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COAS chairs 265th Corps Commanders' Conference Military leadership rejects unwarranted criticism on Operation Azm-e-Istehkam

Operation aimed at harnessing counter-terrorism efforts for enduring economic prosperity, says ISPR

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Corps Commanders' Conference has reiterated to continue full support of ongoing efforts in uplifting the socioeconomic growth and wholeheartedly assisting the government in curbing all illegal activities which hamper investors' confidence, economic stability and growth.

Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir presided over 265th Corps Commanders' Conference in Rawalpindi today.

The forum paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhadas of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies and the

citizens who have laid their lives for peace and stability in the country.

The forum undertook a comprehensive review of internal and external security situation of the country and had detailed discussion on various aspects of Azm-e-Istehkam, which is aimed at harnessing the national counter terrorism efforts in a synchronized manner to dismantle the nexus of terrorism and illegal spectrum in the country for enduring stability and economic prosperity.

It was noted with concern the unwarranted criticism by some quarters and deliberate misrepresenta-

tion of the vision, only for furthering their vested interests.

The forum also deliberated upon regional security situation, especially Afghanistan and reaffirmed its commitment to regional peace and security.

It expressed solidarity with the people of Kashmir and Palestine. Forum condemned serious human rights violations, war crimes and genocide being perpetrated in Kashmir and Gaza.

The forum affirmed that military leadership is cognizant of the full spectrum of the challenges and resolved to

shoulder its constitutionally mandated responsibilities with support of the resilient people of Pakistan.

It underscored that onslaught of politically motivated digital terrorism, unleashed by conspirators, duly abetted by their foreign cohorts against state institutions is meant to induce despondency in the nation and sow discord through peddling of blatant lies, fake news and propaganda.

However, the Armed Forces along with the nation are fully aware of all such machinations and

stand united and committed in defeating the notorious designs of the enemies of Pakistan.

Expressing full satisfaction on Army's commitment to national security, the COAS stressed upon maintaining high standards of professionalism and operational preparedness.

To conclude, the COAS remarked that Pakistan Army has always been fully prepared to thwart all internal and external challenges and play its due role in the stability and prosperity of Pakistan, regardless of the challenges posed.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir presiding over 265th Corps Commanders' Conference

Rules out replacement of Chief Minister Balochistan: PPP to present its stance in APC on combating terror in country, says Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

Chairman PPP emphasizes need for developing consensus on national issues terming it crucial for continuity of democratic process and stability of country; huge potential needed to be explored in mineral enriched province

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chairman Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had stated that People's Party delegation will participate in the APC, presenting their stance in the All Parties Conference called by Prime Minister for establishing peace in the country and Operation (Azm-e-Istehkam).

"PPP is in favour of reaching a consensus on all matters pertaining to the country, including fighting terrorism, since we have our own policy and a strong commitment to eliminating terrorism from the country. The APC will provide

an opportunity for all political parties to express their opinions," he said while addressing a press conference at CM Secretariat, Quetta on Friday.

The Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, PPP Balochistan President Changez Jamali, PPP MNA Ejaz Jhokrani, provincial ministers and other party leaders were accompanied the PPP Chairman.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was on two-day visit to Balochistan wherein he was briefed about the pace of ongoing uplift schemes, proposed development projects for Balochistan. He also held detailed

deliberations with the provincial leadership and workers of the party. The PPP Chairman while addressing news conference emphasized the need for developing consensus on the national issues terming it crucial for continuity of the democratic process and stability of the country.

"Though, we had some reservations on some national matters including recent budget for the fiscal year 2024-25, however in public interest, we did not create hurdles thanks to the federal government who agreed to assist us in undertaking the development projects, we proposed for our people, he noted.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of Cabinet Committee on Energy in Islamabad.

CM hosts luncheon in honour of all MPAs: Chairman PPP discusses political situation with parliamentarians

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chairman Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had discussion about political situation of Balochistan with the members of provincial assembly belonging to all parliamentary parties of the province. The occasion was the luncheon hosted by the Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti in honour of the members of provincial assembly belonging to all the political and parliamentary parties of the province here on Friday.

The Chairman PPP especially participated in the luncheon meeting with Governor Balochistan,

Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail besides others.

The President National Party and Member Provincial Assembly, Dr. Abdul Malik Baloch, parliamentary leader of Awami National Party, Engineer Zamarak Khan Achakzai, leader of Balochistan Awami Party and Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Ziaullah Langove, leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Provincial Minister Public Health Engineering, Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran as well as members of the assembly belonging to PPP, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, PML-N, ANP, BAP and Jama'at-e-Islami.

President, PM greet Keir Starmer on victory in UK election

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday congratulated Labour Party leader Keir Starmer on his victory in the parliamentary election in the United Kingdom.

The president wrote on his X timeline that Pakistan looked forward to working with the new UK government to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

President Zardari expressed the hope that Keir Starmer would play his role in addressing the shared challenges faced by the world.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday felicitated Sir Keir Starmer on the landslide victory of his Labour Party in the general elections of the United Kingdom.

The prime minister, in a post on his X account, said he looked forward to working closely with the new UK government.

Cabinet body approves 6 months' extension in Refinery Policy 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Cabinet Committee on Energy, which met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Friday, approved the extension of six months in the Refinery Policy 2023 regarding the upgradation of the existing refineries.

The committee directed the Ministry of Petroleum to take into confidence the oil refineries established in the country and prepare a comprehensive plan for their upgradation on a priority basis.

The committee was also presented with a detailed report on the circular debt of the power sector from July 2023 to May 2024.

The report stated that

the volume of the power sector's circular debt was Rs 2,655 billion till May 2024.

The committee also approved the Standardized Security Package Document under the Power Policy 2013 for small water projects of the private sector.

This initiative is aimed at promoting private investment in the electricity sector and quickly resolving the tariff and other issues. The prime minister decided to resolve complaints regarding the electricity supply of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan.

He constituted a committee to prepare a plan of action to ensure the uninterrupted supply of electricity in Gilgit Baltistan.

PM's visit to Central Asian states achieves a major milestone: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar Friday said that the government had achieved a milestone with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent official visit to Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, especially on diplomatic and economic fronts.

"Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his delegation received a splendid reception during his visits to the Central Asian states," the minister said while addressing a news conference.

The Pakistani ports were the mainstay of the discussions of the prime minister with the top officials of the Central Asian states that were landlocked countries and had a keen interest in increasing partnership with Pakistan, he said.

routes also came under discussion to promote bilateral trade between them, he added.

For giving a boost to Pakistan's bilateral trade with the two Central Asian states, the provision of facilities to the business community was also discussed during the meetings, he noted. Tarar said PM Shehbaz Sharif's meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Kazakhstan was held in a welcoming and friendly environment.

