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Imran Khan ready to hold talks with military

Voice of masses

Army should nominate representative for negotiations: ex-PM

Monitoring Desk

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) imprisoned founder Imran Khan said Tuesday that his party was ready to hold talks with the military.

The PTI founder, who appeared in a court established in Adiala jail for a hearing, said: "We are ready to hold talks with the military. The army should nominate their representative [for negotiations]."

Khan, who has been imprisoned for nearly a year, said that his party had never levelled allegations against the army, but had only criticised the armed

He further said that if any PTI worker was found guilty in the May 9, 2023,

riots then the authorities Punjab Inspector General should penalise the indi-

Khan reiterated that the incumbent government Punjab Chief Minister armed forces.

When asked why was he seeking talks when he was criticising the army and why wasn't he seeking talks with political parties, he said: "What is the SIFC? Who is Mohsin Naqvi? There is an undeclared martial law." Khan said that Interior Minister Naqvi was that he had reached "this place due to them"

Naqvi as he along with the

(IG) "oppressed" his party. In his statement, the

wanted to destroy his party Maryam Nawaz "fascist" by creating a wedge be- while pointing towards tween PTI party and the back-to-back arrests of the party leadership across the province. The deposed prime minister, referring to his arrest last year, alleged that he was "abducted from judicial complex" and "it was declared legal by the Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Aamer Farooq". He demanded the IHC CJ to recuse himself "their" representative and from his cases. Appealing





ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari meeting a delegation of Commonwealth, led by the Secretary-General of Commonwealth, Ms Patricia Scotland, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Bugti participates in PC's meeting about Kachhi canal project: Rehabilitation of Kachhi canal necessary before formulation of strategy to cope with

flood situation in future: Chief Minister Federal Minister Planning assures water supply would be restored in

Kachhi canal immediately before long term project of rehabilitation Independent Report

OUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has noted with concern that the agriculturalists are facing hardships due to non availability of water in Kachhi canal as such there is a need to restore water supply in the canal after

desalting The Chief Minister insisted that there is a need to rehabilitate the Kachhi canal before formulation of the strategy to cope with the flood situation in future.

He said that that the planning for prevention of flood is a long process, as long as it is done, the sup-ply of water should be

The Chief Minister also stressed that the long term

immediate restoration of water is unavoidable.

He was speaking at the meeting of Planning Commission about the Kachhi canal project in which he participated through video link on Tuesday.

The Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal presided over meeting of the Planning Commission. Besides the Chief Minister, the Provincial Ministers and other high ups also participated in the meeting through video link.

Expressing the views about Kachhi canal, the Chief Minister noted that the project of Kachhi canal has been lying pending, which otherwise had started in 2002. e said that the project was restarted in 2013. The irrigation of around

one lakh acres of land had

been started under Phaseof the project, he recalled adding that the 2022 flood caused damages to the Kachhi canal and then water supply was suspended from

This also resulted in suspension of the cultivation in the command area due to closure of canal, he maintained He said that the people don't have the water for drinking and forcing the dwellers to migrate from the area.

While the Chief Minister strongly advocated the need to restore water supply in Kachhi canal in view of the hardships of the growers, the Federal Minister was agreed with the proposal of Chief Minister Bugti and assured that the water supply would be restored in Kachhi canal immediately

President Zardari for stronger cooperation with CW

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has emphasised the need for stronger cooperation with the Commonwealth in areas of climate change, education, parliamentary exchanges and disaster pre-

paredness. He called for enhanced interactions among parlia-mentary bodies, particularly young parliamentarians and students, to further strengthen and promote the bonds of friendship with Commonwealth nber states.

The president expressed these views while talking to a delegation led by the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Patricia Scotland, at Aiwan-

e-Sadr, on Tueday. Welcoming the delegation, the president said that Pakistan, being the founding member of the Commonwealth, attached great importance to this organization for promoting cooperation among member

The meeting exchanged views on the consequences of climate change for Pakistan. The president said that Pakistan had suffered

a lot due to the impacts of climate change. He informed that over 2 million mangroves had been planted in Sindh to mitigate the impacts of climate change which had also earned \$ 27 million by trading carbon credits in the international market.

He also mentioned that the Sindh government had started constructing 2 million flood-resilient houses in the wake of the floods of 2022. Secretary-General Patricia Scotland said that Pakistan was facing huge challenges relating to Climate Change and was among the countries most vulnerable to its conse-

She highlighted the Commonwealth's robust engagement with Pakistan and expressed her gratitude for Pakistan's continuous support for the work of the organization.

The president appreciated Secretary-General Patricia Scotland's climate advocacy for Pakistan in meeting the adverse impacts of climate change, especially in the aftermath of the climate-change-induced devastating floods in 2022



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Senator Musadik Malik addressing a press con-

Economic policies show results, inflation drops sharply: Musadik Malik

leum Dr. Musadik Malik on Tuesday announced that the government's economic policies were yielding positive results under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He highlighted a significant reduction in food inflation from 48% to 2%, with ongoing efforts to further control price hikes and provide re-

lief to the public. During a press conference, Dr. Malik reported that overall inflation in the country has decreased from 38% to 12% due to the government's interventions. The inflation, he said, was gradually falling and

ISLAMABAD (APP): suggest the country was Federal Minister for Petro-moving towards stability. Addressing key priorities, the minister noted that the government was focused on alleviating poverty, reducing inflation, and creating job opportunities for the youth Despite facing eco-

nomic challenges, the gov-

ernment has allocated Rs 600 billion in the current federal budget to uplift the poor. This budget includes funds for the construction of dams, roads, and motorways, which were expected to generate job opportunities. Additionally, development projects were being prioritized in underdeveloped areas to ben-

kistan Army Act, 1952 for

the charges of inciting sedi-

tion among army personnel

from discharge of duties and

violation of the provisions

of Official Secrets Act, 1923

related to espionage and acts

prejudicial to the safety and

that economic indicators efit local communities. Ex Lt-Col Akbar Hussain

ISPR says Hussain's rank of officer has been forfeited and he has been awarded 14 years of "rigorous imprisonment".

court martialled for

incitement to revolt

RAWALPINDI (INP): Lt- Martial (FGCM) under Pa-Col (retd) Akbar Hussain was court martialled on Tuesday for inciting military personnel to revolt and handed down 14 years in prison. According to the ISPR, the public relations department of Pakistan Army, Lt-Col Akbar was sentenced under the Field General Court Martial.

The Inter-Services Public Relations statement added that the former lieutenant colonel was tried by a court of competent jurisbeen confiscated.

diction. His rank has also Earlier, Major ® Adil Farooq Raja and Captain ® Haider Raza Mehdi were also convicted and sentenced

interest of the State. The court of competent jurisdiction had convicted and adjudged both Adil

Farooq Raja and Haider Raza Mehdi on the date of 7th and 9th October 2023, through due judicial process, with the punishments awarded as 14 and 12 years of rigorous imprisonment respectively and forfeiture of rank of both individuals with effect from 21 Novemthrough Field General Court ber 2023.

Four killed, seven inured in road accident

CHAGHI (APP): Four persons on Tuesday were killed while seven others sustained injuries as a car overturned near checkpost, Padak.

The levies forces shifted the bodies and injured to Basic Health Unit (BHU), Padak, the official source said. Serious injured were referred to DHQ, Nushki, he added. The source said the dead persons included a woman and three children. The bodies were handed over to fami-

lies after completing legal formalities.

cial Ministers and officials participating in a meeting through video link chaired by Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal about Kachhi canal Bill prohibiting independent candidates from joining parties tabled in NA

Independents will not be considered political party members at a later stage if they didn't already submit declaration showing affiliation; The proposed amendment aims to alter Sections 66 and 104 of the Elections Act 2017

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, Provin-

The National Assembly has introduced the Second Amendment Bill to the Elections Act 2024, prohibiting independent candidates from joining another political party after a speci-

fied period. The session, chaired by Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, saw PML-N member Bilal Kavani present the bill. The proposed amendment aims to alter Sections 66 and 104 of the Elections Act 2017, restricting independent candidates from joining political parties after a constitutionally and legally defined period.

