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OUETTA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif talking to the media after the signing of agreement to solarise agricultural tubewells of Balochistan.

28,000 tube wells in Balochistan to be converted on solar power: PM

Says federal govt to provide 70%, Balochistan to contribute 30% in Rs55 bln solarization project

met the provincial cabinet in

which the federal ministers

and Governor Balochistan

Jafar Khan Mandokhel and

Chief Minister Sarfraz

said that under an agreement reached between the Federal and Balochistan provincial governments, a total of 28,000 agricultural tube wells in the province would be shifted to solar system within three months. Talking to media after

the agreement signing ceremony, the prime minister said the federal government

QUETTA (APP): Prime would provide 70 percent ment signing ceremony be-Minister Muhammad funds while 30 percent tween the federal and the with functioning of the so-Shehbaz Sharif on Monday would be contributed by the provincial governments for lar powered tube wells, the provincial government for shifting of electricity run Rs 55 billion solarization tube wells to solar powered project. The prime minister mechanism.

months.

farmers would get uninterrupted power supply roughout the day. The prime minister During his address to

tasked the chief minister to the provincial cabinet, he termed the agreement as 'a complete the solarization deep structured change firmly rooted in the government's conceived reforms agenda, he said that a huge sum of Rs500 billion would be saved from going down the drain

Govt greenlights army deployment across country for Muharram security

ISLAMABAD (INP): The and numbers of deployfederal government has ment of army troops. granted the approval of army deployment across the country during ployment of army, rangers Muharram to ensure secu-

rity. The federal govern-ment has approved deployment of Pakistan Army and civil armed forces in Islamabad, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan along with provinces, says a nothe province. tification.

The notification mentions that details about army deployment will be discussed with relevant authorities. The deployment of army and civil armed forces has been allowed for an indefinite period.

The army as a quick response force is going to be deployed on request of provinces. The provinces will help police for peacewill decide about the places ful Muharram.

Over 66,000 community volunteers and 45,000 Earlier, the Sindh govvolunteers will perform seernment approved the de- curity duty for Muharram processions. and FC personnel.

With the advent of tions including CTD, spe-Muharram on Monday (tocial branch, traffic police, Dolphin Squad, and Peru, day), the Punjab police have finalised foolproof sewill perform their duties as part of the security plan. curity arrangements to protect processions and Majalis (gatherings) across Across the province, 633 points have been identified as flashpoints, with

As many as 10,700 283 in Lahore alone. In Lahore, 54 locations processions and 38,000 Majalis will take place in are deemed extremely senthe province. Over 215,000 sitive, and 229 sensitive, officers and personnel will with additional personnel perform security duty, deployed accordingly.

Province-wide, 586 with over 28,000 officers locations are classified as and personnel will specifically be deployed in Lahore. sensitive, and 146 as ex-Rangers and the Pakitremely sensitive. Police stan Army, along with other will ensure the strict implegovt security institutions, mentation of Section 144 during Ashura, whereas bans on aerial firing.

Balochistan

Assembly

on Monday.

President directs completion of Kachhi Canal project within 18 months

meeting.

President Zardari was on Monday directed the informed that the construcauthorities concerned to tion of six strategic canals ensure completion of the viz. Chashma Right Bank Kachhi Canal project Canal, Kachhi Canal Rainee Canal, Greater Thal Canal, Cholistan Canal and Thar Canal, would help enhance the agricultural potential of Pakistan by increasing the cultivable area as well as the livestock and fisheries potential of the country. He directed to

kickstart work on strate-gic canals for GPI and ensure their early completion, besides lining them with concrete to prevent seepage and wastage of water.

He urged the need to develop Pakistan's irrigation sector along modern lines to conserve water, reduce water losses, and enofficials attended the hance water availability.

He opined that the Ahmed Bugti were present, completion of project PM Office Media Wing said would ensure prosperity of press release. Earlier, the prime minthe farmers and bring a large ister witnessed an agreearea of cultivable land un-

project within three

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahemd Bugti presides over the Provincial Cabinet meeting.

Imposes ban on new recruitments in public sector universities: **Balochistan cabinet approves to populate** government owned land under Green **Corporation Partnership Project**

Mir Sarfraz Bugti says provincial government working with diligence for Establishing good governance and improving service delivery system

Independent Report

are being built there. The ning and Development, Mir QUETTA: The Balochistan provincial cabinet took the Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Procabinet has approved settle- above decisions in it's fourth vincial Minister Livestock, ment of the government meeting held with the Chief Bakht Muhammad Kakar owned land under the Green Minister, Mir Sarfraz and Secretary Higher Eduorporation Partnership Ahmed Bugti in the chair on cation.

It was decided in the

Addressing the cabi-

within 1.5 years to irri-gate around 713,000 acres Various field formaof land in Balochistan province. The president, while chairing a meeting on the Green Pakistan Initiative (GPI), at Aiwane-Sadr, said that the federal government would provide funding for the project to ensure its timely completion on a priority basis, a President House press release said. In the meeting, the president was briefed

about the construction of six strategic canals for the Green Pakistan Initiative. Minister for Interior, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, and senior military

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari

CM tells PM We are hopeful about special attention of federal Govt. for development of Balochistan ment and projects were dis-

cussed.

health

Besides, the projects

The Chief Minister

of public interest included

in the federal and provin-

cial public sector develop-

ment programmes (PSDP).

also referred to the initia-

tives taken and being taken

by the provincial govern-

ment for uplift of different

sectors. He said that we are

paying attention on law

and order, education and

Balochistan. The Prime

Minister on the occasion ap-

preciated and expressed sat-

isfaction over the initiatives

sectors

in

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Min-ister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has thanked the Prime Minis-ter Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif for assistance of the provincial government in the projects of solarization of agricultural tube wells in the province. The Chief Minister also stated that we are hopeful for special attention of the federal government for development

of the province. Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti was speaking during his meeting with the Prime Minister here on Monday.

During the course of and efforts of Chief Minismeeting, different matters including overall developter Mir Sarfraz Bugti for bringing good governance.



PESHAWAR: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing a press conference along with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor House, in the Provincial Capital.

Bilawal says: Security linked with economic situation; PPP to attend Govt called APC

stan Peoples Party Chair-man, Bilawal Bhutto related to national security Zardari said that security was linked with the country's economic situation and his party has principally decided to participate in the Govt's called all parties conference (APC) for a broad-based political consensus on issues related to national security besides ensuring durable peace in the country. Addressing a press conference at Governor House here Monday, Bilawal Bhutto said that an rable progress inclusive and across the

PESHAWAR (APP): Paki- board political consensus and the decisions once taken at APC would get support of the political forces and the entire nation. He hailed the Prime Minister? decision to invite the PTI in APC. He said that we stand (PAC) with our brave security forces in their fight against menace of terrorism and demanded strong action against facilitators of terrorists. Bilawal Bhutto said that collective decisions against scourge of ter-

rorism were imperative for du-



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Nagyi chairing a meeting regarding maintenance of law and order during Muharram.

Tareen elected as **Governor thanks PM for Chairman PAC** taking special interest in dev. of Balochistan

Independent Report Independent Report QUETTA: The Member QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar rovincial Assembly belonging to Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), Asghar Ali Khan Mandokhail has thanked the Prime Minis-ter Muhammad Shahbaz Tareen was elected as the Chairman Public Accounts Sharif for taking special in-Committee (PAC) of the terest in development and Balochistan Assembly here

prosperity of the province. The Governor was The election of Asghar speaking to Prime Minis-Fareen as Chairman PAC ter during call-on to him was held in the meeting of here at the Governor House PAC here in the assembly. here on Monday.

