosevelt revolved around four pillars: 1) freedom of speech and expression; 2) freedom of belief or faith; person facing extremes of want and fear is not free," says Stiglitz, echoing Oxford philosopher Isaiah Berlin, who said that "freedom for the wolves has often meant death to the

Economic and political freedoms have deep connections. Can a nation nately, we in Pakistan have dom. Extremes of want and fear haunt us daily.

The wolves (the elite corporate sector, real estate tycoons, feudal class) have gained 'freedom' at the ex-

pense of the sheep (workers, the salaried class and poverty-stricken masses). Financial debt traps and dependence on foreign loans have created an atmosphere of slavish adherence. The current environment is akin to a jungle in which only power matters, determining 'who gets what and who does what'. We have been reduced to a

nation of bootlickers.

The death of human empathy is one of the earliest and most telling signs of a culture about to fall into barbarism," said Hannah Arendt, the German-born American historian, philosopher, political theorist and social critic. The dearth of empathy is evident in our present ruling elite. Subservient to the forces of tyranny, we are treading the path to serfdom. Will we ever get on the road to freedom that leads to the republican values of equity, justice, rule of law, and collective well-being?

The elite's hegemony must be broken. For that, we must ask what kind of economic, political and social system will contribute to the freedom of most citizens. As Cicero said some 2,000 years ago, "We are

slaves of the law so that we may be able to be free."

Thomas Jefferson, the US founding father who drafted the Declaration of Independence, said: "The two enemies of the people are criminals and government, so let us tie the second down with the chains of the Constitution so the second will not become the legalised version of the

However, "modern

society, governments and freedom need not be at odds," says Stiglitz, provided the rulers abandon the authoritarian tendencies that breed despotism and persecution in the body politic. This is our key challenge today, as we ask how tolerant we should be of those who are intolerant and tyrannical. One option is extreme, leading to revolt and violence; we must not tread that path. The saner course is for state institutions to admit their mistakes and undertake serious introspection in the larger interest of the nation, and to rise above narrow selfinterest for steering the ship of state out of turbulent waters. This involves changing mindsets. The military estab-

lishment has ruled Pakistan directly or indirectly since the abrogation of our first constitution (1956). Four army chiefs ruled directly by either imposing martial law, suspending the constitution, or becoming either president or chief executive. Most other army chiefs have been de facto rulers under the facade of democratic dispensations.

who tried to assert civilian supremacy met with an adverse fate. One was hanged in a murder case. Two other heads of political parties were sacked one after the other without completion of parliament's tenure in the The fourth one, brought to power by the

Four political leaders

establishment to replace two political dynasties, was shown the door through a vote of no-confidence. The first went to the gallows, the second chose exile over incarceration, the third was assassinated, and the fourth, after surviving an assassination attempt, is in prison under frivolous charges

A troika of power brokers has always called the shots by manipulating constitutional provisions. Ini-

tially, it was the president, prime minister and army chief under Article 58(2)(b) of the 1973 Constitution. Later, the president lost his clout with the repeal of the draconian clause. Then emerged the new troika of prime minister, army chief and chief justice. The shenanigans continue to this day, with the military establishment and deep state involved in political engineering. Political tussles end up in courts and judicial verdicts decide the fate of political leaders.

Such a messy state of

affairs cannot be sustained for long. The military is a strong national institution. It comprises mostly disciplined and professional rank and file exuding patriotic fervour, with officers and their men willing to sacrifice their lives for the security and sovereignty of their homeland. They are waging a heroic battle against militants and violent extremists who want to unravel the state. We salute them for their courage and sacrifices.

But when officers of the armed forces and in-telligence agencies indulge liberty, or give me death"? in political engineering,

they lose the public's respect, and the compact between state and society comes under serious threat. This is where our state and society find themselves currently. The nation looks up to its protectors and defenders. and expects them to abide by their oath, rise above narrow self-interest, and assist in nation-building in these trying times.

The only way forward is to embark upon course correction for the sake of equity, justice and the collective well-being of citizens. Can our leaders ponder over George Washington's words to Alexander Hamilton: "I hope I shall always possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain (what I consider the most enviable of all titles) the character of an honest man"

We, the people, demand nothing but honesty and fairness from those leading our armed forces, intelligence agencies, judiciary, bureaucracy and police services. Is it asking too much, or shall we echo the Virginian Patrick -- Courtesy Dawn

hallenge to the moral

Sultan Ali Allana | Zafar Masud

The world is intricately coming increasingly in-ward-looking, challenging the concept of import substitution, free trade and globalisation. These concepts present economic opportunities, but balancing global economic connections with the preservation of local interests is an ongoing concern. The concept of a 'moral economy' which highlights how economic behaviour and decisions are influenced by societal norms and values rather than just by market forces and profits, seem to be gaining firmer ground.