The bill suggests that independent candidates should not be allowed to join any political party

Independent Report

QUETTA: All is set to op-

erate the direct Umrah

flights from Quetta to

Saudi Arabia from August

6, 2024. The Governor

Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar

Khan Mandokhail is

scheduled to inaugurate

the Quetta-Saudi Ărabia

General Manager PIA

Ghaffar Miankhail met the

Governor, Sheikh Jaffar

Mandokhail along with

the PIA team here at the

Governor House on Tues-

rect flights from Quetta to

During the course of

Balochistan,

In this regard, the

Abdul

meeting, details of the di- change would also be en-

Saudi Arabia were shared at Quetta airport.

timeframe. It also states that parties failing to submit a list of reserved seats within the specified period will not be eligible for those

The bill further states that candidates who do not submit an affidavit of party affiliation to the returning officer will be considered independent. Candidates declaring party affiliation post-election will not be recognised as candidates of that party, and the second amendment to the Elections Act 2017 will be en-

forced retroactively. The law minister recommended the bill be referred to the standing committee, which Speaker Sadiq subsequently did, instructing the committee

by the GM PIA with the

sion, Governor said that

provision of facility of

travelling to Saudi Arabia

from Quetta is welcoming

thanked the Prime Min-

Shahbaz Sharif for en-

suring air travelling fa-

cilities to the people of

operation of PIA would

be ensured from Quetta

on the daily basis. Be-

sides, the facilities of

ATM, first medical aid

and foreign currency ex-

sured for the passengers

He said that the flight

particularly

Muhammad

initiative.

Balochistan

Speaking on the occa-

Governor Balochistan.

QUETTA: Member Balochistan National Commis-

sion Shaina Khan and Member Sindh National

Commission Bholal Sitani meeting with Deputy

Commissioner Balochistan Assembly Ghazala Gola

GM PIA Balochistan meets Governor:

Quetta-Saudi Arabia direct Umra

flights to start from August 6

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): within the stipulated chairman to convene a meeting the following day. Additionally, the Pakistan National Excellence In-

stitute Bill 2024 was passed during the session. Amjad Ali Khan of the Sunni Ittehad Council presented a bill to criminalise enforced disappearances, which was also referred to the standing committee.

Further, the West Paistan Maintenance of Public Order Amendment Bill was presented by Sahibzada Sibghatullah and referred to the relevant committee by the speaker. Agha Rafiullah introduced the Federal Employees Benevolent Fund and Group Insurance Amendment Bill 2024, which was sent to the standing com-

mittee. Masoud Pezeshkian sworn in as Iran's ninth president

EHRAN (INP): Iranian President reformist Masoud Pezeshkian was sworn before parliament on Tuesday as the Islamic republic's ninth president at a ceremony attended by foreign dignitaries.

Pezeshkian won a runoff race against ultraconservative Saeed Jalili on July 5 to replace president Ebrahim Raisi who died in a helicopter crash in May.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar visited Tehran on Tuesday to attend the investiture ceremony of the Presidentelect of Iran, Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian. On behalf of the people and Government of Pakistan, the DPM conveyed a message of felicitations and best wishes for President Pezeshkian on his assumption of office. He congratulated the Iranian nation on the successful and smooth transitioning of power.

Attaullah Tarar says

PTI founder's call for talks with institution, another conspiracy against state

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar Tuesday said the call made by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder for negotiation with the institution was nothing but another conspiracy against the coun-

This is another attempt of the PTI founder to drag the state institutions in his "dirty politics", said the minister in a media talk outside the Parlia-

He wondered how the PTI founder quickly changed his own stance on the concept of the neutrality of the institutions. "It is not acceptable for him that the state institutions are neutral and now for his own political benefits, he wants them to be involved in the politics which is regrettable," he added.

The minister believed that the call for negotiation was made as the PTI founder preempted stern action against himself and his party after a raid on their social media cell which was operating in connivance with the en emies of the state.

OUETTA: A delegation led by Chairman Al-Hijra Trust Abdul Karim Sagib

meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

He said further investigation into the operation of the social media cell would expose their alleged relations and connection with the state's enemies who were involved in formulating anti-state policies. The minister said economic progress of the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also perturbed the PTI founder who had completely molded his harsh

stance and tone. "The PTI founder takes another U-turn today by suddenly requesting the institution to appoint a representative for talks.' the minister said wondering how quickly he transitioned from his earlier stance of "I won't let 'to "Please talk to me.'

Calling out him for his ypocrisy, Tarar said the PTI founder had resorted to the requests for talks after he realized that his shallow threats to the institutions would not work in any

BISP to impart technical training to women, youth in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP) Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) will impart technical training to youth and vulnerable women in Balochistan province for empowering

This was discussed

during a meeting between Chairperson Benazir Income Programme (BISP), Rubina Khalid and Minister for Education and Technical Training, Balochistan, Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani. The meeting was held

to discuss this collaborative initiative aimed at empowering youth and vulnerable women through technical training. The program aims at

uplifting the lives of BISP beneficiaries through equipping them with the latest

The meeting focused on leveraging the expertise of both departments to provide marketdriven skills training, enhancing employability and economic opportunities for marginalized groups.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over meeting Executive Com-

Daily Aoice of Masse, Independent

Summer of protests

Pakistan is seeing some seismic disruptions in its social order. Recent developments in Balochistan. KP and Islamabad depict a society in flux, one which is facing severe, intense internal pressures due to tensions between the state and its people. All three areas have recently witnessed significant turmoil, and, in each case, those making decisions at the top have appeared out of their depth when dealing with the troubles. As a result, the country's challenges, instead of being contained, now seem to be expanding.

Consider the ongoing unrest in Balochistan. When Mahrang Baloch had marched to Islamabad last winter to peacefully demand the whereabouts of missing persons, she was met with scorn and treated in the crudest way possible. The Baloch people, from all walks of life, have now rallied around her, and the state is finding it difficult to cope with the outpouring of sympathy for her cause. Out of desperation, it is responding with even more violence, thereby stoking anger in the province to precarious levels.

Then consider Bannu, which recently saw an uprising due to the federal government's failure to separate national security from politics. The locals and the armed forces, who both want the land rid of militancy, found themselves facing off instead due to the erosion of trust between them. Violence and unnecessary bloodshed followed, which have added to the preexisting tensions between KP and the centre. Much damage had already been done by the time it was clarified that the people of Bannu need not fear any large-scale military operation. One wonders if matters would have unfolded differently if the federal government had heeded multiple calls to take the provincial political leadership into confidence.

Then there is Islamabad, where the state has taken several contradictory positions in recent days. Days before the JI protest, an important artery in the federal capital was recently seized by the TLP, and its sudden decision to protest the war in Palestine was entertained till matters were settled with talks. Apparently not satisfied with the nuisance it had caused, the party then issued a death warrant for the chief justice. Though condemnations have been issued and a case registered, it is evident that the state's 'soft touch' in dealing with the TLP has emboldened it enough that it feels it can cross unthinkable lines.

On the other hand, the campaign to suppress the PTI continues apace, even though the party has repeatedly asserted that it only wants to protest peacefully. This endorsement of double standards for 'favoured' and 'disfavoured' social groups is antagonistic and may provoke more people to take extreme positions. From Gwadar to Islamabad, there is a need to urgently rethink the policies that have been chosen. Instead of solving problems, they are catalysing societal breakdown.

