

# Independent

Member APNS &amp; CPNE

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif briefing parliamentarians regarding power sector reforms.

## PM announces Rs 50b relief package to benefit 25m domestic power consumers

Referring to PTI-led govt in past, Sharif recalled tall claims of eliminating corruption within 90 days and repatriating \$300bln from abroad; Instead, the sugar and wheat scams surfaced

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced Rs 50 billion package to provide a relief of up to seven rupees per unit to around 25 million domestic power consumers, falling in the protected category for three months till September.

"Today, an amount of Rs 50 billion has been allocated to provide a relief of Rs 4-7 per unit as a concess-

ion to our protected category consumers using up to 200 units a month for three months period from July to September. This will benefit around 25 million domestic power consumers which constitute around 94% of the total consumer base," the prime minister said addressing a ceremony held to discuss the prevailing issues related to electricity bills and reforms in the power sector.

He said that the federal government had scrapped the said amount from its development budget to realise its commitment to public relief, contrary to the hollow claims of the previous governments.

He also assured the people of further relief as the government got a fiscal space consequent to its ongoing measures of taxing the elite class, expanding the tax

net, closing the non-performing entities and plugging the holes, causing financial leakages.

He told the gathering of federal ministers and senior government officers that during its previous 16-month stint, the coalition government saved the country from default by putting its politics at stake.

Referring to the PTI-

Continued on page 2

## Govt authorizes phone tapping for national security, crime prevention

Granting blanket powers of phone tapping to ISI deplorable: PTI

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan government has authorized Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to phone tapping in the context of national security and crime prevention. This authorization has been given to the ISI under Section 54 of the Pakistan Telecommunication Act. The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication has issued a gazette notification to this effect. According to the notification, at least an officer of grade 18 will be appointed for this task.

The notification also grants the authority to trace calls, messages, and any form of communication.

Last month, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) ruled that any action of phone tapping without a legal mechanism as 'illegal' and turned down the additional attorney general's request for an in-chamber hearing in the audio leaks case. IHC's Justice Babar Sattar presided over the hearing of the petitions filed by former first lady Bushra Bibi and ex-CJP's son Najam Saqib regarding the audio leaks.

During the proceedings, Additional Attorney General (AAG) Manoor Iqbal Dogal informed the court that the Ministry of Interior had established a

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) allowing ISI and IB to directly retrieve data from service providers.

Justice Babar expressed concern that an SOP issued by a section officer, rather than the appropriate authority, raises questions about its legality.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) vehemently condemned the federal cabinet's notification to give blanket powers to ISI to intercept calls and message under the guise of national security in sheer violation of constitution and law, demanding the Supreme Court of Pakistan to annul this notification forthwith.

## Captain Osama martyred during exchange of fire with terrorists

RAWALPINDI (Online): A fire exchange took place between security forces and terrorists in North Waziristan district. During the fierce engagement, own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, as result of which two terrorists were sent to hell. However, during the intense exchange of fire, leading his troops from the front, Captain Muhammad Osama bin Arshad (age: 24 years, resident of Rawalpindi District), having fought gallantly, made the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat. Sanitization operation is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area. Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers

further strengthen our resolve.

## Funeral prayer of martyred Capt offered

Funeral prayers of Captain Muhammad Osama Bin Arshad Shaheed were offered at Chaklala Garrison Rawalpindi.

He embraced martyrdom while defending the motherland in North Waziristan District.

Prime Minister of Pakistan, Defense Minister, Information Minister, Chief of Army Staff and a large number of serving and retired military officers, soldiers and relatives of Shaheed attended the funeral.



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, COAS General Syed Asim Munir carrying the coffin of captain Muhammad Osama Bin Arshad Shaheed after funeral at Chaklala Garrison Rawalpindi.

## SC orders Balochistan govt to file details of property of Qasim Suri

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has ordered Balochistan government to file details of all the property of former Deputy Speaker National Assembly (NA) Qasim Suri.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Issa issued order. According to order advertisement was given in news papers but Qasim Suri did not come. Lawyer Naem Bokhari has no connection with his client.

Notices are issued to federal government, Balochistan government and FIA. Balochistan government should file the details of all the property of Qasim Suri. Federal government and FIA should tell how Qasim Suri went outside the country.

The CJP Qazi Faez Issa while moving to counsel Naem Bokhari said how I can say such a beautiful person to leave this case.

Justice Musarrat Hilali remarked why you are escaping from court.

You should convey our message to him.

Counsel Naem Bokhari said I have no contact with him. How should I send message.

A 4-member bench of SC presided over by the CJP Qazi Faez Issa took up the case for hearing.

At the inception of hearing the CJP remarked we are thinking what we should do in this case.

Naem Bokhari counsel for Qasim Suri said you please hear me and give decision. The CJP inquired from the counsel have you no contact with Qasim Suri.

The counsel said yes he has no contact with Qasim Suri.

The CJP remarked you cannot bring your client by holding him. Tell him SC will not be allowed to be used so.

The counsel said whatever have you to do it hurriedly. If you order me I leave the case.

Justice Musarrat Hilali said why are you running from court.



QUETTA: Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman, Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad along with others joint hand with each other to express their solidarity during the Ittehad Ummat Conference, held at Quetta Press Club



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti presides over a meeting to review the departmental affairs of Culture, Tourism and Archeology.

## Cultural festival to be organized in Ziarat this month: GoB decides to take practical steps for promotion of localized culture & civilization of Balochistan

Chief Minister Bugti directs to prepare revised mechanism for effective use of funds allocated for departmental grant-in-aid

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Government of Balochistan has decided to take practical steps for promotion of the localized culture and civilization of the province.

In this regard, the provincial government decided to hold cultural festival in Ziarat by end of the current month besides arranging Azadi (independence) mushaira (poetry session) in next month.

Besides, Balochistan Literature Festival would also be organized in first month of next year.

These decisions were made during a review meeting on the departmental affairs of Culture, Tourism and Archeology department held with Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti in the chair here on Tuesday.

The Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan and administrative secretaries of the provincial government departments were in attendance.

While chairing the meeting, Chief Minister directed to promote departmental initiatives regarding

cultural events on social media in a big way.

The meeting decided to hold different cultural events for promotion of the province's culture, tourism and historic heritage.

Earlier, the concerned high ups briefed the meeting about different departmental matters and wings. They also briefed about the new and ongoing development projects of the departments. In addition to this, the funds allocated for grant-in-aid for the cultural and tourism activities in the province.

## ATC dismisses Imran's bails in three May 9 riot cases

ISLAMABAD (INP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday rejected the interim bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan in three cases related to May 9 riots. ATC Judge Khalid Arshad announced the reserved verdict on Imran Khan's bail petitions concerning attacks on Jinnah House, Askari Tower, and the torching of Shadman Police Station. The court had reserved its verdict on the bail petitions after the completion of arguments by the parties on July 6.

Barrister Salman Safdar represented Imran Khan and argued for bail while Special Prosecutors Rana Abdul Jabbar and Rana Azhar opposed the bail petitions during the final arguments on behalf of the prosecution. Earlier, on August 11, 2023, an ATC had revoked pre-arrest bails for Imran Khan in seven cases due to his absence, as he was imprisoned following his conviction in the Toshakhana case.



QUETTA: Former Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

## Washington says has 'shared interest' with Pakistan in combating regional threats

ISLAMABAD (INP): Washington has a "shared interest" with Islamabad in combating regional security threats, US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said in response to a question on whether America would support Pakistan if it conducted cross-border attacks against militant targets in Afghanistan.

Tensions escalated between Islamabad and Kabul last month after Pakistan's

Defense Minister Khawaja Asif hinted Pakistan could carry out cross-border attacks in Afghanistan against militants. Pakistan has suffered a surge in militant attacks since the Afghan Taliban seized Kabul in August 2021 which it blames on the Pakistani Taliban or the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) outfit. Pakistan says the TTP carries out attacks against its sanctuaries in Afghanistan.

## Tarar stresses Comprehensive measures to address societal challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Human Rights, Law & Parliamentary Affairs, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday underscored the need for comprehensive measures to address societal challenges, particularly in policy-making and implementation.

Addressing an event 'The Art of Parenting, high-

lighting critical social issues and emphasizing collective action for effective solutions,' he said called for the effective implementation of the policies, thus bridging the gap to effectively support families and children.

He said: "In the realm of parenting, it is imperative for the government, civil society, and all stakeholders to collaborate."

## Governor Balochistan says: Present Govt determined to resolve Balochistan issues

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the present government is determined to resolve the issues of province and it's masses.

The people of Balochistan have full trust on wisdom, vision and friendship of the elected government.

He said that it is the public leadership that understands their issues and can take result-oriented steps.

This sets new avenues for securing and increasing rights and powers of the people besides strengthening democracy.

The Governor was speaking to a delegation of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Mastung, who called on him here at the Governor's House on Tuesday.

The political and social leader Pasand Khan led the delegation.

The members of delegation apprised the Governor about the lack of basic facilities in Mastung besides the issues being faced by the people there.

The Governor mentioned that the Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif inaugurated the project of solarization of agricultural tube wells for the zamindars of province.

The Governor said that the project of solarization of tube wells is gaining great appreciation at the public level.

He said that the zamindars of province would not only be saved from the utility bills of electricity, but it would also be helpful in putting the agriculture and livestock sectors on modern lines.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Parliamentary Secretary for Excise and Taxation Haji Muhammad Khan Lehri meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

## CS expresses federal Govt.'s resolve to expedite work on solarization of agricultural tube wells in Balochistan

### Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Balochistan, Shakeel Qadir Khan has expressed the federal government's resolve to expedite work on the conversion of agricultural tube wells on solar energy in the province.

He said that welfare of farmers is top priority of the provincial government and as such all available resources are being utilized for ensuring timely completion of the development project.

He said that the solarization of agricultural tube wells would cast positive impacts on the agriculture as they would get inexpensive and uninterrupted sup-

ply of electricity. The Chief Secretary was chairing a meeting on solarization of the agricultural tube wells here on Tuesday.

The Secretary Agriculture, Dawood Bazai, Secretary Energy, Bashir Ahmed Bazai, Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat and Shaukat Jogezei were among those participated in the meeting.

The Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners of other divisions and districts participated through video link.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Secretary said that an agreement has been reached between the federal

and provincial governments under which the agricultural tube wells would be converted on the solar energy.

He noted that around 28,000 tube wells would be converted on the solar energy and one tube well would cost Rs. 2 million.

He also mentioned that the Prime Minister and Chief Minister have stressed the need to adopt alternative sources of energy.

He hoped that the tube wells to be solarized would have great impact on the agricultural sector of the province. He directed to submit report of the progress on project on daily basis.



## Pakistan attaches high value to relations with UK: Prime Minister

ISLAMABAD (INP): A British delegation led by Sir Michael Barber called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said Pakistan and the United Kingdom enjoy historic bilateral relations that span decades and are growing stronger with time. He said Pakistan attaches high value to its relations with the United Kingdom.

Shehbaz Sharif said the United Kingdom is an important partner and extending cooperation to Pakistan in various sectors. He expressed the resolve to further strengthen people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

The Prime Minister apprised the delegation of government's steps for economic revival. He said state-owned enterprises are being privatized, whereas measures are being taken for economic digitization, including the Federal Board of Revenue.

He said the government is pursuing a policy of downsizing and abolishing the dysfunctional institutions to reduce state expenditure. He said measures are being taken to enhance exports and expand the tax base.

Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan has immense potential for agricultural and IT exports.

Sir Michael Barber appreciated the government's economic recovery plan. He expressed the confidence that the Pakistan will certainly be successful in overcoming its difficulties and problems under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.



KARACHI: Members of Quaid-e-Azam Management Board and others are paying homage to the Madar-e-Millat, Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah during their visit at Quaid-e-Azam Mausoleum on the occasion of her Death Anniversary.

## Omar denounces federal budget as 'economic terrorism against Pak

ISLAMABAD (INP): Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub Tuesday slammed the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), denouncing the federal budget for the financial year 2024-25 as economic terrorism against the people of Pakistan.

Interacting with media alongside his PTI colleague Babar Awan here, Ayub highlighted Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's admission of the IMF's role in budget preparation.

He lamented that electricity rates were set to exceed Rs100 per unit in the coming days and the US dollar, which was artificially pegged at around Rs275, would climb to Rs300.

"The August electricity bills will bring the people to roads," opposition leader predicted.

