

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vot XXV No. 287, Zeeqad 29, 1445 AH Friday June 07, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

Will put in our sweat and blood to make Pakistan great country by following Chinese model: PM

BEIJING (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday reiterated his resolve to make Pakistan a great nation and regain its position by following the Chinese development model through utmost hard work and a sharp focus on industrial and agricultural progress.

"If we follow the Chinese model, I have no doubt, Pakistan will regain its position in the comity of nations and will be respected like our Chinese brothers are done by friends and foes... We will follow your model, work hard untiringly, put in our sweat and blood, and make Pakistan a great country," the prime minister said addressing the 4th Pakistan-China Friendship and Business Reception here.

He told the gathering of Pakistani and Chinese business leaders that Pakistan

would follow Chinese President Xi Jinping's vision to focus on progress and prosperity by avoiding conflicts and cited immense Chinese progress and projects like the Belt and Road Initiative, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Global Development Initiative (GDI) and the Global Security Initiative (GSI).

The prime minister who is in China on a five-day official visit, advised the Pakistani people against being dejected or losing hope rather than standing up and accepting the challenge to reach the level of Chinese progress within a few years or decades. He said the China-Pakistan friendship had no parallel in the world which remained unshakable and unreachable even during the storms, wars, and earthquakes.

Recalling the Chinese

journey of swift development to become the second biggest economic and military power under President Xi's vision, Prime Minister Shehbaz said it was achieved only through hard work and untiring efforts.

"All Pakistanis will also have to pass through this thorny process. There is no other way to earn respect in the world," he remarked.

He said having come into being two years after Pakistan, China took its trade to trillions of dollars while Pakistan's hovered around \$30-40 billion in terms of exports. Besides, China has excelled in information technology and artificial intelligence. He also referred to the "wonderful" bilateral cooperation in space program as Pakistan recently sent a lunar satellite and a space satellite recently with Chinese collaboration.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over joint meeting of Federal and Provincial officials regarding solarization

PM visit to push forward Pak-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership: Tarar

BEIJING (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar Thursday said that the visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would further deepen all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China and expedite construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a pilot project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Before leaving Pakistan for the five-day visit of China, the prime minister talked highly about Pakistan-China friendship and the CPEC flagship

project, he said while talking to media here on the sideline of PM Shehbaz Sharif's visit.

This is new era of Pakistan-China friendship and the prime minister attaches great importance to this friendship and terms the friendship between Pakistan and China higher than mountains, deeper than sea and sweeter than honey.

He said that the prime minister's acknowledges positive role of China in socio-economic development of Pakistan and the future cooperation between the two countries.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Communication and Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa and Provincial Minister for Planning and Development Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi presiding over a meeting regarding development schemes

Country is under undeclared martial law, Imran tells SC

ISLAMABAD (INP) - Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan said that there is "undeclared martial law imposed" in the country.

He gave these remarks during the hearing of NAB amendment case in the Supreme Court on Thursday. Imran Khan, the incarcerated founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), joined the proceedings via video link from Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail.

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa was heading the five-judge bench which also included Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi.

The former prime min-

ister said that Arvind Kejriwal was allowed to contest the elections in India as his sentence was suspended only to allow him to run his campaign. "I was ousted from the election race just in five days by convicting me in several cases," Imran Khan said.

Justice Athar Minallah said in his remarks that it is unfortunate that he (Imran Khan) is in jail as people have many hopes associated with him.

The PTI founder said that the growth rate was 6.2 percent but his government was toppled in result of a conspiracy.

He added that the NAB chairman should be appointed by the Supreme Court.

Electricity tariff jacked up by Rs 3.33 per unit

ISLAMABAD (Online): Power tariff has been jacked up adding to miseries of people.

According to notification issued by NEPRA power tariff has been enhanced by Rs 3.33 per unit. The increase has been made under the head of monthly fuel adjustment charges.

The increased tariff will be applicable to the electricity bills of current month.

The increase made in power tariff by Rs 3.33 per unit will be charged to consumers in one month.

The hike in tariff will not apply to K-Electric and life line consumers.

