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PM proposes tripartite mechanism to further strengthen Pakistan-Turkiye-Azerbaijan economic, commercial coop.

ASTANA (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday proposed to establish tripartite institutional mechanisms particularly in economic and investment areas to further strengthen Pakistan-Turkiye-Azerbaijan trilateral economic and commercial cooperation.

Sharing his views during an inaugural session of Pakistan-Turkiye-Azerbaijan Trilateral Summit held on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit, the prime minister underscored that Pakistan deeply valued its fraternal ties with Azerbaijan and Turkiye which were grounded in deep-rooted cultural, historic and religious bonds as well as mutual respect and support towards each other on core issues.

The summit was attended by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, President of Turkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan and President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Heydar Aliyev.

Prime Minister Shehbaz welcomed the convening of inaugural session of Pakistan-Turkiye-Azerbaijan Trilateral Meeting at the summit level, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

He termed it a natural progression of trilateral engagements amongst the three brotherly Muslim countries which shared a similar outlook on a host of issues of mutual interest and common concern.

While noting excellent trilateral cooperation in political, parliamentary and defence domains since the First Trilateral Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the three countries held in Baku in 2017, he affirmed Pakistan's commitment to working together with Turkiye and Azerbaijan to elevate the tripartite cooperation into a strong multifaceted partnership across all areas of mutual interest including economic, energy, tourism, cultural, educational, technology and innovation, healthcare and environmental cooperation. Emphasizing strong bonds of friendship and robust people-to-people contacts amongst the three countries, the prime minister also outlined significant potential for collaboration in the areas of culture, tourism, academia as well as science and technology.



ASTANA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in an inaugural session of Pakistan-Turkiye-Azerbaijan Trilateral Summit along with President of Turkiye H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan and President of Azerbaijan H.E. Ilham Aliyev, on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit



ASTANA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with the President of Russia H.E. Vladimir Putin.

Meets Russian President

PM emphasises expanding bilateral trade, defence cooperation

ASTANA (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday met with Russian President Vladimir Putin wherein he emphasised the expansion of bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Russia across all areas of mutual benefit including trade, energy, defence and security.

In the meeting held on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Head of States meeting, the prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to work with Russia to further expand and strengthen the growing multi-dimensional cooperation between the two countries.

During the 'warm and cordial' meeting, the two leaders had a wide ranging exchange of views covering bilateral relations with a special focus on trade and economic relations, energy

as well as important regional and global issues, a PM Office press release said.

The prime minister, in his opening remarks at the outset of the meeting, said the bilateral trade stood at around \$1 billion which could be expanded by overcoming the financial and banking matters.

Prime Minister Shehbaz, who arrived here to attend the twin Summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization Council of Heads of State (CHS) and SCO Plus summits, expressed his pleasure to meet the Russian leader and recalled their earlier interaction in Samarkand.

He congratulated President Putin on his re-election and expressed the hope that the Russian Federation would achieve further progress under his leadership.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousof Raza Gilani in a meeting with Italian Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Marilina Armellini at Parliament House.

Pakistan pursues \$6 bln IMF bailout amid controversy over tough budget targets

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Minister of State for Finance, Ali Pervez Malik, has announced Pakistan's ambitious bid to secure a staff-level agreement with the IMF for a bailout package exceeding \$6 billion by the end of this month.

This move follows Pakistan's commitment to meeting all IMF demands in the federal budget, including stringent revenue targets despite facing public backlash over anticipated new taxes.

According to foreign media, Pakistan aims to garner IMF approval by setting challenging tax revenue goals in its budget for the fiscal year starting July 1, amounting to 130 trillion rupees (\$47 billion). The budget, characterized by Minister Malik as necessary for IMF program satisfaction, targets reducing last year's fiscal deficit from 7.4 percent to 5.9 percent.

Minister Malik emphasized that all prerequisites, including budgetary measures, have been fulfilled, signaling readiness for the

IMF's evaluation and approval. However, analysts caution that while the budget may align with IMF expectations, it risks deepening public discontent.

Acknowledging the economic burden of these reforms, Malik reiterated the stabilizing role of the IMF program amidst growing pressures on Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves. Saqib Sherani, head economist at Macroeconomic Insights, stressed the urgency of securing the IMF package to prevent potential economic volatility, including the reintroduction of import and capital controls by the central bank.

Since the budget's announcement on June 12, the Pakistan Stock Exchange's SE-100 index has surged approximately 10 percent, reflecting cautious optimism amidst economic uncertainties. Today, the KSE-100 index rose by 601 points to 80,153, underscoring investor confidence amidst ongoing financial developments.

Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari arrives in Quetta today

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chairman, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is scheduled to arrive in Quetta today (Thursday).

The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, the provincial ministers, MPAs belonging to the PPP and its other leaders would welcome the Chairman PPP upon his arrival in the metropolis.

During the two-day visit, Chairman PPP would be meeting the Chief Minister, provincial ministers and other party's leaders.

The overall functioning of the provincial government and the initiatives taken by it for development of the province and bringing improvement in the affairs would be discussed.

Meanwhile, the welcoming banners are billboards have been installed in different parts of the metropolis.

Protest against decision of EC case: Imran, Qureshi, Sheikh acquitted

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI founder Imran Khan, former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and former interior minister Sheikh Rashid have been acquitted in the case registered against them in police station Aabpara.

The case registered against former Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan and others in police station Aabpara for staging protest against the decision of Election Commission (EC) came up for hearing before Sessions Court Islamabad Wednesday. The court announced the reserved decision on acquittal plea.

Judicial magistrate Yasir Mehmood announced the reserved decision. The court in its decision acquitted Imran Khan, Shah Mehmood Qureshi and former interior minister Sheikh Rashid.

Former speaker National Assembly (NA) Asad Qaisar, Senator Faisal Javed Khan, Khurram Nawaz and Shehr Yar Afridi were also acquitted.

Barrister Aqeel appointed advisor in law ministry

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Law and Justice on Wednesday issued notification regarding the appointment of Barrister Aqeel Malik as advisor in the ministry on honorary basis.

The notification said that he shall perform such functions as assigned to him by the Minister for Law and Justice in accordance with the rule 5(8) of the Rules of Business, 1973.

Courts can't abolish right for votes' recounting CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Fazl Isa on Wednesday observed that the right of votes' recounting was given by the Parliament in the laws related to elections and the court could not abolish it.

The CJP was heading a three-member bench, which heard the appeal of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's candidate against the verdict of election tribunal to set aside the Election Commission's decision for recounting of votes in NA-154 Lodhran.

During the course of hearing, the chief justice said that the top court was scheduling election related cases early. However, the cases got delayed as the lawyers usually did not

preparations, he added.

The CJP said, "If we start hearing every case for hours, then the number of pending cases will increase."

The court consequently adjourned the case till July 8.

PML-N candidate Abdul Rehman Kanju NA-154 Lodhran has challenged the verdict of election tribunal before the top court.

The election tribunal, in its decision, had terminated the success notification of Abdul Rehman Kanju and declared an independent candidate Rana Faraz Noon as the winner.

The tribunal also set aside the ECP's decision of recounting in the said constituency.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers, Senators, MPAs and leaders belong to PPP meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti

Quetta Safe City Project would be helpful in elimination of terrorism, believes Mir Ziaullah Langove

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has expressed the hope that the Quetta Safe City Project would prove to be helpful in elimination of terrorism.

He said that the security forces would wipe out terrorism through modern technology like Quetta Safe City Project.

Mir Ziaullah Langove was on visit to the Command and Control Quetta Safe City Project here at the Central Police Office on Wednesday.

The Provincial Minister Home was briefed about the Quetta Safe City Project. Also present on the occasion were the Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and other senior police high ups.

Chief Operating Officer Quetta Safe City Project and

Superintendent of Police, Adeel Akbar briefed the Provincial Minister about the Project. He said that the Safe City Project would strengthen the digital security in Quetta. Besides, maximum data is being maintained for monitoring and risk management through the safe City Project.

Speaking on the occasion, Provincial Minister Home said that it was a big challenge to complete the Quetta Safe City Project. He mentioned the Project is aimed at eliminating the crimes and arresting the criminals.

He prayed that the Quetta Safe City Project would prove to be beneficial for the masses.

The Minister Home also said that it is the government's top priority to protect the life and property of the masses mobilizing all available resources.

5 children drown in Awaran canal

AWARAN (APP): Five children drowned while taking bath in a canal located in the vicinity of Tehsil Chaon area of Awaran district of Balochistan, tv channels quoting police reported on Wednesday.

According to details, five children of the same family went to Tehsil

Chaon area for taking bath and to beat the heat when suddenly, they could not maintain balance in a deep water and drowned.

Local divers after receiving the reports rushed to the site of incident to retrieve the bodies. Later, all the bodies were handed over to legal heirs.

Chief Minister Balochistan tells World Bank's delegation: Govt. taking measure to cope with challenges of good governance, energy and climate change

WB delegation praises endeavours of CM for establishing good governance in province; pledges of assistance of international and national investors for investment in different sectors

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that his government is taking measures to cope with the challenges of good governance, energy and climate change in the province.

He said that we are desirous of working on the sustainable strategy in collaboration with the international and national institutions.

He said that we fully support the World Bank's 10 year programme, and adding hoped that the long-term programme would bear positive results.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the delegation of World Bank who called on him under leadership of its Director in Pakistan, Mr. Najy Benhassine here on Wednesday.

The World Bank delegation apprised the Chief Minister about the assistance projects being continued in collaboration with

the Bank in Balochistan. During the course of meeting, there was also discussion on the mines and minerals as well as fisheries, agriculture health and rehabilitation of flood affected people in the province.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that work is continued on education, health and rehabilitation of the flood affectees.

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Real development & prosperity can become fate of peaceful nations: Governor Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the development and prosperity can become fate of the peaceful nations, therefore, every one has to contribute in it.

He said that there are invaluable services of our political elders in bringing the people of the four provinces and putting them on the path of sustainable development and prosperity.

The Governor was speaking to the Secretary General of PML-Nawaz and Member National Assembly, Jamal Shah Karkar who called on him here at the Governor House on Wednesday.

During the course of meeting, the latest political situation of the province and country as well as the ongoing development projects and economic changes taking place in the region were discussed.

The Governor said that it is responsibility of the government to maintain peace and law and order all over



the province.

He said that all political elders are respectable. He sought wholehearted cooperation of the political leaders to tackle the big challenges being the constitutional head of province.

Ex-senator Hidayatullah among 4 killed in Bajaur explosion

BAJAUR (APP): Former senator Hidayatullah Khan and three other persons were killed in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast in Bajaur on Wednesday. alakand Regional Police Officer Muhammad Ali Khan Gandapur confirmed the deaths and, said that the former senator's car was targeted in the IED attack in Bajaur's Damadola area.

He told reporters that no one had claimed responsibility for the attack as yet. Bajaur District Police Officer Sajjad Ahmad said that the bomb disposal unit was conducting its investigation and the situation would become clear after its report. He said that the former senator was on the way to a by-election campaign in Damadola where he was attacked.

Pakistan-US security cooperation to continue: Pentagon

WASHINGTON (INP): The United States has declared that the security cooperation with Pakistan with chief focus on counter-terrorism is ongoing.

Addressing a news briefing in Washington on Tuesday, Pentagon Press Secretary Major-General Patrick S. Ryer said that the US and Pakistan do share a security cooperation relationship, particularly focused on counter-terrorism.

"We have a long history of working together in that regard. And so as opportunities present themselves in the future, I'm sure those conversations will continue to be ongoing," he added. A day earlier, US State Department principal deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel while briefing the newsmen in Washington said that PTI founder Imran Khan's detention is Pakistan's internal matter.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Country Director World Bank Najy Benhassine meeting with Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan



ISLAMABAD: Group Chief Executive of the Standard Chartered Bank Bill Winters, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Pak, Tajikistan reaffirm commitment to promote economic ties, explore new avenues for cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Tajikistan have reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing the longstanding fraternal ties and increase bilateral economic cooperation by exploring new avenues, opportunities and ventures.

The bilateral relations were discussed during the official visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to the Republic of Tajikistan on July 2-3 at the invitation of Emomali Rahmon, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, according to a joint statement issued following the visit.

In order to strengthen trade relations, both parties also committed to exploring the possibility of granting preferential market access to each other's goods, including through discussions on a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA).

Emphasizing the significance of enhancing road, rail, and air connectivity between the two nations, they agreed to conduct expert-level consultations on the matter.

Underlining the importance of reliable electricity supply for sustainable economic growth, the two sides reaffirmed their commitment for early completion of the flagship power project CASA-1000.

It was agreed that completion of the project would open new avenues

for future energy corridors, leading to prosperity for the two sides and the whole region.

Recognizing the significance of the Pakistan-Tajikistan Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, and Scientific-Technical Cooperation, both parties expressed their preparedness to convene the 7th Session of the Joint Commission in Islamabad at the earliest opportunity.

The President of Tajikistan and the Prime Minister of Pakistan inked the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. This agreement symbolizes the deepening mutual trust and partnership between the two nations, opening new avenues for advancing bilateral cooperation.

"The Pakistan Prime Minister also expressed support for Tajikistan's initiative to establish the SCO Anti-Drug Centre in Dushanbe," said the joint statement.

The two sides reviewed the existing inter-parliamentary cooperation between the two countries.

The two leaders underscored the importance of Tajikistan-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Groups in the respective parliaments and supported increasing frequency of par-

liamentary delegations' visits to boost productive inter-parliamentary cooperation. Noting the current level of bilateral trade, it was underlined that there is a vast potential that needs to be tapped through mutual efforts.



QUETTA: Member NHA Bisharat Hussain meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Appeal pleas by Imran, Bushra Bibi: We have to decide the case till July 12 at every cost: Judge

ISLAMABAD (Online): Judge Afzal Majoka of district and sessions court Islamabad while adjourning hearing of the central appeal pleas of PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi against their conviction in Nikah during iddat case has remarked decision of this case has to be announced till July 12 at every cost.

He gave these remarks during hearing of appeal pleas of Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi against sentence in Nikah during iddat case Wednesday.

Suleman Akram Raja counsel for Imran Khan while completing his arguments took the plea the lady can solemnize nikah without the certificate of union council. If it continues like this then thousands of marriages will have to be declared null and void. There are thousands of inheritance related problems in the family.

Suleman Akram Raja counsel for Imran Khan while completing his arguments took the plea the lady can solemnize nikah without the certificate of union council. If it continues like this then thousands of marriages will have to be declared null and void. There are thousands of inheritance related problems in the family.

He said that it is a difficult challenge for us to provide basic facilities to the scattered population in remote areas of the province. He also said that we are going to convert the agricultural tube wells on solar energy in the province in a bid to rid of the energy crisis.

