

# Independent

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COAS chairs 265th Corps Commanders' Conference

## Military leadership rejects unwarranted criticism on Operation Azm-e-Istehkam

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

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Corps Commanders' Conference in Rawalpindi today. The forum paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhadas of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies and the citizens who have laid their lives for peace and stability in the country.

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

It was noted with concern the unwarranted criticism by some quarters and deliberate misrepresentation of the vision, only for

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

It expressed solidarity with the people of Kashmir and Palestine. Forum condemned serious human rights violations, war

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



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

## Cabinet body approves 6 months' extension in Refinery Policy 2023

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

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

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

The report stated that

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

The committee also approved the Standardized Security Package Document under the Power Policy 2015 for small water projects of the private sector.

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

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

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

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

Independent Report

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

"PPP is in favour of reaching a consensus on all matters pertaining to the country, including fighting

terrorism, since we have our own policy and a strong commitment to eliminating terrorism from the country.

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

The Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, PPP Balochistan President Changez Jamali, PPP MNA Ejaz Jhakra,

provincial ministers and other party leaders were

accompanying the PPP Chairman.

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

He also held detailed deliberations with the provincial leadership and workers of the party.

The PPP Chairman while addressing news conference emphasized the

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

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

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had discussion about political situation of Balochistan with the members of provincial assembly belonging to all parliamentary parties of the province.

The occasion was the luncheon hosted by the Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti in honour of the members of provincial assembly belonging to all the political and parliamentary parties of the province here on Friday.

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

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

## President, PM greet Keir Starmer on victory in UK election

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

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

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

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

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

"Looking forward to working closely with the new UK government, under Sir Starmer's wise and able leadership, to further strengthen and broaden the Pakistan-UK partnership," he said.



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

## Imran nods PTI's participation in APC

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

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

## Asif welcomes PTI's decision to join APC

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

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

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

Independent Report

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

The Governor stressed the need to take serious and

concrete measures to improve the situation.

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

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

During the course of meeting, the Governor was briefed about the situation of gas supply and complaints of consumers.

The Governor said that the usage of gas is increased in winter season, but the gas load shedding in summer is beyond understandable.

He also said that the complaints of over billing is also common by the gas

consumers, who complain that the speed of newly installed gas meters is exceptionally high as compared to the old ones.

The Governor directed to the General Manager SSGC to end unannounced load shedding of Sui gas immediately.

He also stressed the need to make special arrangements for prevention of the Sui gas related mishaps in Quetta.



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

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

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

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

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

The land and railway

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

For giving a boost to Pakistan's bilateral trade with the two Central Asian states, the provision of facilities to the business community was also discussed during the meetings, he noted.

Tarar said PM Shehbaz Sharif's meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Kazakhstan was held in a welcoming and friendly environment.

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

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QUETTA: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari giving away keys of scooter to a student who got position in matriculation examination. Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti and Provincial Minister are also present

## Top 10 position holder students of Matric meet Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

Independent Report

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

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

The Chairman PPP

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

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also interacted with the students and talked about their achievement in the examinations. He also asked about their future academic plans.

Meanwhile, the Chairman PPP distributed electric bikes among the position holder students.

## Two killed, 5 injured in Mardan blast

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

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

He said that the explosion ripped through immediately after a police vehicle

passed over the bridge, in an attempt to target the police. According to Rescue 1122, ambulances and medical teams promptly arrived at the scene and shifted the deceased and injured to local hospitals.

The injured were shifted to the THQ Takht Bhai and Mardan Medical Complex for.

Police have started collecting evidence from the site and initiated an investigation into the incident.



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

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

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

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

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

Commissioner's complex here.

All the members of Committee from different parts of the country including Balochistan would also be participating in the meeting.

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

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

## 30 E-Buses safely docked at Convention Center with charging infrastructure in place: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Friday informed the Upper House of the Parliament that 30 Electric-Buses of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) were safely docked at the Convention Center declared as its initial terminal and depot with proper charging and maintenance infrastructure in place.

Responding to the question of Senator Fawzia Arshad on the reasons behind the CDA's failure to establish depots for public transport buses

to be received from China in upcoming months and any precautionary measures taken to ensure protection of the vehicles, the Minister informed that it was the first batch of the buses received from China and two more batches were in the offing.

Senator Tarar informed that the Chinese company had installed charging stations with a capacity of charging 12 buses at a time within 3 hours which was sufficient to manage the entire fleet.

He informed that the soft launch was today, and all measures were in place

whereas the members of the House were welcomed to travel in the newly inducted E-Buses.

He added that a charging facility at Bus Depot in Sector H-9 was also being developed to cater for the 2nd batch of 70 Electric-buses and would be made operational after one month of mandatory driver's training.

"The bus depots at Taramri, I-9/H-9 and Zero Point were tendered twice, but unfortunately, the bids received were on a significantly higher than estimated cost and were therefore canceled. These depots will be tendered

again shortly and are expected to be completed within a period of five months," Senator Tarar said.

Responding to the supplementary query of Senator Humayun Mohmand, he said the transport was a devolved subject and the federal government could only operate E-Buses not other than Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

He added that the federal government's policy was to shift over renewable energy and friendly policies for solar panels and EVs were introduced.



QUETTA: A representative delegation of Peoples Lawyers Forum meeting with Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti and Provincial Minister are also present

## PM's visit to Central Asian...

Continued from page 1  
ing, petrochemicals and others.

The delegations exchange was expected between the two countries which would eventually increase the bilateral trade, he added.

He termed the meeting between the two heads of states "productive".

PM Shehbaz Sharif, the minister said, also held discussion with the presidents of Belarus and Uzbekistan on road and rail links, and stressed on increasing bilateral trade and provision of facilities to the business community.

He called the meetings as of the utmost importance where the prime minister represented Pakistan

and his vision unequivocally.

Tarar said the meetings would usher in arrival of delegations in Pakistan which would eventually have a greater impact on the economy in coming days.

He said an important agreement was signed between Pakistan and Tajikistan for high-level strategic partnership during the visit, thanking the President of Tajikistan who expressed real warmth for the people of Pakistan.

"There is a huge potential for solidifying partnership between Pakistan and Tajikistan through trade and investment which will not only benefit the people of both the countries but also further boost their economies."

Highlighting exceptional diplomacy of the prime minister, regional peace and stability and strategic matters were discussed in a tripartite talk between Turkey, Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

At the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit, he said, Prime Minister Shehbaz presented Pakistan's clear and unequivocal stance on Palestine "which is so far unprecedented and historical".

The prime minister minced no words in saying that "Israel is not only carrying out genocide of unarmed and innocent Palestinians but also committing war crimes", he added.

Tarar said PM Shehbaz particularly mentioned martyrdom of 37,000 Palestinians, including children and women, and displacement of two millions who were forced to leave Gaza and Rafah due to the humanitarian crisis caused by the Israeli attack on hospitals and other areas.

The prime minister categorically said that "Israel must be held accountable" and demanded an immediate ceasefire, he added.

PM Shehbaz reiterated Pakistan's support for a two-state solution where Palestine was given its independence with the pre-1967 borders and Al-Quds as its capital.

The prime minister had echoed sentiments of all the people of Pakistan for the Palestinians in an "unambiguous way", the minister stressed.

He said Islamophobia and Afghanistan were also discussed at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit.

A peaceful Afghanistan was critical for the peace and stability in the region, he cited the prime minister as saying.

## PPP to present its stance in APC...

Continued from page 1  
need for developing consensus on the national issues terming it crucial for continuity of the democratic process and stability of the country.

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

About briefing given to him on issues of Balochistan, he said there is a huge potential needed to be explored in the mineral enriched province.

"The resources of the province will be utilized on the welfare of the people of Balochistan," he expressed his resolve.

The CM Balochistan, PPP Chairman said, has chalked out ambitious agenda for bringing tangible reforms in various sectors including health, education, youth skilled development and women empowerment.

He noted that as per flagship programmes launched by the CM Balochistan, in the health sector, government has planned to constitute a state of the art hospital on the patron of Gambat Hospital and NIVCED.

Besides, he said the Health on Wheels program has been launched to provide health facilities in remote areas of Balochistan by extending services of Rescue 1122 to 10 districts of the province as first step towards quick health service delivery.

Chairman Pakistan People's Party, recalled

that the Balochistan government has been asked to expedite the compensation process initiated for the affecteds of 2022 floods.

"The housing project for those affected by the 2022 floods will be accelerated, he said, referring to a successful initiative launched in Sindh in this connection.

Those who lost their houses in the calamity are the prime focus of PPP, and we have devised a strategy to construct homes and handover to the affecteds on ownership basis.

These houses will be the assets of the flood affecteds who could be the recipients of huge financial benefits once the process completes, he remarked.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expressed the desire to empower the women of Balochistan, promising that women will be provided interest-free loans to empower them financially. We aim to empower women by providing them with interest-free loans because the People's Party wants women to play a role in every sector.

He mentioned the plan is also being envisaged to establish a solar park through public-private partnership.

In response to a question, the Chairman of the People's Party said that whatever has been allocated for Balochistan in the budget, we hope it gets released now.

To a query, Chairman PPP dispelled the impression that the Chief Minister is being replaced. He said that we have no intention to replace the Chief Minister Balochistan terming the rumours about it baseless.

## Pakistan to host Tests against Bangladesh, England and WI in packed 2024-25 season

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan will host seven Tests in 2024-25 in what is set to become their busiest red-ball international home season this century. Bangladesh, England and West Indies will all play Test series in Pakistan between August this year and January 2025.

The PCB announced the dates and schedule for the entire home season, which also includes hosting the Champions Trophy. However, it has released only a draft schedule for the Champions Trophy, which is expected to be held from February 19 to March 9 next year. Pakistan's home season will begin with the arrival of Bangladesh to play two Tests - one each in Rawalpindi and Karachi - from August 21 to September 3, even though Pakistan don't play home

internationals in August traditionally because of high heat and humidity. It is also in the middle of the monsoon season, which makes any cricket more vulnerable to weather interruptions. Pakistan have played only two Tests at home in August in their history - also against Bangladesh, in 2003.

After the Bangladesh tour, England will play three Tests in Multan, Karachi and Rawalpindi from October 7-28.

That will be followed by Pakistan's limited-over tour of Australia and Zimbabwe, and an all-format tour of South Africa. While the three ODIs and three T20Is in Australia will take place from November 4-18, Pakistan play a further three ODIs and three T20Is against Zimbabwe, all in Bulawayo from November 24 to December 5. Their

tour of South Africa will begin with a T20I series from December 10, and ends with the two Tests from December 26 to January 7 in Centurion and Cape Town, respectively.

The home Tests against West Indies will start nine days later. West Indies, whose tour of Pakistan was due in January this year but was postponed due to a busy calendar, will play their matches in Karachi and Multan from January 16-28. However, the three T20Is that were also in the original tour will not take place.

All seven home Tests will be part of the World Test Championship, where Pakistan are currently No. 5 on the points table. But the 2024-25 home season is a marked contrast to the one that preceded it, when Pakistan played no home Tests.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti seen off Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at Quetta Airport

## Military leadership rejects...

Continued from page 1  
crimes and genocide being perpetrated in Kashmir and Gaza.

The forum affirmed that military leadership is cognizant of the full spectrum of the challenges and resolved to shoulder its constitutionally mandated responsibilities with support of the resilient people of Pakistan.

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

However, the Armed Forces along with the nation are fully aware of all such machinations and stand united and committed in defeating the notorious designs of the enemies of Pakistan.

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

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

He noted that as per flagship programmes launched by the CM Balochistan, in the health sector, government has planned to constitute a state of the art hospital on the patron of Gambat Hospital and NIVCED.

Besides, he said the Health on Wheels program has been launched to provide health facilities in remote areas of Balochistan by extending services of Rescue 1122 to 10 districts of the province as first step towards quick health service delivery.

Chairman Pakistan People's Party, recalled

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Washuk invites sealed Percentage rate tenders based on composite schedule of rates 2023 Government of Balochistan from interested contractor/firms and Drilling Agencies for the works mentioned below.