The idea of a 'moral economy' comes from the English historian and writer E.P. Thompson, who came up with the term 'moral economy' while studying the 18th-century food riots The Economist, "the rioters, he argued, were not motivated purely by empty bellies, but by a belief that the bakers, farmers and millers had violated paternalist customs, which

ally, Thompson argued, the moral economy was being displaced by a market economy, in which prices follow the amoral logic of supply and demand, rather than ideas of what would be a 'fair price' in times of

His concept of the 'moral economy' still holds appeal. "Respondents to Bulgarian-French economist Stefanie | Stantcheva's surveys suggested that inflation widened the gap between rich and poor, while businesses allowed prices to rise because of corporate greed. They also 'tend to believe that employers have a lot of power and discretion in setting wages', notes Ms Stantcheva. In their view, inflation is not a phenomenon that emerges from hundreds of millions of people taking trillions of decisions. It is something inflicted on them by people at the top of the totem pole. ... In a moral economy, con-

well as those being blamed.' In Pakistan, 'moral economy' provides insights into various socioeconomic dynamics and challenges.

cerns about what is right

and wrong outweigh effi-

ciency, imposing a cost on

those assigning blame as

not hold back grain. Gradu- It's a complex trade-off, with cultural and social factors influencing economic behaviour — given the short-sightedness in policy decisions, the early stages of the business maturity lifecycle, and the writ of government and regulators. Hence, the pervasive rent-

> seeking and elite capture. Global resources are becoming increasingly scarce and their deployment in terms of the best socioeconomic returns is a must, especially in Pakistan's case, where over 95m souls live below the poverty line.

The definition of a 'moral economy' varies. In the West, it is focused on 'climate compliance'. Its relevance, however, can also incline towards more fundamental issues, like the allocation of budgetary revenues in Pakistan, which makes fiscal account imbalances the single biggest culprit responsible for our ills. particularly the unproductive diversion of our precious resources towards debt servicing and privilege-soliciting subsidies. Of course, the equitable and judicious collection of taxes is critical to enhancing revenues, but it is the expenditure side which is the focus of our argument.

A significant challenge Pakistan's moral economy is weak governance structures and an ever-growing informal economy. Efforts to align economic practices with moral and ethical standards often face hurdles. Ironically, debt servicing and indirect subsidies are intimately connected and circular in nature, as if the government is borrowing to extend the fruitless alloca-

tion of resources to benefit

only a handful. In the past five years, of the Rs47tr the federal government spent, 42 per cent went into foreign and local currency debt servicing, while 19pc went towards government salaries and pensions. Regrettably, a negligible portion is allocated for health and education (predominantly provincial subjects). The most inflation-inducing, nevertheless, has been the dishing out on development programmes, which has

The cost-of-producnately, has lower weight in inflation, given the relatively smaller credit to the private sector since, with banks, most of the cumulative liquidity goes towards

been clocked at over 10pc.

sulting in stacking up debt, stoking inflation and, consequently, causing a debttrap situation and elevated interest rates.

Just as exports can't be enhanced through the free float of the exchange rate alone, a tight monetary policy can't beat inflation on its own. There's surely an ex-

tent to which monetary policy can help in controlling inflation, but after a stage, it loses steam. The only way to bring debt servicing down is by cutting the fiscal deficit and making the subsidies direct and constructive.

Other than the ineffectiveness of trickle-down subsidies, most of them, in fact, are not recorded as such. Incremental interest paid on national savings schemes are recorded as an interest and not subsidy, for example, and the discount at which real estate is transferred to the public cial justice, and ethical busisector does not show up ness as a subsidy either. Inter-strengthen the 'moral tion argument, unfortu- estingly enough, the nomi- economy nal amount paid on them economist Samuel Bowles is recorded as 'revenue' instead. The same goes for the deeply discounted leased land to urban, privi- are no substitute for good leged social clubs. The citizens.

government securities, re- cross-subsidies on utilities are also not part of the government's subsidies, while the losses of stateowned enterprises, invariably, do not show up as subsidies either. In fact, their true loss is hidden in debt-servicing expense against government-guaranteed loans, and by the cross-subsidy burden of the higher-paying segments of consumers (pri marily industries)

There is, therefore, a quid pro quo between loose monetary policy and fully encompassing subsidies. We need to let go of exploitative subsidies to control inflation and to achieve the interest rates adjustment for the greater good Implementing economic reforms that align with moral and ethical principles can be challenging, but also offer opportunities for sustainable and inclusive growth. Policies promoting financial inclusion, sopractices can argued in his book The Moral Economy" that "[Even] Good incentives

Istanbul, not...

F.S. Aijazuddin

promises longevity. The average lifespan

Türkiye today is where Pakistan should have been, had it been properly husbanded. Pakistan, although a brother in Islam, took instead the path of unbridled procreation. Türkiye's population (99 per cent Muslim) inthe same period, Pakistan's population burgeoned from 34m to over

spelt differently in Turkish.

Today, while Pakistan is still struggling to emerge out of its ideological sac, Türkiye knows each year — Atatürk's death anniversary — all Türkiye comes to a halt birthday with Jesus Christ and Nawaz Sharif.