The members of the committee met for election

of its chairman and thus elected Mr. Tareen for the important slot. Similarly, the meeting of standing committee for Local Government, Gwadar Development

Authority, Balochistan Development Authority and Balochistan Coastal Development Authority was also held in which MPA Patrick Sant Maseih was elected its

Deadlock persists b/w govt, SIC on chairmanship

chairman.

of PAC ISLAMABAD (Online): Deadlock persists between government and Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) on the chairmanship of Pubic Accounts Committee

SIC is adamant on the name of Sheikh Waqas Akram. Government is insisting on providing panel containing four names.

According to parliamentary sources the matter of chairmanship of PAC has not been resolved so far.

overall development of the province, programme of conversion of agricultural tube well were discussed threadbare.

Besides, the matters of mutual interests including the party matters were also discussed between the Prime Minister and Governor Balochistan. While the Governor personally thanked the Prime Minister for his special interest

During the course of in development and pros-meeting, the matters about perity of the province.

PM visits Quetta; gets warm welcome by coalition Govt.

Independent Report QUETTA: The Prime Minister, Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif paid a whirlwind visit to the provincial capital, Quetta on Monday. Upon his arrival, the Prime Minister was welcomed by Governor, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, provincial ministers, members of the assembly besides other provincial high ups including Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan and Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh. The Federal Ministers Jam Kamal Khan, Azam Nazir Tarar, Sardar Awais Khan Leghari, Attaullah Tarar and Minister of State, Ali Pervez Malik.

Soon after his arrival, the Prime Minister drove to the Governor House where he had separate meetings with the Governor and the Chief Minister Balochistan.



QUETTA: Activists of Balochistan Sunni Ullama Council hold rally in connection with Hazrat Umar Farooq (RA) Shahadat.

Project in the province. The cabinet also imposed ban on new recruitments in all public sector universities of the province.

In this regard, the Chief Minister expressed concern over the rapid recruitments and construction of new buildings in the public sector universities saying that at the time where the universities are not having enough money to pay salaries to their employees, abrupt recruitments are being made and new buildings

PM congratulates President-elect of Iran on telephone

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday held a telephone conversation with Dr. Massoud Pezeshkian, President-elect of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to extend his heartiest felicitations to him on his victory in the recently held Presidential elections.

The prime minister conveyed his good wishes for Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei and congratulated him as well as the brotherly people of Iran on the successful political transition through the democratic process, a PM Office press release said.He said that as brotherly neighboring countries, Pakistan and Iran were bound together by shared history, faith, culture and traditions

Wishing the Iranian President-elect a successful tenure in office.

Deadly road mishap claims life of 4 family members

GWADAR (INP): A dreadful collision between a private car and a truck claimed lives of four family members including a woman here on Monday.

According to details an over speeding truck hit a car on the Makran Coasta Highway near Ormara.

The deadly collision resulted in immediate death of all four members on the

respondent is accepted. The bodies of deceased were shifted to a locourt he does not want to cal hospital. The authorities pursue the petition for diwere investigating into the rect broadcasting of the proincident

Monday morning. The provincial minis- meeting that the committee ters, advisors and senior would prepare its recommendations within a week high ups of the provincial

zovernments were in attendance at the meeting. The cabinet also constituted a special committee for review of the Public Sector Universities Act and making its comparison with

other provinces. The committee would be comprised: Provincial Minister for Finance, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani, Pro-vincial Minister for Plan-





OUETTA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Governor Balochistan Jafar Khan Mandokhel during his one day visit to Quetta.

Kenyan court declares Pak journalistArshad's murder illegal, unconstitutional

Court orders Kenya to pay family of Pak journalist 21.7m as compensation

ISLAMABAD (INP): Kenya High Court judge declared the murder of the Pakistani journalist Arhsad Sharif in Kenya as illegal and unconstitutional penalized the Kenyan police officer involved in the planned target killing. Kenya's Kajiado High Court has awarded Rs21.7 million to the family

of slain Pakistani Journalist Arshad Sharif who was shot dead by Kenyan police officers in October 2022 While delivering her

judgement, Justice Stella Mutuku said the use of lethal force against Sharif by shooting him in the head was unlawful and unconstitutional

Place where Quaid-e-Azam had spent last days set ablaze: Apex Court

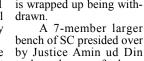
Supreme Court (SC) has adjourned till July 11 hearing of case against trial of civilians in military courts

Faisal Siddiqui told the

The order said the plea of Lahore High Court took up the case for hear-(LHC) Bar for becoming

ing Suleman Akram Raja counsel for PTI said the family is not being allowed to meet the accused persons since 5 weeks.

ISLAMABAD (Online): ceedings. Court (SC) has The appeal plea of KP is wrapped up being with-



OPINION

Daily Independent



Daily A oice of Masse Independent

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Taxing targets

After setting a massive revenue target for the Federal Board of Revenue for the next fiscal year, the government seems to be building pressure on the tax authority to perform. It is just as well that this may lead to a tightening of the net around those who have so far managed to evade the the opposition's parliataxman.

A day after another massive shakeup in the FBR, which reportedly saw the transfer of dozens of officers of the Inland Revenue Service and Customs Groups, and with more transfers and postings of senior officers expected over the weekend, the tax authority was told to immediately go after the around 4.5m citizens it had identified, which it thinks are liable to pay taxes but do not. The The recently passed prime minister is also reportedly overseeing an accelerated action plan to digitise one is the external con-straint of getting an IMF and reform the FBR, along with a review of its existing and required resources. These are all positive signs. Reportedly, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is serious about cracking down on corruption communicated by the lender. within the FBR, introducing a merit-based culture, and reforming the institution. Worryingly, however, he has involved two intelligence agencies, according to a report in local media, to 'assist' him in the task of identifying and penalising FBR officials.

he Shehbaz Sharif governbitter government-opposiment faces multiple chaltion clashes in the National lenges - from the opposi-Assembly. It has involved tion, its political allies and from growing public discontent with a dire economic situation as people struggle with a cost-of-living crisis and the punishing burden of taxes. It also confronts a surge in security threats. How has the government managed so far to deal with these multiple fronts? Does it have a firm grip on the political, economic and security situation?

Maleeha Lodhi

Dealing with PTI was never going to be easy. But it was a test of the government's political management skills to engage mentary members in a way that minimised frequent disruptions of proceedings.

However, with the party continuing to be the target of coercive actions by the authorities and their leader and activists in jail, PTI lawmakers have been in no mood to cease their protests in parliament and outside.

Despite a fleeting pause when the prime minister offered talks to the opposition — a move that was dead on arrival in the

rejection by PTI lawmakers of the budget — as "anti-people" — as well as the government's other policy measures including its latest counterterrorism plan. Government ministers have also been lashing out at PTI in and out of the House. But neither has secured the upper hand in this confrontation. Instead, both have reached a virtual dead end in trying to pre-

vail on the other. A tense and disorderly stalemate persists. A 'normalised' relationship between the federal government and the PTI-run provincial government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is especially consequential for national stability. Issues concerning allocation of financial resources from the centre, adequate power supply and postings of officials remain

a bone of contention be-

tween them. They need to

current fraught climate tion of the federal there have been unending, government's counterterrorism campaign as its main theatre of operations is obviously in KP.

