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GWADAR: President Asif Ali Zardari chairing a meeting on the security and law and order situation of Balochistan

All stakeholders have to create national consensus for dev. of Balochistan, stresses CM

Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti calls for expediting collective efforts to cope with menace of terrorism

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir bordering areas. Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has underlined the need to create national consensus for development of the province. He stressed that all the stakeholders would have to come forward and create national consensus for development of the province.

He also stressed the need to expedite the collective efforts to cope with the menace of terrorism in the province

He also stressed that the occasion hailed the spe-

we have to impart valuable cial attention and visits of skills to the people of the the President Zardari to the The Chief Minister

was speaking at the meeting held under the chair of repeated visits of the Presi-President Asif Ali Zardari on law and order and development projects in the province, during his visit to Gwadar on Thursday.

Highlighting the strat-egy prepared for develop-The President was ment of the province, Chief briefed about the law and Minister said that the hisorder situation besides detoric programme of Benazir velopment projects in the Bhutto Scholarship Programme has been The Chief Minister on started for promotion of the

Election tribunals case:

Promulgating presidential pilgrims fall a victim to scorching heat

PM urges political parties to work together for development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has urged all the po-the indicators while stock litical parties to work together for the development and prosperity of the coun-try and public welfare.

He was talking to a delegation of Pakistan People's Party headed by Chairman province and said that the Bilawal Bhutto Zardari that people of Balochistan are called on him in Islamabad feeling well because of the today. The delegation included Chairman Senate dent. He said that the Yusuf Raza Gilani, Raja people of province value his love and affection a lot. Pervaiz Ashraf, Syed Khurshid Shah, Syed Naveed Qamar and Sherry Rehman. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held discussions national political issues. Speaking on the occa-

sion, the Prime Minister education in Balochistan. said further consultation 35 Pakistani was held with Pakistan Peoples Party regarding the

market has witnessed historic boom. The Prime Minister said steps have been taken to provide relief to the common man in the budget of the new financial year. He said more consul-

tation will continue through committees. A dinner was given by the Prime Minister in honour of the Pakistan Peoples Party delegation. Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for

Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar were also present in the meeting.



President for enhanced capacity of LEAs to counter terror in Balochistan

Says prosecution system needed to be improved so that the terrorist elements could not escape justice

Independent Report

GWADAR: President Asif Ali Zardari has called for enhancing the capacity of the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), posting competent officers in Balochistan, and improving the prosecution mechanism to effectively counter terrorist elements in Balochistan.

The President expressed these views while chairing a meeting on the security/law and order situation in Balochistan, in Gwadar, on Thursday. Minister for Interior, Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Chief

Minister for Interfor, Monsin Raza Naqvi, Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, MNA Malik Shah Gorgaij, Home Minister, Mir Ziaullah Langov, MPA Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman, senior civil and mili-tary officials attended the meeting. The President was briefed about the overall security

situation of the province as well as the role of LEAs in successfully countering terrorist attacks in various disIt was informed that the provincial government had

tricts of Balochistan.

adopted a targeted approach to improve the security and law-and-order situation in Balochistan. It was further apprised that the initiatives taken by the LEAs had resulted in improving the security situation in the prov-ince. The President was informed that the provincial government was taking steps to provide fool-proof security to Chinese and foreign nationals.

The President appreciated the efforts of the provin-cial government as well as the sacrifices of the LEAs in combatting terrorism.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the prosecution system needed to be improved so that the terrorist elements could not escape justice. He said that compensation for the families of martyrs of LEAs in Balochistan should be enhanced bringing it at par with the rest of the provinces.

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan People's Party headed by Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

Total volume of budget expected to be around Rs. 850b: Balochistan's budget for next FY to be presented in BA's session today

The estimates of non-

The sources of Finance

government employees

from Grade 1 to 16. Simi-

Moreover, 15 percent

Independent Report QUETTA: The The ume of the provincial bud-Balochistan's budget for the next financial year 2024-25 get is expected to be around Rs. 850 billion. is scheduled to be presented in the provincial assembly's

Balochistan, the total vol- nancial year's budget. Earlier, at a presser, the

Provincial Minister for Planning and Development The sources of Finance had informed that we are department informed that the province is expected to

parliament: CJP

ordinance is insult of

province

ISLAMABAD (Online): sible. Promulgating presi-Supreme Court (SC) has sent appeals from Election Commission (EC) against Lahore High Court (LHC) decision regarding constitution of election tribunals to judges committee.

Committee will constitute larger bench next week in respect of these appeals.

SC has issued notice to Attorney General (AG) besides seeking details about constitution of tribunals in other provinces from EC.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa has remarked the matter be placed before the committee as soon as pos-

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chairman

Awami Party (PkMAP)

and Head of Tahafuz

Aaveen Pakistan Tehreek,

Mehmood Khan Achakzai

has categorically stated that

we are not going to accept

the policy of passport on

tion to save the country lies

in implementation on the

constitution by all stake-

holders. Mehmood Khan

Achakzai was addressing

grand protest public gath-ering in Chaman on Thurs-

day. The Chairman PkMAP

said that those attacking our

innocent children should

mend their way as they are

not orphans.

He said that the solu-

Milli

alleged

filled, he added.

ery attempt of imposing

Pashtoons are compelled to

lead miserable life at their

homeland. He said that the

Pashtoon tribes are living

for centuries at both sides

of the border, but imposing

He said that the

more war in Afghanistan.

Pashtoonkhaw

Durand Line at all.

dential ordinance is insult of the parliament. If ordinance has to be brought then shut the parliament. How can the change be made through presidential ordinance. On one side parliament has enacted law. How can the ordinance be brought after enactment of law by parliament.

parliament.

GWADAR: President Asif Ali Zardari being wel-

come by Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz

Ahmed Bugti and Commander 12 Corps Lt Gen-

What was reason for bringing ordinance? Was there any emergency. The Medina. ordinance came from where

The DG said the deaths after the enactment of law by parliament. This is too interference in election. Election act was desire of

He said the dead bod-ies were notified by the Saudi government and arrangements of burials were made in accordance with wishes of the families of the deceased. Arrangements of bringing the bodies to Pakistan had also been made. Soomro said.

he said, had always coop-erated with the Pakistan government in such matters.

PM grieved over martyrdomof

eral Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan, upon his arrival. Minister Prime Grand public meeting at Chaman Parlat: Muhammad Sharif on Thursday ex-We would not accept passport pressed deep sorrow and grief over the tragic incident policy at Durand Line, assets in Makkah, Saudi Arabia, which resulted in the loss Mehmood Khan Achakzai of precious lives of Hujjaj, including some from Paki He said that we are liv-

stan. ing in our land for centuries The prime minister, in and the nature has blessed statement, directed the us with everything. But Ministry of Religious Afnow the establishment of fairs and Pakistan's Emcountry want to occupy bassy in Saudi Arabia to our resources by force, he ensure provision of best Their desire and aspirations would not be ful-

pitals. The Chairman PkMAP said that we would foil ev-

eign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Religious Affairs Chaudhary Salik Hussain and Pakistan's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Ahmed Farooq in Makkah and directed them to make arrangements for

condition of passport on the people is nothing but their economic masaccre. Pakistan

during Hajj, say authorities RIYADH (INP): The Ministry of Religious Affairs has confirmed deaths of 35

Pakistani pilgrims. According to Hajj Mis-sion DG Abdul Wahab Soomro, nine Pakistanis died in Mashair, four in Mina, three in Arafat and two in Muzdalifah.