He said that the provinces have utilized their available resources after passage of 18th amendment. Referring his government's initiative regarding soft term loans, the Chief Minister said that we are considering to offer soft term loans for development projects for development in remote areas of the province. The Chief Minister

Suleman Akram Raja and Khalid Yousuf Chaudhry counsels for Imran Khan appeared in the court.

At the inception of hearing, Suleman Akram Raja counsel for Imran Khan invited reference to section 7 of Muslim family law.

Judge Afzal Majoka remarked you are saying section 7 is not applicable in this case.

The counsel gave reference to several court's decisions with reference to Muslim law.

The counsel told family law is part of personal law. Therefore such cases come under the jurisdiction of Shariat Court. In the light of Supreme Court (SC) decision the divorce will become effective even if procedure of union council is not completed. The court remarked section 7 cannot be used for pressurizing.

mentioned that around 1.3 million children are out of the schools in Balochistan. Citing the reasons behind, he said that the distances between the schools and population are very long and there's no arrangement of the means of communication and transportation, he added.

However, we are working on provision of food to the students and ensuring their access to the schools, he mentioned further.

The delegation of World Bank praised the endeavours of Chief Minister for establishing good governance in the province and made pledge of assistance of the international and national investors for investment in different sectors in the province.

Non recovery of missing persons: IHC rejects appeals against imposition of fine on defence secretary, interior secretary others

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has rejected the appeals filed against imposition of fine on secretary defence, secretary interior, chief commissioner and police officers in the case of non recovery of missing persons.

The Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamir Farooq while expressing resentment over Additional Attorney General (AAG) due to lack of progress in the case has remarked several years have passed. Where are missing persons. Every time you say progress is being made. We have given time to you on several occasions. Should the fine be not doubled or should we not summon Prime Minister (PM).

He gave these remarks while presiding over two members bench of IHC during the hearing of recovery of missing persons including IT expert Sajid Mehmood, Umar Abdullah, Mudassar Naro and others. Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb is the part of the bench.

AAG appeared in the court. The CJ IHC inquired from him AAG Sahib, is any good news. Missing persons have come. AAG replied no progress has been made in recovery of missing persons.

The CJ IHC expressed annoyance over AAG on the non recovery of missing persons remarking several years have elapsed. Where are missing persons. Every time you say progress is being made. How much time we should give you. You seek time in every hearing. Attorney General (AG) has appeared several time earlier. Khalid Javed Khan has also appeared. What should we do. What fine has been imposed earlier we double it. What should we do. We summon PM.

'Belarusian President to visit Pakistan in October'

ISLAMABAD (APP): First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus Sergey Lukashевич, on Monday said that the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashевич will visit Pakistan in coming October to sign multiple Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

He said this in a meeting with Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, said a press release issued here on Wednesday.

The meeting was attended by the Ambassador of Belarus to Pakistan Andrei Metelitsa, Secretary of Commerce Ahsan Ali Mangi and other officials and diplomats.

Mr. Lukashевич also announced a Joint Trade Commission meeting in mid-September to enhance bilateral trade relations.

Minister Jam Kamal Khan praised the Belarus' advancements in tractor manufacturing and agricultural machinery.

He highlighted Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's new approach to building trust within the business community both domestically and internationally.

Additionally, Mr. Lukashевич mentioned that 35 Pakistani businessmen will visit Belarus in July for a food and agriculture exhibition.

The minister emphasized the opportunity to attract investments to Pakistan, citing the relocation of Service Tyre Company

from China to Pakistan.

Furthermore, Malaysia and Gulf countries have shown interest in Pakistan's halal gelatin and meat industries, respectively. The federal minister also revealed that a Chinese electric vehicle (EV) manufacturer was planning to enter the Pakistani market through a joint venture with a local power company.

He noted the growing interest of mobile phone manufacturers and food industries in investing in Pakistan.

This meeting marks a significant step toward strengthening economic ties between Pakistan and Belarus, with both nations looking forward to fruitful collaborations in various sectors.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Jaffarabad invites sealed percentage rates based on Composite Schedule of Rates, 2023 Govt. of Balochistan and non-schedule items on prevailing Market Rates from interested Contractors for the works mentioned below :- Tender Fee Rs. 2000/- for S.No.1 and Rs.650/- for S.No.2 Time limit 30-06-2025, BID SECURITY 2% (in Shape of CDR) for each work.

S.#	NAME OF WORK/S	E/COST	BID SECURITY
1)	REHABILITATION OF WATER SUPPLY SCHEME TURKISH HOUSING SCHEME, DERA ALLAH YAR, JAFFARABAD UNDER PSPD NO. 5658 Civil Work	TSE No. 242507472403 1,39,98,332/-	2,80,000/-
2)	SOLAR WATER SUPPLY SCHEME GOTH MIR HASSAN SASOLI DISTRICT JAFFARABAD PSPD NO. 5704 Civil Work	TSE No. 242507472463 44,56,000/-	90,000/-

Procurement shall be made under BPP Rules 2014. Eligibility of Bidders:- The contractors must have registration with Tax authorities i.e. BRA, NTN & Sales tax department, valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in relevant Category who have enlistment/ renewal for the year, 2023-24. If the contractor's representative will participate in the tender then the representative must have the original authority issued by the contractor in his name. Eligibility Criteria :- Minimum three assignments of value not less than estimated cost and Turn over of value not less than estimated cost.

Method of Procurement:- Single stage, Single envelope. Bid Security:- The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Call Deposit of amount specified above in the name of undersigned from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents :- The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned upon payment of bidding document fee (non refundable) (amount mentioned above) through Green Challan C0-2726-2 PHED (Revenue Receipt) deposited only in National Bank of Pakistan Dera Allah Yar Branch. (The NIT & Bidding Documents can also be downloaded from www.bppra.org.pk Issuance of Tender Documents:- Tender forms/documents will be issued to the bidders/contractors on publication of Notice in newspapers on presentation of requisite documents. Last date for submission :- The tenders should be submitted on 19.07.2024 till 01:00 P.M at the office of the undersigned. Tender Opening :- All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the undersigned at 02:00 P.M (In case of public holiday announced by the Government (due to any reason), the tender will be opened the next working day at the same time and venue). Tender committee reserves the right to change the quantities or cancel/reject any or all offers without assigning any reason.

Address:- Public Health Engineering Division Jaffarabad at Dera Allah Yar. Phone No.0838-510036 Fax No.0838-510362 Email: xenphei4037@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PHE DIVISION JAFFARABAD AT
DERA ALLAH YAR
PRQ No.71/03-07-2024
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Request for Proposal for selection of Consultancy service invited on Electronic Public Procurement System (EPPS) from well reputed national/ international firms(JV) service provider meeting with eligibility criteria, viz having registration with FBR for Income Tax and BRA and who are on Active Taxpayers List (ATL) , and are not black listed in any procuring agency or authority for preparation of Hiring of "Consultancy Services from Consulting Firms" Titled as CONSULTANCY SERVICE REQUIRED FOR DETAILED DESIGN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BLACK TOP ROAD NAGTO WASHUK PHASE-II DISTRICT WASHUK PSPDNO:2577 (2023.1318) Bid Security Null %

S.No.	Description	E/Cost
1	CONSULTANCY SERVICE REQUIRED FOR DETAILED DESIGN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BLACK TOP ROAD NAGTO WASHUK PHASE-II DISTRICT WASHUK PSPD NO:2577 (2023.1318) TSE-242507478674	13,427,290

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules-2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity Turn over of at least 5,000,000PKR Amount in 3 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List BRA Registration Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan PEC/PCAD Registration 3.

Procedure Of Procurement:- Single Stage Two Envelope e-Bidding Procedure Bid Security:- The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. The FINANCIAL PROPOSALS shall be opened of those consultants whose technical proposal is considered and approved. The Selection of Consultants shall be made as per Evaluation Criteria method as mentioned in the "Date Sheet of this" Request for Proposal "document. The incomplete request for proposal or received after due date mentioned above will not be considered. The RFP Documents can be downloaded from BPPRA Website(www.bppra.gov.pk). Last Date of bid submission:- The Tenders must be submitted latest by 17 July, 2024 till 11:00AM. Tender opening:- All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00PM Address:Secretary Office CWPPP&H Department

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ROADS
CWPPP&H DEPARTMENT DISTRICT
WASHUK
PRQ No.74/03-07-2024
www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob @dprgob @dgpbalochistan

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The undersigned invites sealed Percentage rate tenders based on composite schedule of rates 2023 Government of Balochistan from interested contractor/firms for the works mentioned below :- Tender Fee Rs. 1500 of each TSE/Works and deposited in head of account C02726 through Bank in NBP, Earnest Money 2% of E/Cost offered Rate in Shape of Call Deposit for each work.

Sr.No.	Name of scheme	E/Cost. (M)
1	H/L OF HDPE PIPE LINE DIFFERENT DIAS S/O MACHINERY AND C/O COMMUNITY TANKS FOR DIFFERENT VILLAGES MOHALAAND GOTHS WSS GADDANI TOWN DISTRICT HUB (PHASE-1). (PSPD-5390 TSE-242507467373	33.70 M
2	BORE WITH SAKRAN SYSTEM, TALAB, PVC PIPE AND MACHINERY FOR DRINKING PURPOSE AT SAKRAN, DISTRICT HUB, (PSPD-5514 TSE-242507467523	30.00 M
3	COMMUNITY TANK 3000 GLNS, S/O HDPE PIPELINE WSS JAMOT MOHALA S ALAHABAD TOWN WSS MAGSI COLONY A, TOWN & SI OF HDPE PIPELINE JANGI GOTH TO SAWALI GOTH PSPD-5400 TSE-242507467653	25.177 M
4	BORE WITH SAKRAN SYSTEM, TALAB, PVC PIPE AND MACHINERY FOR DRINKING PURPOSE AT WINDER, DISTRICT HUB. PSPD-5444 TSE-242507467803	30.00 M
5	5 NOS BORE WITH SAKRAN SYSTEM, TALAB, PVC PIPE AND MACHINERY FOR DRINKING PURPOSE AT GADDANI, DISTRICT HUB. PSPD-5517 TSE-242507467953	29.70 M

Procurement shall be made the Balochistan Public Procurement Rule 2014 ELIGIBILITY:- The Contractor must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant Category and registration with tax authority's i.e (NTN, sales tax & BRA Department) where applicable. Three years relevant work experience. Turn Over of last three years. METHOD OF PROCUREMENT:- Single stage One envelope. BID SECURITY:- The bid must accompany bid security in shape of Call Deposit of amount specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled bank. TENDER DOCUMENTS:- The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned upon payment (Non Refundable) Bidding Documents fee amount mentioned above against each work through green challan under head C02726 Receipt the NIT and Bidding documents can also be downloaded from BPPRA web site :- ISSUANCE OF TENDER DOCUMENTS:- Tender documents issued from the date of publication of NIT. LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION:- The tender must be submitted latest by 18.07.2024 at 11:00 AM. TENDER OPENING:- All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of undersigned at 12:00 PM. Place Of Issuance and Submission will be: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of undersigned at 12:00 PM. Address: Office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division at Hub. Note:-Only the Original contractor/firm are allowed to participate in the tender with original CNIC. Agent/representative will be not allowed. The undersigned reserve the right to reject all or any bids with out assignment of any reason thereof, it may be noted that (Pay Order and Bank Draft will not be accepted/entertained) and firm's complete title/name should be written on the call deposit. other terms & Condition seen/obtain in the Office of the undersigned in office hours.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PHE DIVISION HUB
PRQ No.66/03-07-2024
www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob @dprgob @dgpbalochistan

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Undersigned invites sealed percentage rates based on composite schedule of rates 2024 Government of Baluchistan and item rates from interested contractors/Firms for the works mentioned below. Tender fee 3000/1500 Deposited in head of account C-02725-02 Through bank Challan in NBP/State bank of Pakistan E/Money 2% in shape of call Deposit, Time limit 30-06-2025 for each work.