The late president Pervez Musharraf studied in Türkiye until 1956. He spoke Turkish fluently. to a democratically elected dictatorship.

Its present ruler, Recep Erdogan, has been in power as prime minis-2003. On his way up, he served as Istanbul's mayor. (In China, being mayor of Shanghai helps in

In 1999, he served 1912 poem, Soldier's Prayer. Erdogan quoted: Delhi's canines, would

'Minarets are bayonets, domes are helmets, mosques are our barracks, believers are soldiers'.

Is Erdogan a second Atatürk? No. Türkiye's pantheon has only one place at the top. Is he a Turkish version of the Saudi MBS? Erdogan, even if he had the money, is too canny to waste resources on the folly of a \$1.5 trillion Neom city project.

Türkiye — dismissed in the 19th century as the "sick man of Europe", and, in the 20th century, denied entry into the EU — has decided to steer its own course. It is a vibrant example of a benign Islam shorn of ritualism and an intrusive clergy.

Its priorities are education, infrastructure and expanding tourism. In 2023, Türkiye's income from 57m visitors exceeded \$54 billion. The largest number — Russians — live within spitting distance across the Black Sea. Pakistan sent 140,388, less than 155,155 Mexicans. The Mongolian hordes have yet to invade Türkiye. A Turkish Chinatown is still decades away.

A 1990 guide book warned travellers that Turks were just "beginning to learn about living on plastic". Modern Turks are now as addicted to plastic cards as the Americans are to plastic surgery.

Turkey is becoming a preferred destination for medical tourism. Almost half a million foreign visitors come to have their Iooks improved (or damaged) by Botox procedures. Some hospitals have dedicated hotels where patients check in, go next door to have their operation, and return for fivestar recuperation.

In Istanbul, stray dogs and cats are tagged at official expense and pampered with free meals and comfortable kennels. The Indian cynophile, Maneka Gandhi, who fought for

have been gratified. After the recent Eidul Azha holidays (known as Kurban Bayrami), bones became hard to come by. A rabies epidemic could force the Turkish administration to rethink its hospitality.

Despite the keenness encourage tourists, Turks are curiously xenophobic. They insist on speaking only Turkish. This often leads to a dialogue of the deaf between Turks and strangers, until both tap into their mobile phones for translation.

Istanbul's shopping malls are a treat, even for a tourist tired of London. In them, desi-gner outlets rub che-eks with shops offering every kind of Tur-kish sweetmeats and flavours of honey. Haunches of cured meat compete with Har-ro--ds' Food Hall. The generational divide appears in the Food Court, where hamburgers and fried chicken overwhelm traditional adana kebabs and

Türkiye is now more than a country; it is an experience. To savour its fullness, one needs to immerse oneself in it. Young locals do it by dipping into the Bosphorus, which is remarkably clean considering the armada of tankers, cruise ships, ferries and boats that ply through it.

To spend a few days in a Turkish hotel is to escape from home. To live in a villa in the cool, silent suburb of Zekeriyaköy, high in the green, undulating hills that overlook Istanbul, is to holiday in heaven. Over Kurban Bayrami, its affluent residents fled to their second seaside homes, leaving streets empty for dogs, their walkers, and for those who prefer their Eid away from an urban abattoir.

Holiday in Türkiye. You will emerge from its hammam physically cleansed, emotionally relaxed, and pummelled free of domestic anxieties. Courtesy Dawn

Taxing health

Navaira Ali Bangash

'Babu' a colloquial term and a remnant of our colonial past, was used to refer to the British bureaucracy, who would wield the stick to tax the people. Even after independence, our inherited bureaucratic system and 'babu' mindset haven't evolved. Every year before the budget, we hear of tax babus arbitrarily formulating policies, including on health, to decide the fate of the people.

Interesting research published by the British Medical Journal in 2011 chronicles how, in 2003, the Tony Blair government in the UK invited all food companies, secretly, and informed them of the burden of hypertension cases on the National Health Service. The government's ask was to reduce sodium content by 10 per cent every year for three years. It was an inclusive, well-informed policy directive that didn't appear out of thin air, but was backed by data and research. After many years, once its impact had taken effect, the study quoted above was published to document

Clearly, almost eight decades after leaving the subcontinent, the British have evolved, backing policy measures with authentic data to make informed decisions without disadvantaging any specific stakeholder. But we have not. Take the matter of health tax; there are numerous global examples of health taxes on a myriad of items consumed by the public to save on healthcare costs. Some countries impose duties on beverages (liquor and carbonated drinks) and junk food, and particularly on tobacco. The decisions

to meet revenue short-

Last year, the govrette sector to discourage consumers. While the decision was correct, it should have also noted that the number of cases of oral cancer exceed those of lung cancer. Gutka consumption is the main reason behind oral cancer, an undocujust completely off the tains tax authorities' radar but that also doesn't face any action except for the occasional 'ban'

Meanwhile, it is un-

deniable that sugar con-

sumption has harmful ef-

fects. Yet solely holding fruit juices and drinks reoverlook other factors. This is backed by studies. For example, official research published by the US in 2022 on the role of dietary sugars and obesity in type 2 diabetes, conducted a meta analysis of multiple interventional studies. It showed that one can no longer conclude that one that will have an imsugar consumption alone pact on the health of the causes type 2 diabetes, and that, instead, a hypercaloric diet — de- those in policymaking fined as "one in which a circles are not connected person's energy consumption exceeds their and tend to overlook energy expenditure" achieved by the overconsumption of any type of impossible to take the macronutrients, is a major risk factor.