The Hajj DG says 20 Pakistani pilgrims lost their lives in Makkah and six in

were caused by intense temperature of 50 degrees Celsius. He said the allegation that the pilgrims were not taken care of was unfounded.

Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has directed to the concerned authorities to ensure improving medical facilities and doctors' strength in the government hospitals including trauma center and casualty The Saudi government, department. The Governor

was on visit to the Trauma Center, Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital Quetta on Thursday. He visited different

Hujjaj in Makkah ISLAMABAD (APP):

> Shehbaz QUETTA (INP): Unidentified armed men kidnapped 10 people hailing from Punjab from Shuban picnic point in Zarghon Ghar, Quetta.

According to details, armed men took 16 people hostage who were enjoying at Shuban picnic point in Zarghon Ghar. The DG Levies said the armed men

possible medical care to the . Pakistani Hajj pilgrims who were admitted in hos-

He talked to Deputy Prime Minister and For-

shifting of the bodies of martyred Hajj pilgrims to

LAHORE: Director Hajj Punjab Muhammad Rizwan Sharif, Deputy Director Hajj Lahore Mujeeb Shah and others welcoming Hajaj Ikram and garlanding them with flowers.

Governor directs to ensure improving medical facilities, doctors' strength in Govt hospitals

sides inquiring about the health of those being **Independent Report** QUETTA: The Governor treated there. Balochistan, Sheikh

The Medical Superintendent of Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital, Dr. Ishaq Panezai and Managing Director of Trauma Center, Dr. Arbab Kamran were also present on the occasion. He also inquired about the treatment facilities as well as the arrangements for medicines and cleanliness from the patients. While speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that half of the

sections of the Trauma Center and inspected the province's population is medical facilities there be-

Armed men kidnap 10 **Punjab residents from Quetta**

released six hostages after checking their Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs). The ten people who

have been abducted include a Customs Officer and others, who are residents of Punjab province.

The search for the abductees has begun by the law enforcement agencies.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC), Liu Jianchao received at the Islamabad International Airport by Additional Foreign Secretary

session today (Friday). the province is expected to receive Rs. 647 billion from ter for Finance, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani would be tadevelopment expenditures bling the provincial budget for the next financial year. are proposed as Rs. 620

It may be mentioned billion in the provincial budhere that the Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has sumdepartment said that 25 moned the budget session percent increase has been of provincial assembly at proposed in salaries of the 04:00 PM today.

During the budget ses-sion, the Minister for Filarly, the 20 percent innance would also table the crease has been proposed supplementary budget for in salaries of the employees from Grade 17 to 22. the current financial year 2023-24.

The budget session of increase has been suggested provincial assembly would remain continued till June in the pensions of retired government employees. 29,2024

According to the sources of Finance depart-ment, Government of department told that some 3,000 vacancies are likely to be created in the next fi-

Pakistan, Turkive agree to further deepen bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABADO (APP) Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday held a telephone conversation on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha to exchange Eid greetings with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic o Türkiye Hakan Fidan.

The two ministers re viewed the bilateral relationship between Pakistan and Türkiye, a Foreign Office press release said.

Chinese Minister arrives Islamabad on three-day visit ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) Liu Jianchao arrived here Thursday on a three-day

He was received at the Islamabad International Airport by Additional Foreign Secretary (Asia & Pacific) Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, a Foreign Office press release said.

Minister Liu Jianchao will call on Prime Minister are completely perturbed by Muhammad Shehbaz the CPEC's upgradation, Sharif and hold extensive bilateral talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

but such botch attempts are destined to fail," he added. The minister said the government fully understood that some powers

(CPEC).

"Undoubtedly, the lob-

bies against the Pakistan-

China Dosti are active, and

next budget. the divisible pool.

He announced that the heirs of martyrs have also been included in the Benazir Support Income rogramme.

Mr. Buledi mentioned that there is a proposal of allocating Rs. 2 billion for the educational expenses of children of the martyrs under BISP in the next bud-

Besides, the Ph.D holders would be supported through full scholarship. He also announced that

Rs. 5 billion would be allocated for the public sector universities of the province in budget.

Rs. 2 billion have been The sources of Finance allocated for bringing out of school children in the schools



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani and Mir Shoaib Nausherwani meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti.

Tarar regrets 'smear campaign' against Pak-China friendship by a political party on Eid

ISLAMABAD (APP): which were stunned by the Minister for Information, Pakistan-China friendship, Broadcasting, National Heriwere resorting to undue and tage and Culture Attaullah unfounded criticism to-Tarar on Thursday took exwards the CPEC, but nothing could harm the enduring ception to a "smear campaign" launched by a spebond between the two nacific political party against tions. "The people normally the Pakistan-China friendcelebrate Eid-ul-Azha by ship on the occasion of Eidslaughtering sacrificial aniul-Azha. Addressing a news mals and sharing sweets conference, the minister with their loved ones but brushed aside the propathere was one political ganda against Pakistanparty that exerted all its en-China friendship particuergies for conspiring against Pak-China Dosti," he regretlarly surrounding the upgradation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

The minister lashed out at the political party, which, he said, was bent upon running a "smear campaign' against Pakistan-China friendship instead of reflecting on the possibilities to resolve the issues to forge unity in accordance with the spirit of Eid which taught nothing but sacrifice and altruism.

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OPINION

Daily **Independent**

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Killing of terrorist commander in Afghanistan

Certainly, the killing of a high value target terrorist commander Abdul Manan alias Hakimullah in Afghanistan is a serious blow to Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a designated global terrorist group, involved in multiple acts of terrorism including target killings, IED blasts against security forces and other heinous crimes like extortion.

According to the reports, the terrorist Commander Abdul Manan alias Hakimullah was neutralized by unknown men in Chagasarai, District Asadabad Kunar province of Afghanistan the other day.

Needless to mention is that Abdul Manan also remained involved in facilitating terrorist activities in different areas of the country including Bajaur.

He was an important figure of TTP and member of TTP Shura Malakand, who is reported to be a close associate of TTP's Malakand Chapter Commander Azmat Ullah Mehsood counting problem. (Azmat Lala).

As per the reports, Abdul Manan remained involved in was multiple acts of terror including target killings, IED blasts against Security Forces, extortion and played a key role in facilitating terrorist activities in Bajaur.

reaucrats around him, in-The reports coming from cluding but not limited to across the border suggest that Abdul Manan's killing is result Abdul Manan's killing is result

Climate-smart finance bill

tax and non-tax revenues. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh particularly by cutting subsidies. Economic develop-The finance bill or proment is a secondary target, posed budget for the next and climate-resilient develfiscal year has refused to opment is not even on the commit any resources or horizon. As seen in several even set the national direcother countries, the governtion for climate resilience. ment can ensure that pub-It has failed to aclic finance is aligned with knowledge that Pakistan is climate change mitigation one of the world's most cliand adaptation goals. mate-vulnerable countries. The Planning Commis-

and perhaps the least presion has still not embedded pared. It has missed, once adaptation and mitigation in again, the opportunity to PC-1s that are the backbone determine the course of acof annual public sector intion for Pakistan's sustainvestments. The finance minable economic developistry has not initiated the ment. Worse, the proposed tracking of climate expendibudget has not outlined a tures, despite attempts over vision for climate-resilient the years by several development partners. The office The finance bill has of the Accountant General not shown any particular appetite for institutional or olicy reforms that could help stop the economic

investments

Pakistan Revenues has not climate-proofed reporting of federal transactions, nor has the Auditor General upbleeding caused by repeated graded its auditing standards climate-induced disasters or and disclosure rules the slow onset that is The FBR is not track-

threatening GDP growth ing and reporting climaterate and per capita incomes. related tax expenditures, nor Ironically, despite heavy has it supported the develosses. Pakistan has not exopment of climate-resilient plicitly adopted climate infrastructure by ensuring onsiderations into the that tax policies and regulabudgetary process. The government has, nstead, opted for a simplistic formula for generating

tions promote investments in climate-resilient projects and infrastructure. In fact, none of the major government players have strengthened climate-smart budgeting by embedding climate considerations into their processes. These lacunae are mirrored in the provincial budgets.

