

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vol XXV No 299, Zil Hajj 14, 1445 AH Friday June 21, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

President Zardari 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: Compensation for the families of martyrs of LEAs in Balochistan should be enhanced bringing it at par with the rest of the provinces

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 Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, MNA Malik Shah Gorgaji, Home Minister, Mir Ziaullah Langov, MPA Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman, senior civil and military 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 districts of Balochistan.

It was informed that the provincial government had 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 province. The President was informed that the provincial government was taking steps to provide fool-proof security to Chinese and foreign nationals.

Continued on page 2



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



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

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Balochistan's budget for the next financial year 2024-25 is scheduled to be presented in the provincial assembly's session today (Friday).

The Provincial Minister for Finance, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani would be tabling the provincial budget for the next financial year. It may be mentioned here that the Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has summoned the budget session of provincial assembly at 04:00 PM today.

During the budget session, the Minister for Finance would also table the supplementary budget for the current financial year 2023-24.

The budget session of provincial assembly would remain continued till June 29, 2024.

According to the sources of Finance department, Government of

Balochistan, the total volume of the provincial budget is expected to be around Rs. 850 billion.

The sources of Finance department informed that the province is expected to receive Rs. 647 billion from the divisible pool. The estimates of non-development expenditures are proposed as Rs. 620 billion in the provincial budget.

The sources of Finance department said that 25 percent increase has been proposed in salaries of the government employees from Grade 1 to 16. Similarly, the 20 percent increase has been proposed in salaries of the employees from Grade 17 to 22.

Moreover, 15 percent increase has been suggested in the pensions of retired government employees.

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

nanial year's budget. Earlier, at a presser, the Provincial Minister for Planning and Development had informed that we are going to allocate Rs. 61 billion for health sector in the next budget.

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

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 allocated for bringing out of school children in the

Continued on page 2



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Thursday took exception to a "smear campaign" launched by a specific political party against the Pakistan-China friendship on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

Addressing a news conference, the minister brushed aside the propaganda against Pakistan-China friendship particularly surrounding the upgradation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

"Undoubtedly, the lobbies against the Pakistan-China Dosti are active, and are completely perturbed by the CPEC's upgradation, but such both attempts are destined to fail," he added.

The minister said the

government fully understood that some powers which were stunned by the Pakistan-China friendship, were resorting to undue and unfounded criticism towards the CPEC, but nothing could harm the enduring bond between the two nations.

"The people normally celebrate Eid-ul-Azha by slaughtering sacrificial animals and sharing sweets with their loved ones but there was one political party that exerted all its energies for conspiring against Pak-China Dosti," he regretted.

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 possibi-

Continued on page 2

PM urges political parties to work together for development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has urged all the political parties to work together for the development and prosperity of the country and public welfare.

He was talking to a delegation of Pakistan People's Party headed by Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari that called on him in Islamabad today. The delegation included Chairman Senate Yusuf Raza Gilani, Raja 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 occasion, the Prime Minister said further consultation was held with Pakistan Peoples Party regarding the

budget 2024-2025. He said economy is showing positive indicators while stock 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 consultation 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.



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

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

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh 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 department. The Governor was on visit to the Trauma Center, Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital Quetta on Thursday.

He visited different sections of the Trauma Center and inspected the medical facilities there besides inquiring about the health of

those being treated there. The Medical Superintendent of Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital, Dr. Ishaq Panzezi 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 province's population is settled in Quetta. In addition to this,

Continued on page 2

Armed men kidnap 10 Punjab residents from Quetta

QUETTA (INP): Unidentified armed men kidnaped 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

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 Communist Party of China (IDCPC), Liu Jianchao received at the Islamabad International Airport by Additional Foreign Secretary.

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 Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stressed 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 we have to impart valuable skills to the people of the bordering areas.

The Chief Minister was speaking at the meeting held under the chair of President Asif Ali Zardari on law and order and development projects in the

province, during his visit to Gwadar on Thursday.

The President was briefed about the law and order situation besides development projects in the province.

The Chief Minister on the occasion hailed the special attention and visits of the President Zardari to the province and said that the

Continued on page 2

Election tribunals case: Promulgating presidential ordinance is insult of parliament: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): 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-

sible. Promulgating presidential 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.

What was reason for bringing ordinance? Was there any emergency. The ordinance came from where after the enactment of law by parliament. This is too interference in election.

Continued on page 2



GWADAR: President Asif Ali Zardari being welcomed by Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti and Commander 12 Corps Lt General Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan, upon his arrival.

Grand public meeting at Chaman Parlat: We would not accept passport policy at Durand Line, assets Mehmood Khan Achakzai

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chairman Pashtoonkhaw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) and Head of Tahafuz Aayeen Pakistan Tehreek, Mehmood Khan Achakzai has categorically stated that we are not going to accept the policy of passport on Durand Line at all.

He said that the solution to save the country lies in implementation on the constitution by all stakeholders. Mehmood Khan Achakzai was addressing grand protest public gathering in Chaman on Thursday.

The Chairman PkMAP said that those attacking our innocent children should mend their way as they are not orphans.

He said that we are living in our land for centuries and the nature has blessed us with everything. But

now the establishment of country want to occupy our resources by force, he alleged.

Their desire and aspirations would not be fulfilled, he added.

The Chairman PkMAP said that we would foil every attempt of imposing more war in Afghanistan.

He said that the 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 condition of passport on the people is nothing but their economic massacre.

He said that we are not against the passport as hundreds of people of Chaman are engaged in trade abroad but the passport and visa only at Chaman border is not acceptable.

Education emergency shows government's seriousness in education sector: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday expressing the government's resolve to promote education in the country said that imposing education emergency in Pakistan showed how the government was serious in promoting this sector.

He said the government was taking steps to increase the capacity of the country's youth through the use of modern technology.

He was talking to a high level delegation of Google for Education led by its Managing Director Kevin Kells. The delegation comprised of Google for Education representatives from eight countries.

The prime minister told the delegation that the government was providing laptops to the brilliant students from remote areas of the country. For this scheme, he said the required amount had already been allocated in the budget 2024-25.

He pointed out that the scope of Danish Schools was being expanded to

less developed areas of Islamabad, Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The prime minister welcoming the Google's decision to establish manufacturing plants of chromebooks in Pakistan, appreciated the signing of letter of intent between Google for Education and Ministry of the Federal Education to promote education in Pakistan.

He invite Google for Education to expand its scope of cooperation with Google of Pakistan.

Being briefed on Google for Education's initiatives to promote education and training in Pakistan, the prime minister was told that Google was working on "Digital Journey" for education, and "Digital Safety", especially digital safety program for children.

Google for Education and the National Rural Support Program are working together to promote digital skills and protection in rural areas while under "Balochistan First and Gilgit-Baltistan First" programs, training has been provided to thousands of youth regarding digital skills and security, the meeting was informed.

The prime minister was further informed that the number of out-of-school children would be reduced with the help of artificial intelligence whereas Google for Education would provide artificial intelligence training in key national languages of Pakistan. Google for Education also offered to make Danish School under construction in Islamabad a Google Center of Excellence.

The prime minister was also attended by Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Minister of State for Information Technology Shaza Fatima Khawaja and relevant high officials.

The meeting was also attended by Minister for Education organized training programs for teachers in collaboration with the Punjab government and last year, Google for Education gave 45 thousand certificates in Pakistan.

He said the government was taking steps to increase the capacity of the country's youth through the use of modern technology.



ISLAMABAD: A high level delegation of Google for Education calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

All stakeholders have to create...

Continued from page 1
people of Balochistan are feeling well because of the repeated visits of the President.

He said that the people of province value his love and affection a lot.

Highlighting the strategy prepared for development of the province, Chief Minister said that the historic programme of Benazir Bhutto Scholarship Programme has been started for promotion of the education in Balochistan.

The quota has been allocated for all segments of the society including minorities in the programme, so that the backward segments may have the opportunities to move ahead, he added.

Besides, the viable policies are being prepared to put the health sector on the modern lines under public-private partnership in light of the directives of Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Extraordinary resources are being allocated for health and education sectors in the provincial budget, adding he mentioned.

Similarly, the provincial government has prepared the project for providing

job opportunities to some 30,000 youngsters during next couple of years.

In addition to this, he would also provide suitable assistance to the unemployed graduates by providing them the interest-free loans.

Referring the welfare of fishermen of Gwadar, Mir Sarfraz Bugti mentioned that exceptional measures are being taken for welfare of the local fishermen.

While the provincial government has issued directives for provision of the security and other facilities to the zayreen at Pak-Iran border.

He made pledge to mobilize all available resources to meet expectations of people they have from the elected government.

It may be mentioned here that federal Minister Interior Mohsin Naqvi, Provincial Minister Home, Mir Ziaullah Langove, member National Assembly from Gwadar, Malik Shah Gorgej, member Provincial Assembly, Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem, Inspector General of police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and other high ups participated in the meeting.

President Zardari for enhanced...

Continued from page 1
The President appreciated the efforts of the provincial government as well as the sacrifices of the LEAs in combating 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. The President said that competent and brave police officials needed to be posted in Balochistan that would help improve the law-and-order situation of the province. He also called for taking effective measures to ensure the safety and security of Zaireen.

Underlining the need to improve the socio-economic condition of Balochistan, the President called for focusing on the skill development of its people and producing more skilled professionals. He said that the capacity of training institutions should be enhanced to produce more trained human resources and equip them with foreign language skills that would also help them find jobs in foreign coun-

Governor directsto...

Continued from page 1
the patients and injured persons also come to Quetta for treatment from other districts of the province, for the Trauma Center is insufficient for them, he added.

He said that the shortage of space for the Trauma Center as well as lack of medical facilities and parking have aggravated the situation further.

He stressed that at the moment, we direly need Trauma Center having spacious wards besides equipped with the modern facilities and machinery.

Balochistan's budget...

Continued from page 1
schools.

The Minister P&D told that we are going to establish a modern hospital in Naseerabad besides setting up burn centers in 15 districts.

Moreover, Rs. 500 million are being allocated for Health Card Programme in the budget, he added.

The Provincial Minister Finance, Shoaib Nausherwani said that the reports about lapse of the amount in the current budget.

He informed that we are going make 25 percent increase in the salaries of provincial government employees.

Benazir Bhutto 71st birth anniversary to be celebrated today

KARACHI (APP): The 71st birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Shaheed will be celebrated on Friday, June 21, 2024.

Pakistan Peoples Party Karachi Division will organize the main ceremony at Chakiwara area of Lyari Town, Sindh Local Government Minister and Divisional President PPP Karachi Saeed Ghani said while presiding over a meeting held here on Thursday to review the arrangements of the ceremony.

The meeting was attended by Provincial General Secretary PPP Sindh Waqar Mehdi, GS Karachi Division Javed Nagori, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Murad, Presidents and General Secretaries of all districts of Karachi division. Saeed Ghani, speaking at the occasion said that the main ceremony to celebrate 71st birth anniversary of Benazir Bhutto Shaheed was being organized in Lyari on the instructions of Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari who will deliver speech at the ceremony.