Diabetes avoidance needs a total lifestyle change; attributing diabecultural sweet tooth Courtesy Dawn

taken are well-informed thanks to halwais (who and intended for the long more often than not evade term; they are not sim- tax regulations), while ply an arbitrary exercise the risks of packaged confectionary items are completely overlooked. The easiest sector to ernment imposed mas- drop the anvil on is bevsive duties on the ciga- erages that have some goodness of fruit in them. and to bracket them with energy drinks and sodas that are caffeinated and

full of added sugar.

How can a country

that is already facing a malnutrition crisis and needs fortified produ-cts tax juice with natural mented area that is not fruit content, which conessential mic-ronutrients such as Vi--ta-min C, often pres-cri-bed by doctors for pat-ients recovering from illness to boost immunity? Multiple resear---ch has suggested the importance of juice as a healthy source of ensponsible for our increas- ergy, whereas in couning diabetes burden is to tries such as the US, the dietary guidelines for 2020-2025 allow for up to half of the recommended daily fruit intake to be replaced with fruit

All this brings me back to the point that any policy decision should be well-thought-out, especially when it comes to common man. It is an unfortunate fact that when with the ground realities hard facts as well as research, it becomes near correct steps. Invariably, the fallout of uninformed policymaking is suffered by the masses, and not by the decision-makers tes solely to sugar con- who will get transfers sumption oversimplifies and postings and will the complex factors in- eventually retire with volved in the develop- hefty pensions and perks ment of the disease. In without having to answer Pakistan's context, the any uncomfortable queslion's share of sugar contions about how they exsumption stems from our ercised their powers. --

there should be exchanges of delegations of

businessmen between Turkey and Pakistan. He

said that the student

exchange program between Turkey 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

Consul General of Turkey Mr. Durmus

Bastug said that there are

strong religious and cultural ties between

Pakistan and Turkey.

Consul General of Turkiye,

congratulated Pakistan for

being elected as a non-

permanent member of the

United Nations Security

Council. Darmus Bastug

said that he would do his

relationship between Pakistan and Turkey to

study in

universities.

Darmus

new heights.

LAHORE: Consul General of Turkiye, Durmus

Bastug meeting with Punjab Governor Sardar

Pakistan has long-standing

deep brotherly relationship

with Turkiye: Sardar Saleem

Independent Report

of Punjab met with the

Consul General of Turkiye,

Durmus Bastug, at the

Governor's House, Lahore.

In the meeting, issues of

strengthening bilateral

relations in trade,

education and other sectors

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

Turkey's for the 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 Turkey.

Governor Punjab said that

Speaking on the asion, Governor

were discussed.

occasion,

CM reviews development schemes, orders early completion of projects

Chief Minister Maryam hospitals, directing the basis. Nawaz Sharif, during a meeting at the Planning and Development Board, development project of Annual Development

Program 2024-25. 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 Universal

departments concerned to form a company for export of and garments.

The CM directed the every interchange of The CM orities concerned to motorways in Punjab. As progress on 2 many as 106 development the of foreign funding.

The CM ordered to besides the release of remaining allocated funds take all possible measures based on the utilisation of to ensure early completion funds. She also ordered to of renovation and release 25 per cent of the rehabilitation of health Health centers across Punjab.

LAHORE (APP): Punjab offices, why not on Insurance fund on monthly

District of meat, prawns, animals Development Committee and 431 projects of the The meeting was Divisional Development briefed that ambulance Working Party were service was being started at presented in the meeting. The CM reviewed progress on 282 projects of Departmental projects would be Development Sub-completed with the Committee and 378 support and collaboration projects of the Provincial Development Working Party. She had a detailed immediately release Rs 400 briefing on special schemes million for the ongoing of the Department of development projects, Health, and directed the authorities concerned to



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 reject the prayers for the 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

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

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 Bohra community from

commission to probe into

passed by provincial

provincial cabinet for

resolution the withdrawal

of cases against Imran

Khan and Bushra Bibi has

May 9 incidents.