Governments always have more to lose from confrontational politics. Certainly, it has distracted the PML-N-led coalition from greater focus on gover-nance. It has laid bare a style of leadership evidenced by the prime minister's dealings with al-lies, in which political engagement or negotiations are left to others. This reinforces his long-standing image as someone more

comfortable being an administrator rather than a political leader; more at ease with bureaucrats than with politicians who he has to negotiate with. His not-so-frequent appearances in parliament also testify to this, which discourages ministers from showing up. This once prompted the elder Sharif, president of PML-N, to say the Shehbaz government should free itself from "bureaucratic influence". Lack of consultation

be resolved for a proper has emerged as a major working relationship to be grievance with the governestablished. Smooth workment by its principal po-litical ally, the PPP. Aling relations are also necesthough this complaint sur- changes to the finance bill, sary for the robust execu-

time, PPP leaders say it extends to the government's overall functioning and lack of structured and sustained consultation. It prompted PPP legislators to sharply criticise the budget and call it "directionless". Initially, the PPP threatened to boycott the budget session. Its lawmakers only agreed to participate after assurances

Governance test

by senior government leaders. Even so, PPP MNAs did not pull any punches in assailing budget proposals. The Senate Standing Committee on Finance,

chaired by a PPP senator, went so far as to call the budget against the national interest and in its report to the House called for withdrawal of several proposed measures. In his speech, PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari also took aim at budget proposals. Significantly he claimed the government had not fulfilled its commitment under the PML-N-PPP agreement, forged at the time of government formation, to consult his party on the budget and related decisions.

Despite its misgivings, the PPP voted for the budget. But not before some

Death and taxes

Umair Javed

budget reveals three aspects about the present ruling regime. The first deal. It is clear that securing a new agreement, by any means necessary, tors is the primary motivation of decision-makers. The entire budget exercise seems to be working backwards from whatever targets have been

The second aspect is hard domestic constraint. The ruling parties at the centre, especially PML-N, are fully aware of their nearly non-existent electoral legitimacy. Their uncertain position in power is thus far more reliant on the current framework. Any civil bureaucracy and the military establishment. The third and final

Time will tell how success- N has made a decision appease the external

budget after the first two constraints is to reward the few narrow segments that may still be supporting them in some way. This primarily includes businesses working in the wholesale retail and other undocumented sec-

It is worth exploring these three aspects turn by turn. While some of the economic mess is self-inflicted by the present regime, a large part of it is down to structural deficiencies in Pakistan's economy. A lack of productivity and the consequent inability to earn enough dollars means every government has a forex borrowing requirement, one which makes the IMF more or less indispensable in the government in this situation, at least one unwilling to take any radical aspect is that the PML- steps, would have had to

little space is left in the moving electricity price cials who are doing their

If that external conthe rest

group in society. The same reality is

although this was also in faced publicly at budget response to demands by the business community. In any case, the whole episode underlined fitful management by the government of its relations with an ally without whose support it cannot survive in office. Of course, some of the PPP's complaints reflect political posturing to bargain for more from the government. such as its power-sharing demands in the Punjab government. Nevertheless, it suggests this would remain an uneasy and unpredictable relationship, especially as the government has preferred an ad hoc approach to managing it rather than an institutionalised one.

The budget was the first major test for the Shehbaz government. It evoked criticism across the board, from political parties, business community. media and the public at large. Having to meet IMF conditionalities to qualify for a new larger Fund loan programme provided the government no choice but to take painful adjustment measures. But the budget was an example of how to reward the elite and punish everyone else. The Pakistan Busi-

ness Council had this to say: "Sacred cows will graze freely while the golden geese will be cooked." Certainly, placing the burden of additional taxation on the salaried middle class marked a failure to equitably distribute the pain of adjustment, especially in view of the budget's proelite measures including salary increases for civil servants. This deepened public discontent at a time of mounting economic hardship, especially as increasing disruptions in power supply worsened people's plight at the peak of summer.

The government's lack of a communication strategy to explain budget measures and how they would extricate the country from the economic crisis contributed to public frustration. In fact, the government's weak communication on other counts too has denuded it of the ability to demonstrate it is running the affairs of state purposively. Its response to the deteriorating security situation came on the heels of the public expression of concern by a senior Chinese official visiting Pakistan. -Courtesy Dawn

fortunate status as fully who hide turnovers and earn large returns. As former finance minister Miftah Ismail attempted revenue, whenever re- and a recent piece by quired. This budget has economist Ammar Khan argued, it would have been relatively efficient to implement a fixed income tax regime through commercial electricity connections. That could have then been used as the first step towards greater documentation. Instead, the ruling party has made an explicit choice to protect its core support base, while subjecting every other group to greater taxation

The budget has since passed and is now in force. An IMF deal will likely go through, which means more 'stabilisation in the coming years, with anaemic growth. Barring some great challenge from the judiciary, the political landscape is expected force of the state rather property by civil and to be sacrificed is the and income tax returns, or than through popular by turning to even more support. It is then likely cash-based transactions. that the next few budgets The number of wholesale- will look the same as this retail businesses is around one. No respite for the 2.5m. Among these, a weary, with both ecolong, at around two mil- couple of hundred thou- nomic death and taxes for lion individuals. Our un- sand are the larger ones, the salaried class.

distortions and various forms of tax exemptions. This budget is mostly an outcome of these revenue-related demands. straint informs the overall thrust of the budget, some of its internal workings reflect domestic realities. An increase in

pensions and government officer salaries shows the entrenched control of the civil and military bureaucracy on financial decision-making. It is clear that the 'overdeveloped Hamza Alavi nearly 50 years and in the second secon state', theorised years ago, is still a valid way to describe the country. The 'permanent' state bequeathed by colonial rule is first and foremost interested in feeding itself rather than catering to any

jobs for a range of prodocumented taxpayers social and service-oriserves as a convenient ented objectives. But it way to squeeze out more is hard to ignore the fact that the vast majority now see the state as a taken full advantage of means of securing upthis, and will further conward mobility, greater tribute to downward mosocial status, and generability and decreasing living standards that have tional wealth, even when it comes at the cost of been the norm for the past greater immiseration for few years. It is no wonder that every other con-

This insatiable apversation within this demographic is about forpetite is being catered to by a hybrid regime that eign migration. is sustained by the (coercive) actions of state there are those who conofficials, rather than by tinue to operate in the inthe votes of citizens. formal sector, such as large Even if the regime politiswathes of the wholesale cians wanted to resist. and retail sector and others engaged in real estate. and it is far from clear that they want to, they Initial claims that the noose is being tightened barely have any legs to stand on.

around these groups as Finally, after the well turn out to be fairly IMF's conditions and the hollow. All that was done state officials' own selfis a further segmentation between filer, non-filer serving appetite, there is visible in the exemption very little space left in categories. Most busi- to stay the same, with a offered in advance taxes the budget for anyone nesses can get away with regime held in place by on the sale of immovable else's concerns. The first this by filing nil/null sales

white-collar salaried class

in the formal sector. Re-

cent estimates place the

total number of this group, to which I too be-

ful this strategy will prove. that there is no need or urgency in the current The FBR has generally proven moment to seek greater in turn, makes a set of as in the numerous reguto be a difficult nut to crack support among different groups in society, such for most past governments, as salaried individuals. Therefore, its primary with efforts to reform it invariably encountering resistance as soon as certain thresholds begin to be crossed. That said, it is clear to all and sundry that Pakistan's economic vi- Conference, I briefly chatability depends on the Board's ability to extract revenue in ist fighting corruption and attacking it until it burned line with government policies convener of a network of librarians. My first inand that the room for failure stinct was to dismiss his is no longer there. With the ongoing economic crisis, the But shortly after our enneed for a diligent tax authority has become an existential the bedrock of anti-cornecessity for Islamabad.