PM rejoices as Pakistan secure membership of UNSC for 2025-26

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday expressed his delight and congratulated the nation as Pakistan has been elected as a member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the term 2025-26.

"Proud moment as Pakistan receives a resounding 182 votes and is elected to the United Nations Security Council for the term 2025-26," the prime minister wrote on X (formerly twitter).

2 die, over 7 injured bus catches fire

QUETTA (Online): As many as 2 persons were killed and over 7 injured when a passenger bus caught fire near Uthal in the area of Lasbella of Balochistan on national highway.

Further increase in number of deaths is feared. The passenger bus was carrying 28 commuters on its way from Karachi to Quetta when it caught fire near Lasbella on national highway. The fire engulfed the entire bus.

Deputy Commissioner told initially two persons were killed while 7 injured were rescued from bus.



BEIJING: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnesses signing of Memorandums of understanding regarding cooperation in different fields between China and Pakistan.

Minister of State Energy & Secretary Power Division emphasize: Balochistan Govt. & Zamindars ought to give concrete mechanism for removing concerns of federal Govt. before solarization of Agri. tube wells

Chief Minister calls for removing concerns of federal government about agricultural tube wells and resolving resolvable matters through mutual understanding and cooperation

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Minister of State for Energy, Ali Pervez Malik and Secretary Power Division, Rashid Mahmood have urged the provincial government and zamindars to give concrete mechanism for removing the concerns of federal government before solarization of the agricultural tube wells in the province.

They were in joint meeting with the high ups of the provincial government and other concerned authorities on the matter of shifting of agricultural tube wells on the solar energy here on Thursday.

The meeting reviewed the hurdles and problems in solarization of the agricul-

tural tube wells on directives of the Prime Minister.

The Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Minister of State for Energy, Ali Pervez Malik, provincial Ministers Mir Shoaib Nausherwani and Ali Madad Jatak, Secretary Power Division, Rashid Mahmood, Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Secretary Power Division and other representatives of the federal and provincial governments.

During the course of meeting, the federal and provincial high ups briefed the meeting about the related matters.

The federal authorities

expressed concern about running the agricultural tube wells on solar and power system simultaneously.

The Chief Minister emphasized on removing the concerns of federal government about agricultural tube wells and resolving the resolvable matters through mutual understanding and cooperation.

The federal government feared that the zamindars would also use the electricity of QESCO after solarization of the agricultural tube wells in the province.

The federal authorities insisted that it must be ensured that electricity would not be taken from QESCO

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Ambassador of South Korea Park Kijun meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

Chief Minister invites investors of Korea to Balochistan, offers investment in different sectors

Korean Ambassador expresses interest in making investment in different sectors of Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister, Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has invited the investors of Republic of Korea to come to Balochistan and offered investment in different sectors of the province.

The Chief Minister assured that the conducive environment and complete protection would be provided to the Korean investors.

He was speaking to the Ambassador of Republic of Korea to Pakistan, Mr. Park Kijun, who called on him here on Thursday.

During the course of meeting, different matters pertaining to mutual cooperation and promotion of investment in tourism, information technology, live-

stock and others were discussed.

The Chief Minister and Korean ambassador were agreed on promoting mutual cooperation and partnership in different sectors.

While offering the investment to the Korean investors in different sectors in Balochistan, the Chief Minister said that there is a key role of Balochistan in national economy of future.

There are vast opportunities of investment in the long coast, fisheries, livestock, mines and minerals, besides tourism in the province.

He assured to the Korean Ambassador that every possible cooperation would be extended to the investors coming to invest in the

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, and H.E. Mr. Wada Mitsuhiro, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Pakistan, signs the Record of Discussions & Exchange of Notes to bolster the Human Resource Development Scholarship Program (JDS) 2024.

Pakistan elected non-permanent UNSC member with big majority

Pakistan garners 182 ballots in 193-member General Assembly - far more than the required 124 votes

UNITED NATIONS (APP): After months of hectic campaigning, Pakistan Thursday was elected, with a massive majority, as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, the world body's power centre, pledging to make its contribution in meeting the grave challenges facing the world.

Pakistan, which was unopposed, garnered 182 votes in the 193-member General Assembly - far more than the required 124 votes representing two-third majority.