Some of Pakistan's neighbours have begun to climate-proof their annual 1n budgets. Bangladesh is now graduating from least developed country status to become, like Pakistan, a lowmiddle income country. It stands out for its long journey towards human development and climate resilience. As part of broader efforts to mainstream climate finance across its public financial management systems, Bangladesh set up the Climate Change Trust Fund in 2010 with a governmen-tal equity of \$350 million. Designed to help communities recover from climate disasters by supporting the construction of houses in cyclone-affected areas, the ĆCTF has supported the construction of embankments and provision of solar home systems.

While our finance bill announced has the government's intent to set up a similar fund, following the Climate Change Act of

has clouded its future by not committing any equity from the government, without which it will remain a fictional fund

Another example is the Climate Fiscal Framework that Bangladesh has implemented since 2014. Revised 2022, the CFF emphasises institutional coordination between the planning, finance and other divisions to ensure effective implementation of climate policies and fiscal programmes. The CFF is designed to ensure that their vulnerabilities are integrated into national development and resource mobilisation strategies. It made way in 2018 for a budget-tagging system that tracks and reports on all climate-related expenditures, enabling them to identify, classify, and mark climate-relevant alloships with the local private cations in the budget syssector, civil society, and lotem. There is a lesson for cal authorities. No such in-Pakistan: such tracking systent is outlined in the protems not only help improve posed budget. Likewise, the policymaking to address clibudget bill has not committed to systematically purmate vulnerabilities, but also add to transparency and acsuing innovative green ficountability in its budgeting. nance mechanisms, such as A climate-smart budget

green bonds, green loans, would typically rest on five anchors: i) an assessment of the potential impacts of climate change on different sec-

follow traditional debt relief tors and regions, ii) a mechanism to track and report on involving rescheduling, forrelated expenditures, iii) an giving, or reducing a portion of a country's debt, often alignment with national policies and targets, such as through bilateral or multilateral agreements. This apthe Nationally Determined Contributions. iv) proach focuses on reducing prioritising resource allocadebt burdens without nection for mitigation, adaptaessarily addressing environtion, and resilience-building, mental and climate concerns and v) accessing domestic and international climate fi-Debt-for-climate swaps, on nance to fill the resource gaps In other words, rather than treating it as a standalone issue, Pakistan needs

the other hand, involve converting debt into funds dedicated to environmental conservation and climate mitigation. This approach addresses both debt distress to integrate its climate conand climate change by redirecting debt payments tosiderations into the overall budget-planning processes. climate-smart wards projects. Governments across the world are routinely focus-Several developing countries have used debting on domestic financing through national budget refor-climate swaps to finance allocations, the establishclimate projects. This apment of national/subnational proach focuses on reducing climate funds, and partner-

debt burdens without necessarily compromising environmental or climate concerns. Debt-for-climate swaps, on the other hand involve converting debt into funds dedicated to environmental conservation and climate change mitigation. This can help address both debt distress and climate change by redirecting debt payments towards cli mate projects. -- Courtesy

and green guarantees to mobilise climate finances. True, Pakistan's fiscal space is narrow, yet we still

of

Muhammad

privatisation,

This is what lay at

president

Accounting for change

their professionalism and intellect, and they oper-Khurram Husain ated like an exclusive club of power-wielding civil servants where admission was by invitation only. Mahbub ul Haq hovered on the outer edges of this group, a one-man army ing to champion change at a time when this coterie manned the ramparts to keep all

> What was the change they were trying to keep at arm's length? In a nutshell, it was the declining ability of the state to shoulder all the responsibilities it had picked up, first during the heady growth years of the 1960s, and then again following the disastrous nationalisations of the 1970s

From financing the development of the and a small coterie of bucountry's infrastructure to maintaining a pricing people like A.G.N. Kazi, H.U. Beg, V.A. Jafarev. regime tor agriculture and energy, to deciding who sets how much area it and

terie of bureaucrats selected all winners and losers in the economy.

Pakistan was not alone in facing this pressure for change in those days. It was near universal. Around the world, governments were finding their power to hold a preeminent position in all national economic decision-making challenged. Some responded by digging in, others by searching for a way out, and yet others by trying to externalise the costs of staying the course. It was

not until the late 1980s and the early 1990s that proper reform strategies began to appear in the global conversation about breaking out of this confinement and finding new ways for economic growth to continue

those Crucially, strategies included a template for tax and power sector reforms. But they eral withdrawal of the

Washington Consensus' In those days, GIK Bank governor in the perlaid the foundations of son Yaqub, undertook the how Pakistan would tackle the growing crisis first of state and economy. It liberalised trade, passed was his approach to first the Sales Tax Act (by a agree to wide-ranging resleight of hand where they forms, then find ways to disguised it under a money bill), and opened blunt their impact, stymie their implementation and up the capital account to where necessary, simply free up the flow of capirenege on commitments tal into and out of the once the funds promised country. They also sucunder the agreements had cessfully wrested control been released.

of economic policy from The first Benazir GIK and his coterie and Bhutto government was brought their own people overwhelmed by the scale into key positions, such of the challenges it had to as Sartaj Aziz and Ishaq — the aftermath of Dar face the Afghan jihad was the heart of the big fight smouldering to the west, while to the east, an Inbetween Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Nawaz Sharif, ending dian arms build-up had drained Pakistan's coffers. A bankrupt economy eventually with both being brought down. But at home and a strident IMF programme signed what started as a fight over by the interim governchanging the direction of the economy, eventually ment prior to her taking power necessitated strucbecame little more than a changing of the guard. The tural reforms so deep that governments since her time have struggled to implement them. state from areas administering pricing, credit allo-The first Nawaz cations, ownership of Sharif government brought in some of the commercial enterprises changes envisaged. They changed the debt management strategy, brought in an albatross around the strategy. stroy every space that **Khadim Hussain** women can use for a pub-

the first non-DMG State government's neck by the nd of the decade.

Dawn

What emerged from all this is a type of economic management that today goes under the name of 'Daronomics', and whose principal aim is no that different from that of GIK. Daronomics aims to find ways to retain the state's pre-eminent role in the economy, while allowing enough space to private sector energies to continue the process of investment and growth. This strategy rarely works, and when it does, it racks up a tremendous bill that eventually lands up in the fiscal and public debt part of national accounts. The challenge of our times has been to find a way to pull the state out of this role and, instead have empowered regulators to safeguard the public interest. But the nature of the political power struggle in our country is such that all power has to reforms of the first Nawaz flow upwards and be sub-

The resistance to change in Pakistan is an old problem but it wears a new face every few years. hese days the resistance to change is wearing the face of an accounting problem. In other words, everything from our debt nanagement to reforms in the power sector and tax change at bay and protect machinery appears to us the status quo. as little more than an ac-

This resistance to change has been the country's key defining theme for decades now. It laid down by Ghulam Ishaq Khan as the principal strategy with hich the country would deal with the massive changes sweeping the world, starting in the 1980s and accelerating through the 1990s. GIK

gets to invest how much

and where, and fetch what

returns on that invest-

2017, the finance minister those days. And this co-

of internal conflicts within different groups operating inside management in those Afghanistan. His presence in Afghanistan further reinforced TTP's use of Afghan soil to perpetrate terrorism in Pakistan.