Blasting the government, Omar Ayub termed this government as the most ineligible administration. "I didn't see any government most disqualified than the current government," he said. Regarding the cases against PTI leadership, Ayub said these were politically motivated falsehoods and only meant to keep former prime minister Imran Khan, his spouse Bushra Bibi, former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and other PTI leaders behind bars. He, however, expressed confidence that these cases would soon conclude.

Drawing parallels with George Orwell's political satire 'Animal Farm', Ayub criticised the current state of Pakistani politics, charging the incumbent prime minister and his coalition of governing with ignorance of the challenges faced by common Pakistanis.

Expressing similar views, Babar Awan added that those who filed cases against PTI leadership were liars and dishonest. He claimed that attempts were being made to falsely portray stability under the ruling coalition.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Excise and Taxation, Transport Sharjeel Inam Memon along with others addresses to media persons during press conference.

## Record Cross-border traffic surge at Khunjerab Pass driven by Pak-China trade

BEIJING (APP): The Khunjerab Pass in Xinjiang, China, experienced a significant rise in cross-border traffic in the first half of this year, with 21,000 travelers, representing a 110% year-on-year increase.

On June 11, the port cleared 1,123 people in a single day, breaking the previous record.

The Khunjerab Border Inspection Station, under the Xinjiang Entry-Exit Border Inspection General Station, attributes this remarkable growth to the increasing number of Pakistani traders and cross-border tourists, Chinese media reported on Tuesday.



ISLAMABAD: A British delegation led by Sir Michael Barber calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## NA told Govt authorizes premier intelligence agency to intercept calls, message under law

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday informed the National Assembly that the government authorized the country's premier intelligence agency to intercept calls and messages or trace a call in the interest of national security or in apprehension of a crime under section 54 of the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act, 1996.

Responding to a point raised by leader of the opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan, the minister said that it was not a new law rather it came into force since 1996 and further reshaped its section 54 of Pakistan Telecommunication re-organization Act 1996.

He said no previous successive governments including of Pervez Musharraf's martial law changed this provision and still it was intact.

He quoted the section 54 of the Act which says, "Notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force, in the interest of national security or in the apprehension of any offence, the Federal Government may authorize any person or persons to intercept calls and messages or to trace calls through any telecommunication system".

The minister said that the government from time to time issued notifications in this regard. Many incidents like assassination of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, DIG Mobeen etc took place and culprits involved in such heinous crimes were intercepted through calls interception by the intelligence agencies under the said law.

Earlier, speaking in the House Omar Ayub said that the government has issued SRO empowering the intelligence agency to trace, intercept calls and messages.

He said the commissioner Islamabad also cancelled non objection certificate issued to PTI for holding public gathering on pretext of Muharram ul Haram which was a tantamount to a contempt of court.



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor SBKWU Dr. Sajida Nooreen meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

**TENDER NOTICE**

TSE-242507493413 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 District Council Loralai invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee Rs.1500/- and Bid Security 4%

S.No	Name of Works	E/Cost
1	Provision of Home Solar for Union Council in District Loralai	34,100,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn over of at least 20,000,000 PKR Amount in 2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-5 and above (Upto 65 million) in Relevant Category And Specialized Code is EE11(i) (Solar), EE11(vi) (Solar Installation). 02 assignment of similar nature or solar work completed minimum value of 50% of the estimated cost. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure 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 bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed from 2,000 PKR with green Challan in NBP Chaman Branch A/C 0005004051384257. Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 02:00 PM Address: Office of the Assistant Director Local Govt. Killa Abdullah. Phone no: 0308385084 Email: noorullah0308@gmail.com

AB No.33/09-07-2024

CHIEF OFFICER DISTRICT COUNCIL LORALAI

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## Tribunal adjourns petition regarding NA-48 election results

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Tribunal of Islamabad on Tuesday adjourned hearing till July 15, on a petition against the election results in NA-48 Islamabad. Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahagiri, hearing the case, remarked that anyone could file application to get a certified copy of the record. He remarked even a common citizen and journalist could file the application if they wanted to see the record.

The election tribunal said that it was compulsory for the presiding officer to provide form-45 to the polling agent if he didn't do it then he has to write reason for it. The tribunal said that it would summon the presiding officer and would inquire if he had accomplished the legal procedure. It, however, said there are a total of 261 presiding officers and they all couldn't be made respondents.

The court ordered member national assembly Raja Khuram Nawaz and returning officer to submit form-45, 46 and 47 to the registrar office.

## Pak team to feature in World, Asian Youth C'ships

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Scrabble Association (PSA) has named a 10-member team to feature in the World Youth Scrabble Championship and Asian Youth Championship.

PSA Director Youth Program Tariq Pervez informed that the World Youth Scrabble Championship would be held from 6 to 8 in Sri Lanka while the Asian Youth Scrabble Championship from November 10 to 12 in India.

He said in this regard a Lucky One Scrabble Championship was held to select the players for the World and Asian Championships.

"It turned out to be a highly successful event with 220 players from all age groups participating. Waseem Khatri emerged as the winner in the master category while Hassan Hadi was the runner-up," he said.

Pervez said the open category was won by young Arshman Qazi while Baashir Baig finished second. The most exciting event of the day was the Qualifiers to select the Pakistan team for the World Youth Scrabble Championship and the Asian Youth Championship" he said.

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

The Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Surab invited the sealed percentage tender based on composite Schedule of Rates 2023 Government of Balochistan along with tender Fee and item rates from interested Contractors/Firms for the work mentioned below:- Earnest Money 2%, Time limit 30-06-2025 and Tender Fee Rs.650/- for each work

S.No	T.S.No	Name of Work	E/Cost
1	242507493223 242507493253	Const. of Solar system WSS Killi Takri Anwer District Surab (PSPD No 5562) i) D/D of Bore ii) S/O of PVC pipe iii) Solar system	3.090 M 6.758 M
2	242507493293 242507493333 242507493373	Const. of Solar system WSS Killi Asad Sunder Meherabad District Surab (PSPD No 5475) i) D/D of Bore ii) P/L/J of pipe line iii) Solar system	5.121 M 1.848 M 7.881 M
3	242507493443 242507493553 242507493673 242507493653	Const. of water supply scheme with Solar system and 9000 feet PVC pipe line Killi Sanabad (PSPD No 5383) i) D/D of Bore ii) S/O of PVC pipe line 9000 Rft iii) Civil work iv) Solar system	5.028 M 10.075 M 1.027 M 8.720 M
4	242507493683 242507493713 242507493763	Const. of Solar based water supply scheme Killi Rahium Bakhs Anjeera District Surab (PSPD No 5565) i) D/D of Bore ii) P/L/J of pipe line iii) Solar system	5.121 M 1.848 M 7.881 M
5	242507493793 242507493833 242507493913 242507494073	Const. of Solar system WSS Killi Serdari Sheher Anjeera District Surab (PSPD No 5440) i) D/D of Bore ii) S/O of PVC pipe iii) Civil work iv) Solar system	5.028 M 4.477 M 0.549 M 9.367 M
6	242507494513 242507494553 242507494583 242507494593	Const. of water supply scheme with solar system and 7000 feet PVC pipe line Killi Haji Ghani Dohere District Surab (PSPD No 5366) i) D/D of Bore ii) S/O of PVC pipe iii) Civil work iv) Solar system	3.885 M 7.535 M 0.735 M 6.885 M
7	242507494603 242507494613 242507494633 242507494643	Const. of water supply scheme with solar system and 4000 feet PVC pipe line Killi Haji Ahmed Zahri Dasht District Surab (PSPD No 5572) i) D/D of Bore ii) S/O of PVC pipe iii) Civil work iv) Solar system	4.835 M 4.305 M 0.528 M 9.367 M
8	242507494653 242507494663 242507494673 242507494683	Const. of water supply scheme with solar system and 8000 feet PVC pipe line Killi Harooni Gidder District Surab (PSPD No 5356) i) D/D of Bore ii) S/O of PVC pipe iii) Civil work iv) Solar system	2.824 M 6.459 M 2.012 M 7.747 M

The procurement shall be carried out according to with Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority rules, 2014. Basic Eligibility:- The Firm must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council renewed up to date in relevant Category i.e. EE 11 (Solar) and registration with tax authorities i.e. (NTN, GST & BTRA (Original) Department. Where applicable Minimum three year works experience Turnover (Bank Statement). The call deposit and Quoted amount should match each other. The firm authorized representative will be allowed having original CNIC and authorization letter/Deed must be provided on Judicial Stamp paper attested by the Notary public Or first Class Magistrate. IEC 61215 & IEC 61730 Certificates. The firm provided Goods Declaration Slip, shipment letter. Joint Venture is not allowed. The contractor/Firm shall Provide a Port clearance certificate. Shipment Documents verification. Letter of credit (LC)/IQR charges/Bill of lading. All documents should be provided in the original to the undersigned. The Contractor/Firm should download tender Documents by self. 10% Security Deposit should be submitted by the firm in case of rate offered below 10% of the total cost. In case of failure, Bid may be rejected at any STAGE. Of Rupees 100. The tender fee should be deposited in the head of account C - 02726-02 - PHE Tender Fee through Green Challan in National Bank of Pakistan Surab only. For the D/D of Bore, Supply of Solar systems, only the Firms & Authorized dealers are eligible. Terms & condition.(A) under following condition bid will be rejected.(i) Conditional & telephonic bid / tenders (ii) bid not accompanied by a bid security of required amount of bid (iii) bid Submitted after specified date & time. (iv) blacklisted firms (contractors). (v) Original Contractor or authority letter mention against each work and original CNIC, Stamp with letter Head. (B) bid validity period 90 days. Firm of Solar must be reputable Dealer/ Distributor, Having three last year work orders with PHE Department, which hold (Eight Hundred Million). Good declaration slip, shipment letter, the company must have (C.4) category. METHOD OF PROCUREMENT: Single Stage, One envelope procedure. BID SECURITY: 2% of total bid Value in the shape of CDR must be submitted in Favor of EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE Surab From Scheduled Bank. BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS ISSUANCE: The Firm should download NIT and Bidding Document by self From WWW.BPPRA.ORG.PK SUBMISSION: The last date for submission is 29-07-2024 at 11:00 AM. OPENING: The tender will be opened on 29-07-2024 at 12:00 PM. Place of issuance, submission inquiries, and opening will be: ADDRESS: Office of the Executive Engineer, PHE Division Surab. Email - qaayumXEN50@gmail.com. Other terms and conditions are attached to tender documents. NOTE: It may be noted that no paid order will be accepted/entertained and the firm's complete title/name should be written on the call deposit. All the terms & conditions/sites of the work can be seen in office hours of the undersign. under sign have reserve rights to reject all bid with any condition. The Tender form/Documents will be download BPPRA web site.

PRQ No.182/09-07-2024

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION SURAB

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**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

The Office of the Assistant Director Local Govt. Killa Abdullah invites Sealed percentage tender on composite schedule of rate 2023 Government of Balochistan (amended up to date) from interested contractors/firms for the following works under fund PSPD for the year 2024-25 Govt. of Balochistan.

S.No	Name of Scheme	Amount
1	COMMUNITY WSS WITH SOLAR KILLI OLD ARAMBI PIRALIZAI, KILLI BISMILLAH KHAN HABIBZAI. (PSPD.3960.Z2024.1458) TSE-242507482623	20.00 M
2	COMMUNITY WSS WITH SOLAR KILLI MALAKALI SHAH, KILLI MARWAN SYEDAN. (PSPD.4008.Z2024.1454) TSE-242507482663	20.00 M
3	COMMUNITY WSS WITH SOLAR KILLI OLD IMRANZAI, KILLI WADOOD CHORI. (PSPD.4041.Z2024.1477) TSE-242507482743	20.00 M
4	COMMUNITY WSS WITH SOLAR AT KALEEMULLAH KILLI MALAK BISMILLAH DOLANGI (PSPD.4049.Z2024.1650) TSE-242507482793	10.00 M
5	COMMUNITY WSS WITH SOLAR KILLI HAIDER MASEZAI AREA-I, KILLI MAKHAL KAKOZAI. (PSPD.4056.Z2024.1439) TSE-242507482863	30.00 M
6	COMMUNITY WSS WITH SOLAR KILLI PINAKAI, KILLI GHIBZAI PINAKAI. (PSPD.4058.Z2024.1473) TSE-242507482933	20.00 M
7	COMMUNITY WSS WITH SOLAR KILLI DR. AKBAR ABDUL REHMANZAI, KILLI DIN MANGALZAI. (PSPD.4060.Z2024.1482) TSE-242507482963	20.00 M
8	COMMUNITY WSS WITH SOLAR KILLI NASRUALLAH SAZO KILLI LOR BUKHARZAI (PSPD.4062.Z2024.1495) TSE-242507483083	20.00 M
9	COMMUNITY WSS WITH SOLAR KILLI BALAHABIBZAI, KILLI KHOJADAD. (PSPD.3861.Z2024.1443) TSE-242507489873	30.00 M

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn-over of at least as per schemes estimated cost in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure 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 bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed from 2,000 PKR with green Challan in NBP Chaman Branch A/C 0005004051384257. Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 till 01:00 PM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 02:00 PM Address: Office of the Assistant Director Local Govt. Killa Abdullah. Phone no: 0308385084 Fax no: Email: noorullah0308@gmail.com

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LOCAL GOVT. KILLA ABDULLAH.