Loud applause rang out in the iconic hall of the General Assembly when its president, Dennis Francis, announced the winners of

the five non-permanent seats—Pakistan, Denmark, Greece, Panama and Somalia—to replace

Japan, Ecuador, Malta, Mozambique and Switzerland whose terms end on December 31. He congratulated them on their victory.

Pakistan will replace Japan, which currently occupies the Asian seat, on January 1, 2022, to begin a two-year term, its eighth.

As an elated Munir Akram, Pakistan's permanent representative to the UN, emerged from the hall, APP correspondent asked him about Pakistan's priorities and goals as a member of the 15-member

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail distributing certificate among participants during the concluding ceremony of 3rd Mid-Career Management Course held in Quetta.

Interaction with teachers from 31 districts: Govt. determined to raise educational standard in Balochistan: Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the government is determined to raise educational standard and highlight the greatness of teachers in the province.

The Governor said that teachers' respect can't be limited to any religion, race and colour.

He was interacting with the teachers from 31 districts here at a ceremony held at the Governor House on Thursday.

The Governor said that teachers are held in high esteem in every civilized society.

He said that cheating is a curse in our society due

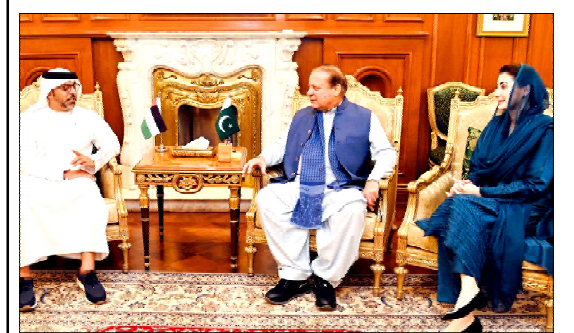
to which, the respective degree also becomes meaningless.

He said that government is keeping a strict vigil on the education sector. The cheating can be prevented with completion of the course well in time, he added.

The Governor stressed the need to decorate the poor children of remote districts of the province.

He commended that the female teachers are performing their duties honestly despite lack of the necessary facilities.

He said that we would have to pay attention on proper upbringing and morals of the children along with their education.



LAHORE: Ambassador of UAE Hammad Ubaid Ibrahim Salem Alzaabi meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and President PML-N Muhammad Nawaz Sharif

Govt submits photos to SC denying Imran's solitary confinement

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government Thursday debunked Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's claims regarding solitary confinement and the lack of facilities during his incarceration at the Adiala jail.

During the hearing of intra-court appeals challenging the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) law amendments, which Khan is also attending via video link from the jail, the government submitted details about the facilities being offered to the PTI founder.

The government provided evidence, including

photographs of the facilities that Khan was benefiting from during his incarceration in response to his claims of "solitary confinement" and not receiving the provisions.

In the jail, Khan is provided an exercise bike and stretching belt for physical fitness, books, a separate kitchen, a special menu, an exclusive gallery for a walk, LED, a room cooler, and a study table. In the detailed document submitted to the court, the government not only provided photographic evidence of all the facilities, but also the names of all those who have visited him in the prison facility so far.

Maryam directs to develop Murree on modern lines

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif and PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif presided over a special meeting at Punjab House Murree in which it was principally decided to rehabilitate ancient and historical buildings of Murree to their original condition.

According to a handout issued here by the DGPR, the proposal to establish a 'Murree Street' on the pattern of excellent street model of the world was reviewed in the meeting. It was agreed to run the latest 'Smart Tram' and directions were issued to submit a plan within 15 days in this regard.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed to prepare a new design of a multi storey Parking Plaza which will cater to parking capacity of more than 1500 vehicles. The tourists can visit Murree through the

latest tram from the Parking Plaza. A 15-day timeline was set to install digital counting cameras on the entry routes of Murree. Murree Traffic Management Plan was approved in the meeting while Murree Cable Car Service will be linked to obtain a fitness certificate after undergoing its repair and rehabilitation.