Tarar regrets 'smear campaign'...

Continued from page 1
ties to resolve the issues to forge unity in accordance with the spirit of Eid which taught nothing but sacrifice and altruism.

The whole nation should celebrate the enduring bond of a friendship between Pakistan and China that had stood the test of time and was growing with each passing day, he added.

Tarar said a high-level Chinese delegation led by Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee (IDCPC) Liu Jianchao would arrive in Pakistan today on a three-day visit till June 22.

He said the IDCPC minister had not only been in close coordination with the political parties of various countries but also had a critical role in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) related projects.

The IDCPC minister, he said, would co-preside the Joint Consultative Mechanism on CPEC with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar to review progress on CPEC and explore new areas for its upgradation.

Minister Liu Jianchao would also held meetings with the civil and military leadership of the country,



GWADAR: President Asif Ali Zardari in a group photo with Minister for Interior Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, MNA Malik Shah Gorgaj, Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langov, MPA Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman, senior civil and military officials during his visit

Federal budget an insult to aspirations of masses, thunders Omar Ayub

ISLAMABAD (INP): Leader of the opposition in National Assembly Omar Ayub termed the budget documents as illegal.

As per the parliamentary traditions, the opposition leader opened the general debate on budget on Thursday with his fiery speech in National Assembly.

"We couldn't run our election campaigns due to the crackdown of police," said the opposition leader and added that the cases under the sections of terrorism are being registered against the PTI workers even today.

We are the real heroes of Form-45 as people gave us the mandate, he added.

According to opposition leader, the economy of the country was destabilised in result of the no-trust motion that was moved to oust the government of Imran Khan.

Speaking on floor of the house, the opposition leader said that the government has dug a grave for itself through this budget.

"This budget was prepared by economic hitmen

who wanted to shake the foundations of the country," said Omar Ayub.

The opposition leader was of the view that the PTI founder is still in illegal detention.

Omar Ayub said that the budget is against the people of Pakistan.

"M u h a m m a d Aurangzeb was made finance minister but he was then stabbed in the back as he was removed from the chairmanship of Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Enec)," he said.

According to an agreement among the parties' representatives in a meeting with Speaker Ayaz Sadiq on June 6, the assembly will continue the debate on the budget until June 24.

The members will take part in the debate and vote on cut motions on June 26 and 27, and the budget is expected to be passed on June 28. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb presented the federal budget for fiscal year 2024-25 with the total outlay of Rs18,877 billion earlier this month.

Maulana Fazal calls Grand Tribal Jirga on June 27

PESHAWAR (INP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has convened a Grand Tribal Jirga in Peshawar on June 27 to discuss the prevailing situation in the country's tribal areas.

Religious and political personalities from these areas will attend the huddle which Maulana Fazl will also address. The grand Jirga has been called in the wake of rising lawlessness in the tribal belt.



ABBOTTABAD: Beautiful eye-catching view of the Neelum tourist point which attract domestic and international tourists, which represents the beautification of country

Tarar regrets 'smear campaign'...

Continued from page 1

According to the information minister, the arrival of a high-level delegation from China was not only a good omen but also a leap forward towards the cooperation and collaboration forged by the recent visit of the prime minister to China.

The bureaucracy, media, academia, civil society and business community should continue to play their due role in the Pakistan-China friendship which "is higher than Himalayas, deeper than ocean and sweeter than honey", the minister remarked.

"Today, even our critics are describing the prime minister's visit to China as the most successful in the history of Pakistan," Tarar said while lashing out those who were criticizing the CPEC and Pakistan-China friendship just for the sake of criticism.

He said Senator Mushahid Hussain also lauded the prime minister's visit to China as the "most successful" and calling the joint communication of both the governments after the PM's visit as unprecedented.

"It is an honour for Pakistan that China organized two banquets on the same day in honour of the prime minister and his

Babar on the brink: Can he survive major shake-up after World Cup setback?

LAHORE (INP): Under fire for Pakistan's early exit from the T20 World Cup 2024, captain Babar Azam is at the centre of a heated debate about his future leadership. For the first time since the inaugural World Cup in 2007, the Green Shirts, under Babar's captaincy, failed to progress to the Super 8 stage.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has already announced undertaking a "major surgery" following the national team's disappointing performance at the global event.

Players like Iftikhar Ahmed, Azam Khan, Shadab Khan, Saim Ayub, and Usman Khan might lose their spots. New players from domestic cricket will get a chance.

Captain Babar Azam will have to explain the poor performance, and big changes in the team management are expected. Senior manager and selector Wahab Riaz might lose his job.

Peaking to the media after a narrow win against Ireland, Babar Azam addressed the swirling rumours about relinquishing his captaincy and provided insights into Pakistan's performance during the

tournament.

"When I stepped down from captaincy before, it was a decision I made and announced myself. The PCB's decision to reinstate me was theirs to make. Now, we'll return and evaluate what happened here. If I decide to step down again, I will inform everyone. For now, I haven't considered it, and the final decision lies with the PCB," Babar stated.

Reflecting on the team's overall performance, he added, "We failed collectively, not because of any single individual. Every player has a role, and that's why they're here. I accept that we didn't perform well together."

Amid this turbulent period, Babar acknowledged the significant contributions of Imad Wasim and Mohammad Amir, who returned from retirement for the World Cup. Their performances were commendable. Imad's spin bowling and Amir's effectiveness with the new and old ball were crucial. They utilised their experience well, reading conditions and executing plans. Despite our setbacks, our bowling unit performed admirably, often restricting teams to low scores.

Responding to calls for a shift in batting strategy, Babar stressed the need for adaptability: "Mindset is important; but you can't just aim to hit every ball for six or take a wicket with every delivery. Conditions were tough for all batters in this tournament. Success requires assessing the situation, taking the game deep, and building innings. Maintaining a high strike rate without wickets in hand only adds pressure." As Babar Azam faces scrutiny and possible changes, he highlights the tough challenges of leadership and the need for smart strategies in competitive cricket.

Promulgating presidential...

Continued from page 1

Election act was desire of parliament. This ordinance was of whose desire. Either value of parliament is more or value of cabinet. The decision of high court was negated through this ordinance. The constitution is very clear. The powers of constitution of election tribunals rest with EC. Section C of article 219 has made it amply clear. We have taken oath under law and constitution and not on courts decisions. Whenever SC made constitutional interpretations, complications came into being, the CJP gave these remarks on Thursday.

The CJP directed Suleman Akram Raja not to come in uniform being respondent in the case.

Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan remarked we want to see as to why the problem of constitution of tribunals was not created in other provinces. The proceedings of tribunals is near to completion in Balochistan. When I was chief justice of Balochistan high court I had said in clear terms the powers to constitute tribunals rest with EC.

A two members bench of SC presided over by CJP Qazi Faez Isa took up for hearing appeal plea filed by EC against constitution of election tribunals.

Sikandar Bashir counsel for EC and Suleman Akram Raja counsel for PTI

appeared in the court.

Sikandar Bashir counsel for EC opened the arguments.

He told the court there is matter of interpretation of article 219 © in the case. The CJP inquired tell us some facts of the case.

The counsel for EC said EC wrote letters to all high courts for constitution of tribunals on February 14. The constitution of tribunals is mandate of EC. Through the letters the lists of name of judges were sought from all high courts. The panels of judges name were sought from high courts. Lahore High Court gave name of two judges on February 20. Both the judges were notified for election tribunals. More two judges were notified as election tribunals on April 26.

CJP stopped the counsel for saying the word respectable for high court.

The CJP Qazi Faez Isa remarked you are saying respectable to high courts. This is said for judges.

He inquired English language is of England. Is the word respectable used for parliament there.

He remarked here the parliamentarians don't give respect to each other. They exchange abuses with each other. We want there should be respect. Why EC is not called respectable. Is EC not respectable.

Counsel for EC said no dispute arose to the extent of establishment of 4 election tribunals.

CORRIGENDUM

The Bid Submission of the contractors which was uploaded on BPPRA Website under TSE-232406451043 Published on Daily newspapers on 7-06-2024 vide PRQ No. 2858/06-06-2024 In the Newspaper the time of Bid submission is extended due to some changes in the eligibility criteria which is now 28 June, 2024 till 12:00 PM. All the other rules remain the same.

Assistant Director Local Government & Rural Development Zariat

PRQ No.3033/20-6-2024

www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gov dpr.gov @dprbalochistan

CORRIGENDUM

The Bid Submission of the contractors which was uploaded on BPPRA Website under TSE-232406451043 Published on Daily newspapers on 7-06-2024 vide PRQ No. 2858/06-06-2024 In the Newspaper the time of Bid submission is extended due to some changes in the eligibility criteria which is now 28 June, 2024 till 12:00 PM. All the other rules remain the same.

Assistant Director Local Government & Rural Development Zariat

PRQ No.3033/20-6-2024

www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gov dpr.gov @dprbalochistan

CNS says: Pak dedication to int'l standard nautical products re-affirms its contribution to maritime activities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Admiral Naveed Ashraf, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), Admiral Naveed Ashraf on Thursday said the continued dedication to ensure production of International standard nautical products re-affirms its role as an important contributor to global maritime safety, efficiency and sustainability of marine activities that was pivotal in securing national maritime interests and promoting national maritime sector.

In his message on World Hydrography Day, the Naval Chief said the Day is celebrated worldwide on 21st June each year to raise awareness about the importance of hydrography and how it plays an important role in improving our knowledge of the oceans, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

The theme chosen by International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) for WHD-24 is "Hydrographic Information Enhancing Safety, Efficiency, and Sustainability in Marine Activities," which aptly underscores the criticality of hydrographic services in contemporary maritime affairs, he added.

Admiral Naveed Ashraf, "Annual celebration of this day emphasizes importance of hydrography as it underpins almost every activity associated with the sea including safety of navigation, security and defence, environmental protection, ports and harbour construction, coastal zone and disaster management and maritime boundary delimitation. Pakistan is blessed with over 1000 kms of coastline along with 290,000 Sq kms of sea area within its EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) and Continental Shelf (CS)."

He said that Pakistan like other coastal states is responsible for hydrographic surveys and production of nautical charts/maps of its waters to provide accurate nautical information to the mariners. On behalf of Pakistan, the National Hydrographic Office (NHO) is entrusted with this task.

In this backdrop, he said NHO conducts comprehensive hydrographic surveys and ensures regular updating of relevant nautical products in order to ensure navigational safety

of the vessels traversing through Pakistani waters. The Naval Chief said, "NHO is also shouldering the National responsibility of Coordinator of NAVAREA-IX (comprising North Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf, Red Sea region) since 1976 for promulgation of Navigation Warnings. This is indeed a great honour for Pakistan, which shows the trust of the world community on capabilities and professionalism of our hydrographers."

The Hydrographers, he said have also remained instrumental in helping us determine the maritime boundaries and in past getting Pakistan's extended Continental Shelf area of 50,000 sq Kms approved from UN in 2015. As promoter of national maritime domain, it is also worth mentioning that PN/NHO in collaboration with China has also taken a lead role in first ever systematic hydrocarbon resource mapping of Pakistan's complete EEZ. In days to come this effort shall facilitate offshore oil & gas discoveries and may provide a boost to the national economy, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Resident Representative of United Nations Development Programme in Pakistan, Van Nguyen calls on coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam at her office.