Pakistan has mentioned time and again that the fugitive commanders and combatants of the TTP are using havens in Afghanistan to launch deadly 2012, The New York cross-border attacks against Pakistanis, including security forces.

As a matter of fact, a report released by The Washingtonbased Center for a New Ameri-English. can Security last month had mentioned that the TTP and other regional militant groups "are active and face few constraints on their activities from the Taliban—with whom they share core ideological beliefs."

The study warned that terrorist threats emanating from Afghanistan "are intensifying and an Afghan-based Islamic State affiliate, the Islamic State-Khorasan, or IS-K, "constitutes the main international concern."

The given situation although travel without a 50-strong manifests bad governance by the so-called government in Afghanistan but still needs prompt action against the terrorist groups operating inside country and using the soil for the cost £580. cross-border attacks against Pakistan.

Undoubtedly, it would be a forthcoming UK general test case for the Taliban regime to take result-oriented action against the terrorists' groups and prove their ability to improve governance in the country.

among others, practically ran Pakistan's economic

ment, the state played an and more. Taken to-They were serious overriding role in the gether, these strategies men, rightly famous for country's economy in came to be called 'the

Food, with thought

F.S. Aijazuddin came to a modest \$74. His fellow American

It is not a novel idea: Edward Snowden released CIA's and NSA's classiwhich interesting personality would you want to share a meal with? From fied documents to The Guardian and to The Washington Post and then Times has run a weekly had to seek asylum in column 'By the Book', in Russia. (Putin has since which famous authors are granted him Russian naasked to identify three tionality.) Snowden asked writers (dead or alive) his interviewer Alan they would like to invite Rusbridger (formerly edifor a literary dinner. Pretor-in-chief of The Guarddictably, most chose Wilian) to meet him in the latter's room in the seliam Shakespeare — provided he spoke modern cluded Golden Apple Hotel in Moscow.

Even earlier, since 1994, the UK's Financial Snowden's choice of food was unexpected: Times ran its series 'Lunch with the FT', in spicy chicken curry, followed by ice cream. His which a singularly importrenchant remarks about tant living personality was the limited choices before invited for an interview the US voter in 2016 over lunch at a location of Donald Trump or Hillary their choice, at FT's ex- Clinton — will resonate pense. Out of 1,000 or so among voters of recent lunches, the FT selected elections across the 50 interviews, publishing them as Lunch with the FT — A Second Helping (2019). world. He complained: "We're a country of 330 million people and we seem to be asked to make Intended to be a onea choice between individuto-one, the FT occasionals whose lives are defined ally had to pay also for by scandal.'

accompanying security Particularly moving details. One brought five is the interview with the guards. Modest by Pakijuvenile Bana al-Abed, stani standards, where no trapped at Aleppo in the leaders worth their salt war between the Syrian regime and opposition mipolice escort, not countlitias. In the absence of ing the ambulance team. coverage by journalists, Not every intershe became the voice from viewee honoured FT's the carnage through her open-palmed largesse. Twitter feeds, managed by her mother.

The newspaper tycoon Richard Desmond, for ex-Especially poignant ample, ordered a bottle of were her tweets in Decem-ber 2016: "My name is wine before the FT host could open the menu. It Bana. I am seven years old. This is my last mo-The Brexit spoiler Nigel Farage (who now ment to live or die." Earlier she had posted: "I am threatens to disrupt the sick now, I have no medicine, no home, no clean elections) preferred to water. This will make me drink before, during and die before a bomb kills after his meal, and then me." She spoke for every Braille. child in Gaza.

Donald Trump for his interview in 2013 Readers of the FT book who savour the chose his own Trump pickle of corruption Grill, in the basement of should read the interview his own Trump Towers with Sepp Blatter, the evate reportage into an art on Fifth Avenue, New controversial head of FIFA

between meals.

York. The bill for two 1998-2016. He admits being startled at the 14-8 decision in December 2010 to award the Soccer World Cup 2022 to Qatar. He had tried to rig the vote 'behind the scenes' to ensure that the 2018 and 2022 competitions would go to the 'two superpowers' Russia and the US.

Blatter griped that French president Sarkozy had let him down. After an indecent interval, in April 2015, Qatar bought 24 French Dassault Rafale jets for \$7 billion. (Pakistanis will recognise overtones in the infamous

French Agosta 90B submarine deal in 1994. Sarkozy was then budget minister.) Many of the FT interviews themselves border on literature. The novelist Hilary Mantel who has written best-sellers on the Tudors and Thomas Cromwell was asked whether she was the greatest English prose writer. Her reply was artfully simple: "You're only as good as your next sentence.

The best interview - it is a personal view is the one of Roger Federer by Simon Kuper, conducted on board a private jet flying from Zurich to Madrid. Federer talks movingly about balancing the demands of worldclass tennis with the imperative of playing Lego with his young son. Kuper concludes

with this paragraph that is an ace in itself: "Federer throws an arm around me, and I put my hand on his back. Every other back I've touched felt like a single undefined mass. On Federer's back you feel every bone and muscle. It's like reading an anatomy textbook It is sentences like

in

these which subordinate the locale, the food consumed, and the price of the meal. Such interviews elform. -- Courtesy Dawn

Sharif government were servient to the require-not built to do much, ments of this struggle. The other than spur short-term non-stop struggle for growth, and encourage an power has paralysed the inflow of dollars through the foreign currency de- mied its attempt to deposit scheme that became velop a sound reform

state at the top, and sty-

Rule of violence

Like women, pri-

With 245 terror attacks on security forces, police check-posts and public places — mostly in KP and Balochistan — in the first quarter of 2024 alone, it is obvious that terrorism is once again eating into the vitals of of violence. Pakistani state and soci-

ety. However, what is more horrendous is the repetition of the pattern in a heart-wrenching moof violence that Pakistan, torbike accident. It was especially KP, witnessed a few decades ago; terror circumstances that led to is once again stalking the accident may have various parts of the been created inside the country, especially university. Musa Khan Malakand Division and had been issued a showthe former Fata region.

On May 9, a girls' expulsion letter by the school was set ablaze in university, because he the scenic Shawa valley had allegedly brought a of South Waziristan. On rubab to a university May 17, the people of event. This had put the lower South Waziristan young student under seawoke to the terror of a vere mental pressure, bomb attack on another which might have regirls' school. On May 29, sulted in his accident. On a girls' school was May 31, renowned folk torched in Shakhimir vilartist Said Wali Wazir of Janikhel, Bannu was lage in Razmak, North Waziristan. Thirty-four manhandled and his muschools, mostly girls' sical instruments broken schools, are on the verge by the local police. This of closure in central seems to have been on Kurram district due to account of the dread lack of funds. All this has spread by the terror synhappened a year or so afdicate that is opposed to ter Afghanistan banned music. Said Wali Wazir's secondary and higher music concerts are aleducation for girls there ready banned in his area. - as happened under the first Afghan Taliban remary victims of the emgime. In the latter case, pire of violence include some two decades ago, music, art and poetry. the terror syndicate in The terror syndicate KP followed suit. demonstrated its abhor-

The terror syndicate rence for music, art and and violent extremists poetry two decades ago; the pattern is now being see gender diversity as a threat to their discourse repeated: as they are an of homogenisation. They expression of aesthetics are scared of gender diand the beauty of life, versity as much as they music, art and poetry are of aesthetics and culmust be banished from tural diversity. The relithe social structure and gious militant discourse cultural norms. Instead, the narrative of ugliness constructs women as objects devoid of any humust be injected into life. man agency. Women This entire discourse must have no public role hinges on erasing our in the worldview of the natural feelings for proponents of this disbeauty and artistic excourse, who wish to de-

poetry are powerful tools to encourage sociolic role. Their destruccultural gatherings; the terror syndicate wishes tive tendencies start with torching and bombing to keep the people isogirls' schools. Destroylated. Music, art and poing girls' schools with etry keep the people impunity at this time rooted in their home soil, marks the beginning of while the terror syndicate wants them to be another phase of the rule uprooted.