The FBR's operational hats? competencies aside, the fiscal policies, as outlined in the derpinning of libraries. Due to their growing rarbudget, have set it up for another huge challenge. It can expect to be reminded very times treated like artefacts soon that taxation is just as much a political issue as it is a fiscal concern. The FBR may begin executing the tax directives more diligently challenged. than before, but how will the government react when the their educative role – various 'protected' classes once again begin agitating dents can use reference their ability to convene against its tax drives?

Not only that, the salaried classes, usually a lot easier to control, also seem to be in text, libraries are places a black mood. Discussions information that helps on various social forums the make informed decithese days are increasingly for, and that empowers turning to questions about them to hold those elected representatives to acwhy they should pay so much count. This conception vate nature, this latter in taxes and if it isn't more sensible to be operating off the government in the the books. This is a dangerous sign for a government at its best, the concept battling a crisis of legitimacy. How delicately and firmly it handles discontent will make or break its tax plans. ^{minded} of their power in November 2023 when the are dwindling and in-creasingly threatened.

impulse for whatever cific when it comes to re-

The external lender, military officers, as well demands in terms of raislations showing government officers sanctioning ing domestic revenue. In recent programmes, the perks and privileges for demands have been spethemselves. I am sure there are a few state offi-

A trusted space

Huma Yusuf

At a recent anti-corruption ted with a Bolivian gentleman who is both an activinvolvement with libraries as an interesting hobby. counter, it clicked: public access to information is ruption, so why wouldn't the activist wear both

I am not alone in for- about Ukraine's history getting the democratic un- and society was unavaility, we tend to consider grabs. them ends unto them-selves. They are somerather than civic spaces, the books inside reframed as relics from a literate past that must be preserved rather than sources of information that should be consumed, considered

Often, our public discourse curtails libraries to quiet places, typically on campuses, where stubooks or work without interruption. This is a critical function, but it misses

the wood for the trees. In a democratic conwhere citizens can access sions about who to vote universities, and those assumes that libraries are category continues to public access, funded by spirit of making the democratic system work. And cess to otherwise ob-

The world was re-

Russians shelled the Kherson Regional Scienthis paper's coverage of tific Library in Ukraine. the Sayad Hashmi Refer-The library caught fire afence Library, which is threatened by demolition ter the first rocket hit, and the Russians continued as it falls on a proposed route for the Malir Expressway. Created and owned library boasted maintained through a collections in 45 languages, communal effort, the limany of which focused on brary houses 16,000 the history and ethnograbooks with a focus on phy of southern Ukraine, Baloch literature and culincluding Russia's 2014 ture. Even as demolition day creeps closer, the auannexation of Crimea. The library's destruction was thorities have yet to offer an alternative location a political act, a strategic win in Russia's occupafor it. In a clear illustration effort; if information tion of the political nature of libraries, its sponsors and supporters believe able, it was — literally and that this is due to its links to the Baloch community, figuratively — up for with the razing of the library perceived as part of It is no wonder then that preserving and devela broader effort to sup-

oping libraries is low on press that community's the priority list of the Pavoice and access to inforkistani state, which is mation. more interested in sup-The idea of the lipressing inclusive politics brary as a political battleand disempowering citiground is not new in Pazens. What hope can likistan. Some may recall the Western press's gushbraries have in a context where even social media ing coverage of a small library that popped up in Dara Adam Khel at the musings are considered subversive and censored under any pretence? The height of the TTP insurinformation that public ligency. A local graduate braries offer, coupled with decided he did not want to join his father's gun communities in real life, is shop and set up a small a democratic force not to community library next be taken lightly. door in the hope that read-And so we have ining would provide both stead the proliferation of

private libraries — those sanctuary from the in the homes of the eduregion's collective trauma. Such examples cated elite, in private should not be one-offs. clubs, private schools and Given the mounting under the control of vested democratic challenges in community groups. our country, it is time for society Despite their pricivil reprioritise the role of the

library. And this may best play a key democratic be done by going back to basics and celebrating the role, engaging local comjoy of reading. ? munities, providing ac-Reading, after all, enscured information, genders empathy, which

is the starting point for all engagement, understanding and notions of fairness. And those qualirials. But these spaces ties are the real fuel of functioning democracies. -- Courtesy Dawn

This was evident in In a recent assessment of urban livability, the Economist Intelligence Unit rated Karachi as one of the world's least livable cities. The metropolis fared poorly in terms of stability, healthcare, education, culture, the environment and infrastructure. Karachi now com-

> Algiers and Damascus. This is hardly surprising for Karachi residents, who are regularly subjected to power shutdowns, the absence of piped water, shortage of public transport, gas loadshedding, broken roads, street crime, toxic air quality, criminal tree-cutting, and other challenges. Despite these odds, the city remains the major contributor to national GDP and revenues from direct

and indirect taxation. Karachi has long been aspiring to a semi-au-

tonomous governance model to address its issues. Barring the City District Government forunder mat Musharraf, this demand has not been realised. As a result of a controversial electoral process, 245 union committees, 25 town municipal corporations, and a metropolitan corporation came into exunderstanding of and istence about a year ago. All of them are still trying

to find a visible role to play in managing Karachi's core affairs. With a limited financial base and executive capacity, people justifiably see these local government organs as mere cosmetic entities

Gen

Karachi's political economy is complex. There are many overt and covert interest groups, who have their fingerprints all over the decisions pertaining to Karachi's development

housing need in the city tional investors and develthat remains unmet due to Dawn

Poor livability

On the other hand.

Dr Noman Ahmed

observes endless land supply for investment, albeit at the cost of farmindigenous settlements. The eviction of people in nightmare. Whereas a few investors amass exponenpares with Lagos, Tripoli, tial profits, millions see their lives altered for the worse after forced dislocations. The realtors are

abetted in their projects by the provincial authorities, the city administration, and high-flying engineers, architects, contractors and service providers. Utility agencies bend the rules to extend their services to these schemes. The mystery of the sta-tus of the K-4 Bulk Water Supply Scheme for over a

decade is an example. To benefit privileged localities, K-4's right of way has been changed. A resident in Bahria Town receives uninterrupted water supply while another in Federal B Area has to run from collapsed. Poor ventilation pillar to post to access water.

To promote costly and state-subsidised the elderly, women and buses on a few routes, the authorities have closed operations on many ordinary bus routes where city transporters offered their services at affordable cials prices. The Bus Rapid Transit is a joke. Constructed at an astronomical cost and inconveniencing residents, the BRT has been Karachi's most financially and operationally the Sindh chief minister unviable transport option and composed of repreever. If and when all seven BRT lines are operational, they will cater to only nine per cent of the total passenger trips. BRT beneficiaries will be IFIs, government officials, consultants and contractors. unless appropriate insti-The losers will be Karachiites.

opers attempt to safe- multiple reasons. For a guard everything that fu- very long time, the city has els their business. One been functioning without a development plan with data on demographic trends at city scale, migralands, fruit orchards, and tions, housing and infrastructure needs, and solutions to urban challenges. planned and unplanned lo- For the past many years, calities is an ongoing no public scheme for housing the urban poor has been announced. despite the fact that thousands of households are added to the existing tally every month. Land in the peripher-

ies, earmarked for housing low-income communities, has been given to a dubious mega realtor. As a result, existing low- and middle-income neighbourhoods are densifying fast. Single-storeyed home on 80 or 120 square yards are being swiftly replaced with five- or sixstoreyed structures. Most of these buildings are built without proper design and supervision. They are virtual death traps for the inhabitants. Many such buildings have already and lack of legal electricity connections make life miserable, especially for children. Authorities only wake up in the event of an accident, conduct an inquiry and end up suspending a handful of offi-