Through

presented

approval.

five other countries 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

KP govt decides to form

judicial commission to

probe into May 9 incidents

PESHAWAR (Online): KP out for judicial inquiry

government has decided to constitute judicial demanded that CCTV be

assembly will now be on judicial inquiry is part

Text has been worked and Akbar Ayub.

made public.

resolution cabinet has been provincial summoned. The resolution

before of agenda of cabinet

the regarding judicial inquiry awal was passed in KP

assembly on May 10.

meeting. It is pertinent to

mention here resolution

The resolution was

Meeting of KP

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

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

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 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

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

> Akhtar Hayat Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Home Department, The meeting was also Member Board of attended by all divisional secretaries, commissioners, police officers, deputy deputy commissioners, security officials, and other officers. During the

Muharram ul-Haram in the

meeting, a detailed review the security arrangements Muharram ul-Haram was conducted. Additional Chief Secretary Muhammad Abid provided 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

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 The meeting was Secretary assured full attended by IG Police administrative support to the police for the security

arrangements. The meeting was also 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.

Additionally, measures to curb hate speech on social media were discussed. The IG Police Pakhtunkhwa assured that security personnel would be deployed as needed in measures be taken to 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 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

He also praised that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has also announced the formation of a 19member 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 Tessori talking to media persons during 1294 Urs of Abdullah Shah Ghazi (R.A). Nigerian delegation visits PDMA, lauds its working

LAHORE (APP): A ensured in the provincial delegation of the Nigerian control room. The PDMA 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 other disasters. management system of the Punjab government. In delegation about the flood simulation model. The on disaster risk reduction in Nigeria with the support of the World Bank, information was exchanged the Punjab

government authorities. According to a PDMA spokesperson, Director General Irfan Ali Kathia informed the delegation about the PDMA working. He said with all districts was

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

The DG briefed the Nigerian delegation was impressed with the

PDMA control room and emergency The participants in

the delegation said they benefited from the experiences of the Punjab government. Nigeria would use the PDMA mechanism to prevent natural 24-hour communication disasters, the participants



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

Punjab govt decides to amend 'Kite Flying **Prohibition Ordinance'**

LAHORE (APP): To Law. prevent kite flying in Punjab, the government has Flying Pro Ordinance 2001. Prohibition

Official sources told APP that in this connection, the Punjab a draft to the Chief the par Minister's Office in have consultation with the recommended to Standing Committee on punished.

sources, in the amended decided to amend the Kite 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 Law Department had sent a fine for the children while the parents of the children

According to the



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

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

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

2 killed, 3 injured in Gujranwala firing incident

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

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

Three killed, seven injured in Hyderabad road mishap

IYDERABAD (IÑP): 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.

Khawaja Salman says: Punjab aims for enhanced universal health insurance

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.

on World refugee Day.

The session, attended by representatives from insurance companies, focused on improving the existing framework of the health insurance system. minister to the people," he said.

LAHORE (APP): Punjab emphasized that all Health Minister Khawaja stakeholders are being engaged to refine the program. He highlighted the effective administration of the health card program under PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz leadership acknowledged challenges universalizing health card facility. "We want to provide the real benefits of the Universal Health Insurance Program

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

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

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

MIRPUR (APP): Altaf 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.

KP lifts ban on recruitment in govt depts PESHAWAR (INP): The

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government has lifted the ban on recruitment in government departments. As per details, Chief

Minister Ali Amin Gundapur has directed the concerned authorities to lift the ban on all types of recruitment in the province.

A letter has been issued to the Chief Secretary from the Chief Minister's secretariat.
On March 3, Chief

Minister Ali Amin Gandapur imposed a ban on all types of recruitment, with the exception of cases already in process at the Public Commission.

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

06

Agriculture top priority for government: Tanveer Hussain

ISLAMABAD (APP): been established to enhance undertaken for farmers, transfer efforts, with Federal Minister for productivity and targeted including subsidies for the collaborations with China National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday said the agriculture sector is a top priority for the being ensured.

efforts were underway to incorporate research and modern technology into the sector to boost per-acre

Rana Tanveer said a National Development economy. He said several agricultural output and

subsidies for the Kharif crop are in progress. He said prompt payment to sugarcane farmers is also ensuring transparency. He

government.

The minister asid the prime limiter has government.

The minister directed the swift completion of these Opposition's cut motions on the Ministry's demands on the Ministry's demands or itical points. He for grants, he said that highlighted that food that fixed prices for crop security was a major global challenge today and the current government had focused on agriculture, which formed the backbone of the national improvements

Kharif crop, overseen by a cabinet committee headed by the finance minister, said the prime minister has

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

The minister noted technology

and Belarus. "Plans are in place to send students to China and double the peracre 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 solarpowered 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.

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 Šwedish companies to invest in Pakistan's Information Technology and Telecom

"The present government is taking steps to promote Information 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 and regulations for Swedish tech companies held at the landscape.

Aleem Khan in Islamabad.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

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

the session was to present

design,

implementation plan and

the proposed census tools

researchers and the

relevant departments for

the broader involvement,

ownership and their

valuable feedback for

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

an integrated agricultural

He, underscored that

Dr Naeem-uz-Zafar

improvement

implementation.

a press release.

The main objective of

academia,

objectives.

Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov called

on the Federal Minister for Privatisation.