On May 30, a stu-When one looks at dent of Malakand Unithis saga, along with the attacks by violent mob versity, Musa Khan, died ransacking severalchurches later revealed that the Jaranwala town. Faisalabad, in August 2023, and an attack on a Christian house and factory in Sargodha on May 26, 2024, one reaches the cause notice and then an conclusion that religious diversity is also under severe threat in Pakistan. The torching of girls schools and targeting music, art and poetry by the terror syndicate in KP and attacks on religious minorities by extremists in Punjab clearly indicate a pattern of the rule of violence in the country

Political parties, civil society organisations, the intelligentsia, media persons, women associations and youth groups need to wake up to the danger zone ahead. Folk music concerts, poetry recital sessions, cultural fairs, arts exhibitions, study circles and other cultural activities need to be regularly organised in educational institutions and public places, especially in KP. Policies that facilitate violent extremist private militias and the use of religion for political interests need to be challenged. A paradigm shift in foreign policy formulation needs to be advocated at all forums. Genuine federalism and a constitutional dispensation need to be underscored. Lastly, sociopolitical and sociocultural activism must be facilitated in educational institutions and the larger society. -- Courtesy pression. Music, art and Dawn

Daily A oice of Masse **Independent** Friday June 21, 2024

OMMERCE NEWS

PM Shehbaz says: Govt bringing reforms in energy sector to reduce electricity tariff

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said the government was bringing reforms in the energy sector to reduce electricity tariff.

He was talking to a delegation of foreign experts in the energy sector, led by former Georgian Prime Minister Nika Gilauri which called on him at the PM House.

The prime minister said that circular debt, line losses and electricity theft were the major challenges in Pakistan's energy sector.

Emphasizing the importance of energy sector for the country's economic growth and development, he expressed his government's commitment to implement policies for reducing circular debt and improving the efficiency of electricity bill collection personnel.

He said privatization and outsourcing of the power distribution companies was the top priority of the government. "In this regard the government desires to take benefit from the Georgian experience.

The prime minister expressed his government's desire to promote alternative energy sources, particularly solar energy, and reduce reliance on expensive energy sources. He said the government would also promote public private partnership in the energy sector. The prime minister directed the federal ministers to consult with the delegation regarding the basic reforms of the country's energy sector and to evolve a comprehensive strategy regarding the reforms immediately. Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Petroleum Minister Musadik Malik, Power Minister Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, Minister of State for Finance Ali Pervaiz Malik, and relevant high officials attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a meeting with a delegation of experts of Power Sector led by Nika Gilauri Former Georgian Prime Minister, in Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain presides over a meeting of the Fertilizer Review Committee.

Multiple agri projects underway to unleash green revolution: Kundi

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday said that multiple agriculture development projects were underway in the province which on completion would brought a green revolution in the region.

The Chashma Lift Canal project, once completed, would help irrigate over 250,000 acres of land, and its irrigation area would be increased to 600,000 acres if its height were raised to 90 feet, he added

The governor was addressing a ceremony held at the District Bar Dera Ismail Khan to distribute grant cheques of Rs 7.8 million among bar councils of the district.

He said the Federal Government was also work-

Zam projects, which would ing numerous problems, inbring a green revolution and cluding in education and help meet the food requirehealth sectors. ment not only of the region lighted the issues of my area but also of the neighbouring with the Federation. Before countries.

The governor said the the federal budget, I perrole of bar councils was very sonally talked to the important in resolving the prime minister about the social issues of the people and providing leadership to the Chashma Lift Canal the nation. The bars also project, besides other ishelped maintain the susues, and I am thankful to

premacy of law. the Federal Government The lawyers' movefor allocating Rs 19 bilment had proved that they lion for the canal, whose were united to achieve their foundation stone will be be laid down by the end of goals, he added.

Kundi said that there 2024. was a shortage of 10 judges in the merged tribal districts tion would irrigate around and he had taken up the 600,000 acres of land, he matter with the Federal added Government in order to ensure speedy justice for the gratitude to Prime Minislocal people.

ter Shehbaz Sharif and Fed-The governor said the eral Minister for Water Redevelopment of Dera Ismail sources Musadik Masood Malik for allocating funds for the Lift Canal project.

Minister directs for audit of fertilizer companies to determine production costs SLAMABAD (APP): the country. Rana Tanveer said that

Federal Minister for Industry and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday directed that a thirdparty audit be conducted to determine the cost of production of fertilizer companies, in order to ensure transparency and fair pricing in the industry. He issued the direc-

tive while chairing a Fertilizer Review Committee meeting which was attended by Federal Secretary Industries and Production, Dr. Muhammad Fakhre Alam Irfan, said a news release.

The meeting reviewed nies must ensure the supthe stock availability, deply of fertilizer to the provmand, and prices of urea in inces

SIFC provides enabling environment for investment ISLAMABAD (Online):

with confidence. Appellate Tribunals

provinces to verify fertil-

izer dealers and agencies,

with any ghost dealers and

The minister empha-

agencies to be blacklisted.

sized that fertilizer compa-

Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has have also been established in the privatization and provided an enabling environment for investment and telecom sectors so that inbusiness development in vestors can seek guidance on legal issues related to the country by working with utmost diligence and their investments. Since June last year, the SIFC has dedication over the last one year. The most important made many amendments at the policy level due to of the measures is the provision of facility for inveswhich the efficiency of the tors in the IT sector to regovernment system has greatly improved. Under patriate up to fifty percent of their profits. According the policy measures, the to data released by the visa policy has been revised State Bank of Pakistan, IT by removing unnecessary exports have grown by barriers, which has increased the confidence of Similarly, the estabforeign investors.

lishment of the Office of the Investment Ombudsman National Seed Devel-

China, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan to construct new railway to enhance trade, economic cooperation

Page 03

It is estimated that the

brighter future and instills

optimism due to the poten-

tial economic benefits it wil

announcement, the planned

According to an earlier

Kyrgyzstan, and there was no shortage of Uzbekistan will construct urea fertilizer in the couna new railway starting in try and added steps were China Kashgar and traverstaken to ensure unintering Torugart, Kosh-Dobo, and Kazarman in rupted supply of gas to ferand tilizer companies for Kyrgyzstan, culminating in smooth production of urea. Andijan in eastern He also directed fertil-Uzbekistan, to enhance izer companies to review the trade and economic coopperformance of dealers and eration agencies, and instructed

A trilateral intergovernmental agreement on the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway project was signed at a ceremony in Beijing last week.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov, President and of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev hailed the event as a sign of unity and shared progress. The governments of

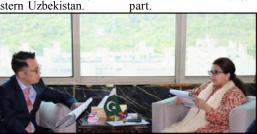
Rupee sheds 10 paisa against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Rupee on Thursday witnessed a devaluation of 10 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.60 against the previous day' closing at Rs 278.50. Ac cording to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP). the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market, however, were Rs 277.7 and Rs 280.6 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 55 pasia

BEIJING (APP): China, China, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan agreed to emrailway will shorten the bark on constructing the route between China and Europe by about 900 kinew railway at a Shanghai Cooperation Organization lometers and reduce summit held in the Uzbek freight transit time by city of Samarkand in Sepeight davs This transformative railway, with its potential tember 2022. The project feasibility study was updated following the comple-tion of field surveys by to enhance trade and economic cooperation between Chinese engineers in Dethe countries along its path, holds the promise of a

cember last year. "All three countries have diligently prepared for the construction, which is expected to commence later this year," China Daily reported.