PRQ No.186/09-07-2024

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**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

The Office of the Assistant Director Local Govt. Killa Abdullah invites Sealed percentage tender on composite schedule of rate 2023 Government of Balochistan (amended up to date) from interested contractors/firms for the following works under fund PSPD for the year 2024-25 Govt. of Balochistan.

S.No	Name of Scheme	Amount
1	COMMUNITY WSS WITH SOLAR KILLI QTUB AREA-I, KILLI SHAMEER AREA-I. (PSPD.3862.Z2024.1444) TSE-242507489933	30.00 M
2	COMMUNITY WSS WITH SOLAR KILLI BAZAR, KILLI MACHKA AREA-2. (PSPD.3864.Z2024.1446) TSE-242507489953	30.00 M
3	COMMUNITY WSS WITH SOLAR KILLI SEGAI, KILLI DILSORA KARAZI. (PSPD.4107.Z2024.1472) TSE-242507489973	20.00 M
4	COMMUNITY WSS WITH SOLAR KILLI LOR BADWAN, KILLI BALABADWAN. (PSPD.4127.Z2024.1447) TSE-242507489993	30.00 M
5	COMMUNITY WSS WITH SOLAR NEW MAJAK, KILLI SHAMSHOZAI. (PSPD.4132.Z2024.1467) TSE-242507490003	20.00 M
6	COMMUNITY WSS WITH SOLAR KILLI MUFTI NORAK, KILLI SHAMSHOZAI. (PSPD.4136.Z2024.1483) TSE-242507492663	20.00 M
7	INSTALLATION OF SOLAR HOME SYSTEM CLUSTER-KILLA ABDULLAH. (PSPD.4139.Z2024.1496) TSE-242507492683	40.00 M
8	COMMUNITY WSS WITH SOLAR KILLI OLD KUTAB, KILLI HABIBZAI, II. (PSPD.4180.Z2024.1426) TSE-242507492703	30.00 M
9	COMMUNITY WSS WITH SOLAR KILLI LOR CHORI MASEZAI, KILLI MURAD KHAN GHIBZAI. (PSPD.4181.Z2024.1430) TSE-242507492723	20.00 M

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn-over of at least as per schemes estimated cost in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure 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 bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed from 2,000 PKR with green Challan in NBP Chaman Branch A/C 0005004051384257. Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 during office hours on working days. Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 till 01:00 PM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 02:00 PM Address: Office of the Assistant Director Local Govt. Killa Abdullah. Phone no: 0308385084 Email: noorullah0308@gmail.com

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## Chairman PMYP says: Parenting plays vital role in nation-building process

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Tuesday said that parenting plays a vital role in the nation-building process.

Addressing at the ceremony "The Art of Parenting" here at the Pakistan National Council of Arts, he said that unfortunately we experienced the lack of youth training in our lives and youth comprise 65 per cent of the popula-

tion, need special care and healthy activities to glorify country's name.

He appreciated the role of the Agha Khan Foundation, Rotary Club and other institutions in creating awareness about parenting and the mindset of children and bringing awareness to the right parenting.

Chairman PMYP said that the government was taking revolutionary steps in various fields including sports, education, technical

education, arts and culture, and others to empower youth through several initiatives.

He said that Pakistan has a talented youth and has a pivotal role in advancing the country towards fast-paced development.

"We are dedicated to preparing our youth to excel in diverse fields, from technology-driven industries to traditional crafts. This holistic approach will enable them to contribute meaningfully to Pakistan's

socio-economic development," he added.

The event aimed to empower parents and caregivers with effective strategies for raising children in a confident, creative and compassionate manner.

According to UNICEF, "Positive Parenting is not restricted to a method, a set of rules, or a style; it is a belief, a way of living. Children should be treated with respect, free from fear of violence and shame, and guided with loving."



Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with the President and CEO Ms. Zhang Lei and other executives of Pak Matari-Lahore Transmission Company (PLMTC) in Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), meets with the delegation from the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Women's Wing at BISP Headquarters. The delegation discussed challenges faced by women beneficiaries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, receiving assurances of support from the Chairperson.

## Romina says: Local scientists, researchers' capacity building crucial to promote indigenous sustainable urbanisation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator for the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Tuesday said the promotion of local scientists and researchers through capacity building and viable opportunities is crucial to drive indigenous sustainable urbanisation to ward off the risks of urban flooding.

She was addressing as chief guest at the one-day workshop on Urban Floods: Implications for Resilience organised by the Pak-German Climate & Energy Partnership and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

Romina Khurshid Alam said infrastructure

development must keep climate risks in view to sustain climate aftereffects.

She urged the forum to share all recommendations with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination.

The PM's aide appreciated the workshop's organisers in bringing together policy makers, practitioner and academia to co-create solutions that are driven by evidence. She noted that the capacity of local researchers should be developed and that they should have a stronger role in developing quality policy work. Research based policies are crucial to overcome impending risks and fill gaps in decision

making.

She added that the legislators and policy makers needed such policies for informed decision-making.

The PM's Coordinator said adaptation goals needed to be set as per the local needs and realities as there were new technologies emerging in the field but indigenous knowledge techniques need to be incorporated in the climate risk mitigation strategies.

"The session convened local scientists and experts that made me feel proud as local scientists and experts should be engaged and equipped to work on addressing climate problems of the country," she added.

## PM greets Daanish School student over 1<sup>st</sup> position in BISE Lahore exams

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday congratulated Muhammad Ayan Kashif, a student of Daanish School for clinching the first position in the matriculation examination of Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Lahore.

The prime minister, in a statement, said that Ayan Kashif of Daanish School Mianwali proved his mettle by scoring 1190 marks in the board examination.

Also felicitating Ayan Kashif's family and teachers, the prime minister said the male and female stu-

dents of Daanish School had set a new example of success and capability.

He reiterated the government's resolve to expand Daanish School's network across the country to bring about a change through education.

Prime Minister Shehbaz congratulated Moez Haider and Maheem Sajjad for grabbing second and third positions respectively.

He also felicitated three female students Abeer Ashraf, Zainab Asif and Sehar Shakeel for obtaining a second position in the science group.



ISLAMABAD: CEO International Governance and Sustainability Institute Dr. Sultan Azam Temuri awarding certificates among students in closing ceremony of Summer Fiesta Program organized by Federal Ministry of Education held at IMCG F-7/4.

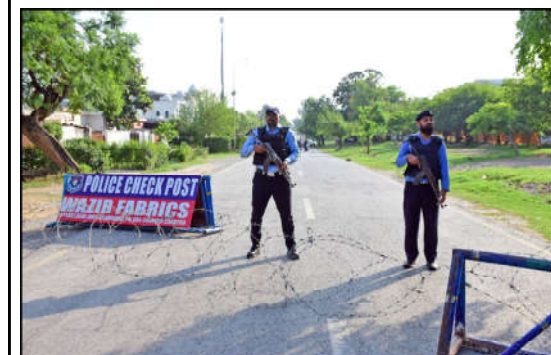
## Senate Body recommends early appointment of MD PBM

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Senate Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety has strongly recommended earliest appointment of Managing Director of Pakistan Bait ul Mal (PBM).

Meeting of the Senate Body with Senator Sardar Al Haj Muhammad Umer Gorgaj in chair was held at Parliament House on Tuesday, Senator Abdul Shakoor Khan, Senator Jaan Muhammad, Senator Dost Ali Jeesar, Senator Rubina QaimKhan, and the senior management of the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety along with representatives of the attached departments attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Committee was briefed on the operations and performance of the Ministry

and its attached departments. It was informed that the Ministry administers four departments namely Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Pakistan Bait ul Mal, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) and Trust for Voluntary Organizations (TVO). Additionally, the Ministry has initiated the National Poverty Graduation Programme (NPGP), a joint venture of Government of Pakistan and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The main objective of NPGP was to provide monetary support and training to deserving individuals in order to uplift their livelihood. The program was initially being implemented in 21 districts of the country with a total volume of USD 132.6 Million.



ISLAMABAD: Policemen stands alert at a road near Markazi Asna Ashri Imambargah G-6/2 in the Federal Capital.

## Court seeks arguments on petition for changing judge in alcohol case against KP CM

ISLAMABAD (Online): The court while seeking arguments on the petition in connection with changing the judge in alcohol case against KP Chief Minister (CM) Ali Amin Gandapur has adjourned the hearing of the case till today (Wednesday). The petition seeking changing the judge in recovery of arms and alcohol case registered against KP Chief Minister (CM) Ali Amin Gandapur in police station Bhara Kahu came up for hearing before district and sessions judge Shah Rukh Arjumand.

Raja Zahoor ul Hassan counsel for KP CM appeared in the court and filed his power of attorney.

The counsel said one day time be given for argu-

ments on the petition for changing the judge.

District and sessions judge Shah Rukh Arjumand sought arguments on July 10 on the petition for changing the judge. In official application it was said the case against Ali Amin Gandapur is pending hearing in the court of Judicial Magistrate Sohaib Bilal Ranjha. Last hearing of the case had taken place on July 5 2024. The accused was granted exemption from attendance without any reason.

The petition said trial is near to completion. The accused is using dilatory tactics to prolong the case. The accused was given exemption repeatedly without any reason. Repeated exemption harms the prosecution case.

## Resilience must be redefined across the board: Sherry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman on Tuesday while chairing the committee meeting emphasised the importance of a resilient approach to counter the adverse impacts of climate change in Pakistan.

Senator Rehman stated, "NDMA and the Pakistan Meteorological Department have predicted above-normal rainfall. The committee was keen to understand the measures for risk reduction and predictability of the monsoon across the country. From the available reports it appears that the eye of the storm will likely be Punjab. Apart from rains, we are facing other environmental crises. Pakistan's climate

challenges are multifaceted, and all relevant environmental institutions must not work in silos. There should be a coordinated and shared strategy to tackle these challenges."

Discussing resilience, Senator Rehman noted, "Pakistan's exposure to climate stress is so high that resilience must be redefined across the board. It can't just be about infrastructure; it has to be local and people-centric."

She further highlighted the lack of updated equipment in disaster management departments due to insufficient funding. "Heavy funds were required to update the environmental department's equipment during my tenure. After the 2022 floods, all funds

were re-allocated to flood-affected areas because of the shortage. The capacity of PDMA and other regional institutions must be increased to prevent disasters," she said.

The committee was informed that the Sindh and eastern parts of Balochistan are set to receive a fresh spell of monsoon rain on July 8-9, while upper and central parts of the country, including Rawalpindi and Islamabad, from July 10 to 15. Chairman the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) stated that heavy, moderate, and scattered rainfall is expected in various cities of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), and Gilgit-Baltistan.

## Naqvi takes notice of girl's death in kite string incident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday expressed profound grief and sorrow over the death of a 7-year-old girl in a kite string incident in the area under the jurisdiction of Khanna Police Station.

He extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and stated that we equally share their grief.

While taking notice of the unfortunate incident the minister sought report from the IG Islamabad and directed strict action against the culprits. He directed the Islamabad Police to ensure strict implementation of the ban on kite flying adding that indiscriminate action must be taken against the violators.

## Rubina Khalid vows to address concerns of BISP beneficiaries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, reaffirmed her commitment to resolve the issues faced by deserving women beneficiaries of the program.

During a meeting at the BISP Headquarters on Tuesday, with a delegation from the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Women's Wing, Senator Khalid emphasized the importance of addressing beneficiaries' concerns.

The delegation included Ms. Shazia Tahmas Khan, General

Secretary, Ms. Meher Sultana, Information Secretary, and Ms. Ashbar Jadoon, Vice President.

They apprised Chairperson BISP of the challenges faced by women beneficiaries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, such as the registration process and the provision of basic facilities at BISP payment campsites.

Senator Rubina Khalid assured the delegation of her full support in resolving these issues. The delegation also extended an invitation to Senator Rubina Khalid to visit Kohistan.