S.No	Name of Work	Quantity	E/Cost	TSE No.
1	CONSTRUCTION OF OF WSS KILLIAMIR KHAN MUHAMMAD ESSAKHAIL MANZAKI PISHIN PSPD NO.5063 i. DD of Bore 800 ft ii. Civil Work	1-Job 1-Job	4.920	242507472093
2	CONSTRUCTION OF SSOLAR WSS AT KILLI SAHI KOT MOHLLA SHAH G KARBALA TAHASIL PISHIN DISTRICT PISHIN PSPDNO.5845 i. DD of Bore 800 ft ii. Civil Work	1-Job 1-Job	4.599	242507472373
3	CONSTRUCTION FOR SOLAR WSS AT MANZARI MOHLLA CHODARRI TAHASIL HURAMZAI DISTRICT PISHIN PSPDNO.5613 i. DD of Bore 800 ft ii. Civil Work	1-Job 1-Job	5.013	242507472473
4	CONSTRUCTION OF WSS AT KILLI HAJI BALOCH KHAN LAMAR TOBA KAKARI DISTRICT PISHIN PSPD NO.5832 i. DD of Bore 800 ft ii. Civil Work	1-Job 1-Job	4.920	242507472573
5	CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR WSS AT KILLI KAKAZAI MOHLLA SALEEM TEHSIL PISHIN PSPDNO.5967 i. DD of Bore 800 ft ii. Civil Work	1-Job 1-Job	5.013	242507473883
6	CONSTRUCTION OF WATER STORAGE TANK AT KILLI GOWRRIYAN & KILL KUZ SHINGOHRI TEHSIL HURAMZAI DISTRICT PISHIN NO.5957 i. DD of Bore 800 ft ii. Civil Work	2-Job 1-Job	9.905	242507472913
7	CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR WSS AT KILLI MALANGABAD TEHSIL HURAMZAI DISTRICT PISHIN PSPDNO.5968 i. DD of Bore 800 ft ii. Civil Work	1-Job 1-Job	5.013	242507472993
8	CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR WSS MOHLLA SHAIKH M ALI JYEBZAI SYEDAN TAHASIL HURAMZAI DISTRICT PISHIN PSPDNO. 5889 i. DD of Bore 800 ft ii. Civil Work	1-Job 1-Job	5.013	242507473033
9	CONSTRUCTION OF WSS KILLI WSS KILLI JAILANI NASARAN DIST PISHIN PSPD NO. 5454 i. DD of Bore 800 ft ii. Civil Work	1-Job 1-Job	5.013	242507473153
10	CONSTRUCTION OF WSS BOSTAN MUGHTIAN PISHIN PSPD NO. 5523 i. DD of Bore 1200 ft ii. Civil Work	1-Job	8.232	242507473173
11	CONSTRUCTION OF W.S.S WITH SOLAR FOR KILLI MIAKHAN TEHSIL NANA SAB DISTRICT PISHIN PSPD NO. 5358 i. DD of Bore 800 ft ii. Civil Work	1-Job 1-Job	5.536	242507473193
12	CONSTRUCTION OF WSS KILLI JAILANI NEW ABADI DISTRICT PISHIN PSPDNO.5644 i. DD of Bore 800 ft ii. Civil Work	1-Job 1-Job	5.013	242507473243
13	CONSTRUCTION OF WSS KILLI MOLIM NEWABADI DISTRICT PISHIN PSPDNO. 5950 i. DD of Bore 800 ft ii. Civil Work	1-Job 1-Job	5.013	242507473303
14	CONSTRUCTION OF WSS KILLI POTI NASARAN MOLIM STREET PSPDNO.5578 i. DD of Bore 800 ft ii. Civil Work	1-Job 1-Job	5.013	242507473363
15	CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR WSS AT KILLI HAJI FAZAL MANZARI KHALID WALED UNIT TAHASIL HURAMZAI DISTRICT PISHIN DISTRICT PISHIN PSPDNO.5933 i. DD of Bore 800 ft ii. Civil Work	1-Job 1-Job	5.013	242507473383
16	CONSTRUCTION OF WSS KILLI ABDULLAH KHAN NASARAN DIST PISHIN PSPD NO. 5346 i. DD of Bore 800 ft ii. Civil Work	1-Job 1-Job	6.033	242507473443
17	CONSTRUCTION OF WSS KILLI AKHTAR MUHAMMAD POTI NASRAN BOSTAN DISTRICT PISHIN PSPD NO.5526 i. DD of Bore 800 ft ii. Civil Work	1-Job 1-Job	4.640	242507473503
18	CONSTRUCTION OF WSS KILLI MOLIM NASARAN DISTRICT PISHIN PSPD NO. 5573 i. DD of Bore 800 ft ii. Civil Work	1-Job 1-Job	5.013	242507473553
19	CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR WSS MOHLLA HAJAN SHAKARZAI SYEDAN TAHASIL HURAMZAI DISTRICT PISHIN PSPDNO.5955 i. DD of Bore 800 ft ii. Civil Work	1-Job 1-Job	5.013	242507473623
20	CONSTRUCTION OF W.S.S WITH SOLAR FOR KILLI S DON TEHSIL NANA SAB DISTRICT PISHIN PSPDNO. 5347 i. DD of Bore 800 ft ii. Civil Work	1-Job 1-Job	5.836	242507473643
21	CONSTRUCTION OF WSS WITH SOLAR SYSTEM AMIRALI AGHA DISTRICT PISHIN PSPDNO7351 i. DD of Bore 900 ft ii. Civil Work	1-Job 1-Job	5.836	242507473753
22	CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR WATER SUPPLY SCHEME AT KILLI ASMATALIZAI PISHIN DISTRICT PISHIN PSPDNO5435 i. DD of Bore 1000 ft ii. Civil Work	1-Job 1-Job	9.441	242507473793
23	Revised PC-I PROVISION OF 2 WSS ALONGWITH SOLAR SYSTEM FOR KILLI TORAHUNDA & TORA SHAH, DISTRICT PISHIN PSPD #5640 NEW 5223 i. Civil Work	1-Job	21.184	242507474903

The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Baluchistan Public Procurement rules, 2014 Eligibility:- The Bidders must have valid registration with PEC in relevant category with renewal 2023-24, registration with tax authorities i.e (NTN& sales tax, BRA Department) and must be on (ATL) of FBR. Proof of at least 3 years' experience in the relevant Field/similar nature will be mandatory. All category of interested bidders must submit documents of the minimum required annual volume of similar work for the successful bidder in any of last 3 years not less than the cost of this N.I.T. The interested bidders for S/O Pipes must have manufacture license. Contractor / Firm for The Drilling Firms must have Drilling license From E/M PHE Division and shall give guarantee on stamp paper for completion of Drilling work by June, 15/2024 otherwise, the contractor will be fined and disciplinary action will be Method of Procurement:- Single Stage, one Envelope Procedure taken against it 2.Submission :- Last date of submission of document will be on 17/07/2024 at 1:00 PM. Opening :- The tender will be opened 17-07-2024 at 2:00PM Place of issuance :- submission inquiries and opening will be:- Address:- Executive Engineer PHED Pishin. Telephone No 0826- 920558 Fax No 0826-920558 Note, it may be noted that no pay order will be accepted /entertained and firm completed title /name should be written on the call deposit.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC HEALTH
ENGINEERING DISTRICT PISHIN
PRQ No.83/03-07-2024
www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob @dprgob @dgpbalochistan

Climate awareness through art, engaging children critical tool for resilience: Romina

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam here on Wednesday underscored the need to increase climate literacy through art and engaging children which was a critical tool for achieving resilience against adverse impacts of global warming and environmental degradation. Addressing at the inaugural ceremony of 'OffGrid Studios' art exhibition, she underscored the need of children engagement as important part of climate advocacy due to their significance as champions and ambassadors of climate conservation.

Romina Khurshid said the artworks displayed at the exhibition reflected the passion and dedication of environmental advocates who use their creativity to highlight the urgent need for collective action. She noted that art has the ability to

communicate complex issues in a way that resonates deeply with people, fostering a deeper understanding of climate risks and disasters. Romina Khurshid expressed the hope that through creativity and collaboration, we can catalyze the change needed for a sustainable future.

She stated that the Ministry of Climate Change supported such initiatives and was committed to working alongside all those who contribute to protecting the environment. She also underlined the need to act swiftly and decisively to mitigate these impacts.

While highlighting the government's priority of engaging youth in climate action, she said the national adaptation plan 2023 emphasizes inclusivity, especially for gender and youth. She expressed her heartfelt gratitude to OffGrid Studios and the artists and invited them to reflect, en-

gage, and be inspired to take meaningful action for a resilient future.

"Artists' art does not know boundaries and they cannot be stopped and barred from thinking and creating artistic marvels. The artists showcased Iqbal's poetry, Quranic verses, colors of humanity and nature which is commendable and the Ministry will promote it at the international level as every painting is a message," Romina Khurshid said.

She said paintings and art work used to give an individual relief and solace from the vagaries of life, adding, "These all artists are my team and voice of Pakistan as climate education, entertainment, literacy and art comprises all these pieces and the artists have taken lead in this regard."

She also commended the role of media for supporting climate cause and demonstrating its commitment to it at every forum.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Housing and Works, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, talking to media after visiting Federal Government Employees Housing Authority Bhara Kahu Sky Garden scheme.

SC nullifies death sentence decision orders for releasing 2 convicts after 12 years

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) while nullifying the decision of death penalty after 12 years has issued orders for releasing the 2 accused.

These orders were issued by SC bench presided over by Justice Jamal Mandokhail and comprising Justice Hassan Akhtar and Justice Naeem Afghan Wednesday.

The court annulled the decision of trial court, high court.

The court maintained in its written order that it wondered that the subordinate judiciary declared it illicit relations without any evidence.

The court in its order nullified death sentence of convict Muhammad Ijaz alias Billay and life imprisonment of co-convict Nasim Akhtar.

The charges of murdering the husband of the co-accused Nasim Akhtar was proved against convict Muhammad Ijaz in 2010.

According to the case both of the culprits had established illicit relations.

According to the claimant of the case the two culprits were found giving electric shocks to the victim. The claimant caught them red handed. Culprit started firing.

According to case the husband of convict Nasim Akhtar was killed due to firing of convict Muhammad Ijaz.

According to defence counsel the case of suicide was declared murder case.

According to defence counsel the illicit relations between the two convicts don't stand proved.

Preparations finalized to prevent water logging in city

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has finalized all the arrangements needed for preventing water-logging in the city due to rain which will fall as a result of Monsoon.

"With the monsoon season approaching, the authorities in Islamabad are gearing up to ensure the city is prepared for the rains," said a news statement by the ICT administration.

The ICT administration shared a comprehensive plan in this regard which spelled out a series of activities that were aimed at keeping the city functioning smoothly.

"Firstly, the cleaning of drains has been completed as part of the pre-monsoon plan. Ongoing work in various areas will soon be finished," it said, adding all the machinery

needed for cleaning the city during the monsoon "is ready to go".

The ICT administration said equipment had been distributed to both urban and rural areas, with a particular focus on residential zones. "Should there be heavy rainfall, standard operating procedures (SOPs) will be enacted in all these areas."

According to the local administration, rescue teams equipped with de-watering sets would be on standby during the rains.

"In case of water accumulation, especially in basements, residents can call emergency numbers 15 or 16," it said, adding the teams would respond promptly to any standing water issues.

"Areas that experienced significant water logging last year are under close watch," the administration stressed.

Custom officials visits NH&MP office

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of 33 under-training inspectors from Pakistan Customs visited the National Highways and Motorway Police (NH&MP) Central Police Office here on Wednesday.

During the visit, Additional Inspector General (AIG) Shah Asad, along with DSP's Asma Naqvi and Asad Abbas, provided a comprehensive briefing on the professional performance, operations, role, and structure of the National Highways and Motorway Police. The inspectors also visited the 130 helplines and command centre.

AIG Shah Asad highlighted that the National Highways and Motorway Police and Pakistan Customs are collaborating to modernize procedures to prevent smuggling on national highways and motorways.

Int'l Plastic Bag Free Day observed

ISLAMABAD (Online): International Plastic Bag Free Day was observed Wednesday to create awareness among public about fight against plastic pollution. In her message on International Plastic Bag Free Day, Chief Minister of the Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif highlighted the serious threat of plastic pollution and called for decisive action to address the issue. She reaffirmed the government's commitment to ending the use of plastic bags in Punjab.

Maryam Nawaz urged citizens to support the government's efforts by ensuring the implementation of the law banning the production, sale, and use of plastic bags.

She emphasized the goal of creating a plastic-free Punjab, where rivers, parks, and cities are free from plastic pollution.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain and Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to Pakistan, Andrei Metelitsa cutting the cake on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Belarus and the 30th anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Belarus and Pakistan at a local hotel in Federal Capital.

PM loan scheme has a crucial role in fostering economic growth; Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP), Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan, on Wednesday, emphasized the significant role of the PMYP Loan Scheme in fostering economic growth by empowering the youth.

Presiding over a meeting of the officials from the State Bank of Pakistan at the Prime Minister's office, he highlighted the scheme's success in generating employment and supporting

young entrepreneurs across Pakistan.

The meeting discussed the current Prime Minister's Youth Loan Scheme (PMYLS), its impact on creating employment opportunities, and strategies to enhance its reach.

"Empowering youth is key to driving economic development and ensuring a prosperous future for our nation," Rana Mashood said, adding,

"The PMYLS has already made a substantial

impact, and with increased support from the State Bank, we can reach even more young individuals and help them realize their entrepreneurial dreams."

On the occasion, State Bank officials provided insights into the scheme's current status, sharing data on loan disbursements and success stories.

They discussed the measures taken to streamline the application process and address challenges faced by applicants.

Pak consumes 55 bn plastic bags at expected 15% increase in usage annually: Sherry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson, Senate Standing on Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman on World Plastic Bag Free Day said that the country was consuming 55 billion plastic bags annually at an expected increase by 15 percent in its usage every year.

The Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change Senator in her message on the International Plastic Bag Free Day urged the nation to review the environmental impact of plastic bags and its indiscriminate use in Pakistan.

Senator Rehman said Pakistan is facing a serious problem of plastic pollution as single-use plastic bags causing water stagnation, littering and damage to human, aquatic and wildlife.

"Plastic bags take hundreds of years to decompose and their accumulation poses serious risks to the environment and health. All our small and big cities face major challenges in plastic waste management," she said.

She underscored that several attempts were made to stop the use of plastic bags, however, due to lack of alternatives, slow implementation and lack of public awareness.

Aleem flays Bajaur blast

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Communication, Board of Investment and Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan on Wednesday condemned the remote-controlled bomb blast in Bajaur District, which resulted in the tragic loss of lives, including former Senator Hidayatullah Khan and three others.

Expressed heartfelt sorrow over the casualties, the minister extended his deepest condolences to the bereaved families, including the family of former Senator Hidayatullah Khan, said a press release. He prayed for the departed souls to rest in peace and for grant of strength and patience to the affected families in this difficult time.

Police foil major terrorism plan

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, Islamabad Police are conducting daily intelligence-based search and combing operations in the federal capital Islamabad in view of security during Muharram-ul-Haram.

During the search operation in the Sanghani police station jurisdiction, unknown accused fired at police teams. The police responded in self-defense, and the accused took advantage of the darkness and bushes to escape while firing.

The police team recovered a Kalashnikov rifle, two hand grenades, safety fuse wires, two detonators, ball bearings, and empty shells from the scene.

CUI, CERN to strengthen, expand collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) and European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) would strengthen and expand collaboration in the field of science and technology.

This was discussed during an interaction of the CERN delegation and senior officials of CUI. Hosted a two-member delegation of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) at its Islamabad Campus. The two member delegation from CERN was comprised of Dr. Luciano Musa, Project Leader ALICE, (A Large Ion Collider Experiment) CERN, alongside Dr. Luca Malgeri, Senior Researcher.

They were joined by Dr. Zafar Yasin, Director

CERN Secretariat, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) and Dr. Altaf Ur Rahman, Director, CERN, Switzerland.

It was informed that since joining ALICE in 2008 and achieving full membership in 2012, COMSATS University Islamabad has been integral to advancing scientific research in collaboration with CERN. To revive and expand this partnership, the university leadership recently formed a specialized CERN Liaison Group. Heading this initiative Dr. Tahir Naeem, Director Planning, Development, and Human Resource Development (P, D and HRD), CUI was designated as Focal Person to manage all collaborative efforts and future programs with CERN.

EPA finds subpar waste management practices at Capital's various hospitals

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) on Wednesday during its inspection visit found subpar waste management practices in various hospitals of the federal capital.

A joint inspection exercise under the directives of the prime minister was conducted by the Pak-EPA and the Islamabad Health Care Regulatory Authority (IHRA), a news release said.

The assessment, carried out by four teams, found significant lapses in

waste segregation, storage, and incineration, posing risks of infection spread and environmental contamination.

The hospital management had pledged to rectify the issues and implement proper waste management protocols. Moreover, Pak-EPA and IHRA would continue monitoring health facilities in Islamabad to ensure compliance with the Hospital Waste Management Rules 2005, taking necessary actions to safeguard public health and the environment.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan in a meeting with state bank officials.