The new railway, a 523-km railway will be constructed through a joint beacon of hope and optiventure involving three countries. The estimated mism, will start in China's Kashgar and traverse total cost of the project is \$8 billion, with \$4.7 billion Torugart, Kosh-Dobo, and Kazarman in Kyrgyzstan, culminating in Andijan in eastern Uzbekistan. allocated for the Kyrgyz



bring

Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a meeting with CEO Huawei Pakistan Mr. Ethan Sun in Islamabad.

Exports increase by 28.75% to Rs 7.9trln in 11 months

ng on the proposals of Khan was his mission. Tank Zam and Daraban They people here were fac-

PSX closes at historic high level of 78,801 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): 133 sustained losses The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 2,094.76 points, a positive change of 2.73 percent, closing at historic level of 78,801.53 points against 76,706.77 points the previous trading day. A total of 452,637,253

shares valuing Rs.20.675 billion were traded during the day as compared to 395,897,996 shares valuing Rs. 21.366 billion the last day.

Some 447 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 256 of per them recorded gains and Rs.1,443.93.



KARACHI: Brokers are busy in trading at Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi.

New UAF sugarcane varieties suitable for cultivation during April, May: Dr Sarwar

FAISALABAD (APP): Two GM sugarcane varieties developed by University of Agriculture Fairlead (UAF), in addition to engineered traits of top-borer resistance and herbicide (glufosinate, Basta) tolerance, are carrying numerous superior traits like input-responsiveness, high-number of millable canes, high sugar recovery and early maturing making it suitable for plantation in the months of April and May after harvesting wheat, said Pro-Vice Chancellor UAF and developer of GM sugarcane varieties Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar Khan.

In the last week, The Technical Advisory Com- ered it a landmark achievemittee (TAC) of Pakistan ment in GM sector worldunder the Environment wide.

Protection Agency (EPA) in its 34th meeting chaired by the Director General of the EPA, Farzana Altaf Shah, approved two GM sugarcane varieties; herbicide (glufosinate)-tolerant (CABB-HTS) and insect (top borer)-resistant (CABB-IRS) developed by ÙAF

Vice Chancellor UAF Prof Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Director General EPA Farzana Altaf Shah, and many other scientists at the meeting congratulated Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar Khan (Pro-Vice Chancellor/ Dean Agriculture, UAF) and his team for developing these varieties and consid-

by Industries Minister to visit whereas the share prices of 58 remained unchanged.

Turkmenistan In PSX, the three top from June 24 trading companies were Silk Bank Ltd with 53,586,473 ISLAMABAD (APP): A shares at Rs.1.09 per share, high-level delegation led by the K-Electric Ltd with Federal Minister for Indus-23,109,865 shares with tries and Production Rana Rs.4.72 per share and Habib Tanveer Hussain will visit Bank with 20,943,162 Turkmenistan from June 24 shares at Rs.121.92 per to 26 to explore new opshare. Rafhan Maize Prodportunities for bilateral ucts Company Limited wittrade and investment.

"I have always high-

ong-standing demand of

The canal on comple-

He again expressed

High-level

delegation led

nessed a maximum increase The minister on of Rs.86.62 per share price, Thursday held a meeting closing at Rs.7,706.92 with Turkmenistan's Amwhereas the runner-up was bassador to Pakistan Ismail Industries Limited Atadjan Movlamov to diswith a Rs.63.93 rise in its cuss matters relating to the share price to visit.

During the meeting, the minister said that ISLAMABAD (APP): strengthening trade and economic relations with The Islamabad Chamber of Turkmenistan was the Commerce and Industry government's top priority (ICCI) will organize "All and the delegation's visit Pakistan Chambers Presiwould play an important dents Conclave" (APCPC) role in that regard. on June 25-26, 2024.

Thursday.

Ambassador Atadjan Movlamov proposed that both countries should organize a joint trade exhibition to promote trade and investment.

Asian markets

swing as traders assess rates outlook HONG KONG (AFP APP): Asian markets were mixed Thursday as investors tried to gauge the outlook for US interest rates, while also keeping tabs on developments in France as

it heads for crucial elections. With Wall Street closed, there were few catalysts to drive buying, though sentiment has been buoyed this week by recent data indicating the world's top economy is slowing gradually, giving the Federal

Reserve some freedom to ease monetary policy. Traders are closely following the utterances of US central bank officials on their outlook for rates, with most warning that while inflation was on a down ward trajectory, they

wanted to see more evidence before committing to a cut

has provided a platform to thority has been set up to investors to resolve their provide high quality seeds issues efficiently and invest to the farmers.



ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari presiding over a meeting in connection with the preparation of forthcoming All Pakistan Chamber President Conference.

ICCI all set to host APCPC on June 25-26

APCPC.

He said the event aims to discuss important issues, share ideas and collaborate on initiatives that promote economic growth and development.

The APCPC will hopefully be attended by Presidents of over 70 Chambers of Commerce & Industry and federal ministers of government's economic team, said a press release issued here on

President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that it is at the credit of the ICCI that it took the initiative to organize first APCPC in 2020 to bring Presidents of all Chambers of Commerce and Industry at one platform to discuss the key issues of business community and put forward proposals to the government for resolving them and now it is once again all set to convene the second



PESHAWAR: Workers preserving the hides of sacrificial animals at their warehouse at Ring road.

to close at Rs 298.77 against the last day's closing of Rs 298.22.

exports from the country in the rupee term witnessed an increase of 28.75 percent during the first eleven months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

Exports during July– May (2023-2024) totaled Rs. 7,962,082 million as against Rs. 6,183,949 million during the correspond-ing period of last year, according to PBS provisional figures.