Bid Security will be 2% Estimated cost and time limit 30-06-2026 :-

S.NO.	NAME OF WORK	E/COST	T/FEE
1	CONSTRUCTION OF WSS WITH SOLAR SYSTEM IN DIFFERENT VILLAGES IN TEHSIL BASIMA DISTRICT WASHUK PSDP # 5755 (BORE) TSE-242507483683	7952510	2500
2	CONSTRUCTION OF WSS WITH SOLAR SYSTEM AT BASIMA TOWN DISTRICT WASHUK PSDP # 5795 (BORE) 242507483773	2587482	1500
3	CONSTRUCTION OF WSS WITH SOLAR SYSTEM IN DIFFERENT VILLAGES IN UC ZARD, HURMAGI, JALAWAR TEHSIL SHAOGARI DISTRICT WASHUK PSDP # 5861 (BORE) TSE-242507483793	7184674	2500
4	CONSTRUCTION OF WSS WITH SOLAR SYSTEM IN DIFFERENT VILLAGES IN UC HURMAGI, JALAWAR TEHSIL SHAOGARI DISTRICT WASHUK PSDP # 5896 (BORE) TSE-242507483873	7184674	2500

The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement rules, 2014 Eligibility:- The Contractor / Firm must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering council in relevant category with relevant codes. Registration with tax authorities i.e. (NTN, Sales Tax and BRA Department) who are registered suppliers and are active tax payer list (ATL) of FBR & BRA. Firm must have relevant experience. An affidavit Non-Judicial Stamp Paper valuing Rs.100/- duly attested showing that the firm has not been black listed by any department. The contractor must submit proof of file tax returns. Authority letter in case of representative of the company authorized representation of company will only be allowed to participate having a specified authorization letter for the schemes mention above. The authorization letter/deed must be provided on Non-Judicial stamp papers of Rs.100/- duly attested by first class magistrate. Joint venture will not be allowed. Contractor should download tender documents by self from www.bppra.org.pk. All tender documents should be provided in original to the undersigned.

Method of Procurement:- Single Stage, One Envelope Procedure Bidding/Tender Documents: (i) Issuance: Tender document will be issued to Contractor / Firm, Authorized Firm Dealer after publication of notice at BPPRA web site after presentation of above said criteria and tender fee (non-refundable) of Rs.3500/- & 3000/- in shape of green challan from deposited in NBP Washuk under head of account 2725-02, ii) 2% of estimated cost of each work for earnest money/security deposit in shape of call deposit refundable, till submission date and time which can also be viewed on www.bppra.org.pk. Note: It may be noted that no pay order will be accepted / entertained and firms complete title/ name should be written on the call deposit. Submission: The bidding documents duly filled along with supporting documents must be delivered on or before 02-08-2024 till 12:00 PM Opening:Tender will be opened on 02-08-2024 at 01:00 PM before procurement committee in the presence of Contractor/ firms/ Company or their authorized representative/ agents. place of issuance inquiries and opening will be: Address: Office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Washuk Telephone No: 0847520120 Email Address: engr.abdulhameed1978@gmail.com Fax No: 0847520120

Executive Engineer  
Public Health Engineering Division Washuk  
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### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Only physical / manual bid will be submitted / required. Note:- In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Dera Bugti invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024-25 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates.

S.No	NAME OF WORK	E/COST
1	FLOOD PROTECTION OF AGRICULTURE LAND OF HAJI AHMED ALI AND OTHERS MOUZA BAIMSHAH MAT DUI DERABUGTI TSE-242507487663	15.000 M
2	FLOOD PROTECTION OF AGRICULTURE LAND OF SHER MUHAMMAD NAD OTHERS MOUZA SHEHSHI AREA SUI DERABUGTI TSE-242507487673	10.000 M
3	FLOOD PROTECTION OF AGRICULTURE LAND OF SHER MUHAMMAD NAD OTHERS MOUZA SHEHSHI AREA SUI DERABUGTI TSE-242507487703	12.000 M
4	FLOOD PROTECTION OF AGRICULTURE LAND OF MAHAR JAN AND OTHERS ON SHEHSHI NALA, AND ALI MUHAMMAD AND OTHERS OF SHEHSHI NALA SUI DERABUGTI TSE-242507489913	14.000 M
5	FLOOD PROTECTION OF AGRICULTURE LAND OF M.FAROOQ AND OTHERS NELAG GHARBI SUI DERABUGTI TSE-242507489953	15.000 M
6	FLOOD PROTECTION OF AGRICULTURE LAND OF TANGO KHAN AND OTHERS MOUZA BAIMSHAH MAT DUI DERABUGTI TSE-242507489913	16.000 M
7	FLOOD PROTECTION OF AGRICULTURE LAND OF AGRICULTURE LAND OF ALI NAWAZ KARCHO AND OTHERS PERSHBOGI AREA SUI DERABUGTI TSE-242507489953	10.000 M
8	FLOOD PROTECTION OF AGRICULTURE LAND OF JURYA PHONG AND OTHERS MOUZA GANJA SUI, SHAH BAIG & OTHERS MOUZA QAISRANI SUI, SHAHED PHONG & OTHERS MOUZA LANJA SUI TSE-242507489993	21.000 M
9	REHABILITATION OF BREACHES AND RAISING/STRENGTHENING OF FLOOD PROTECTION BUND SUI NALA OF KILLI WADER MIR FAROOQ KHAN AND OTHERS SUI DERABUGTI TSE-242507489143	10.000 M

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work as Mentioned in the Bidding Documents. Turn over Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm is mentioned in the bidding documents. Rs. 1000 through Green Challan. Call Deposit / Bank Guarantee @ 2% Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure.4. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained Manually from www.bppra.org.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.org.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 25 July, 2024 till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM in the Office of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Dera Bugti. Address: Irrigation Division Dera Bugti. Phone no: 03368249672 Fax no: 03368249672 Email: junaidpak90@gmail.com

### CORRIGENDUM

Reference Advertisement published on 4th July 2024, it is to inform that an error occurred in our previous advertisement regarding the extension of the NIT date. The correct PRQ number is 83 dated 03.07.2024, not 81. and AB No.106/04.07.2024, which should be read as PRQ No.106/04.07.2024. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING  
DIVISION PISHIN  
PRQ No.140/05-07-2024  
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### تعمیر آبپاشی دریا (پشاور)

کوارٹیشنہ TSE-232405442582 PRQ No. 2930/10-6-2024. 11 جن 2024 کو سٹیٹ انڈسٹریل ڈپارٹمنٹ کے تحت پشاور میں واقع دریا کی تعمیر و مرمت کے لیے ایک ٹینڈر کا اعلان کیا گیا ہے۔ اس کے لیے مزید تفصیلات کے لیے درج ذیل ویب سائٹ پر موصول کیے جانے۔

انگریزی میں: 11 جن 2024 کو سٹیٹ انڈسٹریل ڈپارٹمنٹ کے تحت پشاور میں واقع دریا کی تعمیر و مرمت کے لیے ایک ٹینڈر کا اعلان کیا گیا ہے۔ اس کے لیے مزید تفصیلات کے لیے درج ذیل ویب سائٹ پر موصول کیے جانے۔

### EXTENSION IN RFP OPENING DATE

This office has called the RFP for "Consultancy Services for Detail Design Review and Resident Construction Supervision for the work, Construction of Bolan Dam District Kachi" under TSE# TSE-232406463184 through BPPRA and under PRQ no. 3050/21-06-2024 Published in different newspapers wherein the date of opening of RFP was fixed on 08/07/2024 at 11:00 Am. Due to some Corrections in Evaluation Criteria, the date of RFP opening is extended and will be opened on 12/07/2024 on same time i.e. 11:00 am. The deadline for submission of RFP now be read as 12/07/2024 at 10:00 AM. All other term & conditions will remain same.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,  
KACHHI IRRIGATION DIVISION,  
AT DHADAR.  
PRQ No.130/05-07-2024  
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### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Naseerabad invites sealed percentage rates based on Composite Schedule of rates 2023 Government of Balochistan And Non Schedule items On Prevailing Market rates from Interested Contractors for the works mentioned below.

Bid Security 2% in Shape CDR, Time limit 30-06-2025 for Completion for each work

S.#	Name of Work	E/Cost(M)	T/Fee
1	UNDER PSDP NO-2169 FOR THE YEAR 2024-25 Construction of WSS in Rang Pur Buledi Tehsil Ghafroorabad Bamboo Civil Work (TS No :242507482633	6205472	1000
2	UNDER PSDP NO-2401 FOR THE YEAR 2024-25 Construction of WSS Ola Chhattar Mir Abdul Majid Abro Tehsil Chhattar Civil Work (TS No :242507481013	3,787,000	1000
3	UNDER PSDP NO-24023 FOR THE YEAR 2024-25 Const: of Ola Chhattar Mir Muhammad Faheem Abro Civil Work (TS No :242507481813	3,787,000	1000
4	UNDER PSDP NO-2177 FOR THE YEAR 2024-25 Const: of WSS Filtration Plants And Villages Dost Muhammad / Haji Ghaffar / Muhammad Jaffar / Allah Rakhia Filter Plant Dost Muhammad Civil Work (TS NO 242507483183	854,101	1000
	Filter Plant Dost Muhammad ultra filter plant (TS NO 242507483193	2670000	1000
	Filter Plant Haji Ghaffar Civil Work (TS NO 242507483253	854,101	1000
	Filter Plant Haji Ghaffar ultra filter plant (TS NO 242507483233	2670000	1000
	Filter Plant Muhammad Jaffar Civil Work (TS NO 242507483293	854,101	1000
	Filter Plant Haji Ghaffar ultra filter plant (TS NO 242507483283	2670000	1000
	Filter Plant Allah Rakhia Civil Work (TS NO 242507483313	854,101	1000
	Filter Plant Haji Ghaffar ultra filter plant (TS NO 242507483353	2670000	1000
	UNDER PSDP NO-2178 FOR THE YEAR 2024-25 Civil Work (TS No 242507482753	14104070	3500
	UNDER PSDP NO-2312 FOR THE YEAR 2024-25 Const: of WSS Peer Khaled Sultan Teshil Chhattar Civil Work (TS No 242507485913	9812000	2000
	UNDER PSDP NO-2312 FOR THE YEAR 2024-25 Const: of WSS Peer Khaled Sultan Teshil Chhattar Civil Work (TS No 242507485343	9812000	2000

Procurement shall be made under BPPRA Rules 2014. ELIGIBILITY OF BIDDERS The Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Naseerabad invites sealed Bids /Tenders from Eligible Contractors / Farms /, manufacturers /Authorities Licensed By The Pakistan Engineering Council in the Relevant Category C6 & having Valdes NTN, Sales Tax /BRA/ Specialization in EE/04/CE-06, CE-05-CE-04 & above. For The Mentioned Schemes Civil Works. Furthermore, the Solar System And Ultra Filtration Plants of Mentioned Schemes are in Invites Sealed bids /Tenders from the reputable Dealer Distributor Hiving Three Last Year work Orders which holed ( Thirty Million ) Goods Declaration sleep, shipment Documents and its verification Letter, Having valid NTN, Sales Tax, BRA and PEC License till June 2025 with Specialization code CE-04, ME-06, EE-04, EE-04 & EE-11 for the whole or single item work which will be compiled in stipulated time . If any bidder not fulfilled the requirements are not eligible, the committee have authority to reject bidder . The Details are Given below ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA : minimum three assignments of value not less than Estimated Cost and Turn over of value no less Estimated Cost 4.METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: BID SECURITY: the bid must a company bid security in the form of call deposit of amount specified above in the name of the under signed from a scheduled bank, TENDER DOCUMENTS: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under signed upon payment of bidding Documents fee (Non refundable) (Amount Mentioned Above) Through Green Challan C-02725-02PHED The ( Revenue Receipt) Deposited only in National Bank of Pakistan Dera Murad Jamali Branch ( The NIT and bidding documents can also be download from www.bppra.org.pk ISSUANCE OF TENDER FORMS :-From /Documents will be issued to the bidders /Contractors on Publication of Notice in Newspapers on presentation of requisite Documents. LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION: The tenders should be submitted on -22/07/2024 till at 01:00 PM. at the office of under Signed. 9.TENDER OPENING :All tenders will be opened on Same day at the office of undersigned at 02:00 PM (In Case 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)10. 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 NASEERABAD at Dera Murad Jamali. Phone No: / Fax No: 0838711353

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## Naqvi takes decisions to transform Islamabad into a World-Class City

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi has made key decisions to transform Islamabad into a world-class city while chairing an important meeting at the Capital Development Authority (CDA) headquarters on Friday.