Investment Board and Communications Abdul

PBS organizes session

for execution of

agriculture census

The Pakistan Bureau of reflects the dynamics of

major

data that accurately

Pakistan's agricultural

sector which is the second

session serves as a

platform for stakeholders

to discuss and refine

execution strategies,

including questionnaire

development and training

methodologies. This will

enable PBS to improve the

plans especially for

efficient and accurate data

collection for provision of

reliable statistics for

informed decision making.

Gondal, Member and Focal

Person on Agricultural

Census, PBS, presented

key innovations and

strategic approaches aimed

collection for provision of

timely & credible data for

enhancing agricultural policies. He briefed the

participants on the

integrated approach adopted for the first time

in Pakistan to collect

extensive information on

Muhammad Sarwar

optimizing data

contribution to GDP.

sector

He said that this

Ministry of IT & Telecom. Ambassador Sweden to Pakistan Henrik representatives of Swedish companies including Ericsson, Need Insights, LCC/Talkpool, Quixel,

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

Saab, and Mahaana Wealth

Ltd were present on the

for IT said, "Digital Pakistan Policy is paving way for taking Digital transformation to the next

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) facilitating investment in Pakistan, urging Swedish tech companies to invest in IT & Telecom sector of Pakistan.

PSX stays bullish, gains

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 and 150 sustained losses,

She said, "The

252 more points

companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 211 of them recorded gains 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.

Asia: Aleem Khan Central Asia and the trade ISLAMABAD (APP): agreements held at the Ten

Pakistan aims to boost

trade with Central

Minister for Privatisation, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Thursdav 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 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 about his recent visit to milestone.

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 Pakistan and that Azerbaijan will increase bilateral cooperation in various fields and in this regard, the visit of the President of Azerbaijan to apprised the Ambassador Pakistan will be a

B2B cooperation with **China upgrading** Pakistan's technology

KARACHI China is upgrading Pakistan's technology. "Ten years ago, if a

Pakistani wanted to use a smuggling.

local production, with 8 of the top 10 mobile manufacturers, mostly Chinese companies, have manufacturer Airlink Mobile at a seminar held KASB Ktrade Securities themed "CPEC 2.0: Business Collaboration Between Pakistan and

Earlier this month, the

(INP): company inked an MoU Business to Business with Chinese technology (B2B) cooperation with company IMIKI to manufacture wearable devices in

This collaboration is smart phone, he probably an epitome of the needed to get one from transformative B2B cooperation between the Now, the majority of two countries going on

In a review of the latest bilateral business dynamism, a number of Pakistani companies which established presence in Pakistan", said Adnan Aftab, CEO of smartphone 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.

Rupee gains 03 paisa against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Rupee on Thursday gained 03 paisa 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 paisa 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 paisa 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 paisa.

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.

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 an effective media initiatives including livestock cards, foot and mouth disease control programme

While addressing the

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 Secretary Livestock implementing on this package. Ashiq Hussain Karmani directed to Hussain

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



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

Senate Committee reviews strategic initiatives, operational reforms of maritime sector

Senator Faisal Vawda on Thursday chaired the Committee, highlighting 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 Syed separate entities versus a performance.

LAHORE: Vice President of Lahore Chamber of

Commerce Saad Chaudhry Muzaffar, Faheem

Sehgal holding a joint press conference in the

LCCI, SBP jointly organise

event on Micro, Small &

Medium-sized Enterprises Day

LAHORE (APP): The business day should also be Lahore Chamber of celebrated because the

Commerce and Industry sector holds significant

collaboration with the State Bank launched State Bank of Pakistan should be shared with the

Thursday economic importance. He

provide

LCCI President women members. He

Chief Manager Tariq Riaz, affordable capital and

said that whatever schemes

should be shared with the

LCCI so that members can

also said that SBP and

other institutions should

facilities, especially for

emphasised that an

immediate reduction in

interest rates is crucial so

that industry can access

receive assistance in

that the recent budget

would pose challenges for

industry and policy makers

highlighted that Lahore

Chamber is fulfilling social

excellent manner. Lahore

with educational, medical,

Chamber of Commerce and

Kashif Anwar stated

industrialization.

should

The LCCI president, Industry has signed MoUs

that just as different days and other institutions

were celebrated on aimed at providing

different occasion, a maximum facilities.

stakeholders.

The LCCI president

maximum

be informed about them.

press club of the provincial capital.

organised an event, in

(SBP), in connection with

the Micro, Small and

Medium-sized Enterprises

Day observance. The day,

declared by the United

Nations, is marked every

Kashif Anwar was the

chief guest while Senior

Vice President Zafar

Mahmood Chaudhry, SBP

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

presentation during the

speaking at the event, said

year on June 27.

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

He elucidated the the Ministry of Maritime functions and operational challenges.

of the discussion was related to the questions about the feasibility of Federal Secretary for Qasim Authority (PQA) as enhances

The federal minister responded by underscoring the unique business model of PQA, which includes an industrial complex with 18 berths, a unique blend of working mechanisms of public-private various departments under partnerships (PPP). He highlighted the competitive Affairs, providing a advantages of PQA, such detailed account of their as lower tariffs compared to KPT and its strategic location near LNG zones.