Exports from Pakistan during May, 2024 in-creased by 25.99 percent to Rs. 790,199 million compared to exports of Rs.627,199 million in

May 2023. On month-on-month basis, the exports from the country increased by 20.83 percent in May 2024 when

million) On the other hand, imports during July–May (FY2023-24) totaled Rs. 14,109,047 million as against Rs. 12,272,596 million during the corresponding period of last year,

Sri Lankan FM reaffirms unwavering commitment to SAARC

COLOMBO (PR): His Ex- recognizing his esteemed cellency the Secretary Genposition as a member of the SAARC Council of Miniseral of SAARC Ambassaters, in propelling the SAARC process forward. dor Golam Sarwar, visited Sri Lanka from 10-14 June



2024. During the visit, Secretary General Sarwar paid courtesy call on Minister of Foreign Affairs His Excellency Ali Sabry on 14 June 2024 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Colombo. Discussions focused on ways to further enhance the SAARC process. The Secretary General

advancing and further energising the process. spectively FOTCO, EVTL Moreover, he sought the and QICT on Thursday. guidance of the Minister,

Foreign Minister Sabry, acknowledging the progress achieved and appreciating the Secretary General for his efforts, underscored the need for the Association to take further strides in strengthening regional cooperation. Recognizing the ignificant potential of SAARC as a regional forum, Minister Sabry emphasized its capacity to facilitate extensive regional cooperation in mutually agreedupon domains and assured Srilanka's unflinching commitment for the SAARC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Rs.653,957 million in April 2024

The main commodities of exports during May 2024 included knitwear (Rs. 115,022 million) readymade garments (Rs.97,564 million), bed wear (Rs. 77,184 million), rice others (Rs. 75,311 mil-lion), cotton Cloth (Rs. 48,117 million), towels (Rs.28,768 million), petro-leum products, excluding leum products, excluding top Naphta (Rs.25,393 million), rice Basmati (Rs.20,807 million), madeup articles, excluding towels & bedwear (Rs.18,558 million) and cotton yarn (Rs.17,883

showing an increase of 14.96% compare to exports of

sixty two percent.

opment and Regulatory Au-

Shipping activity at **Port Qasim**

KARACHI (APP):Four

ships, Marathopolis, MSC

Positano, Atlantic Crown

and Simaisma carrying con-tainer, Palm oil and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Liquid Terminal and The Conclave will fea-Elengy Terminal respecture keynote speeches, tively on Wednesday. Meanwhile three panel discussions, and networking opportunities more ships, Maersk Chi-cago, Khairpur and providing a platform for cago, business leaders to engage Chemtrans Ionian with with each other and with Container, Gasoline and policymakers. He said that at the Mogas also arrived at outeranchorage of the Port moment, the economy of Qasim during last 24 hours.

the country is facing multiple challenges, which have slowed down the business activities, therefore, the ICCI felt the need to bring the leadership of the entire business community at one place and give compre-hensive as well as work-

able proposals to the government for the revival of business and economic activities.

Seven ships were en-gaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Nordic Copenhagen and IMO left the port on today morning while two more container ships, Marathopolis and

MSC Positano are expected to sail on same day. Cargo volume of 188,296 tonnes, comprising 140,778 tonnes imports cargo and 47,518 tonnes export cargo carried in 5,276 Containers (2,566

TEUs Imports and 2,710 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours

Five ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships Khairpur, OM Shanghai and Maersk Chicago & another ship 'Navios Constellation' carrying Gasoline, Chemicals and Container are expected to take berths at re-

provided an update on ongoing initiatives and the challenges of SAARC, seeking Sri Lanka's support for

process

Daily **Independent**, Gwadar

At UN Pakistan urges global drive to recover arms from deadly terrorists group like TTP

NATIONS (UNPoA) on Small Arms UNITED (APP): A senior Pakistani diplomat has called for (SALW).

"concerted campaign" to recover all weapons from terrorist groups like the framework for activities Tehreek-e-Taliban Pa- to counter the illicit trade kistan (TTP), which reportedly uses safe havens in Afghanistan to launch deadly cross-border attacks inside Pakistan.

"Pakistan is particularly concerned at the acquisition and use of modern and sophisticated small arms by the terrorist groups such as TTP—a UN-listed terrorist organization," Ambassador Munir Akram said in remarks at the 4th Conference to review the imple-Programme of Action

and Light Weapons The 2001 UNPoA which was backed by all member states, provides in small arms and light weapons. Since then, the UN has worked to support the implementation of the UNPoA at national, regional, and international

levels. "Terrorists and criminals do not manufacture these arms," the Pakistani envoy told delegates, pointing out they acquire them from illicit arms markets or receive them from entities that want to destamentation of the UN bilize a particular region or country.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti giving Eidi to children.

Benazir Bhutto's visionary leadership still inspires young generation: Raisani

QUETTA (APP): Pakistan ers like Benazir Bhutto, the Nawabzada Jamal Khan steadfast against the anti-Raisani on Thursday said that the vision and the dynamic leadership former prime minister Benazir Bhutto still inspired the young generation of the country. The young PPP Member of the National Assembly, in a statement on the 70th birth anniversary of former party chairperson, said her struggle and sacrifices for democracy was a golden chapter

in the country's history. Due to the party lead-

steadfast against the antidemocracy elements, he added. Raisani said it was Benazir Bhutto Shaheed who had become a symbol of Pakistan's identity internationally because of her prolonged fight against the dictators. She set a precedent by working for the country's solidarity, integrity and stability, he added. Raisani said that she

was the first woman prime minister of an Islamic country and was revered as the mendable operations. "Daughter of Islam"



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the National Emergencies Operation Centre.

Senators call for revising taxes on salaried class, medicines, property business, cement industry

The economic growth

Kamran Murtaza of

would suffer with increase

in the taxes to achieve the

revenue target of Rs 3.8 tril-

the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-

Independent Report

lion, he added.

ISLAMABAD (APP): minister should have proposed steps to reduce the The senators on both sides of the isle on Thursday government's intervention called for revising proposed into the market besides taxes on the salaried class, promoting a market driven medicines, cement industry economy. No concrete and property business, berecommendations were sides minimizing power suggested for economic load-shedding in the coungrowth and reduction in the government expenditry.

Taking part in the debate on budget 2024-25 in the Senate, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) parliamentary leader Ali Lafar claimed that no relief was given in the budget rather new taxes were imposed which would further

Fazl said JUI-F said that burden the people. He said the finance the federal consolidated funds needed to be dis-

tures

PM lauds **CDA, ICT** admin for cleanliness drive during **Eid-ul-Azha**

SLAMABAD (APP) Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday appreciated the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Islamabad Capital Territory Administration for effectively carrying out the cleanliness drive during Eidul-Azha. On his X timeline, the prime minister also appreciated CDA Chairman and Chief Commissioner of Islamabad over the com-

He said that late Arbab Abdul Zahir Kasi spent his whole life while serving the people and creating aware-

Abdul Zahir Kasi.

cussed at the forum. He regretted that three governments remained in power but new National Finance Commission Award had been announced in violation of Article 160 of the Constitution.

Quratulain Marri of Pakistan Peoples the Party said an amount of Rs 150 billion was allocated for electricity, and claimed that 20-hour power load-shedding was being carried out in her

constituency. Similarly, Rs 22 billion was earmarked for gas, which was also in short supply, she added.

Governor grieved over death of Arbab Abdul Zahir Kasi; pays tributes on invaluable services

ness among them about their

rights. QUETTA: The Governor The late Kasi also Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar made conscious efforts for Khan Mandokhail has expromotion of brotherhood, pressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of love and sense of non-violence in the society, the prominent political and social personality, Arbab Governor maintained

He said that the invaluable services of Arbab In an official condo-Abdul Zahir Kasi would lence issued here on Thursalways be remembered. day, the Governor said that

He prayed that may the late Arbab Abdul Zahir Allah Almighty rest the de-Kasi was a thorough gentleparted soul into Its eternal man and kind human being. peace and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear the tragic loss of his death.