UNHCR on World Refugees day stresses countries to resolve conflicts, share responsibility for refugees

ISLAMABAD (APP): UNHCR Pakistan Spokesperson, Qaiser Khan Afridi Thursday on 'World Refugees Day' said that over 75 percent of refugees were being hosted by middle-income countries where we urged nations to resolve political conflicts and share the responsibilities of displaced refugees.

Speaking to the PTV news channel, he said, "These refugee nations are facing rising challenges such as political conflicts, climatic factors, disasters, and growing external debt, hindering their ability to address specific national needs and achieve sustainable development goals and development aspirations."

"World Refugee Day is a time to recognize the generosity of host countries that have kept their borders and hearts open to people in need of protection, he

added. "The Pakistani nation and government are very proud of our hospitality for millions of refugees and will continue to support every initiative for the establishment of peace, prosperity, and the development of these people," Afridi said.

World Refugee Day is being observed today to honor the courage, strength, and determination of refugees who are forced to flee their homeland under threat of persecution, conflict, and violence.

This year's theme of the day is 'Solidarity with Refugees'. "Pakistan continues to be one of the world's largest refugee hosting countries, providing safety to millions of people forced to flee their countries," Afridi said.

"UNHCR is playing an important role in the res-

toration and protection of refugees, and these people also need global solidarity to rebuild their lives with dignity," he continued.

"Let us pledge to reaffirm the world's collective responsibility in assisting and welcoming refugees, upholding their human rights, and helping resolve the conflicts that are uprooting so many," Afridi vowed.

He said, "There is urgent global collaboration that is required to put agreed protection principles into practice."

Replying to a question, he emphasized the need to address the root causes of displacement and ensure the safety of millions affected by conflict, violence, and climate change, noting that the forcibly displaced were among the world's most vulnerable communities.



ISLAMABAD: A zebra stands under the shade of trees in a cage on a green belt alongside Faisal Avenue during hot summer day in the Federal Capital.

I'abad Police ensures robust security arrangements for Eid

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: According to the details, under the command of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, Islamabad Police ensured robust security arrangements for Eid-ul-Adha.

Due to the excellent strategy of Islamabad Police, no untoward incident occurred in Islamabad. During Eid, Islamabad Police provided special facilities to families at recreational spots while preventing mischief-makers from hooliganism and one-wheeling. More than 1,500 motorcycles were impounded in various police stations, and the verification process of these motorcycles is ongoing.

IG Islamabad said that

every officer of Islamabad Police sacrificed their family celebrations to provide security to the citizens and set a high example of determination and commitment. The establishment of peace and order in Islamabad is a testament to the excellent strategy of Islamabad Police. He further said that the credit for the excellent security goes to every officer of Islamabad Police, from constable to IG. We are committed to protecting the lives and property of the public.

IG Islamabad thanked the traders, journalist community, and public for their cooperation in making the security arrangements effective. He said that we will continue to play a vital role in maintaining peace in our city with unity.

IRSA releases 303,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 303,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 369,800 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1,454.75 feet and was 56.75 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 175,000 cusecs and 110,000 cusecs respectively.

Chairman praises officials for 'good performance' in Eid

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMCo) Saqib Rafiq Thursday praised officials for their good performance and said that RWMCo had implemented a comprehensive strategy to effectively collect and dispose of more than 9,000 tons of animal waste during the three days of Eid-ul-Azha while resolving public complaints.

Talking to the PTV news channel, he said that almost 43 transfer stations were being set up at the Union Council level.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui inaugurates a Tech-Ed Centre of Excellence established in collaboration with Google at IMCG, F-6/2.

Romina Khurshid lauds UNDP, Pakistan's financial, technical support for tackling climate risks

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Resident Representative for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Pakistan, Van Nguyen called on Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change MNA Romina Khurshid Alam here on Thursday whereas the Coordinator lauded the Programme's financial and technical support to the country for tackling climate crisis.

During the meeting held here at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, both sides discussed at length the matters related to the climate risk mitigation, climate finance for adaptation and mitigation measures, agriculture insurance, urban flood resilience, a news release said.

The senior UNDP-Pakistan official Van Nguyen also briefed the PM's aide about the Global Shield against Climate Risks initiative, saying the new global funding mechanism aimed to close protection gaps in climate-vulnerable countries like Pakistan, using pre-arranged finance.

Sharing details, she apprised the PM's aide Romina Khurshid Advisor further said that the Vulnerable Twenty Group (V20) together with the Group of Seven (G7) and other supporting countries launched the Global Shield against

Climate Risks initiative to provide and facilitate more and better pre-arranged protection against climate and disaster related risks for vulnerable people in the highly climate risk-prone countries.

"Basically, the Global Shield against Climate Risks initiative is more and better pre-arranged and trigger-based financial resource, which is immediately-available fund in response to disasters, in the most efficient, effective and fastest way for the economy, businesses, and communities in the most climate-vulnerable countries," UNDP-Pakistan's Van Nguyen elaborated during the meeting with Romina Khurshid Alam.

"More importantly, providing countries with comprehensive support in further understanding the climate risks and impacts and the innovative solutions and support to plug the protection gap and effectively address losses and damages caused and exacerbated by climate change is an over-arching purpose of the initiative," the UNDP-Pakistan's senior official informed the PM's aide. "Another key objective of the initiative is provision of grant-based financial and technical assistance to climate-vulnerable countries like Pakistan so as to develop and implement solutions for financial protec-

tion of the vulnerable communities linked with climate change and adaptation efforts," she added.

Meanwhile, the UNDP-Pakistan official also assured the PM's aide Romina Khurshid Alam of her organisation's all-out support to access the financial and technical support provided by the initiative to build the country's climate resilience.

Romina Khurshid thanked and lauded the UNDP - Pakistan for their generous offer for helping Pakistan through the climate change and environmental coordination ministry to build up resilience of the climate-vulnerable sectors, particularly agriculture, urban flood resilience and early warning for disaster risk reduction. "I would leave no stone unturned to avail any opportunity that help us protection lives and livelihoods of the people and socio-economic sectors particularly agriculture, water, energy, health, education through climate adaptation and mitigation measures," Romina Khurshid Alam told the UNDP - Pakistan's senior official Van Nguyen. "Greater financial protection and faster and more reliable disaster preparedness and response provided under the initiative can contribute to effectively responding to the vulnerabilities as well as climate change-related loss.



ISLAMABAD: A view of electric busses on their way at a road in the area of Bari Imam during test service in the Federal Capital. The residents of Islamabad will see more busses on city roads soon as out of the 160 electric busses 30 have arrived from China and another fleet of 70 is on the way.

IG Islamabad visits Faizabad checkpoint late at night

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: According to the details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi visited the Faizabad checkpoint on the third day of Eid and met with the police officers stationed at the checkpoint.

During the visit, IG Islamabad announced commendation certificates and cash rewards for all officers for performing their duties effectively and efficiently.

On the occasion, he said these are the officers who are sacrificing their own family celebrations to ensure the safety of the citi-

zens. Police officers are my family and close to my heart.

The police officers on duty during Eid will be given leave in stages. Because of these officers, the citizens of Islamabad celebrated Eid peacefully, he added.

He directed the police officers to perform their duties effectively, to treat citizens courteously during the checking process, and to conduct effective checks of suspicious vehicles.

He further said that, the protection of the lives and property of citizens is the top priority of Islamabad Police.

CDA decides to establish Wildlife Safari Park

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has decided to establish Wildlife Safari Park in the federal capital.

It was decided in a meeting chaired by Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

The park will be developed on a jungle theme and will include tree houses, facilities for close observation of animals and a rehabilitation center for animals. For this purpose, a technical team has been

formed to evaluate the technical and financial aspects of establishing the Wildlife Safari Park.

Muhammad Ali said that the experiences of safari parks established at both national and international levels would be utilized.

The meeting also decided to launch Pakistan Street, which will feature outlets offering cuisines from around the world.

He said that the work on both projects will commence in the next fiscal year following detailed planning.

Pakistan reaffirms commitment to peaceful space exploration

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chairman of the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), Muhammad Yousuf Khan has termed the outer space as a common heritage of humanity and said Pakistan is strongly committed to peaceful use of outer space.

The Chairman Suparco said this while addressing the inaugural session of the 67th session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). The session is held in Vienna and will continue till June 28.

Highlighting outer space as a common heritage of humanity, he stressed its equitable and non-discriminatory accessibility, said a

news release issued here.

Chairman SUPARCO proudly shared Pakistan's recent advancements, including the successful launches of the iCUBE-Qamar satellite and the Pakistan Multi-Mission Communication Satellite, PakSat-MM1, this May.

He also revealed future plans for a rover mission to the lunar south pole in collaboration with China's Chang'E-8 Mission. Earlier, the Chairman attended the Lunar Conference organized by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) on June 18, where he discussed Pakistan's commitment to lunar exploration and international cooperation in space research.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkmenistan Attajan Mulamov meets Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain.

ICT admin disposes of over 0.2 mln offals, 1750 tonnes waste during Eid days

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration efficiently managed cleanup efforts, disposing of about 0.2 million offals and over 1,750 tons of waste during Eid ul Azha.

Last year, about 94,000 offals were disposed of in the Federal Capital on Eid. This year, the administration worked tirelessly to ensure that offals and waste were collected from every household, said the spokesman for the ICT administration.

Sharing the details, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, said that more than 150 citizen complaints were received via the 1334 helpline, prompting immediate response teams to address the issues.

He said that on the first day of Eid, over 99,000 offals and over 1,750 tons of waste were disposed of, while more than 100 citizen complaints were received via the 1334 helpline, prompting immediate re-

sponse teams to address the issues.

Similarly, on the second day of Eid, the district administration resumed the cleanup operations and disposed of over 99,000 offals while receiving more than 50 citizen complaints via the 1334 helpline.

The DC congratulated all Assistant Commissioners and the district administration teams for their dedication to restoring the city's cleanliness.

He emphasized the importance of citizen cooperation in maintaining the city's cleanliness and beauty.

He said that special attention was given to rural areas this year, with biodegradable bags distributed to citizens for waste collection. This model proved successful in urban areas, with residents placing the filled bags outside their homes for collection.

Moreover, a control room was also set up in Safe City, receiving 150 complaints in the first two days, all of which were promptly addressed.

Effective Traffic Management ensured during Eid holidays

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Following the special orders of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad Muhammad Sarfaraz Virk supervised the Islamabad Traffic Police to implement an effective plan to main-

tain traffic flow on highways and protect citizens from accidents during Eid-ul-Adha.

Besides ensuring effective traffic management at public places, a crackdown was conducted against motorcyclists involved in one-wheeling and hooliganism on highways, issuing 4,154 challan tick-



ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Secretary Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid and Principal Information Officer (PIO) Mobashir Hassan on Thursday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of the father of National Press Club (NPC) President Azhar Jatoi.