Randhawa directs action be taken against defaulters of commercial properties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Wednesday directed that immediate action be taken against the defaulters of commercial properties acquired in CDA auctions.

While chairing a meeting here, he said that the properties of the defaulters should be canceled in accordance with the law.

Muhammad Ali said that multiple opportunities to pay dues/installments have already been provided through advertisements and notices.

Similarly, for the convenience of the public, he said the CDA One Window

Operation Directorate remained open until midnight on Saturday and Sunday at the end of the financial year.

The CDA chief said that despite numerous opportunities, the properties of those who fail to pay their installments will be canceled.

On the instructions of the CDA Chairman, the process of canceling the allotments of various commercial properties due to non-payment of dues by June 30, 2024, has commenced.

The cancellation process has begun after fulfilling the legal requirements, including newspaper advertisements and notices.

FC to assist police in strengthening Muharram security: IG Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The Inspector General Police (IGP) Islamabad reviewed various on going initiatives including the new recruit-

ment process with merit and transparency, to include educated youth in the police force, and to take further steps for the welfare of police officers. Additionally, IG Islamabad chaired a meeting consisting of senior police officers to ensure effective security arrangements in the federal capital during Muharram-ul-Haram. FC will assist Islamabad Police in fulfilling its duties during Muharram, he added. In the meeting, new targets were assigned to the IT and Technical teams regarding the installation of more cameras for better functionality.



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ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecom, Capt. (Retd) Muhammad Mahmood in a group photograph with the participants during seminar on National Championship Final Year Projects (NCFYP) 2022-23 of National Grassroots ICT Research Initiative.

CDA to launch 30 electric buses on Friday

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is likely to launch the operation of 30 electric buses on different routes of the federal capital to facilitate the residents on July 5 (Friday).

"The buses had arrived in Islamabad last month which will be operational to mitigate the problems being faced by the travelers of the twin cities," officials sources in the CDA told APP. The sources said that the inauguration ceremony is likely to attend by senior dignitaries, officials of CDA and other relevant departments. Chairman CDA, Chaudhry Muhammad Ali Randhawa is not only putting maximum efforts to facilitate the residents of the

federal capital by enhancing facilities but also beautifying the city on modern lines. They said that these buses would run on two routes including National University of Science and Technology (NUST) to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) and PIMS to Bari Imam. The first route would start from NUST and end at PIMS after passing through G-11 Markaz, G-10 Markaz, G-9 Markaz, and G-8 Markaz, they added. They said the second route would start from PIMS and conclude at Bari Imam after passing through G-7, G-6, Melody, Aabpara, Ataturk Road, Serena Hotel, Foreign Office, Radio Pakistan, and the Diplomatic Enclave.

CDA chief urges modernization via PP Partnership

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa said that adopting the practices of the Public Private Partnership Authority (P3A) would transform the Authority into a dynamic institution.

While chairing a meeting here Wednesday, he said that P3A would provide technical support to the CDA for investment in the real estate sector. "We aim to utilize the assistance and expertise of the P3A to initiate major projects for the promotion of tourism in

Islamabad," he added. The P3A and international consultants attended the meeting. The Chairman CDA said that instead of auctioning assets, a policy to create permanent sources of income would be implemented. "Through the platform of the Public Private Partnership Authority, the CDA is keen to work on projects that generate permanent income," he added. Muhammad Ali said the CDA is considering to initiate the projects for permanent sources of income through a professionally strong platform.

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Motorway Police returns two cell phones to a traveler

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Highway and Motorway Police (NHMP) officials found and handed over two lost mobile phones worth Rs 140,000 to its owner here on Wednesday. According to details, a traveler near Paliana on the Swat motorway contacted Motorway police and said that during a stay at a petrol pump in a service area, he had forgotten to leave his mobile phones.

The NHMP North zone officials took immediate action on his request and after tracing the lost phones,

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Orwellian state

It seems that the goings-on in judges' homes is not the only thing that piques Big Brother's curiosity. Our security apparatus also listens to what ordinary citizens are talking about on their phones, reads the messages they exchange with other people, and watches what they do on the internet.

This startling revelation has come to light recently, thanks to a submission to the Islamabad High Court. The information given to the court revealed that the country's telecom regulator, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, has forced telecom companies to implement a mass surveillance system through which up to 4m citizens can be monitored at any given time with the click of a button.

Called the 'Lawful' Intercept Management System in true Orwellian nomenclature, this system is being run without any regulatory checks and balances or legal controls, allowing the intrusive eyes and ears of unnamed intelligence agencies to spy on anyone they want.

'Leaked' phone calls involving prominent citizens had dominated news headlines and social media not so long ago, prompting petitions from some of the affected individuals against intrusive surveillance by the state. The existence of LIMS may not have come to light had the IHC's Justice Babar Sattar, who heard a petition on the matter, not insisted on demanding answers from the state about who had the power and resources to conduct such surveillance of civilians.

What has since been uncovered is chilling for anyone who cherishes personal freedoms. The judge noted in his order that citizens' data was being collected without any human intervention or legal warrant, with "the entire content of communication between consumers undertaken through the network of the telecom licensee, including audio and video content and web page records", being shared with unnamed agencies, according to news reports. The potential for abuse of such detailed information collected on citizens is immense. The fact that any citizen at any time can be made vulnerable by the state simply listening to and watching what they are doing and using that information to blackmail them would make anyone feel insecure.

Many serving judges have recently complained about the pressures they face, and this should be warning enough that the powerful in our country do not respect any moral or legal boundaries when it comes to implementing 'orders from above'. There are good justifications for keeping an eye on known criminals, terrorists and foreign spies, but implementing a system to spy on one's own people is a perverse abuse of power and should be stopped forthwith. The state must be made to secure legal warrants as a necessary requirement for initiating surveillance of any individual. Such immense power should not be accumulated by any institution as the potential for abuse and the consequences for personal freedoms can be disastrous.

Rafia Zakaria

If last week's debate was not victory enough for former president Donald Trump, he had another windfall land in his lap this Monday. On July 1, 2024, the US supreme court issued its decision, stating that the former president enjoyed presidential immunity for official acts during his term in office. The supreme court remanded the case back to the trial court for a decision on what the 'official acts' would be.

The stunning decision took a very broad interpretation of immunity, including the president telling his own Department of Justice to prosecute political opponents and other people he did not like. It also follows that some of Trump's acts on Jan 6, which included refusals to call the National Guard and other law-enforcement against the protesters, could be immune from prosecution if they fall under official acts.

The political scene in the US was already in disarray since President Joe Biden's dismal debate

performance last Thursday. For those who did not watch the event, it showed the 82-year-old Biden faltering, hesitant, pale and losing his train of thought. In sum, all the attacks that the Trump team had been making on Biden's inability to hold office at his age were given full credence. So awful was the performance that even after the first 10 minutes were over, Democratic operatives were in a state of panic about what would happen next.

Many already began to float the possibility of an open convention in which Biden would release the delegates that have pledged support for him to be free to choose someone else as the presidential candidate. For his part, Biden issued a statement the next day that he had full intention to contest the coming election and was not considering relinquishing the nomination. This has not quelled rumours of an open convention or of everyone from Vice President Kamala Harris and Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer to Pennsylvania

Governor Josh Shapiro taking over the top slot on the ticket. These wranglings continue, with some Democratic operatives arguing that a new candidate now would be worse than Biden, and others insisting that Biden would more or less guarantee a Democratic loss.

In this maelstrom of confusion is the historic decision virtually guaranteeing that Trump re-elected in the presidency will have drastically more powers than he enjoyed in his previous term. Writing in her dissent for the minority, Justice Sonia Sotomayor said that the decision signed on by the majority had given such broad powers to the presidency that the president could order Seal Team Six to assassinate someone and be immune from prosecution if his directive could be considered an official act. She said that the decision makes a "mockery" of the precept that "no man is above the law". "The president," Sotomayor wrote, "is now a king".

For her part, dissenting Justice Ketanji

Brown Jackson wrote: "Even a hypothetical president who admits to having ordered the assassinations of his political rivals or critics, or one who indisputably instigates an unsuccessful coup, has a fair shot at getting immunity under the majority's new presidential accountability model." Basically, while everyone else in the US lives within the confines of the country's laws, the president is going to be above the law, Brown Jackson wrote.

The majority, however, saw things differently, the notable difference being that they did not see how a president could conduct his office without having immunity for official actions even after his term as president was over.

There are wider repercussions stemming from the supreme court's decision. On the legal front, it detracts from the legitimacy of America's supreme court which has increasingly been attacked in recent days for harbouring political biases even as it pretends at neutrality. The fact

that many of the justices in the majority were Trump appointees does not help the reputation of the courtroom, which will be scoffed at as simply doing the bidding of the party and the president that initially gave them their cushy jobs. The recent controversies regarding the political leanings of conservative justices like Samuel Alito and the long-standing accusations of political bias against him do not help the court's failing status as a neutral arbiter.

The decision has amplified panic among the Democrats for a number of reasons. Many are now afraid that another Trump term will not be simply terrifying but also downright catastrophic, with an unhinged president using all sorts of 'official acts' as the basis for settling vendettas, intimidating political enemies and political score-keeping. This makes the stakes extremely high for the November election. Those asking for Biden to step aside can point to the extreme conservatism of the court and argue that other things previously

thought impossible, such as a ban on birth control and in vitro fertilization, are not hard to imagine, coming from a court that is showing its extreme conservatism in this decision. Finally, there are implications for international jurisprudence as well. Many democratic countries struggle with the issue of how to assess the criminal actions of past leaders. This decision offers a huge carte blanche saying that governance itself necessitates a level of insulation against being held accountable for one's actions. It is particularly frightening that the decision was instigated by a case in which the then president is known to have ordered supporters to attack another democratic institution. The chief justice of the supreme court did not think so; in his opinion granting immunity was one of the ways that a country could be kept away from an endless cycle of past rulers being forced into court and being prosecuted every time a new government was elected. -- Courtesy Dawn

The budget and after**Zahid Hussain**

The banker-turned-finance minister appeared non-plussed as he responded to the questions on Budget 2024-2025 that has burdened the already weighed-down salaried classes while protecting the privileged. He could only offer words of 'sympathy and empathy' to the affected people. His defence of exemptions extended to the top civil and military bureaucracy and retail businesses was equally superficial.

But why should one blame the rookie finance minister for the budgetary jugglery we have witnessed? He is just the messenger of bad news. The budget reflects the demands of vested interests that are not prepared to change the status quo. The untouchables are not to be touched. Fleecing the oppressed remains the name of the game.

Indeed, the increase in tax revenue, wherever it comes from, will help secure a new IMF financial package and keep a broken economy afloat for a while. But the budget, which was approved by parliament last week amid some protesting voices, doesn't

even hint that the incumbents are interested in carrying out the promised structural reform needed to steer the economy out of its perpetual state of crisis.

It is largely a patch-up job that is not likely to be sustained. A long-term vision for economic revival is missing. The prime minister has admitted that the budget was prepared in 'collaboration' with the IMF. So, where is that much-touted home-grown economic reform programme? It seems to be non-existent.

While a section of the population has been laden with more taxes, no real effort has been made to widen the base. There has not been any effort to contain the burgeoning current expenditure. Instead, there has been a substantial increase in administrative expenses. The belt-tightening has certainly not been across the board.

These measures won't help improve the environment for domestic investment, let alone clear the way for those (illusory) billions of dollars in foreign investments. A collapsing economy is a disincentive for all kinds of invest-

ments. There is still no clarity on the disinvestment of state-owned enterprises, which constitute the biggest financial drain.

The budget is not only bereft of an economic and political vision, it also shows the lack of capacity to think beyond narrow interests. The budget has exposed the fault lines within the existing power structure. The continuation of exemptions to the civil and military bureaucracy is a manifestation of the latter's hold on the power matrix. Similarly, the politically powerful agricultural and retail sectors are left out of the tax net.

Sure, some exemptions have been removed because of the IMF's pressure, but there is still a long list of protections that have not been taken away. The finance minister says that work is in progress, yet there is no sign of any move to rationalise the tax regime. There is no effort to bring the rich and powerful into the tax net.

Not only is there an economic cost to be paid for a flawed policy, there are also political consequences for a tottering coalition administration. The increasing burden of taxes

has fuelled public discontent, which may not be contained. With runaway inflation, public outrage has reached new heights. Can a weak coalition government, riven by internal divisions, deal with an increasingly volatile situation? Certainly not.

It has been a little over 100 days of drifting for the Shehbaz Sharif government. The coalition of disparate political groups has yet to chart a clear economic and political direction. It is yet to find its moorings, despite the fact that the same coalition had previously been in power for more than 18 months. The conflict within the Sharif family has also been a major cause for the persisting confusion.

It is apparent that with his elevation as deputy prime minister, Ishaq Dar is now virtually guiding the country's economic policy. It is the same old policy that was largely responsible for Pakistan's economic downslide. The powers of Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb have been increasingly curtailed. With Dar presiding over meetings of the Executive Committee of the

National Economic Council, the finance minister's position has been further undermined. Dar is also the head of the privatisation committee, as well as the foreign minister.

Nothing could be more ridiculous than such unprecedented concentration of powers in the hands of one person, who has nothing much to show for his past position as economic czar. The involvement of the military leadership in economic policy planning has made things more complicated. The dichotomy of power has also been a factor in the Sharif government's failure to build a long-term vision of economic recovery. The latest budget gives no hope for change. The Dar economy is very much back in action.

No wonder the finance minister appeared completely clueless at the post-budget media talks. It was embarrassing for him when more tax was dumped on the salaried classes against his assurances earlier that there was no such decision. His 'sympathy and empathy' for the affected salaried classes were an embarrassment.

The economy cannot be separated from politics. Continuing political instability has been a major cause of the economic slide. The existing power structure, with the security establishment's dominating role and elite capture, has been a major impediment in the way of change. Questionable legitimacy makes it harder for the government to undertake any meaningful reform in the system. Worsening political confrontation has rendered parliament virtually irrelevant.

Not surprisingly, there was no real debate on the budget in the National Assembly. Even if there was a serious comment, it was drowned out in the commotion. In fact, no political party — ruling or in the opposition — has any economic vision to take the country out of the current morass. There is not only a need for a charter of democracy but also a charter of economy among the political forces to put the country on the path of progress. There is also a need for a serious dialogue among all stakeholders to take the country in the direction of economic growth.

Pity the nation**Mahir Ali**

The Tory devastation in the 1997 UK election was a delight to behold, but it was somewhat blunted by suspicions that New Labour was neither equipped nor inclined to reverse the destructive thrust of nearly two decades of Thatcherism. Margaret Thatcher subsequently picked Tony Blair as her favourite heir and New Labour as her greatest achievement, given its dedication to advancing her agenda.