With President Putin, he said, the discussion encompassed promoting cooperation and partnership between the two countries' diverse economic sectors including agriculture, mining, petrochemicals and others.



LAHORE: Activists of Pakistan Central Muslim League hold a protest against inflation in Pakistan, outside press club in the Provincial Capital.

Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee to meet for Muharram moon sighting in Quetta today

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee is scheduled to meet for the sighting of moon of Muharramul Haram here in Quetta on Saturday (today).

The sighting of Muharram moon would also mark the commencement of the new Islamic year.

According to the programme, the Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad would preside over the meeting of committee to be held at Deputy Commissioner's complex here.

All the members of Committee from different parts of the country including Balochistan would

also be participating in the meeting.

Besides, the representatives of Meteorological and other concerned departments would also be attending the meeting.

Simultaneous meetings will also occur in major cities including Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore, and Peshawar, conducted by respective zonal committees.

The sighting of the Muharram moon is critical as it determines the start of Muharram, which is expected to begin on July 8 this year in Pakistan. Accordingly, Youm-e-Ashur (Day of Ashura) is anticipated to be observed on July 17, falling on Wednesday.

Governor calls for taking serious & concrete measures for improvement in situation in districts deprived of gas facility

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that majority districts of the province are deprived of the facility of Sui gas even today despite the fact that it has been providing it to other provinces for last half century.

The Governor stressed the need to take serious and concrete measures to improve the situation.

The Governor said that if it is difficult to include the Sui gas deprived districts in the existing system then it is essential to make arrangements for provision of LPG in these districts.

The Governor was speaking to the General Manager of Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) Farooq Ahmed Khan during a meeting here on Friday.

During the course of meeting, the Governor was briefed about the situation of gas supply and complaints of consumers. The Governor said that the usage of gas is increased in winter season, but the gas load shedding in summer is beyond understandable.

He also said that the complaints of over billing is also common by the gas consumers, who complain that the speed of newly installed gas meters is exceptionally high as compared to the old ones.

The Governor directed to the General Manager SSGC to end unannounced load shedding of Sui gas immediately. He also stressed the need to make special arrangements for prevention of the Sui gas related mishaps in Quetta.

Besides, wholehearted campaign should also be launched for creating awareness among general public in this regard, he added.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail being briefed about Sui Southern Gas Company



QUETTA: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari addressing a press conference.

Asif welcomes PTI's decision to join APC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Friday welcomed the decision of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to join the All Parties Conference (APC).

Speaking to a private news channel, he noted that the government had extended invitations to PTI for talks in the past, and this offer remains open.

Imran nods PTI's participation in APC

RAWALPINDI (INP): Former premier Imran Khan said on Friday that his party would attend the All Parties Conference (APC) convened by PM Shehbaz Sharif.

The PTI founder announced this decision while talking to the reporters inside Adiala Jail. He stated that his party would listen to the government's stance on the Operation Azm-e-Istehkam, adding that the

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had reservations on it as it would foment chaos in country.

Recognising the exigency of the security situation, Khan said that the Tehreek-Taliban-Pakistan (TTP) couldn't be vanquished without improving relations with Afghanistan.

"I am ready to die in jail but I'll never accept slavery," he reiterated.

Two killed, 5 injured in Mardan blast

MARDAN (APP): Two persons were killed and five others sustained injuries in a bomb blast near Jalala Bridge in the Takht Bhai tehsil of Mardan on Friday.

District Police Officer (DPO), Zahoob Babar Afridi told the media that two people were killed and five others injured, including a police officer, woman and child.

He said that the explosion ripped through immediately after a police vehicle passed over the bridge, in an attempt to target the police. According to Rescue 1122, ambulances and medical teams promptly arrived at the scene and shifted the deceased and injured to local hospitals.

Top 10 position holder students of Matric meet Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

Independent Report

QUETTA: The top 10 position holder students of Secondary School Certificate (SSC)'s annual examinations met the Chairman Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari here at the Chief Minister's secretariat on Friday.

During the course of meeting, Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari applauded the top three position holder students including Ayesha Ghazanfar (first), Sadiya Tahir Kamran (second) and Syeda Samreen Agha (third).

The Chairman PPP also appreciated other position holder students Attaullah, Yasmin Bibi, Fatima Mehboob, Qayamuddin, Zubaida Bibi, Atiqa Niaz, Sanaullah, Atiqa Khan, Khansa Kakar, Asfandyar Khan, Karishma Devi and Mubashar Ahmed.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also interacted with the students and talked about their achievement in the examinations. He also asked about their future academic plans. Meanwhile, the Chairman PPP distributed electric bikes among the position holder students.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Trade cooperation

At their meeting on the side-lines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation-Plus summit in Astana, Kazakhstan, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed to improve bilateral trade ties. They discussed the issues impeding financial and banking connectivity for easing bilateral trade flows as Mr Sharif called for reviving and expanding trade under a barter system. Mr Putin responded positively, saying that ties between Moscow and Islamabad had recovered in recent years due to improvement in trade linkages. He was hopeful that both Russia and Pakistan would enhance their energy and agriculture cooperation.

Mr Sharif also used his visit to renew calls for strengthening Pakistan's trade and economic cooperation with the Central Asian states, asking their leaders to establish road and rail connectivity and offering them transit rights through this country to trade with the rest of the world via the Karachi port. Speaking at the inaugural session of the trilateral summit of Pakistan, Türkiye and Azerbaijan, he proposed tripartite institutional mechanisms to strengthen commercial ties. He also mentioned plans to host a regional connectivity summit to provide trade corridors to Central Asia. While rail and road connectivity with Central Asia is a long shot, Mr Sharif's meetings with regional leaders indicate his desire to end Pakistan's growing trade isolation by integrating the national economy with that of other countries in the region. That Pakistan remains the least integrated economy regionally, in spite of its geographical advantage and potential to become what Mr Sharif calls an "ideal trade conduit" in the region speaks volumes about our policymakers' "trade isolationist" mindset.

In fact, Islamabad is not part of any effective regional trading bloc. The two regional economic blocs Pakistan is a part of — the Economic Cooperation Organisation and the South Asian Free Trade Area — have been dormant since their formation. While other members of these blocs have significantly boosted economic cooperation, our share of trade with ECO and the South Asian nations is negligible. Out of the four countries Pakistan has borders with, it is only with China with which we have significant trading linkages. With the other three — India, Iran and Afghanistan, our trade position is dismal.

Several factors have impeded Pakistan's economic integration within the region but political and territorial disputes with neighbouring countries, imagined and real security concerns, a narrow band of exportable products, and reliance on the West for both trade and aid are among the main reasons for our continued economic isolation. Trading blocs have helped their respective member states become competitive and have contributed greatly to their economic development. Will Mr Sharif be able to translate his dream of integrating Pakistan within the region by liberalising trade cooperation with South and Central Asia? That remains to be seen.