In their condolence messages, the Secretary Information and PIO expressed heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the bereaved family.

They prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude.

Due to the effective

arrangements by the traffic police, no incidents of one-wheeling, racing, or motorcycle accidents occurred in the federal capital.

He further said that the efforts and duties performed by Islamabad Police during Eid-ul-Adha were appreciated by all segments of society and citizens on various forums.



ISLAMABAD: A view of decreasing water level at Rawal Dam after hot weather in the Federal Capital.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Friday June 21, 2024

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 (Azmat Lala).

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

The reports coming from across the border suggest that Abdul Manan's killing is result of internal conflicts within different groups operating inside 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 cross-border attacks against Pakistanis, including security forces.

As a matter of fact, a report released by The Washington-based Center for a New American 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 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 cross-border attacks against Pakistan.

Undoubtedly, it would be a 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.

Ali Tauqeer Sheikh

The finance bill or proposed budget for the next fiscal year has refused to commit any resources or even set the national direction for climate resilience.

It has failed to acknowledge that Pakistan is one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, and perhaps the least prepared. It has missed, once again, the opportunity to determine the course of action for Pakistan's sustainable economic development. Worse, the proposed budget has not outlined a vision for climate-resilient investments.

The finance bill has not shown any particular appetite for institutional or policy reforms that could help stop the economic bleeding caused by repeated climate-induced disasters or the slow onset that is threatening GDP growth rate and per capita incomes. Ironically, despite heavy losses, Pakistan has not explicitly adopted climate considerations into the budgetary process.

The government has, instead, opted for a simplistic formula for generating

tax and non-tax revenues, particularly by cutting subsidies. Economic development is a secondary target, and climate-resilient development is not even on the horizon. As seen in several other countries, the government can ensure that public finance is aligned with climate change mitigation and adaptation goals.

The Planning Commission has still not embedded adaptation and mitigation in PC-1s that are the backbone of annual public sector investments. The finance ministry has not initiated the tracking of climate expenditures, despite attempts over the years by several development partners. The office of the Accountant General Pakistan Revenues has not climate-proofed reporting of federal transactions, nor has the Auditor General upgraded its auditing standards and disclosure rules.

The FBR is not tracking and reporting climate-related tax expenditures, nor has it supported the development of climate-resilient infrastructure by ensuring that tax policies and regulations promote investments in climate-resilient projects and infrastructure. In fact, none of the major govern-

ment 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 budgets. Bangladesh is now graduating from least developed country status to become, like Pakistan, a low-middle 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 government equity of \$350 million. Designed to help communities recover from climate disasters by supporting the construction of houses in cyclone-affected areas, the CCTF has supported the construction of embankments and provision of solar home systems.

While our finance bill has announced the government's intent to set up a similar fund, following the Climate Change Act of 2017, the finance minister

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 in 2022, the CFF emphasises institutional coordination between the planning, finance and other divisions to ensure effective implementation of climate fiscal policies and 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 allocations in the budget system. There is a lesson for Pakistan: such tracking systems not only help improve policymaking to address climate vulnerabilities, but also add to transparency and accountability in its budgeting.

A climate-smart budget would typically rest on five anchors: i) an assessment of the potential impacts of climate change on different sec-

tors and regions, ii) a mechanism to track and report on related expenditures, iii) an alignment with national policies and targets, such as the Nationally Determined Contributions, iv) prioritising resource allocation for mitigation, adaptation, and resilience-building, and v) accessing domestic and international climate finance to fill the resource gaps.

In other words, rather than treating it as a stand-alone issue, Pakistan needs to integrate its climate considerations into the overall budget-planning processes. Governments across the world are routinely focusing on domestic financing through national budget reallocations, the establishment of national/subnational climate funds, and partnerships with the local private sector, civil society, and local authorities. No such intent is outlined in the proposed budget. Likewise, the budget bill has not committed to systematically pursuing innovative green finance mechanisms, such as green bonds, green loans, and green guarantees to mobilise climate finances.

True, Pakistan's fiscal space is narrow, yet we still

follow traditional debt relief involving rescheduling, forgiving, or reducing a portion of a country's debt, often through bilateral or multilateral agreements. This approach focuses on reducing debt burdens without necessarily addressing environmental and climate concerns. Debt-for-climate swaps, on the other hand, involve converting debt into funds dedicated to environmental conservation and climate mitigation. This approach addresses both debt distress and climate change by redirecting debt payments towards climate-smart projects.

Several developing countries have used debt-for-climate swaps to finance climate projects. This approach focuses on reducing 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 climate projects. -- Courtesy Dawn

Accounting for change

Khurram Husain

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

This resistance to change has been the country's key defining theme for decades now. It was laid down by Ghulam Ishaq Khan as the principal strategy with which the country would deal with the massive changes sweeping the world, starting in the 1980s and accelerating through the 1990s. GIK and a small coterie of bureaucrats around him, including but not limited to people like A.G.N. Kazi, H.U. Beg, V.A. Jafarey, Saeed Qureshi, I.A. Hanfi among others, practically ran Pakistan's economic management in those years.

They were serious men, rightly famous for

their professionalism and intellect, and they operated 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 trying to champion change at a time when this coterie manned the ramparts to keep all change at bay and protect the status quo.

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 country's infrastructure to maintaining a pricing regime for agriculture and energy, to deciding who gets how much credit and on what terms, and who gets to invest how much and where, and fetch what returns on that investment, the state played an overriding role in the country's economy in

those days. And this coterie 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 pre-eminent 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.

Crucially, those strategies included a template for tax and power sector reforms. But they also included a more general withdrawal of the state from areas administering pricing, credit allocations, ownership of commercial enterprises and more. Taken together, these strategies came to be called 'the

Washington Consensus'.

In those days, GIK laid the foundations of how Pakistan would tackle the growing crisis of state and economy. It was his approach to first agree to wide-ranging reforms, then find ways to blunt their impact, stymie their implementation and where necessary, simply renege on commitments once the funds promised under the agreements had been released.

The first Benazir Bhutto government was overwhelmed by the scale of the challenges it had to face — the aftermath of the Afghan jihad was smouldering to the west, while to the east, an Indian arms build-up had drained Pakistan's coffers. A bankrupt economy at home and a strident IMF programme signed by the interim government prior to her taking power necessitated structural reforms so deep that governments since her time have struggled to implement them.

The first Nawaz Sharif government brought in some of the changes envisaged. They changed the debt management strategy, brought in

the first non-DMG State Bank governor in the person of Muhammad Yaqub, undertook the first privatisation, liberalised trade, passed the Sales Tax Act (by a sleight of hand where they disguised it under a money bill), and opened up the capital account to free up the flow of capital into and out of the country. They also successfully wrested control of economic policy from GIK and his coterie and brought their own people into key positions, such as Sartaj Aziz and Ishaq Dar.

This is what lay at the heart of the big fight between president Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Nawaz Sharif, ending eventually with both being brought down. But what started as a fight over changing the direction of the economy, eventually became little more than a changing of the guard. The reforms of the first Nawaz Sharif government were not built to do much, other than spur short-term growth, and encourage an inflow of dollars through the foreign currency deposit scheme that became an albatross around the

government's neck by the end of the decade.

What emerged from all this is a type of economic management that today goes under the name of 'Daronomics', and whose principal aim is not 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 flow upwards and be subservient to the requirements of this struggle. The non-stop struggle for power has paralysed the state at the top, and stymied its attempt to develop a sound reform strategy.

Food, with thought

F.S. Aijazuddin

It is not a novel idea: which interesting personality would you want to share a meal with? From 2012, The New York Times has run a weekly column 'By the Book', in which famous authors are asked to identify three writers (dead or alive) they would like to invite for a literary dinner. Predictably, most chose William Shakespeare — provided he spoke modern English.

Even earlier, since 1994, the UK's Financial Times ran its series 'Lunch with the FT', in which a singularly important living personality was invited for an interview over lunch at a location of their choice, at FT's expense. Out of 1,000 or so lunches, the FT selected 50 interviews, publishing them as Lunch with the FT — A Second Helping (2019).

Intended to be a one-to-one, the FT occasionally had to pay also for accompanying security details. One brought five guards. Modest by Pakistani standards, where no leaders worth their salt travel without a 50-strong police escort, not counting the ambulance team.

Not every interviewee honoured FT's open-palmed largesse. The newspaper tycoon Richard Desmond, for example, ordered a bottle of wine before the FT host could open the menu. It cost £580.

The Brexit spoiler Nigel Farage (who now threatens to disrupt the forthcoming UK general elections) preferred to drink before, during and after his meal, and then between meals.

Donald Trump for his interview in 2013 chose his own Trump Grill, in the basement of his own Trump Towers on Fifth Avenue, New

York. The bill for two came to a modest \$74.

His fellow American Edward Snowden released CIA's and NSA's classified documents to The Guardian and to The Washington Post and then had to seek asylum in Russia. (Putin has since granted him Russian nationality.) Snowden asked his interviewer Alan Rusbridger (formerly editor-in-chief of The Guardian) to meet him in the latter's room in the secluded Golden Apple Hotel in Moscow.

Snowden's choice of food was unexpected: spicy chicken curry, followed by ice cream. His trenchant remarks about the limited choices before the US voter in 2016 — Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton — will resonate among voters of recent elections across the world. He complained: "We're a country of 330 million people and we seem to be asked to make a choice between individuals whose lives are defined by scandal."

Particularly moving is the interview with the juvenile Bana al-Abed, trapped at Aleppo in the war between the Syrian regime and opposition militias. In the absence of coverage by journalists, she became the voice from the carnage through her Twitter feeds, managed by her mother.

Especially poignant were her tweets in December 2016: "My name is Bana. I am seven years old. This is my last moment to live or die." Earlier she had posted: "I am sick now, I have no medicine, no home, no clean water. This will make me die before a bomb kills me." She spoke for every child in Gaza.

Readers of the FT book who savour the pickle of corruption should read the interview with Sepp Blatter, the controversial head of FIFA

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 — 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 world-class 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 in Braille."

It is sentences like these which subordinate the locale, the food consumed, and the price of the meal. Such interviews elevate reportage into an art form. -- Courtesy Dawn

Rule of violence

Khadim Hussain

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 Pakistani state and society. However, what is more horrendous is the repetition of the pattern of violence that Pakistan, especially KP, witnessed a few decades ago; terror is once again stalking various parts of the country, especially Malakand Division and the former Fata region.

On May 9, a girls' school was set ablaze in the scenic Shawa valley of South Waziristan. On May 17, the people of lower South Waziristan awoke to the terror of a bomb attack on another girls' school. On May 29, a girls' school was torched in Shakhmir village in Razmak, North Waziristan. Thirty-four schools, mostly girls' schools, are on the verge of closure in central Kurram district due to lack of funds. All this has happened a year or so after Afghanistan banned secondary and higher education for girls there — as happened under the first Afghan Taliban regime. In the latter case, some two decades ago, the terror syndicate in KP followed suit.