That agenda included steadily dismantling the social welfare state that the postwar Atlee government had installed despite financial exigencies, and which subsequent Conservative governments did not substantially tinker with until the advent of Thatcher, who declared that there was no alternative to neoliberalism. New Labour embraced that absurd declaration, and implemented it in places that Thatcherite Conservatism had failed to reach, not least in the health and education sectors.

Popular enthusiasm for Labour dwindled after 1997, but the lack of a viable alternative enabled it to secure majorities based on declining turnouts until 2010, when the Tories returned to power. Five disastrous prime ministers later, voters' aspiration for change is expected to be rewarded tomorrow with the biggest Labour landslide since 1997. At the new government's helm will be someone who looks back on the Blair years as an inspiration rather than a cautionary tale. Keir Starmer earned his legal spurs as a 'human rights advocate' before he was propelled to the post of director of public prosecutions, a position in which his service to the Tory-ruled state was sufficiently appreci-

ated to win him a knighthood before he became a Labour MP in 2015. His task thenceforth was to undermine Labour's Jeremy Corbyn, who threatened to return the party to its social democratic origins.

Corbyn had first won his north London seat in 1983 in an election that broadly reduced Labour to a parliamentary rump. He remained an active backbencher for the next 32 years, popular among his constituents but occasionally threatened with expulsion from his party for embracing stances that militated against the Labour leadership's dedication to the status quo. He was occasionally hauled away by policemen for protesting against South African apartheid or Saddam Hussein's dictatorship, long before it became fashionable to do so.

Corbyn's empathy for the oppressed also extended to the Palestinians. Not long after it began to become clear that his policies might actually pave the way to Downing Street, he was assaulted by absurd allegations of antisemitism. Corbyn tended to be politely apologetic in the face of such charges; he ought, instead, to have gone on the offensive against the Zionist lobby. To his credit, he never resiled from his stance nor disguised his abhorrence of the genocide in Gaza.

For his pains, he was expelled from Labour — by no means the only one. Diane Abbott, the first black woman to sit in parliament, also elected in 1983, was permitted to run again only after a backlash against a typically Starmerish smear-and-discard campaign. Corbyn is running as an independent, and senior Labour figures in his Islington constituency have resigned from the party to support his can-

didacy. In other jurisdictions, many activists have been expelled, often for opposing Starmer's support for genocide, including Faiza Shaheen. It seems as if wherever the Zionist lobby chips in, Starmer bends down and asks "What do you want?"

Starmer insists his wife and children are "not Jewish for reasons I won't bore you with" to an interviewer from The Guardian, a newspaper that played a huge role in defenestrating Corbyn with the aid of associated nitwits, but admits that "half of the family are Jewish", and "they're either here or in Israel". That might help to explain why his leadership campaign was partly funded by the Zionist lobby, which also provided pocket money to other Labour MPs for undermining Corbyn.

Starmer returned to the Corbyn shadow cabinet after resigning from it in 2016, and helped to set up the Brexit trap by insisting on a second referendum that was successfully designed to demolish Labour's chances in 2019. In his leadership campaign, he claimed he would hang onto much of Corbyn Labour's legacy, but discarded much of it soon afterwards. Since then, he has also had no qualms about serially shrinking or diluting his own proposals. The inevitable upshot is that Labour will attain office by tomorrow night, and embrace a platform not radically different from its predecessors. Starmer can't name a favourite book or poem, and claims he has no dreams, but his notions of magical 'economic growth' and 'wealth creation' chime with the Tory-lite attitudes that have attracted Tory donors and even a couple of Conservative MPs to his den. -- Courtesy Dawn

Hot and dangerous**Aisha Khan**

The rise in mercury has a human cost. With each decade getting warmer since 1980, the risk of breaching critical tipping points is getting alarmingly closer. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assessment reports have repeatedly reiterated the perils of crossing the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold and issued advisories for urgent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 to keep the planet safe. However, thus far 1.5°C has just been used as reference number to make strong political statements with very little to show for any measurable reduction in emissions at scale.

The heat this year is just a preview of what is likely to follow. Extreme events in past years and the health pandemic (Covid-19) are tangible proofs of the enormity of the crisis and its lingering effect on the economy. Other factors like biodiversity loss and climate-induced conflicts may not as yet be visibly relatable to people but are insidiously disrupting the social fabric of society.

Under the current patterns of emissions, it seems more than likely that the world is headed for 2.5 to 2.9°C temperature increase from pre-industrial levels this century. The beginning of summer in four continents in the northern hemisphere has already scorched cities leaving millions to swelter as temperatures soar to new highs.

For vulnerable countries like Pakistan, this means high-risk scenarios and need for urgent adaptive action. It has a psychological dimension that manifests itself in behavioural change and altered response mecha-

nisms peak before 2025, their long-term lingering impacts will continue to destabilise the climate, making it extremely difficult to cope with known threats and unknown risks. Fragility and crises will be the new norm as Earth heats up to challenge human actions and its impact on life systems.

In South Asia, the rising mercury is also a cryospheric crisis. The water towers that are a source of life to people from Bhutan to Afghanistan are under threat from the scorching heat. According to a report by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, snow levels are a fifth below normal in the Hindu Kush, Karakoram and Himalaya (HKH) region. This can result in excessive flooding initially and end with drought and desertification. Given its geography, the effect of deadly and repeated heatwaves will hit the region in multiple ways from the mountains to the coastline. As extreme heat also traps more moisture in the air, the monsoons this year are predicted to be 33 per cent more intense, amplifying the problem.

The world is on a collision trajectory with nature and time is running out for course correction. The good news is that everyone knows what needs to be done and there is still time to reset the future.

Meanwhile, the rise in atmospheric temperature will also result in a concomitant increase in heated debates over climate justice and moral mandate. Heat stress is not limited to physical effects, nor is it only about a food, water and energy crisis. It has a psychological dimension that manifests itself in behavioural change and altered response mecha-

nism. This chain reaction is often overlooked in planning. Historically, prolonged deprivations, inequality and injustices have resulted in social upheavals and system change. A heat-induced, drought-driven response to thirst, hunger and lack of basic amenities is likely to be even more cataclysmic.

The quantitative difference in resources between the Global North and the Global South and the qualitative difference in absorptive capacities of both will set the stage for conflict and pitched battles if two issues are not addressed quickly. The first underpins the need to address climate justice and the second calls for expediting reform in climate finance. There can be no more delays or debates on these two issues if the global community is serious about keeping its climate promise. Mitigation remains the number one responsibility of high-emitting countries to save the planet and reduce hardships for the already struggling millions around the world.

The scorching heat has an added dimension of peril for Pakistan. The country adds five million people to its population each year. Under this scenario the gap between supply and demand is going to increase beyond the state's ability to provide food, water and energy to 380m people by 2040. The spectre of shrinking resources and a burgeoning discontented youth population is something that needs to be factored into climate and human security planning.

A hot temper is a dangerous thing to deal with at a wider community scale. It is time to cool down the planet and for responsible countries to reduce emissions rapidly. -- Courtesy Dawn

CM Punjab reviews health sector reforms

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, chairing a special meeting here on Wednesday, reviewed the ongoing health sector reforms.

The CM said upgrading health centers would reduce rush of patients in big hospitals, adding that improvement in health services was not possible until the infrastructure was rebuilt. She highlighted: "It is my dream to bring every health facility to the doorstep of people. Hospitals require specialized human resource. Home delivery model of health services should be adopted, she instructed.

CM Maryam Nawaz said surgery in public hospitals should be brought to laparoscopy.

She directed the relevant authorities to make laparoscopy and

endoscopy services functional in hospitals as soon as possible.

In the last four years, there was governance crisis in every sector, including health, she said and agreed to make biometric attendance mandatory in health centers, tehsil and district hospitals. Thalassaemia centers will be established in district headquarters hospitals, and will be linked with Regional Blood Centres.

She directed the authorities concerned to start Women Clinics on Wheels in district hospitals, and said in each division, Mammography Machine and Breast Clinic on Wheels will provide services in each district turn by turn. The CM took strict notice of complaints about seeking money by the security guards in hospitals, and sought a plan to bring public-friendly security system in

hospitals. She directed to build a modern hospital in Rajanpur, and immediately sought a plan of a new DHQ Hospital there. She was briefed that state-of-the-art Tesla MRI machines will be provided through outsourcing at Sheikhupura and Bahawalnagar. The CM agreed to a proposal to provide ventilators and trained staff in tehsil headquarters hospitals. She directed the authorities concerned to provide mechanical sweepers in hospitals in order to mechanise cleaning system there. She decided in principle to make selected RHCs functional hospitals. She directed to ensure 100 per cent free supply of medicines in health centers, besides improving medicine supply chain. She decided to get third party audit of the health system twice a year.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Local Government Zeeshan Rafique addressing the conference of CEOs of Waste Management Companies.

Governor KP visits Nurek Dam, Power Station Tajikistan

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday highlighted Pakistan's potential for economic growth and resolution of public issues through collaboration with Central Asian countries.

He said this during his visit to Nurek Dam Tajikistan, one of the world's highest human-made structures, and its power station.

Officials from Tajikistan's Ministry of Energy briefed the Governor on the Nurek Dam, located approximately 75 kilometers from the capital, Dushanbe.

Situated on the Vakhsh River, the dam serves primarily for hydroelectric power generation, boasting a capacity of 3,015 megawatts.

Construction on the dam began in 1961, with the first generator coming online in 1972 and the project completing in 1980, making it the world's second tallest human-made structure. The Governor commended Tajik authorities, project developers, and engineers for their role in this monumental project.

During his visit, he discussed potential technical collaborations with Tajik energy officials.



LAHORE: After the symbolic session members of Form 45 protesting, in front of the Punjab Assembly of the provincial capital.

LHC seeks arguments on maintainability of petition against success of Hamza

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) Election Tribunal (ET) has sought arguments on maintainability of the petition filed against the success of Hamza Shehbaz Sharif son of Prime Minister (PM) Shahbaz Sharif and vice president PML-N as Member of National Assembly (MNA) from NA-118.

Justice Anwar Hussain has remarked the procedure of ET has been made perfect under election act. But this perfect procedure is for perfect system.

Appeal plea against success of Hamza Shehbaz

Sharif in NA-118 of National Assembly (NA) came up for hearing in LHC ET. The ET sought arguments from respondents on maintainability of petition.

Counsel for Hamza Shehbaz Sharif raised objections on the maintainability of the petition.

The counsel for Hamza Shehbaz while raising objection on the maintainability of petition said the petitioner has not attached the relevant documents with the petition and several pages of petition don't carry the signatures of petitioner.

KP Law Minister directs timely completion of people welfare projects

Independent Report KOHAT: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Aftab Alam Afridi Advocate has directed the authorities concerned of nation building departments to ensure timely completion of development projects without compromising on the quality of work.

He further directed to submit a progress report so far made on the ongoing projects to the Deputy

Commissioner office as soon as possible.

He gave these instructions while presiding over a review meeting on developmental projects held in the office of Deputy Commissioner Kohat on Wednesday.

Member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Shafi Jan, Chairman Tehsil Gumbat Sajid Iqbal, Additional Deputy Commissioner Finance Kohat Reena Suhrawardy and authorities.



KARACHI: Deputy Speaker of the New York State Assembly, Mr. Phillip Ramos presented shield during his visit to Karachi Press Club.

IDEAS, a shared platform for global peace, stability and prosperity: CM Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday said that IDEAS is a shared platform for global peace, stability and prosperity.

It is an event that provides enhanced opportunities for commercial exchange between delegates, trade visitors, defence officials and manufacturers from within Pakistan and abroad," he said this while speaking at the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting of the 12th Edition of the International Defence Exhibition and Seminar - IDEAS 2024 here at CM House.

The provincial ministers - Sharjeel Memon, Saeed Ghani, Zulfiqar Shah - Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, DG DEPO Major General Asad Nawaz, PSCM Agha Wasif, DG Rangers Major General Azhar Waqas, IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, Commissioner Karachi Hassan Naqvi attended the meeting here at CM House on Wednesday.

In the meeting conduct modalities of the 12th Edition of the International Defence Exhibition and Seminar; IDEAS 2024 were discussed.

Murad Shah said that IDEAS 2024 was scheduled from 19-22 November 2024 at the Karachi Expo Centre. "Hosting this 12th Edition of innovation and excellence is

indeed a testimony to our pledge to encourage technological growth," he said and added, "This edition of IDEAS will also pave the way for fostering and promoting Pakistan's strategic relations with the international community."

The CM said the national-level preparations for this momentous event have already commenced in coordination with all relevant stakeholders. "Today's meeting is aimed at providing further impetus to these undertakings," he said and reiterated the full support and cooperation of the Sindh government in all its domains for the successful accomplishment of this mega-national event.

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Solar system will be provided free of charge in underprivileged areas

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh government will provide free-of-charge solar power systems to 2.6 million such households, which are situated in underprivileged areas of the province without a proper network of electricity.

Sindh Local Government Minister, Saeed Ghani, stated this on Wednesday while talking to media persons at a luncheon reception hosted for him at a hotel by journalists.

According to his spokesperson Local Government Minister told media persons that the Sindh government had

started to implement the promise contained in the last election manifesto of PPP Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, that free electricity would be provided to the destitute people. He said the free-of-charge solar panels to be given by the Sindh government would enable the beneficiary households to operate light bulbs and fans. Ghani said that he had talked to the Sindh Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah about launching a programme under public-private partnership mode to provide solar power systems on easy monthly installments to the power.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhary Shafay Hussain inaugurates exhibition organized by School of Design and Textile.

20 dead, 1450 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least twenty people died while 1450 injured in 1314 road accidents in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of the injured, 651 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 799 people with minor injuries were treated on the spot.

NY State Assembly Dy Speaker for promoting cooperation between US-Pak in education, health sectors

KARACHI (APP): Deputy Speaker New York State Assembly, Philip Ramos on Wednesday stressed for a need to further promoting bilateral cooperation between the United States and Pakistan in the education and health sectors.

He said this while speaking during a visit to the Karachi Press Club along with Brooklyn Assembly Member Eric Brock.

Chairman, American Pakistani Public Affairs Committee (APPAC), Dr Ijaz Ahmed, President APPAC Imtiaz Rahi, and board members.

Philip Ramos said that there is a shortage of

nurses and pharmacists in New York and, there are trained nurses in Pakistan who undergo professional training every year. We want trained nurses and pharmacists from Pakistan to work in America, he added.

He pointed out that earlier, the US visas for Pakistanis were issued in 400 days but, now this time is reduced to 100 days due to our efforts.

He said that during the visit to Pakistan, the government of Punjab and Sindh has approved the sister state resolution with New York State.