ISLAMABAD: People drinking free sweet water (Sharbat) from a roadside Sabeel at sector G-II in the Federal Capital.

## Car plunged into river in Astoria, 3 killed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Three passengers, including two women, were killed when a car plunged into the river in Harcho, Astoria Valley, a private news channel and rescue reported on Tuesday.

According to the details, the ill-fated family was traveling from Islamabad to Astoria.

Rescue teams reached the spot immediately after the incident was reported. The rescue team shifted the dead bodies to the hospital.

## Removal of name from PNIL list IHC reserves judgment on Hamid Raza chairman SIC petition seeking

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has reserved judgment on the petition seeking removal of name of Sahibzada Hamid Raza, chairman Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) from PNIL list.

Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamir Farooq reserved judgment on the petition seeking removal of name from Provisional National Identification List (PNIL).

CJ IHC Aamir Farooq remarked FIA was consider them monarch. I will give decision on this case. When law says name cannot remain beyond 60 days. Why have you not removed. Name has not been removed from list to harass. If they give superfluous reply I will send them to jail on contempt of court just now. You play with the lives of people and you have no repentance.

Justice Aamir Farooq inquired what is PNIL.

Deputy Attorney General (DAG) told law

of PNIL list has been enacted at behest of Supreme Court (SC).

CJ IHC said can the law be enacted on the direction of SC. What is such power of SC and high court If it was direction it was to be seen by the government that under what law it can be done.

According to SRO, name cannot remain more than two months in the list.

CJ IHC while moving to DAG remarked you yourself have got embroiled by reading this SRO. How have you kept name in list after lapse of 60 days.

Assistant Director (AD) FIA replied report was got from police and they said they wanted to maintain name in the list.

Justice Aamir Farooq inquired when law says the name cannot remain in the list more than 60 days. Why have you not removed.

The court reserved judgment on the petition.

## Sana elected Chairman IPC Standing Committee

ISLAMABAD (APP): Member of the National Assembly, Sana Ullah Khan Mastikhel, was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Standing Committee for Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) on Tuesday.

The election was conducted by Muhammad Mushtaq, Advisor (Legislation), Syed Jawad Murtaza Naqvi Additional Secretary (Committees) and Syed Hasen Raza Zaidi, Joint Secretary (Committees).

In the meeting held

here, Mushtaq welcomed the committee members and described them the election procedure of the Chairman.

Mastikhel's name was proposed by MNA Anjum Aqeel and seconded by all other members. Accordingly, Mastikhel, was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Standing Committee on IPC.

The Advisor (Legislation) congratulated the newly elected Chairman on behalf of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Secretary General National Assembly.

## BAC decides to continue NA session till July 10

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly's Business Advisory Committee (BAC) on Tuesday decided to continue the current session of the National Assembly till July 10 with the possibility of further extensions if deemed necessary.

The BAC met under the chairmanship of Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq that mulled over the agenda and duration of the seventh session in detail.

## Last date for applying NYC membership July 10

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) office had announced the National Youth Council (NYC) membership under which the last date for submitting forms deadline is July 10.

The PMYP spokesperson told APP that NYC an initiative under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, is accepting applications till July 10. "We're just 24 hours away from closing applications for the National Youth Council, and we want you to take advantage of this life-changing opportunity.



ISLAMABAD: Workers of Capital Development Authority (CDA) busy in preparing map of Pakistan on a green belt at Zero Point during development work, in the Federal Capital.



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**  
Wednesday July 10, 2024

**Supplementary grants**

The ex post facto parliamentary approval of huge unbudgeted expenditures of Rs9.4tr — up by 389pc from Rs1.9tr sanctioned a year earlier — during the last two fiscal years underlines how the government is abusing the powers it derives from the Constitution to deal with possible budgetary shortfalls, and unexpected new expenditures or cost overruns. This practice of altering the original budget by obtaining retrospective approval of fund re-appropriation or new expenditures made during a given fiscal year, without parliament's nod to supplementary budget statements, is not new. But the rapid growth of these unauthorised expenditures affirms that the fiscal authorities have lately been interpreting Article 84 rather liberally to bypass parliamentary and public scrutiny. This is despite the fact that the constitutional provision is meant to give the government access to funds for unforeseen financial needs in times of emergencies or contingencies to ensure the unhampered functioning of public services.

A story on the excess expenditures by three successive governments between May 2023 and May 2024 through supplementary grants reveals that subsidies and the power sector, water division, defence and civil armed forces and related agencies stand out in exceeding budgetary allocations or securing finances for unbudgeted expenditure and initiatives.

Many expenditures for which the government sought retrospective parliamentary approval have little to do with emergencies or contingencies. Several expenditures, such as additional funds for CPEC security, military pensions and other retirement benefits, the Green Corporate Initiative of the armed forces, Pakistan-Iran border fencing, K-Electric and public power generation plants, etc, could have been anticipated when the original budget was passed.

The abuse of a constitutional provision meant for unforeseen financial needs betrays bureaucratic disdain for parliament and public opinion, in fact, even democracy. It is also a sort of violation of a 2013 Supreme Court observation that "the amounts as approved in the budget passed by the National Assembly have to be utilised for the purpose specified in the budget statement.

Any re-appropriation of funds or their utilisation for some other purpose, though within the permissible limits of the budget, are not justified... "The recent re-appropriation of funds for need-less payment of 'honoraria' to PMO officers, as well as for parliamentarians' development schemes and renovation and construction of judges' residences at a time when the government has implemented additional taxes of Rs1.7tr underscores the urgency for restricting the government's powers under Article 84 to alter the approved budget, except in extreme cases.

Even when an expense is made in emergency situations, it should be immediately brought before parliament for debate and approval to ensure the integrity of the budget, avoid unnecessary additional expenses and reduce digressions from the approved original spending framework. These changes are crucial to ensure tight fiscal discipline and contain budget deficits.

Arifa Noor

Drip, drip, drip... the drops fall, big and small. There is a conversation here, an incident there. A snatched conversation with an acquaintance, a long chat with a friend. All of them quiet interactions, small, unnoticeable incidents unworthy of retelling. But the drops are unending; they are so many that they eventually become puddles left after the monsoon rains. Here, there and everywhere, some deep and some shallow, some deceptively deep while others can be skipped.

But there they are. And they are not going away.

A friend needs a visa, to somewhere in the glittery West. Well-travelled and well-educated and no stranger to the country in question — but there are no appointments to be had. She had travelled there more than once, as to other parts of the world. But visa appointments are not to be had. In hushed tones, it is whispered that visa appointments are being 'sold' for hundreds of thousands, as well as the

approval or checking of documents. The amount of money changing hands varies greatly but such is the rush of people trying to leave the country that few are willing to dismiss the numbers as wild exaggerations.

During another casual conversation, a colleague says his relative paid 10 lakh rupees to try to get out. But, he says, in all seriousness, if someone asks, "officially, the bribery rate is only two". What is official about the rate of bribery is beyond comprehension.

A visit to a medical centre turns into a painful exchange when a young doctor asks seriously if what happened over 70 years ago was really worth it. He stumbles over the question because it is so difficult to put into words, even though he is careful to wait until none of his colleagues are nearby when he shares this burden.

Another friend bemoans his lack of social life. There are hardly any people left to socialise with. What happened? Most of them have moved away in the past couple

**Conversations**

of years; they all left the country.

An old college friend from somewhere in Africa messages to ask about the American school because she has an application from a teacher who was employed at one in Pakistan. Is the school any good, she asks?

Asking a colleague to explain the intricacies of the economy leads to a conversation about how everyone appears to be in a bad mood. They are always ready for a fight and the tiniest of irritations leads to an argument or a loud exchange, at work or in public. I didn't need to ask why and he didn't need to explain further.

A WhatsApp message from a friend settled abroad reveals that he ran into a Pakistani waiting tables at a restaurant, who turned out to be PhD in engineering from south Punjab and had left a teaching job to migrate. The friend then added that in recent times, he has run into many educated Pakistani migrants in basic jobs.

These conversations are not recent. They happened over months and

even years ago. And most of them, like a random drop of water, did not even register. They got brushed away, as one does when on a dry, clear day, suddenly, there is a tiny sensation of wetness on a hand or a bare arm.

All these happened before the latest budget, which has imposed new taxes on what a friend calls the moral backbone of society ie the salaried class, and indirect taxes on the poor, while everyone who had the power and access to get relief managed to do so, beginning with the civil and military bureaucracy, which will get plots from the state and sell them without paying the tax that ordinary civilians will have to do. The military also managed to delay pension reform for a year.

The parliamentarians increased their perks, while also ensuring fat chunks of development funds. The PML-N saved their voters in the trader class. As the phrase goes, everyone who was anyone got to wash their hands in the Ganges. But for the rest, there is the mantra of the difficult days. In In-

dia, the politicians promise 'achay dinn' while we have to settle for mushkil ones.

So many far better equipped at finance and the economy have explained this in detail in article after article and podcast after podcast.

And now the drops are forming deep puddles of dirty water.

Conversations among white-collar, ordinary people are about how not to pay taxes. Others have complicated conversations about establishing companies on foreign shores.

And the hopelessness afflicting the ordinary souls is creeping up.

A wealthy businessman speaks of family members who had left these lands long ago. They did the right thing, he said, I too should have moved and now I will. It was no longer possible to run a business in Pakistan, he added. He explains that over time whatever he has running in Pakistan might just slowly and steadily downsize and shut down.

Another one says friends have moved away not because they can't af-

ford to live comfortably in Pakistan but because life is less stressful elsewhere.

The conversations are endless. Neither are they new. But with each passing year and each political development, they become more desperate and more pessimistic. The budget is merely one such incident. It is so critical but there is so much more. The lack of tolerance and the lynchings; the unending blocking of X; the draconian laws; the enforced disappearances.

This sense of despair is not even recognised by those ruling us, who continue to talk down to the people, or rather at each other. For what else can one call the interminable conversations about the need for IMF programmes, the divisions between the judiciary or the parties (Fawad Chaudhry and Javed Latif got more attention in talk shows than the budget) and the vague promises of billions headed our way as investment? It is more than a disconnect; it's a lack of respect for those who live in this country. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Fable of the bicycle and a plane**

Jawed Naqvi

The inability to accept defeat with grace comes from an authoritarian streak found in enfeebled democracies. Donald Trump and Narendra Modi, for example, are peas in a pod in this regard. Modi has an added problem — his compulsive obsessive rivalry with *bête noir* Jawaharlal Nehru's back-to-back three-term tenure as India's first prime minister. It reminds one of the soirée where a wet-behind-the-ears Urdu poet earned the wrath of a master versifier.

Legendary Firaq Gorakhpuri was waiting for his turn at the late-night *mushaira* when he felt compelled to chide a young poet for suspiciously plagiarising his lines to compose a bad verse. The young man pleaded innocence, adding a tad grossly that he was delighted to be involved in an intellectual accident with the master poet. Firaq's response was withering: "One has heard of bicycles crashing into bullock carts. But a bicycle crashing into a plane?"

President Murmu, however, had to indulge Modi's persistence. "The world can see Indians have for the third time formed a government with a stable and full mandate," she said. "This has happened after six decades. People have shown trust in my government for the third time." Murmu was clearly reading an address drafted by Modi's office to the new parliament, earning endless applause from the treasury benches.

Full mandate? Stable government? In which case why did the markets, revered by BJP acolytes as a thermometer of the nation's health, crash so nervously when the results came in on June 4? Worse, they crashed after Modi and his home minister exhorted investors in TV interviews to bet on their victory. The markets picked up only when help came from two regional parties who had little in common with the BJP's communal agenda.

That's precisely what everybody other than the BJP accepts. After the loss of 63 MPs, Modi's party was reduced to a minority of 240. Rajiv Gandhi resigned as prime

minister after he was reduced from a mammoth 400-plus seats to become the leader of the single largest party in 1989, but short of a majority. Rajiv was a democrat, so he preferred to sit in the opposition, despite commanding the highest tally.

Third stable term? Is that why Modi rushed to the two leaders from Bihar and Andhra Pradesh too hastily, who included a man who was only recently vying to become convener of the opposition alliance and the other who rose in politics as a Youth Congress leader? Modi sought their support, and the duo dictated their fanciful financial terms for their states, whose burden if fulfilled could be prohibitive for current and future taxpayers. Thus, it remains a point to ponder as to how long the alliance remains stable.

