

Independent

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Total expenditures estimated in budget are Rs. 930.206 billion: Balochistan's surplus budget for fiscal year 2024-25 presented with total outlay of over Rs. 955.602 billion

Provincial Minister for Finance, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani presents annual budget in Assembly's session; Over Rs. 321 billion allocated for development in budget; salaries and pensions of government employees and pensioners increased on pattern of federal govt.; 3,000 vacancies proposed in budget; Rs. 5.5 billion allocated for health card programme; grant of public sector universities increased to Rs. 5 billion; development expenditures proposed as Rs. 321 billion; 2704 new development schemes have been proposed

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Balochistan's annual surplus budget having total volume of Rs. 955.602 billion for the next financial year 2024-25 was presented in the provincial assembly here on Friday.

The Provincial Minister for Finance, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani unveiled the maiden budget of the Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti-led coalition government while the Speaker, Captain (Retd)

Abdul Khaliq Achakzai was in chair and the Chief Minister in attendance.

Unveiling the provincial budget, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani said that while the total volume of provincial budget for the next financial year is over Rs. 955 billion, the total expenditures are estimated as over Rs. 930.206 billion in the budget showing surplus of Rs. 25.395 billion.

The Minister Finance mentioned that the budget allocated over Rs. 321 bil-

lion for development expenditures.

As per the budget documents and mentioned by the Finance Minister in his budget speech, Balochistan is set to receive Rs. 862 billion from transfers and the divisible pool.

The budget has allocated over Rs. 93 billion for law and order, over Rs. 146 billion for education, and over Rs. 67 billion for health sectors.

As per the budget at a glance, over Rs. 138 billion

have been allocated for the general public service, over Rs. 93 billion for the public order and safety affairs,

over Rs. 79 billion for economic affairs, over Rs. 909 million for the environment

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Balochistan cabinet approves provincial budget for next financial year

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan cabinet approved the provincial budget for the next financial year 2024-25 here in its meeting chaired by the Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti on Friday afternoon.

The provincial Finance department high ups briefed the salient features of the budget proposals for the next financial year.

It was informed that the health and education sectors are priority sectors in the next financial year budget. Besides several new projects of development of different sectors including agriculture, livestock, irrigation are included in the budget.

The cabinet also approved the new pension contribution scheme. The cabinet was agreed to enforce the new pension contribution scheme from next financial year.

It was also informed to the cabinet that 3000 new vacancies would also be included in the next financial year budget.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister said that for the first time, percent approved projects have been made part of the budget proposals.

He said that the cabinet has agreed upon that 100 percent approved projects would be included in the budget from next financial year.

He said that the provincial ministers and members would monitor the development schemes in their respective departments and constituencies.



QUETTA: Balochistan Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshewani presenting the Budget 2024-25 during Balochistan Assembly session.

Not possible to satisfy all and give progress to Balochistan in dev. budget of Rs. 230b: CM

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that we are aware of the challenges being faced by the province, however, it is not possible to satisfy all and give development to the province in the development budget of Rs. 230 billion.

The Chief Minister mentioned that the provincial budget for next financial year has been presented in the assembly and maintained that it is the first budget of Balochistan which is presented in the surplus.

He said that he is thankful to all the allies on cooperation on the budget preparation.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the media persons after the budget session of the provincial assembly on Friday.

He said that education has been given top priority in the next financial year budget of the province with second to health and then law and order sectors.

He said that the test of our good governance would start from July, 2024.

He said that it has been targeted to spend 70 percent of the funds

of development projects.

Referring police and Levies, the Chief Minister said that these are our forces and as such we are taking steps to bring salaries of both forces at par of other provinces.

He said that we have not withdrawn from the Sui gas surcharge, and adding he mentioned that there are Rs. 50 billion are outstanding.

He hoped that we would get the arrears of gas surcharge after lease review.

He announced that we would not leave even a single penny on the federation.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over budget meeting of Provincial Cabinet.

Cross-party consensus backs CPEC, stronger China ties as Pakistan hosts first JCM

Rare political unity witnessed as China stresses internal stability essential for Pakistan's development; Chinese minister says it's time that Pakistan's political parties contribute their wisdom by understanding each other's development philosophy.

ISLAMABAD (APP): All the mainstream political parties of Pakistan on Friday displayed exemplary consensus to back the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with the leaders reiterating their unwavering commitment to further strengthen the bilateral relationship between Pakistan and China by thwarting all nefarious designs.

The political consensus was shown at the CPEC Pakistan-China Po-

litical Parties Forum and 3rd Meeting of CPEC Political Parties Joint Consultative Mechanism co-chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) and member of the Communist Party's Central Committee Liu Jianchao who is on a three-day visit here.

Besides Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and National Assem-

bly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, the senior leadership of all major political parties attended the event including Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, MQM's Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Maulana Fazlur Rehman of JUI-F, Hina Rabbani Khar of PPP, Senator Syed Ali Zafar of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Munazza Hassan of Istehkam Pakistan Party, National Party's Senator Jan Muhammad, senior politicians Afrasiab

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Budget 2024-25: PPP excuses unconditional support to PML-N

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has excused unconditional support to Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) led federal government on Budget 2024-25.

According to media reports, the meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Bilawal Bhattu Zardari, Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), did not yield any positive results as PPP did not assure the Prime Minister of their cooperation on the budget. Sources said that the party has stuck to its previous stance on its demands. The government had requested PPP's support in passing the budget 2024-25, but PPP has demanded implementation of the written agreement on their demands before offering any support. Sources said that the government has not provided a deadline on accepting PPP's demands.

Yesterday, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhattu Zardari called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to discuss the former's reservations over the budget 2024-25. The prime minister urged all political parties to work together for the development and prosperity of the country and public welfare.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a group photo with participant's pf 3rd Pakistan-China joint consultative meeting of political parties on CEPEC, in the Federal Capital.

BHC terms decision of cabinet regarding wheat procurement at subsidized rates as illegal

Court observes keeping in view weak financial conditions of the province, govt. is required to cut expenditures while shutting down loss-making departments

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court (BHC) has termed the decision of provincial cabinet to procure wheat at subsidized rates after allocating Rs. 500 million as illegal and directed to the Chief Secretary to divert the said amount towards payment of loan and establishment of technical center, town

planning and supply of drinking water, etc. as suggested by the Chief Minister.

The BHC announced the judgement on a petition in which the validity of decision taken by the provincial cabinet regarding procurement of wheat from Naseerabad division after allocation of Rs. 500 mil

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Justice Jamal Mandokhail, Justice HashimKakar inaugurate research center in BHC

Independent Report

QUETTA: The judge of Supreme Court of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Muhammad Hashim Kakar inaugurated the newly established Research Center in the premises of High Court here on Friday.

The senior Judge of High Court, Mr. Justice Muhammad Ejaz Swati and other judges of the High Court and judicial staff were also present on the occasion.



Speaking on the occasion, Justice Jamal Mandokhail hailed the establishment of new research center in High Court saying that it is a welcoming initiative.

NEPRA proposes fixed charges up to Rs 1,000 for domestic electricity users

ISLAMABAD (INP): NEPRA has proposed introducing fixed charges for domestic electricity consumers, starting from July 1, potentially impacting millions of households nationwide.

According to sources, the proposal has been submitted to the federal government for final approval. The proposed fixed charges are integrated into the average basic electricity tariff.

The charges are tiered based on monthly consumption: Rs 200 for 301-400 units, Rs 400 for 401-500 units, Rs 600 for 501-600 units, Rs 800 for 601-700 units, and Rs 1,000 for usage above 700 units. Previously, fixed charges were not included in the tariff for domestic customers. The final decision on the new tariff structure will be made following the federal government's review.

New political party AP launched

LAHORE (Online): Former leaders of PML-N Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Miftah Ismail have launched new political party in the name of Awam Pakistan (AP). A video has been shared on X account of APP with the tag line of "Awam Pakistan badlain ga nizam" which has been reposted by Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Miftah Ismail. The frustrated people were seen questioning in the video about inflation, shortage of gas and electricity, corruption, unemployment and shortage of girls schools.

Pak-China friendship vital for peace, development of both countries & region: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that the Pakistan-China friendship was indispensable for peace and development of both the countries as well as the region and beyond.

Emphasizing on historic and unique significance of bilateral relations between the two countries, the prime minister reaffirmed that the Pakistan-China friendship was time-tested and enduring.

He was talking to Minister of International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) Liu Jianchao who along with a delegation called on him at the PM House.

While welcoming the Chinese dignitary and members of his delegation to Pakistan, the prime minister congratulated him as well as political leaders of

Pakistan on the successful organization of Pakistan-China Political Parties Forum and the 3rd round of Joint Consultative Mechanism (JCM) of Political Parties on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He said it was a matter of great satisfaction that there was complete political consensus in both countries on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Reflecting on his recent visit to China where he held fruitful and productive meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang, the prime minister commended the vision of the Chinese leadership for the continued growth of Pakistan-China strategic relations and the shared desire of both countries to work together to ensure success of the CPEC and its upgradation to the next phase.



LARKANA: President Asif Ali Zardari showering petals over the grave of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto on her 71st birth anniversary, in Garhi Khuda Baksh Bhutto.

Five soldiers martyred in Kurram district landmine blast

RAWALPINDI (APP): Five soldiers of Pakistan Army on Friday embraced martyrdom after an improvised explosive device exploded on a vehicle of the Security Forces in general area Sadda, Kurram District.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, five brave sons of soil identified as Havildar Aqeel Ahmed (age: 33 years, resident of District Okara), Lance Naik Muhammad Tafeer (age: 30 years, resident of District Poonch),

Sepoy Anosh Rufun (age: 24 years, resident of District Attock), Sepoy Muhammad Azam Khan (age: 26 years, resident of District Haripur) and Sepoy Haroon William (age: 29 years, resident of Islamabad Capital Territory), made the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat (martyrdom).

"Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists present in the area and perpetrators of this heinous act will be brought to justice.



RAWALPINDI: Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) Liu Jianchao, met with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, at General Headquarters.

COAS Asim Munir pledges full support for CPEC

Liu Jianchao lauds Pakistan Army's role in providing security to Chinese nationals

RAWALPINDI (APP): Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC), Liu Jianchao on Friday met Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir here at General Headquarters.

During the meeting, they discussed matters of mutual interest, including regional peace and stability, and reviewed progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The COAS reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the strategic partnership with China and pledged full support for the successful implementation of CPEC, a flag-

ship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Liu Jianchao highlighted that he is visiting Pakistan as a follow up of the successful meetings between the leadership of the two countries in China.

He emphasized the significance of the longstanding brotherly relations between the two nations and expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved on CPEC, reiterating China's commitment to its timely completion.

The visiting dignitary also commended Pakistan's efforts in maintaining regional peace and stability, acknowledging the support of the Pakistan Armed Forces in providing security to Chinese nationals and projects in Pakistan.

Imran claims negotiations may result in toppling of PML-N govt

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding chairman Imran Khan stated on Friday that any negotiations with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) could result in the downfall of their government.

During an informal media chat at the hearing of the £190 million reference case, the incarcerated former PM expressed his desire to negotiate for Pakistan's benefit, not for personal or governmental interests.

"I want to negotiate for Pakistan, not for myself or the government," he said.

Imran reiterated his willingness to step back if it benefits the country, saying, "Convince me it benefits the country, and I will step back."

He criticised the current government for not

reducing expenses and failing to create an investment-friendly environment. "The country is in crisis," the ex-PM said.

"The government has not reduced its expenses, which is troubling. The current government has failed to create an environment for investment."

Imran argued that Pakistan needs a mandate-driven government for necessary reforms, pointing out that the current budget highlights the limitations of a non-mandated government. He condemned heavy taxation on professionals and the public, predicting severe impacts from the upcoming electricity bills.

Imran lamented the broken promises on load-shedding in Jammu and Kashmir, leading to heightened tensions between them.

As well as to Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Balochistan.

The court expected that the Chief Minister would look into the matter, who have otherwise "reportedly" resisted the decision in question in the meeting of the cabinet.

It may be mentioned here that the petitioners had challenged the validity of decision of the provincial cabinet regarding procurement of wheat from Naserabad division. According to them, the provincial government has no capacity to store such huge quantity of wheat i.e., 5 million bags and the same would be damaged. They had also averted that grant of subsidy to the farmers of a specific division is discrimination to the farmers of rest of the province as farmers of Naserabad division are using free water of Kachi canal / river whereas, rest of the farmers have to extract underground water after spending huge amount.

As per their contention, Food department is presently paying 20 million rupees interest per day to different commercial banks and the said liability should be cleared prior to purchasing more wheat that too at subsidized rates.

BHC terms decision of cabinet...

Continued from page 1

lion at subsidized rates despite bumper wheat crops in the country.

The division bench headed by the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar had heard the constitutional petition.

In its judgment, the High Court observed that we find that the decision of the provincial cabinet does not meet the standards of reasonableness, non-discrimination and prudent financial management.

For the aforesaid reasons, the petitions are allowed and the decision of the provincial cabinet to procure wheat at subsidized rates after allocating 500 million rupees stands illegal.

The court further observed "before parting with the judgement in hand, we are of the opinion that keeping in view the weak financial conditions of the province, the government is required to cut expenditures while shutting down loss-making departments. Prima facie, the food department has failed to achieve its objectives, even otherwise, the federal government established Pakistan Agricul-

as well as to Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Balochistan.

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ture Storage and services corporation (PASSCO) with an objective to maintain strategic food reserves in the province in case of any disaster, famine etc, as such, existence of provincial food department is nothing but duplication, overburdening the weak economy of the province.

According to the judgement, the Chief Minister, Mr. Sarfaraz Bugti, who is in attendance, was confronted with the above mentioned facts, while not in a position to defend the decision in question, frankly conceded and fairly suggested that the decision in question is neither reasonable nor prudent. He suggested that after full payment of the bank's liability, the remaining amount would be spent in Naserabad division for establishment of technical center, water supply and town planning."

The court directed to the respondents in the case to form a high level committee for recommendations in respect of winding up many departments which have become a liability.

The Court also directed to the Registrar to send the copy of the judgement to the Chief Secretary

US supports direct talks between Pakistan, India

WASHINGTON (APP): The United States support "direct discussions" between India and Pakistan, saying the two neighbouring countries should work out the mode for the talks themselves, State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller has said.