The terror syndicate and violent extremists see gender diversity as a threat to their discourse of homogenisation. They are scared of gender diversity as much as they are of aesthetics and cultural diversity. The religious militant discourse constructs women as objects devoid of any human agency. Women must have no public role in the worldview of the proponents of this discourse, who wish to de-

stroy every space that women can use for a public role. Their destructive tendencies start with torching and bombing girls' schools. Destroying girls' schools with impunity at this time marks the beginning of another phase of the rule of violence.

On May 30, a student of Malakand University, Musa Khan, died in a heart-wrenching motorbike accident. It was later revealed that the circumstances that led to the accident may have been created inside the university. Musa Khan had been issued a show-cause notice and then an expulsion letter by the university, because he had allegedly brought a rubab to a university event. This had put the young student under severe mental pressure, which might have resulted in his accident. On May 31, renowned folk artist Said Wali Wazir of Janikhel, Bannu was manhandled and his musical instruments broken by the local police. This seems to have been on account of the dread spread by the terror syndicate that is opposed to music. Said Wali Wazir's music concerts are already banned in his area.

Like women, primary victims of the empire of violence include music, art and poetry. The terror syndicate demonstrated its abhorrence for music, art and poetry two decades ago; the pattern is now being repeated: as they are an expression of aesthetics and the beauty of life, music, art and poetry must be banished from the social structure and cultural norms. Instead, the narrative of ugliness must be injected into life. This entire discourse hinges on erasing our natural feelings for beauty and artistic expression. Music, art and

poetry are powerful tools to encourage socio-cultural gatherings; the terror syndicate wishes to keep the people isolated. Music, art and poetry keep the people rooted in their home soil, while the terror syndicate wants them to be uprooted.

When one looks at this saga, along with the attacks by violent mob r a n s a c k i n g several churches in Jaranwala town, Faisalabad, in August 2023, and an attack on a Christian home and factory in Sardogha on May 26, 2024, one reaches the 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 socio-cultural activism must be facilitated in educational institutions and the larger society. -- Courtesy Dawn

Zero Waste Mission on Eid is great example of collaboration: Maryam

CM Punjab lauds Safe City Team for excellent monitoring through cameras

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that the success of Zero Waste Mission continuously for 72 hours on Eid-ul-Adha is a great example of collaboration.

While congratulating public representatives, administration, waste management companies, local bodies and police for excellent arrangements on Eid-ul-Azha, she said in cities, towns as well as large villages, the cleaning process was carried out in the best possible way.

The chief minister said, "The process of washing roads with water mixed with phenyl and rose water is a new innovation," adding that the security arrangements on Eid places, Mosques and Imambargahs remained satisfactory."

Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "Good manage-

ment of cattle markets facilitated buyers and traders alike." She appreciated Provincial Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq and his team along with commissioners, deputy commissioners and other waste management authorities for their commendable performance.

The CM said the officers and crew lived up to the expectations of people, despite scorching heat and completed the zero waste mission diligently.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, praised the safe city team for its excellent monitoring through cameras, which helped keep the city clean during Eidul Azha

days. In a tweet, the Chief Minister mentioned that the Safe City artificial intelligence cameras provided excellent supervision and guidance for cleanliness. The staff of Waste Management Company was engaged in disposal of remains and waste in response to alerts from Safe City. The Safe City identified 356 locations where LWMC teams needed to manage waste.

A spokesperson for the Safe Cities stated the Waste Management Company took timely action based on Safe City's alerts. The Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) personnel were also on duty at the Safe City Center. The Safe City is providing all possible support to law enforcement and civic agencies.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah unveils the plaque to inaugurate the Sindh Smart Surveillance System (S-4) during inauguration ceremony held at Chief Police Office (CPO) in Karachi.

Murad inaugurates S-4 of Karachi Safe City project

KARACHI (INP): Asserting that ensuring peace in Karachi and elsewhere in Sindh was a priority for the provincial government, Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday said that 400 latest cameras had been installed at different spots in the province to monitor the security situation on roads.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of S-4 project of Karachi Safe City and Sindh Surveillance System in Karachi, the chief minister said that the latest system had also been installed at 40 toll plazas of the province for security purposes. "The cameras installed at these plazas are also equipped with the facility of night vision," he informed.

He said that the installation of cameras would help the Sindh government control the activities of outlaws in the province by ensuring monitoring of the entry and exit points. Murad said with the installation of the system two programmes of automatic number-plate recognition and face identification programme will work together to control crime and criminal activities.

He said that a smart surveillance system could be helpful in arresting over 80,000 absconding criminals in the province.

Earlier, Sindh home minister and the provincial inspector general of police (IGP) Ghulam Nabi Memon welcomed Murad on arrival at the IGP office.

He was also given a briefing at the CPO's Command and Control Room.

As many as 1,044 new surveillance cameras have been installed while 256 old ones have been upgraded under the Karachi Safe City Project, which has been finally launched after a delay of eight years.

In the first phase, the Red Zone [a term used for mostly south district areas where key government buildings, foreign consulates, Sindh Assembly, CM House, Governor House and other important structures are situated, would be covered. A total 1,300 cameras would be installed in the first phase.

Out of these 1,300, 1,044 would be new and the rest 256 are the old ones which would be upgraded."



Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi inquires about the health of the patient during his visit to DHQs Hospital, Dera Ismail Khan.

Woman misbehave with police case: Court rejects exemption from attendance plea of woman

RAWALPINDI (Online): Additional District Sessions Judge Rawalpindi Khalid Mehmood Cheema has dismissed the exemption from attendance plea of the woman nominated in the case of alleged misbehave with Motorway police. The court also rejected the interim bail plea of the lady being not persuaded.

The court while adjourning the proceedings regarding bail plea of other woman till June 24 has summoned investigating officer on next hearing.

During the hearing of the case Anza Akhund who is nominated in the case sent exemption plea. The court while rejecting the exemption plea also dismissed her interim bail plea for not being persuaded by her and due to her absence.

During the hearing of the case neither the investigating officer furnished record of the case nor the

lawyers of the respondents gave arguments on bail plea. The court while adjourning the hearing without proceedings fixed June 24 for hearing of bail plea of Minhul Suleman nominated in the case.

The court directed the investigating officer to complete the investigation and submit record of the case on next hearing. It may be mentioned that Kallar Kahar police had registered case no 255 under section 20 of Prevention of electronic crime act-2016 and relevant sections of Pakistan Penal Code on the complaint of Sami ur Rehman inspector of motorway police. As per context of the case the applicant was deployed on speed checking along with his team when he saw a car which was being driven by a woman was coming in salt range area at the speed of 80 kilometer per hour instead of 40 kilometer per hour.



FAISALABAD: People departing back to the city at Railway Station after spending Eid-ul-Azha holidays at their hometowns.

Two killed, three injured in shooting on Kohat road

PESHAWAR (APP): Two people were killed and three others injured when unknown assailants opened fire on a passenger vehicle near Pracha Banda on Kohat-Hangu Road.

According to Rescue 1122, the incident occurred when the vehicle was traveling along the Kohat-Hangu road.

Upon receiving the emergency call, Rescue 1122's medical teams swiftly arrived at the scene, provided initial medical aid to the injured, and transported them to DHQ Hospital Kohat.

ANF seizes 236 kg drugs in seven operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations across the country managed to recover 236 kg of drugs and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He informed that 3.6 kg ice was recovered from a passenger going to Bahrain at Islamabad Airport.

Several capsules containing 900 grams heroin were recovered from the stomach of a passenger going to Bahrain at Sialkot Airport. In another operation at Islamabad Airport, 254 grams heroin and 200 grams hashish were recovered from a Doha-bound passenger.

CM announces one-month pay for workers removing animal waste during Eid

DERA GHAZI KHAN (APP): Commissioner Dera Ghazi Khan Dr. Nasir Mahmood Bashir said on Thursday that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has announced one-month pay reward for all those workers who remained operational in the five districts for removing 4675 metric ton of animal's waste during Eid-ul-Azha.

"It was difficult most to work under the skin-scorching heat but they all demonstrated best team work and Chief Minister has announced one-month pay for them." "Everybody, from deputy commis-

sioners to the sanitary workers deserve commendation," commissioner said while addressing a meeting via video link.

He said, CM Maryam Nawaz has congratulated the workers for successful accomplishment of zero-waste target. He said that ceremonies would be held at divisional, district and tehsil level to award certificates to workers for their encouragement.

He said that 3614 temporary collection points were set up in all the districts and 9431 places where sacrifices were performed were cleaned.

Karachi Police Chief honors gold medalist constable

KARACHI (APP): Additional Inspector General of Police Imran Yaqoob Minhas on Thursday honored Police Constable Shah Nawaz Khan for his outstanding achievement in bodybuilding. Shah Nawaz Khan recently won the gold medal in the South Asian Bodybuilding Championship and earned the title of South Asia. In recognition of his accomplishment, Constable Shah Nawaz Khan was presented with a CC-1 certificate and a cash reward by the Additional IGP at the Karachi Police Office, according to a spokesperson for the Karachi Police.



KARACHI: A view of Full Court Reference on the eve of elevation of Hon'ble Chief Justice Sindh High Court Mr. Justice Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi to the Supreme Court of Pakistan at the Committee Court room No. 1 High Court.

PIA's first post-Hajj flight with 150 pilgrims on board arrives in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): The first post-Hajj flight PK 860 of Pakistan International Airlines carrying 160 pilgrims from Jeddah arrived at the Karachi Airport on Thursday afternoon.

The pilgrims were received by PIA District Manager Umar Khan, Airport Manager Javed Pechuho and other PIA officers, a PIA spokesperson said.

The PIA would bring back more than 35,000 pilgrims, including 19,500 under the Government Hajj Scheme, 14,900 under the Private Hajj Scheme and about 630 Khudam from Saudi Arabia through 171 flights, he added. The national airlines would operate post-Hajj flights to Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore, Multan, Sialkot and Peshawar, while pilgrims from Sukkur and Quetta would travel via Karachi.

Archeology Dept to prepare videos of historical sites to boost tourism

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Archeology and Museum Department is working on a plan to prepare videos of historical sites of Peshawar for showcasing abroad in order to attract foreign tourists and earn maximum revenues for the government.

Keeping in view of 2500 years old documented history of Peshawar blessed with numerous historical and archaeological sites, the department is working on a proposal to prepare short videos on Peshawar Museum, Balahisar Fort, Gor Kathri, Qissa Khwani, Chowk Yadgar, Mohabat Khan, Sethi House and others, highlighting its historical significance through digital media platforms.

Known as the oldest living city in South Asia, Peshawar has a unique distinction of being a custodian of eight to ten ancient civil-

izations including Gandhara, making it a centre of attraction for foreign and domestic tourists due to its unique archaeological sites and glorious history.

Famous for ancient Balahisar Fort and Qissa Khwani Bazaar, Peshawar was officially declared by the Archeology Department as the 'Oldest Living City' in South Asia with its history going back to 539BC.