In the rush to keep the job, Modi broke a sacred democratic convention. While getting the two anchors to endorse their support, he tellingly didn't hold a mandatory meeting of his own party's MPs, a standard democratic requirement. Unlike the presidential system,

the prime minister must be elected by his or her party's MPs before getting the president's nod. It's widely believed that by holding a meeting of the National Democratic Alliance, while studiously dodging the meeting of BJP parliamentarians, he was delaying the blame game for the electoral debacle, which reportedly is waiting to burst into the open.

Everyone, except the BJP, sees the election results as a clear rejection of Modi's communal politics, and of his hateful speeches against Muslims during the election. To rub in the point, the prime minister's handpicked candidate was trounced in Banswara, the constituency in Rajasthan from where Modi had exhorted Hindus to mistrust Muslims, claiming they would steal their women's mangalsutras and even their buffaloes. Muslims were infiltrators, he said venomously. The hand-picked election commission unsurprisingly wouldn't book him. Remember a court had ordered Indira Gandhi to be removed as prime minister for using an election

podium built by the Public Works Department.

Still, the elections were a great leveller. The BJP's candidate from Ayodhya was also crushed by a Dalit leader from the INDIA alliance, literally mocking Modi for embarking on his polarising campaign by hurriedly inaugurating a half-built temple to Lord Ram. In another religiously loaded rebuke, Modi's candidate from Chitrakoot lost. The epic Ramayana tells us that Ram, Sita and Lakshman spent most of their exile years in the woods of Chitrakoot, in present-day Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Facts are sacred, opinions free. The fact is that way beyond the moral grasp of the current incumbent of the high office, Nehru had publicly pleaded with his party to relieve him of his post as prime minister in 1958. The high office he earned came from spending nine years in jail and marching as a foot soldier of India's freedom movement. His experience as Gandhi's lieutenant prepared him for the job. On April 29, 1958,

the Congress Parliamentary Party found itself facing an unprecedented crisis. Nehru requested the party's permission to retire as prime minister after guiding the country for four decades. Serving the country had been exhilarating, Nehru's biographer M.J. Akbar quotes him as telling fellow MPs. But he now wanted a respite from "this daily burden" to do "some quiet thinking" and return to "myself as an individual citizen of India and not as prime minister".

As one Congress MP remarked, "Jawaharlal wanted time to think about how to save the world from the hydrogen bomb but had no complications about dropping a hydrogen bomb on the Congress." When Nehru's party rejected the offer to resign, Akbar recalled in a tribute in 2011, "letters of congratulation and relief came from both Dwight Eisenhower in Washington and Nikita Khrushchev in Moscow". Modi might as well follow his bugbear to test the love the world leaders have for him. To begin with, he could offer to resign, and let his party take the call.

**Boom or doom?**

Dr Niaz Murtaza

Narratives about Pakistan verge on two extremes. The narrative of all our regimes has been that it is on the verge of take-off that will land it in the august company of the Asian Tigers. But such imaginary flights to glory disappear mysteriously like Malaysia Airlines flight MH370. Then there are the prophets of doom who see a collapse soon. But despite close calls, the country has dodged many bullets since 1971.

Which outcome is more likely? On the boom side, the Asian Tigers are a leap too far. Can we even match South Asian horses like India and Bangladesh with whom we share a DNA? They are no Asian Tigers. Out of the four economic aims — stability, durable growth, equity and sustainability — they have only the first two via a neoliberal model, with sustainability eluding even the Tigers and others globally. For a nation fed by its state with a false sense of superiority over Hindus and Bengalis, it's a rude shock how far it lags behind them.

Despite similarities with them, we have huge lags that make this outcome hard. There were the congenial ones. India had been a state for centuries and also inherited most of the administrative, economic and political legacy the British left behind. Bangladesh had ethnic homogeneity which further crystallised into a strong sense of nationhood due to 25 years of exploitative West Pakistan rule pre-1971. India and Bangladesh's freedom drives were led by grassroots leaders pursuing democracy. Pakistan was a divided, brand new state led by elites looking to escape democracy and majoritarian Hindu rule.

These varied birth conditions led to, and were compounded by, three catastrophic choices made by our elite rulers (especially non-elected ones) fearful of losing power: economic dependence on big states, political autocracy and social religiosity. So, we are now the breeding ground for many perverse economic, social and political traits that undercut national progress. This includes a severe gap in social capital and trust due to decades of autocracy and exploitative rule, which undermine cooperation and conflict resolution, and a lack of economic dynamism and creativity due to economic dependence and social extremism.

Our main economic problems — fiscal and external deficits and low growth — reflect these societal traits. The fiscal deficits, given low tax revenues, reflect the social mistrust in the state, while the external deficits and poor growth expose the lack of societal creativity and dynamism.

But these traits aren't immutable. All were grafted onto society by elites and can be excised via a counter-effort. However, one doesn't see a strong reformist social group on the horizon with clear ideas that can uproot the exploitative ruling set-up to usher in even economic stability and durable growth let alone equity and sustainability. The task is not just of following the right policies but of societal transformation that only popular movements, and not autocratic regimes, can undertake. The middle class is often billed for this role. But our middle classes and expats are still in the infancy stage of chasing populist messiahs bereft of solid ideas.

So, if even modest

progress seems elusive, is doom inevitable? Many say no badly run state can avoid doom for long. We face almost every political and economic path that has led states to doom: religious and ethnic insurgencies, nuclear stand-off, slow growth, high fiscal deficit and debt, depleted reserves and weak currency.

Climate change will hit us more badly to aggravate these issues. The three-*ea*-ts from insurgents are still not as strong as in Yemen, Somalia etc. But our econ-omic issues are grim. Recent state economy-ic collapses have come from high fiscal deficits and money supply growth causing hyperinflation (Zimbabwe) or high external deficits causing currency collapse and default (Sri Lanka).

Zimbabwe had 250 million per cent inflation caused by money supply growth above 50pc for years even before hyperinflation. Our highest money supply growth was less than 20pc during 2019-2023. Covid-19 and terrorism caused Lankan foreign revenues from remittances and tourism to fall hugely to just \$2.6 billion and the current account deficit reached 5pc. Our recent external profile is better but still similar to this. Though it's improving, external shocks and state policies can quickly reverse it.

So, while the chances of even limited boom are near-zero, the chances of economic doom, though not near-certain, are surely high. The best that we can hope for from the current ruling coterie is that it avoids economic doom. For long-term boom, and that too an equitable one, we must keep scouting the horizons for the rise of better social groups. - Courtesy Dawn

**Revitalizing slums: Inclusive solutions for viable rehabilitation**

By Umm-e-Maliha

Slums often evoke the picture of neglect and desolate congested population with temporary housing and unhygienic condition. They are in suburbs of a city, infamous for their infrastructure deficiencies and elevated crime level. Nonetheless, it's crucial to understand these negative stereotypes and recognize the mankind and capability of locals.

As per United Nations Human Settlements Program, 56% of Pakistan's urban communities resided in slum residence as of 2020. These societies are not only overloaded with the country's resources but people having some goals and human resilience. Residents end up renting out their new homes to return to slums due to proximity to jobs and low living costs. Earlier initiatives to rehabilitate slum residents by offering government-subsidized housing, frequently unsuccessful because of inadequate fulfillment of resident's basic needs like socio-economic needs. For instance, Dharavi Redevelopment Project in India, the project aimed to provide the subsidized housing to slum's residents but failed because of discrepancy of requirement and solutions.

Therefore, it is necessary to consider all the basic needs of slum residents while planning and implementing the rehabilitation programs. There are successful programs that use strategies considering the local requirements and conditions. These are Kenya slum upgrading program, Minha Casa Minha Vida program Brazil, Baan Mankong Program, Medellín's urban transformation. These programs not just improve sanitary conditions but also offer real advantage to the community.

Efforts to rehabilitate slum areas in Pakistan have seen range of results but The Orangi Pilot Project (OPP) in Karachi emerged as a one of the successful projects. Initiated in the 1980s, the OPP directed on upgrading housing and sanitation in Orangi Town, one of major informal settlements in Karachi. Regardless of such successes, Pakistan still encounters hurdles in slum rehabilitation, such as limited resource and rapid urbanization. Continued emphasis on community-driven initiatives and sustainable urban planning is critical for achieving lasting improvements.

Developing microfinance programs targeted at slum dwellers is an

other feasible strategy. These programs, by offering small loans for business ventures and housing upgrades can enable residents to recover their living conditions and economic opportunities. In addition, slums up gradation initiatives should emphasize the provision of vital services like fresh water, sanitary conditions, public health, and education.

Coordinating with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private sector entities can potentially overcome resource constraints. Like, the Urban Resource Centre in Karachi collaborates with local communities to deal with urban challenges, urging for the rights and needs of slum inhabitants.

The key to rehabilitating slums requires recognizing and exploiting the potential of their inhabitants. By engaging residents in decision-making processes and delivering support based on their needs, we can rehabilitate these underprivileged areas into developing communities. It is time to provide slum inhabitants a seat at the stakeholders' table for decision making, making sure that their voices are heard and their dreams are supported.



## Murad orders timely drainage of rainwater in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah issued directives to municipal and other institutions to ensure coordinated efforts to address issues related to rainwater drainage and traffic management during the ongoing rains.

The chief minister directed the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) and cantonment boards to carry out coordinated efforts to ensure effective rainwater drainage and facilitate citizens.

CM Murad also directed the Transport Department has expedited

work on the Red Line Corridor project to alleviate the difficulties faced by residents of Gulshan Iqbal and Taimur Nagar.

He directed the Traffic Police to be more active in managing traffic in Karachi especially in areas where uplift works are being carried out to avoid difficulties for citizens.

He also emphasised the need for better traffic management in areas where development work is underway.

Earlier in the day, many parts of Karachi received moderate to heavy

rain. Surjani Town, New Karachi, North Karachi, North Nazimabad, Nazimabad, North Nazimabad, Golimar and other parts received the rainfall.

Meanwhile, the Shadman Nullah in Nusrat Bhutto Colony overflowed, causing flooding and difficulties for the people in the surrounding areas.

The area around Shadman No. 1, Sakhi Hassan Graveyard Road, and adjacent parts have been particularly affected, with waterlogged streets and garbage littering the roads.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan presiding over the cabinet meeting at CM Secretariat.

## Minister Arora attends event 'Focussing on the rights of minorities' in Sheikhpura

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora on Tuesday visited Sheikhpura to attend an event 'Focussing on the rights of minorities' at a local hall in Gloria Colony.

PML-N City President Minority Wing Waseem Chhatti along with officials and a large number of citizens from the Christian community were present.

Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora, while addressing the ceremony, expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif for including him in the cabinet for the rights of minorities.

He said that according

to the vision of the chief minister Punjab "minorities are the crown of our heads", and in areas where minorities were in majority, they would be given equal rights, adding that the government had formed various committees to ensure that every community, whether Sikh, Christian or Hindu was granted freedom according to their religion.

The government had approved the immediate release of funds for all areas to ensure effective steps for the development and prosperity of the Christian people, the minister added and said, "We must pledge not to abandon hard work and to bring glory to Pakistan through our efforts".

## Mayor Karachi inspects different parts of city after rain

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Tuesday visited different parts of the city after the rain.

He observed that despite the rain, the situation remained under control in various areas, and the process of drainage through storm-water drains continued smoothly.

He assured that if further rains occur, Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) will continue its efforts in collaboration with other civic bodies to ensure that citizens do not face difficulties during the

monsoon season.

Murtaza Wahab mentioned that some areas of Karachi received more rain than others, and according to the Meteorological Department's forecast, more rainfall is expected.

However, the KMC has completed prior arrangements to manage these rains effectively. The ongoing process of cleaning storm-water drains has resulted in normal flow according to the usual conditions, especially due to the elimination of chocking points, thereby

## Anti polio campaign ends

RAWALPINDI (APP): The health department of Rawalpindi has ended a specially launched 7-day anti polio vaccination campaign with encouraging 92% coverage.

The maximum outreach to administer anti polio drops to each available child was attained with consistent efforts rendered by mobile teams and other deployed staff under central monitoring cell. According to the details, more than 800,000 children under stratified

target clusters were administered polio vaccines. The week-long campaign witnessed an increased trend of positive response by the residents. However, a number of children were remained unattended due to summer vacations in schools.

In a brief interaction with APP, the Superintendent District Health Authority, Dr. Nadim Ahmad informed that cent percent result could be achieved if schools were opened.



LAHORE: Information Minister of Punjab Azma Bokhari addressing a press conference along with Minister for Education of Punjab Rana Sikandar Hayat, at D.G.P.R in the Provincial Capital.