The CM directed early completion of the upgradation project of Samli TB Sanatorium. Excellent toilets will be built for the tourists at various sites of Motorway including the Mall Road. She directed to build specific toilets for the differently-abled persons along with kids rest places. She directed to establish a wheel chair centre for the differently-abled persons and elders at the Mall Road. The proposal to establish an 'Entertainment Park and

Clipping Pod Village' were reviewed in the meeting.

It was apprised during the briefing that more than 90 percent construction and extension of 12 roads of Murree has been completed. A water supply scheme is going to be launched for the provision of clean water in Murree and in the surrounding areas from the incumbent system and River Jhelum. The participants were apprised about elimination of encroachments and crackdown being launched against illegal constructions. A principle approval was granted to provide financial aid to the injured workers during the launching of anti-encroachment campaign. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "Anti-encroachment campaign will continue and no compromise will be made in this regard."



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and President PML-N Muhammad Nawaz Sharif preside over the special meeting about Marri Development Plan.



Afghan Consul General in Peshawar Hafiz Muhibullah Shakir calls on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor House.

Rawalpindi E-Bus service to be functional next year: Bilal Akbar

RAWALPINDI (APP): The E-Bus service in Rawalpindi will be functional next year. The projects aims to resolve commuting issues being faced by the citizens. There will be six routes including, one from Taxila, Wah Cantt, IJ Principal Road to Octori 26, and another connecting Daultala with Rawalpindi. Maintenance work on Metrobus tracks will be carried out from June to December this year.

This was disclosed by Provincial Transport Minister, Bilal Akbar Khan during a press conference here on Thursday. He informed that he was regularly paying visits to Rawalpindi on the special instructions from Chief Minister Mariam Nawaz Sharif to solve prevailing issues of transportation and traffic management in the city. He said that consultation with the members of the national and provincial assemblies was also underway in that regard. Suggestions have

been taken from local MNAs and MPAs to review the routes.

The minister noted that the Metrobus service was provided in the city eight to nine years ago, but the previous government did not invest a single penny on its functionality and repair. The repair work of Metrobus track will start from June and will be completed by December. The minister said successful Metrobus service has rejected the negative propaganda which was launched against PML-N for building metrobus, he said adding that millions of citizens travel by metro bus at present. Without Metrobus, the road conditions would have been worsened, he added.

While highlighting the key development initiatives by the Punjab government, the minister said chief minister added 32 new field hospitals in the health care system in 100 days, including delivery dispensary pharmacies.



LAHORE: American Consul General Kristin K Hawkins meeting with Punjab Minister for Finance Mujtaba Shuja ur Rehman.

In-laws allegedly kill woman by setting her on fire; IGP takes notice

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): The in-laws allegedly killed the married woman by setting her ablaze in the jurisdiction of Jatoi police station.

According to a police spokesman, the incident took place last night in Basti Bulali Mouza Jungle Tehsil Jatoi, in which the in-laws allegedly poured petrol over the married woman, Samina Bibi, and set her on fire after subjecting her to severe torture. Police have registered a case against the woman's husband, father-in-law, and three brothers-in-law. It has been reported that Samina Bibi had been married for two years, and there were frequent disputes in the house.

The victim's family blamed the in-laws for torturing and burning her to death.

Inspector General of Police Punjab, Dr. Usman Anwar, has taken notice of

the incident and sought a report from the Regional Police Officer (RPO) DG Khan division. He directed the District Police Officer (DPO) Muzaffargarh to oversee the investigation personally. "Violence against women is intolerable, and those responsible for setting the woman on fire must be arrested immediately.

Police started raids for the arrest of the accused," he emphasized.

Meanwhile, Jatoi police registered a case against the accused on the application of the woman's brother, namely Wajid Iqbal. According to initial reports, police had taken the husband of the woman named Asif into custody.

RPO Dera Ghazi Khan, Sajjad Hassan Khan, has taken notice of the incident and sought a report from DPO Muzaffargarh.

ANF recovers 373 kg drugs in 7 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations across the country managed to recover 373 kg drugs and arrested 15 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He informed that 117 kg hashish and 36 kg opium were recovered from three suspects arrested near M-1, Attock.

121.2 kg hashish and 26.4 kg opium were recovered from five accused netted in Faisalabad.