A significant portion projecting its operational sustainability until 2040 Qaiser Sheikh emphasized that maintaining two managing Karachi Port distinct ports fosters Trust (KPT) and Port healthy competition and

SECP chairman calls on **Federal** Insurance

Ombudsman ARACHI 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 mprovement development 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 against its sale at Rs 240,600 on last trading 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

241,000 on Thursday day. The price of 10 grams Pakistan Lahore, gave a responsibilities in an Jewellers Association reported.



Industry meeting with Punjab Minister for Industries and Commerce.

capturing comprehensive machinery. **Influx of grey imports** continues to undermine auto industry: PBF

census is vital for agriculture, livestock, and

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. 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".

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 assemblers but also bypass commitments investment, technology transfer, and

employment. local assembly.

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

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 Iranbacked 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 fullblown war have only grown in recent weeks as crossborder attacks intensified, and after Israel revealed it had approved plans for a offensive. prompting new threats from Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said dur-

try 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 Defense 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 visit to Washington on Wednesday that his counture 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.



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 Zelenskiy at a summit in Brussels on Thursday.

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

The pact - along with ture invasion.

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 in-

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 fu-

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

The nearly ninemonth 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.

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 ban-

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

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.

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 nowdismissed army chief General Juan Jose Zuniga said the "armed forces intend to restructure democracy, to

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 armake it a true democracy and rested on Wednesday night.

Taiwan raises China travel alert over death penalty threat

Monitoring Desk TAIPEI: Taiwan's govern-

ment 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-high-est "orange" level as a re-

"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 Wen-

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 sepa-

UN-led Doha meeting with Taliban not about recognition, says UN Monitoring Desk meeting this weekend is due

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, but 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

NITED NATIONS: A to focus on engagement go-United Nations-led meeting with Afghanistan's Taliban sions 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,3 DiCarlo said. "I would hope we could get to that someday, but we're not there."

Since the Taliban returned to power, most girls have been barred from high school and women from universities. The Taliban have also stopped most Afghan female staff from working at aid agencies, closed beauty salons, barred women from parks and curtailed travel for women in the absence of a

Rahul Gandhi promises to be voice of Indians

male guardian.

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 ashim of the sured 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 appens 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.

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

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 Moscow's resolve, it could come even in an era domilead to "tragic and fatal"

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

"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.

sees relations with the US. which diplomats in both

Monitoring Desk

LONDON: British Prime

Minister Rishi Sunak has

portrayed himself as thor-

ough and evidence-led

brief political career, but

there's always been a nag-

ging question over the keen-

ness of his political antenna.

campaign over the past five

weeks has clearly shown

that he hasn't got the in-

stinctive touch of some of

his predecessors, such as

Tony Blair or even Boris

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 bet-

ting on the date of the elec-

tion — a week after Labour

Party leader Keir Starmer

The biggest blunder

one that prompted him

pressed him to do so.

Sunak's campaign has

Johnson.

The general election

throughout his relatively

advances for an AI era, top 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 nated by advances in Arti-ficial Intelligence. consequences because the US and its allies were con-US and its allies were con-

fronting 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 Rvabkov also over- nuclear deterrence but there was a danger the West could make a mistake.

to apologize - was his de-

cision to leave the 80-year

D-day commemorations in

northern France on June 6

sion to skip the interna-

tional event that closed the

commemorations showed

disrespect to the veterans

and diminished the U.K.'s

international standing

Other world leaders includ-

Emmanuel Macron, Ger-

Since then, Sunak

hasn't been able to lift the

poll ratings for his Conser-

vative Party, which have

been depressed over the

past few years as a result

of the actions of his two

immediate predecessors.

French

prime minister.

Britain's Rishi Sunak struggles

with missteps while trying to lift

Conservatives ahead of elections

brings in new rules to make it easier to get nationality

Monitoring Desk SERLIN: 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 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 Demo-

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.

Arctic wildfire emissions rise as blazes sweep Russia's North

ing President Joe Biden, President man Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy were all present. As was Starmer, who is the favorite to replace Sunak as bon-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.

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 car-

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 presi- used to justify a crackdown.

dency as the youth-led protest movement has grown rapidly from online condemnations of the tax hikes into mass rallies demanding a political overhaul.

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

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

Panama Canal agency warns water freedom report 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 state-

ment. "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.

expected to influence the succession to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the top decisionmaker in the clerically-ruled state. Tehran's mayor Alireza Zakani and head of the Mar-Foundation Ámirhossein Ghazizadeh-

Two hardline

candidates

drop out on

eve of Iran's

presidential race

Monitoring Desk

DUBAI: Two hardline can-

didates dropped out of Iran's

presidential election on

Thursday, a day ahead of the

landmark vote, and called for

unity among forces support-

ing the country's Islamic

revolution, state media re-

ported. Iranian's tightly con-

trolled election on Friday fol-

lows Ebrahim Raisi's death

in a helicopter crash last

month, with the outcome

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The

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

Hashemi exited the race. **US slams India** in religious

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



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

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

The Governor was briefed about the overall functioning BUITEMS.