Cycle of recidivism

Rida Tahir

The current approach in the country of incarcerating individuals for minor offen-ces leads to a cascade of negative effects. This includes overcrowded prisons and the cycle of recidivism, where individuals bec-o--me trapped in the criminal justice system. In each province, the number of under-trial prisoners exceeds the number of convicted inmates. Prisons across Pakistan have an overcrowding rate of 152.2 per cent, with some jails operating over 200pc of their capacity. As of 2023, Pakistan holds 100,366 prisoners in its 127 jails, according to data released by Justice Project Pakistan.

This highlights the shortcomings Pakistan's probation and parole systems, excessive dependence on im- Minimum Rules for Nonprisonment, and the urgent need to reform laws and policies regarding incarceration.

The solution to reducing crime does not lie in building more prisons to imprison more people, but rather in reforming offenders so that they can reintegrate as productive members of society.

Exposure to the jail environment increases the likelihood of future needs of the offender". criminal behaviour (recidivism). It disproportionately affects first-time offenders, as it leads to loss of income, which disrupts families and communities

At the societal level, it imposes costs on taxpayers for housing and caring for individuals who may not pose a significant threat to public safety. It also contributes towards an overburdened criminal justice rehabilitative mechasystem. This can strain nisms. law-enforcement resources and congest court dockets, which diverts attention from more serious crimes.

role serve the purpose of KP Probation and Parole Dawn

community rehabilitation Act, 2021, respectively. and reintegration of offenders. Therefore, as an alternative to imprisonment, the probation and parole system can play a vital role in community rehabilitation of offenders, ending the cycle of recidivism and reducing the

prison population. The primary distinctions between these two non-custodial sanctions lie in their administration: probation is judicially granted, whereas parole is authorised by the executive. Additionally, probation involves the suspension of a sentence along with community service (such as roadside clean-up), whereas parole is usually granted towards the end of a prisoner's mandatory imprisonment period, based on the good conduct of

The UN Standard custodial Measures (Tokyo Rules) were formulated to provide a set of basic principles to promote the use of non-custodial measures. Rule 1.5 of the Tokyo Rules encourage states to "develop non-custodial measures ... taking into account the observance of human rights, the requirements of social justice and the rehabilitation

the prisoner.

After Pakistan's independence in 1947, probation and parole are governed by the Probation of Offender Ordinance, 1960, the Good Conduct Prisoners Probational Relea--se Act. 1926, and the Good Conduct Priso-n-ers' Probational Rules, 1927. Unfortunately, these laws are based on colonial-era practice and a retributive model, lacking adequate

Punjab and KP reformed the laws related to through the Punjab Probation and Parole Ser-Probation and pa-vices Act, 2019, and the of recidivism. -- Courtesy

These laws shift towards rehabilitative and restorative justice. In Sindh, the Good Conduct Prisoners Probational Release Act, 1926, is still applicable. How-ever, the Home Department has proposed reforms in the shape of the Sindh Good Conduct Prisoners Probational Rules, 2024. Under Rule 6, a 'Parole Committee' has been proposed which includes the Sindh Human Rights Commission, an independent sub-national human rights ins-titution with the mandate to monitor human rights violations.

Further, the Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018, provides the legal framework related to probation and parole of children in conflict with the law. However, only KP has formulated the rules under JJSA. The rest of the provinces and Islamabad Capital Territory must formulate the rules to protect the best interests of children in conflict with

This is a step in the right

direction.

The Supreme Court in the Raja Azmat case stated that: "It is a right of every eligible prisoner to be considered for the purposes of enjoying liberty on the basis of probation." The court directed the federal and provincial governments to ensure that laws relating to the release of a prisoner based on probation are implemented and

made functional. Therefore, the state must strengthen the Directorate of Reclamation & Probation by appointing capable probation and parole officers. Further, technology such as electronic monitoring and GPS tracking can be utilised to improve supervision, efficiency and effectiveness. Pakistan probation and parole must adopt an efficient probation and parole system to end the cycle

Misplaced urgency

Mohsin Fareed

The next time you are Our brain is exhausted travelling, sitting in your office, walking in a park, roaming in a shopping mall or just hanging out look around you. You will notice folks anxiously scrolling down ment. their mobile phone screens, to catch up with the latest messages, calls, feeds or status up-Living in an in-

creasingly fast-paced, interconnected world, which demands urgency at every step, the compulsion to constantly accomplish and advance can be overwhelming. From workrelated issues to social media notifications, there is a general perception of urgency in our lives. This urgent way of life obfuscates the line between the actually important and seemingly important tasks. At work, this in-

volves dealing with lastminute queries, odd deadlines, insane workloads, and the idea that one must be accessible even after office hours. In personal life, this phenomenon translates into overstrained relationships, quently checking social mediately responding to calls and texts. This 'always on'

culture requires multitasking. However, our brain lacks the neurocognitive buildup to perform multiple So, it slows down, reducing productivity by about 40 per cent every time we try to multitask. are not doing so. Mean-

are, the less joy we feel. by the repeated desire to process information and Engaging in an assignthought requires a distraction-free environ-

A false state of urgency dupes the body sion has taken another into adopting a 'fight or step and reached the flight' response. Our digital era, where the fobreathing becomes cus of attention is hufaster, our heart rate and blood pressure go up, and we lose the ability to regulate our emo- media, tablets or tions. This erratic re- smartphones is becomsponse might lead to hypertension, hormonal imbalance, sleep deprivation and immune dis- attention which is at orders. Thus, the culture stake anymore. With the of urgency can be deleterious to our physical well-being in the long

Digital content cap-

tures not just our gaze, but also our attention. Since its inception, technology has been a guileful friend, wellversed in pilfering our mindfulness. This 'original sin' of technology reflects the evolution of our interaction with the tools we create and use every day. Today, we have an abundance of online friends, and strive to make even media updates, and im- more by liking or shar- can also embroil us furing content, but we are unaware of what is going on among our close family and friends' circles, even if they're living in the same house

or neighbourhood. Social comparison tasks simultaneously. theory explains the ur- that is resulting from exthat describes the urge to constantly feel pressured to accomplish Besides, the attraction tasks quickly. In our for distraction that false perception of othdrives most multitasking ers achieving more or can be hard to shut outpacing us, we feel down, thus making it dif- compelled to keep up ficult to focus even if we with them, culminating in an endless cycle of while, our dopamine haste and stress. The on what is important system is de-sensitised lines between our work rather than on what is continuous and leisure are blurred overstimulation. The by our dependency on Dawn

more overstimulated we social media, making it challenging to disconnect and engage meaningfully with others. Ironically, this constant make quick decisions. connectivity can erode our sense of belonging with friends or family, ment that calls for and contribute to feelings of loneliness and alienation.

Our transition from press to radio to televiman attention itself. Over time, each iteration of technology, social ing more and more efficient at capturing our focus. But it is not just our advent of artificial intelligence, the concept of attention itself has been bi-furcated. On the one hand, human attention is frail and finite. On the other hand, the attention of AI has become vast and refines itself progressively.

The realm of attention has gone beyond the human spirit into the battlefield of cere-

bral computing. AI is a doubleedged sword, both emancipator and conspirator. It can liberate us from overburden, but ther. AI has created a delicate rhythm between the creator and the created. It is important to establish clear boundaries including digital ones to avoid the sense of false urgency phenomenon cessive assumptions and multitasking. We can become more pragmatic about what is possible to achieve over a day, a week, a year or even a lifespan by acknowledging the limits of our time, strength and attention. The key component is spending time urgent.