"We value our important relationships with both India and Pakistan," he said in response to a question from a Pakistani TV channel reporter at his daily news briefing on Thursday.

"As we have said, we support direct discussions between India and Pakistan, but the pace, scope and character should be determined by those two countries, not by us," Miller added. Relations between India and Pakistan have deteriorated since August 5, 2019, when New Delhi unilaterally annexed the disputed Himalayan region of Jammu and Kashmir, leading to heightened tensions between them.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti expressing his views during luncheon hosted in honour of government allies

Balochistan's surplus budget..

Continued from page 1

protection, over Rs. 49 billion for the housing and community amenities, over Rs. 67 billion for health sector, over Rs. 146 billion for the education affairs and services, over Rs. 13 billion for the social protection and over Rs. 6 billion for recreational, culture and religion sectors.

According to the budget document, Balochistan would get over Rs. 862 billion from the revenue receipts including Rs. 726 billion from the federal government receipts. These are included over Rs. 647 billion from the divisible pool, over Rs. 20 billion from the straight transfers, over Rs. 20 million from the non-development grants and over Rs. 59 billion from the development grants.

The total provincial own receipts are estimated in the budget as over Rs. 124 billion. These are included: over Rs. 47 billion from the provincial tax receipts, over Rs. 18 billion from the provincial non-tax receipts and over Rs. 58 billion from the provincial non-tax receipts (including the lease extension bonus).

Similarly, the capital receipts in the budget are estimated as over Rs. 69 billion. These are included over Rs. 21 billion (recoveries of loans, advances and investments), over Rs. 17 billion (foreign project assistance - loan) and over Rs. 30 billion (projects financing).

The Minister Finance announced that the salaries and pensions of the government employees and pensioners have been increased on the pattern of federal government.

He mentioned that 25

percent increase has been proposed in the salaries of government employees of Grade-1 to 16 while 22 percent increase has been proposed in the salaries of government employees serving in Grade-17 to 22.

Besides, 15 percent increase has been proposed in the pensions of retired provincial government employees in the next financial year's budget, he added.

He announced that the grant of public sector universities has been increased to Rs. 5.5 billion in the next financial year budget recording 100 percent increase.

He said that 535 and 242 new vacancies have been created in the education and health sectors respectively in the next budget.

Moreover, the existing vacant posts of 9394 teachers would also be filled on merit in education department, he announced.

He said that a total of 2704 new development schemes have been proposed in the next financial year budget, however, 3976 ongoing schemes would also be executed in the budget, he added.

He said that Rs. 10 billion have been proposed to cope with the challenges of climate change and natural disasters in the next financial year budget. While Rs. 1 billion has been allocated for the Gwadar safe city projects besides Rs. 193 million allocated for Quetta safe city project. The local government grant has also been increased to Rs. 35 billion from existing Rs. 16.8 billion in the next budget.

Delivering his budget speech, the Minister Finance said that we would not leave any stone unturned in meeting the public expectations and development of the province under leadership of Chief Minister, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti.

He believed that new era of overall development and prosperity would begin with the effective measures being taken by the provincial government.

He said that we have made pledge with people of the province that the backwardness of the province would be removed by working hard on priority basis.

In the end, the Minister Finance thanked the leaders and members of assembly including the coalition government as well as the Chief Secretary, Secretary Finance and staff, Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development for assistance in the budget preparations.

He said that all of them continued to perform their duties even during the Eid holidays.

Cross-party consensus backs....

Continued from page 1

was not commensurate with the iron-clad nature of friendship and announced that IDCPC would invite 300 Pakistani parliamentarians to China in three years besides providing scholarships and vocational training to Pakistani youth.

Highlighting the adverse impacts of Western social media on the young generation regarding bilateral relationships, he said China would also invite people from media on a yearly basis to better understand each other.

Addressing the meeting, Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani said all the political parties were committed to CPEC as it promoted collaboration in health, education, information technology and other sectors besides its contribution to addressing the power woes of the country.

He urged both sides to work together for a green and resilient future besides strengthening partnerships in education and tourism sectors.

National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq said the Parliamentary Committee on CPEC ensured vigilant oversight of the government and followed up on the progress of the projects under CPEC through regular reporting to the Parliament of Pakistan.

He reaffirmed the resolve of the parliament, government, and people of Pakistan to build on past successes and in ensuring that CPEC reaches its full potential.

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal said that despite political differences, all the political parties stood unanimous when it comes to China and CPEC,

and were committed to revitalise the upgraded version.

He said China came to rescue Pakistan when it faced around 18 hours of load-shedding and no investor was ready to invest in the country.

The minister thanked China for the inclusion of new corridors in the CPEC which were aligned with the 5Es introduced by the incumbent government.

JUI-Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman expressed gratitude to the Chinese leadership for their unconditional support of the Kashmir cause and reiterated Pakistan's support on the Taiwan issue. Similarly, both countries had unanimity of views on multiple regional and international issues, he said, and also called for completion of delayed CPEC projects.

Minister for Federal Education Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Munazza Hassan called for an enhanced focus on education, information technology and artificial intelligence to harness the youth's potential.

Syed Ali Zafar called for accelerating CPEC projects while Chairman of Pakistan-China Institute Mushahid Hussain Sayed reiterated the political parties' commitment to take the CPEC-II forward. He also proposed the formation of rapid response information system to counter the fake news aimed at undermining the CPEC and Pak-China relationship.

National Party's Senator Jan Muhammad called for technical training of Balochistan's youth, while Afrasiab Khattak cautioned against the designs of the hegemonic forces in the region trying to disrupt peace.

CORRIGENDUM

Reference to the Tender Notice Vide PRQ No. 2803/ published on 04-06-2024 in leading newspaper for Manufactured Vehicles & Accessories (Total Item(s) Count: 1) (TSE-232406447151) Bids can be submitted up to 27-06-2024 at 11 Am and will be open on the same day at 12 Midday Tender Documents: The modified bidding documents can be downloaded from www.bppra.org.pk) All the conditions will remain the same.

PRQ No.3040/21-6-2024
www.dprgob.pk @dpr_gob @dprgob f @dpr.balochistan

CANCELLATION OF TENDERS

This is general information for all Government Contractor's / firms that tenders called for various Development works/ Schemes was advertised through daily newspaper PRQ No 2727/31/5/2024 but due to non-authorization No's tenders are hereby cancelled. The detail TSE are as under: TSE-232405442683, TSE 232406462583, TSE 232406462593 It is for your information

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (ROAD) CWPP&H DEPARTMENT DISTRICT PISHIN
PRQ No.3041/21-6-2024
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TENDER NOTICE

The BALOCHISTAN INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE QUETTA invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-232406462242 Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Rs.1000/-

S.No Class of Object Bid Security

1 Industrial Cleaning Services (Total Item(s) Count: 4) 0PKR

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity Worth PKR 2 Million each in Previous 3 Years. Accumulated Turn over of at least PKR 10 Million in 3 Subsequent Previous Years. Presence in Active Tax Payer List. BRA Registration Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan, previous 3 (three) years experience with verified completion certificate. BRA Registration Certificate. Undertaking by the firm that due to non-availability of funds or any other circumstances the payment is delayed the firm shall pay the salaries to the worker/personal at least for three (3) months. Audit Report of firm for Financial Year 2023-24 from Chartered Accountants registered firm. The service provider shall submit their work plan, duty schedule and the number of Janitorial workers for each shift that ensures the affective maintenance of hygiene in the institution Undertaking that the firm will abide by all terms and conditions of the tender. The firm must have Corporate Office in Quetta City Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of amount 0 PKR specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.org.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.org.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 10 July, 2024 till 10:30 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 11:30 AM on EPPS System

Address: Brewery Road, Quetta

Phone no: 0819213092 Fax no: 0819213094

Email: proc@bjpbs.gov.pk

PRQ No.3044/21-06-2024
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BALOCHISTAN INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE QUETTA
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EXTENSION IN DATE

The Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Pishin called Notice Inviting Tender on 30th March 2024 in daily News papers vide PRQ No. 2688/30th March 2024, TSE232405440593, TSE232405440473, TSE232405440533. All those contractors /firm who participated in the tender which were going to be open on 14th June 2024 is extended upto 26th June 2024 (wednesday) Due to engagement of committee members in an other meeting. The timings of the Submission / Opening and other terms and conditions will remain same.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION PISHIN
PRQ No.3032/20-6-2024
www.dprgob.pk @dpr_gob @dprgob f @dpr.balochistan

CORRIGENDUM

This office tender published under PRQ No.2895/07-6-2024 uploaded on BPPRA website vide (TSE No.232406452963), the following amendments in said tender are hereby made in the light of instructions issued by BPPRA vide their letter No. B-PPRA/Pr.Sp/Works/6-14/2024/5234-37 dated 14.06.2024:-

a) The date of opening of technical Bid was earlier fixed as 24.06.2024 which is hereby extended upto 04.07.2024 at 12:00 Hours. b) Turn over of firm must be at least 2000 Million in 5 subsequent previous years instead of 4000 Million. c) Credit line of firm must be 600 Million, issued by any authorized scheduled bank. d) If the bid is found unbalanced, the lowest evaluated responsive bidder has to provide an additional performance security to an amount of difference between less than 5% of Engineering estimate and the bid price, in shape of CDR, Bank Guarantee. Other Terms and conditions shall remain enforce as published before.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PROJECT DIVISION, QUETTA
PRQ No.3049/21-6-2024
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

TSE-232406463184 Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Request for Proposal for selection of Consultancy service invited on Electronic Public Procurement System (EPPS) from well reputed national/international firms (JV) / service provider meeting with eligibility criteria, viz having registration with FBR for Income Tax and BRA and who are on Active Taxpayers List (ATL) and are not black listed in any procuring agency or authority for preparation of Hiring of "Consultancy Services from Consulting Firms" Titled as Consultancy Services for Detail Design Review and Resident Construction Supervision for the Work "Construction of Bolan Dam District Kachhi"

S.No. Description E/Cost

1 Consultancy Services for Detail Design Review and Resident Construction Supervision for the Work "Construction of Bolan Dam District Kachhi" 114,350,091

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 8 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity. Turn over of at least 100,000,000 PKR Amount in 2 Subsequent Previous Years. Presence in Active Tax Payer List. BRA Registration Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. PEC/PCAD Registration. The bidding firm must have a valid registration with PEC having Specialization code 1205, 1206 and 1207. The bidding firm must submit a Bid Security of amount equal to 3% of quoted bid Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of 3% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. The FINANCIAL PROPOSALS shall be opened of those consultants whose technical proposal is considered and approved. The Selection of Consultants shall be made as per Evaluation Criteria method as mentioned in the "Date Sheet" of this "Request for Proposal" document. The incomplete request for proposal or received after due date mentioned above will not be considered. The RFP Documents can be downloaded from BPPRA Website (www.bppra.org.pk). Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 08 July, 2024 till 10:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:00 AM Address: Irrigation Department GOB, Block # 07 First Floor Room# 01 Civil Secretariat Quetta Phone no: 0832415200

Email: sikandarnotani@gmail.com

PRQ No.3050/21-06-2024
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EXECUTIVE ENGINEER KACHHI IRRIGATION DIVISION AT DHADAR

"CORRIGENDUM/EXTENSION OF DATE"

With reference to advertisement Published in daily newspapers vide PRQ No.2912/10-06-2024 under TSE-232406458643, TSE-232406458663, TSE-232406458703, TSE-232406458713, TSE-232406458843, TSE-232406458883, TSE-232406458893, TSE-232406458923, TSE-232406458983, TSE-232406458993, TSE-232406459003, TSE-232406459013, TSE-232406454263, TSE-232406454333, TSE-232406458093, TSE-232406458103, TSE-232406458423, TSE-232406458443, TSE-232406458453, TSE-232406458463, TSE-232406458363, TSE-232406458393, TSE-232406458403, TSE-232406458413, TSE-232406458573, TSE-232406458593, TSE-232406458603, TSE-232406458633, TSE-232406458493, TSE-232406458523, TSE-232406458543, TSE-232406458553, TSE-232406458593, TSE-232406458943, TSE-232406458953, TSE-232406458963, and PRQ No. 2913/10-06-2024 under TSE-232406453193, TSE-232406453513, TSE-232406453793, TSE-232406453893 in which some amendments have been done on BPPRA website.

- Liquidated damages may be read as 0.1% instead of 10%
 - Bid Security may be read as 2% instead of 4%
 - The date of Submission and Opening of Bids is hereby extended upto 28.06.2024
- Other terms & condition will remain the same as published before.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING, DIVISION LORALAI.
PRQ No.3048/21-6-2024
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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering Division Chaman invites Sealed Tenders based on composite schedule of rates 2018 Government of Balochistan (amended up to date) from interested Contractors/Firms who are Enlisted / Renewal their name for the current financial year 2023-24, for the following works. E/Money 2% for each work.