Amid intense heat

Salik hails

Saudi Govt

Visits revamped NEOC NDMA to become a safety

wall for Pakistan: PM Shahbaz Sharif lauds revamping NEOC; appreciates cutting-edge technology

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday, lauding the revamped National an office tower. Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) equipped with multiple satellite feeds and artificial intelligence tools, expressed the hope that the National Disaster prioritise the the capacity building of the organisation Management Authority (NDMA) would prove to be a safety wall for Pakiby equipping it with the latest technology, input from the provinces and restan against the impacts of the climate change. "Due to climate change, Pakistan is in the cruitment of permanent

human resources, besides establishing a digital hub. red zone and among the top "Today, the way that dream has been realised deten vulnerable countries. We should not lose our serves applause. I don't think any province has morale rather work hard. After this achievement, I achieved such capacity with the world-class syshave no doubt that the tems. I am happy that in-stead of a highrise building, NDMA, in coordination with provincial PDMAs, will become a safety wall for Pakistan," the prime you invested in this digital hub," the prime minister minister said during his visit remarked. to the NEOC here along

with the federal ministers floods had inflicted a \$30 and secretaries. This was billion loss to the country the maiden visit of the which would take years to prime minister since the reovercome as the Federal vamped NEOC was inau-Government alone had spent Rs 100 billion for the gurated in October last year. He highly appreciated NDMA Chairman Lt Gen rehabilitation of affected population, besides the

funding from provinces as Inam Haider Malik for realising his dream of focuswell as aid from the friendly ing on the capacity buildcountries. ing and human resource de-

velopment of the Author- the efforts by that time Cliity instead of an earlier mate Change Minister planned project of building Sherry Rehman, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Referring to his previ-Zardari and other federal ous meetings following the and floods of 2022, the prime orga and provincial organisations, the country minister said he had sug-gested the NDMA chief to was able to rehabilitate mil

lions of people. Prime Minister Shehbaz appreciated the merit-based induction of quality human resource and establishing a third-party validation mechanism at the NMDA, and assured of the government's support and funding for the staffers' training and procurement of equipment.

"This is not normal. This is not usual. This is far above normal and usual," he said and asked the federal ministers and secretaries to follow the role model to make Pakistan a great nation.

He asked the NDMA He said the 2022 to ensure close coordination with the provinces, including Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, and advised the procurement of equipment through coordination to avoid duplication.

This is not an expenditure. This is an investment to save our future investments," he remarked.



He said consequent to

ISLAMABAD: A high level delegation led by Kevin Kells, Managing Director, Google for Education, call upon the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui says Govt aims to transform entire education system of Pakistan

He said the delegation

I S L A M A B A D cials from seven different would expand their pres-(APP):Federal Minister for countries including USA, ence in Pakistan, it will lead lucation and Professional UK, Australia etc.

to more development

Friday June 21, 2024



APNS

PRINT OR PERISH

The 10% GST Threatens Free Press

- 1. The newspaper industry is facing an existential crisis due to the 10% GST proposed on newsprint in the recent budget.
- 2. In an environment full of fake news and disinformation, newspapers are a vital source for credible and authentic news. They play an important role in promoting democratic values and shaping informed public opinions. The imposition of this GST will push many newspapers, particularly small and regional newspapers, towards closure.
- 3. Newspapers organisations are already subsidising the cost of their publications for their readers as they are not passing on the cost burden to the readers. Taxing the newspapers will further weaken the economies of the print media and impact the citizens' right to know.
- 4. This tax threatens the survival of an already struggling newspaper industry. While reducing the quality and quantity of news coverage, the tax will increases production costs, endanger jobs, restrict the ability for the industry to pay competitive and timely salaries and will make it impossible for print media organisations to implement the government mandated Wage Board for newspaper employees.

We urge the government to reconsider and withdraw this tax to ensure the survival and continued contribution of newspapers to an enlightened society.



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for exemplary arrangements of Hajj

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Chaudhry Salik Hussain has applauded the Saudi Government for its exemplary arrangements for pilgrims

even amidst intense heat. During a consultation meeting at the Pakistan Hajj Mission in Makkah, Chaudhry Salik Hussain highlighted that the Saudi authorities had implemented various measures to alleviate the adverse impact of heat, including installing water sprinklers and organizing a system to distribute cold water and beverages

He also mentioned that mobile health units and dispensaries had been set

up at key locations to safeguard the pilgrims' health. According to a press release, he said hundreds of

volunteers and Saudi forces were deployed at multiple sites to facilitate over 2 million pilgrims to smoothly perform the Hajj.

Owais seeks Naqvi's help over protests at grid stations in KP

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Energy Owais Leghari has written a letter to Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi

asking for help on the incidents at grid stations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Leghari has written a

letter to the Interior Minister that "influential indi-viduals" in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are leading protests on the premises of grid stations.

The minister highlighted that provincial assembly members and others had unlawfully directed grid station staff to restore electricity, exacerbating line losses and electricity theft issues at affected feeders. This situation not only jeopardizes grid station security but also poses risks to safety of the staff. He said that KP po-

lice were not registering cases against individuals involved in these incidents. Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Thursday said we aim to transform the entire education system of Pakistan. He that this crisis has been pointed out the high numgiven the highest priority. ber of out of school children and the adverse impact

can provide expertise and it is having on the society. knowledge that can help us He was talking to a chart future plans that can high level delegation led by enable us to resolve this is-Kevin Kells, Managing Disue rector, Google for Educa-Dr. Khalid urged the tion, which called on him. delegation to expand their

scope of work with special The delegation included Farhan Qureshi, Country regard to education in Paki-Director Pakistan Google, stan. He assured the delega-Aron Saether Jackson, CEO tion of full support of the Allied, Umar Farooq, CEO Ministry of Education. Tech Valley amongst other The optimum use of senior officials of Google. technology is the only way The meeting was also attended by senior officials of the education ministry led by Secretary Education Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani.

to bridge the enormous gap of resources needed. Pakistan is at a critical juncture where every effort needs to be in the right direction, he

Dr. Khalid welcomed said. the diverse Google delega-Dr. Khalid said as all tion that comprised of offi- of the tech companies

Civil Hospital Quetta's Trauma Center providing health facilities to patients: Arbab

QUETTA (APP): Manag- ously injured in the 14-bed ing Director Trauma Cen- ICU. Dr Kasi said that

ter Quetta Dr. Arbab Kamran Kasi on Thursday round the clock services said that Trauma Center were provided in the triad Quetta was providing the of trauma operation thebest emergency services to atres. the people of Balochistan

beyond its capacity. Talking to media, he trauma center where sesaid that at least 525 seriously injured were treated during the Eid-ul- Azha days.

He said 44 major operations have also been conducted along with installing and staff nurses and parasix extra beds for the serimedical staff.

growth and investment He said under his leadership, the ministry was which is the need of the working tirelessly to bring hour. this number down. He said

He reiterated his resolve of increasing the number of skilled workforce in Pakistan. Cities like Karachi have huge

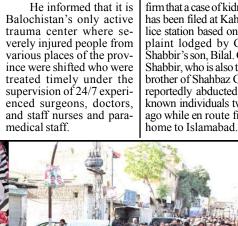
population and through proper technological investments its people can become more productive, he said.

The minister assured the delegation of full support from his office and said that without technological advancements our education crisis cannot be resolved. He also thanked the delegation and hoped that short, medium and long term investment plans will be implemented forthwith.

Êarlier, Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Thursday inaugurated a

Khan's political advisor abducted

LAHORE (INP): Ghulam Shabbir, the political advisor to former Prime Minister and founder of PTI, Imran Khan, has been reported kidnapped, sparking concerns and investigations in Lahore. Authorities confirm that a case of kidnapping has been filed at Kahana police station based on a complaint lodged by Ghulam Shabbir's son, Bilal. Ghulam Shabbir, who is also the elder brother of Shahbaz Gul, was reportedly abducted by unknown individuals two days ago while en route from his





QUETTA: People carrying coffin of Head of Kasi tribe Arbab Abdul Zahir Kasi for burial after funeral prayer.

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