## ASI along with two nephews killed in Lakki firing

PESHAWAR (APP): At least three people including an Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) and his two nephews were killed when unknown armed men fired at a car near Forest Office, on Indus Highway in district Lakki Marwat, police confirmed on Tuesday.

Police said ASI and former MTO of police department, Saad Ullah Khan Titarkhel along with family members was on way to Peshawar for a medical checkup when unidentified armed men fired at their vehicle on Indus Highway near Kurram Toll Plaza.

As a result, the ASI and his two nephews were killed however, luckily the women in the back seat remained unhurt in the tragic incident. Police said the children killed in the firing aged from 8 to 12 years.

Bodies of the deceased were shifted to hospital for medico legal procedure while the area.

## FC seizes illegal items worth Rs 340m in one month

PESHAWAR (APP): The Frontier Corps Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has reported significant anti-smuggling operations over the past month across various regions, including Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Orakzai, Swat, Dir, and Chitral.

A press release to this effect said on Tuesday that in a series of successful raids, the force seized illegal goods valued at 340 million rupees. The confiscated items included food products, clothing, cigarettes, tires, auto parts, and modern foreign weapons.

Additionally, the Frontier Corps intercepted gold and foreign currency being smuggled from Afghanistan, with an estimated value of 15 million rupees.

In separate anti-narcotics operations, 482 kilograms of various drugs worth 45 million rupees were also seized.

## Anti-begging drive conducted in Mingora bazaar

PESHAWAR (APP): The Swat social welfare department and the child protection team conducted an anti-begging drive in Mingora bazaar and surrounding areas, rescuing 12 children.

According to district administration, the operation was carried out on directives of Malakand Division Commissioner Saqib Raza Aslam and Swat Deputy Commissioner Shehzad Mahboob.

During the drive which was conducted with cooperation of police.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presides over the 11th meeting of Provincial Cabinet.

## Kundi emphasizes ongoing efforts to promote investment and business growth in province

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday held meetings with delegations of Sarhad Business Alliance and Tobacco growers.

The delegation was led by President of the Organization, Malik Meher Elahi, and included representatives Adnan Jalil, Syed Zahid Shah, Bakht Mir Durani, Faisal Kakakhel, Muhammad Aung Zaib, and other dignitaries from the business community.

During the meeting at Governor House, the delegation briefed the Governor on the challenges faced by the business community at the provincial and commercial

levels. They highlighted concerns regarding recent increases in sales tax and other taxes affecting the business class.

The delegation discussed various proposals with the Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, ranging from the current security situation, restrictions on wheat transportation from other province, substandard medical stores, industrial road conditions, and enhancements in business facilities and development within the province.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi emphasized the ongoing efforts to promote investment and business growth in the province for economic advancement.

"There is a need to foster trade relations between Central Asian states and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," remarked Faisal Karim Kundi, discussing the enhancement of trade between Peshawar and Tajikistan during his recent visit to the country.

"Discussions during the Tajikistan visit focused on mutual cooperation in industrial sectors, particularly food, automobile, and energy industries," he added. Governor Faisal Kundi also highlighted the potential benefits of establishing sister cities between Khatlon and Peshawar, envisioning substantial advantages in agriculture, poultry, educational and energy sectors.

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PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi in a group photo with delegation of representative of Farmers Itehad of Swabi and Mardan.

## Minister reviews progress on Himat Card Initiative

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal Sohail Shaukat Butt reviewed the progress on the Himat Card project in line with the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

Chairing an important meeting with the Directors and Deputy Directors of the Gujranwala and Faisalabad divisions, he was briefed on the progress of the Himat Card scheme by the officers of the Gujranwala and Faisalabad divisions. The Provincial Minister emphasized the need to expedite the registration, assessment, and certification process for disabled individuals for

the Himat Card. Minister Sohail Shaukat Butt instructed the concerned officers to accelerate their efforts and ensure an effective and timely verification process for disabled individuals through a comprehensive door-to-door campaign. He highlighted the importance of involving all members of the assembly in this crucial campaign, stating that their active participation is essential for the success of the project. In accordance with the directives of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the Provincial Minister issued instructions for the upgradation of social welfare programs.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Central Information Secretary, Shazia Marri addresses to media persons during press conference held at PPP Media Cell Bilawal House in Karachi.

## DI Khan Mayor visits Imambargahs, review arrangements

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): On the instructions of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur, Tehsil Mayor Dera Umar Amin Gandapur along with the officers concerned paid a detailed visit to various procession routes and imambargahs of the city and assured adequate arrangements during Muharram and utilize all resources for the purpose.

The Mayor along with the officials of Tehsil Municipal Administration and Water and Sanitation Services Company (WSSC) visited the various imambargah including Imambargah Chah Syed Munawar Shah, Central Imambargah Imam Hussain (Thala Bammu Shah),

Imambargah Imam Hassan (Bhora Shah), Imambargah Thala Dr. Jalal Hussain and imambargah Yallah Shah.

Mayor also inspected the under construction street of Darbar Shah sahib Munawar and instructed the contractor to ensure better standard of work.

Instructions have been issued to the officers of TMA and WSSC, present on the spot to finalize arrangements for the maintenance of street lights, route repair and cleaning on the routes of ancient and traditional processions of Muharram.

He also met the organisers and discussed the arrangements and security-related matters. Officers concerned give briefing about necessary.

## Info bureau considered as vision, voice of any political party: Governor

LAHORE: A delegation of Divisional Secretaries Information of Pakistan People's Party Central Punjab led by Information Secretary Central Punjab, Shehzad Saeed Cheema met Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan here today at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, the delegation congratulated the Governor of Punjab on performing Umrah.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider said that information bureau is considered as the vision and voice of any political party. He said that information secretaries should promote positive and factual content in print, electronic and social media. Governor Punjab said that it is very important to strengthen

digital media and embrace technology in communication. He said that digital media can play an active role in fostering positive attitudes in the society and bringing about positive social change. He said that he is committed to fulfill his constitutional role in a good way and contribute to the improvement of the province.

The delegation comprised PPP, Lahore Division Secretary Information Faiza Malik Ex-MPA, Rawalpindi Division Raja Nazir Advocate, Gujranwala Division Abdul Razak Salimi, Faisalabad Division Samia Naz Advocate, Sargodha Division Tanveer Shehbaz Bukhari and Sahiwal Division Secretary Information Tahir Abbas Sindhu.

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## Arrangements finalized for by-election in Bajaur

PESHAWAR (APP): Election Commission Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday finalized all arrangements for the by-elections to be held on July 11 on the vacant provincial seat in PK-22 Bajaur.

The election campaign will end at midnight of Tuesday. Polling will start on Thursday at 8:00 am and will continue till 5:00 pm without any break.

The polling staff will be sent to their respective polling stations after being handed over to the election materials including ballot papers tomorrow, Wednesday.

In the by-election, there will be a contest between 12 candidates. A total of 179,010 voters will exercise their right to vote. A total of 91 polling stations have been established. In which 276 polling booths have been built. To monitor the polling process and redress complaints, a polling control room has been established in the office of Provincial Election Commissioner Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Who can be contacted on Telephone No. 0919213214 and 0919213215 This control room will work 24 hours.

## ANF recovers 10 kg drugs in two operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting two operations managed to recover 10 kg drugs and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed that in an operation near Kakpul Islamabad, 2.4 kg opium and 7.2 kg charras was recovered from the possession of two accused.

In another operation on Korangi Road, Karachi, a drug dealer was arrested and ANF recovered 1.1 kg charras.

Cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with delegation of Divisional Secretaries Information of PPP Central Punjab led by Information Secretary Central Punjab, Shehzad Saeed Cheema at Governor House.

## Matric results, medals awarded to position holders

FAISALABAD (APP): The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Faisalabad organized a prize distribution ceremony in the honour of top position holders in matriculation results 2024 at Divisional Model College here on Tuesday. Chairperson Board/Commissioner Silwat Saeed presided over the ceremony while Secretary Board Dr Habibul Rehman, Controller Examination Dr Muhammad Jaffar Ali and other officers were also present.

Heads of various government and private educational institutions, teachers, parents, students and relatives of position holders were also present.

Commissioner Silwat Saeed gave away medals and certificates to position holder students. The first position holder Urooj Fatima was also given a special prize of laptop by the education board. The topper was also given a cash prize of Rs 20,000, second Rs 15,000 and third Rs 10,000.

The commissioner congratulated the position holders, teachers and parents on brilliant success and urged the students to focus on their studies with the same spirit and hardwork for a bright future.

## Abbasi calls for immediate inquiry and relief measures for Tehsil Lora power outage

HAVELIAN (APP): Former federal minister and provincial general secretary of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Murtaza Javed Abbasi Tuesday has taken action regarding the prolonged electricity outage in Tehsil Lora.

In response to the community's grievances, he has called for urgent measures to address the issue.

According to the details, Murtaza Abbasi convened a meeting at his office in Havelian, where he met with AC Wapda Abbottabad Rashid, XEN, and other officials. Discussions centered on

the persistent electricity problems in Tehsil Lora, particularly highlighting a recent three-day blackout. During the meeting, it was decided that AC Wapda Rashid and the XEN team would immediately initiate an inquiry into the outage. XEN has been directed to visit Tehsil Lora as soon as possible, accompanied by Tehsil Administrator Ifthikar Ahmed Khan, to investigate and compile a detailed report on the root causes of the power disruption. Furthermore, provisions have been made for the prompt supply of necessary equipment to maintain the electricity feeder in Tehsil Lora.



LARKANA: Rangers and Police officials carry out the combing search operation against criminals as security has been tightened in city to maintain law and order situation during the Holy Month of Muharram-ul-Haram, in Larkana.



## Finance Minister meets with PMLTC CEO, discusses energy sector reforms and collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday met with the President and CEO of Pak Matiari-Lahore Transmission Company (PMLTC) Ms. Zhang Lei to discuss various aspects of energy sector development and cooperation.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy CEO Ma Desheng and CFO Wang Bo, said a news release.

The minister acknowledged the contributions of PMLTC to infrastructure development and assured the delegation of required support through relevant government channels.

### Finance minister meets Chairman Nestle Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday met Chairman Nestle Pakistan Syed Yawar Ali and Ex-President Farmers Association of Pakistan Afaq Ahmed Tiwana to explore avenues for enhancing the growth of Pakistan's agriculture and livestock sectors.

Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik and Member-IR Policy Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) also attended the meeting, said a news release.

The minister thanked the delegation for their constructive proposals. He underscored the government's commitment to support these vital sectors through enhanced financing mechanisms.

The minister assured that relevant ministries would be consulted to consider the proposed framework, aiming to translate it into actionable policies that drive tangible results. Syed Yawar Ali shared insights on the current state of these sectors and emphasized their potential to significantly increase yield productivity and exports.

Syed Yawar Ali and Afaq Ahmed Tiwana appreciated the government for prioritizing agriculture and livestock in its policy framework.



QUETTA: A delegation of representative of Zamindar Action Committee meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti. Provincial Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries are also present.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain chairing 11th meeting of the National Coordination Committee on Small Medium Enterprises Development.

## 500kV Double Circuit Quad Bundle transmission line to enhance national grid's capacity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's quest for energy security and economic growth, said a press release issued here Tuesday.

"As we inaugurate this critical piece of the project, we also celebrate the collaborative efforts that have brought us to this point. From the hardworking engineers and dedicated workers to our valued partners and supporters, your collective contributions have been invaluable. This transmission line is more than just a technological achievement, it is a symbol of progress and a testament to our commitment to building a resilient and reliable energy network", he said.

He said the project is a cornerstone of our strategy to improve grid infrastructure, directly impacting the quality of life for millions and supporting the continuous operation of essential services. A robust and dependable energy supply is the backbone of economic growth and this transmission line will support CPEC industrial zones, Special Economic Zones (SEZs), and urban centers, creating an environment that is conducive to investment and development, he said.

## Govt needs to engage businessmen for workable economic policy: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (INP): President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has urged the government to devise a viable solution to boost industry and businesses through providing affordable electricity and imposing nominal taxes.

In a statement here on Tuesday, he highlighted that exorbitant taxes, high power costs, and a poor law and order situation severely impact the economy and could further accelerate unemployment. There was no justification for maintaining exorbitant interest rates at 20.5% when inflation has already dropped to 12%, he pointed out. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari stated that providing electricity to the industry at a rate of 9 cents/kWh would increase exports by \$6 billion, add over 300 megawatts to the grid, generate Rs. 500 billion in revenue, and reduce debt servicing by Rs. 240 billion.