Islamic social justice

Ghulam Shabbir

With the rare exception of India and China on its eastern peripheries the 'heart of the earth', ie, Rome and Persia, was riddled with wars and was profusely bleeding. Conditions in Europe were also far from satisfactory when, to suture the world social fabric, Islam emerged onto the scene of history in Arabia.

Human history had come full circle. Judaism and Christianity were either addressing human problems on a limited basis or igniting sectarian wars, while old tribal sanctions were fast losing their sheen, and hence were unable to address the malaise. The times were fraught with tragedy when, in the words of Shah Waliullah, Islam appeared as a moral necessity for destroying the corrupt socioeconomic structures of Persia and Byzantium to build anew.

Amidst profound chaos, a man disenchanted with the human plight would occasionally go to a cave in Hira to get respite from the tragedy around him in the excessively mercantile Makkah — a city of stark socioeconomic disparities, which had relegated the disenfranchised segments of society to a diminutive existence. Then, a window opened from the ghayb (Unseen) which brought new life into this desert city, and indeed far beyond its environs. The entire Quran dawned on the heart of the Prophet (PBUH) and settled right and wrong with wisdom from God.

The religious experience of the Prophet emerged as a symbiosis of monotheism and socioeconomic justice. So lucid and vivid was Hazrat Muhammad's first address to his community that the religio-political and mercantile

elites took it as a warning. Pointing to the socioeconomic thrust of his message, H.A.R Gibb writes that the darker side to the prosperity of Makkah, ie socioeconomic inequality, was one of the deep inner causes of the Holy Prophet's unease, which instead of turning into a movement for social revolution, was transformed into a religious movement under the impact of a vivid and immediate experience of a unique God.

Gibb's remark reflects the West's obsession with the so-called duality of spiritual and material, which he pasted onto Islam. Otherwise, to the Quran, from the very beginning monotheism and social justice organically include each other; the rejection of one implies the negation of the other. This was what became the moral social order demonstrated by the first monotheism-based 'republic' of Madinah.

Later, dictatorship, orthodoxy and Sufi-theosophy challenged the purpose of Islam as a social proposition and focused more on ritualism in religion, substituting its collectivism and snatching its moral initiative. Social justice is neither a one-off principle nor does it have Judaic-Christian or Muslim traits; it is directly proportional to the intellectual, scientific, and moral cognition of man as an ever-developing phenomenon. The 19th-century reformer Jamaluddin Afghani also arrived at the same conclusion that socioeconomic reforms, instead of materialistic metaphysics or the mediaeval idea of religion, should be based on monotheistic principles. He propelled into action an illustrious class of intellectuals who produced a vast literature on Islamic social justice, but

on the realm of policy goals and directives this initiative fell prey to Marxism. There was an attempt to graft communist policies onto religion. Thus, Islamic socialism co-evolved with communism, its fate tied up with its surrogate mother — Marxism — and with the fall of Soviet Russia, Islamic socialism turned out to be a damp squib.

The pristine Islam planted socioeconomic egalitarianism in the fertile soil of monotheism, which proved to be a seedbed of socioeconomic equality and human egalitarianism, while communism sowed economic egalitarianism in the barren soil of materialism, and soon withered away. In the Pakistani context, Iqbal inspired by Afghani's thought dreamed of a land free of the master-slave relationship; Jinnah and Liaquat Ali Khan committed allegiance to Islamic socialism and Z.A. Bhutto swept to power on the tide of Islamic socialism. History depicts the clergy and secular elite as Siamese twins indulged in a cut-throat war, but on removal of the thin veneer of hypocrisy both are found to be bedfellows. On this plane, Iqbal rejected orthodoxy and termed secularism positively harmful for mankind.

Deep down, the orthodoxy's 'minimal' Islam accepts secularism. Modernism and its spin-offs have rendered our planet unliveable for the lowly, hence the golden 'best community' of the Quran is duty-bound to formulate Islam as a social proposition of socioeconomic justice and translate it into reality to prove that Islam can best resolve the socioeconomic and political crises of man. -- Courtesy Dawn

Patrons vs people

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

On Feb 8, a significant number of Pakistan's people, mostly the young, threw out the selectors' script and cast their vote for the PTI. Most knew that their mandate would not be respected, but chose to rebel against the establishment and its hangers-on anyway.

The vote-as-rebellion not only targeted our self-proclaimed 'holy guardians' but also put paid to a large number of seasoned politicians known as 'electables'. These historically powerful influentials may possess large amounts of agricultural land, real estate, industry or other economic capital. Their repeated appearances as MNAs and MPAs reflect deep entrenchment in daily life, especially as mediators between working people and everyday state institutions like the thana, katcheri and patawari.

By voting against these entrenched patrons, many young people demonstrated that politics can transcend the drudgery of life, and can, instead, be informed by ideological commitments. One need not agree with the premise that Imran Khan is a saviour or that the PTI is a genuinely anti-establishment force to recognise that those who made this choice on Feb 8 voted for an idea over entrenched forms of patronage.

One election does not signify an overhaul of our patronage-based order, nor does it displace the establishment that heads the political food chain. But it is important to consider how the vote-as-rebellion might be a stepping stone towards something more substantial. If there is to be a pathway out of the rapid downward spiral of state and society, we should recognise the historical

roots of our predicament. Today's patronage-based system was institutionalised during Zia's dictatorship. Prior to the 1977 coup, mainstream politics here — like much of the world — was largely organised along ideological lines. The political left espoused socialism, anti-imperialism and ethnic-nationalist claims, while the political right projected an Islamist ideology. The left was winning until Zia banned organised politics, student and trade unions, and reintroduced patronage as the name of the political game. I have previously called this the 'politics of common sense'.

By sponsoring religious ideology and fusing it with a cynical form of patronage, Zia set the stage for mainstream political parties to become mere agglomerations of first-past-the-post constituency-level politicians who were more interested in sustaining themselves as patrons and less in debating ideas and policy. This 'politics of common sense' was reinforced in the global arena by the neoliberal offensive, spearheaded by IFIs and Wall Street investors. So if local-level politics was reduced to thana, katcheri and patawari, with an 'Islamic touch', government policy was largely determined by IMF conditionalities on the one hand, and discretionary funds to MNAs and MPAs to facilitate private accumulation on the other.

The predominant exception to this 'politics of common sense', largely facilitated by the deep state, was the militant right-wing. Entities like the local Taliban and TLP are symbiotically linked to parliamentary Islamists, and thus patronage with an 'Islamic touch' survives. Ethnonationalists and an emaciated left have contin-

ued to keep their flags flying but the local and global political economy has remained stifling.