On the Minister's directives, CDA will now only purchase electric motorbikes in future to reduce environmental pollution. Additionally, eco-friendly electric buses will be introduced for the citizens of Islamabad.

The Interior Minister has also imposed a ban on the purchase of conventional motorcycles.

International standard emergency services will be provided to the citizens of Islamabad and the administration of emergency services will be transferred from MCI to CDA.

Moreover, the establishment of Capital Waste Management Company will also be expedited. Furthermore, the matters related to the establishment of Capital Waste Management Company will also be finalized soon.

The Interior Minister said that work on the Serena Chowk Underpass and F-9 Park Chowk Flyover projects will begin soon to alleviate traffic congestion issues in Islamabad. He added that the long-delayed Expressway project will be

completed on a priority basis. He stated that development work in the non-developed sectors of Islamabad will also be completed, and possession will be handed over to the allottees.

He highlighted that work on the Islamabad Model Jail, which has been stalled for 17 years, is progressing rapidly, and the first phase will be completed within the stipulated time.

The Interior Minister said that Business Facilitation Centers are being established in Islamabad, where investors will be provided with all facilities under one roof.

Land has also been al-

located for the Health Tower in Sector H-16. The Interior Minister congratulated CDA team, including Chairman CDA, on achieving record tax collection but warned that no organization can run solely on plot and land sales; therefore it is essential to develop the assets of the organization.

In this regard, the Interior Minister directed that an investment plan be prepared and presented within seven days.

The meeting also reviewed the progress on various ongoing development projects, including the Kuri Enclave, renovation of Federal Secretariat building, Diplomatic Enclave, and Smart Parking projects.



Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi cutting ribbon during the launching Ceremony of the first ever Environment Friendly E-Buses in Islamabad



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## KP Governor attends certificate distribution ceremony at NIM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday attended the certificate distribution ceremony at the National Institute of Management (NIM) Islamabad, where he awarded certificates to the government officials who completed the 40th Mid-Career Management Course.

During the ceremony, the Governor congratulated the officials from various government departments and appreciated their professional skills.

On this occasion, Director General NIM Muhammad Tariq Moj

briefed the Governor about the training courses conducted by the institute.

In his key note address, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said that these training courses not only enhances the professional capabilities of the officials but also prepares them to face future challenges.

He added that government officials engaged in public service hold a very important position in society, and the well-being of the public is linked to their prompt services.

The Governor advised government officials to re-

duce the gap between themselves and the public and ensure timely delivery of services to restore public trust.

He emphasized the need for improving the efficiency of government institutions and officials while innovating methods of public service.

The ceremony was also attended by Chief Instructor of the Mid-Career Management Course Samreen Zahra, Chief Instructor of the Senior Management Course Muhammad Masood Ahmed, and officials from various government departments.

## Palestinian Medical Students to complete education in Pakistan: Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Leader of the House in Senate and Foreign Minister, Senator Ishaq Dar on Friday informed the Upper House that Palestinian medical students will complete their medical education in Pakistan. He informed the House that some UK based groups had approached him as Foreign Minister that Pakistan should facilitate the Palestinian medical students of final year in completing their degrees because the infrastructure in Gaza has completely destroyed.

He said upon receiving requests, he wrote to Pakistan Medical and Den-

tal Council (PMDC) to find a way out that Pakistan can help those students. He said the PMDC in response to his request, had agreed to accommodate all those medical students from Palestine in the medical colleges under PMDC's administrative control for completion of their education. "Palestinian students will come to Pakistan in 20 to 30 batches for completion of their medical education which is very humble contribution of Pakistan" said Ishaq Dar.

The foreign minister said the stance of Pakistan's government on Gaza is very clear and Pakistan approached all available fo-

rum to promote its stance on Gaza. He said first of all Pakistan raised the issue of Gaza in Organization of Islamic Country (OIC) meeting which took place in Gambia, later in the D-8 meeting which took place in Istanbul and demanded that every forum that Israel's atrocities in Gaza must be stopped. He said that Pakistan also supported that the humanitarian aid should be given free flow in Gaza and Pakistan in this regard had sent nine consignments so far as an aid for the brothers and sisters in Gaza. Pakistan has also demanded that the proceedings against Israel's war crimes.

## Visits CPO IG FC lauds performance of Islamabad Police

ISLAMABAD (APP): IG Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi briefed IG FC on the ongoing projects in Islamabad Police, the welfare of public and police officers

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: According to details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, accompanied by senior police officers, welcomed IG Frontier Constabulary (FC) Moazzam Jah Ansari upon his arrival at the Central Police Office (CPO) Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

He said that, a smart contingent of Islamabad Police presented a guard of security, the performance of the Safe City initiative, and other pertinent matters.

IG FC appreciated the performance of Islamabad Police and provided suggestions for further improvement.

IG Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi also chaired meetings at CPO with DIG Islamabad, DIG Headquarters, DIG Security, DG Safe City, and other officers. The meeting focused on



reviewing the implementation of security measures in the Red Zone and Diplomatic Enclave.

He issued additional directives to enhance monitoring and patrolling using Safe City cameras to bolster security in the Red Zone and Diplomatic Enclave.

## TIKA inaugurates advanced laboratories across Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) has inaugurated a series of advanced laboratories across Pakistan, enhancing the country's scientific, healthcare, and educational infrastructure.

In Islamabad, the observatory at the Horticultural Research Institute (HRI) of the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) was inaugurated by Ambassador of Turkey Dr. Mehmet Paçacı, TIKA Vice President Dr. Ümit Naci Yorulmaz, and RWU Rector Prof. Dr. Anila Kamal, providing a platform for pioneering research in species conservation and ecological interactions said a news release issued here on Friday.

Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, featuring cutting-edge technology to monitor climatic conditions, pest behavior, and plant health.

In Rawalpindi, the Zoological Diversity Lab and Animal Shelter at Rawalpindi Women University (RWU) was opened by TIKA Vice President Dr. Ümit Naci Yorulmaz, and RWU Rector Prof. Dr. Anila Kamal, providing a platform for pioneering research in species conservation and ecological interactions said a news release issued here on Friday.



ISLAMABAD: A view of fallen trees on the roadside after heavy rain in the Federal Capital.

## From innovation to enforcement Islamabad Traffic Police keeps the capital moving

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: According to details, under the command of Inspector General of Police Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, Islamabad Traffic Police showed effective performance.

During the first six months of 2024, six different testing centers were established, including Facilitation on Wheel, Education on Wheel, and Mechanic on Wheel, Highway Patrol, and Night Patrol.

The facility of renewing driving licenses was provided to senior citizens above 70 years of age at their homes, along with online driving license renewal. Many reforms were implemented during this period,

including the establishment of the Islamabad Traffic Police Theme Park, ensuring smooth traffic flow during office hours, and installing traffic signboards on various highways to guide citizens.

Islamabad Traffic Police organized 507 workshops and classes related to road safety and traffic rules in the first six months of 2024, conducted in various private and government schools, institutions, and traffic headquarters in Islamabad to raise awareness about driving learner permits and traffic rules among citizens. More than 176,000 citizens were informed about road safety and traffic rules during these workshops.

## BISP chairperson assures unflinching support for minorities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Chairperson Senator Rubina Khalid, in a meeting with Deputy Speaker of the Sindh Provincial Assembly Anthony Naveed Friday, assured her unflinching support for the minority communities.

The two sides discussed the recent BISP survey, which identified the special needs of deserving Christian families.

## Court sends Amir to jail on judicial remand

ISLAMABAD (APP): The District and Sessions Court on Friday sent the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Amir Mughal to jail on judicial remand.

Judicial Magistrate Abbas Shah heard the case of Amir Mughal for allegedly disrupting government operations.

Police requested a five-day physical remand for Mughal. However, the court denied the request and ordered to send Mughal to jail on judicial remand.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme, discusses issues faced by the minority community with Mr. Anthony Naveed, Deputy Speaker of the Sindh Provincial Assembly, at BISP Headquarters Islamabad.

## Gillani pays homage to Z.A Bhutto Shaheed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani on Friday paid homage to former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Shaheed with regard to July 5th when his government was toppled.

Addressing the House, the Chairman said that the Pakistan's constitution of 1973 was initially unicameral due to which the sense of deprivation was prevailing amongst the provinces and most the east Pakistan was being deprived.

Latter Bicameral system was introduced in the Constitution due to which the House of federation came into existence, said the Chairman adding that all provinces had equal representation in the House of federation.

He said, all political parties signed Charter of Democracy (COD) in 2008 and agreed to restore the Constitution of 1973 in its original form.

"I give the credit to all political forces of the country who restored the Constitution in its original

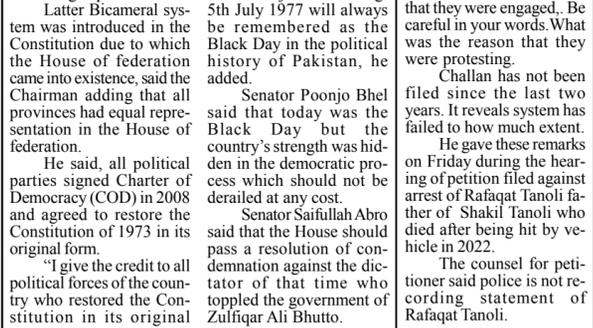
form" said the Chairman adding that today's democracy in the country was because of the COD.

Earlier, Senator Zameer Hussain Ghumro said that the legitimate government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was toppled on July 5th, 1977 and the Constitution was abrogated.

He said the Supreme Court of Pakistan in its recent judgment, has declared Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's murder was a judicial killing. 5th July 1977 will always be remembered as the Black Day in the political history of Pakistan, he added.

Senator Poonjo Bheel said that today was the Black Day but the country's strength was hidden in the democratic process which should not be derailed at any cost.

Senator Saifullah Abro said that the House should pass a resolution of condemnation against the dictator of that time who toppled the government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.



ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi in a group photo with the participants of the Mid Career Management Course at National Institute of Management.

## Unhindered freedom to hold majalis and processions should be ensured, Sajid

ISLAMABAD (Online): Quaid-e-Millat Jafriyah Pakistan Allama Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi states that the authorities should take steps to ensure the holding of Majalis, gatherings and processions of mourning during Muharram al-Haram with unrestricted freedom. Muharram and Safar should be declared load-shedding-free days so that not only can the devotees pay homage to the martyrs of Karbala in a full-fledged manner, but this process can also prove to be helpful in thwarting terrorism.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Commissioner and Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa presenting a shield to a student of the Islamabad Model College for Girls F-7/4, during a ceremony of Federal Education & Professional Training launched under the Summer Camp, in the Federal Capital.

## Capital's I-14, I-15 sectors' issues referred to Senate body on Interior

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Chairman on Friday referred the agenda items pertaining to I-14 and I-15 sectors facing negligence of the civic agency for past many years for further debate in its Committee on Interior to hold further debate for positive conclusions. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar in response to the question of Senator Shahadat Awan highlighting negligence and incompetence of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) in providing water supply to I-14 sector and possession of plots to the allottees of Sector I-14 for the past

## IFA cracks down on adulterated milk; destroys 1100 ltrs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) led by food safety teams (FSTs) on Friday, carried out a major operation in Rawat, resulting in the destruction of 1100 liters of contaminated milk.