To address all these concerns, the city's decision-making and governance mechanism must change. A broad-based steering committee under sentatives from stakeholder groups is needed. The body must be empowered to appraise city affairs and take appropriate decisions. Karachi's livability will not improve tutional arrangements are put in place to address the There is a visible challenges faced by the residents. -- Courtesv

and management. Local and interna-

Daily Aoice of Masse **Independent** Tuesday July 09, 2024



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi chairing a meeting regarding over-billing of protected consumers

Finance minister assures KE of resolving delayed payment issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for the KE team to focus on Finance and Revenue, Muhammad Senator Aurangzeb on Monday assured K-Electric of addressing its matters related to delayed payments.

nents. Earlier, the KE According to press representatives stated that release issued by the the agreement signed finance ministry, the between the government minister was talking to and KE earlier this year had delegation of K-Electric addressed a number of that called on him here. The issues and KE was now delegation members vigorously working on included Chief Executive implementing the new Officer (CEO) K-Electric generation projects to Syed Moonis Abdullah Alvi, CFO KE mix. Muhammad Aamir Ghaziani and Chief the issue of delayed Regulatory Affairs payments Muhammad

Imran consumer bills collected Oureshi

Philippine ambassador visits Dhodial Mansehra to foster trade relations

MANSEHRA (APP): Ambassador of the extended their visit to Philippines, Maria Agnes include the Al-Mustafa M Cervantes on Monday visited Dhudial Mansehra with her embassy staff to discuss and promote trade relations between the Philippines and Pakistan.

The ambassador provided a detailed briefing visited at the invitation of on the medical facilities and former Vice President of modern the Federation of Pakistan available at the hospital. Chambers of Commerce and Industry Hanif Gohar.

The minister asked improving service delivery Chairman of Prime in Karachi and to expedite Minister Youth Programme its plan for adding cheaper (PMYP) Rana Mashhood generation capacity so that Ahmed Khan on Monday the cost of electricity expressed the resolve to could be brought down.

of KE's

delegation

through the post office.

The

The

visitors

increase the Information Technology(IT) industry share up to 25 billion dollars from the current 2.5 billion dollars in the next ive years.

Addressing the International Conference on Sustainability in Workforce" at a local hotel, he said that as many as improve its electricity 200,000 youths would be The delegation raised

PSX witnesses bullish trend,

gains 353 points ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 353.41 points, a positive change of 0.44 percent, closing at 80,566.21 points against 80,212.79 points on

the last working day. A total of 261,649,614 shares were Trust Gohar Campus Hospital in Dhodial and traded during the day as compared to 448,981,017 the Dadar Sanatorium Hospital. At Al-Mustafa shares the previous day, Trust Hospital, the hospital administration whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 13.024 billion against Rs 18.995 billion on the last trading day. 427 Around

machinery companies transacted their Furthermore, the shares in the stock market, bassador visited the SOS 216 of them recorded gains

IT industry share to be increased up to 25 bln dollars; Chairman PMYP

"By

jobs of tomorrow.'

SLAMABAD (APP): trained in high-tech and Sharif towards enhancing Information technology programmes with the skills skill development through strategic partnerships and needed to thrive in the targeted programs. He added that the modern workplace. equipping

country's economy was students with the latest moving towards the right direction under the leadership of PM Shehbaz tools and technologies, and fostering collaboration with industry leaders, we Sharif and will succeed in can prepare them for the overwhelming the financial problems. Rana said due to Mashhood said that the economic policies of

the government was the government during the intensifying efforts under last three months and the signing of multi-billionthe visionary leadership of Prime Minister dollar investment projects Muhammad Shehbaz with China, Qatar, UAE.

Customs Appraisement **Chief Collector to resolve** genuine issues & expedite digitalization: Saquib Independent Report

we want our due and CARACHI: Mr. Saquib rightful facilitation during customs appraisement. Mr. Asif Sakhi, VP Fayyaz Magoon, Acting

President FPCCI, has FPCCI, maintained that apprised that Chief Collector of Customs Custom House and its staff Appraisement (South), in Karachi should be made Mr. Mohsin Rafiq, has more hospitable, amicable agreed with principled and facilitative as it will stand of FPCCI to improve promote liaison and ease of doing business benchmarks vis-à-vis compliance from the traders. WeBOC was customs during clearance at meant to be a 24 / 7 facility; customs appraisement. but, it is not being operated The only way forward to as such and shortage of cut human interaction is to staff is the primary reason



CommerceNews

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a recent development, Saudi Group Asyad Holding through UAEbased Wafi Energy Holding Limited has acquired 77.42% shareholdings and control of Shell Pakistan

Limited. The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the acquisition under Section 11 of the Competition Act, 2010, thus solidifying the said transaction to boost the retail oil sector in Pakistan, according to a press release issued here on

Monday. investme M/s Shell Pakistan Pakistan. investment purposes in

The CCP's Phase I Limited, listed on the competition assessment identified 'Retail Fuel, Pakistan Stock Exchange, maintains a substantial Vehicle Lubricants, and business footprint in the retail supply of motor fuels and lubricants across Industrial Lubricants' as the relevant product 2010. Pakistan. Whereas, M/s markets. It was also Wafi Energy LLC is a wholly-owned affiliate of revealed that Shell Pakistan has distinct shares in all Asyad Holding Group three relevant markets but which specializes in the that will remain unchanged management and operation post-transaction. The analysis further of fuel stations in Saudi

Arabia. The Group has confirmed that Wafi established M/s Wafi Energy Holding Limited Energy Holding Limited to will not gain a dominant its wings for position in the relevant

markets even after attaining direct control of Shell Pakistan. Therefore, the CCP has swiftly authorized the said acquisition under Section 31 of the Competition Act,

Page 03

Chairman CCP, Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, while signing the Order expressed that this development is expected to boost competition by elevating service standards in the retail fuel supply chain and contribute thus, immensely to flourishing Pakistani markets



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with the CEO of K-Electric Syed Moonis Abdullah Alvi and other executives.

Jazz appoints Farrukh Khan as **CFO and CEO** of MFH

ISLAMABAD (APP) Jazz appointed Farrukh Khan, ĈEO & Managing Director of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and CEO of Micro-Finance Holdings (MFH), effective September 15, 2024.

Farrukh will also join the board of Mobilink Microfinance Bank.

Gábor Kocsis, the outgoing CFO, will remain with Jazz until the end of the year, focusing on strategic projects to facilitate a smooth transition and maintain momentum in ongoing initiatives said a news release

Farrukh Khan brings over 30 years of leadership pilot application. experience in major

Pak-China Joint Lab for AI to intelligentize Pakistan's agriculture

BEIJING (APP): In May, achieve the Pakistan China Joint Lab for Artificial Intelligence and Smart Agriculture (AI&SA) has been established at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF). Punjab Province, as Pakistan's main agricultural

production area, its annual grain output accounts for about 76% of the country's total annual grain output.