Commerce News

Digital push in Pakistan's agriculture sector takes off

United Nations Food and Agriculture (FAO), here on Tuesday marked the official launch of the Digital Agriculture Consortium (DAC), a pivotal step in transforming Pakistan's agriculture through digital

The event, part of the PDAC project "Technical Support for the Establishment of Pakistan Digital Agriculture Consortium," was backed by the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Ministry of

Research (MNFSR).

It brought together a wide range of participants, including digital agriculture advancements, companies, mechanization service providers, digital service providers, financial representatives, policymakers, and development partners.

Management System also attended.

The event showcased

products and services, giving attendees a hands-on look at the latest precision agriculture tools

technologies. The event covered key areas like digital track and traceability systems Government bodies and land information such as the Ministry of management, Information Technology & demonstrating how these Telecommunication and technologies can improve Land Information & agricultural productivity and efficiency.

Panel discussions featured industry experts

National Food Security and various digital agriculture and thought leaders discussing topics like bridging gaps in ag-tech solutions and post-harvest

> The DAC also began enrolling stakeholders into the consortium, aiming to integrate key players from government, private sector, academic institutions, and agri-tech companies into a unified platform. This coalition is committed to advancing digital agriculture across Pakistan. The primary goal of the DAC launch was to highlight the consortium.



Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

LARKANA: Farmers pour dates into a large pot for boiling after harvesting, right in their field on outskirts area in the city.

SMBR reviews audit report, BoR reforms

LAHORE (APP): Senior PPSC would conduct exams Member Board of Revenue (SMBR) Nabil Javed on Tuesday chaired an important meeting in the committee room in which establishment of revenue academy, audit report, powers of DCs and ADCRs, vacancies of revenue officers, KPIs, Board of Revenue (BoR) reforms were reviewed.

Secretary BoR Shafqatullah Mushtaq, Director Operations PLRA Anjum Zahra, PLRA officials participated commissioner Sahiwal and DG PLRA were also present. Secretary BoR Shafqatullah Mushtaq briefed the SMBR about new recruitments of revenue per modern requirements officers. He briefed that

soon for vacant posts. In the meeting, promotion of Naib Tehsildar Godawars and Patwaris was also reviewed while details were also sought from all divisions to complete the promotion cases as soon as possible. The SMBR reviewed the establishment of BoR Academy and training of revenue officers in detail. He issued instructions for the immediate appointment of new principal of Revenue Academy. Nabil Javed said that the performance of the academy would be improved for the training of the revenue officials and to harmonise requirements, restructuring of academy as

would be ensured

PSX turns bearish, loses 198 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Tuesday, losing 198.94 points, a negative change of 0.25 percent, closing at 78,628.81 points against 78,827.74 points on the last working day.

A total of 313,085,457 shares were traded during the day as compared to 371,087,020 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 17.615 billion against Rs 19.156 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 447

companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 152 of them recorded gains and 239 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 56 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were The Organic Meat with 24,830,333 shares at Rs 40.47 per share, The Searle Company with 24,067,099 shares at Rs 60.31 per share and Fauji Cement with 15,819,905 shares at Rs 21.63 per

share. Rafhan Products Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 77.44 per share price, closing at Rs 7,590.00.

Ambassador Hashmi visits Shanghai, eyeing Chinese investments in key sectors

Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi on Tuesday said the Yangtze River Delta, a thriving economic engine and manufacturing powerhouse in China, is emerging as a hub for potential collaboration between Pakistan and China in areas such as electric vehicles, new energy materials, and semiconductors.

The ambassador's itinerary underscored region

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan Pakistan's efforts to foster deeper economic ties and explore avenues for investment cooperation

During his ongoing visit to Shanghai, China, Ambassador Hashmi engaged in a series of meetings with political leaders, business elites, academics and the media, highlighting the city's pivotal role as a gateway to the Yangtze River Delta

Agriculture minister chairs meeting to review progress of ongoing development schemes

LAHORE (APP): Minister the province with the for Agriculture & Livestock, Punjab Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani Tuesday chaired a high level meeting at Agriculture House, Lahore in which the progress of ongoing schemes related to agricultural development was reviewed.

timelines of the Transforming Punjab Agriculture Programme' were also reviewed. The minister said that

a new era of agricultural

development would begin in

implementation of initiatives of the chief minister, Punjab. It was told during the briefing that so far 3 lakh 56 thousand farmers had submitted applications for CM Kissan Card, after scrutiny of which more than 1 lakh 50 In the meeting, the thousand applications had been sent to Bank of Punjab for approval. Apart from this, modern machinery (Pak Seeder) to be provided to the farmers under the CM Smog Control Programme was under preparation

NEPRAAsaan approach mobile application to be launched today ISLAMABAD (APP):

National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) is going to launch a mobile application called 'NEPRA Asaan Approach' designed for electricity consumers in Pakistan, on Wednesday. This app will enable users to register complaints related to electricity issues such as power outages & fluctuations, electrical fires, line faults, and billing discrepancies etc in the minimum possible time, said a press release issued here Tuesday.

Rupee sheds 15 paisa against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Tuesday depreciated by 15 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.65 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.50. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 278.5 and Rs 280.06 respectively. The price of Euro came down by 35 paisa to close at Rs 301.57 against the last day's closing of Rs 301.92, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Rana Tanveer calls for technology adoption to boost agri productivity ISLAMABAD (APP): technologies like ICT, IoT

Minister for Industries, Production and National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday emphasized the need for modernization and technology adoption in the agriculture sector to boost productivity, reduce costs, and increase exports.

Speaking at a seminar titled 'Change of Agriculture of Pakistan', the minister said that the traditional farming practices were unsustainable inefficient. He said that rate by 2.38 percent.

mobile applications, GPS/ GIS, and UAVs are playing a significant role in transforming traditional farming practices. "Traditional farming

practices are unsustainable and inefficient, which increase costs and reduce profits", Rana Tanveer said. The minister said that the agricultural sector grew by 6.25 per cent last year, surpassing other sectors and boosting the and overall economic growth

Textile Asia Intl Exhibition and Conferences 2024 to start from Aug 3

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry collaborated with E-commerce Gateway Pakistan (Pvt.) Limited as a strategic partner for organizing a three-day joint exhibition "Textile Asia International Exhibition" here at the Lahore Expo Centre from August 3 to 5,

Addressing a review meeting held at PCJCCI on Tuesday, Dr. Khursheed

President, M. Uzair Nizam, E-Commerce Gateway Pakistan, said that the exhibition will bring together industry leaders, innovators, and enthusiasts from over 11 countries, with over 550 companies with both local and foreign participations. It would also lead the way in delivering the most exquisite opportunities for all participants in different

Punjab Governor says: Christian community is playing a positive role in development of country

LAHORE (Online): A party workers. The delegation led by Bishop of Lahore Nadeem Kamran Governor Punjab about the called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan here today at Governor House Lahore. Talking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider said that the Christian community is playing a positive role in the development of the country. He said that religious harmony and tolerance is very important for peace in society. Punjab Governor

said that People's Party has always given respect to the minorities. He said that the doors of the Governor's House are open to the people including minorities, students and

various problems faced by them. Governor Puniab assured the delegation to play a role in solving the problems. The delegation comprised: Amanat Barkat, Cyrus Bhatti, Reverend Qaiser, Reverend Zaman Sultan and others Meanwhile. Students who secured excellent marks Matriculation Lahore Board of Government Girls High School and Government Boys High School Governor House called on Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan



LAHORE: Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with delegation led by Bishop of Lahore Nadeem Kamran at Governor House.