S#	Name of Work	QTY	Estimated Cost	Time Limit	Tender Fee
1	INSTALLATION OF RO PLANT FOR BUS STOP NEAR FC FORT DISTRICT CHAMAN UNDER PSDP NO.8293				
i)	Supply & Installation of R/O Plant TSE-232406462543	1 Job	6.593 (M)	1 Month	1000/-
ii)	S/I Solar System. TSE-232406462633	1 Set	3.371 (M)	20 Days	1000/-
2	INSTALLATION OF RO PLANT FOR OLD DHQ DISTRICT CHAMAN UNDER PSDP NO.8294				
i)	Supply & Installation of R/O Plant TSE-232406462643	1 Job	6.593 (M)	1 Month	1000/-
ii)	S/I Solar System. TSE-232406462663	1 Set	3.371 (M)	20 Days	1000/-
3	CONSTRUCTION OF WSS AT TABINA FOR FRUIT ORCHARD DISTRICT CHAMAN UNDER PSDP NO.8292				
1-	D/O of Bore 800 Feet. TSE-232406462673	1 Job	5.017 (M)	1 Month	1000/-
2-	S/O Solar System. TSE-232406462683	1 Set	5.055 (M)	20 Days	1000/-
3-	Construction of 10000 GT TSE-232406462693	1 Job	1.790 (M)	20 Days	650/-
4-	Construction of Boundary Wall TSE-232406462713	1 Job	2.037 (M)	20 Days	650/-
5-	Civil Work TSE-232406462743	1 Job	0.397 (M)	20 Days	650/-
6-	Supply of PE Pipe 90mm. TSE-232406462763	2200R	0.807 (M)	20 Days	650/-

The Contractor must have registration with (NTN & sales tax Department) valid registration with Pakistan Engineering council Code CE-06, CE-05, CE-04, who have deposited enlistment/ Renewal Fee for the Year 2023-24, The Firm supplying for tender for supply of PVC pipe must be manufacturer and for Machinery must be authorized dealer having original authority from the manufacturer Tender fee deposited in head of account C-02726-02 through green Challan form original in National Bank of Pakistan Rs. 1000/- and 650/- of each work and fulfill all the requirements of BPPRA. It may also be noted that only Original Firm of Company allowed to participate in tender and tender will not be issued to partner or agent METHOD OF PROCUREMENT Single stage single envelope procedure BIDDING TENDER DOCUMENTS ISSUANCE Tender Form/Documents will be issued to bidders/contractors on publishing of notice in news paper up to 05-07-2024 at 12:00 PM from the presentation of requisite documents i.e tender fee (non refundable). Bid security / Earnest Money 2% in shape of call deposit valid. SUBMISSION last date of submission is 05-07-2024 at 12:30 PM OPENING The tender will be opened on 05-07-2024 at 01:30 PM PLACE OF ISSUANCE Submission inquiries and opening will be :- ADDRESS:- Office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Chaman Email Address. XENChaman@mail.com NOTE It may be noted that no pay order will be accepted/entertained and Firm complete title name should be written on call deposit. Only Original Contractor are allowed to Participate in the tenders. Agent/Representative will not be allowed. CONDITIONS All the terms and conditions can be seen/obtain in the Office of the undersigned in any office hours

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PHE DIVISION, CHAMAN
PRQ No.3036/21-06-2024
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CPEC significantly contributed to Pakistan socio-economic development: Ayaz Sadiq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said on Friday that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had not only transformed Pakistan's infrastructure landscape but had also significantly contributed to its socio-economic development.

"All political parties of Pakistan speak with one voice in complete solidarity with CPEC as a 'Game Changer'.

The bond between the people of the two nations has successfully withstood the test of time" he expressed these views while

addressing the event "Pakistan-China Political Parties Forum and the 3rd Meeting of CPEC Political Parties Joint Consultation Mechanism".

He said, "China and Pakistan have always held each other's hands and shown the world that both nations stand together as one in peace and prosperity, and tragedy and turmoil."

Ayaz Sadiq said, "This 'all-weather friendship' bears testimony to the age-old Chinese saying: A friend—one soul, two bodies."

While reflecting on the

historic visit of President Xi Jinping to Pakistan in 2015, he said it was a defining moment for this Region as agreements worth 46 billion dollars were signed on the occasion.

He also reminded that on that very occasion President Xi and Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, the then Prime Minister of Pakistan, jointly inaugurated the first-ever complete "GREEN PARLIAMENT" of the world, converting the energy needs of the Parliament of Pakistan to solar energy.

"The unique project symbolizes the sincere de-

sire of our two nations to work jointly for a brighter, cleaner, and safer future," he added.

Mentioning continuous collaboration between the parliaments of two countries, he said, "Parliaments of Pakistan and China enjoy an all-weather partnership, mutual trust, and practical cooperation."

He said that during his last tenure as Speaker of the National Assembly, he had the privilege of leading parliamentary delegations to China twice on the invitation of the Chairman of the National People's Congress.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Lawyers from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council calls upon Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah cutting the birthday cake of former Prime Minister (late) Benazir Bhutto, along with others parliamentarians at Parliament House.

Holds crime meeting with officers No tolerance for illegal activities; officers to work solely on merit; IG Islamabad

Says Islamabad Police will not succumb to illegal pressure

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi and DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza chaired an important crime-related meeting with Islamabad Police officers at Police Lines Headquarters Islamabad.

The meeting was attended by SP Investigation, Zonal SPs, SDPOs, SHOs, investigative officers, and computer operators stationed at police stations.

IG Islamabad emphasized modernizing the Islamabad Police stations under the "Special Initiative Police Station" protocols, making processes easier and more convenient for citizens, and striving to make the federal capital a crime-free city.

He urged all officers to work on merit and resist il-

legal pressures. He added that under the Special Initiative Police Station, an inquiry officer will be appointed 24 hours a day at each station to listen to public issues.

All SHOs should form their teams and utilize them effectively, gearing up against crime. He directed all officers to increase patrolling in their areas and

ensure their presence, making lists of wanted and proclaimed offenders to trace and arrest them.

At this occasion, DIG Islamabad directed to place guide constables at the gates of all police stations to assist complainants and direct them to the inquiry officer. Trained officers will be stationed at the front desk to serve the public 24/7.



Lawyers' delegation meets Law minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of lawyers from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council met with Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Friday.

The delegation included KP Bar Council Vice Chairman Sadiq Mohmand, Ahmad Farooq Khattak, former Vice Chairman, Syed Amjad Shah and Tariq Afridi Member of Pakistan Bar Council, said a press release.

In the meeting it was discussed that after the merging of Tribal Districts,

Nikah during iddat case: District & Session Court adjourns hearing till June 25

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and Sessions court has adjourned till June 25 hearing of the petition seeking suspension of conviction of PTI founder and his wife Bushra Bibi in nikah during iddat case.

The petition regarding suspension of sentence came up for hearing before Additional Sessions Judge Afzal Majoka Friday.

Aleem Shahzad and Aamna Ali counsels for Imran Khan appeared in the court.

On the resumption of hearing Usman Riaz Gul advocate counsel for PTI and Zahid Asif Chaudhry counsel for Khawar Manika appeared in the court.

PTI leaders Aun Abbasi, Shandana Gulzar and Kanwal Shozab were also present in the court.

Counsel for Khawar Manika requested the court to adjourn the hearing. He will file his power of attorney on next hearing.

The judge remarked the hearing cannot be adjourned. The hearing of central appeals is fixed on June 25, The arguments have to be finalized at that day at every cost. You should contact your client and call power of attorney through whatsapp.

Later the judge Afzal Majoka inquired from counsel of Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi to give reply to two questions. The sentence is not brief in this case. therefore, assist the

court in regard to conviction of short duration. There are two judgments of Supreme Court (SC) and one is in your favor and one is against you. You will follow which judgment.

Suleman Akram Raja counsel for Imran Khan said there is no judgment against us.

Judge Afzal Majoka said one judgment against you is there.

The counsel said the court will follow what judgment has come later from SC.

Suleman Akram Raja argued the decision given in the power of jurisdiction of Shariah court is final authority. Decisions given before establishment of Shariah court cannot be referred to.

Kundi, Rana discuss KP related matters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday met with Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah and discussed matters pertaining to the province.

During the meeting, Rana Sanaullah said that the Federal Government would fully cooperate with KP Government as all issues could be addressed with mutual consultation and talks.

"Peaceful protest is the constitutional and basic right of every citizen but no one can be allowed to use it for political motives," he added.

IRSA releases 338,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 338,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 298,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1457.18 feet and was 59.18 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 190,000 cusecs and 195,000 cusecs respectively.



ISLAMABAD: Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi calls on Federal Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination, Rana Sanaullah.

PUC condemns tragic incident in Swat

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) on Friday strongly condemned the tragic incident in Swat emphasizing that neither Islamic Shariah nor the Constitution and laws of Pakistan permit the killing or immolating any human being.

This was stated in a joint statement by PUC Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, Allama Abdul Haq Mujahid, Maulana Muhammad Rafiq Jami, Maulana Muhammad Shafi Qasmi, Maulana Nauman Hashir, Maulana Asad Zakariya Qasmi, Maulana Asadullah Farooq, Allama Tahir Hassan, Maulana Tahir Aqeel Awan, Maulana Aziz Akbar Qasmi, Maulana Abu Bakr Hameed Sabri, and others.

The Council expressed deep regret over the increasing frequency of such incidents, highlighting that the measures taken against the perpetrators have been insufficient.

The Council believed that it is the responsibility of the state and judiciary to administer punishment to an accused of blasphemy acts or discretion of the holy book.

The Council condemned the ongoing trend of individuals taking the law into their own hands, acting as judge, jury, and executioner, as wholly unacceptable.

The Council urged the government and all state institutions, particularly the police and judiciary, to handle such cases decisively and without any compromise, vested interests, or fear.



ISLAMABAD: People riding motorcycles as looking wrong side at a road in the Federal Capital, which may cause any incident any time.

Talal urges Coalition partners to work together for extending maximum relief to poor

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator of Pakistan Muslim League-N, Talal Chaudhry on Friday urged the coalition partners and Opposition members to come forward with better suggestions for providing maximum relief to poor people.

Reducing inflation and creating better life opportunities for common man should be the main goal of the political parties, he said while talking to a private television channel.

"We had spent sixteen months in a congenial atmosphere with coalition partners including Pakistan Peoples Party and run the government during that period for restoring economy and reducing inflation, he

Expressing similar hope, he said that Pakistan Peoples Party and other coalition partners should bring positive proposals so that reservation of Opposition could be addressed in a proper manner.

To a question about passing the budget from the House in the coming days, he said that government with the help of coalition parties would pass the budget without facing any difficulty.

All the political parties are highly mature, he said adding that we hope to resolve the issues of the Opposition for bright future of the people of this country.

Primary schools to introduce child-friendly policy in ICT

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a bid to alleviate the burden on young students, government primary schools have decided to introduce Child-Friendly Policy in Islamabad Capital Territory. According to a source of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional, Training, the federal government primary schools in the ICT are set to introduce a new policy from August 1. As per the policy, students will no

longer be required to carry their school books back and forth between home and school.

Instead, the schools will provide pigeon holes and book racks in the classrooms to store the books, making it a child-friendly and convenient learning environment. This initiative aims to reduce the weight of heavy school bags and promote a healthier and happier learning experience for the students.

AIOU announces schedule for online w'shops

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced workshop schedule for M.A/M.Sc. BS, and B.Ed (ODL programs) offered in semester spring 2024.

According to the AIOU, the workshops for the first batch will be held from June 24 to June 29. Each course workshop will be held for 6 days.

It should be noted that workshops will be conducted online on Microsoft teams through AIOU's Aaghi Learning Management System (LMS) portal. According to the Director General Regional Services, Dr. Malik Tauqir Ahmed Khan, login information (username & password) has been shared with the students and they are instructed to participate in these workshops through Aaghi portal.

All those students who have not received their user-name and password have been instructed to contact their nearest AIOU regional office. As per the instructions of Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, the workshops of remaining batches of these programs will be announced soon.

Randhawa commends CDA staffers for their services on Eid-ul-Azha

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa Friday commended the officers and staff who sacrificed their own celebrations to serve the community during Eid-ul-Azha acknowledging their dedication and commendable services.

During the meeting to review the emergency services provided during Eid days, Muhammad Ali emphasized that serving the citizens is the top priority.

The Capital Emergency Services, Rescue 1122 played a crucial role in delivering professional services throughout the three days of Eid.

The teams from Capital Emergency Services were on high alert, ensuring swift responses to any incidents. During the meeting, it was informed that a total of 154 emergency calls were received in Eid days. These included 55 fire incidents, 24 medical emergencies, 71 traffic accidents and other incidents.

Rank Pinning ceremony of newly promoted SP held

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi along with DIG Islamabad on Friday pinned the badges to the newly promoted Superintendent of Police (SP) Majid Iqbal, a public relations officer said. In this regard a ceremony was held at CPO, which was attended by IG Islamabad as chief guest, while DIG Islamabad Syed Ali Raza, DIG Headquarters Dr Syed Mustafa Tanveer and CTO Islamabad Muhammad Sarfraz Virk were also present on this occasion.

The IG Islamabad congratulated the officer on his promotion and wished him all the best for his future endeavors. He said that promotion and increase in rank in the police service actually reflects an

PMSCO to hold math & computer science competition in September

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Maths and Computer Science Olympiad (PMSCO) would be conducting a Math & Computer Science Competition in September with aim to identify and nurture talented students in the said subjects.

PMSCO wants to promote STEM education and excellence in Pakistan. STEM is a type of education that integrates the disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, said a press release.

APHC flays Modi's IIOJK visit, terms it cruel joke on Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has strongly condemned Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), calling it a cruel joke with the struggling Kashmiri people.

According to Kashmir Media Service, APHC spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas, in a statement in Srinagar, called the visit a cheap gimmick aimed at deceiving the international community about the dire situation in the territory.



ISLAMABAD: Gypsy people searching valuables in a heap of garbage outside fruit and vegetable market at sector I-11 in the Federal Capital.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Saturday June 22, 2024

KP's 'power struggle'

An ongoing dispute between Peshawar and Islamabad over loadshedding in KP has flared up once again, with the provincial government now demanding that power cuts not exceed 12 hours in any area.

However, though the PTI's stance appears to be 'pro-people', it also risks creating impediments in the fight against electricity theft, and the party will soon realise it should reconsider its policy on the matter.

It is pertinent to mention here that Pesco, which powers most parts of KP, is among those distribution companies that regularly report high theft and loss of electricity, with 'line losses' climbing to as high as 60pc on average on its network. This means that Pesco customers, on average, pay only Rs4 for every Rs10 of electricity they consume. The rest is picked up by other bill-paying customers across the country, as it is factored into the uniform national tariff.

To penalise delinquency in the payment of bills, many electricity distribution companies have been imposing loadshedding in low-recovery areas, due to which even bill-paying customers may suffer hours of no electricity for no fault of their own. The same is true for those in KP who are dutifully paying their bills but still suffering because Pesco is unable to recover the money others owe.

However, while Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's gung-ho response to his province's electricity crisis may endear him to his party's supporters, he seems to be taking a counterproductive approach to an issue that needs to be resolved responsibly.

Instead of emboldening protesters who keep breaking into electricity grid stations, Mr Gandapur should encourage his provincial subjects to clear their due bills and use his authority to ensure that theft is minimised. This seems to be the surest way of ensuring that honest citizens do not continue to suffer.

To be fair, the KP government does seem to realise where the problem lies: just last month, it amicably concluded discussions with the federal government on the same matter. However, the onset of summer has brought with it immense public pressure for a quick resolution to the loadshedding issue, which is a tall order given the complexities of the economics of electricity supply.

Mr Gandapur has suggested on multiple occasions that the dues owed to KP by the centre should be used to offset the province's electricity liabilities, but while he is justified in seeking his province's fair share, it appears unlikely that it will materialise given the centre's severe resource constraints.