Both parties agreed that it has unique advantages to carry out pilot applications of highthroughput crop monitoring projects here. In this province, about 600

monitoring, cultivation management, pest and disease analysis, and agricultural production, including growth determination, crop health monitoring, water requirement analysis, water fertilization, as well as pesticide application," Dr Wu Jun, the Chinese Director of the lab, introduced. Mohammad Malik, a

management of crop

intelligent

local farmer who has been growing wheat, sugarcane and other crops in Punjab for more than 30 years, is one of the participants in the pilot project. At first, farmers have joined the he had many doubts about the project. "This

During her visit to Gohar House, the and her team interacted ambassador and her delegation met with key there. They were informed figures from the business community. They engaged in discussions about enhancing trade between the two nations and explored the economic through landscape of Pakistan. Former Federal Minister Azam Khan Swati was also present to participate in the discussions.

and 158 sustained losses, whereas the share price with the children residing 53 of about the residential and educational facilities

provided to the children. children showcased their skills 11.36 impressive performances of judo, 50.92 per share and Bank of Punjab with 17,587,329 shares at karate, and taekwondo. which were highly appreciated by the Rs5.79 per share.

companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Hum Network with 20,667,563 shares at Rs 11.36 per share, National BankXD with 19,555,510 shares at Rs



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja chairing first meeting of Functional Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication.

Telenor launches Startup Mentors' Network to empower entrepreneurial ecosystem

track

The

ISLAMABAD (APP): expertise spanning critical Telenor Pakistan, a domains such as frontrunner in providing communications, telecommunication services and digital solutions across the country, unveiled its latest initiative, the selected for their proven 'Startup Network' Mentors'

As a natural extension of Telenor Pakistan's corporate successful accelerator program, and Telenor Velocity, which has natio empowered startups to scale through access to expertise in product management, growth hacking, and digital assets, the Startup Mentors' Network aims to deliver an even more supportive entrepreneurial landscape across the nation, said a news release issued here

Monday. The Startup Mentors Network Telenor features a distinguished panel of 31 seasoned professionals from Telenor Pakistan, each recognized their profound trajectory for

records and

dedication to innovation, will collaborate closely with startups embedded within various incubators accelerators nationwide.

at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on during last 24 hours. A total of six ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, APL Antwerp, Wawasan Topaz and Umm Bab left the port on today morning while another containers ship 'Nave Andromeda' is expected to sail on today.Cargo volume 83,332 tonnes, of comprising 69,953 tonnes imports cargo and 13,379 tonnes export cargo carried in 1,833 Containers (1,046 accelerate their growth TEUs Imports and 787 TEUs export).



expedite digitalization of for issues, he added. the custom appraisement Mr. Aman Paracha, VP FPCCI, highlighted system on a priority, he that business community Mr. Asif Sakhi, VP can provide thousands of

FPCCI, stressed that the correct, fair and timely imposition of GST and income tax is very critical therefore, appraisement should take for the business, industry and trade community - as them onboard. We, at it directly affects the FPCCI, are willing to play production and industrial the role of a bridge between processes for availability the stakeholders of the and cost of raw materials. system from either sides, Mr. Asif Sakhi, VP he added.

added

FPCCI, reiterated FPCCI's stance that any delays at customs stage increases the demurrages and detention charges for the business community - and, terminal operators and shipping companies charge them exorbitantly. We do not want any concessions, exemptions or waivers; but,



LAHORE: A WAPDA engineer is busy in repairing Transformers at G.R.O in the Federal Capital.

Shaza chairs first meeting of functional committee on IT, Telecom

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja chaired first meeting of Functional Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication.Secretary IT Captain (Retd) Muhammad Mahmood was also present in the meeting, said a news release issued here on Monday.Member IT Syed

authorities from Finance Division, Ministry of Commerce, State Bank of Pakistan, Pakistan Houses Software Association (P@SHA) and P a k i s t a n Telecommunication Authority (PTA) also attended the meeting. Secretary General P@SHA Nadeem Malik

discrepancy or delays.

briefed the minister about cash reward scheme for IT industry. The meeting Junaid Imam, Member Telecom Muhammad Jahanzeb Rahim, and deliberated upon bringing a scheme alternative to cash

financial institutions. including roles as CEO of Acumen Fund, co-founder and CEO of BMA Capital Management, and CFO at American Express. His expertise in mergers and public offerings will enhance Jazz's financial strategy and innovation.

Aamir Ibrahim, CEO of Jazz & Chairman MMBL, commented, "We welcomed Farrukh Khan to our leadership team. His rich expertise and real-time and realistic leadership in capital prices to the customs markets are crucial as we without charging a penny; evolve into a ServiceCo." customs

> Gold rates dip by **Rs.1,300** per tola to **Rs.245,100**

ISLAMABAD (APP) Mr. Shabbir Mansha, The price of per tola of 24VP FPCCI, pointed out that updated rules of karat gold increased by section 203 pertaining to Rs.1,300 and was sold at wharfage or storage fee Rs.245,100 on Monday have not yet been drafted; against its sale at causing tremendous financial losses to the Rs.246,400 on last trading day. importers in case of any

The price of 10 grams to Information Act, 2017. of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.1,113 to Rs.210,134 from Rs. In response, the SBP requested an exemption from disclosing the information under Section 211,247 whereas that of 10 7(d) of the Act, which gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.192,622 from Rs. relates to the records of banking companies and financial institutions 193,644, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers concerning their customers' Association reported.

The price of per tola accounts. and ten gram silver thoroughly examined the remained constant at Rs.2,900 and Rs.2,486.28 respectively.

SBP, and the relevant law. The price of gold in The Commission's order the international market decreased by \$12 to \$2,376 from \$2,388.

UAF, noted lately that in like me, and I doubt its the 25,000 villages across effectiveness Punjab, if drone spraying technology could be adopted on a large scale, it members promptly will help increase explained it, "We could productivity, reduce costs produce a text guide and adopted on a large scale, it and greatly promote the development of intelligent agriculture. "We use drones written in the local dialect equipped with visual and send them to your

defaulters.

under the Right of Access

Dr. Iqrar Ahmad technology is too Khan, Vice Chancellor complicated for farmers practicality.

The project team audio-visual materials of the vegetation health map fly around the fields to application."

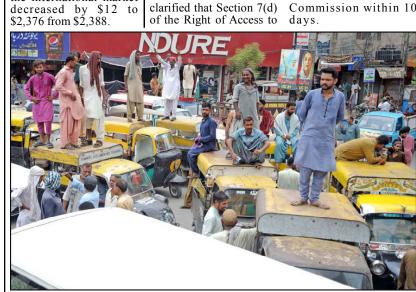
PIC directs SBP to make public list of 1000 loan defaulters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Information Act, 2017 The Pakistan Information which exempts certain Commission has issued a records from disclosure, does not apply to the requested list of loan directive to the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to disclose defaulters. the list of the top 1000 loan

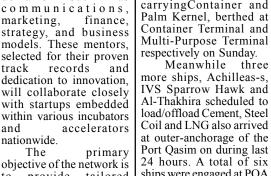
The order said: "It is an admitted fact that 1000 Azmat Khan, a resident of Karachi, had sought the list from SBP individuals obtained loans from the concerned banks and failed to repay them, causing significant financial damage to both the country and the banks involved. Such individuals cannot be protected from disclosure.

The Commission observed that the exemption cited by the SBP did not pertain to this case. Consequently, the plea of the public body has

been rejected. The SBP Governor The commission has been directed to information request, the disclose the required written reply from the information and submit it to the Commission within 10 days



HYDERABAD: LPG dealers, users and Taxi drivers hold a protest demonstration to block the center point of city Hyder Chowk, demanding the ban on LPG should be lifted and dealers should be allowed to do business, which was ban after 24 deaths in cylinder blast in a shop.



to provide tailored guidance and strategic support to emerging ventures, enabling them to refine business concepts, devise robust strategies, optimize pricing models. and enhance their market positioning. By leveraging the extensive industry knowledge and network of Pakistan's mentors, startups will gain invaluable insights and actionable advice to

Shipping activity was report at the port where two ships, APL Antwerp and Atlantic Spirit carryingContainer and Palm Kernel, berthed at Container Terminal and Multi-Purpose Terminal

Shipping

activity at

Port Qasim

(APP)

KARACHI

Daily **Independent**, Gwadar

Tube wells' solarization in Balochistan to revamp agriculture: Governor

Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhel on Monday hailed the prime minster for announcing historic Rs 55 billion project for solarization of 28,000 tube wells, stating that it will revamp agriculture sec-

tor at the province. "A total of 28,000 agricultural tube wells across Balochistan will be converted to solar power within three months," the governor told PTV News.