Assistant Director Archeology and Museums, Bakhtzada Khan told APP that the department was working on a proposal to showcase these historical sites abroad through Facebook, Twitter's and other social media tools to attract archeology and Gandhara art-lovers.

He said the Gor Kathri's scientific excavation has disclosed that Peshawar was the oldest

living city in South Asia inhabited by the humans with diversified culture, language and architecture.

Gor Khatri excavation, architectural designs, food and languages have revealed that eight to 10 ancient civilizations existed in Peshawar and its unlocking abroad through social media would help attract foreign tourists to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said the excavation at Gor Khatri, which continued for several years and published in British Journal 'Current World Archeology' titled 'The deepest and biggest excavation in the world' has indicated 20 layers that provide a complete profile of the Peshawar city ranging from British down to pre-Indo-Greek era.

The excavation has discovered that Peshawar was a province of Persian

Alchamenian Empire in four to six century BC and later came under the influence of Mauryans, Greeks, Scythians, Kushans, Sasanians, White Huns, Ghaznavis, Slave Dynasties, Ghoris, Suri Afghans, Mughals, Durrani, Sikhs and the British before the creation of Pakistan.

Conquered by Greeks and ruled by Buddhists, Peshawar had witnessed rebuilding by Brahmins, invaded by Ghaznavis, captured by Mughals, over run by Sikhs and annexed by British in succession.

Despite witnessing the onslaught of warriors, and kings who marched from Afghanistan, Central Asian Republics to the Subcontinent through historic Khyber Pass, he said that Peshawar's remained intact and a centre of attractions for tourists and traders since its establishment.

"Qissa Khwani Bazaar remained centre of attractions for international traders and merchants, who often stayed here to enjoy its famous Chapli Kabab and others delicious cuisine with traditional Qehwa and exchanged stories about each others' culture, food, art and music before departing to Central Asian Republics (CARs) and Subcontinent for trade."

During stay at Qissa Khwani, he said the international traders had got a unique opportunity to explore almost all the historical sites and buildings of Peshawar like Sethi House, Balahisar Fort, Ghanta Ghar, Chowk-e-Yadgar, Mohabat Khan Mosque and Peshawar Museum.

Terming Peshawar Museum is one of the world's largest museums of Gandhara art, he said that

conservation of its British era's building has been completed and opened for the general public.

The museum currently houses 40,000 rare antiquities and artifacts besides complete life story of Lord Buddha, attracting foreign tourists, Buddhists and monks from across the world, he said.

He said conservation work of the historical building of Mohabat Khan Mosque has been completed and efforts are underway to renovate it in original shape, adding that majority work on its ceiling and minarets besides adjoining portions were also completed.

Around 3,000 historical sites did exist in Peshawar, Charssadda, Swabi, Nowshera and Mardan districts including 1,840 ancient buildings in Peshawar.

Dialogue only way to resolve issues, says KP Governor

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday said that dialogue was the only way to resolve issues rather than taking the law into one's hands.

Talking to the media here at District Bar Dera, the governor said talks should be held with logic and reasoning without any use of derogatory language.

He said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister should take up the issue of loadshedding at the proper forum rather than hurling threats of attacking institutions.

He urged political leaders of Dera Ismail Khan to join hands for resolving the issues being faced by the people of the area rather doing mere politicking on them. "I do not believe in the politics of hatred rather in political dialogue," he added. He said the development of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including Dera Ismail Khan was his mission and he would continue making efforts in that regard.

He regretted that the work on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor remained suspended for 10

years. The incumbent Federal Government would extend it from Dera to Quetta.

Industrial zones would be established in Dera Ismail Khan which would provide job opportunities to the local people, he added.

The governor mentioned that out of total 34 universities in the province, 26 did not have vice chancellors. Since his taking charge of office, he had not received even a single summary for the appointment of vice chancellor in any university, he regretted.

To a question, Kundi said the law and order was the main issue of Dera Ismail Khan, which was the responsibility of the provincial government after the 18th Constitutional Amendment. However, "we are trying our best to establish peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," he added. Today, the people did not spend their evenings outside due to the deteriorating law and order situation, he regretted.

He suggested the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to call a meeting of the provincial cabinet in Dera Ismail Khan, Kulachi or Haltha areas to discuss the law and order situation so that the local issues.



MULTAN: MPA Salman Naeem receiving pilgrims after the first post-Hajj flight landed at Multan Airport.

Performance of four educational departments reviewed

LAHORE (APP): The 100-day performance of four educational departments was reviewed at a meeting of Chief Minister's Advisory Committee for Education here on Thursday. The meeting was chaired by Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat. Senior officers, including the secretaries of School Education, Higher Education, Special Education and Non-Formal Education attended the meeting.

During the session, the education minister received a comprehensive briefing on the 100-day performance of the four educational departments.

Expressing his satisfaction, the minister said that their performance aligns with the vision of Chief Minister Punjab.

Over the past three months, he said significant steps had been taken towards educational reforms. For the first time, student council elections were held to foster leadership skills among students, and a network of cheating mafias was dismantled, he said and added that the province recorded a historic enrollment

of over 1.1 million students, a first in its 20-year history. The education minister highlighted that new schools were being established at the divisional level for transgender individuals and working children. He said the student health and meal programme set to benefit more than 700,000 students.

Regarding the school meal programme, the education minister directed that a pilot project be launched in Rajanpur in collaboration with the World Food Programme and the programme to be expanded across the province in phases.

Rana Sikandar Hayat said that technical courses were being introduced in more than 100 schools to teach technology. He further announced the introduction of an e-transfer policy for the first time in the history.

The meeting included a briefing on the progress of handing over schools to the private sector. In this three-hour-long meeting, various recommendations were made for advancing educational projects and initiatives.



LANDIKOTAL: Journalists are holding protest demonstration to condemn the assassination of a senior tribal journalist Khalil Jehran and demanding justice, held at Landikotal press club.

Ban on tik tok: PHC issues notice to PTA, seeks reply

PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar High Court (PHC) while issuing notice to PTA on the petition seeking ban on tik tok has sought reply.

The case came up for hearing before a two members bench of PHC comprising Justice Ishaq Ibrahim and Justice Sahibzada Asad Ullah Thursday.

Barrister Babar Shahzad counsel for the petitioner said it is our request in the petition that tik tok be banned.

On the previous hearing the court had sought reply from the respondents.

Counsel for PEMRA said we don't regulate tik tok. PTA regulates it.

Chief Justice remarked we had issued notice to PTA in it.

The counsel for petitioner said notice was not sent to PTA. Barrister Babar Shahzad counsel for petitioner said court should issue stay order in regard to material against religion that it should not be posted.

Justice Sahibzada Asad Ullah remarked you are not annoyed over all tiktok material. Barrister Babar Shahzad said ban be imposed on the material which is against the religion. There is too much use of tiktok in Pakistan. Pakistan is included in two countries where use of tik tok is enormous.

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 Awaiz 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 working on the proposals of Tank Zam and Daraban

Zam projects, which would bring a green revolution and help meet the food requirement not only of the region but also of the neighbouring countries.

The governor said the role of bar councils was very important in resolving the social issues of the people and providing leadership to the nation. The bars also helped maintain the supremacy of law.

The lawyers' movement had proved that they were united to achieve their goals, he added.

Kundi said that there was a shortage of 10 judges in the merged tribal districts and he had taken up the matter with the Federal Government in order to ensure speedy justice for the local people.

The governor said the development of Dera Ismail Khan was his mission. They people here were fac-

ing numerous problems, including in education and health sectors.

"I have always highlighted the issues of my area with the Federation. Before the federal budget, I personally talked to the prime minister about the long-standing demand of the Chashma Lift Canal project, besides other issues, and I am thankful to the Federal Government for allocating Rs 19 billion for the canal, whose foundation stone will be laid down by the end of 2024."

The canal on completion would irrigate around 600,000 acres of land, he added.

He again expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Federal Minister for Water Resources Musadik Masood Malik for allocating funds for the Lift Canal project.

Minister directs for audit of fertilizer companies to determine production costs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday directed that a third-party 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 directive 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 the stock availability, demand, and prices of urea in

the country.

Rana Tanveer said that there was no shortage of urea fertilizer in the country and added steps were taken to ensure uninterrupted supply of gas to fertilizer companies for smooth production of urea.

He also directed fertilizer companies to review the performance of dealers and agencies, and instructed provinces to verify fertilizer dealers and agencies, with any ghost dealers and agencies to be blacklisted.

The minister emphasized that fertilizer companies must ensure the supply of fertilizer to the provinces

SIFC provides enabling environment for investment

ISLAMABAD (Online): Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has provided an enabling environment for investment and business development in the country by working with utmost diligence and dedication over the last one year. The most important of the measures is the provision of facility for investors in the IT sector to repatriate up to fifty percent of their profits. According to data released by the State Bank of Pakistan, IT exports have grown by sixty two percent.

Similarly, the establishment of the Office of the Investment Ombudsman has provided a platform to investors to resolve their issues efficiently and invest

with confidence.

Appellate Tribunals have also been established in the privatization and telecom sectors so that investors can seek guidance on legal issues related to their investments. Since June last year, the SIFC has made many amendments to the policy level due to which the efficiency of the government system has greatly improved. Under the policy measures, the visa policy has been revised by removing unnecessary barriers, which has increased the confidence of foreign investors.

National Seed Development and Regulatory Authority has been set up to provide high quality seeds to the farmers.

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

BEIJING (APP): China, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan agreed to embark on constructing a new railway starting in China Kashgar and traversing Torugart, Kosh-Dobo, and Kazarman in Kyrgyzstan, culminating in Andijan in eastern Uzbekistan, to enhance trade and economic cooperation.

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, and President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev hailed the event as a sign of unity and shared progress.

The governments of

China, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan agreed to embark on constructing the new railway at a Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit held in the Uzbek city of Samarkand in September 2022. The project feasibility study was updated following the completion of field surveys by Chinese engineers in December 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 beacon of hope and optimism, will start in China's Kashgar and traverse Torugart, Kosh-Dobo, and Kazarman in Kyrgyzstan, culminating in Andijan in eastern Uzbekistan.

It is estimated that the railway will shorten the route between China and Europe by about 900 kilometers and reduce freight transit time by eight days. This transformative railway, with its potential to enhance trade and economic cooperation between the countries along its path, holds the promise of a brighter future and instills optimism due to the potential economic benefits it will bring.

According to an earlier announcement, the planned 523-km railway will be constructed through a joint venture involving three countries. The estimated total cost of the project is \$8 billion, with \$4.7 billion allocated for the Kyrgyz

Rupee sheds 10 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Rupee on Thursday witnessed a devaluation of 10 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.60 against the previous day's closing at Rs 278.50. According 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 paise to close at Rs 298.77 against the last day's closing of Rs 298.22.



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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 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 corresponding period of last year, according to PBS provisional figures.

Exports from Pakistan during May, 2024 increased 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 compare to exports of

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), wear others (Rs. 75,311 million), cotton Cloth (Rs. 48,117 million), towels (Rs. 28,768 million), petroleum 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 million).