Both Peshawar and Islamabad must, therefore, find a way out of the mess. Till then, however, protesters must not be allowed to interfere with the electricity grid. It seems dangerous and irresponsible and should not be condoned by the KP government.

Faisal Bari

If memory serves me right, the following is from one of Mushtaq Yousufi's books, possibly Zargazist. He says that every time he went to his boss, who was a Scotsman, to ask for a raise, his boss would say, as soon as Yousufi entered the room, "Yousufi, it is good you are here, we have to fire some people". Ten minutes later, Yousufi would leave the office very grateful that he was not one of those who was fired.

When the government first announced that it was cutting the budget for higher education, and later, with great magnanimity, announced it would restore it to last year's level, it reminded me of this story. And the government also expects us to be thankful.

The number of universities keeps going up as provincial and federal governments bestow new charters and upgrade colleges. But the Higher Education

Commission's funds have not been increased for several years. This despite the inflation. It is not surprising that many universities, even the more established, older ones, are under grave financial stress.

This year, too, while the HEC budget did not go up, salaries went up by 20 per cent and inflation has been around 15pc. Public-sector universities, which the agency funds, will continue to hurt and the hurt will keep getting deeper. Some might face default on salary or pension payments as well.

But this year's budget has more bad news for the higher education sector. Teachers and researchers had a 25pc income tax rebate (it was 50pc for the first few years) that had been given a couple of decades back. This has been taken away in this budget. This implies even if universities give a 15pc raise this year, with the removal of the rebate and with the income tax slab adjustments that have been imposed on salaried

teachers/researchers, the latter will have less take-home than they did last year. And these are times of high inflation!

We have a shortage of teachers in Pakistan. At the higher education level, it has been hard to find or hold on to faculty. Our application pools have dwindled. Those with PhD degrees do not want to come back to Pakistan, and many of those who are here want to leave. Many have left, and many others continue to look for opportunities abroad.

Hitting the salaries of teachers and researchers in this manner and in these times clearly shows that the government does not attach much priority to education despite all the rhetoric about an education emergency. It is not as if this measure is going to give the government any sizable amount of revenue. But it will have a big impact on individuals who have been hit and on universities and their budgets.

Another taxation proposal is also set to

strike not-for-profit universities. Currently, the tax commissioner is empowered to issue exemption certificates in cases where a person's income is exempt from tax as is the case with not-for-profit universities. These universities rely on this certificate to ensure that no tax is withheld on their behalf by withholding agents.

The Finance Bill 2024 proposes to withdraw the commissioner's power to issue exemption at 100pc and allows him/her to only issue exemptions at a lower rate. This will hurt in two ways. For not-for-profit universities this means that tax will be held in their name but they will not be able to adjust this tax as they will not have any tax liability to adjust against at the end of the year. And getting refunds from the FBR is not easy and everyone knows that it will not happen. So, the working capital needs of universities will be hurt and a liability will be created against the FBR for no reason. This change will

also create opportunities for nepotism, favouritism and rishwat where commissioners will be lobbied to issue exemption certificates at a higher percentage rate. It is a harsh proposal that will not give the government any revenue and will not raise tax income but will open the door for lobbying for refunds as well — again, leading to more graft and nepotism.

If all of this were not enough, the government, in its belief that the Pakistani people read too much and should be doing other things, has raised the general sales tax on books. Books have become a lot more expensive over the last two to three years due to a) an increase in the price of paper and b) devaluation. As it is, the local book business is not a huge one and the recent price hikes have hit it badly.

The rise in GST will hurt even more. Imported books have become expensive and retailers have been seeing the impact. Raising GST on books will make it even more difficult to sell books. Educationists

were already very concerned about the lack of a reading culture vis-à-vis our youth. On the one hand and as part of the education emergency, the government has been introducing 'reading' hours in schools to improve foundational learning, and on the other, GST on books has been raised.

More taxes are needed. But it cannot be a policy that we just impose taxes blindly wherever we see an opportunity to be able to extract or extort taxes. We have to realise that taxes have consequences. We are doing poorly in education already. We have been cutting funding for higher education and funding for school education is barely keeping up with inflation. Parents are hurting due to rising tuition fee and other costs.

To hit the education sector through the various tax measures mentioned seems very unfair. One hopes that the Senate and House debate on the budget will take these issues into consideration. -- Courtesy Dawn

Higher education up the creek

Pakistan's Hobbesian nightmare

Shahid Mehmood

Human history is replete with governance innovations. Some of these have changed the course of history. But perhaps none was as cataclysmic and transformational as the founding of the 'nation state'. There were two primary sources of the rise of the nation state: power struggle between the Italian city states and the Church, and the intellectual contribution of the 'scholastic' school of thought, both aimed at freeing the affairs of men from the centuries-old ecclesiastical moorings regarding thought and life.

But if the affairs of men were to be governed by practical considerations, what ought to be the justification of having a set-up (government) that is a substitute for one based on divine law? Scholars and philosophers of the later mediaeval period remained seized with this question for some time. Of the earliest attempts to furnish an answer, two came from Niccolò Machiavelli (1469-1527) and Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679).

The Florentine diplomat and political adviser, Machiavelli, was crystal clear on the raison d'être of the existence of a government (or sovereign). In his celebrated book, *The Prince*, he stated: "He ought accordingly to encourage his subjects by enabling them to pursue their callings, whether mercantile, agricultural, or any other, in security so that this man shall not be deterred from beautifying his possessions from the apprehension that they may be taken from him, or that other refrain from opening a trade through fear of taxes; and he should provide rewards for those who desire so to employ themselves, and for all who are disposed in any way to add to the greatness of his City or State."

(Three centuries later, the same was to be restated by the celebrated Adam Smith, albeit in slightly different words). Hobbes' advocacy of a state was born more out of his fears. Like Machiavelli, he acknowledged that people have an innate desire to better their lot through the acquisition of riches. Various groups of people have a

tendency to establish a social equilibrium among themselves, which keeps the wheels of development and commerce well-oiled. Hobbes, though, foresaw that a particular group may have an incentive to break that equilibrium in order to establish its hegemony or to impose its will. To keep that fine balance between different groups intact, he advocated giving the state the monopoly on violence. Otherwise, as he wrote, life would be "nasty, brutish and short".

You do not need to be an Einstein to grasp the role of the state in light of what Machiavelli and Hobbes eschewed. Let us then start with the most fundamental aspect: how safe are we as citizens?

Just before Eidul Fitr and recently, Islamabad, the federal capital, witnessed record crime, which is but a small reflection of what is happening around the country. Its entire police force and more than 2,000 'safe city' cameras could do nothing to stop it.

The plight of Pakistan's main commercial hub, Karachi, is well-known: killings occur

daily during muggings and petty theft has been the norm for decades. The same is the case for all other urban centres.

What of "the apprehension that they may be taken from him"? There is little or no enforcement of property or intellectual rights in Pakistan. Properties are forcefully occupied or taken, and people are picked up by the 'deep state' at will.

What of the "refrain from opening a trade through fear of taxes"? The state's oppressive, extractive taxation system ensures that a huge informal economy prevails and citizens are put under an increasing burden of taxes to finance an unproductive leviathan that guzzles money to preserve its colonial ways (read PIDE-PRIME Tax Reform Commission report).

Lastly, what of the "rewards for those who desire so to employ themselves, and for all who are disposed in any way to add to the greatness of his City or State"? How about Dr Abdus Salam, who put Pakistan on the map of Nobel Prize winners? How did the Pakistani state and its people re-

ward him? Short of hanging him in public, we did (and still are) doing everything to tarnish his legacy and achievements!

This may sound trite, but the profound repercussions of an unsafe, risky Pakistan are hardly understood. Theft, robberies and pilferage, be it by governments or individuals, constitute a transfer of hard-earned wealth. If it is easy to whisk away years of hard-earned wealth (vehicles, smartphones, etc) in a day from its rightful owners, what is the incentive to work hard?

Given such an environment, why do we bemoan "Dubai Leaks"? Would you like to keep your wealth here? Sure, those who earn wealth in a dubious manner do send it to safer havens, but crying hoarse over corruption cannot take away from the fact that citizens have little to no confidence in a state's ability to safeguard their legitimately earned wealth, which results in its flow to other places.

Even better, ask yourself why Pakistan's best brains have been fleeing the country for de-

cadences now. Gloating needlessly about \$30 billion-plus in 'remittances' does not account for the aggregate loss to our economy due to our diaspora's contributions elsewhere.

Pakistan is a Hobbesian nightmare since what Hobbes feared the most (life being "nasty, brutish and short") is at play in Pakistan. And the government that he envisioned, which was supposed to act as a bulwark against this possibility, is nowhere to be found.

Let everyone be very clear: Pakistan's state has a legitimacy problem. Its citizens have lost trust in the ability of the state to provide them with an environment where they can pursue their well-being without any fear. No amount of foreign tours for begging dollars, SIFCs, outlandish financial returns, etc, can convince foreigners when a state's own citizens are so disenchanted and disillusioned. And neither can gimmicks such as sasti roti, public sector freebies, SNC, mega infrastructure projects or government-sponsored cash handouts bring back that confidence.

Unity in diversity

Amin Valliani

Collectively, we are all humans, yet we are divided in various segments. We are created by Almighty Allah from a single soul (4:1) but mutually we are different in many ways and can be identified according to many criteria.

In a family, siblings from the same parents have various physical traits distinguishing them, such as a different height, eye colour, facial structure, blood group, etc. There are also differences in their personalities, hobbies, habits and beliefs.

People have sought answers to the enigma of what makes one person open and honest, and another closed-minded. Science explains that every person has unique genetics; these together with their environment, upbringing, education and other factors impact a person's personality. The Holy Quran says about diversity: "And of His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the diversity of your languages and your colours." (30:22).

Upon reflection, we find that the world is a wonderful blend of unity and diversity. Natural bodies like the earth, plants, insects and animals, etc are unique in creation, serving their own purpose; they are a part of diversity and yet don't lose their unique identity. This is the beauty of the world that things are unique and different in their shapes and texture.

Unity in diversity makes our world and relations more meaningful. Understanding helps achieve harmony among dissimilar individuals or groups. However, the lack of understanding always leads to conflict, disharmony, intolerance and dis-

unity. We are facing challenges in understanding diversity, especially at the national level. During the last few decades, it has been observed that the worship places of minority groups have been disrespected, they have faced violence, and overall harmony is on the decline with the rise of intolerance. There are some areas where mediaeval mindsets prevail, and human life and dignity are worth little.

In order to counter these challenges, understanding about diversity needs to be cultivated in these areas. We learn about many societies where people belonging to different faiths once lived together peacefully, yet these societies have become victims of extremism and intolerance. This has driven a wedge between various segments of society.

In order to make this world livable and peaceful, it is necessary to understand the reality that no two persons are identical, no two persons have the same level of understanding. Everybody needs to show tolerance while maintaining differences so that our society becomes more peaceful. Similarly, at the mental level each one of us has different ways of thinking and we have a right to form opinions while others should respect them. This is essential for smooth working in society.

No society can achieve peace unless it accepts and embraces the diversity of views and opinions and welcomes differences of opinion. However, no one should be allowed to force his views on others.

The Holy Quran says that all humans are one community. Thus, Islam accepts unity along with the concept of diver-

sity. Humanity is like a tree with innumerable leaves, all different in shape, but raised from one base.

Similarly, the Muslim world consists of people with vast differences in culture, language and other demographic characteristics, but we have one base.

In Islamic history, we have the excellent example of the life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) who always welcomed his companions' views about different matters. He used to consult his companions before going to war and respected their fit-ginghting skills.

We are part of Divine creation; a multitude of colours—r, languages and cultures, yet bound together by our hu—m-anity. We are gifted with Divine attributes; in other words, there is a Divine thread running across humanity, connecting each individual with the Creator. Everyone born in this world is human first, then takes on his family's identity as a Muslim, Christian or a believer of any other faith. In some cases, the family's faith takes precedence in a way that renders the person oblivious to his/her prime responsibilities as a human towards fellow beings.

The Holy Quran says: "O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another" (49:13).

It implies that every individual is born from a single soul. He is different from others though part of the whole, carrying a lot of potential. Every individual must make an effort to become a good human being and realise what nature has hidden in his or her personality. After all, humans have the potential to become the 'crown of creation'. -- Courtesy Dawn

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

Almost five months since one of the most manipulated general elections in our checkered history, there is an ominous quiet before yet another impending storm. What form it takes is unknown, but it is clear that the current hybrid regime is devoid of legitimacy and has neither the will nor the capacity to resolve Pakistan's many structural crises.

The PTI is convinced that it is the answer to Pakistan's problems, and can viably claim to being the party with the most popular support across what is an extremely divided polity. But for all of the repression that the PTI has experienced over the past two years, there is little evidence that it would be able to lead a process of structural change to overhaul Pakistan's militarised political economy and state ideology and resolve deeply rooted class, gender and ethnic-national contradictions.

Those political forces that I believe do offer at least the ideological depth and political commitment to challenge the establishment-centric order are not sufficiently strong to do so. In this category are some ethnic-nationalist forces — particularly youth-led movements — as well as the political left.

So we are faced with a medium-term prognosis of deepening structural crises while mainstream parties slug it out in a zero-sum game for governmental power. There is also the resurgence of religious militancy of varying kinds across different geographies of the country.

In significant swathes of the Pak-Afghan borderlands, the re-

Tick tock

ligious right has re-established what is virtually a parallel governing system while the state abdicates its writ. We have been here before and the story does not end well. The so-called Pakistani Taliban and other more mainstreamed Deobandi organisations have deep wells of support in the highest echelons of power and this is reflected as much in the resurgence of militancy as the regular bouts of state repression visited upon peaceful movements like the PTM and the Baloch long march.

In the core areas of the country, relatively newer and distinct religious-political organisations are also gaining steady ground. The TLP stands out amongst all of them, and has recently been at the forefront of organised lynching campaigns against Punjabi Christians as well as Ahmadis. Such groups not only do the politics of hate, they also undertake welfare and other societal activities that deepens their social base in the absence of state-led welfare and recreational schemes.

It is worth bearing in mind that most of these organisations boast an extremely youthful rank and file, and they will continue to grow so long as the underlying socio-economic decay is not arrested. The way in which the current regime treated farmers amidst the wheat import scandal, unrelenting inflation and unemployment, as well as the disdain for workers' rights and unionisation tell us that the potential pool of support for militant organisations will only grow.