Philip Ramos said that he is grateful to all

Pakistanis for the wonderful welcome and hospitality. Relations between Pakistan and US will further improve by establishing people-to-people contacts at the bilateral level, he said.

He said that the budget of the state of New York is equal to the annual budget of the whole of Pakistan. The purpose of the visit to Pakistan is to further improve Pakistan-US relations, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Opposition leader in the NY State Assembly Alec Brooke-Krasny said that he wants cooperation with Pakistan in the fields of education.

2 motorcyclists killed in road accidents

FAISALABAD (APP): Two motorcyclists were killed while another sustained serious injuries in different road accidents here on Wednesday.

Rescue 1122 spokesman said that a speeding truck hit a motorcycle near Chak No. 65-Gb on Jaranwala Road.

As a result, 40-year-old motorcyclist Abdul Rehman Anjum received serious injuries and died on the spot while Rescue 1122 shifted his pillion rider Mushtaq Ahmad (46) to hospital in critical condition.

Rs. 1.38b spent on welfare of police force

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Police spokesperson said on Wednesday that Rs. 1.38 billion had been spent on welfare of the police force, benefiting thousands of employees' families, in the first six months of the current year.

He said more than Rs. 500 million were released for education scholarships for children of police employees. A sum of Rs. 146 million was granted for medical assistance to employees facing health issues. Daughters of police employees received wedding gifts worth Rs. 326.9 million. The police employees were provided with Rs. 12.3 million.

KP CM directs implementation of monsoon plan

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has directed the concerned provincial departments and district administrations to ensure implementation of the Monsoon Contingency Plan of the provincial government and to remain high alert at all times in order to effectively deal with any untoward situation across the province.

In his special directives, issued here on Wednesday in this regard, the Chief Minister said that monsoon contingency plan is mainly aimed at safeguarding the lives and properties of the people, minimizing the disaster risks and ensuring swift and accurate response to any emergency due to expected rains in the current monsoon season.

"All the tiers of disaster management and relief activities would have to play their proactive role in this regard," he said and directed the authorities concerned to strictly follow the guidelines laid down by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority to this effect, adding that all the prerequisites should be completed in all respects to reduce the disaster risks and damages to the public life and properties across the province.

He also directed them to ensure all time availability of the required manpower, machinery, relief items and medical teams along with necessary medicines with special focus on the most vulnerable areas of the province as they need to have extra ordinary arrangements and rapid response mechanism to deal with any emergency in an effective manner.

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MUZAFFARABAD: The heirs of Shahzeb, who was abducted from Langarpura, are protesting with placards at Azadi Chowk for the recovery of the child.

Minister for early completion of outsourcing waste management program

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafique chaired the conference of CEOs of waste management companies across Punjab to review progress in the pilot programme of outsourcing of sanitation systems.

Secretary Local Government and Community Development (LG & CD) Department Shakeel Ahmed Mian also participated in the conference held at the Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) office here on Wednesday.

All Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) provided details regarding pre-qualification of private companies interested in outsourcing in their respective areas.

Addressing the CEOs conference, Minister Zeeshan Rafique said that it was the vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif to introduce a uniform sanitation system throughout the province. "Under this vision, a long-lasting and effective sanitation system is being implemented in Punjab", said the minister.

He said that the main objective of outsourcing was to implement uniform sanitation system. "No government in the past tried to focus on sanitation at villages", he regretted.

He added that "now for the first time the government had decided to provide sanitation facilities to the majority of the population of the province", he said.

Ch. Shafay inaugurates exhibition at UMT

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhary Shafay Hussain inaugurated the exhibition organized by School of Design and Textiles UMT (University of Management and Technology) here on Wednesday.

The students set up 170 stalls in the exhibition held at Awan Quaid-e-Azam. The provincial minister inspected the stalls and appreciated the creative work of the students.

Later talking to media, the Provincial Minister said, "Our students are very talented and they need support. Steps are being taken to increase the linkages of students with the industry."

He said that there is great potential in the textile sector and the employment of thousands of people is related to this sector. Government is establishing Garment City in Quaid-e-Azam Business Park Sheikhupura to promote textile sector.



MULTAN: Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad is addressing the meeting of Ittehad Bain ul Muslimeen.

PHC halts tax collection by Abbottabad Cantt Board

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Peshawar High Court (PHC) Abbottabad bench on Wednesday has ordered to suspend the tax collection by the Abbottabad Cantonment Board (ACB) from small industries in the region.

The decision came in response to a petition filed by local industrialists, citing overreach and distress caused by the ACB's actions since 2022.

President Abbottabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Association Abdul Rashid Khan highlighted the grievances

of industrialists, accusing the Cantonment Board of exceeding its authority. This move, he claimed, had adversely affected small industries in Abbottabad.

The High Court's Double Bench, upon reviewing the petition presented by prominent lawyer Gul Sherin Khan Jadon Advocate, issued a stay order. This order temporarily prevents the Cantonment Board from collecting taxes until further hearings take place.

The court has directed to submit records from both the ACB.



KARACHI: Police personnel's trying to stop teachers going toward red zone area during a protest.



BEIJING: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a group photo with the panelists representing Pakistani and Chinese companies at the EuroAsia Pakistan Digital Economy Forum-2024.

Mobilink Bank champions sustainability-driven leadership with ESG training

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank, has taken a leap forward in solidifying its position as



a frontrunner in sustainable banking practices. The Bank announced the successful completion of an external training program on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices explicitly designed for its leadership team. This in-depth training initiative equipped the Bank's top decision-makers with the knowledge and skills necessary to integrate ESG principles into the core of their operations.

Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a

Senate standing body on Finance meets

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue on Wednesday unanimously approved the amendments to the State-Owned Enterprises Governance and Operations ordinance, 2024. The committee met here with Senator Saleem Mandviwalla in chair and discussed the amendments on State-Owned Enterprises (Governance and Operations) (Amendment) ordinance, 2024, said a press release.



FAISALABAD: A craftsman works in a local factory on Maqbool Road in the city.

Tough decisions essential for economic revival: Pervaiz Malik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Power Ali Pervaiz Malik said on Wednesday that the government had adopted a challenging of economic reforms for long-term stability in the country.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan is on the verge of economic revival. He said that performance of the stock exchange and reductions in inflation were the indicators of the positive impact of the government's economic measures. Additionally, he said that cabinet members, including prime minister, were foregoing their salaries and benefits as part

Pakistani IT companies offers diverse range of products, services: Shaza Fatima

BEIJING (APP): Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Wednesday said the Pakistani IT companies offered a diverse range of products and services from software development and cybersecurity to artificial intelligence and data analytics.

"These capabilities complement the strengths of our global counterparts, paving the way for extensive collaboration," she said while addressing the EuroAsia Pakistan Digital Economy Forum.

The minister said that China had made remarkable advancements in artificial intelligence, big data, cloud computing, and 5G technology.

The Belt and Road Initiative and the Digital Silk Route project were clear indications of the country's commitment to building a connected and technologically advanced world, she added.

Gold rates up by Rs.800 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of per tola of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.207,733 from Rs.242,300 on Wednesday against its sale at Rs.241,500 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.686 to Rs.207,733 from Rs.207,047 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.190,422 from Rs.189,793, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

Govt revises per ton rate for miners in mining sector

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government has revised 45-year-old per ton rate for miners to address the long-standing demand of workers in the mining sector.

Under the 1967 Act, the outdated excise duty on minerals rate for miners' welfare has been significantly revised. The old rate of 5 rupees per ton has been increased to 30 rupees per ton, becoming effective from July 1, 2024.

The new rate is expected to generate millions of rupees in additional annual revenue from excise duty on minerals. Minister for Mines and Minerals Sardar Sher Ali Gorchani has said, "The initiative demonstrates Punjab government's dedication to taking every possible measure for workers' welfare. We are committed to ensuring that workers' rights are protected and prioritised."

The minister said that China had made remarkable advancements in artificial intelligence, big data, cloud computing, and 5G technology.

The Belt and Road Initiative and the Digital Silk Route project were clear indications of the country's commitment to building a connected and technologically advanced world, she added.

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Under the 1967 Act, the outdated excise duty on minerals rate for miners' welfare has been significantly revised. The old rate of 5 rupees per ton has been increased to 30 rupees per ton, becoming effective from July 1, 2024.

KP Governor meets Tajik energy minister

DUSHANBE (APP): The Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi here Wednesday met with Tajikistan's Energy Minister and discussed the CASA-1000 energy project.

The KP Governor exchanged views with Tajikistan's Energy Minister Juma Dalair Shofakir on CASA 1000 project that after completion would give stability to energy sector in Pakistan.

Tajikistan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Sharifzoda Yusuf, Member of Provincial Assembly Arbab Zarak Khan, prominent businessman Shahbaz Zaheer, and officials from Tajikistan's Ministry of Energy attended the meeting.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the significant CASA-1000 energy project involving Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The main objectives of the project are to improve electricity access in Afghanistan and Pakistan, promote regional energy trade, and foster economic development among the participating countries.

PM invites Tajikistan to use Karachi Port for transit trade; calls for road, rail connectivity

DUSHANBE (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday invited Tajikistan to use Karachi Port for the transit trade besides emphasising the promotion of regional connectivity by constructing rail tracks and roads between the two countries.

The bilateral relations were discussed in a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and his Tajik counterpart Qohir Rasulzoda here.

The prime minister is on a two-day official visit to Tajikistan at the invitation of the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction over the steadily expanding bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest and reaffirmed their shared desire to further strengthen the existing fraternal ties.

Prime Minister Shehbaz congratulated the Tajik prime minister on the successful organization of the 3rd High-Level Water Conference and appreciated Tajikistan's leading role in water diplomacy.

Highlighting the signing of the Strategic Partnership Agreement as a historic moment in bilateral ties between Pakistan and Tajikistan, the prime minister expressed the hope that this elevation of the relationship between the two countries would open up new areas of mutually beneficial economic cooperation.

Prime Minister Shehbaz underlined that Pakistan would continue to pursue enhanced engagement with Central Asian countries, including Tajikistan, in line with its "Vision Central Asia" policy. He also stressed that enhanced regional connectivity and integration would remain

key components for sustainable long-term socio-economic development of the region. Emphasising the importance of regional ties in the South Asian and Central Asian region, the prime minister suggested that Pakistan host a regional connectivity summit to provide trade corridors to Central Asian countries and promote regional trade.

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KARACHI: The Chief Executive Officer Sindh Transmission and Dispatch Company (STDC) Muhammad Salim Shaikh, CEO NSCL Zaigham Adil Rizvi and CEO K-Electric Monis Abdullah Alvi signing a MoU for 40MW power supply from K-Electric to National Steel Company Ltd (NSCL). Provincial Energy Minister Syed Nasir Shah and Local Bodies Minister Saeed Ghani also present on the occasion.

Govt committed to openness, transparency in all privatization transactions: Aleem Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan on Wednesday said that the government was committed to openness and transparency in all of the privatization transactions of loss making enterprises and all the bidding would be telecast live for everyone to see.

The minister was briefing the media persons regarding the government's policy, plan and strategy for privatization and apprised them on the developments of the ongoing transactions including PIACL,

Roosevelt Hotel, HBF and the First Women Bank, said a press release.

He said that PIA offered a very good opportunity for its buyer to earn profit given that PIA has great potential that only requires fresh investment.

He praised the pilots of the national airline for being thorough professionals and experts in their field.

The minister lamented the delays in privatization of certain entities in the past and pointed to the fact that these delays have already

inflicted losses of billions of rupees and apprised that the government was ready for the privatization of Distribution Companies (DISCOs) where three entities including HESCO, PESCO and SEPCO would be offered for long term concession.

He said that the six entities including IESCO, FESCO, GEPCO, LESCO, MEPCO and HAZECO would be completely privatized through sale and the Ministry of Privatization would initiate the process in due course in consultation with Power Division.

MD PSIC visits SCCI

SIALKOT (APP): Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC) Managing Director Sidra Younas and CEO of Urban Unit Aman Anwar Kidwaito visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) here on Wednesday. SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik, Senior Vice President Wahub Jahangir, Vice President Amer Majeed Sheikh welcomed the guests. The business community stressed that internationally accredited laboratory need to be established in Sialkot. Abdul Ghafoor Malik said that the working group would be established with the consultation of all trade bodies of Sialkot in this regard.

Jazz, Google, Tech valley mark milestone achievement with 'Digital Safar'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Affairs and Public Policy Lead for Google South Asia; Umar Farooq, CEO of Tech Valley; and the Minister of the School Education Department, Punjab also attended the event.

Digital Safar has already empowered over 100,000 students, aged between 9 to 14 years old, and trained more than 1,000 teachers. By 2025, the program aims to reach an additional 200,000 students and train 2,000 master trainers from public and private schools across Pakistan including Islamabad, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Balochistan.

PCJCCI keen on strengthening academia-CPEC linkages

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) Wednesday showed keen interest in strengthening academia-CPEC linkages.

Sharing his view at a think-tank session, held here at PCJCCI Secretariat, the joint chamber's President Moazzam Ghurki highlighted that CPEC not only benefits the economy and bilateral trade between the two countries but it also offers opportunity for Pakistan

to adopt and access more policies to strengthen the educational sector of the country.

He added that throughout the world, the developing economies are struggling for the better progress and advancement of the education sector for rational economic growth and substantial development. In poverty stricken array, Pakistan and the Ministry of Education (MoE) can reinvigorate policies to meet the educational challenges.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on finance and revenue presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

Gazans seek shelter after evacuation order, Israel carries out new strikes

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Many Palestinians were seeking shelter on Wednesday after fleeing their homes in southern Gaza and complained of water shortages as Israel pressed on with its military offensive in the densely populated enclave. Israeli forces carried out new military strikes in the southern city of Rafah amid fierce fighting with Palestinians overnight, residents said. At least 12 people were killed in new strikes in central and northern Gaza, health officials said. Israel's leaders have said they are winding down the phase of intense fighting against Hamas, the Islamist group that has governed Gaza since 2007, and will soon shift to more targeted operations in the nearly nine-month-old war in Gaza. But fighting continued

overnight in two locations at the centre of Rafah, where tanks have seized several districts and advanced further west and north of the city in recent days, and concerns about the plight of hundreds of thousands of displaced people are growing. The Israeli military said its forces had continued targeted, military-based operations in Rafah, dismantled several military sites and killed Palestinian militants. In Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza, two Israeli airstrikes killed five Palestinians, health officials said. In Shejaia, an eastern suburb of Gaza City in the centre of the enclave, an airstrike killed four and wounded 17, medics said. Another airstrike hit a car in the southern city of Deir Al-Balah, killing three people, health officials said.