Imran Khan and PTI emerged on the political scene claiming to be opposed to the established order. But in 2013 and 2018, the PTI acquired governmental power largely by mobilising entrenched electables. During this period, the party and its leader were also on the 'same page' as the establishment.

When relations soured after April 2022, many electables jumped ship. The party faced repression. But demographic change — two-thirds of Pakistanis are very young — and the PTI's unmatched social media reach meant that its wider support base was not seriously eroded. And on Feb 8, a number of young people came out to defy the 'politics of common sense'.

What happens from hereon is undetermined. Feb 8 only showed us that ordinary Pakistanis can swim against the pro-establishment tide. Remember that young people in the Baloch and other ethnic peripheries have been swimming against this tide for long. Left-progressives have also been challenging the IMF's neoliberal dictates and various forms of class power. A genuinely anti-establishment and ideological politics cannot simply be based on the adulation of messiah-like figures. It must articulate a genuine political and economic alternative to the status quo. It certainly cannot be based on a slightly modified version of state ideology in which religion is used as a political weapon against the oppressed. A new ideological politics demands a new common sense that unites Pakistan's youthful majority around the principle of collective liberation. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Aleem for promoting mutual trade, communication links with South & Central Asian countries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan Friday said that South and Central Asian countries must promote mutual trade and communication links by developing all three means of air, rail and road connectivity and transportation.

Prompt and quick actions were needed in that regard for promoting the mutual trade and communication across the region, the minister said while talking to Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin, who called on him, according to a press release.

He said, "Pakistan wants to promote bilateral trade and business activities with all the Central Asian states and in this context special incentives are being offered for investment."

The minister apprised ambassador regarding his visit of Tajikistan in the last week of May.

The Kazakh ambassador invited the minister to participate in the Trade and Logistics Forum, which would be held in Aktau, Kazakhstan, on July 19-20. Twelve major countries of Central and South Asia are participating in the forum.

He also handed over this invitation on behalf of Kazakh Minister for Transport Marat Krabov and

expressed his gratitude for offering by the Government of Pakistan to promote bilateral trade relations.

The ambassador said his country was keenly interested in investing in Pakistan and practical progress would be made soon in that regard.

He emphasized that road connectivity and communications were very much necessary to increase the bilateral links between the two countries.

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QUETTA: A delegation of Quetta Chamber of Commerce led by Senator Bilal Khan Mandokhail meeting with Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Provincial Ministers are also present.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with the delegation of Pakistan Tax Bar Association.

Predatory IPPs contracts should be declared null & void: Saquib Fayyaz

Independent Report
KARACHI: Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI, has said that federal government should cancel all agreements with Independent Power Producers (IPPs); and, procure electricity for the national grid from cheaper and cost-effective sources — without any strings vis-à-vis capacity charges.

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI, informed that exorbitant and unbearable electricity tariffs have led to widespread industrial closures and massive job losses. There is an installed generation capacity of over 40,000 MW; while peak demand and transmission capacity is merely 25,000 MW — resulting in a significant excess and utilized generation capacity, he added.

Pak rupee gains 12 paise against \$US in interbank trading

ISLAMABAD (INP): In interbank trading on Friday, the Pakistan rupee gained by 12 paise against the previous day's closing of Rs278.49 and closed at Rs 278.37.

However, as per Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market was recorded as Rs 277.75 and Rs 280.50 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 60 paise to close at Rs 301.43 against the last day's closing of Rs 300.83.

A digital corridor helping Pakistani young entrepreneurs

BEIJING (APP): Chinese e-commerce companies are helping Pakistani young entrepreneurs to expand their businesses across the country.

"Our platform could be said to be the Pakistani version of Pinduoduo. As an e-commerce platform targeting price-sensitive users, groceries and daily necessities are within our scope," Fahad Raja, co-founder of Pakistani e-commerce platform Deal

Twin cities to benefit from SNGPL's gas pressure improvement initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has undertaken significant projects aimed at improving gas pressure in Rawalpindi and the Federal Capital, especially during the winter season.

In Islamabad, SNGPL has commissioned a new 24-inch diameter gas pipeline along Srinagar Highway to enhance gas pressure.

Electricity system in Pakistan is rusty: Awais Laghari

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Energy Awais Ahmad Khan Laghari on Friday told the Upper House that entire electricity system in Pakistan was rusty which needs complete overhauling.

Responding to calling attention notice of Senator Falak Naz about excessive and un-announced load shedding of electricity in Upper and Lower Chitral

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Six ships, X-Press Altair, San Francisco Bridge, MSC Positano, Bitumen Kosei, FSM and Achilles-S scheduled to load/offload Container, Bitumen, LPG and Mogas, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Engro Terminal and Oil Terminal respectively on Thursday.

causing problems for the residents of these areas, the minister said that the complete system would restore in two weeks time.

He said Golan Gol Hydro power project produces 108 megawatt electricity but due to some technical issue it stopped power generation.

The other option to restore electricity was to provide electricity from national grid through

Swedish envoy praises thriving business environment for Swedish companies in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan, Henrik Parson admired the flourishing business environment for Swedish companies in Pakistan. In a significant diplomatic meeting, the Swedish envoy commended the robust cooperation and support extended to Swedish companies operating in Pakistan, said a press release issued here Friday.

PESCO but the line constructed and managed by WAPDA was also faulted which caused problem however the teams are working on war footings for complete restoration of electricity in Chitral, he said. He also apologized over the inefficiency of employees and said that unless the entire system would not be overhauled, there would be no change in the system.

During his call on Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, Ambassador Parson highlighted the positive experiences of Swedish businesses in the country, noting their impressive growth and profitability. "I have personally met with all Swedish companies currently active in Pakistan to gather their insights," Ambassador Parson stated. "Remarkably, none of them had anything negative to say. On the contrary, they all reported significant growth and profitability. This is a testament to the conducive business environment in Pakistan."

Members NY State Assembly, US Pakistani Public Affairs Committee call on CM KP

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of the members of New York State Assembly and American Pakistani Public Affairs Committee, led by Deputy Speaker Phil Ramos, called on Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur in Islamabad the other day. Provincial ministers Syed Qasim Ali Shah, Faisal Khan Tarakai, Muzammil Aslam, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Additional Chief Secretary Syed Imtiaz Hussain Shah and other concerned high ups of the provincial government were also present on the occasion. Matters related to promoting state to state relationships between the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and

New York State came under discussion. Similarly, prospects for mutual cooperation in the different social sectors were also discussed in the meeting. Both sides agreed to sign Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for partnership in Health, Education, Trade, Human Resource and other important sectors. It was also agreed on the occasion to initiate Nursing Exchange and Tele Health programs with the mutual cooperation of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and New York State. Talking to the delegates, the chief minister said that the provincial government had always welcomed and appreciated

the support of US government in the different public welfare projects, adding that expending cooperation between both the governments would further strengthen the relationships between Pakistan and the United States. Touching upon the priorities of his government, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur said that the health and education had been the top most priority of PTI government in the province since day one, and we had introduced multiple reforms in these sectors, which had resulted in significant improvement in providing quality healthcare and learning facilities to the people as per their expectations.