Mandokhel noted that the project, costing Rs 55 billion, will see the federal government contributing 70% of the funds, with the remaining 30% provided by the provincial government.

He emphasized that uninterrupted power supply throughout the day would enhance farming efficiency and cultivate previously untapped agricultural potential.

The governor highlighted recent agreements signed between the federal and provincial governments, which according to in fostering prosperity.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal presiding 1st meeting of Disaster Response at NEOC, NDMA Headquarters.

President approves Election (Amendment) Bill, 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday approved the Election (Amendment) Bill 2024 bill under Article 75 of the

Through the Election Amendment Bill, the amendments were made in the section 140 of the Election Act 2017.

After the amendment. the Chief Justice of the conment Bill was passed by the National Assembly on cerned High Court will be consulted in case of ap- June 28 and by the Senate pointment of a serving on July 4.

ISLAMABAD (APP): him were expected to alleviate the challenges faced by farmers and facilitate the expansion of cultivable

Mandokhel highlighted the challenges faced by the province due to financial constraints and poor governance policies, pushing it towards underdevelopment.

Speaking on economic issues, the governor underscored the need to revive the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award to ensure equitable resource distribution among provinces, essential for Balochistan's The first meeting of the development.

Disaster Response Com-He also acknowl mittee (DRC), constituted edged the limitations of by the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, was held hydel power infrastructure in the province, attribhere on Monday at National uting low power genera-tion to the height of exist-Disaster Management Au-thority (NDMA) Heading dams. Regarding security

quarters. The committee was established to ensure and stability, Governo effective coordination be-Mandokhel noted signifi tween the Federal and Procant improvements in the vincial Governments in the law and order situation context of national disaster highlighting its critical role response efforts, especially during the monsoon season

and its associated hazards and risks The meeting was aimed to discuss and

stan Initiative at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

streamline strategies for proactive response plans to mitigate the impacts of poential monsoon-related

BAP delegation calls on PM

QUETTA (APP): A delegation of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) led by Khalid Magsi Monday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

The delegation commended Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for his government's successful efforts to stabijudge in the Election Tribulize the economy and presented a people-friendly nal, a press release issued by the President House said. The president exbudget.

The delegation also expressed gratitude to the prime minister for taking keen interest in development of Balochistan and announcing the public wel-

ince.

ing

fare projects in the provtube wells in the province and said that the agreement The overall political was signed between the situation of the country and federal and provincial govprovince also came under ernments in this regard bediscussion during the meetcause of the interest taken

ISLAMABAD (APP): emergencies. Discussions encompassed a range of topics, including the current state of preparedness, resource allocation, early warning systems, and com-

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari chairing a meeting on Green Paki-

NDMA convenes DRC meeting

to strengthen coordination for

Monsoon Season 2024

munity engagement strategies, a news release said. The committee members also reviewed contingency plans including interagency communication. conducting joint training exercises and deploying resources to vulnerable regions to ensure a swift and coordinated response. Chairman NDMA. Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik briefed at-

tendees about the projection by NDMA's NEOC about importance of a cohesive monsoon season and said that the establishment of and integrated approach to the Disaster Response disaster management.

Committee was a pivotal step towards strengthening our national disaster management framework 'As we approach the

monsoon season, it is imperative that we are wellprepared to address any potential emergency, he said and underlined the significance of reviewing stock positions for monsoon contingencies which was essential to undertake tangible actions before disas-

ters strike. Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ehsan Iqbal Chaudhry, (convener of the committee) presided the meeting and emphasized the critical

Mir Shoaib hails Prime Minister's visit to Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial

province.

Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif

He said that it had Minister for Finance, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani has been the long-standing dehailed the visit of Prime mand of the zamindars to Minister Muhammad solarize the agricultural tube wells in the province.

Shahbaz Sharif to Quetta. In an official state-With this, there would be positive changes in lives ment issued here on Monday, the Provincial Minof the zamindars of provister Finance welcomed

In addition to this, the the Prime Minister to Quetta and said that the federal government is tak-PML-N's government has ing concrete measures for done lot of works in the improvement in law and order as well as in health and education sectors in He referred to the solarization of agricultural collaboration with the pro-

vincial government. He said that our provincial government has been endeavouring to put the province on path of the development removing back-Prime Minister wardness.

Tuesday July 09, 2024

CM Mir Sarfraz Bugti says: People associated with agriculture sector to get relief with solarization of over 27,000 tube wells; subsidy of billions to be saved

Bugti emphasizes on inclusion of Balochistan in priority list

in decision making and formulation of policy at federal level; hopes to include two vital projects of province dropped from this year 's federal PSDP in next financial year 's budget

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that the people associated with the agriculture sector would get relief and billions of rupees of the subsidy would be saved with the project of solarization of agricultural tube wells in province. The resources to be

saved from the solarization could also be spent on other projects of public welfare.

The Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of the ceremony of agreement of solarization between provincial and federal governments here in Quetta on Monday.

The Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Governor Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail, federal and provincial ministers and other government functionaries were also present. The Chief Minister

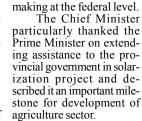
thanked the Prime Minister and federal government for their cooperation in project of conversion of the agricultural tube wells on solar energy in the prov-

He said that the zamindars of province suffering from the issues of electricity would get abrupt relief thanks to the project. He pointed out that

two important developprojects ment Balochistan have been dropped from the federal Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

He expressed the hope that these projects of public interest would be made part of new financial year's budget.

He said that climate change in Balochistan is a serious issue. The steps are being taken to tackle the issue, however, there is a need to include the province in decision and policy subsidy.



He also appreciated the project of establishment of Danish Schools in the province and urged the federal government to expand the circle of these chools.

The Prime Minister on the occasion appreciated the endeavours of Chief Minister and remarked that the leadership like of Mir Sarfraz Bugti is leading the provincial government. He said that the solarization is very important through which the issues of farmers and zamindars would be resolved saving billions of rupees on account of the



OUETTA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets members of the provincial cabinet of Balochistan.

Pakistan to stay in **Delegation of** National Party IMF cycle if taxes not hiked: Aurangzeb QUETTA (APP): A delegation of National Party Monday called on Prime

ISLAMABAD (INP): taxes due to these issues. Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb warned that Pakistan will

stay in the IMF cycle if In the meeting, they taxes are not increased. 3 months to address the discussed the overall politicountry's financial chal-In an interview with cal situation of the prov-Financial Times, he said lenges. Earlier, the Internathat the "upcoming IMF tional Monetary Fund ap-Member Provincial preciated Pakistan's tough program will not be our last embly Balochistan fund programme if we don't economic decisions and efbring our tax revenues up," forts regarding hike in gas Aurangzeb maintained prices. It is pertinent to that he is hoping Pakistan mention here that the fund's delegation, led by Mission Chief Nathan Porter, viswill reach a staff-level agreement with the IMF this month, estimating the agree-ment to be worth \$6-8 bilited Pakistan and held extensive negotiations from lion. He acknowledged that May 13 to May 23 to disthe government's reliance cuss the country's ecoon imports has led to a cycle nomic improvements. of debt and borrowing, The International stressing the need to en-Monetary Fund mission hance the country's ability assured of its commitment to repay loans. The ministo working together for suster also mentioned the lack tainable economic growth of trust in the Federal The statement noted that Board of Revenue (FBR) Pakistan's economy would due to corruption and hastabilize with the support rassment, stating that of the Extended Fund Fapeople are hesitant to pay cility (EFF) program.