Azma Bokhari likens PTI founder to Hitler

Information Minister Punjab Azma Bokhari said that Imran Khan is Hitler-2 and he should be ashamed of accusing Maryam Nawaz of being a fascist.

said, "Imran had Maryam Nawaz arrested in front of her father. The fascist leader who demanded Article 6 cases against political opponents and installed cameras in jails to inflict torture was Fitna Khan." Azma Bokhari said that Maryam Nawaz did Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf not have Bushra Bibi or (PTI) held press any of his four sisters conferences in lines after arrested. "You were the spending just one night one who fled in fear from a in jail.

wheelchair. Maryam Nawaz did not make you stand. You were the fascist and personally vindictive ruler who, as Prime Minister, had more than a hundred League leaders In a statement, she arrested in political cases. Despite daily arrests, not a single leader abandoned Mian Nawaz Sharif and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz," she added.

The provincial information minister said that "revolutionaries" of the

Governor Punjab gave a

prize of Rs.1 lakh each to

the students to appreciate



Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi at Governor House.

Faisal Kundi highlights role of minorities in Pak independence

KP to equip 2000

women with digital

technological skills

PESHAWAR (APP): Note: Corrected with Divisional Suprentendent instead of Deputy Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday emphasized the significant

role of minority communities in Pakistan's independence and pledged to work diligently for their

He made these remarks during a meeting with a delegation from the minority community, led by Kishwar Kumar, a **Toxic milk trade:**

A deadly menace

in Punjab

Independent Report

CASHMORE: Punjab's

dairy industry has been

rocked by a sinister secret:

thousands of liters of chemi-

cally produced milk are be-

ing churned out daily, posing

a significant threat to human

health. This toxic milk, laced

with harmful chemicals, is

linked to an increased risk of

cancer, heart diseases, and di-

Kashmore and Kandhkot

districts is accused of

colluding with these illegal

milk producers, accepting

bribes to turn a blind eve to

their activities. This not

only endangers public

health but also raises ethi-

The administration in

gestive issues.

cal concerns.

Secretary of the Minority Wing KP. During the meeting,

discussions also focused on August 11, Minority Day. The governor said that the day is celebrated with great enthusiasm across Pakistan to convey the message to the world that minorities face no issues and are living happily in the country.

Governor Faisal Kundi assured that no effort would be spared in Ahmed Jan, Divisional

Independent Report

provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

with the assistance of TVET Sector Support

Programme would equip

2000 women with digital

technological skills in the

fourth-phase of a phase-

wise training programme.

consultative workshop of

all stakeholders was held at

Institute

Management Sciences (IM-

Sciences) with Special Assistant to KP CM on

In this connection, a

PESHAWAR:

former MPA, and General addressing the issues faced Superintendent by minority women also. Pakistan Peoples Party's

> people at their doorsteps. Governor Faisal Kundi mentioned that he is visiting churches and other places of worship in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to understand and address the issues faced by minority communities

Meanwhile, Maqsood

Karim Tordher as chief

guest here on Tuesday.

Besides, Director IM-

Sciences, Usman Ghani and

teaching staff of the institute, Director General

(DG) NAVTCC, the

universities, GIZ, British

Council, Academia, experts

from private sector and

public sector authorities

were also included in the

participants. Addressing

the participants of the

workshop, the experts

stressed on the elimination

of unemployment in the

modern era and equipping

representatives

Railways for the Peshawar He reiterated the Division also met with Governor Faisal Karim long-standing stance of Kundi at the Governor House. The discussion providing services to centered on improving the railway system and the overall state of the departments.

Divisional Superintendent Jan said that the railway affairs are progressing towards betterment and that positive changes are expected in the near future.

Screening stressed to ward off cervical cancer

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) Tuesday organized an awareness session focusing on the importance of cervical screening for women's health at its premises. The event, which was organized under the leadership of LCCI President Kashif Anwar, was attended by Professor Dr. Zuna Saeed. Dr. Roohi Saeed, Professor Dr. Muhammad Saeed, LCCI EC member Fareeha Younas the healthcare professionals, industry leaders and community members.

KP govt, ICRC join hands to promote application of humanitarian law

Independent Report

Directorate General of Law and Human Rights, in collaboration with the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), conducted a two-day training workshop for District Attorneys and human professionals.

The workshop was inaugurated by Law Minister Aftab Alam Afridi, which emphasized the importance of human rights education for a just

The workshop was aimed at enhance the understanding application humanitarian law among principles.

legal professionals and to foster collaboration between governmental and non-governmental organizations. The minister emphasized the importance of human rights education in developing a just and equitable society.

The representative highlighted the need for continued education and training in humanitarian law.

Ghulam Ali, Director General Law & Human Rights, highlighted the role of humanitarian law in protecting human dignity, while ICRC representative Edithe Joseph stressed the need for continued education in humanitarian



MULTAN: Deputy Chief of Mission U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Mr. Andrew James Schofer, talking to media persons during his visit to the Shrine of Hazrat Musa Pak Shaheed. U.S. Consul General in Lahore Ms. Kristin K. Hawkins also with her.

Ignite signs agreement with LMKR led consortium to operate NIC Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): Ignite National Technology Fund, a company incorporated under the Ministry of IT & Telecom here Tuesday signed an agreement with a consortium led by LMKR to operate the National Incubation Center (NIC) in Peshawar. This consortium includes prominent partners like Orbit Startups, an international investment accelerator and the most active VC in Pakistan. According to a edge technologies and

partners include LMKT, Accelerate Prosperity, Sybrid (a Lakson Group Company) and Institute of Management Sciences, Peshawar. The new chapter of NIC Peshawar is strategically supported by over 80 ecosystem partners, significantly enhancing opportunities resources available to NIC Peshawar startups. NIC Peshawar aims to expand

horizons, embrace cutting-

International News

Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Abdul modern era and equip the young generation.

93 killed after landslides strike India tea estates

Monitoring Desk WAYANAD: Landslides in India triggered by pounding monsoon rains struck tea plantations and killed at least 93 people on Tuesday, with at least 250 others rescued from mud and debris, officials said.

The southern coastal state of Kerala has been battered by torrential downpours, with blocked roads into the disaster area in Wayanad district complicating relief efforts.

"93 dead bodies have

been found so far," Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Viiavan told reporters. "This is one of the worst natural calamities that our state has seen.'

Another 128 people had been hospitalised for treatment after their rescue,

"My thoughts are with all those who have lost their loved ones and prayers with those in-jured," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on social media plat- ported. form X. Wayanad is famed

for the tea estates that crisscross its hilly countryside and which rely on a large pool of casual labourers for planting and harvest.

Several estates in the district were hit by two successive landslides before dawn when most of their inhabitants were asleep.

Images published by the National Disaster Response Force showed rescue crews trudging through mud to search for survivors and carry bodies on stretchers out of the area.

Homes were caked with brown sludge as the force of the landslide scattered cars, corrugated iron and other debris around the disaster site.

India's army said it had deployed more than 200 soldiers to the area to assist state security forces and fire crews in search-and-rescue efforts. Kerala state excise minister MB Rajesh said more than 250 people had been rescued so far, The Hindu newspaper re-

Modi's office said

receive a compensation

payment of \$2,400. More rainfall and strong winds were forecast in Kerala on Tuesday, the state's disaster management agency said.

Indian opposition leader Rahul Gandhi, who until recently represented Wayanad in parliament, told lawmakers that the scope of the devastation was heartbreaking"

"Our country has witnessed an alarming rise in landslides in recent years, he said. "The need of the hour is a comprehensive action plan to address the growing frequency of natural calamities.

Monsoon rains across the region from June to September offer respite from the summer heat and are crucial to replenishing water supplies. They are vital for ag-

riculture and therefore the livelihoods of millions of farmers and food security for South Asia's nearly two billion people.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida greets US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Tokyo. Also seen are Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar (left) and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa.