Sri Lankan FM reaffirms unwavering commitment to SAARC

COLOMBO (PR): His Excellency the Secretary General of SAARC Ambassador Golam Sarwar, visited Sri Lanka from 10-14 June

recognizing his esteemed position as a member of the SAARC Council of Ministers, in propelling the SAARC process forward.



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 provided an update on ongoing initiatives and the challenges of SAARC, seeking Sri Lanka's support for advancing and further energising the process. Moreover, he sought the guidance of the Minister,

PSX closes at historic high level of 78,801 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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 them recorded gains and

133 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 58 remained unchanged.

In PSX, the three top trading companies were Silk Bank Ltd with 53,586,473 shares at Rs. 1.09 per share, the K-Electric Ltd with 23,109,865 shares with Rs. 4.72 per share and Habib Bank with 20,943,162 shares at Rs. 121.92 per share. Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs. 86.62 per share price, closing at Rs. 7,706.92, whereas the runner-up was Ismail Industries Limited with a Rs. 63.93 rise in its per share price to 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)-tolerant (CABB-HTS) and insect (top borer)-resistant (CABB-IRS) developed by UAF.

Vice Chancellor UAF Prof. Dr Iqbal 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 considered it a landmark achievement in GM sector world-

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 UAF.

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 downward trajectory, they wanted to see more evidence before committing to a cut.

High-level delegation led by Industries Minister to visit Turkmenistan from June 24

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level delegation led by Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain will visit Turkmenistan from June 24 to 26 to explore new opportunities for bilateral trade and investment.

The minister on Thursday held a meeting with Turkmenistan's Ambassador to Pakistan Atadjan Movlamov to discuss matters relating to the visit.

During the meeting, the minister said that strengthening trade and economic relations with Turkmenistan was the government's top priority and the delegation's visit would play an important role in that regard.

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 downward trajectory, they wanted to see more evidence before committing to a cut.



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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) will organize "All Pakistan Chambers Presidents Conclave" (APCPC) on June 25-26, 2024.

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 Thursday.

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

APCPC.

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

The Conclave will feature keynote speeches, panel discussions, and networking opportunities, providing a platform for business leaders to engage with each other and with policymakers.

He said that at the moment, the economy of 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 comprehensive as well as workable proposals to the government for the revival of business and economic activities.



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

North Korea, Russia sign pact to give all available military help if other is attacked

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea and Russia agreed to provide immediate military assistance if the other side faced armed aggression, under a pact their leaders signed during Russian President Vladimir Putin's first visit in 24 years.

The pledge is seen as the revival of a mutual defence agreement under a 1961 treaty adopted by the Cold War allies that was annulled in 1990 when the Soviet Union established diplomatic ties with South Korea. The agreement for a "comprehensive strategic partnership" signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Wednesday is one of the highest-profile moves in Asia by Moscow in years.

"If either side faces an armed invasion and is in a state of war, the other side

will immediately use all available means to provide military and other assistance in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter and the laws of each country," Article 4 of the agreement says.

Article 51 of the UN Charter provides for the right of a member country to take individual or collective self-defence actions.

The pledge by the leaders of the two countries, which are facing increasing international isolation, comes amid growing concern among the United States and its Asian allies over how much Russia would support North Korea, the only country to have tested a nuclear weapon this century.

Kim echoed Putin's statement explicitly linking their deepening ties to fighting the "hegemonic and imperialist" policies of the

West and the United States in particular, including its support for Ukraine. The agreement also said neither side would sign any treaty with a third country that infringes on the interests of the other and will not allow its territory to be used by any country to harm the other's security and sovereignty, KCNA said.

The two countries will take joint actions aimed at "strengthening defence capabilities to prevent war and ensure regional and international peace and security", it said.

South Korea and the White House did not immediately have comment on the reported content of the agreement.

Japan expressed "grave concerns" about Putin's vow not to rule out cooperation with Pyongyang on military technology.



Russia's President Vladimir Putin and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un attend an official welcoming ceremony at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang, North Korea in this image released by the Korean Central News Agency.

NATO chief says Russia, North Korea pact shows mutual support by authoritarian powers

Monitoring Desk
OTTAWA: Russia's new defensive pact with North Korea shows increasing alignment among authoritarian powers and underscores the importance of democracies presenting a united front, the head of NATO said on Wednesday.

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a deal with North Korea's Kim Jong Un that included a mutual defence pledge, a move that overhauls Moscow's policy towards Pyongyang, NATO Secretary

General Jens Stoltenberg said North Korea had provided "an enormous amount of ammunition" to Russia while both China and Iran were supporting Moscow militarily in its war against Ukraine. "We need to be aware that authoritarian powers are aligning more and more. They are supporting each other in a way we haven't seen before," he told a panel discussion during an official visit to Ottawa. "When they are more and more aligned - authoritarian re-

gimes like North Korea and China, Iran, Russia - then it's even more important that we are aligned as countries believing in freedom and democracy," he said.

The growing closeness between Russia and other Asian nations means it is all the more important that NATO works with allies in the Asia-Pacific, he said, adding this was why leaders from Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea had been invited to a NATO summit in Washington next month.



A Palestinian boy sits as people search the rubble of the Harb family home destroyed in overnight Israeli strikes in al-Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip.

US lawmakers' visit to Dalai Lama sparks criticism from China

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: A group of senior US lawmakers including former House speaker Nancy Pelosi met on Wednesday with the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan government-in-exile in India, sparking heavy criticism from China.

The bipartisan group of US lawmakers, led by Congressman Michael McCaul and Pelosi, visited the 88-year-old Buddhist spiritual leader at his home base in the northern Indian hill-town of Dharamshala.

China, which maintains Tibet is part of its territory, denounced "external interference" and said that matters in the Himalayan territory were "purely China's domestic affairs". Pelosi told crowds of Tibetans it was an "honour" to have met with the Dalai Lama, in a speech carried by the government-in-exile's Tibet

TV. "It is truly a blessing", she said. The visit follows the passage of a bill by the US Congress that seeks to encourage China to hold talks with Tibetan leaders, frozen since 2010, and also as Washington seeks to ease tensions with Beijing.

"This bill is a message to the Chinese government, that we have clarity in our thinking and understanding in the issue of the freedom of Tibet", she said. "It says to the Chinese government: 'Things have changed now, get ready for that', she added.

Pelosi said the bill was "soon to be signed" by US President Joe Biden. Ahead of the visit, China's embassy in New Delhi criticised the meeting, saying the Dalai Lama was "not a pure religious figure, but a political exile engaged in anti-China separatist activities under the cloak of religion".

Shipping industry urges Red Sea action as Houthis sink second vessel

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Urgent action must be taken in the Red Sea to stop attacks on merchant shipping by Yemen's Houthis, leading industry groups said on Wednesday, after the sinking of a second ship.

Iran-aligned Houthi militants first launched drone and missile strikes on the important trade route in November in what they say is solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

In more than 70 attacks, they have also seized one vessel and its crew and killed at least three seafarers.

"It is deplorable that innocent seafarers are being attacked while simply performing their jobs, vital jobs which keep the world warm, fed, and clothed," the world's top shipping associations said in a joint statement.

"These attacks must stop now."

Police fire tear gas, water cannon at anti-tax protesters in Kenya capital

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: Riot police fired tear gas and water cannons to disperse thousands of demonstrators in Nairobi on Thursday as coordinated marches took place across Kenya against government plans to raise \$2.7 billion in additional taxes to reduce the budget deficit.

Spraying people with purple-coloured water from water cannons, police sought to clear protesters in Nairobi's central business district and blocked their path to parliament.

It was not clear why police used force as the demonstration appeared peaceful. The Kenya Red Cross' Nairobi branch said on X it had attended to eight

injured people from the protests. It did not give more details on the nature of injuries.

Police spokesperson Resilia Onyango and Nairobi police commander Adamson Bungei did not respond to requests for comment.

Protesters say the tax rises will hurt the economy and raise the cost of living for Kenyans who are already struggling to make ends meet.

A parliamentary panel urged the government on Tuesday to scrap some new taxes proposed in its finance bill, including new ones on car ownership, bread, cooking oil and financial transactions.

Two killed as Chilean train on test run collides with cargo train

Monitoring Desk
CHILE: Two people were killed and nine injured on Thursday when a train undergoing a test run by Chile's state railway company (EFE) collided with a cargo train operated by private rail firm Fepasa, EFE said in a statement.

The accident occurred just after midnight in the San Bernardo area. EFE said the train collided with the eight-car Fepasa train, which was laden with 1,346 tons of copper.

EFE said the injured test train crew were receiving medical treatment. Local law enforcement have launched an investigation, local media said.

Germany to order 105 Leopard tanks to equip German brigade in Lithuania

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: Germany plans to order 105 Leopard 2 A8 tanks from armsmaker KNDS for 2.93 billion euros (\$3.14 billion), according to a confidential budget draft seen by Reuters on Thursday. The draft still needs parliamentary approval.

Some vehicles will equip a German combat brigade in Lithuania being set up as part of NATO's deterrence against Russia, said the draft budget. Others will reinforce the 300-tank force inside Germany. The Bundeswehr ex-

pects to take delivery of the most advanced version of the tanks between 2027 and 2030. The document noted that most of the purchase was unfunded since there was insufficient money in the regular budget and in the 100-billion-euro special funds established after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The draft said the defence ministry was therefore asking for extraordinary financial authorisation, meaning that while the deal can be approved now, a successor government will need to find the money.

Fossil fuel use, emissions hit records in 2023, report says

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Global fossil fuel consumption and energy emissions hit all-time highs in 2023, even as fossil fuels' share of the global energy mix decreased slightly on the year, the industry's Statistical Review of World Energy report said on Thursday.

Growing demand for fossil fuel despite the scaling up of renewables could be a sticking point for the transition to lower carbon energy as global temperature increases reach 1.5C (2.7F), the threshold beyond which scientists say impacts such as temperature rise, drought and flooding will become more extreme.

At least one dead due to New Mexico wildfires, thousands evacuated

Monitoring Desk
RUIDOSO: At least one person died due to the wildfires in New Mexico which have also led to the evacuation of thousands of people and damaged hundreds of structures, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's office said on Wednesday.

"We don't have any additional details," a spokesperson of the governor's office told media. "Only one fatality as a result of the fire."

As of late Tuesday, about 1,400 homes and other structures had been destroyed. The entire New Mexico village of Ruidoso,

population 7,000, was evacuated, officials added.

At least two individuals were injured in the wildfires, the governor told reporters on Tuesday.

The governor also declared a state of emergency in the Lincoln County and the Mescalero Apache Reservation due to the two wildfires - South Fork Fire and Salt Fire. The South Fork fire is estimated at 15,276 acres (61.82 square kilometers) and is zero percent contained while the Salt Fire has consumed at least 5,557 acres, according to an update from the governor's office.

Vietnam government says party chief of capital Hanoi resigns

Monitoring Desk
HANOI: The party chief of Vietnam's capital city Hanoi, Dinh Tien Dung, has resigned, the government said on Wednesday, marking the latest top official to exit as the ruling Communist Party carries out a major reshuffle.