Aurangzeb emphasized that the government must demonstrate positive performance in the next 2-

Party parliamentarians to focus on public welfare, **Balochistan's development**

PM directs

QUETTA (APP): Prime talking to a delegation of Minister Muhammad PML-N Parliamentarians Shehbaz Sharifon Monday from Balochistan which stressed the elected representatives of the party from Balochistan to play their role in development of the province to ensure well being and prosperity of the

people. "PML-N believes in the public service, the elected representatives of the party should focus their attention on the wel-fare of the people," the projects in their respective prime minister said while

called on him here.

tended the approval of the

approval, the Election Bill

has become an Act.

After the president's

The Election Amend-

Constitution.

During his visit to Quetta, PM Shehbaz said the provincial coalition government in Balochistan should identify the problems of the province and prepare a comprehensive plan to resolve them. He directed the elected representatives to take steps to com-

constituencies



QUETTA: People are filling their water cans from public tap as they facing shortage of drinking water in their area, during the hot weather of summer season, in Quetta.

JI Emir asks rulers not to plunge the country into another blind conflict,

BAJAUR/LAYYAH (PR): Pakhtunkhwa (KP), espe-Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman has asked the rulers not to plunge the country into another blind conflict, citing the repercussions of Pervez Musharraf's decision to join the US-led so-called

war on terrorism. Addressing a by-elec-tion rally in PK-22 Bajaur on Monday, he emphasized the need for Islamabad and Kabul to engage in dialogue to ensure peace in the re-

Rehman stated that military operations create divisions between the army and the people, with historical examples underscoring this point. He stressed that Pakistan can no longer afford to conduct operations dictated by foreign powers, highlighting the pressing need for peace and prosperity in Khyber theruling elite.

causes of terrorism and demanded the implementation of the National Action Plan in its true spirit. He criticized the ruling authorities for depriving the masses of basic health and employment fa-

cilities, and for imposing additional taxes on the poor while increasing petroleum and gas tariffs in recent

cially for its youth who seek

examination of the root

Rehman called for an

employment.

budget. The ruling elite, he said, are unwilling to compromise their luxuries, which come at the state's expense

He asserted that the Jamaat-e-Islami would not remain silent in the face of injustices and the plundering of national resources by Muzaffar Wani, in the city.



QUETTA: A delegation of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Nikah during iddat case: FC Balochistan Orders of IHC important, foils major sugar smuggling I cannot even think of attempt to Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Frontier Corps (FC) Balochistan (South) has successfully foiled an atduring iddat case of former Prime Minister (PM) Imran tempt to smuggle sugar from Pakistan to Afghani-Khan and Bushra Bibi, Judge Afzal Majoka of Disstan. The operation took place in Killi Gharibabad, trict and Sessions Court Islamabad has remarked or-Nok Kundi, where a large cache of illegally stored der of Islamabad High Court (IHC) holds imporsugar was discovered in a tance and " I cannot even warehouse. During the raid, think of violating it. authorities seized 1,368

The district court rebags of sugar, weighing approximately 70 tons. The confiscated sugar is estisorted to IHC for directives in connection with adjournment of hearing. mated to be worth 10 mil-Additional Sessions

lion rupees at current marjudge Afzal Majoka heard ket rates. Following the opthe case eration, the warehouse was Suleman Safdar, Usman Gul and Khalid sealed, and an FIR was reg-

istered against the smug-Yousuf Chaudhry counsels glers. The seized sugar and for Bushra Bibi appeared in those involved in the smugthe court. gling attempt have been said that They

handed over to customs. Suleman Safdar gave argu- adjourning the hearing.

violating it: Judge Afzal ISLAMABAD (Online): ments that Suleman Akram During the hearing of Nikah Raja has given arguments on the duration of iddat. I adopt the arguments of Suleman Akram Raja on duration of iddat. The assistant lawyer

to Zahid Asif counsel for Khawar Manika appeared before the court and requested on behalf of the senior counsel for adjournment of hearing.

He said the hearing be adjourned in view of Muharram ul Haram. Suleman Safdar said

what cases are fixed in court, the application for adjourning the hearing of such cases cannot be given.

The judge "Give your arguments. I talk to high court. I get direction from high court with reference to

Rehmat Saleh Baloch and former Senator Mir Kabir Muhammad Sahi were part of the delegation, a press release issued by the PM Office said.

calls on PM

Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and dis-

cussed matters of mutual in-

terest

UN HC for **Refugees calls** on Deputy PM ISLAMABAD (APP): United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi Monday called on Deputy Prime

Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar In a meeting, they discussed wide range of issues pertaining to the global refugee situation with a particu-lar focus on Afghan refugees. Views were also exchanged on the longstanding

cooperation between Pakistan and the UNHCR. High Commissioner

Grandi appreciated Pakistan's efforts and contributions in hosting millions of Afghan refugees for decades and termed it as a remarkable example of the country's hospitality.

He briefed the Deputy Prime Minster and Foreign Minister on UNHCR's on going projects and emphasized on the importance of sustained engagement and cooperation between Pakistan and the UNHCR.

Deputy Prime Minister Dar also shared Pakistan's perspective and priorities with regard to Afghan refugees. He underscored that the new hu manitarian situations emerging around the world must not divert the global attention away from the needs of millions of Af ghans.

> **Gilani pays** tributes to late Abdul Sattar Edhi

ISLAMABAD (APP) Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani paid glowing tributes to the great humanitarian and philanthropist Abdul Sattar Edhi on the occasion of his 8th death anniversary.

Gilani eulogized Edhi's services for humanity, highlighting his dedication to the destitute and underprivileged, said a news release issued on Monday.



QUETTA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Governor Balochistan Jafar Khan Mandokhel during his one day visit to Quetta.

Dr. Rubaba designated as Chairperson Women **Empowerment Committee**

Independent Report QUETTA: In a significant step towards advancing women's rights and empowerment in Balochistan, Advisor to CM Balochistan, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, has been appointed as the Chairperson of the newly constituted Women Empowerment Committee. The committee aims to address various critical issues affecting women across the prov-

The Women Empowerment Committee will undertake a comprehensive review of several key areas including the recruitment of women under the government's quota in departments, ensuring fair practices in fairs, licenses, festivals, and shops catering to women, enhancing the inclusion of female members in law and order committees, and the effective implementation of antiharassment laws. Additionfor their advocacy and exally, the committee will fapertise in gender issues.

cilitate free issuance of NOCs for women's func-tions in public parks, oversee land record and data corrections concerning women's inheritance rights, and address other pertinent matters related to women's rights. Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, known for her unwavering commitment to social justice and gender equality, expressed her dedication to ensuring the committee's efforts result in tangible improvements for women in Balochistan. "I am honored to lead this committee and look forward to collaborating with our esteemed members to enact meaningful change," said Dr. Buledi. The committee comprises esteemed members including Commissioner of Quetta Divi-sion, Ms. Pari Gul Tareen, Ms. Roshan Khursheed Barocha, Mr. Allaudin Khilji, and other distinguished individuals known

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