Meanwhile, even higher up the class ladder, relatively educated segments continue to be fed a stylised set of facts in the name of the 'two-nation theory' that inhibit

critical thinking and innovation, while rewarding those who want to become cogs in the state's bureaucratic machine.

It is also well-documented that a huge number of young people are trying to get out of the country by hook or by crook, and this is not limited to those who are dirt poor. In other words, the classic brain drain is also continuing to play out, with no sign of reversal.

All told, the situation is dire, and likely to get worse. I do not mean to spread doom and gloom but it is essential that existing realities are acknowledged so that we stop going around in circles. Interrupting the worsening cycle requires those who have recently experienced repression — here I am referring particularly to the PTI — to look beyond messiahs.

For ethnic-nationalists and the left, who are the only forces immediately committed to taking on the challenge of building a popular politics for social transformation, there must be a willingness to find allies within the mainstream that can be coaxed into deepening their political positions. None of this will happen through wishful thinking. It requires conscious recognition of the situation we face and viable strategies to redress it. The clock is ticking and the urgency of our myriad predicaments is increasing, and here I have not even considered the growing likelihood of climate breakdown events. It is under this backdrop that hateful ideologies and molecular violence are deepening across the social formation.

Appealing to the good sense of the powerful does us no good. The oppressed must come together to take things into their own hands. -- Courtesy Dawn

Gandapur warns of 'severe public backlash' in K-P over prolonged load-shedding

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Friday warned that prolonged load-shedding is making life unbearable for residents and could lead to an "uncontrollable public backlash."

The chief minister chaired a meeting today focused on load-shedding, which was also attended by the chief secretary, additional home chief secretary, principal secretary to the CM, secretary of energy, and senior police officials.

The meeting reviewed the situation of power outages in the province, especially during Eid ul Adha, following discussions with federal authorities.

Officials briefed the CM on the latest load-shedding situation and other related issues.

They reported that with the provincial government's support, nearly one billion rupees were recovered from high-

loss areas in the last month. PESCO installations and staff have been provided full security by the police, with dedicated teams deployed in each district. It was disclosed in the briefing that despite promises of zero load-shedding during Eid ul Adha, the commitment was not honoured. PESCO statistics indicated that most areas in the province experienced 12 to 18 hours of load-shedding during the holiday. Since May 1, there have been 81 different protest demonstrations against unscheduled load-shedding in the province.

For the first time, women have also participated in protests against power outages. The briefing warned that if the situation does not improve, there could be serious law and order problems in the province.

CM Gandapur stated that the provincial government is fully cooperating to

resolve power-related issues as per their commitments.

He expressed disappointment that the federal government has not fulfilled its promises. Despite significant recoveries from high-loss areas, unscheduled load-shedding continues. He highlighted that the severe load-shedding is making life unbearable for the residents of the province. The public's reaction to unscheduled load shedding is intensifying, he added.

"Protests against load-shedding are not driven by any political party or provincial government but are a genuine public issue. People are struggling to get water for drinking at home and for ablution in mosques," he added.

Gandapur warned that if the situation persists, public reaction might spiral out of control. He urged the federal government to take the matter seriously.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan cutting the cake on the eve of birth anniversary of martyred Benazir Bhutto.

CM distributes certificates among sanitary workers over excellent cleanliness on Eid-ul-Adha

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Friday paid tributes to chief officers and distributed commendation certificates among the sanitary workers on account of making excellent cleanliness arrangements on Eid, at the Chief Minister's office.

While addressing the ceremony Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said, "I am happy to sit among the heroes. I did not spend Eid with my family and oversaw cleanliness arrangement across Punjab as well as undertook its monitoring. I am pleased that Allah Almighty has blessed me

with an opportunity to serve the people across Punjab."

The CM said, "Everyone acknowledge and appreciate on making excellent cleanliness arrangements on Eid in Punjab. The roads were washed in such a manner as if to clean a house, and rose water was sprinkled on the roads to do away with the stinking smell. We have to keep our country, province, and city neat and clean."

Maryam Nawaz said, "We are introducing waste management system in all the districts of Punjab and will provide resources as well. Cleanliness is ob-

served not only in the urban areas but in the rural areas as well."

Punjab Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafique, while giving a briefing on the "Suthra Punjab Mission", apprised that 1 lakh 80 thousand tonnes of waste was disposed of on all 3 days of Eid.

The animal waste of 1.8 million animals was disposed of in an appropriate manner. More than 32 thousand biodegradable bags were distributed and 55 thousand sanitary workers performed their duties in a severe hot weather, he added.



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora is talking to the media on the occasion of welcoming the Sikh pilgrims who came from India to participate in the anniversary ceremony of Maharaja Ranjit Singh at Wagah Border.

455 Sikh pilgrims from India arrive to attend Ranjit Singh's anniversary

LAHORE (APP): A group of 455 Sikh pilgrims from India arrived in Pakistan through the Wagah border to participate in the Maharaja Ranjit Singh's death anniversary. They were warmly welcomed and presented bouquets by Additional Secretary Shriens Saif Ullah Khokhar and Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs and President of the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (PSGPC), Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora. The Sikh pilgrims expressed immense joy upon arriving in Pakistan, stating that it was their good fortune to visit the land of their Gurus. Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, speaking to media representatives, highlighted that the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) had made excellent arrangements to host pilgrims from India and around the world. They are

provided with accommodation, security, medical services, and transportation, making this land a paradise for minorities, he said and also mentioned the ongoing renovation and restoration work at Maharaja Ranjit Singh's Samadhi.

Additional Secretary Shriens Saif Ullah Khokhar added that special arrangements, including security, transportation, and medical facilities, had been made for the pilgrims. The pilgrims were transported to Gurdwara Panja Sahib in Hassan Abdal in VIP buses under tight security, where they will perform their religious rituals. At the Wagah border, the pilgrims were welcomed by PSGPC members Sardar Mampal Singh, Satwant Singh, Deputy Secretary Abdullah Owais, Satwant Kaur, along with ASO Asim Chaudhry, APS Muhammad Mateen.

Section 144 imposed in Punjab for 7 days as PTI calls for protests

LAHORE (INP): The Punjab government on Friday imposed Section 144 across the province in light of "the prevailing law and order situation", thereby banning protests and public gatherings.

The imposition of Section 144 across Punjab comes as PTI plans to carry out nationwide protests today demanding the release of incarcerated leader Imran Khan.

According to an order issued by the Home Department, Section 144 has been imposed with immediate effect and will be in place for seven days. The Punjab Police says Section 144 empowers authorities to issue orders in public interest that may place a ban on an activity for a specific period of time.

The order states: "It has been observed that in view of the prevailing law

and order situation and security threats, any gathering/ assembly is likely to provide soft targets to terrorists and miscreants, which not only pose serious security threats but is also likely to cause threat to public at peace and order as well as inconvenience to public at large."

Although a specific reason for imposing the ban was not mentioned, issuing secretary Noor Ul Amin Mengal wrote in the order that "pressing and adequate grounds exist for proceeding under Section 144 [...] as an immediate prevention and speedy remedy to ban forthwith certain activities in Punjab". Assemblies, gatherings, sit-ins, rallies, processions, demonstrations, jalsas, dharnas, protests and other such activities have been prohibited effective immediately, the order stated.



FAISALABAD: People busy in yoga exercise in the yoga classes to keep themselves healthy on the occasion of World Yoga Day at Bagh-e-Jinnah.

9 killed, 1535 injured in 1401 RTCs in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least nine persons were killed and 1535 sustained injuries in 1401 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

Out of these, 691 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 844 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams.

Furthermore, the analysis showed that 771 drivers, 46 underage drivers, 159 pedestrians, and 614 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics showed that 310 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 353 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by Faisalabad 108 with 111 victims and at third Gujranwala with 86 RTCs and 86 victims.

According to the data 1232 motorbikes, 69 autorickshaws, 150 motorcars, 26 vans, 13 passenger buses, 11 truck and 138 other types of auto vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in these road accidents.

Model town tragedy: ATC summons more witnesses again today

LAHORE (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) has summoned again more witnesses today (Saturday) in Model Town tragedy prosecution case. Duty judge heard the case being judge Arshid Javed of ATC on leave Friday. The court had summoned DSP Rana Mehmood ul Hassan, Constable Faisal Rashid and constable Aamir Hassan for cross questioning.

The court while summoning more witnesses of case again today adjourned the hearing of the case. The evidence of 98 witnesses has been recorded so far in Model Town tragedy case.

LHC orders crackdown on smoky vehicles, crop residue burning

LAHORE (Online): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday once again ordered traffic police authorities to take strict action against smoky vehicles and impound them.

Justice Shahid Karim passed the orders while hearing several identical petitions filed by Haroon Farooq and others against ineffective measures to control smog. During the proceedings, the court observed that most incidents of crop residue burning took place in the vicinity of the motorway and these should be controlled. "Motorway police should

take action on the incidents of crop residue burning. The inspector general of National Highways and Motorways should ensure the implementation of the court orders," it added.

At this stage, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) also submitted a report on heat stroke in the court, which stated that a heat stroke awareness campaign had been started and 20 water bowlers sent to Cholistan. Each water bowler contains 12,500 liters of water, which is being given to the residents there, it added.

Boy killed, 7 injured in clash

FAISALABAD (APP): A teenage boy was shot dead while 7 people including 5 men and 2 women sustained multiple injuries during an armed clash in Mureedwala police limits.

A police spokesman said here on Friday that two groups exchanged firing over a dispute of illicit relations between a boy and a girl at Chak No.211-GB. During this clash, 15-year-old Nauman Masih received injuries and died on the spot whereas 7 people, including 5 men and 2 women, were shifted to hospital with multiple injuries.



KARACHI: Former President Dr Arif Alvi addressing during PTI protest outside press club in the Provincial Capital.

Six police officials suspended for dereliction of duties in AJK

MIRPUR-AJK (APP): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Kamran Ali on Friday suspended six police men of Thotal Police Station, Mirpur, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) for dereliction of duties.

According to District Police Office (DPO), The suspended officers are Sub-Inspector Waheed Anjum, Head Constables Tahir Mahmood (Muharrar), Asif Mahmood, Muhammad Yasir, Ibrar Hussain and Asif Iqbal (Naib Muharrar).

They have been removed from their duties and directed to report to the Police Lines. According to an investigation by the Ad-

Marwat appointed as focal person of CMKP for students affairs

PESHAWAR (APP): Ashfaq Muhammad Marwat has been appointed as the focal person of Chief Minister (CM) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) for student affairs here on Friday.

The Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister has issued the notification of the appointment of Ashfaq Muhammad Marwat. Ashfaq Marwat will perform liaison with the Chief Minister regarding the welfare of students, educational and co-curricular activities. He will be in touch with the Chief Minister's Secretariat for solving all the problems of the students and other issues.

Dy Speaker, PA inspects cleanliness in Bahawalpur

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Deputy Speaker, Punjab Assembly, Malik Zaheer Iqbal Channer has inspected cleanliness drive in Bahawalpur and said that the sitting government had vowed making Punjab, a neat and clean province.

According to a press release issued here, Deputy Speaker, Punjab Assembly, Malik Zaheer Iqbal Channer had visited several areas of the city and inspected cleanliness drive. He expressed his satisfaction over the performance of Bahawalpur Waste Man-

agement Company in the cleanliness campaign.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that Chief Minister Punjab had vowed to make Punjab, a neat and clean province terming it a good sign that Bahawalpur Waste Management Company had lifted offal during three days of Eid-ul-Azha. "You can not spot offal anywhere in the city," he said.

He said that the Punjab government had introduced dynamic policies and strategies to put the province on track of development.

Man kills mother, 3 sisters in the name of honor

KABIRWALA (Online): One Abba has shot dead his mother and three sisters in the name of honor in the area of Kabirwala. The heinous incident took place in village Okanwala Kabirwala. The police took the bodies into their custody and sent them to hospital for post-mortem. The accused opened indiscriminate firing on the women of his family in the name of honor killing his mother Haseena Bibi.

Punjab Governor says: All possible steps would be taken for the development of Cadet College Hasan Abdal

Independent Report

LAHORE: Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, said Cadet College Hasan Abdal is an institution of great traditions. He expressed these views while presiding over the 103rd Board of Governors meeting of Cadet College Hasan Abdal, Principal Cadet College Hasan Abdal, Brigadier Nasir Saeed Khattak, Muhammad Saeed Mehdi, Mahfoozur Rehman, Brigadier Dr. Muhammad Khaleeq Al Rashed Kayani, Lt. Gen. Najeebullah Khan, Professor Dr. Zafar Ali Chaudhry, Dr. Ijaz Munir, Vice Chancellor Fatima Jinnah Women University Dr. Azira Rafiq, Education Specialist Dr. Saima Siddiqui, Secretary School Education Punjab Government Dr. Ehtesham, Additional Secretary Finance, Government Punjab, Mir Raza Uzgan and representative of Commissioner Rawalpindi, Director Development and Finance Rawalpindi, Nazia Akbar were also present. The annual budget was approved in the meeting and important issues related to the college were discussed in the meeting. Governor Punjab said that all possible steps would be taken for the development of Cadet College Hasan Abdal.

Meanwhile, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem

Haider Khan assented the following five Acts which would come into effect immediately. They assented acts included: Police Order (Punjab Amendment) Act 2024, Punjab Agricultural Marketing Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Act 2024, Punjab Healthcare Commission (Amendment) Act 2024, Punjab Price Control of Essential Commodities Act 2024, Punjab Civil Servants (Amendment) Act 2024.

According to the details, an organized crime unit shall be established in each district under the Police Order (Punjab Amendment Act 2024). The organized crime unit in Capital City District shall be headed by the Deputy Inspector General of Police, while in City District, the Senior Superintendent of Police or Superintendent of Police. The Organized Crime Unit will have jurisdiction over cases related to gangs involved in kidnapping for ransom, robbery and dacoity, motor vehicle theft, drug trafficking, inter-provincial and inter-district property related crimes. After the implementation of the Punjab Civil Servants (Amendment) Act, 2024, a civil servant appointed or regularized on or after the commencement of Punjab Civil Servants (Amendment) Ordinance shall participate.



LAHORE: People are suffering during closed outdoor Patient Department (OPD) at Services Hospital in the Provincial Capital, due to young doctor's strike after the Sahiwal teaching hospital incident.