In two operations near M-1 Islamabad, 31.2 kg hashish was recovered from five suspects.

18 kg ice was recovered from Panjgur and 15 kg hashish was recovered from an accused rounded up near Super Highway Karachi.

7.2 kg hashish and 1 kg ice were recovered from the possession of an accused arrested in Dera Ismail Khan.

SHC allows court's proceedings reporting

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) has allowed the court reporters all over the country to conduct court's reporting on the petition of PFUJ.

The court remarked Supreme Court's guidelines and the respective laws be kept in view during court's reporting.

The guidelines issued by Supreme Court (SC) for reporting court's proceedings be implemented. PEMRA can take action on violation of SC guidelines.

The court while extending stay order adjourned further hearing of the case till June 27.

4 dead, 1,254 injured in road accidents in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Four people were killed and 1,254 others injured in 1,201 road accidents in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

As many as 550 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 704 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

The data analysis showed that 685 drivers, 46 underage drivers, 159 pedestrians, and 414 passengers were among the victims of road crashes.

Former Governor KP calls on CM KP, discusses socio-economic issues

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur has held out assurance of removing difficulties faced by local government representatives and will create a favorable environment for the business community to encourage mutual cooperation for economic development of the province.

He expressed these views during a meeting with former governor KP, Haji Ghulam Ali and Mayor Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali here Thursday.

During the meeting, the former governor and Mayor Peshawar briefed the Chief Minister about the socio-economic situations in the province, especially Peshawar.

Haji Zubair Ali informed about the steps being taken by the city metropolitan government to alleviate the public problems despite severe shortage of funds.

He said that the provincial government should patronize the elected local body representatives so that the basic problems of the people can be solved at their doorsteps. Besides this, full support of the provincial government will be required for the solarization of tube wells, mosques and madrasas, he said. The former governor while informing about the business community and industrial units of Peshawar in particular, said that measures should be taken for the promotion of industry and trade.

Afghan delegation discusses issues with Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): An Afghan delegation headed by Afghan Consul General in Peshawar, Hafiz Muhib Ullah Shakil called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday and discussed with him matters relating to the various issues faced by the Afghans here.

A statement from the Governor House said the delegation and governor talked about removing obstacles in obtaining visas for Afghan students and easing the trade crossing on the border. Both sides also

discussed the allocation of special seats for Afghan students in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa universities and the extension in the expiry date of Afghan identity cards issued by Pakistan.

The governor on the occasion said Afghanistan was a brotherly neighboring country and its prosperity and development were prime desires. "The cultural and traditional values of the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan were the same adding that Afghans were our brothers.



LAHORE: Officers of the 40th Mid-Career Management Course of the National Institute of Management headed by Chief Instructor Ms Samina Intizar and Director Fouz Khalid Khan group photo with the Rangers Officers during visit the Wagah border.

Minister Irrigation announces zero-tolerance policy for water theft

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Punjab Minister for Irrigation Mian Kazim Ali Pirzada has announced that a zero-tolerance policy will be implemented by the Punjab government to eliminate canal water theft.

This move aims to prevent farmers from being deprived of their rights and to protect them from economic losses.

He stated that curbing canal water theft will resolve the long-standing issue faced by farmers in the region of South Punjab. He made these remarks while presiding over a meeting held at the Commissioner's Office here today.

The meeting was attended by MPA Chaudhry Khalid Mehmoed Jajja, Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Nadir Chatha, Secretary Irrigation South Punjab Kunwar Ejaz Razaqi, Regional Police Officer Rai Babar Saeed, Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Zaheer Anwar Jappa, Assistant Commissioner General Muhammad Akhtar, Chief Engineer Irrigation Rana Zulfiqar Ahmed, Superintendent Engineer Irrigation Bahawalpur Zeeshan Ashraf, Executive Engineer Irrigation Bahawalpur Jam Imran.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Minorities Ramesh Singh Arora in a group photo with participants of Mens Christian Association after completion of 100 years during a ceremony.

Sindh govt to reconstruct 2.1 m houses for rehabilitating 12.6m flood hit people: Murad

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday said that government has started reconstruction of 2.1 million new houses to rehabilitate more than 12.6 million flood-affected populations of the province.