Emphasizing that the business community can't secure international orders when the government imposes high charges under cross-subsidies, he questioned why international buyers prefer Pakistan over countries like Vietnam.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor is displaying Bananas attraction for customers on his loading van alongside a road, in the Federal Capital.

## Pro rata billing system to eliminate overbilling issue in Pesco region: Pesco chief

PESHAWAR (APP): The Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) chief Akhtar Hameed Khan has said that a pro-rata billing system has been implemented to eliminate overbilling in the region.

In a statement he said with the introduction of this new software, consumers would only be charged for the units which they had consumed.

Giving details, he said the pro rata software automatically reduces and charges only the used units if additional units are added. He also said that some fake news is circulating on social media in this regard and explaining that this software did not remove consumers from the protected category. Instead, the implementation of the pro rata billing system had increased the number of protected consumers.

In March 2024, the number of protected consumers in PESCO was 1.85 million, which increased to 2.217 million in April. Similarly, this number reached 2.462 million in May. However, the number of protected consumers decreases due to increased electricity usage in the summer.

## Zong expands data network with addition of 400 new 4G sites in H1, 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The private mobile operator - Zong 4G - has announced the successful expansion of its network with over 400 new 4G sites added in the first half of the current year.

This significant expansion solidified Zong 4G's position as the second largest data network in the country.

This effort underscores the company's commitment to providing widespread and reliable connectivity. Currently serving 49 million customers, Zong aspires to democratize access to data across Pakistan, said a news release issued on Tuesday. In addition to expanding its network, Zong 4G has concluded an extensive network modernization project to address capacity challenges.

The company replaced 2T2R technology with advanced 8T8R, focusing particularly on enhancing the customer experience for remote projects along the CPEC route.

As part of its commitment to network sustainability, Zong 4G completed over 1,400 power upgrades in H1-2024. The upgrades featured Li-Ion solutions, known for their fast-charging capability and longer life compared to traditional battery banks.

Senior management from Huawei and ZTE also joined Zong 4G in celebrating these achievements, pledging their continued support for future endeavors.

## CCP Green-lit merger of SCL in JKSM

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved a Scheme of Arrangement for the merger of M/s. Shamim and Company (Pvt.) Ltd with M/s. JK Sugar Mills (Pvt.) Ltd.

JKSM is a private limited company with the business of production and sale of sugar or related products in Pakistan, said a press release issued here on Tuesday.

JKSM primarily produces refined white sugar, along with three by-products namely, molasses, bagasse, and mud. SCL, since 1967 is into the business of manufacturing and distribution of PepsiCo products across Pakistan.

The Phase-I competition assessment by the CCP identified two relevant markets namely, "Sugar and by-products" and "Non-alcoholic beverages". As per the Scheme of Arrangement, the transaction involves merger of SCL with JKSM.



MULTAN: A worker weighing and packing good quality mangoes into the boxes for delivery to the other City.

## Advisor to Ombudsman for steps to enhance revenue of Pakistan Post

KARACHI (APP): Advisor Federal Ombudsman Regional Office Karachi Seema Shakil, on Tuesday, paid a visit to Pakistan Post GPO Sadder Karachi to inspect facilities being offered to public.

The senior advisor, while speaking to media at the occasion, said that federal Ombudsman is the only institute that resolves the grievances of citizens without any fees while they don't need assistance of lawyer as well.

The officials of Ombudsman secretariat conduct visits and inspections of federal government departments and organizations engaged in public service delivery to review their performance and service delivery status and forward their findings and recommendations for not only resolving the public grievances but also to address the issues faced the relevant institution, she mentioned.

Though the customers present in GPO expressed satisfaction on available facilities and services, she said and added, waiting area for customers need to be improved and water and other basic facilities should be made available there.

Seema Shakil said that complaints filed to Ombudsman office by public against the Pakistan Post were mostly about lost parcels. In case of missing of booked parcel the customer was eligible to receive a compensation amount up to Rs.1000 irrespective of the value of the goods dispatched, she pointed out and stressed on the need of enhancing the compensation amount as well as ensuring insurance of parcels at the time of booking.

The advisor urged on measures for improving efficiency and revenue of Pakistan Post and remarked that revenue enhancement through tapping the unexploited resources will help strengthening financial position of the postal services as well as overall service delivery status.

She along with Ombudsman office's focal person for media Taqi Muhammad Soomro and other officials inspected different counters for booking of post articles.

## Ali Pervaiz says: Reforms in energy sector to be introduced shortly

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister of State for Finance, Revenue and Power Ali Pervaiz Malik massive will be introduced in energy sector shortly which will ensure a sustainable and efficient energy sector for the future. During an interview with PTV News on Tuesday, he stated that the government was adopting a multi-faceted approach to overhaul the energy sector.

Ali Pervaiz Malik further stated that the managing capacity charges and decreasing the off-grade utilization was needed to reduce per unit capacity costs. Emphasizing the importance of shifting towards local fuel sources to decrease dependence on imported fuels, he highlighted the ongoing efforts in local exploration. A significant portion of the reform strategy involves the privatization of distribution companies (DISCOs) and generation companies (GENCOs).

He said that inefficient and obsolete furnace oil plants currently incurring costs despite being non-operational would be scrapped, auctioned, or liquidated. "Efficient plants will be put on a privatization model," he added.

The state minister said that the government was working on establishing a robust regulatory framework to safeguard consumer interest's post-privatization. The government is working to enhance corporate governance and auditing practices in the DISCOs.

## Flour price reduced

FAISALABAD (APP): Price of flour bags have been reduced across the district Faisalabad to facilitate the masses.

A spokesman of local administration said here on Tuesday that on special direction of Chief Minister Punjari Maryam Nawaz, the government had made reduction in the flour bags and new rate for 10 kilograms (kg) flour bag was fixed as Rs.800 while 20 kg bag would be available at Rs.1600.

In this connection, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abdullah Nayyar Sheikh also directed the price control magistrates as well as assistant commissioners and officers of the Food department to ensure the availability of flour bags on its new price.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with the Chairman Nestle Pakistan and Ex-President Farmers Association of Pakistan.

## Dr Mughal says: Budget has nothing for masses but distribution of resources among legislators

LAHORE (INP): President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW), Dr Murtaza Mughal has said that the federal budget has nothing for masses but it is only distribution of resources among legislators. He said that differences among major political parties regarding budget was not aimed to facilitate countrymen but about their share in resources. In a statement issued on Tuesday, he said that Rs 16 billion have been earmarked for development projects in the budget, which will be used to please the members of national and provincial assemblies and supporters.

Dr Murtaza Mughal said that if there were some reduction in the development budget, electricity tariff would not have to be hiked to unbelievable levels. Still, the rulers were not concerned about people's problems and were busy shaping their future.

The government was making life difficult for the masses through taxes and blaming the IMF, which was not a reality, he added.

The President PEW said that the government had increased its current expenses by 24 per cent, for which the right to live has been taken away from the people and the salaried class.

According to a recent survey, 94 per cent of people want to leave the country because they don't see anything here.



QUETTA: Anjuman-e-Tajran Balochistan Central President, Abdul Rahim Kakar along with Hazrat Ali Achakzai, Jaffar Khan Kakar and others addressing to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club

## DG Agriculture says: Punjab govt striving for welfare of farmers

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Agriculture Department will guide farmers on crop cultivation, better yields, and proper use of agricultural medicines at the establishment of Farmer Facilitation Centers by the Punjab government is a farmer-friendly initiative where fertilizers, quality agricultural medicines, and spray machinery are available at reasonable rates.

Farmer Facilitation Centers have been established throughout Punjab to provide relief to farmers as per the instructions of the Punjab government. The Agriculture Department will guide farmers on crop cultivation, better yields, and proper use of agricultural medicines at the establishment of Farmer Facilitation Centers by the Punjab government is a farmer-friendly initiative where fertilizers, quality agricultural medicines, and spray machinery are available at reasonable rates.

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## Modi tells Putin at Kremlin 'war cannot solve problems'

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday told President Vladimir Putin that "war cannot solve problems" and urged "peace through dialogue" on a trip to Moscow more than two years into the Ukraine offensive.

Modi touched down in Moscow as tensions flared in Europe, following a massive Russian missile barrage in Ukraine that Kyiv said hit a children's hospital in the capital.

During his first meeting with Putin in Russia since the Kremlin launched its campaign in Ukraine, Modi said the conflict was discussed "openly and in detail".

"When innocent children are murdered, one sees them die, the heart pains and that pain is unbearable," Modi told Putin in comments in Hindi.

The Indian premier arrived in Moscow on Monday hours after strikes that hit cities across Ukraine killed at least 38 people.

"I know that war cannot solve problems, solutions and peace talks can't succeed among bombs, guns, and bullets," the Indian leader added.

"And we need to find a way to peace through dialogue," he said.

On Monday evening, Modi was pictured hugging Putin at his country residence, drawing condemnation from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

He wrote on social media: "It is a huge disappointment and a devastating blow to peace efforts to see the leader of the world's largest democracy hug the world's most bloody criminal in Moscow on such a day."

At the Kremlin, Putin hailed India and Russia's "very long-standing friendship" and said they now enjoy a "specially privileged, strategic partnership".

Putin thanked Modi for "the attention you pay to the most urgent problems" and said, "you are trying to find some ways to solve the Ukrainian crisis, too, of course primarily by peaceful means".

However, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov later told Russian news agencies that Modi "is not claiming to offer mediation efforts".

Modi wrote on X that the talks were "productive" on "ways to diversify India-Russia cooperation in sectors such as trade, commerce, security, agriculture, technology and innovation".



Russia's President Vladimir Putin awards India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle the First-Called at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia.

## Russian missile attacks kill at least 41, hit children's hospital, Ukraine says

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Russia blasted the main children's hospital in Kyiv with a missile in broad daylight on Monday and rained missiles down on other cities across Ukraine, killing at least 41 civilians in the deadliest wave of air strikes for months.

Parents holding babies walked in the street outside the hospital, dazed and sobbing after the rare daylight aerial attack. Windows had been smashed and panels ripped off, and hundreds of Kyiv residents were helping to clear debris. "It

was scary. I couldn't breathe, I was trying to cover (my baby). I was trying to cover him with this cloth so that he could breathe," Svitlana Kravchenko, 33, told Reuters.

President Volodymyr Zelensky, who stopped in Poland before heading off to Washington for a NATO summit, put the death toll at 37, including three children. More than 170 were injured. But tallies of casualties from the sites of attacks in different regions totalled at least 41.

## Iran won't soften anti-Israel stance, says president-elect

**Monitoring Desk**  
TEHRAN: President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian reaffirmed Iran's anti-Israel stance on Monday, saying resistance movements across the region will not allow Israel's "criminal policies" towards the Palestinians to continue.

"The Islamic Republic has always supported the resistance of the people of the region against the illegitimate Zionist regime," Pezeshkian said in a message to Hassan Nasrallah, leader of Hezbollah.

## Taliban slash women gov't workers' pay

**Monitoring Desk**  
KABUL: Taliban authorities have slashed the salaries of women government workers who have been forced to stay at home since they seized power, the finance ministry said on Monday.

After kicking out the foreign-backed government in 2021, the Taliban government stopped most women employed in the public sector from attending their offices while continuing to pay them. "Women who are at home and do not go to the office... their salaries are 5,000 Afghanis (\$70 a month)," Ahmad Wali Haqmal, the finance ministry spokesman, told AFP.

## A suspected attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels targets a ship in the Gulf of Aden

**Monitoring Desk**  
DUBAI: A suspected attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeted a ship in the Gulf of Aden on Tuesday, the latest assault blamed on the group on the crucial maritime trade route.

The captain of the ship reported an explosion in close proximity to the vessel off the coast of Nishtun, Yemen, close to the country's border with Oman, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said. The ship, whose name and flag were not released, and all crew are safe, the UKMTD said in a warning

to mariners.

The explosion took place in the farthest reaches of the waterway earlier targeted by the rebels, the center said.

It did not elaborate on what caused the explosion, though the Houthis have been known to use drones and missiles as well as bomb-carrying drone boats.

The Houthis did not immediately comment. It can take hours or even days before they acknowledge carrying out an attack. The last reported Houthi attack in the region took place June 28.

## Dozens killed as Israeli tanks storm Gaza City districts

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: Israeli forces pounded Gaza City early on Monday and columns of tanks advanced into the heart of the city from different directions in what residents said was "one of the heaviest attacks" since October last year.

The Gaza Civil Emergency Service said it believed dozens of people were killed but emergency teams were unable to reach them because of ongoing offensives in Daraj and Tuffah in the east and Tel Al-Hawa, Sabra, and Rimal further west.