LAHORE: A delegation of Shia Ulema Council meeting with Provincial Minister for Health and Chairman Cabinet Committee for Law and order Khawaja Salman Rafique.

Punjab health minister calls for unity during Muharramul Haram

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Health and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order Khawaja Salman Rafique emphasised the role of scholars in fostering unity among Muslims during Muharram-ul-Haram. He conveyed the message during a meeting with a delegation from the Shia Ulema Council on Friday. The discussions centered on security measures for the upcoming Muharram. Saad Rafique assured that the government planned comprehensive security arrangements for Majalis, processions, saabel, niaz, and azadari. He highlighted a special security plan and stated that police forces were instructed to implement fool-proof security measures throughout the province. The minister also stressed the importance of proactive involvement of peace committees to maintain harmony. The Shia Ulema Council's delegation, including Qasim Ali Qasmi, Sagheer Abbas Virk, and Safdar Hussain Jafri, acknowledged the robustness of the security plans.

Crackdown against corrupt officers ongoing in Punjab Food dept

LAHORE (APP): A crackdown against corrupt officers is ongoing as per the direction of Punjab Food Secretary Moazzam Iqbal Sipra. According to official sources here on Friday, legal action has been taken against two more officers of the Punjab Food department. One year service of Principal Assistant Deputy Director Food Rawalpindi (Stenographer) has been confiscated while promotion of Assistant Food Controller Rawalpindi has been stopped for three years. Both officers were found facilitating in wheat and flour smuggling besides helping hoarders and profiteers. Punjab Food Secretary Moazzam Iqbal Sipra said that zero tolerance is being implemented against black sheep in the department. He said that hindrances in providing relief to common man would be removed.

KP Govt decides to streamline development process in oil, gas producing districts

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to further improve the production bonus guidelines issued for the better use of revenues in the districts with oil and gas production capacity and to involve the district administrations of the respective districts in the consultation process. The working has been started on forming committees for the purpose of using the income from oil and gas reserves discovered in Dera Ismail

KP Governor condemns Takhtbhai explosion

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi here Friday condemned explosion near Jalala bridge Takhtbhai in Mardan district and expressed sorrow over loss of two lives in the blast. The Governor expressed sympathy with the families of the bereaved families. He prayed for highest place of the victims in eternal peace and speedy recovery of the injured. The Governor said that he equally shared the grief and sorrow through which the victims families were passing through.

Punjab Police's Youth Engagement & Internship Program continues

LAHORE (APP): Under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's public-friendly police vision, Punjab Police's Youth Engagement and Internship Programme continues uninterrupted in all districts of the province. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar has said that the friends of police and volunteers in police programmes are gaining popularity among the youth for unique opportunity for direct communication with the police. The IGP mentioned that thousands of students participated in both programs across Lahore and the 36 districts of the province. Among those who have completed the internship, there are 13,000 male students and over 7,000 female students. A Punjab police spokesperson said that students from 88 universities, 143 colleges, and 43 schools participated in the community policing programmes. Over 20,000 students were briefed and trained about police work through the friends of police and volunteers in police programmes.

Two bodies found from Faisalabad

FAISALABAD (APP): The bodies of two people including a sexagenarian man were found from different areas in Faisalabad during the past 12 hours. A police spokesman said here on Friday that some passersby spotted the body of a 60-year-old man lying in the waiting area of Allied Hospital-I.

KP Governor visits NVTTC, highlight significance of market oriented training to youth

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi has said that steps would be taken for empowerment of women and youth and to train them according to demands of contemporary market. He said this during his visit to National Vocational Technical Training Commission (NVTTC) on Friday. On the occasion, KP Governor was also briefed by Chairperson of NVTTC, Gulmina Bilal and Executive Director, Muhammad Amir about working of the commission. KP Governor termed Pakistani workers serving outside the country as ambassadors and said that they played a significant role in sending foreign exchange. He said that majority of laborers working in gulf countries belong to Pakistan and added that they can earn a better livelihood in native areas if provided training modern technologies. Faisal Karim said that youth and women would also be provided trainings in field of mining, tourism and gemstone sector enabling them to explore opportunities in Central Asian States. Governor also urged authorities in NVTTC to develop a liaison with universities and educational institutions to train youth in modern and diversified fields.



BAHAWALPUR: Activists of Pakistan People's Party hold a banner during protest on the eve of black day on 5th July, outside press club in the city.

931 Traffic Wardens to regulate traffic during Muharram

RAWALPINDI (APP): Over 931 Traffic Wardens under the supervision of inspectors and DSPs would perform duties on city roads to control traffic flow during Muharram. According to a City Traffic Officer (CTO), Rawalpindi Tamoor Khan, Traffic Police Officers, and Wardens have also been directed to take action against vehicles having tinted glasses, revolving lights, unregistered vehicles and motorcycles and others moving without improper and fake number plates. In order to ensure the security of the mourning processions during Muharram-ul-Haram, the City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi has issued a comprehensive traffic plan. According to the plan, there would be a complete ban on parking any vehicle or pushcart on the route of the procession. Fork lifters would move with unregistered vehicles and



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Local Government Zeeshan Rafique presides over the briefing session of Cooperatives Department. MNA Armaghan Subhani is also present.

International News

Newly elected UK PM Keir Starmer says Britain must rediscover its identity

Monitoring Desk LONDON: Newly elected UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Friday said Britain needed to rediscover its identity and undergo a wider reset, in his first words outside his new office at 10 Downing Street, promising to fight to restore trust in politics and serve all voters. Greeted in Downing Street by a large crowd of cheering aides and supporters after formally accepting King Charles's invitation to become prime minister, Starmer's first address made the case for moderate politics to repair voters' broken trust. "It is surely clear to everyone that our country needs a bigger reset, a rediscovery of who we are, because no matter how fierce the storms of history, one of the greatest strengths of this nation has always been our ability to navigate a way to calmer waters," he said. "This depends upon politicians, particularly those who stand for stability and moderation, as I do." He added: "My government will fight every day until you believe again. From now on, you have a government unburdened by doctrine, guided only by the determination to serve your interest. To defy those quietly those who have written our country off. "You have given us a clear mandate. And we will use it to deliver change." King Charles III earlier officially appointed Starmer as prime minister during an audience at Buckingham Palace. A photograph released by the palace showed the monarch shaking hands with Starmer, whose party won a landslide election victory. The king earlier accepted the resignation of Conservative leader Rishi Sunak. "The king received in



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer speaks, at Number 10 Downing Street, following the results of the election, in London, Britain.