"We are also supporting WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) interventions. A funding of Rs 39 billion has been secured to connect 264,250 houses with safe sanitation facilities."

This he said while talking to media just after reviewing the progress of reconstruction of 2.1 million houses for flood-affected people at Sindh Peoples Housing for Flood Affected (SPHF) office. Provincial Ministers, Sharjeel Memon, Nasir

Makhdoom Mahboob and DG SPHF Khalid Shaikh were present on the occasion.

The chief minister said that Rs 550 billion were required for the construction of 2.1 million houses against which Sindh government with the support of donor agencies has secured Rs 440 billion and the shortfall of Rs 110 billion would be met through foreign funding and federal government support. Murad Ali Shah said the initiative aimed at implementing a sustainable rehabilitation strategy after 2.1 million houses were damaged by floods in 2022, affecting 12.36 million people, with 85 percent of the affected homes being katcha houses.

Shah said that the initiative was driven by the vision of Chairman Bilawal

Bhutto Zardari who was foreign minister, successfully mobilized funds at the Geneva Conference in January 2023 and the Donors Conference in Sindh on February 8, 2023.

The CM said that within one year, we have revalidated 2.1 million beneficiaries, with 525,000 houses currently under construction, meeting this year's target.

He added that over 100,000 houses have already been completed. At the project's inception, we received financial assistance from the World Bank amounting to \$ 500 million, supplemented by \$227 million from the Sindh government. "To date, we have secured around 70 percent of the necessary funding for the project's successful completion.

Two shot dead in Swabi

PESHAWAR (APP): At least two people were killed when unknown armed men fired at them in Kala Kandoa area of Swabi district, police informed on Thursday. Police said two men identified as Ishtiaq and Asim were on their way to market on a motorcycle when they were fired at in Kala Kandoa. The assailants escaped the area after committing the crime while police shifted both bodies to a hospital for post-mortem. Police said the incident resulted from an old enmity between the two families adding that investigation.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health and Emergency Services Salman Raique enquiring about the health of Punjabi Poet Tajamul Kaleem.

Govt to give subsidies for transport, food, agri sectors in budget

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Finance Minister Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman met US Consul General Christine Hackens here on Thursday and discussed with her reforms in transport, food and agriculture sectors.

He told the US envoy that in the upcoming budget, subsidies would be given for transport, food, and agriculture sectors. Public-private partnerships would be utilised to ensure quality education in government schools. The government's focus would primarily remain on education, healthcare, agriculture, and environmental conservation sectors. Efforts will be made to provide modern teaching equipment to students and alleviate travel difficulties.

He said investment would be made in solar

systems to reduce electricity bills, and private sector investment would be encouraged for mega projects. The minister said there would be no increase in taxes burdening the poor in the budget.

The provincial minister informed the consul general that the Punjab government would not impose any tax on net wealth.

Instead of increasing property tax rates, changes would be made in the tax base, he added. A reasonable increase in property tax rates was proposed after five years. In the upcoming budget, skill development and internship programs for youth would be introduced, while no final decision had been made regarding the Pink and Yellow Line trains.



LAHORE: All Pakistan Young Doctors Association hold a protest rally from the service hospital of the provincial capital passing through Jail Road.

KP Minister lauds role of MTRA in prevention of illegal human organ transplantation

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah on Thursday lauded the role of the Medical Transplantation Regulatory Authority (MTRA) in the prevention of illegal human organ transplantation activities in the province.

Addressing a ceremony on the occasion of World Transplant Day here, he said that the authority has started registration of transplant hospitals having international standard facilities.

He also appreciated the cooperation of police and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in curbing illegal transplantation in the province, adding that with

the cooperation of the police and FIA, the authority has been able to stop illegal organ transplants and organ sales. He said that at present the trend of kidney and liver transplants was increasing, noting that kidney failure occurs mainly due to diabetes and high blood pressure for which timely diagnosis and treatment were imperative.

The minister said that due to hepatitis the number of patients suffering from liver diseases in Pakistan was increasing day by day for which liver transplantation had become necessary. He pointed out that the number of liver transplantation patients has increased to 10,000 annually in the country.