Deir Al-Balah is crowded with hundreds of thousands of Palestinians forced to flee homes elsewhere in Gaza, and residents complain of acute shortages of drinking water and inflated prices for basic foodstuff. "There is no clean water to drink. We are forced to buy salty or unclean water at a high price," said Shaban, 47, a father of five. "Most of the displaced suffer from abdominal pains and diseases such as because of the unhealthy water, the lack of decent food and the pollution as many live near sewage pools," he told Reuters via a chat app. The war in Gaza began when Hamas burst into southern Israel on Oct. 7, killed about 1,200 people and seized around 250 civilians and soldiers who they took back in Gaza, according to Israeli tallies.



Palestinians react, following an Israeli strike near a UN-run school sheltering displaced people, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip.

Putin, Xi vie for influence at Central Asian summit

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: The leaders of Russia and China were in Kazakhstan for a regional summit, seeking to harden anti-Western alliances and press their influence in the strategic Central Asian region. Russian President Vladimir Putin touched down in the Kazakh capital of Astana on Wednesday morning for a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) — a Beijing-led regional bloc that covers Central Asia, India and Iran. Moscow and Beijing

have deepened their political, military and economic ties since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Alongside Chinese leader Xi Jinping, who arrived in Kazakhstan on Tuesday, the pair see the SCO as a key forum for advancing their strategic interests across Eurasia. "We attach great importance to partnership cooperation within this organisation," Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov told Russian state media outlets ahead of Putin's arrival.

Panama to launch migrant deportation flights in coming weeks, US says

Monitoring Desk
PANAMA: Panama will launch deportation flights for irregular migrants in the coming weeks, part of a deal with the United States, a US official said, after the new president in the Central American country pledged to bolster its borders. "We hope to start as soon as possible," said Eric Jacobstein, a Western Hemisphere official with the US State Department, at a press conference in Panama City.

Nepal PM Dahal faces crisis as key ally drops parliamentary support

Monitoring Desk
KATHMANDU: Nepalese Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal faced a crisis on Wednesday after a key ally in his multi-party coalition withdrew support, pushing his government into a minority in parliament four months after the coalition was formed. The liberal Communist Unified Marxist Leninist (UML) party, which withdrew support and was the biggest group supporting Dahal's government since March, also said eight ministers it had nominated to the coalition would resign.

Iran's Khamenei urges turnout after voters shun first presidential round

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called on Wednesday for voters to participate in Friday's presidential ballot, saying that historically low first-round turnout was not an act "against the system". Reformist candidate Masoud Pezeshkian and ultraconservative Saeed Jalili will face off after leading the pack in the first round last week, in an election cycle brought forward by the death of former president Ebrahim Raisi in a May helicopter crash. Only 40 per cent of Iran's 61 million eligible voters cast their ballots in the first round, representing the lowest turnout in any presidential election since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Khamenei, in a video published by state TV, said it was "completely wrong to think that those who did not vote in the first round are against the system." But "participation was not as expected," added Khamenei, who wields ultimate authority in Iran.

Russian missiles and drones strike eastern Ukraine's Dnipro in a daylight attack that kills 5

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: A Russian missile and drone attack on the eastern Ukrainian city of Dnipro on Wednesday killed five civilians and injured 47 others, including a 14-year-old girl, authorities said. Blasts blew out some windows of a shopping mall, raining shards onto the street, photos published by local officials showed. Mayor Borys Filatov said the daytime attack also shattered windows in two schools and three kindergartens. Debris struck the intensive care unit of a children's hospital, and a fire broke out in another hospital. A video posted on social media by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy showed a

missile with a fiery trail streaking over buildings in Ukraine's fourth-largest city, and debris flying into the air from its impact. The war, now in its third year since Russia invaded its neighbor, has killed more than 10,000 civilians and wounded around 20,000 others, the United Nations says. In the Kharkiv region in the northeast, Russian shelling struck a village council building, killing one person and injuring two others, regional head Oleh Suniehubov said. Elsewhere in the region, a Russian glide bomb struck a residential building in the village of Ruska Lozova, injuring at least two people. Others could be trapped under rubble, Symiehubov said.

US has 'undeniable complicity' in Gaza war killings, say former US officials

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: A dozen former US government officials who quit over their country's support for Israel's war against Hamas in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday accused US President Joe Biden's administration of "undeniable complicity" in the killing of Palestinians in the enclave. In a joint statement, the 12 former government officials said the administration was violating US laws through its support for Israel and finding loopholes to continue shipping weapons to its ally. "America's diplomatic cover for, and continuous flow of arms to, Israel has ensured our undeniable complicity in the killings and forced starvation of a besieged Palestinian population in Gaza," the former officials said in the statement.

They urged the US government to use its "necessary and available leverage" to bring the war to an end and to ensure the release of Israeli hostages in Gaza and Palestinian prisoners in Israel. They also demanded that the US government support Palestinian self-determination and fund an "immediate expansion of humanitarian assistance" in Gaza. Both the White House and State Department had no immediate comment on the statement. There has been mounting international criticism of Israel's conduct in Gaza and of US military and diplomatic support for its ally in the war, which began on October 7 when the Palestinian terror group Hamas led a devastating cross-border attack on Israel that killed 1,200 people and saw 251 taken hostage to the Gaza Strip.

Egypt has agreed long-awaited cabinet reshuffle, local media report

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly's cabinet is set for a long-awaited reshuffle, local media reported, with changes including new finance and foreign ministers expected to be sworn in on Wednesday. The new government faces challenges including the Gaza war on its border, economic woes and persistent power cuts which have frustrated Egyptians and shut down some factories. State television reported that Ahmed Kouchouk was set to become finance minister and faces perhaps the biggest challenge in managing a stumbling economy and sky-rocketing debt. At the foreign ministry, state TV citing local channel ExtraNews reported that Egypt's ambassador to the European Union, Badr Abdelatty, would replace Sameh Shoukry, who has steered Egypt's diplomatic efforts to contain the impact of the war in Gaza. Karim Badawi will be appointed as petroleum

minister, Mahmoud Esmat as electricity minister and General Abdel Majeed Saqr as defence minister, Egypt's ExtraNews reported. Rania al-Mashat, former minister of international cooperation, will be re-appointed as minister for planning, economic development and international cooperation, the outlet said. Sherif Farouk, chairman of Egypt Post, is set to take over at the supply ministry, media reports said. Egypt has often been the world's biggest wheat importer. Farouk would be tasked with overseeing those purchases as well as a sprawling food subsidy programme that feeds more than 60 million people. Ministers in Egypt have limited decision-making authority, with real power residing with the presidency, military and security services. As Egypt tried to manage a chronic foreign exchange shortage and high inflation over the past two years, there had been speculation that Madbouly himself could be replaced.

Kenyan activists rethink strategy after protests descend into violence

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: Activists behind Kenya's anti-government protests are rethinking their strategy after demonstrations on Tuesday were marred by widespread violence and looting. The activists say the violence was the work of "goons" hired by politicians to either discredit legitimate demonstrators or advance their own agendas, but they acknowledge that it risks undermining the protest movement. "It seems the state has realised that the only way to counter this movement is by using goons to incite violence, break into people's property, loot, and tarnish our cause," Ojango Omondi, an activist in the capital Nairobi, told Reuters. "It's time to go back to the drawing board and strategise on how best to overcome this violence and keep our protests focused on their true objectives." Kenya's government spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment. In a statement on

Tuesday, Interior Minister Kithure Kindike blamed violence on "hordes of marauding criminal gangs" and said there was an attempt to "politicise crime". The initial protests last month against proposed tax hikes were overwhelmingly peaceful, although the police fired tear gas and water cannon at demonstrators. The mobilisation of Kenyans from across ethnic lines around common economic demands marked a notable break with previous protest movements, which have typically been organised by political figures with ethnic grievances often at the fore. The protests have taken a violent turn in the past week. Some demonstrators briefly stormed parliament last week and the police opened fire, killing dozens. The next day, President William Ruto withdrew the tax increase. But protesters vowed to carry on, issuing a range of demands, from anti-corruption measures to Ruto's resignation.



French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal and Eric Woerth, Renaissance candidate for the fourth constituency of Oise, campaign before the second round of the early French parliamentary elections, in Senlis, north of Paris, France.

Saeed Jalili seeks Iran's presidency

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Hard-line Iranian presidential candidate Saeed Jalili may have been Tehran's top nuclear negotiator for years, but he won't be plaudits from Western diplomats sitting across the table as he repeatedly lectured them on everything while offering nothing. "As the weaving of Iranian carpets progresses in millimeter, precise, delicate and durable manner, God willing, this diplomatic process will also proceed in the same way," Jalili said then. Those hours of lecturing in 2008 stalled talks as hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Su-

preme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei advanced the country's nuclear program. That put pressure on the West that eventually eased with Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which lifted sanctions on the Islamic Republic. Now Jalili, 58, stands on the precipice of being elected as Iran's next president as he faces a runoff election Friday against the little-known reformist Masoud Pezeshkian, a heart surgeon. With Iran's nuclear program enriching uranium at levels near-weapons grade, a win by Jalili may again see already-stalled negotiations freeze.

Islamic authorities in Russia's Dagestan ban full-face veil after attacks

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Authorities in Russia's mostly-Muslim North Caucasus region of Dagestan on Wednesday temporarily banned women from wearing the niqab, after simultaneous attacks targeting churches and synagogues killed 22 last month. In a statement posted on the Telegram messenger app, the Dagestan Muftiate said it was introducing a "temporary" ban on the niqab after an appeal from Russia's ministry of nationality policy and religious affairs. Reports following the attacks on June 23 said one of the gunmen had planned to escape wearing a niqab. The muftiate, a religious organisation representing Dagestani Muslims, said that the ban would remain in place "until the identified threats are eliminated and a new theological conclusion is reached". The niqab gained some popularity in Dagestan amid an Islamic revival in the region that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.



Police officers work at a site of a shopping mall damaged during Russian missile and drone strikes, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine.

Boris Johnson issues surprise last-ditch UK election rallying cry

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Former Prime Minister Boris Johnson made a surprise appearance in the British election campaign on Tuesday, issuing a last-ditch bid to rally support for the Conservatives and their leader Rishi Sunak, the man who helped turf him out of office. Johnson won a big majority at the last election in 2019 before being forced to resign in 2022 by a Conservative mutiny which Sunak helped to start, and which exposed deep splits in the governing party, not least between Sunak and Johnson. Greeted by chants of

"Boris! Boris!" from party supporters two days before an election which the Conservatives are predicted to lose heavily, he introduced the current prime minister at a campaign event in London. In a speech listing many of his own achievements, Johnson gave little personal endorsement to Sunak but focused on what he said were the dangers of the opposition Labour Party winning power. "None of us can sit back as a Labour government prepares to use a sledgehammer majority to destroy so much of what we have achieved," he said.

For the first time ever, Canada appoints woman as top soldier

Monitoring Desk
OTTAWA: Canada named a woman as the country's top soldier for the first time ever on Wednesday, continuing a push by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to appoint women to the most senior jobs. Lieutenant-General Jennie Carignan, in charge of efforts to stamp out ingrained sexism and misconduct in the armed forces, will take over on July 18 as chief of the defense staff. Carignan, originally a military engineer, has commanded troops in Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iraq and Syria during her 35 years in the army.

Philippine senator makes Tiktok claim about China missile plans

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: A prominent Philippine senator has created a stir by saying on social media she has knowledge of a Chinese plan to target her country with hypersonic missiles, though the national security council said it was unaware of any such security threat. Senator Imee Marcos, the sister of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and head of the senate foreign relations committee, made her claim in a short video that has so far had over 900,000 views

on Tiktok and over 100,000 on Facebook. China's defence and foreign ministries did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment on the video, which Imee Marcos posted on Tuesday as the Philippines and China held talks on their South China Sea territorial dispute. In her video, Marcos said China had set 25 targets around the Philippine archipelago that it would attack with hypersonic missiles, and the northern islands of Batanes.

Rival French parties seek to build anti-far right front

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: Opponents of France's far right sought to build a united front to block the path to government of Marine Le Pen's National Rally (RN) on Monday, after the party made historic gains to win the first round of a parliamentary election. The RN and its allies won Sunday's round with 33% of the vote, followed by a left-wing bloc with 28% and well ahead of President Emmanuel Macron's broad alliance of centrists, who scored just 22%, official results showed.

CORRIGENDUM
This office tender published under PRQ No.2895/07-6-2024 & No.3049/21-6-2024 uploaded on BPPRA website vide (TSE No.232406452963), the following amendments in said tender are hereby made in the interest of public work:-
a) The date of opening of technical Bid was earlier fixed as 04.07.2024 which is hereby extended upto 09.07.2024 at 12.00 Hours. b) Joint Venture (JV) is allowed for the said tender. c) The firm must have completed at least (01) similar nature of project complexity during last Five (05) years having minimum cost equal to 70% of the estimated cost of the project. Other Terms and conditions shall remain enforce as published before.
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PROJECT DIVISION-I,
QUETTA.
PRQ No.73/03-07-2024
www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dpr_gob @dpr_gob

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Government of Balochistan has been provided funds to finance the cost of the following Schemes, for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

S.No	Name of Work's	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION AT KILLI HASSANZAI DISTRICT ZHOB TSE-242507469843	49,500,000/-
2	CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION WALL UC WALAAKRAM DISTRICT ZHOB PSDP NO 3321 TSE-2425074700513	49,500,000/-
3	CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION WALL AT KILLI VIALADISTRICT ZHOB PSDP NO 3322 TSE-242507470733	49,500,000/-
4	CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION WALL AT KILLI TORA DARGA DISTRICT ZHOB PSDP NO 3333 TSE-242507470033	49,500,000/-
5	CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION WALL AT KILLI SHEIKHAN DISTRICT ZHOB PSDP NO 3352 TSE-242507470803	49,500,000/-
6	CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION WALL AT KILLI TAKAIDISTRICT ZHOB PSDP NO 3370 TSE-242507470173	49,500,000/-
7	PROTECTION WALL AT KILLI GADHAKHAIL DISTRICT ZHOB PSDP NO 3374 TSE-242507470283	49,500,000/-
8	CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION WALL AT KILLI BRUNJ DISTRICT ZHOB PSDP NO 3414 TSE-242507470373	49,500,000/-
9	CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION WALL AT KILLI OMZADISTRICT ZHOB PSDP NO 3450 TSE-242507470903	49,500,000/-
10	CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION WALL FOR SAFETY OF HOUSES AND AGRICULTURE LAND KILLI TAKAI DISTRICT ZHOB PSDP NO 3383 TSE-242507471123	25,373,700/-
11	EXTENSION & IMPROVEMENT OF TANG DAM CHANNEL DISTRICT ZHOB PSDP NO 2859 TSE-242507471523	63,884,700/-

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014 Amended up to date. Eligibility of Bidders: Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents. Bid Security for all the above works is 2% of the estimated cost. Tender fees for all the above works is Rs. 1,500/- each. Bidding Procedure: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure (TSE-242507469843, TSE-2425074701513, TSE-242507470733, TSE-242507470033, TSE-242507470803, TSE-242507470173, TSE-242507470283, TSE-242507470373, TSE-242507470903, TSE-242507471123 & TSE-242507471523) bid shall be submitted electronically on EPPS System, manual bid will not be accepted as per the B-PPRA Rules. Tender Documents: The Bidding document can be downloaded from www.bppra.gov.pk (free of cost) and the same can also be obtained from the office of the under-signed upon payment of prescribed tender fee. Last Date and Time of Bid Submission 26 July, 2024 at 11:30 PM and will be opened on same day at 12:30 PM Address: B-PPRA EPPS SYSTEM Office Address & for corresponding: Office of The Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Zhub. Phone No. 0824-410913
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
IRRIGATION DIVISION ZHOB
PRQ No.64/03-07-2024
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PM, Uzbek President reaffirm commitment to multifaceted relations between two countries

Both leaders meet on sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Kazakhstan

ASTANA (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on Wednesday reaffirmed commitment to the multifaceted relations between the two countries and expanding of mutually beneficial cooperation in trade, connectivity, defence, security, culture and people to people contacts.