Talking to APP, Deputy Director Operations (DDO) of IFA, Dr Tahira Siddique, said that during the operation, 10,000 liters of milk were tested.

Using a milk adulteration testing kit, the team found positive results for contamination on the spot, leading to the immediate destruction of the adulterated milk.

Dr. Tahira Siddique, commenting on the issue, emphasized that mixing milk and water or any other substances was a serious offense.

## Pakistani couple welcomes baby boy during Hajj in Madina

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Pakistani couple from Balochistan has welcomed a healthy baby boy in the holy city of Madina during the Hajj 2024.

The birth of the baby, named Muhammad, brought double joy for the parents, especially due to his birth in the holy city.

The Pakistan Hajj Medical Mission in Madina, with the assistance of lady doctors and nurses, provided excellent care to both the mother and the newborn. They ensured that all necessary medical facilities were available to them.

Director General of Hajj in Saudi Arabia Abdul Wahab Soomro, along with officials of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, invited the parents to the Pakistan House adjacent to the hospital. They expressed warm sentiments and heartfelt congratulations for the baby.

Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**  
Saturday July 06, 2024

## Trade cooperation

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

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

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

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

Faisal Bari

For all the rhetoric of this government and its banker finance minister, the budget has been a huge disappointment. It is the same old story of taxing those who are already in the net while appealing those who are strong and giving them opportunities for looting the country or keeping their loot.

Commenting on the situation, an editorial in this paper, published on July 2, states: "Speaking at a news conference on Sunday, Mr Aurangzeb could only express his condolences to the salaried class on the higher taxes he had imposed on them." The condolences should be offered to the finance minister and this government. Form 47 or not, people do not and will not forget.

This government has again taken the easy route. It has raised taxes for those who are already in the tax net, especially the salaried class, but has not been able to tax powerful interests who have always evaded taxation: retailers, agriculturists, real estate owners and

speculators, and service providers who are not in the net. The salaried class will pay 35 per cent in taxes and those with an income of Rs10 million or more a year will pay an additional 'super tax' of 3.5pc. The inequity of the system has only increased and the minister and this government have played their part in further eroding its legitimacy.

A friend in need of an emergency operation had to deposit Rs1m in cash at a private hospital counter as fearing documentation and evading taxes the hospital did not want to get money through a card machine. They were reluctant to give a receipt. Most doctors in the private sector that I have been to have similar protocols. Where are the initiatives to bring such people into the net?

A low tax rate has been imposed on real estate but then defence forces personnel and the employees of federal and provincial governments have been exempted from these taxes. Are private citizens of this country not citizens? Dubai Leaks

## Taxing the taxed

talked of thousands who have money and assets in Dubai. Has the government even bothered to look into whether this money was legitimate and if it was sent to Dubai through the proper channels? Is the state supposed to look after the interests of its citizens? The punishment for tax evasion has been raised, the powers of FBR officers have been increased when everyone knows that, along with the police, FBR is one of the most corrupt institutions around. The state has clearly turned predatory.

The inequity does not end here. The government has made no effort in the budget to cut its expenses. In fact, most non-productive expenditures have increased. Hundreds of billions of rupees in subsidies are given to privileged sectors and groups, government employees are given free electricity and petrol, hundreds of billions of rupees' worth of perks and privileges, including cars, houses, subsidised travel and club fees, are given to the privileged. All the while the poor

struggle even to pay their electricity bill. A colleague who runs the kitchen in our office and has two fans, some lights and a refrigerator at home has a bill of Rs22,000 from Lesco. The gardener at our place received a bill of Rs23,000. And the government is celebrating having given the citizens a 'people-friendly' budget!

The rot runs deeper. The salaried and those in the tax — direct and indirect — net, pay about half or more than half of their income in taxes. And what do they get in return? Nothing at all.

They have to send their children to private schools, they have to go to private hospitals if they fall sick. If they want safe drinking water, they have to buy bottled water.

Law and order is poor, justice is hard to even access, and the police and the army act as if citizens are criminals. Despite paying through their nose, citizens get load-shedding and lectures from the government about the virtue of sacrifice. What a country.

If the poor and needy were being provided a decent education, healthcare and other basic necessities by the state, one could still argue that though the salaried and those in the net were being taxed excessively, the money was being used well. Instead, 26m children are out of schools in Pakistan. Pakistan is the only country, other than Afghanistan, which has not been able to eradicate polio. Forty per cent of our children are malnourished, and we continue to have one of the highest infant and maternal mortality rates in the region.

We are near the bottom of the ladder in terms of gender parity, when compared to other countries. Think of any statistic, especially pertaining to human well-being, and we will see that we are amongst the worst performers. How can the government justify such taxation when its expenditure priorities are so anti-people?

It is true that the economy is in a bad shape and the government needs to raise more revenue. But

the economy will not be in a better place if we keep taxing those who are already in the tax net while giving specific interest groups all the breaks they can have, and the economy will not improve if expenditure priorities are not changed to make more investments in people.

If the people of Pakistan do not have education and skills, if they do not enjoy decent healthcare, and if they do not have access to safe drinking water and proper waste disposal facilities, how can the economy be taken on a sustainable high-growth path? Sadly, this budget clearly shows that the government has chosen the short-term path rather than the longer-term, more sustainable one.

The economy will improve for a year or so, if at all, but this is not the path to sustainability. The budget has also confirmed, for many, that this government, like the ones before it, does not have the stomach for working out and implementing the needed reforms. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Appointing a chief justice

Basil Nabi Malik

On July 2, 2024, the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) nominated Justice Shafi Siddiqui and Justice Aalia Neelum to be the next chief justices of their respective high courts.

The decision to appoint Justice Shafi Siddiqui, who is known for his vast knowledge base and swift disposals, has been widely hailed in Sindh, whereas that of Justice Aalia Neelum, who was not the senior most judge in the Lahore High Court, has also been met with relative positivity.

However, prior to July 2, the Sindh High Court Bar Association had pointed out that the JCP was seeking to consider the three senior-most judges of each high court as chief justice. As per the bar association, the senior most judge should be appointed as chief justice; the consideration of others would be "against the principles of natural justice, seniority, and the doctrine of legitimacy".

In relying on the con-

cept of merit trumping any form of seniority, many might disagree with the bar association's opposition to the elevation of a junior judge as chief justice. However, although there appears to be no caveat to this principle, what qualifies as 'merit' is the question that has been plaguing the institution for some time now.

In fact, upon his appointment as chief justice of Pakistan, Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa had been seen to make efforts to finalise a formula or criteria for appointing judges. These rules, which may presumably have also included details regarding the appointment of the provinces' chief justices, were to be placed before the JCP on May 3, 2024. However, at the meeting, this agenda item was deferred on account of the statement of the federal law minister that the government was 'considering' amending Article 175A of the Constitution. It was also decided that, in the meanwhile, the appointment process of judges would continue on the basis of the existing

rules.

The 'existing rules' are the Judicial Commission of Pakistan Rules, 2010, which, ironically, do not disclose any criterion for appointment. In fact, prior to Justice Isa's elevation to the position of chief justice of the Supreme Court, the lack of declared criteria was one of the reasons for the opposition to the elevation of junior judges to the Supreme Court, within the bench as well as in the bar.

However, not only has such criteria not evolved since then, it also appears that the practice of elevating a junior judge over a senior one has been extended to the post of 'chief justice' in the high courts. This is a matter of concern for several reasons.

Firstly, without declared and established criteria for appointing a chief justice, whispers of manipulation or favouritism may follow, no matter how unfair they may be. There will always remain questions as to why one judge was preferred over the other, what the superseded judge potentially

lacked, and whether the superseding judge was chosen on the basis of merit or due to partiality. This hits the very credibility of the institution, and perceptions regarding its capability to do justice. In fact, many may even contend that an institution which falters in doing justice within cannot be expected to do justice without.

Secondly, appointments made in such a manner hurt the authority and standing of the appointees as much as those overlooked. Just because one judge is selected, as opposed to another, does not automatically translate into the latter lacking credibility. However, without a formalised yardstick on the basis of which people can make sense of the decisions, rumours and assumptions are bound to fill the vacuum, thereby overshadowing the merits of the appointments and of those that were overlooked. It essentially makes a good decision look bad, and a bad decision look even worse.

Also, being super-

seded is extremely demoralising, and can potentially lead to aspersions being cast on the conduct and credibility of the judges who were superseded. It raises several questions. For example, would a superseded judge, who is technically senior, be expected to report to his or her junior in matters of administration, or would he or she be expected to resign? Would the supersession be seen as a vote of no-confidence against his or her abilities, or just an administrative necessity? If the judge resigns, would that not be a loss to the judiciary? If the judge chooses to stay, would that not impede his or her ability to deliver justice?

On the other hand, would the junior judge be better able to command the confidence of his or her court, or less likely, if appointed by superseding others? And finally, would such a move create polarisation and division within the high courts, thereby impairing effective administration, or would it tend to resolve these?

The answers are un-

settling, and that is perhaps why the Supreme Court had held in the Al Jehad case, as far back as 1996, that the most senior judge of a high court has a legitimate expectation to be considered for appointment as chief justice, and in the absence of any concrete and valid reasons to be recorded, be entitled for appointment in the court concerned.

The rationale for this observation still resonates with many today, and will continue to do so until the appointment process is made more transparent, open, and criteria-based. Doing so will not only be a service to the public, who are direct stakeholders in the dispensation of justice, but also to the judges themselves, who deserve better than the probing questions raised, the doubts created, and the misgivings left unaddressed on account of the current manner of appointments. It is often said that justice should not only be done, but also be seen to be done. In this case, perhaps, justice should not only be done, but be done with the justices themselves.

## Islamic social justice

Ghulam Shabbir

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He propelled into action an illustrious class of intellectuals who produced a vast literature on Islamic social justice, but on the realm

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

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

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

## Patrons vs people

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

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

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

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

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

dicament.

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

By sponsoring religious ideology and fusing it with a cynical form of patronage, Zia set the stage for mainstream political parties to become mere agglomerations of first-past-the-post constituency-level politicians who were more interested in sustaining themselves as patrons and less in debating ideas and policy.

This 'politics of common sense' was reinforced in the global arena by the neoliberal offensive, spearheaded by IFIs and Wall Street investors. So if local-level politics was reduced to thana, katcheri and patwari, with an 'Islamic touch', government policy was largely determined by IMF conditionalities on the one hand, and discretionary funds to MNAs and MPAs to facilitate private accumulation on the other.

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

flags flying but the local and global political economy has remained stalling.

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

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

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

## Murad orders strengthening provisional narcotics wing to control drug menace

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh government has decided to further strengthen the Excise & Narcotics Control Department in order to protect the new generation, especially children, from the dangers of drugs.

This decision was made during a meeting chaired by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at the CM House. Senior Minister for Information and Excise & Narcotics, Sharjeel Memon, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, PSCM Agha Wasif, Secretary of Excise & Taxation Saleem Rajput, DG Narcotics Control Usman Siddiqui, and others attended the meeting.

Minister Excise & Narcotics Sharjeel Memon

briefing the CM said that he has controlled drug peddling in Hyderabad and has taken strict measures in Karachi to stop its penetration in educational institutions and even in the slum areas.

At this, the CM said that the penetration of synthetic drugs into educational institutions was a serious threat to our children. "I want to stop it once and for all for which the police, ANF and Excise & narcotics dept would have to work together," he said. The senior minister announced the establishment of Excise & Narcotics check posts in the bordering areas of Sindh with other provinces. He mentioned that the Excise & Narcotics check-post at Hub, which

was abolished in 2007, would be revived to control drug smuggling into Sindh.

In response to a question, the CM stated that the Excise & Narcotics Control department has 47 police stations including six in Karachi, 11 in Hyderabad, eight in Sukkur, 10 in Larkana, five in Mirpurkhas, and seven in Shaheed Benazirabad.