PA passes resolution to pay tribute to Shaheed Benazir on 71st birthday

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Assembly on Friday unanimously passed a resolution to pay rich tribute to Mohtrama Benazir Bhutto Shaheed on the occasion of her 71st birthday.

The resolution was presented by People's Party Sindh President MPA Nisar Ahmad Khuhro.

Sindh Assembly session started with Speaker Syed Owais Qadir Shah in the chair.

People's Party Sindh President MPA Nisar Khuhro sought permission from the Speaker to present the resolution; after permission, he presented the resolution, which was unanimously passed by the House.

The resolution said that Shaheed Benazir Bhutto was a champion of democracy who inspired generations with her courage, vision, and unwavering commitment to the people of Pakistan, and as the first

woman Prime Minister of Pakistan, she brought the country peace, progress, and development. Her leadership includes improving education, health, and empowering women.

According to the resolution, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto promoted tolerance, dialogue, and peace and made efforts to rid the nation of the scourge of terrorism, and her mission was to establish a democratic system and an egalitarian society. Democracy is established in the country due to her martyrdom and her sacrifices.

This House, on the occasion of the 71st birth anniversary of Benazir Bhutto, reiterates its commitment to carry forward her vision for a progressive and prosperous Pakistan as her legacy lives under the leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who is continuing her mission.



HYDERABAD: Youngster diving in water canal to get relief from hot weather in the city.

72nd birth anniversary of BB celebrated

SUKKUR (APP): The 72nd birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was celebrated with enthusiasm here on Friday. A ceremony was organized at Sukkur House wherein the PPP workers cut the birthday cake. PPP leader Senator Islamuddin Sheikh, Mayor Sukkur Arslan Sheikh, MNA Noman Islam Sheikh, Deputy Mayor Dr Arshad Mughal, Abid Gul Mahar and large number of workers also participated in the ceremony.

They paid glowing tributes to the services of Benazir Bhutto. Senator Islamuddin Sheikh said that PPP history was replete with sacrifices.

He said that the PPP leaders sacrificed their lives for the stability of democracy in the country. He said Benazir Bhutto was voice of the poor and oppressed

class, adding her services would never be forgotten.

Mayor Sukkur Arslan Shaikh paid tributes to former PPP Chairperson Benazir Bhutto on her 72nd birth anniversary and resolved that the nation had to end the politics of hatred and anarchy to keep the country united.

He said it was the visionary leadership of Benazir Bhutto that envisaged policies particularly focusing on women's rights and empowerment, aiming at their increased participation for the sake of national development.

Deputy Mayor, Dr Arshad Mughal said Benazir Bhutto was a politician with international stature, adding she took the country towards progress and prosperity.

The participants also prayed for the rest of her soul in eternal peace.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of leading exporters of Pakistan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Lawmakers urge govt to provide more relief to agriculture, IT sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Lawmakers in the National Assembly on Friday urged the government to focus on people-oriented policies and provide more relief to the agriculture and Information Technology sectors.

Muttahida Qaumi Movement (Pakistan) leader Muhammad Farooq Sattar, while participating in the budget debate, termed the budget for 2024-25 as traditional, reflecting a continuity of policies from the past 77 years.

"The country's current debt servicing issues, noting that most budget allocations are used for this purpose," he highlighted.

He said, "It is the government's responsibility to prepare the budget with the public's issues in

mind."

He said, "Unfortunately, every budget seems to favor the wealthy."

Sattar urged the government to focus on the agriculture sector and criticized the imposition of more taxes on salaried individuals.

He called for relief measures for the poor in the budget and asked the government to revise the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award.

He stressed the need to resolve Karachi's water issues and to allocate more funds to improve the city's drain system.

He also advocated for more incentives to attract Foreign Direct Investment and for policies that encourage a growth-oriented economy.

Sunni Ittehad Council's Rana Atif thanked his party for giving him the opportunity to contest the elections and promote the party's vision.

He highlighted the issues of his constituency and asked the government to solve these issues of every district without discrimination.

He called for the government to address the issue of IPP capacity payments and to take steps to further enhance the country's import.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's Asia Naz Tanoli said that in 2018, the government solved the issue of load-shedding and that during the PML-N tenure, more funds were allocated for development projects.

Weekly inflation up by 0.94 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.94 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on June 20, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 316.88 points as compared to 313.93 points during the past week.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review

witnessed an increase of 23.78 per cent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16=100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732, increased by 1.58 per cent and went up to 309.10 points from the last week's 304.28 points.

The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517, Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, increased by 1.44 percent, 1.20 percent, 1.11 and 0.69 percent respectively.

PSX gains 8.96 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Friday gained 8.96 points, a positive change of 0.01 percent, closing at 78,810.49 points against 78,801.53 points the previous trading day.

A total of 471,344,897 shares valuing Rs.20.475 billion were traded during the day as compared to 452,637,253 shares valuing Rs. 20.675 billion the last day.

Some 436 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 137 of them recorded gains and 237 sustained losses,

whereas the share prices of 62 remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 43,051,185 shares at Rs.1.27 per share, Hum Network with 41,927,277 shares with 11.13 per share and Pervez Ahmed Co with 37,352,634 shares at Rs.1.84 per share.

Pakistan Tobacco Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.75.60 per share price, closing at Rs.1,026.91, whereas the runner-up was Mehmood Textile Mills Limited with a Rs.40.83 rise in its per share price to Rs.582.49.

Economic growth directly linked with fast sustainable upsurge in exports: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said the country's economic growth was directly linked with the fast sustainable growth of exports. He was talking to a delegation of exporters, which called on him here at the PM House.

The prime minister said the exporters being the back bone of national economy, were extremely important for the government as they were playing a key role in the country's development. The country's economy would

attain sustainable growth when the export sector showed fast growth, he added. PM Shehbaz said the government was providing all possible facilities to promote the non-traditional exports. He expressed the government's resolve to take all the decisions in the larger interest of the people and the country. The government, he said, was taking measures to boost the export to GDP ratio. The payment of sales tax refund to the traders and industrialists was also being ensured timely, he added. The prime minister

warned the relevant authorities that no laxity would be tolerated in that regard.

He directed the federal ministers to make consultation with the delegation to ensure resolution of all their issues.

The exporters expressed gratitude to the prime minister and the government for announcing a historic cut in the electricity prices for the industrial sector, terming it a breath of fresh air.

They also expressed their full confidence in the government's economic policies and assured their

all-out cooperation. They said they would fully support the government in taking action against tax evaders and those adversely affecting the revenue for national exchequer.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik, Power Minister Awaiz Ahmed Khan Leghari, Minister of State for Finance Ali Pervaiz Malik, Minister of State for Information Technology Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Salman Ahmed and relevant high officials attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: The delegation of All Pakistan Fertilizer Dealers Association (APFDA) calls on the Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain

Shaza appreciates Google for creating local assembly of Chromebooks in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Friday appreciated Google for Education for creating local assembly of Chromebooks in Pakistan, saying that provision of digital tools to both teachers and students will help in reducing education divide in the country.

During a meeting with high-level delegation of Google matters related to effective use of technology in the field of education, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital economy were discussed, said a news re-

lease. The Google delegation comprised Andrew Ure, Head of Trade and Economic Affairs, Asia-Pacific for Google,

Kyle Gardener, Government Affairs and Public Policy Lead, South Asia, and Farhan Qureshi, Google's Country Head for Pakistan.

The delegation briefed the Minister of State for IT about Google literacy programs.

Shaza Fatima said that equipping the youth with digital skills for their capacity building is the need of the hour. Both teachers and

students must be trained in using digital tools, she said, adding that better employment opportunities can be acquired through digital literacy.

She said smart schools are vital for remote learning. Ministry of IT and Telecommunication will fully cooperate and support Google in the implementation of its initiatives, she added.

Additional Secretary, MOITT Aisha Humera Moriani, Member IT Syed Junaid Imam and Member Telecom Muhammad Jahanzeb Rahim were also present in the meeting.

Investment of approx. \$50m Engro fertilizers completes largest-ever En Ven plant turnaround

ISLAMABAD (APP): Engro Fertilizers has invested approximately USD 50 million in a plant turnaround to enhance its reliability and operational efficiency and the company successfully completed the largest-ever scheduled maintenance activity for the EnVen Plant, spanning 55 days, as planned on June 18, 2024. Established in 2011 with an investment of USD 1.1 billion, the EnVen Plant has an annual production capacity of 1.3 million tons and is the most energy efficient fertilizer plant in Pakistan, with the lowest consumption of gas per ton of urea, said a news release.

The project scope of the turnaround included over 5,000 technical activities, including the first-ever replacement of the waste heat boiler, overhaul of the furnace convection section, ammonia storage tank inspection and a comprehensive overhaul of six major turbo trains and gas turbines.

At peak, more than 6,000 people were engaged round-the-clock at the Plant site for these turnaround activities.



KARACHI: A vendor is preparing Falsa juice for customers at his roadside setup, in the Provincial Capital.

CCP approves acquisition of Luxembourg firm with presence in Pak solar market

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the 100% acquisition of M/s. Actis Holdings S.a.r.l (Actis Holdings), a Luxembourg-based company having a presence in Pakistan's solar power market, by M/s. General Atlantic Partners, L.P. (GA), a US-based firm.

Actis Holdings is a sustainable infrastructure investor with a diverse portfolio in energy infrastructure, long-life infrastructure, digital infrastructure, real estate, and private equity sectors. Funds managed by Actis hold a majority interest in Solis, which is a majority shareholder in Yellow Door. Yellow Door is actively engaged in the solar electricity business in

According to Ali Rathore - CEO of Engro Fertilizers, "The safe and successful completion of this major turnaround, despite extreme weather conditions, showcases the engineering excellence of the Engro Fertilizers team in executing large-scale projects within planned schedules and budgets, while prioritizing the safety of everyone involved in the activity. These critical projects were executed in-house by our talented engineers using innovative techniques and global best practices of safety and quality."

He added that, "The meticulous planning and execution ensured that the availability of urea to our hardworking farmers was not impacted, demonstrating the entire Engro Fertilizers team's firm commitment to our purpose of enabling the food security of Pakistan. We would like to thank our employees, contractors, global technical partners, local administration, and all other key stakeholders for their seamless support and guidance that contributed to the success of this major turnaround."

Gold rates up by Rs.1,600 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of per tola of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.1,600 and was sold at Rs.242,900 on Friday against its sale at Rs.241,300 on last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs. 1,372 to Rs.208,248 from Rs. 206,876 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.190,894 from Rs.189,636.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a meeting with Google delegation.

SNGPL disconnects four more connections

MULTAN (APP): The Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL) disconnected four more connections over different charges here on Friday.

The Sui Gas Task Force continued its daily operations, disconnecting four more meters and removing five extensions.

Four consumers had illegally transferred their meters from the service to their homes, causing leakage losses to the department. After thorough inspection, the task force disconnected all four connections. Additionally, a meter of a non-billing consumer was also disconnected and sent to the laboratory for further departmental action. Five consumers who were illegally supplying gas to more than one house had their extensions removed.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships, Maersk Chicago, Navios Constellation, OM Shanghai and Khaipur carrying Container, Chemicals and Gasoline, berthed at Container Terminal, Engro Terminal and Oil Terminal respectively on Thursday.

Meanwhile two more ships, High Loyalty and Canopus with Edible oil also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on same day. Seven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Simaisima and Navios Constellation left the port on today morning while four more ships.

FPCCI holds FBR's top anomalies committee meeting: Atif Ikram

Independent Report KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI and Dr. Gohar Ejaz, former federal commerce minister - who are jointly chairing FBR's Anomaly Committee 2024 from the business side - called a high-profile meeting of all chambers, trade bodies and associations at FPCCI; and, discussed the glaring anomalies in the Finance Bill and federal budget 2024-25 in detail on a sector-to-sector basis.

It is pertinent to note that Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, will be presenting the dossier of anomalies from the entire business, industry and trade community of Pakistan to the federal minister for finance and revenue to be reviewed by federal government's economic team and the prime minister to remove or resolve anomalies from the federal budget 2024-25.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh explained that, being the apex body, FPCCI will provide the government with the collective, aggregated, comprehensive and descriptive list of anomalies that are creating confusion, discontent and apprehensions. We deserve a friendly budget for the businesses, industry, exporters and the economy as a whole, he added. Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh maintained that one of the primary measures in the budget that need to be reviewed immediately.

IESCO examines 1,310,874 meters across all six operational circles

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) in the light of government and the Ministry of Energy Power Division directives has checked 1,310,874 meters since September 7, 2023 during anti-power theft campaign in all its six operational circles.

Sharing details, Chief Executive Officer of IESCO, Dr Muhammad Amjad said that fines amounting to Rs 627.75 million have also been imposed on the power pilferers. Some 1,872 FIRs have also been registered against

Fertilizer dealers meet with Minister for Industries

ISLAMABAD (APP): All Pakistan Fertilizer Dealers Association (APFDA) delegation, led by Chairman Ghulam Ahmed on Friday met with Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain to discuss specific issues of retailers about the withholding tax.

The association sought the minister's support for the redressal of the issues, affecting the fertilizer industry.

The minister said that government was committed to support the fertilizer industry for the betterment of farmers.

He pointed out that expanding the tax base to generate revenue was also a priority of the government.

Rupee gains 09 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Rupee on Friday gained 09 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.51 against the previous day's closing at Rs 278.60.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market, however, were Rs 277.8 and Rs 280.7 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by Rs1.21 to close at Rs 297.56 against the last day's closing of Rs 298.77, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

SBP injects over Rs2.6trln into market

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Friday, injected Rs2,601.55 billion in the market through reverse repo purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operation (OMO).

According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on June 21, 2024 for 7-day and 28-day tenors and accepted all the 31 received bids amounting to Rs2,471,550 million.

The central bank received 20 quotes for 7-day tenor amounting to Rs1,984.7 billion offered at the rate of return ranging between 20.56 to 20.63 percent.

For the 28-day tenor, 11 bids were offered between 20.55% to 20.59%.

The SBP accepted all the 20 bids for 7-day tenor at 20.56% and 11 bids for 28-tenor at 20.55% annual rate of return.

Meanwhile, the central bank also injected Rs130 billion in the market through Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operation for 7-day and 28-day tenors.

The SBP received one quote amounting to Rs130 billion (face value of collateral) at 20.58% rate of return while no bid was received for 28-day tenor.