Dung, 63, a former finance minister, was found by the party to be responsible for violations committed at the finance ministry during the 2016-2021 period.

Israel may have violated laws of war in Gaza: UN

Monitoring Desk
ISRAELI forces may have repeatedly violated the laws of war and failed to distinguish between civilians and fighters in the Gaza conflict, the UN human rights office said on Wednesday.

Separately, the head of a UN inquiry accused the Israeli military of carrying out the "extermination" of Palestinians.

In a report on six Israeli attacks that caused many casualties and destroyed civilian infrastructure, the UN human rights office (OHCHR) said Israeli forces "may have systematically violated the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precautions in attack".

"The requirement to select means and methods of warfare that avoid or at

the very least minimise to every extent civilian harm appears to have been consistently violated in Israel's bombing campaign," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk said. In a separate meeting of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, the head of a UN Commission of Inquiry, Navi Pillay, said Israel was responsible for the most serious abuses under international law known as "crimes against humanity". She said the scale of Palestinian civilian losses amounted to "extermination". "We found that the immense numbers of civilian casualties in Gaza and widespread destruction of civilian objects and infrastructure were the inevitable result of an intentional strategy to cause maximum damage," she said.

Somalia asks peacekeepers to slow withdrawal, fears Islamist resurgence

Monitoring Desk
MOGADISHU: Somalia's government is seeking to slow the withdrawal of African peacekeepers and warning of a potential security vacuum, documents seen by Reuters show, with neighbouring countries fretting that insurgent al-Shabaab militants could seize power.

The African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), a peacekeeping force, is committed to withdrawing by Dec 31, when a smaller new force is expected to replace it.

However, in a letter last month to the acting chair of the African Union Peace and Security Council the government asked to delay until September the withdrawal of half the 4,000 troops due to leave by the end of June. The letter has not been reported before.

The government had previously recommended, in a joint assessment with the AU in March, reviewed by Reuters, that the overall withdrawal timeline be adjusted "based on the actual

readiness and capabilities" of Somali forces.

The joint assessment, which was mandated by the UN Security Council, warned that a "hasty draw-down of ATMIS personnel will contribute to a security vacuum".

"I've never been more concerned about the direction of my home country," said Mursal Khalif, an independent member of the defence committee in parliament. The European Union and United States, the top funders of the AU force in Somalia, have sought to reduce the peacekeeping operation due to concerns about long-term financing and sustainability, four diplomatic sources and a senior Ugandan official said. Negotiations about a new force have proven complicated, with the AU initially pushing for a more robust mandate than Somalia wanted, three of the diplomatic sources said. A heated political dispute could lead Ethiopia to pull out some of the most battle-hardened troops.

South Korea will consider supplying arms to Ukraine after Russia and North Korea sign strategic pact

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: South Korea said Thursday that it would consider sending arms to Ukraine, a major policy change suggested after Russia and North Korea rattled the region and beyond by signing a pact to come to each other's defense in the event of war.

The comments from a senior presidential official came hours after North Korea's state media released the details of the agreement, which observers said could mark the strongest connection between Moscow and Pyongyang since the end of the Cold War. It comes a time when Russia faces growing isolation over its war in Ukraine and both countries face escalating standoffs with the West.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un pose for a photo during a signing ceremony

of the new partnership in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Wednesday, June 19, 2024. (Kristina Kormilitsyna, Sputnik, Kremlin Pool Photo via AP)

Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un pose for a photo during a signing ceremony of the new partnership in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Wednesday, June 19, 2024. (Kristina Kormilitsyna, Sputnik, Kremlin Pool Photo via AP)

According to the text of the deal published by the North's official Korean Central News Agency, if either country gets invaded and is pushed into a state of war, the other must deploy "all means at its disposal without delay" to provide "military and other assistance." But the agreement also says that such actions must be in accordance with the laws of both countries and Article 51.

Japan seeks more visitors despite overtourism woes

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japan's tourism chief said Thursday that its ambitious goal of luring 60 million foreign tourists a year—more than double the current level—is well within reach, despite surging overtourism concerns.

Japan last year attracted over 25 million tourists from abroad, in part buoyed by the lifting of pandemic-era border restrictions, from countries such as South Korea, Singapore and the United States. Ichiro Takahashi, head of Japan's tourism agency, acknowledged the previously announced target of 60 million remains "tough", but stressed it is within the realm of possibility.

"It is a figure that we can very much achieve by making the right efforts", Takahashi told a briefing in Tokyo. "There are still many little-known places in Japan that are left unexplored by tourists from overseas—I believe Japan has infinite tourism re-

sources," Takahashi said. Over three million foreign tourists visited Japan for a third consecutive month in May, according to government statistics released Wednesday.

But an influx of tourists to Japan has reignited concerns over overtourism in recent months, with residents complaining of their sometimes unruly behavior and etiquette breaches.

The city of Himeji, in western Japan, was among the latest local governments to express frustrations.

The municipality famous for Himeji Castle is mulling making the World Heritage site's admission fees for overseas tourists four times as expensive as those for residents, local media reported. "A wooden structure will be worn out and become more brittle after many people climb up and down", mayor Hideyasu Kiyomoto told Japanese media, stressing the need to "curb over-tourism".



Health workers encode information and prepare vaccines against the coronavirus (COVID-19) at a mobile vaccination site in Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines.

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 Emergencies Operation Centre (NEOC) equipped with multiple satellite feeds and artificial intelligence tools, expressed the hope that the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) would prove to be a safety wall for Pakistan against the impacts of the climate change.

"Due to climate change, Pakistan is in the red zone and among the top ten vulnerable countries. We should not lose our morale rather work hard. After this achievement, I have no doubt that the NDMA, in coordination with provincial PDMA, will become a safety wall for Pakistan," the prime minister said during his visit to the NEOC here along with the federal ministers and secretaries. This was the maiden visit of the prime minister since the revamped NEOC was inaugurated in October last year.

He highly appreciated NDMA Chairman Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik for realising his dream of focusing on the capacity building and human resource de-

velopment of the Authority instead of an earlier planned project of building an office tower.

Referring to his previous meetings following the floods of 2022, the prime minister said he had suggested the NDMA chief to prioritise the capacity building of the organisation by equipping it with the latest technology, input from the provinces and recruitment of permanent human resources, besides establishing a digital hub.

"Today, the way that dream has been realised deserves applause. I don't think any province has achieved such capacity with the world-class systems. I am happy that instead of a highrise building, you invested in this digital hub," the prime minister remarked.

He said the 2022 floods had inflicted a \$30 billion loss to the country which would take years to overcome as the Federal Government alone had spent Rs 100 billion for the rehabilitation of affected population, besides the funding from provinces as well as aid from the friendly countries.

He said consequent to the efforts by that time Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhatto Zardari and other federal and provincial organisations, the country was able to rehabilitate millions of people.

Prime Minister Shehbaz appreciated the merit-based induction of quality human resource and establishing a third-party validation mechanism at the NDMA, 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 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 the efforts by that time Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhatto Zardari and other federal and provincial organisations, the country was able to rehabilitate millions of people.

Prime Minister Shehbaz appreciated the merit-based induction of quality human resource and establishing a third-party validation mechanism at the NDMA, 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 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.



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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The senators on both sides of the isle on Thursday called for revising proposed taxes on the salaried class, medicines, cement industry and property business, besides minimizing power load-shedding in the country.

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

He said the finance

minister should have proposed steps to reduce the government's intervention into the market besides promoting a market driven economy. No concrete recommendations were suggested for economic growth and reduction in the government expenditures.

The economic growth would suffer with increase in the taxes to achieve the revenue target of Rs 3.8 trillion, he added.

Kamran Murtaza of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl said JUI-F said that the federal consolidated funds needed to be dis-

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 the Pakistan Peoples 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

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of prominent political and social personality, Arbab Abdul Zahir Kasi.

In an official condolence issued here on Thursday, the Governor said that the late Arbab Abdul Zahir Kasi was a thorough gentleman and kind human being.

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

ness among them about their rights.

The late Kasi also made conscious efforts for promotion of brotherhood, love and sense of non-violence in the society, the Governor maintained.

He said that the invaluable services of Arbab Abdul Zahir Kasi would always be remembered.

He prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into Its eternal peace and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear the tragic loss of his death.

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

ISLAMABAD (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 Eid-ul-Azha. On his X timeline, the prime minister also appreciated CDA Chairman and Chief Commissioner of Islamabad over the commendable operations.

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

UNITED NATIONS (APP): A senior Pakistani diplomat has called for a "concerted campaign" to recover all weapons from terrorist groups like Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (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 implementation of the UN Programme of Action

(UNPoA) on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW).

The 2001 UNPoA, which was backed by all member states, provides the framework for activities to counter the illicit trade 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 destabilize 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 Peoples Party MNA Nawabzada Jamal Khan 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.

He said that she was the first woman prime minister of an Islamic country and was revered as the "Daughter of Islam".

He said that she was the first woman prime minister of an Islamic country and was revered as the "Daughter of Islam".



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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Thursday said we aim to transform the entire education system of Pakistan. He pointed out the high number of out of school children and the adverse impact it is having on the society.

He was talking to a high level delegation led by Kevin Kells, Managing Director, Google for Education, which called on him. The delegation included Farhan Qureshi, Country Director Pakistan Google, Aron Saether Jackson, CEO Allied, Umar Farooq, CEO Tech Valley amongst other senior officials of Google. The meeting was also attended by senior officials of the education ministry led by Secretary Education Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani.

Dr. Khalid welcomed the diverse Google delegation that comprised of offi-

cialists from seven different countries including USA, UK, Australia etc.

He said under his leadership, the ministry was working tirelessly to bring this number down. He said that this crisis has been given the highest priority.

He said the delegation can provide expertise and knowledge that can help us chart future plans that can enable us to resolve this issue.

Dr. Khalid urged the delegation to expand their scope of work with special regard to education in Pakistan. He assured the delegation of full support of the Ministry of Education.

The optimum use of technology is the only way 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 said.

Dr. Khalid said as all of the tech companies

would expand their presence in Pakistan, it will lead to more development, growth and investment which is the need of the hour.

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.

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

Amid intense heat Salik hails Saudi Govt 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 individuals" 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 police were not registering cases against individuals involved in these incidents.

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 home to Islamabad.

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

QUETTA (APP): Managing Director Trauma Center Quetta Dr. Arbab Kamran Kasi on Thursday said that Trauma Center Quetta was providing the best emergency services to the people of Balochistan beyond its capacity.

Talking to media, he said 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 six extra beds for the seri-

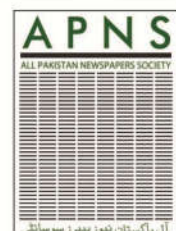
ously injured in the 14-bed ICU.

Dr Kasi said that round the clock services were provided in the triad of trauma operation theatres.

He informed that it is Balochistan's only active trauma center where severely injured people from various places of the province were shifted who were treated timely under the supervision of 24/7 experienced surgeons, doctors, and staff nurses and paramedical staff.



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



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 increase 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.