It was disclosed the department has also check-posts, three each in Karachi and Larkano, two each in Hyderabad, Sukkur and Shaheed Benazirabad divisions. Murad Ali Shah directed the Minister of Excise & Narcotics to further strengthen Narcotic police with necessary equipment, vehicles and gadgets so that they work at full capacity.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a meeting of Excise, Taxation & Narcotic Control dept at CM House.

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

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of the members of New York State Assembly and American Pakistani Public Affairs Committee, led by Deputy Speaker Phil Ramos, called on Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur in Islamabad the other day.

Provincial ministers Syed Qasim Ali Shah, Faisal Khan Tarakai, Muzammil Aslam, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Additional Chief Secretary Syed Imtiaz Hussain Shah and other concerned high ups of the provincial government were also present on the occasion.

Matters related to promoting state to state relationships between the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and

New York State came under discussion.

Similarly, prospects for mutual cooperation in the different social sectors were also discussed in the meeting. Both sides agreed to sign Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for partnership in Health, Education, Trade, Human Resource and other important sectors.

It was also agreed on the occasion to initiate Nursing Exchange and Tele Health programs with the mutual cooperation of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and New York State.

Talking to the delegates, the chief minister said that the provincial government had always welcomed and appreciated

the support of US government in the different public welfare projects, adding that expending cooperation between both the governments would further strengthen the relationships between Pakistan and the United States.

Touching upon the priorities of his government, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur said that the health and education had been the top most priority of PTI government in the province since day one, and we had introduced multiple reforms in these sectors, which had resulted in significant improvement in providing quality healthcare and learning facilities to the people as per their expectations.

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

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi has said that steps would be taken for empowerment of women and youth and to train them according to demands of contemporary market.

He said this during his visit to National Vocational Technical Training Commission (NVTTC) on Friday. On the occasion, KP Governor was also briefed by Chairperson of NVTTC, Gulmina Bilal and Executive Director, Muhammad Aamir about working of the commission.

KP Governor termed Pakistani workers serving outside the country as ambassadors and said that they played a significant role in sending foreign exchange. He said that majority of laborers working in Gulf countries belong to Pakistan and added that they can earn a better livelihood in native areas if provided training modern technologies.

Faisal Karim said that youth and women would also be provided trainings in field of mining, tourism and gemstone sector enabling them to explore opportunities in Central Asian States.

Governor also urged authorities in NVTTC to develop a liaison with universities and educational institutions to train youth in modern and diversified fields. He also assured his cooperation to commission in training youth and women.

He was also informed that training of about 1000 children are underway in the commission under BISP while more than 600,000 youth were provided training in various fields.

Chairperson of NVTTC said that actions would be taken on proposals of KP Governor and steps would be taken to train youth and women in modern fields of technology.



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

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

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to further improve the production bonus guidelines issued for the better use of revenues in the districts with oil and gas.

The Governor expressed sympathy with the families of the bereaved families. He prayed for highest place of the victims in eternal peace and speedy recovery of the injured.

The Governor said that he equally shared the grief and sorrow through which the victims families were passing through.

one-day consultation seminar at a local hotel here Friday regarding the improvement of the guidelines of production bonus funds in the districts with oil and gas.

Tashfeen Haider, Special Secretary Energy and Power while Additional Secretary Oil and Gas Akhlaq Ahmed, Deputy Secretaries Asif Ali, Javed Afridi and the representative of companies working for the production of oil and gas, Mari Petroleum, Al Haj Petroleum Companies, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Oil and Gas Company and district administration were present on the occasion. Speaking on this occasion, Special Secretary Tashfeen Haider said that out of 42 percent of the country's crude oil production, about 30 thousand barrels of oil per day was being produced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In this regard, in the light of the instructions issued by Chief Minister, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Energy and Power department organized a



MUZAFFRABAD: Picnickers are enjoying in front of Dhani waterfall outskirts area of the city.

## Respect to people in service delivery carried paramount importance: Mumtaz Gul

PESHAWAR (APP): Service delivery is not just about completing tasks; it's about providing value, care, and respect to those you serve. To excel in public service delivery, a combination of skills and the right kind of attitude is essential.

These views were expressed by Lt General (Rtd) Mumtaz Gul, HI (M) & Tbt on the eve of the graduation ceremony of the 40<sup>th</sup> Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC) at the National Institute of Management, Peshawar, where he was chief guest on the occasion.

He added that public servants must possess good interpersonal and problem-solving skills, empathy, and a people-centric approach. Patience, continuous learning, resilience, and teamwork are vital necessities of professionalism that will yield the desired dividends in almost all circumstances.

the key factor for efficient and effective public service delivery. A good public servant must have a positive and friendly attitude while dealing with people.

While highlighting the contributions of the National Institute of Management, Peshawar, he said, "I have seen a sea change and transformation in the performance and physical infrastructure of the institution during the past few years ever since my long association with it."

He said that NIM Peshawar and its dedicated management, hard-working faculty, and staff have been serving a great national cause by providing quality training to our future leaders. He further said that public servants have to guard their integrity and reputation through the exhibition of the right kind of attitude and a positive approach to public service delivery.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presides over the meeting during his visit to Lahore Development Authority. Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzaib is also present on the occasion.

## Marriyum announces major campaign to combat smog

LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb has announced a major campaign in Punjab aimed at combating smog, protecting human health, and addressing pollution.

While chairing the Multi-Sectoral Anti-Smog Action Plan review meeting here on Friday, she said that under this initiative, a crackdown has been initiated on industries, factories, and vehicular emissions.

The senior minister stated that penalties will be imposed for burning residue and crops, and government machinery across the province has been put on high alert. Monitoring plans for pollutants and toxic substances in the air have been prepared for each

sector, with a master plan for the implementation of directives from the Chief Minister's Office. Police, district administrations, environmental protection agencies, and the finance department, among other relevant bodies, will actively participate in the anti-smog campaign, she said.

Marriyum Aurangzeb also highlighted the commencement of inspections for vehicles emitting excessive smoke due to faulty engines, alongside the launch of a comprehensive fitness and testing program. Initially, the testing program will focus on vehicles, trucks, and highways in Lahore. After the deadline, permits for vehicles and trucks found violating the law will be revoked, she added.

## Development projects to be completed timely: Minister

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering Pakhtoon Yar Khan has said that the development projects approved under the supervision of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur will be completed soon. During a meeting with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House, he said that the government

had taken a number of development initiatives and all development projects would be completed to provide the best facilities to the people. Khan apprised the Chief Minister of the ongoing development works and public issues in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly in the Bannu Division. The chief minister appreciated his performance and directed the immediate resolution of public issues.

## Punjab Police's Youth Engagement & Internship Program continues

LAHORE (APP): Under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's public-friendly police vision, Punjab Police's Youth Engagement and Internship Programme continues uninterrupted in all districts of the province.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar has said that the friends of police and volunteers in police programmes are gaining popularity among the youth for unique opportunity for direct communication with the police. The IGP mentioned that thousands of students

participated in both programs across Lahore and the 36 districts of the province. Among those who have completed the internship, there are 13,000 male students and over 7,000 female students.

A Punjab police spokesperson said that students from 88 universities, 143 colleges, and 43 schools participated in the community policing programmes. Over 20,000 students were briefed and trained about police work through the friends of police and volunteers in police programmes.



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

## CM Murad terms July 5 as Black Day

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah while terming July 5 as Black Day, said that on July 5, 1977, the elected government of Quaid e Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was overthrown.

In his message on July 05, he said that today was the day to condemn dictatorship and strengthen democracy.

The CM said that Pakistan People's Party defeated dictators through democratic struggle.

He said that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto took democratic revenge through Parliament by transferring power to the people.

## Crackdown against corrupt officers ongoing in Punjab Food Dept

LAHORE (APP): A crackdown against corrupt officers is ongoing as per the direction of Punjab Food Secretary Moazzam Iqbal Sipra. According to official sources here on Friday, legal action has been taken against two more officers of the Punjab Food department. One year service of Principal Assistant Deputy Director Food Rawalpindi (Stenographer) has been confiscated while promotion of Assistant Food Controller Rawalpindi has been stopped for three years.

Both officers were found facilitating in wheat and flour smuggling besides helping hoarders and profiteers. Punjab Food Secretary Moazzam Iqbal Sipra said that zero tolerance is being implemented against black sheep in the department. He said that hindrances in providing relief to common man would be removed.

## Two bodies found from Faisalabad

FAISALABAD (APP): The bodies of two people including a sexagenarian man were found from different areas in Faisalabad during the past 12 hours. A police spokesman said here on Friday that some passersby spotted the body of a 60-year-old man lying in the waiting area of Allied Hospital-1.

## Punjab health minister calls for unity during Muharramul Haram

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Health and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order Khawaja Salman Rafique emphasised the role of scholars in fostering unity among Muslims during Muharram-ul-Haram.

He conveyed the message during a meeting with a delegation from the Shia Ulema Council on Friday.

The discussions centered on security measures for the upcoming Muharram. Saad Rafique assured that the government planned comprehensive security

arrangements for Majalis, processions, sahel, niaz, and azadari. He highlighted a special security plan and stated that police forces were instructed to implement fool-proof security measures throughout the province. The minister also stressed the importance of proactive involvement of peace committees to maintain harmony.

The Shia Ulema Council's delegation, including Qasim Ali Qasmi, Sagheer Abbas Virk, and Safdar Hussain Jafri, acknowledged the robustness of the security plans.



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

## 931 Traffic Wardens to regulate traffic during Muharram

RAWALPINDI (APP): Over 931 Traffic Wardens under the supervision of inspectors and DSPs would perform duties on city roads to control traffic flow during Muharram.

According to a City Traffic Officer (CTO), Rawalpindi Tamoor Khan, Traffic Police Officers, and Wardens have also been directed to take action against vehicles having tinted glasses, revolving lights, unregistered vehicles and motorcycles and others moving without proper and fake number plates. In order to ensure the security of the

mourning processions during Muharram-ul-Haram, the City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi has issued a comprehensive traffic plan. According to the plan, there would be a complete ban on parking any vehicle or pushcart on the route of the procession. Fork lifters would move with Muharram processions.

The CTO informed that the wardens have been directed to remove all kinds of encroachments from the procession routes besides keeping a vigil on suspected persons and things.

## CCPO Lahore stresses better coordination in police department

LAHORE (APP): Capital City Police Officer Bilal Siddique Kamyana chaired a meeting at Police Lines, Qila Gujjar Singh here on Friday to review the key performance indicators (KPIs), introduced by the CM Punjab to gauge the performance of the Police Department.

He emphasised the importance of transparency and zero tolerance towards corruption among police officers, urging them to keep their doors open for public inquiries. He reiterated the CM's directives to showcase

exemplary performance, instructing supervisory officers to conduct field visits regularly to monitor the implementation of Special Investigation Police Stations (SIPS) protocols. The CCPO Lahore stressed the need for seamless coordination among all wings of the police department and timely actions against criminal gangs. He emphasized conducting search operations rigorously to maintain public order and instructed stringent measures against professional criminals in remote areas.

## Three dead bodies found near Karnal Sher Interchange

PESHAWAR (APP): The bodies of three unidentified men were found near Karnal Sher Khan Interchange in Nowshera district on Friday. Police said three dead bodies having bullet marks were found near Karnal Sher Khan Interchange adding that the deceased were killed somewhere else and later their bodies were thrown away near the interchange.

Police said initial investigation confirmed that those killed belonged to Mardan district adding that the bodies have been shifted to hospital for medico legal procedure and identification. The killing of three people was most probably a result of enmity, police added.

## 03 killed, 3 injured as tractor-trolley overturns in DIKhan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): At least three persons were killed while other three sustained injuries in an accident as a tractor-trolley loaded with wood got out of control in Danasar area of Darazinda, Dera Ismail Khan District, a Rescue 1122 spokesman on Friday.

Aizaz Mehmood said that a tractor trolley laden with wood became out of control due to high speed in Danasar area.