Minister for providing egg-laying hens to farmers at subsidised rates

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Dairy Development Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani on Friday directed the Rawalpindi Poultry Research Institute (RPRI) to resume its programme of providing egg-laying hens to farmers at subsidised rates.

During his visit to the institute, the minister said, "We are committed to supporting our farmers and promoting the poultry industry in the province. Resuming this programme will help reduce the cost of production for farmers and increase egg production, making eggs more affordable for consumers."

The minister emphasised the need to increase the growth of egg-laying hens to meet the demand of eggs in the province.

He directed the RPRI to take steps to increase the growth of egg-laying hens, including improving breeding and nutrition programmes.

Agriculture and Livestock Minister Ashiq Hussain Kirmani said that last year 91 thousand sets of chickens were distributed among the farmers by the institute and the number should be increased this year.



HYDERABAD: Labourers busy in packing mangoes in wooden boxes at fruits market.

Putin, in Vietnam, seeks new 'security architecture'

Monitoring Desk
HANOI: The President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, says he wants to build a "reliable security architecture", in the Asia-Pacific region. He made these remarks on Thursday, during a state visit to Vietnam, which is part of a 'two-nation' trip to Asia, viewed by many "as [a] show of defiance to the West".

A day after signing a mutual defence agreement with North Korea, Putin received a 21-gun salute at a military ceremony, in Vietnam. He was embraced by two of its Communist leaders and lavishly praised by one of them.

Putin's visit has drawn criticism from the United States and its allies, who treat the Russian

leader as a 'pariah'. They have protested that he should not be given a stage, to defend the war in Ukraine. Russia and Vietnam penned agreements on issues, including energy.

This underlines Moscow's pivot towards Asia, after the West imposed sanctions on the Kremlin over the conflict in Ukraine.

"We are firmly committed to deepening the comprehensive strategic partnership with Vietnam, which remains among the priorities of Russia's foreign policy," Putin was quoted as saying, by Russian media.

"We are ready to continue active joint work on a wide range of topics, including economic, scientific

and technical ties, defence, security and humanitarian contacts."

He was quoted by Russia's TASS news agency as saying that the two countries shared an interest in "developing a reliable security architecture" in the region, based on 'not using force' and 'peacefully' settling disputes with no room for "closed military-political blocs".

The 11 pacts signed in Hanoi were not on the same level as the landmark agreement, reached in North Korea. Putin's warm welcome was an achievement for the Russian leader, who has an outstanding International Criminal Court arrest warrant against him, over alleged war crimes in Ukraine.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi takes part in a yoga session during International Yoga Day in Srinagar.

Macron angers French left, far right insists no NATO exit

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday faced accusations of lashing out at the snap election manifesto of a new left-wing coalition, while the far-right party leader insisted he would not question France's international commitments including on NATO.

With less than two weeks before the first round of polling in the snap elections called by Macron in response to his party's defeat by the far right in European polls, the president is struggling to make up ground.

His ruling alliance is forecast by opinion polls to come only third in the legislative elections on June 30 -- followed by a second round on July 7 -- behind the far-right National Rally (RN) and a new left-wing alliance.

This could put RN

leader Jordan Bardella in a position to become prime minister in an awkward "cohabitation" with Macron, although the 28-year-old has insisted he will only accept this if his party and allies win an absolute majority of seats.

Visiting a major defence show outside Paris, Bardella insisted that he "doesn't plan to question the commitments France has made on the international stage" on defence if he takes power. "Our credibility towards our European partners and NATO allies is at stake," he said at the Eurosatory arms trade show outside Paris, moderating the far right's historic hostility to the Atlantic alliance.

The RN's three-time presidential candidate Marine Le Pen said in 2022 that if she were elected, France would quit NATO's integrated command in the name of "independence".

UK's first non-white PM to go down in history as a symbol of failure: poll

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: The man who made headlines less than two years ago for being the United Kingdom's richest and first non-White prime minister will now go down in history as a symbol of failure.

This week, a new poll forecast that the Conservatives will face a wipeout in London at the general election, and that Rishi Sunak will lose his own seat — a prediction that, if proven true, would be the first time that a sitting prime minister lost his own seat at the polls.

The Savanta and Electoral Calculus poll for The Telegraph predicted that the Conservative party could be left with just 53

MPs on July 4 as the country goes to polls and that the party leader will not be one of them.

The poll surveyed approximately 18,000 people from June 7 to 18, and found that though it will be a close contest, Sunak will lose the Richmond seat to Labour.

The poll also projected a win for Labour under Keir Starmer of over 500 seats at the election, with a majority of just under 400. The same poll suggests that Nigel Farage's Reform UK party would win zero seats.

Soon after Sunak assumed office, journalist John Elliott wrote a column, quoting an unnamed source as saying about Rishi.

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.

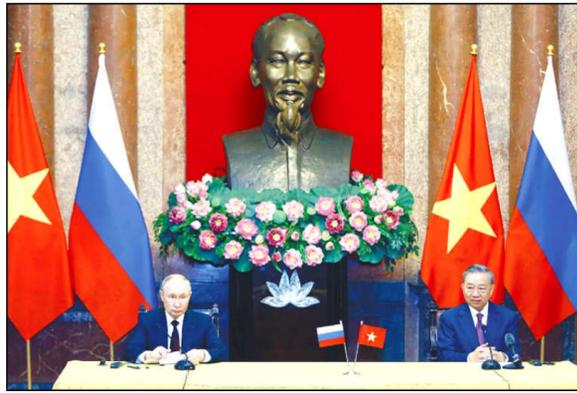
Strengthening Storm Alberto takes aim at Mexico's Gulf coast, at least three dead

Monitoring Desk
MEXICO CITY: The outer edges of Tropical Storm Alberto began to unleash heavy rains over parts of northeastern Mexico near the US border late on Wednesday as the large tropical system closed in on the Gulf coast, killing at least three people.

According to the US National Hurricane Center (NHC), the storm was located about 135 miles (217 km) east of the Mexican port of Tampico, packing maximum sustained winds of 50 mph (80 kph), as military and emergency services personnel braced for its full impact.



Rohingya refugees cross a bamboo-made bridge during an ongoing heatwave in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.



President Vladimir Putin and Vietnam's President To Lam take part in a press briefing at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi.

Israel-Hezbollah tensions drive fears of widening Gaza war

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Fears of a regional war rose after Lebanon's powerful Hezbollah movement said none of Israel would be spared in a full-blown conflict, and Israel said it had approved plans for a Lebanon offensive.

Experts are divided on the prospect of wider war, almost nine months into Israel's vow to eradicate Hamas, the Palestinian group in the Gaza Strip.

On Wednesday, Israel's top army spokesman said Hamas, as an ideology, cannot be eliminated.

Others, including US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, have also pointed to the difficulty of destroying the group.

In a televised address, Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah said "no place" in Israel would "be spared our rockets" if war began.

Nasrallah's group has exchanged near-daily fire with Israel since Hamas's October 7 attack on southern Israel, but the fire from Hezbollah rockets, Israeli warplanes and other weapons has escalated in the past few weeks.

The Hezbollah chief

also threatened the nearby island nation of Cyprus if it opened its airports or bases to Israel "to target Lebanon".

Cyprus, a European Union member, is home to two British bases, including an airbase, but they are in sovereign British territory and not controlled by the Cypriot government.

Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides denied his country's involvement in the war and said it was "part of the solution". He pointed to its role in a maritime humanitarian corridor to Gaza.

Trump promises US green card for foreign graduates

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Former US president Donald Trump said he wants to grant green cards to foreign graduates from US colleges, in an apparent softening of his typically hard-line view on immigration, a key election issue. The Republican candidate made the remarks in a podcast published on Thursday, days after President Joe Biden announced a citizenship pathway for immigrants married to US nationals, counterbalancing his recent crackdown on illegal border crossings.

"What I want to do and what I will do is, you graduate from a college, I think you should get automatically as part of your diploma a green card to be able to stay in this country," Trump told the All-In podcast. A green card is the commonly used name for a permanent resident card in the United States and a step toward citizenship.

Trump said this should include "anybody who graduates from a college", including those who complete two-year programs, known as junior colleges, and doctoral graduates.

Delhi CM Kejriwal gets bail in corruption case

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: An Indian court granted bail on Thursday to one of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's chief opponents, who was first detained over a long-running corruption probe in March. Arvind Kejriwal, the chief minister of Delhi and the leader of the opposition Aam Aadmi party, denies the charges as a "political conspiracy" by Modi and his Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He was released from detention to campaign party-wide through the country's weeks-long national election but returned to jail after voting ended earlier this month.



Filipino sailors clash with Chinese Coast Guard personnel in the South China Sea.

US will redirect air defense inceptor missiles to Ukraine that other allies had on order

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The White House announced Thursday that it will rush delivery of air defense interceptor missiles to Ukraine by redirecting planned shipments to other allied nations, as Washington scrambles to counter increased Russian attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure.

National security spokesman John Kirby said the U.S. had taken the "difficult but necessary decision to reprioritize near-term planned deliveries of foreign military sales to

other countries," though he wouldn't say which nations would be affected or how many. "Right now, we know that Ukraine urgently needs these additional capabilities," Kirby said on a call with reporters, adding, "Obviously more is needed, and it's needed now."

The announcement comes after President Joe Biden, during last week's Group of Seven meeting in Italy, suggested such action might be necessary, saying, "We've let it be known for those countries that are expecting, from us, air defense systems in the future."

Millions sweltering under extreme heat worldwide as summer arrives

Monitoring Desk
PRISTINA: Deadly heatwaves are scorching cities on four continents as the Northern Hemisphere marks the first day of summer, a sign that climate change may again help to fuel record-breaking heat that could surpass last summer as the warmest in 2,000 years. Record temperatures already reached in recent days are suspected to have caused hundreds if not thousands of deaths across Asia and Europe.

In Saudi Arabia, nearly two million Muslim pilgrims are finishing the Hajj at the Grand Mosque in

Makkah this week. But hundreds have died during the journey amid temperatures above 51 degrees Celsius, according to reports from foreign authorities. Egyptian medical and security sources told Reuters on Thursday that at least 530 Egyptians had died while participating in the Hajj — up from 307 reported as of yesterday. Another 40 remain missing. Countries around the Mediterranean have also endured another week of blistering high temperatures that have contributed to forest fires from Portugal to Greece and along the northern coast of Africa in Algeria.

Modi leads yoga day event in India-occupied Kashmir

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Stretching, arching his back and kneeling on a mat, India's Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi led hundreds of people performing yoga in India-held Kashmir on Friday.

The exercises in Srinagar marked the 10th International Yoga Day, Modi's own brainchild. But while yoga is not itself a religious practice, it has its origins in Hindu philosophy — the god Shiva is said to have been the first yogi — and many Kashmiris are indifferent to the discipline. Thousands of government employees, schoolteachers and students from all over the region were brought in for the event.

India says peace at Chinese border key as direct flights remain stalled

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India's foreign ministry said peace on its border with China was critical for relations to become normal, reacting on Friday to a Reuters report that New Delhi was not keen to restart direct flights with China amid a standoff on their Himalayan frontier. China has been pressing India to restart direct passenger flights after a four-year halt.

US, China hold first informal nuclear talks in 5 years, eyeing Taiwan

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States and China resumed semi-official nuclear arms talks in March for the first time in five years, with Beijing's representatives telling US counterparts that they would not resort to atomic threats over Taiwan, according to two American delegates who attended.

The Chinese representatives offered reassurances after their US interlocutors raised concerns that China might use, or threaten to use, nuclear weapons if it faced defeat in a conflict over Taiwan.

"They told the US side that they were absolutely convinced that they are able to prevail in a conventional fight over Taiwan

without using nuclear weapons," said scholar David Santoro, the US organizer of the Track Two talks, the details of which are being reported by Reuters for the first time.

Participants in Track Two talks are generally former officials and academics who can speak with authority on their government's position, even if they are not directly involved with setting it. Government-to-government negotiations are known as Track One.

Washington was represented by about half a dozen delegates, including former officials and scholars at the two-day discussions, which took place in a Shanghai hotel conference room.

Chinese coast guard, Philippines navy clash in disputed sea

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: The Philippines accused Chinese coast guard sailors of brandishing knives, an axe and other weapons in a clash with its naval vessels near a strategic reef in the South China Sea.

The clash took place on Monday as Philippine forces attempted to resupply marines stationed on a derelict warship that was deliberately grounded atop the disputed Second Thomas Shoal in 1999 to assert Manila's territorial claims.

It was the latest in a series of escalating confrontations between Chinese and Philippine ships in recent months as Beijing steps up efforts to push its claims to the disputed area.

Philippine military chief General Romeo Brawner said the "outnumbered" Filipino crew had been unarmed and had fought with their "bare hands".

'US deeply disappointed' as tensions between Biden, Netanyahu soar

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The White House expressed deep disappointment over criticism from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of the United States on Thursday (Jun 20) amid tensions between the two allies over Israel's war in Gaza. The White House response came as national security adviser Jake Sullivan held meetings with Netanyahu's top two aides to discuss the Gaza conflict and other issues.

Similar talks were expected between US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the Israelis. Netanyahu on Tuesday issued an English-language video in which he said Blinken had assured him that the Biden administration was working to lift restrictions on arms deliveries to Israel, an exchange the top US diplomat declined to confirm.

In a rare account of normally private diplomatic conversations, Netanyahu also said he told

Blinken that it was "inconceivable" that in the past few months Washington was withholding weapons and ammunition to Israel.

White House national security spokesperson John Kirby addressed the comments in a briefing with reporters, saying the US had directly expressed displeasure to Israel. "I think we've made it abundantly clear to our Israeli counterparts through various vehicles our deep disappointment in the statements expressed in that video and our concerns over the accuracy in the statements made," Kirby said. "The idea that we had somehow stopped helping Israel with their self-defence needs is absolutely not accurate," he said.

Israeli national security adviser Tzachi Hanegbi and Ron Dermer, Israel's minister for strategic affairs, spoke with Sullivan as a larger, more formal "strategic dialogue" meeting was being rescheduled.

World leaders announce \$1.2bn to create 'African vaccine market'

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: World leaders, health groups and pharmaceutical firms announced \$1.2 billion in funding at a summit on Thursday to produce vaccines in Africa, which is facing numerous health crises including rising cholera outbreaks.