The two leaders expressed confidence that operationalization of the Preferential Trade Agreement and Pakistan-Uzbekistan Transit Trade Agreement would further

enhance bilateral trade and economic relations.

The prime minister met with the Uzbek president on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit being held in Kazakhstan, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Recognizing the importance of Uzbekistan as a transit point for trade expansion for other countries, the two leaders agreed to focus on this particular area and to this end initiate an examination of the various options available.

The Karachi Port's connectivity to Tirmez was also discussed to enhance

trade between the two countries.

Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed Pakistan's eagerness to see a prosperous Central Asia and enhanced regional connectivity.

The two leaders also discussed the situation in Afghanistan and the common interest of both Pakistan and Uzbekistan for a peaceful and stable Afghanistan which could be a partner in the development and prosperity of the region.

The early realization of Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan Railway Project was also discussed.



ASTANA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with President of Uzbekistan H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit.

President for women empowerment, improved access to financial services

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday called for financial autonomy of women and improving their access to financial services and credit to encourage women entrepreneurs.

The president, talking to the Group Chief Executive of the Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) Bill Winters, who along with his delegation called on him, at Aitwan-e-Sadr, said that economic empowerment of women would not only strengthen them financially but would also help uplift their families, besides contributing to the national economy.

He said that banks should support women en-

trepreneurs as well as enhance their representation in the banking sector.

The delegation briefed the president about SCB's contributions to Pakistan's economy, the development and evolution of the banking industry, and the socio-economic development of the country.

Welcoming the delegation, President Zardari highlighted that Pakistan had taken steps to protect the environment and promote forestation. He informed that the Government of Sindh had planted mangrove forests and earned millions of dollars by trading carbon credits in the international market.

He suggested that in-

vesting in the climate sector would help protect the environment.

The president also called for investing in the agricultural sector as well as financing infrastructure projects in the country, especially small dams, barges and power plants.

He said that banks should extend financial services and loans to farmers to increase their access to agricultural inputs.

The president congratulated the bank on the completion of 160 years of successful operations in the subcontinent.

He said that the bank had played a commendable role in the evolution of the country's banking sector.

Minister for promoting religious harmony ahead of Muharram-ul-Haram

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Wednesday presided over a crucial meeting focused on promoting religious harmony and ensuring peace during Muharram-ul-Haram.

Addressing the meeting attended by prominent scholars and religious leaders from the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, he emphasized their significant role in maintaining peace during Muharram-ul-Haram, as observed in previous years.

Minister Salik highlighted that a joint strategy had been worked out in consultation with religious scholars to foster unity, brotherhood, and tolerance in the society.

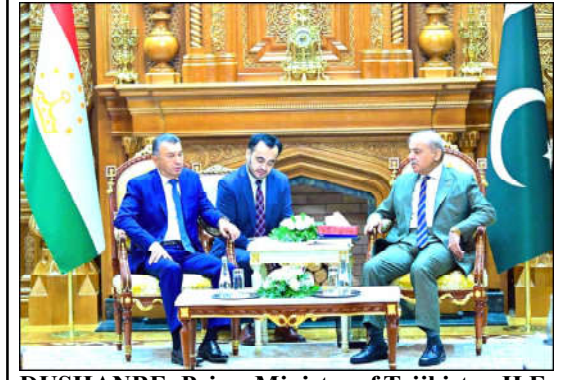
He stressed the need for similar meetings at provincial and district levels to strengthen sectarian har-

mony. He underscored the importance of the unity of scholars from all schools of thought in national and religious matters to maintain a peaceful environment.

During the meeting, a comprehensive code of conduct was announced by Secretary Religious Affairs, Zulfiqar Haider. He said all schools of thought would strive to foster an environment of love, tolerance, and mutual understanding.

He said respect for leaders of other sects would be upheld and scholars, speakers, and writers would ensure balance and moderation in their speeches.

and writings, avoiding inflammatory statements that could offend others. Zulfiqar said sectarian disputes would be resolved through consultation, understanding, and serious dialogue and public platforms would not be used to criticize opponents.



DUSHANBE: Prime Minister of Tajikistan H.E. Qohir Rasulzoda called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Ahsan highlights enduring US-Pak friendship on occasion of US Independence Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Prof Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday highlighted long-standing United States (US) and Pakistan friendship on the occasion of US Independence Day.

Federal Minister Prof Ahsan Iqbal said this while addressing as the Chief Guest at the celebration of the 248th anniversary of American independence hosted by the American Embassy in Islamabad, according to a press release issued here.

While addressing a gathering of diplomats, business leaders, and academics to celebrate US Independence Day, the minister emphasized the resilience of 76 years long Pak-

US partnership. The event underscored the ongoing commitment of both nations to foster strong diplomatic relations and addressing global challenges in a collaborative manner.

He appreciated US support to advance education, IT infrastructure, and agriculture technology and disaster mitigation in Pakistan.

He specifically thanked US for its assistance to Pakistan to recover from the effects of 2022 floods.

Referring to 1960s Green Revolution in Pakistan, he spoke that significant progress in the agricultural field was made possible through the warm support from US.

Gaza students to complete education in Pakistan: PMDC

ISLAMABAD (INP): Special permission has been approved by the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) for medical and dental students from Gaza to complete their education in Pakistan.

A PMDC spokesperson said on Wednesday that the decision was made at the request of the Pakistani High Commissioner in London.

A special committee has been formed to oversee the education of these students, with the President of PMDC as its head. Representatives from the Ministries of Health and Foreign Affairs will also be part of the committee.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme, Senator Rubina Khalid, shares insights on BSP's core and newly launched initiatives during a media talk hosted by WE News.

Imran summons disgruntled PTI lawmakers amid forward block rumors

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former Prime Minister Imran Khan has urged disgruntled National Assembly members amid rumors of a potential forward block.

According to sources, notable PTI members including Shehryar Afridi, Junaid Akbar, and Shandana Gulzar are set to meet with Imran Khan tomorrow. The meeting, scheduled to take place at Adiala Jail, follows reports of internal dissent within the party ranks.

He said that it is expected that around 100 medical and dental students from Gaza will come to Pakistan, with the first group of 20-30 students arriving soon.

The students will be adjusted in Pakistani medical and dental colleges, and the committee will ensure the smooth completion of their education, he added.

Key opposition fig-



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain chairing a meeting regarding inter-religious harmony during Muharram-ul-Haram.

Pakistan says: India must combat 'dangerous' Islamophobia trend in country

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has told the United Nations General Assembly about India's "abysmal" treatment of religious minorities, with a forceful call for New Delhi to reverse the "dangerous" Islamophobic trend in the South Asian country, as also advocated by U.N. human rights experts.

"Can the representative of India justify the recent incident where a BJP leader openly threatened to slaughter 200,000 Muslims," Pakistani delegate Rabia Ijaz asked India's representative who earlier accused Pakistan of mistreating its minorities, while also alleging that it was involved

in terrorism.

"We witnessed India's leadership's unabashed use of anti-Muslim rhetoric for political gain, including their Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) calling Muslims 'infiltrators' during one of his (recent) campaign speeches. Moreover, Hindu priests have openly called for genocide of Muslim minorities in India," Ms. Ijaz, a second secretary in the Pakistan Mission to the UN, said while exercising her right of reply to the Indian representative during the 193-member Assembly's debate on "Responsibility to Protect (R2P)".

India's representative, Kajal Bhat, a counsellor in

the Indian Mission to the UN, made the allegations in response to Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram's sharp speech on Monday in which the Pakistani envoy, apart from equal rights and religious freedom of all citizens, as such we have to make combined efforts for the rights and powers of all citizens instead of representing majority or minority.

"Muslims face systematic, officially sanctioned, discrimination, violence and oppression," Ambassador Akram said. "The law-enforcement and judicial machinery was complicit in this oppression as lynching of Muslims by cow vigilantes and RSS thugs goes unpunished", the ambassador said.

Governor lauds role of minorities for development of country, province

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the Constitution of Pakistan is guarantor of equal rights and religious freedom of all citizens, as such we have to make combined efforts for the rights and powers of all citizens instead of representing majority or minority.

The Governor was speaking to the delegation who called on him under leadership of President of Hindu Panchayat, Balochistan, Raj Kumar, here at the Governor House

on Wednesday. Speaking to the delegation, Governor said that we are equal citizens in the eyes of Constitution.

Besides, adding he said that the people of Balochistan value the human being remaining above the colour, cast and religion.

The Pashtoon and Baloch nationalities care all the minorities a lot, the Governor added.

Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail appreciated the role of all minorities in development of the province and promotion of trade.

PM expresses grief over deaths in Bajaur blast

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed his deep grief and sorrow over the death of Hidayatullah, a former Senator, and three other persons in Damadola, Bajaur blast. The prime minister prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls and for the bereaved families to bear the losses with equanimity, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. He also directed for identification of those responsible for the terrorist incident leading to exemplary punishment.



QUETTA: A delegation of Hindu community led by Raj Kumar meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

CM takes notice of incident of death of children in Awaran district

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has taken notice of the death of children in Awaran district.

According to the spokesman of provincial government, Chief Minister expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of children due to drowning in a stream in Awaran.

The Chief Minister issued orders of inquiry of the incident, adding mentioned by the spokesman of Government of Balochistan.

He said that we are standing with aggrieved families of the deceased children. He announced that the sorrowful incident would be investigated from all aspects.

DC Hub chairs meeting to review pre-monsoon rain arrangement

Independent Report

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Hub Ruhana Gul Kakar, on special directive of Commissioner Kalat Division, here on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the arrangements and preparations for pre-monsoon rains and disaster action plan to cope with possible flood situation.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Hub Muhammad Ali Durrani, Assistant Commissioner Winder Ameer Hamza Baloch Tehsildar Gadani Maqbool Xen Irrigation Jabar Zehri and officials of concerned

departments.

The DC directed the heads of relevant departments to take precautionary measures and take all necessary steps to deal with the monsoon emergency and the possible flood situation. It was also decided in the meeting that cleaning of other drains including the main drain passing through Hub city would be ensured before the monsoon. She said that under the Disaster Action Plan, the District Health Officer (DHO) would set up health camps for health emergencies saying that low-lying areas and drains.



QUETTA: Different delegations meeting with Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrai

Meeting held under She-The-Peacebuilder Project in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): A networking and coordination meeting was held under the She-The-Peacebuilder Project, here on Wednesday. Ms Shania Khan from Aurat Foundation, a partner organization of the project, met with Managing Director B-TEVTA, Mr Tariq Javed Mengal to discuss gender equality initiatives in B-TEVTA.

During the meeting, Ms shania Khan briefed MD BTEVTA on the project's objectives, SEED Grant, and its activities

aimed at promoting gender equality and empowerment. She also discussed the enquiry committee formed under the Anti-Harassment Act and requested Mr Mengal to notify the enquiry committee in B-TEVTA and increase women's representation in the committee.

Mr Mengal assured his full support and instructed his staff to notify the enquiry committee in the department and include two Women's Protection Agency (WPA) members.



QUETTA: Provincial Adviser of Climate Change and Environment Naseem-ur-Rehman Mulla Khel is being received the plant during seminar on Climate Change and Environment Protection, held in Quetta.

Effective legislation and policy making essential to combat climate change, say Experts

Independent Report

QUETTA: The political leadership of Balochistan, civil society representatives, and organizations working on gender equality have stressed the need for effective legislation and policy making to combat climate change, aligning with gender equality.

Speaking at the second day of the "Her Climate" National Conference organized by the Forum for Dignity Initiatives Pakistan, panelists including Advisor to the Chief Minister of Balochistan on Environment Nasim ur Rehman, Chairperson of

the Commission on the Status of Women Balochistan Fozia Shaheen, Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan Balochistan Chapter Farukhanda Aurangzeb, Head of UNFPA Balochistan Dr. Sarmad Saeed, Head of UN Women Balochistan Ayesha Wadood, and prominent political and social leaders, emphasized that climate change is the biggest challenge of the present time, with severe impacts already being felt in poor and developing countries, particularly by women.

Balochistan spends Rs. 3.39b extra on operating expenses in FY 2023-24

QUETTA, July 02 (INP): Balochistan's fiscal management comes under scrutiny as it emerges that the provincial government exceeded its operating expenses budget by Rs. 3.39 billion in the financial year 2023-24.

Originally allocated Rs. 31.93 billion for expenses including vehicle fuel and office costs, the final expenditure soared to Rs. 35.32 billion, reflecting a significant budget overrun.

Ruet body meets on July 6 for Muharram moon sighting

QUETTA (INP): The central moon sighting body will meet on July 6 in Quetta for the sighting of Muharram crescent — the beginning of new Islamic calendar.

The meeting will be presided over by Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad.

Zonal committees will also hold meetings for the sighting of Muharram moon in Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore, and Peshawar on the same day.

ATC summons PTI founder, others in Kahna police station cases

ISLAMABAD (INP): An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Wednesday summoned PTI founder Imran Khan and other accused on July 31, in two cases registered against them at Kahna police station. The hearing of two cases registered against the PTI founder and other accused was held at the ATC, in which Mirza Asim and Talat Rizwan appeared on behalf of the former prime minister.