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

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

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

He said, "Pakistan wants to promote bilateral trade and business activities with all the Central Asian states and in this context special incentives are being offered for investment." The minister apprised the ambassador regarding his visit of Tajikistan in the last week of May.

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

He also handed over this invitation on behalf of Kazakh Minister for Transport and Marat Krabov and expressed his gratitude for offering by the Government of Pakistan to promote bilateral trade relations.

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

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



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



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

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

**Independent Report**

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

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

Acting FPCCI Chief apprised that PKR. 2 trillion capacity payments to 40 companies are paralyzing the national economy; and, IPPs continue to receive payments in the name of capacity charges even in the instances when there is no electricity generated

or supplied. Capacity charges constitute two-thirds of the total cost of electricity; while fuel costs comprise of only one-third.

Mr. Magoon maintained that studies reveal that IPPs have been enjoying returns exceeding 73 percent in dollar terms; which is unusually high and predatory when compared to international standards and practices. Pakistan's energy sector has been trapped in problematic contractual arrangements in perpetuity with IPPs since the 1994 Power Policy. These contracts have led to escalating circular debt to PKR. 2.64 trillion in February 2024, he added.

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon elaborated that guarantees indexed to the US dollar mean any depreciation of the Pakistani rupee increases returns for IPPs – adding debilitating financial burden on the government and the public alike. Initial return on equity for IPPs was set at 18 percent and later reduced to 12 percent in the 2002 Power Policy; but, still high as compared to the global norms.

## Govt. allocates over Rs. 18 bln for two IT parks

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government has allocated over Rs. 18.718 billion for the establishment of the Technology Park Development Project (TDP) in Islamabad and an IT Park in Karachi in the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for the financial year 2024-25.

The Technology Park in Islamabad is expected to serve as a state-of-the-art facility that fosters collaboration, innovation, and product development.

It will act as an interface to bring cohesion among academia, research, industry, and planners from both within Pakistan and abroad. The park will play a significant role in knowledge and resource management, focusing mainly on the commercialization of knowledge through managing innovations, providing business support services, promoting entrepreneurship, and offering consultancy services. Additionally, it will provide much-needed IT-enabled office space and facilities to IT companies registered with the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB). The IT Park in Karachi is set to act as a catalyst for creating job and business opportunities, especially for the youth.

According to the PSDP, the government has also allocated a total of Rs. 28,929 million for the financial year for ongoing and new schemes of the Information Technology and Telecom Division.



LAHORE: A view of deserted petrol pump during strike against the hike in tax in the Provincial Capital. Thousands of petrol stations shut down across Pakistan in protest against new taxes.

## A digital corridor helping Pakistani young entrepreneurs

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

"Our platform could be said to be the Pakistani version of Pinduoduo. As an e-commerce platform targeting price-sensitive users, groceries and daily necessities are within our scope," Fahad Raja, co-founder of Pakistani e-commerce platform Deal Kart, introduced himself at the EuroAsia Pakistan Digital Economy Forum held in Beijing.

"As a global giant, Pinduoduo has not yet started operations in Pakistan. But that's not a problem, we are building a Pinduoduo for ourselves." Raja said that Chinese companies, especially e-commerce companies, are

closely related to his career, CEN reported.

"In terms of payment, logistics, technology and the like, Chinese companies have attracted global attention, making great achievements. For us from emerging markets, there are too many experiences and even too little time to learn, thus more connections are in urgent need."

Another young entrepreneur, Shahada Salam, mentioned that CPEC ensures the transportation efficiency of Pakistan's supply chain. "In my country, most of the hardware comes from China, such as biometric equipment needed to solve security issues, thus this corridor is very helpful for the timely supply of hardware and technology products."

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

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

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

Spokesman for SNGPL, shared that the new pipeline spans 11 kilometers and was completed within six months. This project is one of the largest capacity-building initiatives executed by the gas distribution company in Islamabad.

He expressed optimism that this pipeline would resolve the low gas pressure issues faced by residents of Islamabad.

Shahid Akram, the



RAWALPINDI: Activists of Pakistan Central Muslim League hold placards during protest against inflation in Pakistan, at Tench Bhatta chowk.

## DealCart raises \$3.0 mln to empower Pakistan's digitally savvy consumers

ISLAMABAD (APP): DealCart, a social e-commerce startup focused on transforming the way Pakistani consumers access essential goods, has successfully raised \$3 million Seed in a funding round led by Shorooq Partners and Sturgeon Capital.

The round also saw participation from 500 Global, Evolution VC, Rayn Capital, and Khyber Venture Partners.

This capital infusion will support DealCart's mission to expand its reach and provide affordable essential goods to low- and middle-income consumers across Pakistan, said a news release of the company.

DealCart aimed to ease the financial burden and offer low-cost goods by sourcing products directly from manufacturers and collaborating with locally manufactured brands.

DealCart targets consumers who spend about 50 to 60 percent of their income on groceries and essentials, enabling

them to save more and invest in a better future. The company also targets a digitally sophisticated younger population that prefers online retail spaces.

"This investment from Shorooq Partners is a testament to the potential of DealCart to revolutionize the way Pakistani consumers shop for essentials," said Haider Raza and Ammar Naveed, founders of DealCart.

"Our goal is to make everyday necessities more affordable and accessible, and this funding will help us get closer to that vision."

Despite rapid e-commerce growth in neighboring India, Pakistan's e-commerce sector has lagged. To boost digital transactions and stimulate e-commerce, the State Bank of Pakistan introduced RAAST, an online instant payment platform.

This initiative positions DealCart to address market gaps and kickstart the e-commerce sector.

## Electricity system in Pakistan is rusty: Awais Laghari

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

Responding to calling attention notice of Senator Falak Naz about excessive and un-announced load shedding of electricity in Upper and Lower Chitral causing problems for the residents of these areas, the minister said that the complete system would restore in two weeks time.

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

The other option to restore electricity was to provide electricity from national grid through PESCO but the line constructed and managed by WAPDA was also faulted which caused problem however the teams are working on war footings for complete restoration of electricity in Chitral, he said.

He also apologized

over the in-efficiency of employees and said that unless the entire system would not be overhauled, there would be no change in the system.

Our actions are yielding good results and we are working on war footings to provide electricity to the people of Chitral, the minister said. Chairman Senate Seyd Yousaf Raza Gillani also assured the Senator that the issue would be taken up when the Ministry will come to brief the Committee of the whole of Senate on power crises.

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

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

However, as per Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market was recorded as Rs 277.75 and Rs 280.50 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 60 paise to close at Rs 301.43 against the last day's closing of Rs 300.83, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen went up by 01 paise and closed at Rs 1.73, whereas an increase of 52 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Senate Standing Committee Finance and Revenue Senator Saleem Mandviwalla presenting a shield to Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov, during 8th annual Mango Festival at a local mall in the Federal Capital.

## Swedish envoy praises thriving business environment for Swedish companies in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan, Henrik Parson, admired the flourishing business environment for Swedish companies in Pakistan.

In a significant diplomatic meeting, the Swedish envoy commended the robust cooperation and support extended to Swedish companies operating in Pakistan, said a press release issued here Friday.

During his call on Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, Ambassador Parson highlighted the positive experiences of Swedish businesses in the country, noting their impressive growth and profitability.

"I have personally met with all Swedish companies currently active

in Pakistan to gather their insights," Ambassador Parson stated. "Remarkably, none of them had anything negative to say. On the contrary, they all reported significant growth and profitability. This is a testament to the conducive business environment in Pakistan."

The Ambassador emphasized the enormous potential within Pakistan, particularly in the fields of Information Technology (IT), engineering, and education. He underscored the opportunities for enhancing bilateral trade between Sweden and Pakistan. "Pakistan has the capacity to become a hub of international trade for the entire world," he remarked. "The country offers a fertile ground for expanding trade."



LAHORE: Tailors busy in stitching rain coats at their workplace during monsoon rainy session in the Provincial Capital.

## Reservations about federal budget to be highlighted before approval: FCCI

FAISALABAD (APP): President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FCCI), Dr Khurram Tariq has said that the reservations about different clauses of federal budget including SRO-350 will be highlighted before the approval of budget 2024-25 so that efforts could be made well in time to settle the issues through Anomaly Committee.

Dr Khurram Tariq said that a meeting of FPCCI was scheduled to be held within the next couple of days and he would try to present these issues in it.

Earlier Convener SC Chaudhary Talat Mehmood said that SRO-350 was issued in March before the presentation of federal budget. He said that now problems have started surfacing after its practical implementation which has perturbed the entire business community.

This was stated by him on Friday while addressing the FCCI Standing Committee on Liaison with FBR in which briefing was given about recent amendments enacted about the sales tax.

He further said that the basic objective of this SRO was to check the problem of fake invoices.

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

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: Newly elected UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Friday said Britain needed to rediscover its identity and undergo a wider reset, in his first words outside his new office at 10 Downing Street, promising to fight to restore trust in politics and serve all voters.

Greeted in Downing Street by a large crowd of cheering aides and supporters after formally accepting King Charles's invitation to become prime minister, Starmer's first address made the case for moderate politics to repair voters' broken trust.

"It is surely clear to everyone that our country needs a bigger reset, a re-discovery of who we are, because no matter how fierce the storms of history, one of the greatest strengths of this nation has always been our ability to navigate a way to calmer waters," he

said. "This depends upon politicians, particularly those who stand for stability and moderation, as I do." He added: "My government will fight every day until you believe again. From now on, you have a government unburdened by doctrine, guided only by the determination to serve your interest. To defy those quietly those who have written our country off."

"You have given us a clear mandate. And we will use it to deliver change."

King Charles III earlier officially appointed Starmer as prime minister during an audience at Buckingham Palace.

A photograph released by the palace showed the monarch shaking hands with Starmer, whose party won a landslide election victory. The king earlier accepted the resignation of Conservative leader Rishi Sunak.

"The king received in

Audience The Right Honourable Sir Keir Starmer MP today and requested him to form a new administration," a palace statement read.

"Sir Keir accepted his majesty's offer and kissed hands upon his appointment as prime minister and first lord of the Treasury."

Starmer vowed to bring change to Britain as its next prime minister after his Labour Party surged to a comprehensive win in a parliamentary election, ending 14 years of often tumultuous Conservative government.

The centre-left Labour was set to win a massive majority in the 650-seat parliament with Sunak's Conservatives poised to suffer the worst performance in the party's long history as voters punished them for a cost of living crisis, failing public services, and a series of scandals.



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

## India, China agree to work on border issues

**Monitoring Desk**

NEW DELHI: Indian Foreign Minister S u b r a h - m a n y a m Jaishankar met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on Thursday in Kazakhstan where the two agreed to step up talks to resolve issues along their border, New Delhi said in a statement.

India and China share a long Himalayan border, much of it poorly demarcated, and bilateral ties have been sour since a military standoff in July 2020 when at least 20 Indian soldiers and four Chinese troops were killed.

India said Jaishankar met Wang on the sidelines

of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Astana where they agreed that "prolongation of the current situation in the border areas is not in the interest of either side".

The two agreed to enhance meetings between their diplomatic and military officials "to resolve the remaining issues at the earliest," the Indian foreign ministry said in a statement. China and India should properly handle their differences and ensure relations advance on a stable track, a Chinese foreign ministry statement quoted Wang as saying during the talks.

## Six Chinese nationals killed in DR Congo attack

**Monitoring Desk**

BENI: Militia fighters attacked a Chinese-linked mining site in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo on Wednesday, killing six Chinese nationals and at least two Congolese soldiers, local officials said.

China condemned the attack, which took place in the gold-rich Ituri province.

Djugu administrator Ruphin Mapela said it was carried out by the CODECO (Cooperative for the Development of the Congo) militia.

## British teacher jailed for 'abusing' schoolboys

**Monitoring Desk**

LONDON: A British teacher who had sex with two teenage students and had a baby with one of them was sentenced on Thursday to six and a half years in jail.