The African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator "will be an essential step towards a genuine African vaccine market," French President Emmanuel Macron said at the opening of the summit in Paris.

Three-quarters of this funding will come from Europe, Macron told the summit, which was also attended by leaders from Botswana, Rwanda, Senegal, and Ghana, as well as visiting ministers, health groups, and pharmaceutical firms.

Germany will contribute \$318 billion to the scheme, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said in a

video message. France put in \$100 million and the UK \$60 million, while other donors include the United States, Canada, Norway, Japan, and the Gates Foundation.

The scheme "could become a catalyst for promoting the pharmaceutical industry in Africa and fostering collaboration between member states", African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat told the summit.

Africa imports "99 percent of its vaccines at an exorbitant cost", he added.

The COVID-19 pandemic shone a light on the unequal global distribution of vaccines, as wealthy countries home to big pharma firms snapped up most doses, leaving Africa far behind.

The new scheme aims to move vaccine production to Africa to give the continent more sovereignty — and avoid history repeating itself.

Ahsan Iqbal highlights Pak-China partnership as beacon of stability amidst global uncertainties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal here on Friday highlighted the importance of Pakistan-China cooperation under CPEC amidst global uncertainties.

Addressing the China-Pakistan Political Parties Forum and the Third Meeting of CPEC Political Parties Joint Consultation Mechanism, the minister, "China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) serves as a beacon of stability, regional integration, and economic interdependence."

The event, attended by high-ranking officials and dignitaries, including Minister for International Department Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Liu Jianchao and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Honorable Mohammad Ishaq Dar, underscored the enduring strength of the Pakistan-China relationship and the pivotal role of CPEC.

Ahsan Iqbal said, the

development of Gwadar Port, a crucial component of CPEC, was noted for its strategic significance, providing China direct access to the Arabian Sea and promising economic revitalization for Pakistan, the minister added.

He said, CPEC was envisioned as part of a broader vision for regional prosperity, fostering economic cooperation with neighboring countries. Phase-II of CPEC aims to enhance Pakistan's manufacturing capacity through industrial cooperation, attracting Chinese investment, and relocating industrial units to Special Economic Zones.

Ahsan Iqbal expressed profound gratitude to the Chinese leadership for their steadfast support in fostering bilateral cooperation and advancing the CPEC initiative and emphasized the unique nature of the meeting, which demonstrated national consensus on Pakistan-China relations and CPEC, transcending domestic political divisions.

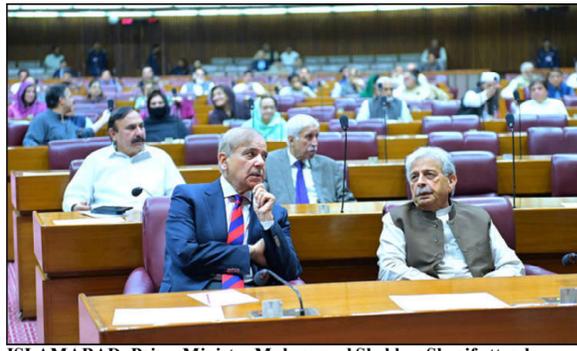
He appreciated the

Chinese leadership for hosting the Prime Minister of Pakistan during his recent visit, resulting in a strong consensus on bilateral matters, with both sides agreeing to enhance the strategic partnership and economic cooperation.

The 13th session of CPEC's Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) was successfully held on May 24 wherein Pakistan and China agreed to upgrade CPEC by introducing five new corridors: Growth Corridor, Livelihood Enhancing Corridor, Innovation Corridor, Green Corridor, and Opening Up/Regional Connectivity Corridor.

These new corridors align with Pakistan's 5E framework, prioritizing export-led growth, digital development (e-Pakistan), environmental sustainability, energy and infrastructure development, and equity and employment.

Both sides agreed to expedite initiatives for modernizing Pakistan's agricultural sector with advanced technologies.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attends a session of National Assembly.

Common Balochistan should benefit from CPEC projects: Federation has assured to remove apprehensions of Balochistan regarding federal PSDP

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that the province's apprehensions regarding federal Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) have been taken up with the concerned forum through Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilal Bhutto Zardari. On this, the federation has assured to remove the apprehensions regarding federal PSDP.

He said that the education and health are priorities in the budget. He said that the public resources would be spent on their welfare. He also said that we are determined to put the province on path of development and raise living standard of the people.

Referring the Gwadar port, the Chief Minister said that he has requested to the President Asif Ali Zardari for functionality of the Gwadar port.

He said that the people of province should get benefit of the projects of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

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QUETTA: A delegation of a welfare organization Balochistan led by its President Zainul Abidin Khan Khilji meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Women participation in trade, commerce activities must for sustainable national development, says Governor

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that we can freshen the memory of Hazrat Khadijatul Kubra (RA) by ensuring participation and involvement of women in the commerce and trade activities for the sustainable national development and prosperity.

He said that there's no dearth of talent and capabilities in women of the province. But the poverty and lack of opportunities are causing hurdles in their way.

The Governor was speaking to a delegation

Canadian HC meets Interior Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Canadian High Commissioner Leslie Scanlon met Interior Minister and Narcotics Control Mohsin Naqvi on Friday.

On her arrival at the Ministry of Interior, Mohsin Naqvi warmly welcomed the Canadian High Commissioner.

During the meeting, they discussed issues of mutual interest including bilateral relations of two countries while both sides also discussed issues of border security, immigration, illegal human trafficking and drug trafficking.

Mohsin Naqvi said Pakistan is making every possible effort to secure its border and making all out efforts to stop illegal movement and human trafficking.

Senators demand broader economic dialogue, people's centric approach in Finance Bill, 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senators on Friday demanded the government and the opposition to initiate broader economic dialogue and embrace people's centric approach to provide relief to the masses battered by economic crunch and inflation in the Budget 2024-25.

The members of the Upper House of the Parliament were presenting recommendations to the National Assembly on the Finance Bill, 2024.

The session commenced 22 minutes late from the scheduled time with the verses of the Holy Quran's Surah Al-Furqan that detailed the characteristics of the virtuous and the followers of Rehman (The Almighty Allah) who walk politely on the earth and bear the best virtues of starting conversation with Salam (Salutation), seekers of the Almighty's forgiveness from the Hell and are not extravagant nor thrifty

but maintain balance in their spending.

Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan Nasar while initiating the House business allowed Senator Poonjo Bheel to raise matter of importance.

Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP), Senator Poonjo Bheel urged the House to allocate some time to pay tribute to former prime minister Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto on her birthday.

Imran moves SC for early hearing of constitutional petition related to polls rigging

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI founder Imran Khan has requested Supreme Court (SC) to hear constitutional petition related to election rigging early.

Hamid Khan counsel for PTI founder filed the miscellaneous petition in SC Friday.

The petitioner has taken plea that the petition

seeking inquiry into polls rigging on February 8 is pending hearing. The question of public interest and basic rights has been raised in petition against polls rigging.

The petition further said PTI founder had requested to hear the petition against rigging in NAB case.

Pakistan's Envoy presents credentials to Mexican President

ISLAMABAD (Online): Ambassador of Pakistan to Mexico, Shozab Abbas has presented his credentials to President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) at ceremony held in the presidential palace in Mexico City.

During his meeting with President López Obrador, the Ambassador emphasized the importance of strengthening bilateral diplomatic, political, economic, and scientific relations between Pakistan and Mexico. He highlighted the potential for enhanced cooperation in various sectors, reaffirming the commitment of both nations to deepen their ties.

He recalled historic cooperation between Mexico and Pakistan during the 1960s Green Revolution, initiated by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This period witnessed collaborative efforts between agro-scientists from both countries, leading to the development of the high-yield wheat variety known as Mexi-pak.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti and Provincial Ministers cutting cake on eve of birth anniversary of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto.

Shaheed BB always played important role for promotion of democratic values: Bugti

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti on Friday said that Shaheed Benazir Bhutto always played an important role in the promotion of democratic values in the country.

Addressing at cake cutting ceremony at Chief Minister Secretariat on the birth anniversary of Martyr of Democracy Benazir Bhutto, he said that Shaheed BB always kept the public service as the aim of her politics.

She was the first woman Prime Minister of Pakistan who strengthened the public service mission of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali

Bhutto with her role, he said. He said that Shaheed BB's role was a beacon for all politicians and women adding that we would keep her mission as our motto of democracy and public service. Provincial Ministers including Sardar Sarfraz Domki, Mir Ali Madad Jatak, Mir Sadiq Umrani and Asfandyar Kakar, General Secretary Party Rozi Khan and leaders were also present on the occasion.

On the occasion CM Sarfraz Bugti and Provincial Ministers paid rich tribute to the Martyr of Democracy Benazir Bhutto, and also prayed for her elevation of rank in Jannah.

PM vows all-out support for KP's development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said the federal government would provide utmost assistance and resources for the welfare of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

SC issues roster of 13 members full court to hear matter of reserved seats

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has issued roster of 13-member full court to hear the matter of reserved seats of Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).

The full court presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa will hear the case on June 24 and 25.

ANP lauds representation of political parties in CPEC consultative meeting

PESHAWAR (APP): Central President Awami National Party, Aimal Wali Khan here Friday welcomed the participation of political parties in CPEC Consultative meeting and said that political ownership of this mega project would pave a way to resolve exiting crises.

In a message issued from Bacha Khan Markaz here, ANP President termed the representation of political parties in consultative meeting a good omen and welcomed Minister of International Department of Communist Party of China (IDCPC) and member of the Communist Party's Central Committee Liu Jianchao in Pakistan. ANP President said we support the five apprehensions of Chinese minister adding that steps should be taken to counter propaganda and foil conspiracies against CPEC and to protect Chinese nationals working on the project. He highlighted the significance of CPEC for country especially for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan and said that the project would further strengthen relations between China and Pakistan.

He also suggested complete implementation of National Action plan to ensure completion of the project and stressed steps to control law and order situation in KP and Baluchistan.

Ambassador Munir exposes anti-Pakistan propaganda at UN

NEW YORK (INP): Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, Munir Akram highlighted that several countries including Pakistan have been a victim of disinformation and cyber warfare.

Akram made these comments while speaking to the Security Council's High-Level Open Debate on "Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Addressing Evolving Threats in Cyberspace".

The ambassador reiterated Pakistan's stance, emphasising on the necessity of a legally binding global document formed on the guidelines provided by the Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

While explaining, Akram referred to the 2019 and 2020 reports by EU DisinfoLab, which exposed

anti-Pakistan propaganda including disinformation activities, and cyber warfare. He said: "The 2019 report provided proof of 15 years of massive disinformation operations against Pakistan, involving more than 10 so-called NGOs fraudulently accredited to the UN Human Rights Council, over 750 fake media outlets, and 550 fake websites, even resurrecting dead people."

The Pakistan envoy stressed that the EU DisinfoLab's exposé on disinformation campaigns requires global attention.

Furthermore, Ambassador Akram discussed the Pakistan sponsored UN General Assembly resolution, titled "Countering Disinformation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms."



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Canadian High Commissioner Leslie Scanlon.

Pakistan has special place in China's foreign policy, says senior Chinese minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): China's Minister of Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC), Liu Jianchao on Friday said as its "iron brother and time-tested friend", China accorded a special place to Pakistan in its foreign policy and desired to strengthen the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

The senior Chinese leader expressed these views in a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, held here in Islamabad.

Liu expressed satisfaction at the steady pace of China Pakistan Economic

Corridor (CPEC) and said China would extend full cooperation to Pakistan for the timely implementation of all ongoing and new CPEC projects.

He also lauded the political parties of Pakistan for their steadfast support to CPEC and China-Pakistan friendship.

He reiterated China's keen desire to further enhance linkages between the Communist Party of China and the political parties of Pakistan.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar appreciated the positive contribution of CPEC to Pakistan's socio-economic development, and progress and prosperity.

Minister Salik visits MCO Madinah, gets briefing on post-Hajj operations

MADINAH AL-MUNAWARAH (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Friday visited the Main Control Office (MCO) of the Pakistan Hajj Mission in Madinah and got briefing on arrangements for the post-Hajj operation.

During the month-long post-Hajj flight operation, approximately 160,000 Pakistani pilgrims will be transported from King

Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah and Prince Mohammad Bin Abdulaziz International Airport in Madinah to major cities in Pakistan.

Director Zia-ur-Rehman of Madinah MCO briefed the minister on the arrangements made to facilitate Pakistani pilgrims visiting the Prophet's city after performing Hajj at holy sites in Makkah, including Mina, Arafat, and Muzdalifa.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti recording his expression for late Nawab Abdul Zahir Kasi on his services.

Bilawal vows free solar energy for Karachi while budget talks with govt continue

PPP chairman addressed a crowd in Lyari during a birthday celebration for late Benazir Bhutto

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari announced plans to provide free solar energy to Karachi residents to alleviate load-shedding.

He also expressed hope that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would fulfill promises made to the PPP as budget discussions with the government continue.

Speaking at an event in Lyari celebrating Benazir Bhutto's birthday on Friday, Bilawal emphasised the PPP's long-standing commitment to Karachi,

highlighting their efforts against two military dictators and their continuous support for the city's residents.

Bilawal reiterated his personal commitment to the city's development, noting his own political journey with the people of Karachi, the city where both he and Benazir Bhutto were born.

He expressed gratitude to the people for electing the PPP to form the Sindh government again and urged Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah to focus on addressing Karachi's issues.

ADB, EAD sign agreement worth \$250m policy-based loan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Economic Affairs Division (EAD) on Friday signed an agreement worth \$250 million policy-based loan. According to the ADB official 'X' handle, the agreement aimed at assisting Pakistan drive sustainable investment in infrastructure and services through Public Private Partnership (PPP). ADB Country Director for Pakistan Yong Ye and Secretary EAD Dr Kazim Niazi signed the agreement.

IHC orders sectors commanders to file report with their signatures

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) while ordering sector commanders of ISI and Mi to file report with their own signatures in the case of recovery of Azad Kashmir national Khawaja Khurshid has adjourned the hearing of the case till June 24.

Justice Mohsin Kayani remarked "initiate proceedings against him if he is involved in any terrorism or anti state activity. If he is involved in any

criminal act then take action against him and no one will have any objection over it.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani while addressing to representative of defence ministry remarked "we are seeking report with signatures because it will have its results.

The petition related to recovery of Khawaja Khurshid, citizen of Azad Kashmir came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani Friday.