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

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 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 em-

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

ECP to conduct

LB elections

in Punjab,

Islamabad

peacefully

SLAMABAD (APP)

The Election Commission

of Pakistan (ECP) here on

Thursday held a high-leve

meeting regarding the hold-

ing 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

Islamabad, Chief Secretary

Punjab, Secretary Local

Government of Punjab and

Commissioner



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

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

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 Indianoccupied Jammu and Kashmir had been unjustly omitted this time, despite their ongoing suffering under forKashmiri 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 Indianoccupied Jammu and Kash-

'Generations of mir, previously included in the reports, has been unjustly omitted, despite their ongoing suffering un der 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

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.

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-Kashmir 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 Informa tion Technology (MOIT have agreed to devise strategy to combat fraudulent activities targeting in nocent people.

During a meeting with Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Chairper son 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.

Lightning kills

man, woman

commits suicide

QUETTA (INP): Lightning

killed a man while a woman

committed suicide over do-

mestic disputes in different

districts of Balochistan on

lighting struck Shah Noorani Kohan area of

tehsil Wadh of district

Khuzdar resultantly a man

identified as Muhammad

hailing from Goth Allahdina

committed suicide by con

shifted to different hospi-

tals and handed over to

heirs after legal formalities.

suming toxic spray.

Wife of Abdul Razzaq

The bodies were

According to details

Thursday.

was killed

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

KARACHI (INP): CPEC which has brought together 2.0 will bolster Pakistan's 5E initiative, said Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal while addressing a seminar held here by KASB Ktrade Se-

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,

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.



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

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 ecretary 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.

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, Zhob and adjoining areas.

The rescue and relief



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.

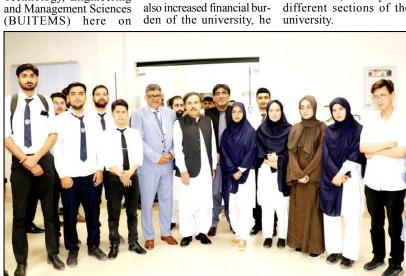
NAB holds Khuli Kehchari in Quetta

Kehchari (Public hearing session) was arranged by NAB Balochistan at its Complaint Cell located at DC Office, Anscomb 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,

QUETTA (APP)-A Khuli to addressing corruption complaints promptly and effectively, ensuring justice for all.

The Khuli Kachehri 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 jus-



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

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

(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

ZHOB: "The Balochistan

Rural Support Program

(BRSP) and the Interna-

tional Fund for Agricultural

Development (IFAD) un-

der the National Poverty

Graduation Program (NPGP) have been work-

ing jointly on various pov-

erty-alleviation initiatives

to improve the livelihoods

of those living in extreme

says, District Programme

Manager BRSP Quttab

Khan Afaqi. In order to re-

duce poverty in northern

Balochistan's bordering

area Shaghalo, assets (live-

stock) have been distrib-

uted among the beneficia-

ries of the Benazir Income

Support Program (BISP). A

large number of community

poverty in Balochistan,"

Monitoring System" for examination invigilators, with the help of the application, online attendance data of candidates and examination staff, online roll number slips through OR 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 subbranches including Rukhshan, Jhob and Sabi where the facilities related to the board office are available to the students at their doorstep, he said. Baloch

where thousands of different

methods of questions have

the assets distribution cer-

emony. The BRSP official

says the BRSP-IFAD col-

laboration is aimed at pov-

erty reduction and rural de-

velopment in Balochistan,

and it has made significant

strides in improving the live-

lihoods of rural communi

ties through asset distribu-

tion and other developmen

initiatives. The community

has appreciated the BRSP

s generous contribution and

financial support to the far-

off rural areas of poverty-

hit Balochistan. Living be-

low the poverty line and de-

prived of all basic life amenities

the rural community in the re-

mote Shaghalo Kakar Khurasan

area have also thanked the DPM

BRSP Quttab Khan Afaqi'

tireless efforts.

been made available.

QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Sadiq

Rural community living in

extreme poverty receives

financial assistance

By Rafiullah Mandokhail members participated in

Umrani listening problems of people at his office

Secretary Election Commission of Pakistan and other senior officials, said a press release. Chief Election Comsaid that electronic screen missioner Sikandar Sultan marking based on Standard Raja said that it was the Learning Outcomes (SLOs) constitutional and legal rehas been started in board exsponsibility of the ECP to aminations and provision of conduct local bodies' elecitem banks for questions in tions in Punjab province various subject examinations and the federal capital.

He said that the ECP was fully prepared to conduct local body elections in Islamabad and Punjab provnce 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 re-served seats to PTI Thurs-

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

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 Shahbaz 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 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 Imran Khan is housed in a 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 Allevia-

tion Fund (PPAF). GRASP is working in 22 districts across Sindh

tricts 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.

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 dis-

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 out side the Islamabad sessions court, the former minister said the situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Balochistan was worsening.