Rebecca Joynes, 30, was on police bail for sexual activity with one victim, identified as Boy A, when she began having sex with the second, Boy B, by whom she became pregnant. Sentencing Joynes, a judge said she had been a "high achiever" who had thrown her career away and had her baby taken away from her through her own actions.

## Hezbollah rains 200 rockets on Israeli military sites

**Monitoring Desk**

BEIRUT: Lebanon's Hezbollah launched a big rocket and drone attack on Israel on Thursday and threatened to hit new targets in retaliation for the killing of a top commander, in the latest surge of violence in the steadily worsening conflict across the border.

Sparked by the Gaza war, the conflict between Iran-backed Hezbollah and Israel has been gradually intensifying for months, raising fears of a full-scale war, which both sides have indicated they want to avoid and diplomats are working to prevent.

As the latest violence played out in areas at or near the frontier — in keeping with the pattern of the last nine months — the sound of sonic booms rattled nerves for the second successive day in Beirut and other parts of Lebanon.

Israeli jets broke the sound barrier over several

areas of the country, Lebanon's National News Agency reported.

Hezbollah said it launched more than 200 rockets and a swarm of drones at 10 Israeli military sites in retaliation for Israel's killing of Hezbollah commander Mohammed Nasser in the south on Wednesday. Nasser is one of the most senior Hezbollah commanders to be killed by Israel during the conflict.

The Israeli military said around "200 projectiles and over 20 suspicious aerial targets were identified crossing from Lebanon into Israeli territory", a number of which were intercepted by Israeli air defences and fighter jets.

Senior Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine, speaking at an event in Beirut commemorating Nasser, indicated his group would widen its targeting.

## Rishi Sunak resigns after historic loss in UK elections

**Monitoring Desk**

LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak departed from Buckingham Palace following his resignation as prime minister Friday morning, after the Conservative Party suffered staggering losses in the general election.

He left 10 Downing Street after giving his final speech as prime minister, hours suffering a landslide defeat by the left-of-center Labour Party, which will form a government for the first time in 14 years.

Rishi Sunak said he would step aside as Conservative leader once arrangements were made to select his successor, as the

party sought to rebuild.

Earlier, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak conceded defeat in the national election, saying the opposition Labour Party had won.

"The Labour Party has won this general election and I have called Sir Keir Starmer to congratulate him on his victory," Sunak said after winning his parliamentary seat in northern England.

"Today, power will change hands in a peaceful and orderly manner, with goodwill on all sides. That is something that should give us all confidence in our country's stability and future."

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

**Monitoring Desk**

HONG KONG: Prominent Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong should be considered an active participant in a landmark subversion case involving 47 democrats, his lawyer said on Friday, but urged a court to hand him a lighter sentence for entering his plea early.

Wong, 27, who wore a gray sweater and navy blue shirt in court, was one of dozens of democratic activists arrested in 2021 for participating in an unofficial poll to select candidates for a 2020 legislative council election.

Of these, 47 were charged with "conspiracy to commit subversion" under a national security law imposed by Beijing.

Wong's lawyer, Marco LI, told the court that while his client should be considered an active participant in the conspiracy, he had no involvement in organising or assisting in the primary election.

In view of Wong's early plea of guilty, LI urged a reduction of a third in his sentence, which could range

from three years to 10 for active participants in the conspiracy, but life for those judged to be "principal offenders".

"He very much hopes that after all these offenses, he could part with his past history and be able to reform himself after this particular offense," LI added.

Seated in a corner of the dock, Wong was separated from the other defendants by three prison guards. Before the hearing began, he had nodded and waved to friends and supporters.

The marathon case has prompted criticism from countries such as Australia, Britain, and the United States, which say national security laws have been used to curb freedoms guaranteed when Britain handed the Asian financial hub back to China in 1997. The governments of China and Hong Kong say the law is necessary and has brought stability, however. The mitigation hearings began a month after 14 activists were found guilty, with two acquittals, in May.

## Post-communist generation is hoping for a new era of democracy in Mongolia

**Monitoring Desk**

U L A A N B A A T A R : Tsenguun Saruulsaikhan, a young and newly minted member of Mongolia's parliament, is unhappy with below-cost electricity rates that she says show her country has yet to fully shake off its socialist past.

Most of Mongolia's power plants date from the Soviet era and outages are common in some areas. Heavy smog envelops the capital Ulaanbaatar in the winter because many people still burn coal to heat their homes.

"It's stuck in how it was like 40, 50 years ago," said Tsenguun, part of a rising generation of leaders who are puzzling out their country's future after three decades of democracy. "And that's the reason why we need to change it."

Democracy in Mongolia is in a transition phase, said Tsenguun, who at 27 is the youngest member of a new parliament sworn in this week. "We are trying to figure out what democracy actually means," she said in a recent interview. Discontented

voters deliver a ruling party setback

"Mongolia became a democracy in the early 1990s after six decades of one-party communist rule. Many Mongolians welcomed the end of repression and resulting freedoms but have since soured on the parliament and established political parties. Lawmakers are themselves seen as enriching their lives and their big business supporters from the nation's mineral wealth rather than using it to develop a country where poverty is widespread.

She articulates a vision for Mongolia that dovetails with small government Republicans in the United States. In her view, too many people think the government will take care of them, and the large budget just feeds corruption. Government should be as invisible as possible, she said, and give people the freedom and responsibility to build their own lives.

"I don't think that (the) free market has developed yet because the people are not used to this mentality," she said.



Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban attend a meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia.

## Iranians vote in run-off presidential race amid widespread apathy

**Monitoring Desk**

TEHRAN: Polls opened in Iran on Friday for a run-off presidential election that will test the clerical rulers' popularity amid voter apathy at a time of regional tensions and a standoff with the West over Tehran's nuclear programme.

State TV said polling stations opened their doors to voters at 8am local time (0430 GMT). Polling will end at 6 pm (1430 GMT), but are usually extended until as late as midnight. The final result will be announced on Saturday, although initial figures may come out sooner.

The run-off follows a June 28 ballot with historic low turnout, when over 60 per cent of Iranian voters abstained from the snap election for a successor to

Ebrahim Raisi, following his death in a helicopter crash. The low participation is seen by critics as a vote of no confidence in the Islamic Republic.

The vote is a tight race between low-key lawmaker Masoud Pezeshkian, the sole moderate in the original field of four candidates, and hardline former nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili.

While the poll will have little impact on the Islamic Republic's policies, the president will be closely involved in selecting the successor to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's 85-year-old supreme leader who calls all the shots on top state matters.

"I have heard that people's zeal and interest is higher than in the first round.

## Saudi Arabia approves granting citizenship to global experts under Vision 2030

**Monitoring Desk**

RIYAD: Saudi Arabia has approved granting Saudi citizenship to scientists, doctors, researchers, entrepreneurs, and other individuals with rare skills, experience, and specializations.

According to a royal decree, the kingdom has offered citizenship to talented individuals in medical, scientific, cultural, sports, and technical fields to achieve its goals. The initiative is part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 programme to create an attractive environment for investing in human capital and attracting skilled labour.

## Ukraine receives third Patriot air defence system from Germany

**Monitoring Desk**

KYIV: Ukraine said on Friday it had taken receipt of its third German-supplied Patriot air defence system following months of pleas for equipment to protect its civilians and infrastructure from Russian air strikes.

Moscow renewed its aerial assaults on Ukraine's national power grid in the spring, causing sweeping blackouts. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said earlier this year his country needed at least seven additional Patriot systems to protect itself.

The Ukrainian defence ministry said on X the system had already been delivered and thanked Germany for "unwavering support".

"It will help improve the protection of civilians and infrastructure. The Ukrainian crew has completed appropriate training in Germany," German Ambassador to Ukraine Martin Jaeger said on X.

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

**Monitoring Desk**

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden, scrambling to defuse a political crisis over his shaky debate performance, will participate in a television interview on Friday that will be closely watched for signs of whether his mental acuity is failing.

Biden will travel to Madison, Wisconsin, to rally Democratic voters. During the trip he will be interviewed by ABC News, part of a flurry of events over the next week aimed at showing Americans he still has the stamina to run

against Republican candidate Donald Trump in the November 5 election.

While Biden insists he is staying in the race and that his health is not faltering, he is under enormous pressure to step aside and open a path for 59-year-old Vice President Kamala Harris.

Some donors are making their displeasure known loudly, halting funding or looking at possible Democratic alternatives. Even some of Biden's closest political allies, like former speaker Nancy Pelosi, have raised questions about his health.



Iranian voters participate in the run-off presidential election between Masoud Pezeshkian and Saeed Jalili, at the Iranian embassy, in Baghdad.

## Putin tells Orban he is ready to discuss 'nuances' of Ukraine conflict

**Monitoring Desk**

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin told Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban on Friday that he was ready to discuss the "nuances" of peace proposals to end the conflict in Ukraine.

Putin, who received Orban in the Kremlin, said he was ready to hear the Hungarian leader's position on Ukraine and to get a read-out from Orban on the views of other European partners.

"I hope we will have an opportunity to exchange views on building bilateral relations in this difficult situation and, of course, to talk about the prospects for the development of the biggest European crisis, I mean in the Ukrainian direction," Putin told Orban.

Putin, who noted that Hungary currently held the European Union's rotating presidency, made the comments ahead of Kremlin talks between the two leaders.

## Hurricane Beryl makes landfall in Mexican coast

**Monitoring Desk**

CANCUN: Hurricane Beryl, a Category 2 storm, made landfall in Mexico's top tourist destinations early on Friday, triggering a red alert in the region following its deadly trail of destruction across several Caribbean islands.

The storm, expected to bring with it a dangerous surge and potentially damaging waves, is packing winds of up to 110 mph (175 kph) the U.S. National Hurricane Center (NHC) said, as it entered the north-east of Tulum in the Yucatan Peninsula.

Hurricane Beryl, the first of the 2024 Atlantic season, was at one point a Category 5 storm, making

it the earliest Category 5 storm on record. This extraordinary storm season is believed by scientists to be fueled by climate change.

Beryl is about 5 miles (10 km) east of Tulum, a popular Mexican resort.

Hurricane conditions are affecting the Yucatan Peninsula, and a hurricane warning has been issued for the coast from Puerto Costa Maya to Cancun, including Cozumel.

Mexico's civil protection agency has issued a red alert, signalling a maximum hazard threat.

The agency has advised residents to remain in their homes or seek refuge in storm shelters.

## Two killed in Ukrainian strike on Donetsk region, Russian-backed official says

**Monitoring Desk**

MOSCOW: Two people were killed by Ukrainian army shelling of the Russian-controlled town of Volnovakha in Donetsk, eastern Ukraine, Denis Pushilin, the Russian-installed regional head, said on Friday.

An additional fifteen people, including a teenage girl and two employees of Russia's Emergencies Ministry, were wounded, Pushilin said. He said US-supplied HIMARS rockets and drones had been used in the attack, which damaged seven residential buildings in multiple settlements.

## Six arrested over India stampede disaster

**Monitoring Desk**

NEW DELHI: Indian police said on Thursday they had arrested six people over a stampede at a Hindu religious event in the north-east of Uttar Pradesh this week in which 121 people were killed.

The incident occurred on Tuesday in the village of Phulrai Mughal Garhi in Hathras district where about 250,000 people had gathered to listen to preacher Suraj Pal Singh, also known as "Bhole Baba". Organisers of the event had obtained permission for a gathering of only 80,000 people.



A motorist passes by a traffic signal toppled by heavy winds and rain, caused by Hurricane Beryl, a Category 2 storm, in Playa del Carmen, Mexico.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, calling the digitisation of taxation system government's priority to prevent tax evasion worth billions of rupees, on Friday directed the authorities concerned to immediately create a dashboard to monitor the ongoing digitisation and implementation of the reforms.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the reforms process of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), instructed to bring the taxable non-filers into the tax net and revoke the discretionary powers of the customs appraisers, and sought an implementation report from FBR chairman within 24 hours.