Netanyahu vows retaliation against Hezbollah after weekend strike as US warns against escalation **Monitoring Desk**

MAJDAL SHAMS: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday

vowed heavy retaliation against Hezbollah amid furious diplomatic efforts to prevent a spiral into regional war following a weekend rocket strike that killed 12 children in the Israelicontrolled Golan Heights.

Israel has blamed Hezbollah for Saturday evening's rocket from Lebanon that slammed into a soccer field where the children were playing in the mainly Druze town of usual move, Hezbollah denied any role in the strike. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with

Israeli President Isaac Herzog on Monday, emphasizing the "importance of preventing escalation" and discussing efforts to reach a diplomatic solution to months of conflict. Israel and the Iranian-backed Lebanese Hezbollah have exchanged fire almost daily over the border since the war in Gaza erupted in October. Each side has seemed intent on avoiding an escalation that would bring their full

Majdal Shams. In an un- firepower against each other. Lebanon on alert as Israel warns of 'severe' response

and Hezbollah. On a visit to the site of the rocket strike which killed 12 children in the town of Majdal Shams, Netanyahu said: "The state of Israel will not, and can-

not, let this pass. Our response will come and it will be severe."

He was greeted by protests during his visit, which came after mourners gathered in the Druze Arab town for the burial of the last victim, 11-year-old Guevara Ibrahim.

States have blamed the strike on Hezbollah, which has traded near-daily fire with Israeli forces since the start of the Gaza conflict in early October.

Zelensky visits Ukraine front as Moscow claims fresh gains **Monitoring Desk**

KYIV: Russia said on Monday its forces had captured the village of Vovche in eastern Ukraine, the latest in a string of frontline advances Moscow has claimed in recent weeks.

The announcement came as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky visited special forces in the border region of Kharkiv, where Moscow's forces launched a surprise ground offensive in May but failed to make any breakthrough.

US accuses Venezuela of electoral manipulation, repression **Monitoring Desk**

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden's administration on Monday accused Venezuela of electoral manipulation and repression and said Caracas' announcement that President Nicolas Maduro had won a third term in office had been stripped of "any credibility." Biden administration officials, briefing reporters about the vote on condition of anonymity, did not announce any new punitive measures but left open the door to additional sanctions, saying it would assess its sanctions policy.

US boosts alliance with the Philippines with \$500 million funding and pact amid concern over China China Sea and the Indo-Pa-

press release, the other key foster a global perspective.

Monitoring Desk MANILA: Washington's top diplomat and defense chief announced \$500 million in new military fund-

ing Tuesday to boost the Philippines' external defense and progress on a proposed military intelligence-sharing pact as both allies renewed their concerns over China's continuing aggressive actions in the

region.
U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin met with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who has fortified Manila's decades-old treaty alliance with Washington as hostilities between Philippine and Chinese forces flared since last year in the disputed South China Sea.

Marcos hailed "verv open" communication lines between Washington and Manila, adding that the two countries' treaty alliance and Blinken said in a joint news key issues in the South conference.

Monitoring Desk

KYIV: Ukraine on Sunday

cific region "are continuously examined and reexamined so we are agile in terms of our responses.' Marcos has under-

scored the need for a U.S. military presence for Asian stability and peace.

After meeting their Philippine counterparts later, Blinken and Austin announced the \$500 million military funding to help modernize the Philippine military and coast guard and boost security collaboration amid shared concerns over China's assertive actions. "Both of us share concerns and many other countries in the region share concerns, as well, about some of the actions that the People's Republic of China has taken, escalatory actions in the South China Sea, the East China Sea and elsewhere," including "coercive methods,"

Ukraine says it struck an oil depot in Russia, as Moscow claims new gains in Donetsk region

said it struck an oil depot in southern Russia that supplies the Kremlin's

troops as Russian strikes in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, where Moscow claimed further gains, left five civilians dead and 15 others wounded. Ukraine's General Staff said in a statement Kyiv's security services were responsible for a drone strike in Russia's southern Kursk region that morning on an oil depot used to meet the needs of the Russian military, and contains 11 tanks with a total volume of 7,000 cubic meters (about 247,202 cubic feet), adding the attack prompted "powerful explosions and a fire ... probably involving containers with oil products."

The defense forces continue to take all measures to undermine the military and economic potential of the Russian occupi-

ers and force the Russian Federation to stop its armed aggression against Ukraine. the statement said.

Earlier Sunday, Russia's Defense Ministry said seven Ukrainian drones were shot down overnight over Russian territory, while a regional official said a drone strike set fire to the oil depot in the Kursk province. Firefighters were battling the blaze on Sunday morning after three fuel tanks went up in flames according to acting regional Gov. Alexey Smirnov. Smirnov said nobody was hurt. The Kursk region lies on the border with Ukraine's Sumy province where Ukraine has in recent months repeatedly targeted various sites, including oil depots and other military infrastructure, inside Russian territory, with drones and other weapons. Ukrainian officials have been pressuring Western allies to be able to use their modern.

Russian navy starts major drills involving most of its fleet

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Russia's navy began planned exercises involving most of its fleet in the Arctic and Pacific oceans as well and the Baltic and Caspian seas, the defence ministry said on Tuesday. Russia is considered by most military analysts to have the world's third most powerful navy after those of the United States and China, and Russia has a significant ballistic-missile nuclear submarine fleet.

The Russian drills, which include 20,000 personnel and 300 ships, will test the readiness and capabilities of the navy at all levels, the ministry said.

The drills will include over 300 combat exercises including practicing the use of anti-aircraft missiles, arweapons and "passive interference, it added.

"Units and formations of the Russian Navy have begun conducting planned exercises in the operational zones of the Northern, Pacific and Baltic Fleets, as well as in the area of responsibility of the Caspian Flotilla," the ministry said. "The main purpose of

the exercises is to check the actions of the military authorities of the navy at all levels, as well as the readiness of the crews of ships. units of naval aviation and coastal troops of the Russian navy to perform tasks." About 300 surface

ships and boats, submarines and support vessels, some 50 aircraft and more than 200 units of military and special equipment will be involved in the tillery, anti-submarine combat training, the min-

Maduro on top in 'disputed' Ven-ezuela polls **Monitoring Desk**

CARACAS: Streets were largely empty in towns and cities across Ven-ezuela and opposition supporters we-re subdued on Monday after Pres-ident Nicolas Maduro and opposition rival Edmundo Gonzalez both clai-m-ed victory in a tense weekend elec-

Few businesses were open and public transport was scarce, as governments in Washington and elsewhere cast doubt on official results that kept the incumbent Maduro in power and called for a full tabulation of votes. The national elec-

toral authority said just after midnight that Maduro had won a third term with 51 per cent of the vote — a result that would extend a quartercentury of socialist rule.

to strike in Golan Heights

Monitoring Desk MAJDAL SHAMS: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday vowed a "severe" response to a strike that killed youths in the annexed Golan Heights, as diplomats raced to contain escalation between Israel

Israel and the United



tives Ahsan Iqbal presided 3rd Meeting of Disaster Response Committee at

Pakistan hopes next US admin will focus on South Asia peace, resolve Kashmir issue: Masood

NEW YORK (APP): Paki- candidate, former president largely refrained from opin-United States in the November election would pay attention to peace and stability in South Asia, and help resolve the decadesold Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan, Ambassador Masood Khan

"We have to work with whichever administration is chosen by the people of the United States,' Masood Khan, who relinquished his post as ambassador to the US on June 30, was quoted as saying in a Newsweek article on the expectation India and Pakisumptive Democratic nomnnee Vice President Kamala mands."

"While Harris has

stan hopes that whoever is elected as President of the paigning hard for America's since assuming the vice

top job.
Writing under the headline 'India and Pakistan Prepare for Battle Between Harris and Trump', Newsweek Correspondent as a US Senator, had weighed in on the fate of Kashmir, after India revoked its special status in 2019. She was then campaigning for Democratic presidential nomination.