Hezbollah rains 200 rockets on Israeli military sites

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Lebanon's Hezbollah launched a big rocket and drone attack on Israel on Thursday and threatened to hit new targets in retaliation for the killing of a top commander, in the latest surge of violence in the steadily worsening conflict across the border. Sparked by the Gaza war, the conflict between Iran-backed Hezbollah and Israel has been gradually intensifying for months, raising fears of a full-scale war, which both sides have indicated they want to avoid and diplomats are working to prevent. As the latest violence played out in areas at or near the frontier — in keeping with the pattern of the last nine months — the sound of sonic booms rattled nerves for the second successive day in Beirut and other parts of Lebanon. Israeli jets broke the sound barrier over several areas of the country, Lebanon's National News Agency reported. Hezbollah said it launched more than 200 rockets and a swarm of drones at 10 Israeli military sites in retaliation for Israel's killing of Hezbollah commander Mohammed Nasser in the south on Wednesday. Nasser is one of the most senior Hezbollah commanders to be killed by Israel during the conflict. The Israeli military said around "200 projectiles and over 20 suspicious aerial targets were identified crossing from Lebanon into Israeli territory", a number of which were intercepted by Israeli air defences and fighter jets. Senior Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine, speaking at an event in Beirut commemorating Nasser, indicated his group would widen its targeting. "The series of responses continues in succession, and this series will continue to target new sites that the enemy did not imagine would be hit," Safieddine said. Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said on Wednesday Israeli forces were hitting Hezbollah "very hard every day" and will be ready to take any action necessary against the group, though the preference is to reach a negotiated arrangement.

India, China agree to work on border issues

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Indian Foreign Minister S u b r a h m a n y a m Jaishankar met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on Thursday in Kazakhstan where the two agreed to step up talks to resolve issues along their border, New Delhi said in a statement. India and China share a long Himalayan border, much of it poorly demarcated, and bilateral ties have been sour since a military standoff in July 2020 when at least 20 Indian soldiers and four Chinese troops were killed. India said Jaishankar met Wang on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Astana where they agreed that "prolongation of the current situation in the border areas is not in the interest of either side." The two agreed to enhance meetings between their diplomatic and military officials "to resolve the remaining issues at the earliest," the Indian foreign ministry said in a statement. China and India should properly handle their differences and ensure relations advance on a stable track, a Chinese foreign ministry statement quoted Wang as saying during the talks.

Six Chinese nationals killed in DR Congo attack

Monitoring Desk BENI: Militia fighters attacked a Chinese-linked mining site in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo on Wednesday, killing six Chinese nationals and at least two Congolese soldiers, local officials said. China condemned the attack, which took place in Djugu territory, in the gold-rich Ituri province. Djugu administrator Rughin Mapela said it was carried out by the CODECO (Cooperative for the Development of the Congo) militia.

Struggling Biden faces big test with ABC interview, vows to fight on

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden, scrambling to defuse a political crisis over his shaky debate performance, will participate in a television interview on Friday that will be closely watched for signs of whether his mental acuity is failing. Biden will travel to Madison, Wisconsin, to rally Democratic voters. During the trip he will be interviewed by ABC News, part of a flurry of events over the next week aimed at showing Americans he still has the stamina to run against Republican candidate Donald Trump in the November 5 election. While Biden insists he is staying in the race and that his health is not faltering, he is under enormous pressure to step aside and open a path for 59-year-old Vice President Kamala Harris. Some donors are making their displeasure known loudly, halting funding or looking at possible Democratic alternatives.

Rishi Sunak resigns after historic loss in UK elections

Monitoring Desk LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak departed from Buckingham Palace following his resignation as prime minister Friday morning, after the Conservative Party suffered staggering losses in the general election. He left 10 Downing Street after giving his final speech as prime minister, hours suffering a landslide defeat by the left-of-center Labour Party, which will form a government for the first time in 14 years. Rishi Sunak said he would step aside as Conservative leader once arrangements were made to select his successor, as the party sought to rebuild. Earlier, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak conceded defeat in the national election, saying the opposition Labour Party had won. "The Labour Party has won this general election and I have called Sir Keir Starmer to congratulate him on his victory," Sunak said after winning his parliamentary seat in northern England. "Today, power will change hands in a peaceful and orderly manner, with goodwill on all sides. That is something that should give us all confidence in our country's stability and future."

Hong Kong court hears mitigation pleas from Joshua Wong, other democrats

Monitoring Desk HONG KONG: Prominent Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong should be considered an active participant in a landmark subversion case involving 47 democrats, his lawyer said on Friday, but urged a court to hand him a lighter sentence for entering his plea early. Wong, 27, who wore a gray sweater and navy blue shirt in court, was one of dozens of democratic activists arrested in 2021 for participating in an unofficial poll to select candidates for a 2020 legislative council election. Of these, 47 were charged with "conspiracy to commit subversion" under a national security law imposed by Beijing. Wong's lawyer, Marco Li, told the court that while his client should be considered an active participant in the conspiracy, he had no involvement in organising or assisting in the primary election. In view of Wong's early plea of guilty, Li urged a reduction of a third in his sentence, which could range from three years to 10 for active participants in the conspiracy, but life for those judged to be "principal offenders". "He very much hopes that after all these offenses, he could part with his past history and be able to reform himself after this particular offense," Li added. Seated in a corner of the dock, Wong was separated from the other defendants by three prison guards. Before the hearing began, he had nodded and waved to friends and supporters.

Ukraine receives third Patriot air defence system from Germany

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Ukraine said on Friday it had taken receipt of its third German-supplied Patriot air defence system following months of pleas for equipment to protect its civilians and infrastructure from Russian air strikes. Moscow renewed its aerial assaults on Ukraine's national power grid in the spring, causing sweeping blackouts. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said earlier this year his country needed at least seven additional Patriot systems to protect itself. The Ukrainian defence ministry said on X the system had already been delivered and thanked Germany for "unwavering support". "It will help improve the protection of civilians and infrastructure."



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on Digitization and Reforms of FBR.