During the briefing on FBR's digitisation, the meeting was informed that during the FBR digitisation, 4.5 million taxable individuals have been identified who were not part of the tax net.

It was told that consequent to the government's measures, over 300,000 more individuals have filed their tax returns within few weeks.

Besides, the refunds of 4,000 companies have been stopped during last two weeks, following the detection of under-invoicing and forged sales tax returns.

The prime minister said that the tax evaders as well as the officers and staffs facilitating them would be brought to book and vowed not to spare those plundering the public kitty. Besides, the taxpayers fulfilling their responsibility timely would be acknowledged too, he added.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that state-of-the-art scanners would be installed at the seaports to ensure transparency and prevent corruption in the system. He also sought a comprehensive report on

the magnitude of tax evasion and the measures for its prevention.

He vowed to introduce a taxation system of international standard in the country and called for engaging well reputed professionals and experts for formulation of tax policy.

The prime minister sought a comprehensive strategy on FBR's digitisation and reforms and the set targets in the next meeting.

Federal ministers Muhammad Aurangzeb and Ahmad Khan Cheema, Minister of State Ali Pervaiz Malik, PM's Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal, FBR Chairman, CEO of Pakistan Business Council Ehsan Malik, CEO of Karandaz Waqasul Hassan and relevant senior officer attended the meeting. Dr Shamsah Akhtar, Naveed Andrabi, Asif Pir and Ali Malik joined the meeting via video link.



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

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

**Directs to establish mechanism for direct solution to labourers' problems**

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhatto Zardari has directed to the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti to resolve the issues of lawyers and traders communities of the province on priority basis.

These directives were issued by the Chairman PPP during meetings with the representatives and leaders of Peoples Lawyers Forum and Balochistan's traders' community separately here at the Chief Minister's secretariat on Friday.

The Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, senior leader of PPP, Ejaz

Jakhriani, Provincial President of PPP, Changez Jamali, provincial ministers and members of assembly belonging to the party besides other leaders were also present in the meetings.

During meeting with the delegation of Peoples Lawyers Forum, the Chairman PPP was informed about the issues being faced by the lawyers' community of the province.

The Chairman PPP directed to the Chief Minister to resolve the issues of lawyers on priority basis.

The Lawyers Forum was comprised President Behram Tangi, General Secretary Ali Asghar, Secretary

Information, Abdul Rahim Kakar besides Mubashir Ababki, Zainuddin Kakar, Syed Sultan Shah, Nasir Hussain Jamali, Andleeb Qaisrani, Syed Zahoor Agha, Malik Tanveer Aslam Shahwani, Jamal Shah and Naeem Kolachi.

While meeting with the Chairman PPP, the traders' community led by Senator Bilal Mandokhail, informed him about the issues being faced by them.

Besides, there was discussion on prospects of public-private partnership between the Chairman PPP and traders.

In addition to this, they also discussed about the exports of minerals from the province.



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

## Secretary LG chairs meeting about increasing birth registration in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Secretary Local Government (LG) Balochistan Abdul Rauf Baloch on Friday chaired a meeting regarding increasing birth registration in the province.

The meeting was attended by Director General of Local Government Department, Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah, Director General of B.I.S.P., Chief of Foreign Aid Najeeb Babari, Deputy Secretary of Local Government Department Syed Maqsood Anwar, Deputy Secretary of Education Department Mehmooodul Hasan, Director NADRA, Health Department Officer, Child Protection Officer UNICEF and other high officials.

Government Department under the Balochistan Local Government Act 2010 and 2020.

It was informed in the meeting that the period of normal birth registration would be increased from sixty days to one year, the fee of which was 100 rupees while there were clear procedures for registration from one year to twenty years.

The total number of Union Council of Balochistan is 1043 while inline CR. S. The number of Union Councils is 515.

And 63 are urban CSRs in the meeting, the meeting was told.

The participants of the meeting were further informed that 6279 birth registrations, 3557 death certificates, 94 divorce certificates and 3089 marriage certificates had been issued in the last month of June.

## PM pays glowing tribute to Capt Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has paid glowing tributes to Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed on his 25th martyrdom anniversary.

In a statement Friday, he said Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed demonstrated unprecedented bravery, courage and bravery on the Kargil front, which was also praised by the enemy.

He said Sher Khan Shaheed set an example of loyalty to the motherland, sense of duty and fighting for the defense of the motherland without caring for his life, which will always be remembered.

## ATC cancels arrest warrants of KP CM

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad has cancelled arrest warrants of KP Chief Minister (CM) Ali Amin Gandapur for not appearing in the court due to his official engagements.

The petition seeking suspension of arrest warrants of Ali Amin Gandapur CM KP issued in respect of a case registered against him in police station I-9 came up for hearing in ATC Islamabad Friday.

Ali Amin Gandapur while surrendering before court said he could not appear in the court due to official engagements.

During the hearing of the case KP CM requested the court to cancel the arrest warrants.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousof Raza Gilani on Friday extended heartfelt felicitations to the Council of the Nation and the people of Algeria on the auspicious occasion of their Independence Day.

In his message, he acknowledged the valiant struggle and sacrifices rendered by the people of Algeria to attain freedom and sovereignty.

He admired the bond of friendship between Pakistan and Algeria, which is

based on mutual respect and shared aspirations for peace and progress.

He said that both countries enjoy cordial relations at the international level and have supported each other in various international forums.

Expressing optimism for the future, he said that Pakistan and Algeria would continue to work together to diversify cooperation and explore new avenues for partnership in trade, education, technology, and cultural exchanges.



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

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

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

The Minister was responding to the question of

Senator Fawia Arshad during the second meeting of the 340th session of the Senate.

Senator Tarar said the NADRA's UC level initiative would be rolled out across the country, whereas initially 1150 UCs have been selected horizontally starting from the mega urban centers of the country covering every nook and corner and it would not be restricted to the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

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

DERA GHAZI KHAN (APP): Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee and Khateeb and Imam of Baadshahi Masjid, Syed Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad, said on Friday that ongoing Paigham-e-Pakistan campaign was delivering positive results and successfully defeated the enemies' agenda of creating divide among the Pakistanis.

Maulana Syed Abdul Khabeer Azad was addressing Itehad-e-Bain-ul-Muslimeen and Paigham-e-Pakistan conference at a local hotel here Friday. He is currently visiting

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

## SC to hear appeal against restoration of Hafiz's CNIC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan would take up the appeal on July 10, filed by National Database Regulatory Authority (NADRA) against restoration of CNIC of Jamiat Ulema e Islam (JUI-F)'s leader Hafiz Hamdullah.

A two-member bench, led by Justice Munib Akhtar, would hear the case on the fixed date. The registrar office has issued the cause list in this regard.

It may be mentioned that the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had dismissed the decision of NADRA and ordered to restore the CNIC of Hafiz Hamdullah.

The authority has challenged the verdict of IHC before the SC.

## PIC orders HEC to finalize actions on scholarship misuse

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) has ordered the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to expedite and finalize actions against the misuse of scholarships and the breach of public trust.

The order comes in response to an appeal filed by citizen Azmat Khan, highlighting the need for immediate governance measures.

The appellant has sought list of scholars who went abroad on HEC scholarships over the past decade. Specifically, the list should include details of scholars from 01-01-2013 to 31-12-2023, distinguishing between those pursuing M.Phil and PhD programs.

## Court adjourns hearing of judicial complex vandalism case till July 29

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad has adjourned till July 29 hearing of bail before arrest pleas of Chief Minister (CM) KP Ali Amin Gandapur, PTI leaders Umar Ayub, Shibli Faraz, Ali Nawaz Awan and others in Judicial complex vandalism case.

Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra remarked Friday Ali Nawaz Awan is nominated accused who filed bail plea after 8 months.

The counsel told the court he joined investigation and when May 9 incident occurred he had filed bail plea in Abbottabad.

The judge inquired are the certificates placed in file. The courts are for justice and not for contempt.

The bail before arrest pleas came up for hearing before judge Tahir Abbas Sipra Friday.

CM KP, Ali Amin Gandapur, Umar Ayub and Shibli Faraz appeared in the court.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaulah Tarar on Friday said the newspapers of the country had received the maximum advertisements of Rs 9 billion whereas the news channels were given Rs 6 billion advertisements.

Responding to the question of Senator Samad Ali Khan pertaining to criteria for news channels and newspapers during the question hour session of the second meeting of the 340th session of the Senate of Pakistan, the Minister informed that the newspapers were facing financial crisis due to which the current government paid special attention to it.

Attaulah Tarar said at present as per the 1997 Services Manual, advertisements were given to the

news and media outlets. He added that a policy for advertisement was introduced in 2021 which was amended in 2022.

"There is no criteria to gauge electronic media's eligibility for getting advertisements. However, our rates' committee based on rating of news channels allows a limit or number of advertisements to be given to a particular channel," he said.

The Minister underlined that at present no advertisements for any news channel were halted by the current government.

The criteria, he said for advertisement was to convey the intended message to maximum audience effectively, whereas the rating system for news channels helps achieve that ambition.



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

## PPP Women Wing delegation meets Chairman Bilawal

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The delegation of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Women Wing Balochistan called on the Chairman of PPP, Bilawal Bhatto Zardari here on Friday. The Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, and other party leaders were also present in the meeting.

The members of PPP Women Wing discussed with the Chairman different suggestions about representation of women in different sectors of the province.

The Chairman PPP directed to the Chief Minister to resolve the issues of PPP Women Wing's office bearers and workers immediately.

The PPP Women Wing delegation was comprised: Provincial President, Ghazala Gola, senior Vice Presidents, Parveen Mengal, Kalsoom Iftikhar, Mehmooda Nasreen, Deputy General Secretary, Sakina Abdullah, Information Secretary, Kiran Baloch, Benazir Gola, Saba Kakar, Hoor Shahwani, Media Coordinator, Faiza Popalzai, Khadija Zehri, Mah Jabeen Kurd, Ahdia Hazara, Zamar Shahid, Bilquis Awan, Maryam Rajpoot, Nargis Mustafa, Shahida Khan, Nargis Iqbal, Rabia Khawajakhail and Saira Gorgej.

## School Meal Program for lagging districts of Balochistan on cards

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

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



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

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

ZIARAT (APP): Deputy Commissioner Ziarat Liaquat Ali Kakar on Friday said that measures were being taken to further improve Quaid-e-Azam Public Library so that people of the area would take beneficial of it and show proof of book-friendliness. He expressed these views while chairing a Custodial Committee meeting in connection with Quaid-e-Azam Public Library.

The meeting was attended by District Education Officer Latifullah Gharshin, Senior Public Librarian Quetta Balochistan Imran Jatak, Assistant Librarian Ziarat Muhammad Idris Nasir, Professor Zakir Ziaratwal, Saleh Muhammad Ziarat, Mehmoood Tareen, Muhammad Hashim



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

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

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Assistant Inspector General of Police, Ms. Faryal Fareed has stated that the personnels of Anti-Terrorist Force (ATF) have wholehearted capability to counter terrorism and eliminate terrorists.

The Assistant IGP was addressing the passing out parade of the Police personnels at the ATF training school here on Friday morning. In all 183 personnels passed out after completion of 16th basic course.

Speaking on the occasion, the Assistant IGP congratulated the jawans on completion of the basic

course at the ATF training school.

She said that it is no less than a challenge to maintain law and order situation in view of the specific geographic circumstances and significance.

She said that police have rendered great sacrifices for elimination of terrorism and incidents of kidnapping for ransom in the province.

She exhorted the personnels to work hard round the clock for progress in their professional careers.

She also urged them to take well care of the self-respect of the people besides honouring the human

rights.

Ms. Faryal Fareed said that the basic aim of police is to ensure crime and corruption free society.

She expressed the hope that the passed out jawans would play their role in improving the policing system further.

The Assistant IGP on the occasion appreciated the standard of training of the ATF training schools and said that it is manifestation of the hard work and dedication of the training staff. The Commandant ATF Training School, Colonel (Retd) Asad Ferooz presented welcome address on the occasion.



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