'We have to remind Kashmiris that they are not alone in the world," Ms. Harris said at the time. "We stan have from the presi- are keeping track of the situdential rivals—the pre- ation. There is a need to in-

presidency, her past remarks are widely remembered in Pakistan," the article said. It highlighted that Pakistan has campaigned extensively against New Tom O'Connor pointed out that in 2020, Ms. Harris, viewing it as a unilateral violation of international law and a provocation in a dispute that has fueled past wars and still occasional border skirmishes between the two nations.

'We were reassured by some of the statements that were made about Kashmir in 2019, and I include those of Vice President Kamala Harris at that time, Masood Khan said. "There was a groundswell of support for the rights of Kashmiris."

11 die as rains

water enter

in house's

basement at

Dara Adamkhel

PESHAWAR (APP): At

least 11 people died after

rains water has entered in

the basement of a house at

Dara Adamkhel in Kohat

district on Tuesday night.

1122 spokesman said that

the tragic incident occured

at the house of Amjad Khan

at Barikhel village, trapping

11 people including three women and six children.

UAE political,

economic ties

ABU DHABI (APP): A

delegation of the students of Zayed University Abu

Dhabi on Tuesday called on Ambassador of Pakistan

to the United Arab Emir-

ates (UAE) Faisal Niaz

ambassador praised the vision of the UAE leadership

including late Sheikh Zayed

Bin Sultan Al Nahyan in

transforming the country

into an economic and tour-

ism hub, he wrote on his X

Sheikh Zayed's affection

with Pakistan and also em-

phasized the strong politi-

cal and economic relations

between Pakistan and the

UAE, reflected through co-

operation in multifaceted

Turkish Navy

Ship arrives

Karachi for

good will visit

KARACHI (INP): Turkish

port by senior Pakistan Navy officials along with

diplomatic staff of Turkish

Consulate. During stay at

the port, the Commanding

Officer of Turkish Ship will

call on Pakistan Navy Field

Commanders and other dig-

nitaries to discuss matters

He also recalled

timeline.

In the meeting, the

Tirmizi at the embassy.

graveyard.

All of them died in the

Police and Rescue

PM Shehbaz forms high-level cabinet committee to address issues of overseas Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharifhas established a cabinet committee dedicated to resolving the challenges faced by overseas Pakistanis. The committee will be led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif himself.

According to the Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the committee will include Federal Ministers from several key departments, including

Pakistanis, Education, Foreign Affairs, Interior, seas Pakistanis.

Health, Industry and Production, and Trade.

Additionally, the National Coordinator of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), the Governor of the State Bank the Executive Director of Neotech, and the Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) will also be part of this highlevel committee. This move aims to streamline efforts and create effective solutions to improve the welfare and support for over-



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Nagyi in a meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi.

NDMA conducts 3rd session of Disaster **Response Committee**

ISLAMABAD (APP): PM's Coordinator for Cli-The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), on instructions of the prime minister, hosted the third meeting of National Disaster Response Committee (DRC) at its headquarters here on Tues-

The meeting focused on reviewing the progress of directives issued during the first DRC meeting and assessing the preparedness of provinces and departments for Monsoon

The meeting was chaired by Federal Minister for Planning & Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal and co-chaired by Chairman NDMA Lt General Inam Haider Malik, for vulnerable areas.

mate Change, Romina Khursheed also participated in the session, a news release said.

The officials from National Emergencies Operations Center (NEOC) provided an overview of the anticipated impacts of the upcoming monsoon season, along with NDMA's preparedness and plans.

The provincial disaster management authorities (PDMAs) and other stakeholders briefed the forum on the tasks assigned by the Chair in previous meetings. The Chair was updated on ongoing efforts to address potential emergencies, rectify shortcomings, and the resource deployment plan

Ceasefire in Kurram after clashes claim 43 lives

Deputy Commissioner Kurram, Javeedullah Khan Mehsud here Tuesday said that ceasefire between the warning tribes were held since Monday night after successful negotiations and the week long deadly clashes has been halted in all restive areas of the dis-

Talking to media here, the Deputy Commissioner said that warning tribes have started vacating trenches and bunkers where security forces including FC were deployed that helped bring clam in the restive areas.

"Since Monday night, no gunfire was reported and overall calm is being prevailed after the week long fighting between support-

Navy Ship TCG KINALIADA (F-514) on Tuesday arrived Karachi for a good will visit. Paki-stan Navy Ship received the Turkish Ship at sea and later welcomed at Karachi Madaki Kali tribes of Boshehra village broke out on a farmland on July 24

Police said during the skirmishes a total 43 people were killed and 182 other injured in Kurram which was cut off KP since Wednesday last due to closer Peshawar-Parachinar Road. The clashes were also stopped at most affected areas of Boshehra, Malikhel, Dandar, Pewar, Tari Mangal, Muqbal, Kunj Alizai, Nastikot, Para Chamkani, Karman, Khar Kalai, Sangina an Balishkhel, the DC said. Sangina and

The DC said that all available resources were being utalized to sustain the ceasefire. He said that se

Adopting artificial intelligence essential for development, prosperity: Ayaz Sadiq

bly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that this is an era of Artificial Intelligence and adopting innovations in all walks of life is essential for development and prosperity. "Extending parliamentary cooperation among 56 member states of the Commonwealth is essential for regional prosperity and development," he expressed these views during his meeting with Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland along with representatives of parliaments of the Commonwealth who are on a 5-day official visit to Pakistan.

He also said that using innovative technologies and Artificial Intelligence is pivotal for ensuring qualitative and public-responsive legislation.

The speaker also highlighted the significance of proactive parliamentary Friendship groups for enliament contacts among member states of the Commonwealth. He also stressed the need to digitalize parliament for effective and public-responsive education. While mentioning the formulation of the Legislative Drafting Council.

He said that Artificial Intelligence is the technological innovation that can help produce synergy among parliaments of commonwealth member states.

While mentioning the Green Parliament Initiative, he said that the Pakistan parliament is the first of its kind which has been solarized completely for its electricity needs. Further, he also said that the Pakistan Parliament established the Secretariat of Sustainable Development Goals for synergizing among various stakeholders.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that the Pakistan parliament has started a Youth intern-

and parliament closer. He also said that the

parliament of Pakistan has also established the Womer Parliamentary Caucus WPC) to ensure basic right for women. He also added 'Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights has also been playing a pivotal role in protecting children."

Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland expressed gratitude to the Speaker National Assembly for the warm welcome. She also commended the resilience of the Pakistani nation and its people to grapple with the devastating impacts of 2022 floods.

She also appreciated the initiatives undertaken by the present parliament of Pakistan for the vibrant of parliamentary diplomacy. She also said that Pakistan has been a proactive member of the Com-

Four killed in

mysterious blast

in Sopore, IIOJK

MIRPŪR-AJK (APP)

Four Kashmiris lost their

lives in a mysterious blast

in Sopore town of Indian

Illegally Occupied Jammu

and Kashmir (IIOJK), on

Monday late. According to

a report received from

across the Line of Control

the blast took place in the

Shair Colony area of

Sopore, leaving four indi-

viduals with severe injuries.

They were immediately

rushed to a nearby hospital

where three of them were de-

clared dead on arrival. The

as Nazir Ahmad Nadroo,

Azam Ashraf Mir both resi-

dents of Shair Colony and

Bilawal pays

tributes to

Madar-e-Millat

KARACHI (APP): Chair

man of Pakistan People's

Party (PPP) Bilawal

Bhutto Zardari has paid

rich tribute to Madar-e-

Millat Fatima Jinnah on her

Millat for her unwavering

commitment to democracy

and tireless struggle for Pa-

kistan. He lauded her as a

beacon of hope and a role

cation to the principles of

freedom, equality, and jus-

tice remains an inspiration

to us all. Her contributions

to our nation, especially her

steadfast support for her

brother, Quaid-e-Azam

Muhammad Ali Jinnah dur-

ing the formative years of

Pakistan, and battles

against dictatorial forces are

invaluable," said Bilawal

Nagvi meets

Governor KP

Bhutto Zardari.