Delegations of Lawyers Forum & traders meet Bilawal: Chairman PPP directs CM to solve issues of Balochistan lawyers, traders on priority

Independent Report
 QUETTA: The Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has directed to the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti to resolve the issues of lawyers and traders communities of the province on priority basis. These directives were issued by the Chairman PPP during meetings with the representatives and leaders of Peoples Lawyers Forum and Balochistan's traders' community separately here at the Chief Minister's secretariat on Friday. The Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, senior leader of PPP, Ejaz

Jakhrani, Provincial President of PPP, Changez Jamali, provincial ministers and members of assembly belonging to the party besides other leaders were also present in the meetings. During meeting with the delegation of Peoples Lawyers Forum, the Chairman PPP was informed about the issues being faced by the lawyers' community of the province. The Chairman PPP directed to the Chief Minister to resolve the issues of lawyers on priority basis. The Lawyers Forum was comprised President Behram Tangi, General Secretary Ali Asghar, Secretary

Information, Abdul Rahim Kakar besides Mubashir Abakki, Zainuddin Kakar, Syed Sultan Shah, Nasir Hussain Jamali, Andleeb Qaisrani, Syed Zahoor Agha, Malik Tanveer Aslam Shahwani, Jamal Shah and Naeem Kolachi. While meeting with the delegation of traders' community led by Senator Bilal Mandokhail, informed him about the issues being faced by them. Besides, there was discussion on prospects of public-private partnership between the Chairman PPP and traders. In addition to this, they also discussed about the exports of minerals from the province.

Pak, Algeria to explore new avenues for partnership in trade, education

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Friday extended heartfelt felicitations to the Council of the Nation and the people of Algeria on the auspicious occasion of their Independence Day. In his message, he acknowledged the valiant struggle and sacrifices rendered by the people of Algeria to attain freedom and sovereignty. He admired the bond of friendship between Pakistan and Algeria, which is

based on mutual respect and shared aspirations for peace and progress. He said that both countries enjoy cordial relations at the international level and have supported each other in various international forums. Expressing optimism for the future, he said that Pakistan and Algeria would continue to work together to diversify cooperation and explore new avenues for partnership in trade, education, technology, and cultural exchanges.



QUETTA: MNA Ejaz Ahmed Jhakrani meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti

Senate told NADRA to cover over 11,000 UCs across Pak for data registration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Parliamentary Services and Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Friday apprised the Upper House of the Parliament that the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) would cover almost 11,777 union councils (UCs) across the country to enhance its population data registration footprint at the grassroots level. The Minister was responding to the question of

Senator Fawia Arshad during the second meeting of the 340th session of the Senate. Senator Tarar said the NADRA's UC level initiative would be rolled out across the country, whereas initially 11,500 UCs have been selected horizontally starting from the mega urban centers of the country covering every nook and corner and it would not be restricted to the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

Paigham-e-Pakistan campaign defeating enemies' agenda of hate: Maulana Khabeer Azad

DERA GHAZI KHAN (APP): Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee and Khateeb and Imam of Baadshahi Masjid, Syed Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad, said on Friday that ongoing Paigham-e-Pakistan campaign was delivering positive results and successfully defeated the enemies' agenda of creating divide among the Pakistanis. Maulana Syed Abdul Khabeer Azad was addressing Ittehad-e-Bain-ul-Muslimeen and Paigham-e-Pakistan conference at a local hotel here Friday. He is currently vis-

iting different districts as ambassador of peace on the orders of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to maintain unity and peace during the sacred month of Muharram-ul-Haram. He said, unity among people and following the Paigham-e-Pakistan guidelines was the need of the hour. He said, people should feel free to pay respects to Ahl-e-Bait, Khulafa-e-Raashideen, and Sahaba-e-Karam on specific days. He said that Pakistan Armed Forces have rendered numerous sacrifices in strengthening the country's defence.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan being briefed about Balochistan Assessment and Examination Commission

Digitisation of taxation system, Govt priority to prevent evasion of billions: PM

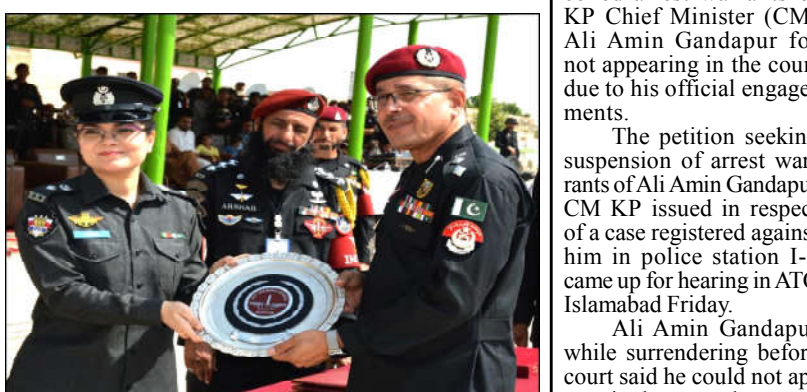
ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, calling the digitisation of taxation system government's priority to prevent tax evasion worth billions of rupees, on Friday directed the authorities concerned to immediately create a dashboard to monitor the ongoing digitisation and implementation of the reforms. The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the reforms process of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), instructed to bring the taxable non-filers into the tax net and revoke the discretionary powers of the customs appraisers, and sought an implementation report from FBR chairman within 24 hours. During the briefing on FBR's digitisation, the meeting was informed that during the FBR digitisation, 4.5 million taxable individuals have been identified who were not part of the tax net. It was told that consequent to the government's measures, over 300,000 more individuals have filed their tax returns within few weeks. Besides, the refunds of 4,000 companies have been stopped during last two weeks, following the detection of under-invoicing and forged sales tax returns. The prime minister said that the tax evaders as well as the officers and staffs facilitating them would be brought to book and vowed not to spare those plundering the public kitty. Besides, the taxpayers fulfilling their responsibility timely would be acknowledged too, he added. Prime Minister Shehbaz said that state-of-the-art scanners would be installed at the seaports to ensure transparency and prevent corruption in the system. He also sought a comprehensive report on the magnitude of tax evasion and the measures for its prevention. He vowed to introduce a taxation system of international standard in the country and called for engaging well reputed professionals and experts for formulation of tax policy. The prime minister sought a comprehensive strategy on FBR's digitisation and reforms and the set targets in the next meeting. Federal ministers Muhammad Aurangzeb and Ahmad Khan Cheema, Minister of State Ali Pervaiz Malik, PM's Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal, FBR Chairman, CEO of Pakistan Business Council Ehsan Malik, CEO of Karandaz Waqasul Hassan and relevant senior officer attended the meeting. Dr Shamsad Akhtar, Naveed Andrabai, Asif Pir and Ali Malik joined the meeting via video link.



QUETTA: Female MPAs of Balochistan Assembly photographed with Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari after a meeting.

Secretary LG chairs meeting about increasing birth registration in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Secretary Local Government (LG) Balochistan Abdul Rauf Baloch on Friday chaired a meeting regarding increasing birth registration in the province. The meeting was attended by Director General of Local Government Department, Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah, Director General of B.I.S.P., Chief of Foreign Aid Najeed Babari, Deputy Secretary of Local Government Department Syed Maqsood Anwar, Deputy Secretary of Education Department Mehmoood Hasan, Director NADRA, Health Department Officer, Child Protection Officer UNICEF and other high officials. The meeting was told that the responsibility of birth registration, marriage, divorce and death registration was the constitutional mandate of the Local Government Department under the Balochistan Local Government Act 2010 and 2020. It was informed in the meeting that the period of normal birth registration would be increased from sixty days to one year, the fee of which was 100 rupees while there were clear procedures for registration from one year to twenty years. The total number of Union Council of Balochistan is 1043 while in line CR. S. The number of Union Councils is 515. And 63 are urban CSRMs said in the meeting, the meeting was told. The participants of the meeting were further informed that 6279 birth registrations, 3557 death certificates, 94 divorce certificates and 3089 marriage certificates had been issued in the last month of June.



QUETTA: Commandant ATF Training School Col (ret) Asad Farooq presenting a souvenir to AIG Police Welfare Faryal Fared during concluding ceremony of passing out parade of 16th batch at ATF school

Passing out parade of 183 cops at ATF school: ATF personnels have wholehearted capability to counter terrorism, says Assistant IG Police

Independent Report
 QUETTA: The Assistant Inspector General of Police, Ms. Faryal Fared has stated that the personnels of Anti-Terrorist Force (ATF) have wholehearted capability to counter terrorism and eliminate terrorists. The Assistant IGP was addressing the passing out parade of the Police personnels at the ATF training school here on Friday morning. In all 183 personnels passed out after completion of 16th basic course. Speaking on the occasion, the Assistant IGP congratulated the jawans on completion of the basic course at the ATF training school. She said that it is no less than a challenge to maintain law and order situation in view of the specific geographic circumstances and significance. She said that police have rendered great sacrifices for elimination of terrorism and incidents of kidnapping for ransom in the province. She exhorted the personnels to work hard round the clock for progress in their professional careers. She also urged them to take well care of the self-respect of the people besides honouring the human rights. Ms. Faryal Fared said that the basic aim of police is to ensure crime and corruption free society. She expressed the hope that the passed out jawans would play their role in improving the policing system further. The Assistant IGP on the occasion appreciated the standard of training of the ATF training schools and said that it is manifestation of the hard work and dedication of the training staff. The Commandant ATF Training School, Colonel (Retd) Asad Farooq presented welcome address on the occasion. He said that the Balochistan Police officers and jawans have embraced martyrdom for the sake of maintaining law and order in the province.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Asim Kurd Gailo meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Attallah Tarar says: Newspapers received advertisements of Rs 9 bln as compared to news channels

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attallah Tarar on Friday said the newspapers of the country had received the maximum advertisements of Rs 9 billion whereas the new channels were given Rs 6 billion advertisements. Responding to the question of Senator Sarmad Ali Khan pertaining to criteria for news channels and newspapers during the question hour session of the second meeting of the 340th session of the Senate of Pakistan, the Minister informed that the newspapers were facing financial crisis due to which the current government paid special attention to it. Attallah Tarar said at present as per the 1997 Services Manual, advertisements were given to the news and media outlets. He added that a policy for advertisement was introduced in 2021 which was amended in 2022. "There is no criteria to gauge electronic media's eligibility for getting advertisements. However, our rates' committee based on rating of news channels allows a limit or number of advertisements to be given to a particular channel," he said. The Minister underlined that at present no advertisements for any news channel were halted by the current government. The criteria, he said for advertisement to convey the intended message to maximum audience effectively, whereas the rating system for news channels helps achieve that ambition.

PPP Women Wing delegation meets Chairman Bilawal

Independent Report
 QUETTA: The delegation of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Women Wing Balochistan called on the Chairman of PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari here on Friday. The Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, and other party leaders were also present in the meeting. The members of PPP Women Wing discussed with the Chairman different suggestions about representation of women in different sectors of the province. The Chairman PPP directed to the Chief Minister to resolve the issues of PPP Women Wing's office bearers and workers immediately. The PPP Women Wing delegation was comprised: Provincial President, Ghazala Gola, senior Vice Presidents, Parveen Mengal, Kalsoom Iftikhar, Mehmooda Nasreen, Deputy General Secretary, Sakina Abdullah, Information Secretary, Kiran Baloch, Benazir Gola, Saba Kakar, Hoor Shahwani, Media Coordinator, Faiza Popalzai, Khadija Zehri, Mah Jabeen Kurd, Ahdia Hazara, Zamar Shahid, Bilquis Awan, Maryam Rajpoot, Nargis Mustafa, Shahida Khan, Nargis Iqbal, Rabia Khawajakhail and Saira Gorgej.

School Meal Program for lagging districts of Balochistan on cards

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Benazir Income Support Programme, Ministry of Education and Professional Training and World Food Programme are continuing collaborative efforts on the development of School Meal Programme to provide nutritious meals in 500 public sector schools in Balochistan's lagging districts. The programme has been conceived in line with the directives of Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif to provide nutritious meals to the schools in the province for which the government

of Balochistan, WFP and BISP have listed 500 schools. To discuss the progress on this initiative, a meeting was held here, co-chaired by Secretary BISP, Amer Ali Ahmad along with Secretary Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Mohyuddin Wani, as a follow-up for the implementation of PM directive on School Meals Programme. Country Director WFP, Ms. Coco Ushiyama was also present along with her team including the representative of WFP from Balochistan.



QUETTA: Relatives of Diljan Baloch along with Mama Qadeer, Vice Chairman of Voice for Baloch Missing Persons (VBMP) addressing a press conference, at Quetta press club.

Step afoot to develop Quaid-e-Azam Public Library: DC Kakar

ZIARAT (APP): Deputy Commissioner Ziarat Liaquat Ali Kakar on Friday said that measures were being taken to further improve Quaid-e-Azam Public Library so that people of the area would take beneficial of it and show proof of book-friendliness. He expressed these views while chairing a Custodial Committee meeting in connection with Quaid-e-Azam Public Library. The meeting was attended by District Education Officer Latifullah Gharshin, Senior Public Librarian Quetta Balochistan Imran Jatak, Assistant Librarian Ziarat Muhammad Idris Nasir, Professor Zakir Ziaratwal, Saleh Muhammad Ziarwal, Mehmoood Tareen, Muhammad Hashim Kakar, Abdul Manan Sarangzai and Humayun Khan Kakar. It was decided in the meeting that the library budget would be taken according to the demand and need of Quaid-e-Azam Public Library. The Deputy Commissioner was briefed that eighty percent of the work of cataloging the books has been completed, the membership and card work was concluded and would soon be inaugurated by Commissioner Sibi Division. Deputy Commissioner Liaquat Ali Kakar said that steps were taking to more develop Quaid-e-Azam Public Library. He said that the people of Ziarat District should take beneficial of Quaid-e-Azam Public Library and show proof of book-friendliness.