"Fatima Jinnah's dedi-

model for all Pakistanis.

He praised Madar-e-

birth anniversary.

Adil Rashid Bhat.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a meeting regarding Quetta Development Package and activation of QDA

CM Bugti orders to curb water theft, equitable distribution of canal water

Balochistan Chief Minister (CM) Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Tuesday issued orders to take effective measures to curb water theft and ensure equitable distribution of agricultural water by the canal system in Balochistan

including Pat Feeder Canal.

heavy rains water. The bod-He instructed that a comprehensive feasibility ies were retrieved and laid to rest at their ancestral report should be prepared for the reorganization of the canal system in the prov-

Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi and Mir Sarfraz Bugti, in a meeting held here on Chief Minister Ali Amin Tuesday regarding water Gandapur have expressed shortage and improvement deep condolences with members of the bereaved projects in the pit feeder canal and canal system, has directed to take concrete Pakistan envov measures regarding the improvement of the water emphasises situation in the agricultural areas of the province under stronger Pak,

the canal system.

The chief minister said that for the improvement of the canal system, along with long-term projects, urgent measures should be implemented without delay to reduce the difficulties of the people associated with the agricul-

The CM said that strict action should be taken to prevent water theft and fair distribution of agricultural water and steps should be taken to resolve

the issues. Balochistan Minister for Irrigation Muhammad Sadiq Ummrani, Adviser to the CM for Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, Irrigation Secretary Hafiz Abdul Majid and other relevant officials participated in the meeting.

Aurangzeb stresses on corporate farming for enhanced eco. growth

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday stressed on the corporate farming in collaboration with the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) so that economic growth

could be accelerated. Addressing the Executive Committee of the Pakistan Banks Association (PBA) here at Islamic Chamber of Commerce building, the finance minister also highlighted key initiatives and discussed the macroeconomic situation in the country.

Muhammad Aurangzeb said it was encouraging to see the private sector taking proactive steps in advancing financial and technological infrastruc-

The minister stated that extensive talk has been conducted on the Macro aspect, but moving on the external financing front, the government is comfortable with the current situation.

QCCI assure for promoting Pak-Indonesia bilateral economic, trade ties

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI), Business Community on Tuesday assured to play their full role for the promotion of bilateral economic and trade relations between Indonesia and Pakistan. Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan, Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma visited the Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry and addressed the local business community along with President QCCI, Abdullah Achakzai in Quetta Chamber of Com-

merce and Industry.

businessmen and investors coming to the trade fair in Indonesia and the Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad Charge d'Affaires of will guide them in visa

QUETTA (APP): Quetta the embassy of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan, Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma invited the business community of Quetta to participate in the 'Indonesian Industrial Exhibition' to be held in Indonesia in the coming October and called their cooperation important for the development of mutual trade. Charge d'Affaires of the embassy of the Republic of Indonesia said that his government will provide all possible facilities to the

ISLAMABAD (APP) Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi met with Governor Khybei Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Faisal Karim Kundi at the Ministry of Interior. During the

meeting, matters of mutual interest and the overall law and order situation were discussed. Mohsin Naqvi said that all possible cooperation will be continued for peace and tranquillity in KP. He emphasized that the Frontier Constabulary, Counter-Terrorism Department, and Police in KP are being equipped with modern technology and weapons. He highlighted that KP is on the frontline in the war against terrorism and the brave personnel of KP Police, FC.



QUETTA: Secretary Communication & Works Lal Jan Jaffar presiding over a meeting regarding progress on development projects



National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parlia-

Govt moves to block PTI assembly oath-taking on reserved seats

government is gearing up to prevent Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) assembly members from taking their oaths on reserved seats, with significant legal and legislative moves anticipated. According to media reports, the government plans to introduce a legal draft in the National Assembly aimed at obstructing PTI's assembly oathtaking, even though the first day of the session is typically reserved for private matters. This move could prevent PTI members from taking their oaths despite the Election Commission's notifications.

Assembly members have been instructed to attend today's session, which will see Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq play a crucial role. Sources suggest that this proposed legislation is legal bombshell," with more tion Act 2024.

ISLAMABAD (INP): The potential legal and constitutional developments expected. In preparation, the government has implemented stringent security measures for the session, with specific instructions issued to Sergeant at Arms Captain Ashfaq Ashraf to ensure order within and around the Parliament The National Assem-

bly session, scheduled for 5 PM today (Tuesday), will feature a resolution to ban PTI and a new bill to amend the Election Act. As today is designated for private action, government members will present the resolution against PTI as a private agenda item. Additionally, Member of Assembly Bilal Azhar Kayani will present a private member's bill to amend the Election Act, while Zeib Jafar will introduce the second being labeled as the "first amendment bill of the Elec-

Chairman ITNE meets: We value all endeavours of **ITNE Tribunal made for** protection of rights of media persons: Governor

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that we realize that majority of the media persons including reporters and cameramen belong to the poor families and several

journalists are martyred or

injured. In this situation,

their whole families suffer

from numerous economic

hardships. The Governor was speaking to the Chairman Implementation Tribunal Tribunal for Newspapers Mehmood Knokhar and

Tuesday.

of the ITNE Tribunal for the protection of rights and life and property of the media persons besides their economic welfare.

He said that we are proud that the media perons associated with the public and private institutions are playing their role of bridge between government and masses besides keeping us aware of the ever changing world and creating sense of responsibilities and rights.

The Chairman of the Tribunal apprised the Gov-Employees (ITNE), Shahid ernor about the demands senior journalist, Shahzada ing media persons with the Zulfigar, who called him on government institutions.

On this, the Governor The Governor said assured to resolve the issues that we value all endeavours remaining within the law.

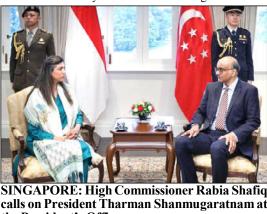
Govt. moves forward with 'focused target' for national development, prosperity: Jam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Tuesday said the government was moving forward with a 'focused target' sector-wise to achieve the goals of economic stability, leading to national development and prosperity.

'National economy is gaining stability with each passing day, contrary to the past situation when the business community's LCs

[Letters of Credit] was not being opened," he said while speaking to the me-dia outside the Parliament

He said that, although the common man and the business community were facing difficulties due to certain reasons, including economic instability and the global economic recession, things had started moving in the right direction despite these challenges



the President's Office.

Zarak Khan says: **CM** Bugti utilizing resources to solve problems of publice

League-Muslim Nawaz(PML-N) member of Balochistan Assembly Zarak Khan Mandukhail on Tuesday said that the provincial government under the leadership of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti was utilizing all available resources to address the

problems of the people.

In his statement issued here, he said that any kind of negligence in this regard would not be tolerated. He said that after the construction of the road connecting Stewart Road and Qawary Road from Officer Club under the Quetta package, accidents were taking place due to lack

of sealing on the drains. The administration immediately placed slabs on

the large pits and drains at the Qawary Road Corner, he said. He said that after the construction of the road connecting Stewart Road and Siraki Road from Officer Club, a big pothole has been left at the corner of Qawary Road due to which accidents were happening every day, while after the construction of the drain, slabs have not been placed on it. The district administration should immediately cover the large pothole at the Oawary Road corner and seal the drains to avoid any untoward incident, he said