At least 38,193 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed in the military offensive and 87,903 have been wounded, Gaza's health ministry said in an update on Monday. A total of 40 Palestinians were killed in the past 24 hours, the ministry added.

Israeli tanks had so far been stationed in some areas of Tel Al-Hawa and

Sabra but hadn't advanced deep into the three other districts, which residents said had been bombed throughout the night into the early morning hours. Several multi-floor buildings have been destroyed, they added.

One of the Israeli tank thrusts, residents said, was from an eastern direction, pushing people towards the western road near the Mediterranean.

"The enemy is behind us and the sea is in front of us, where will we go?" said Abdel-Ghani, a resident of Gaza City. "Tank shells and missiles from the planes are falling on the roads and houses like hell from a volcano. People are running in all directions and no one knows where to go," he told Reuters via a chat app.

However, the Israeli forces claimed they had been mounting an "operation against militant infrastructure" in the Gaza Strip.

## Hamas chief says latest Israeli attack on Gaza could jeopardise ceasefire talks

**Monitoring Desk**  
CAIRO: A new Israeli assault on Gaza on Monday threatened ceasefire talks at a crucial moment, the head of Hamas said, as Israeli tanks pressed into the heart of Gaza City and ordered residents out after a night of massive bombardment.

Residents said the airstrikes and artillery barrages were among the heaviest in nine months of conflict between Israeli forces and Hamas militants in the enclave. Thousands fled.

The assault unfolded as senior US officials were in the region pushing for a ceasefire after Hamas made major concessions last week. The militant group said the new offensive appeared intended to derail the talks and called for mediators to rein in Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The assault "could bring the negotiation process back to square one. Netanyahu and his army will bear full responsibility for the collapse of this path," Hamas quoted leader Ismail Haniyeh as saying.

Gaza City, in the north of the Palestinian enclave, was one of Israel's first targets at the start of the war in October. But clashes with militants there have persisted and civilians have sought shelter elsewhere, adding to waves of displacement. Much of the city lies in ruins.

Residents said Gaza City neighbourhoods were bombed through the night into the early morning hours of Monday. Several multi-story buildings were destroyed, they said.

The Gaza Civil Emergency Service said it believed dozens of people were killed but emergency teams were unable to reach them because of ongoing offensives.

## France's RN to lead new right-wing group at EU parliament

**Monitoring Desk**  
BUDAPEST: France's National Rally (RN) will lead the European Parliament's third-largest alliance, Patriots for Europe, forged by Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, the group announced on Monday.

Marine Le Pen's far-right RN joined the alliance in the European Parliament earlier on Monday, a day after it suffered a blow to its ambitions by finishing in third place in elections to the French National Assembly.

Austria's far-right Freedom Party, Fidesz and the populist Czech ANO party led by Andrej Babis had already agreed to join forces, citing the fight against illegal immigration, as well as transferring more powers from Brussels back to member states as the new

alliance's goals.

With the addition of RN's 30 members, the Patriots will pose a challenge to the centre-right European People's Party (EPP), which supports Ursula von der Leyen for a second term as European Commission President.

"As patriotic forces, we are going to work together in order to retake our institutions and reorient policies to serve our nations and peoples," Jordan Bardella, prominent RN member and the group's new president, said in a statement.

In total, the Patriots have 84 members including 11 from Hungary's Fidesz and 8 from Italy's League. Kinga Gál of Fidesz and Roberto Vannacci of the League will be vice presidents.

## June 2024 hottest on record globally, beating 2023 high: EU climate monitor

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: Last month was the hottest June on record across the globe, the EU's climate monitor said on Monday, capping half a year of wild and destructive weather from floods to heatwaves.

Every month since June 2023 has eclipsed its own temperature record in a 13-month streak of unprecedented global heat, the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) said. "This is more than a statistical oddity and it highlights a large and continuing shift in our climate," said the service director, Carlo Buontempo.

"Even if this specific streak of extremes ends at some point, we are bound to see new records being broken as the climate continues to warm." This was "inevitable" as long as humanity kept adding heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere, he said.

The global average temperature notched last month broke the previous June record set in 2023. The fresh high came at the midway point of a year marked by climate extremes.

Scorching heat has blanketed swathes of the world from India to Saudi Arabia, the United States and Mexico in the first half of this year. Relentless rain, a phenomena scientists have also linked to a warmer planet, caused extensive flooding in Kenya, China, Brazil, Afghanistan, Russia and France.

Wildfires have torched land in Greece and Canada and last week, Hurricane Beryl became the earliest category five Atlantic hurricane on record as it barreled across several Caribbean islands.

The streak of record-breaking temperatures coincided with El Nino, a natural phenomenon that contributes to hotter weather globally, said Julien Nicolas, a senior scientist at C3S. "That was part of the factors behind the temperature records, but it was not the only one," he said. Ocean temperatures have also been hitting new highs. Record sea surface temperatures in the Atlantic, the Northern Pacific and Indian Ocean also contributed to the soaring heat across the globe.



Members of Parliament Mathilde Panot, Louis Boyard, Manuel Bompard and Clemence Guette of the French far-left opposition party La France Insoumise (France Unbound - LFI) and the alliance of left-wing parties, called the "Nouveau Front Populaire" (New Popular Front - NFP), arrive with other elected members of parliament at the National Assembly in Paris after the second round of the early French.

## Biden looks to make the case at the NATO summit that he is still up for the job

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: NATO leaders gathering in Washington starting Tuesday plan to shore up transatlantic support for Ukraine in its battle against Russia. But for host President Joe Biden, the summit has become just as much about demonstrating he is capable of meeting the grinding demands of the presidency for four more years.

Heads of state from Europe and North America are confronting the prospect of the return of NATO skeptic Donald Trump as Biden tries to save his reelection campaign, which has been in a tailspin following a disastrous June 27 debate performance against Trump.

The president said his work at the summit, where

NATO is celebrating 75 years, would be a good way to judge his continued ability to do the job. He points to his work rallying NATO members in its stiff response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine as a prime example of his steady leadership and among the reasons he deserves another four years in the White House.

"Our allies are looking for U.S. leadership," Biden said in an MSNBC interview Monday. "Who else do you think can step in here and do this? I expanded NATO. I solidified NATO. I made sure that we're in a position where we have a coalition of ... nations around the world to deal with China, with Russia, with everything that's going on in the world. We're making real progress."

## UK's Sunak appoints 'shadow' cabinet after historic election loss

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: British opposition leader Rishi Sunak set out his shadow cabinet on Monday, with some senior ministers reprising the roles they held in government prior to last week's parliamentary election, while former Foreign Secretary David Cameron resigned.

Andrew Mitchell will handle the foreign policy brief in the interim shadow cabinet, a team of senior spokespeople picked by the opposition party leader to mirror the cabinet in government.

## Ukraine's Zelenskiy vows retaliation for Russian strike

**Monitoring Desk**  
WARSAW: Ukraine will retaliate after a Russian missile strike killed at least 41 people and damaged a children's hospital in Kyiv, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Monday during a visit to Warsaw during which he signed a security pact with Poland.

As world leaders prepare to head to a Nato summit which starts on Tuesday in Washington, Zelenskiy called on Kyiv's allies to give a firm response to Monday's attack in a press conference that started with a minute's silence for the victims.

"I would also like to hear from our partners (about) a greater resilience and a strong response to the blow that Russia has once again dealt to our people, to our land, to our children," he said. "We will retaliate against these people, we will deliver a powerful response from our side to Russia, for sure."

## Uganda provided support to M23 rebels in Congo, UN report says

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: The Ugandan army has provided support to the M23 rebel group operating in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, a United Nations report seen by Reuters on Monday said, as escalating clashes there fuel fears of a new all-out conflict.

Uganda denied involvement, saying it is cooperating closely with the Congolese government forces. The UN has long accused Rwanda of backing the M23,

which has repeatedly seized large parts of mineral-rich eastern Congo, allegations Rwanda denies. Congo has been riven by conflict for decades. Uganda and Rwanda invaded in 1996 and 1998 for what they said was defence against local militia groups. Uganda is still conducting joint operations with Congolese troops against a rebel Ugandan group. The Tutsi-led M23 rebels have been waging a fresh insurgency in Congo's militia-plagued east since 2022.

## India races to build power plants in region claimed by China

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: India plans to spend \$1 billion to expedite the construction of 12 hydropower stations in the northeastern Himalayan state of Arunachal Pradesh, two government sources said, a move that could raise tensions with China that lays claims to the region.

The federal finance ministry under Nirmala Sitharaman recently approved up to 7.5bn rupees (\$98.85 million) in financial assistance to each hydropower project in the northeastern region, the sources said.

Under the scheme, about 90bn rupees will likely be allotted for the 12 hydropower projects in Arunachal

Pradesh, said the sources, who have direct knowledge of the matter. The scheme is likely to support northeastern states and help them finance equity holdings in the projects they host. Having state governments on board generally helps expedite regulatory clearances, local rehabilitation and negotiations on sharing electricity with the host state.

The plans for the hydropower stations are expected to be announced in the 2024/2025 federal budget that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government will unveil on July 23, the sources said, declining to be named as the information remained confidential.

## Modi urged to defer implementation of new criminal laws

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: Indian lawyers and activists are urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to put on hold three sets of new criminal laws, arguing they will increase litigation in an already overburdened justice system and give excessive powers to police. India this month replaced its criminal justice system — the Indian Penal Code of 1860, the 1973 Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872 — with new laws. The new laws, in force since July 1, expand police powers on pre-trial detention of an accused and introduce the death penalty for gang-rape of women aged under 18.

## Rotten eggs chemical detected on Jupiter-like alien planet

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The planet known as HD 189733b, discovered in 2005, already had a reputation as a rather extreme place, a scorching hot gas giant a bit larger than Jupiter that is a striking cobalt blue color and has molten glass rain that blows sideways in its fierce atmospheric winds. So how can you top that?

Add hydrogen sulfide, the chemical compound behind the stench of rotten eggs.

## Three dead, millions without power as Storm Beryl makes landfall in Texas

**Monitoring Desk**  
TEXAS: At least three people died as Tropical Storm Beryl continued its destructive path into southeast Texas. Vicious winds and torrential rain knocked out power for 2.5 million homes and businesses, submerged highways, closing oil ports and cancelling over 1,000 flights.

Beryl, the season's earliest Category 5 hurricane on record, weakened from a hurricane after pounding the coastal Texas town of Matagorda with dangerous storm surges and heavy rain before moving across Houston, the US National Hurricane Center (NHC) said. The agency said conditions could spawn tornadoes in Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas.

The storm, which was expected to rapidly weaken

as it moved inland, swept a destructive path through Jamaica, Grenada, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines last week. It has killed at least 12 people in the Caribbean and Texas. In Texas, a 53-year-old man and a 74-year-old woman were killed in two incidents by trees that fell on their homes in the Houston area on Monday. A third person drowned, according to local officials.

Oil refining activity slowed and some production sites were evacuated in the state that is the nation's biggest producer of US oil and natural gas. "Life-threatening storm surge and heavy rainfall is ongoing across portions of Texas. Damaging winds ongoing along the coast, with strong winds moving inland," the NHC said even as Beryl began to lose strength.



People receive food from Carolina Leal, director and founder of the foundation Alimentando Suenos, in Maracaibo, Venezuela.



## SC reserves verdict in SIC's appeal regarding reserved seats

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Tuesday reserved the judgment after hearing the arguments from respondents in an appeal of Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) regarding reserved seats. A 13-member bench of the apex court, led by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, comprising Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Ayesha Malik, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Irfan Saadat Khan and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan, heard the case. Barrister Salman Akram Raja and SIC's Faisal Siddiqui presented their arguments before the court during the hearing which was live streamed on the website.

## Ahsan highlights importance of social media in enhancing citizens' engagement in different processes

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday highlighted the significance of social media, calling it an "essential tool" in promoting citizen engagement, transparency and participation in government and political processes.

"Citizens' engagement, transparency and participation in government and political processes have been revolutionized by social media platforms, en-

abling instant communication, mobilization, and dissemination of information," he said. The minister expressed these views while addressing an event titled "Digital Democracy in Action: Enhancing Engagement through Social Media," organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

He said social media platforms provided spaces for dialogue, enabling people from all walks of life to voice their opinions, share concerns.



LAHORE: President Asif Ali Zardari addressing the Professor Waris Mir Memorial Seminar.

## President for holistic approach, prudent financial policies for country's development

LAHORE (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari has called for adopting a holistic approach and prudent financial policies to put the country on the path of development. He said that different sectors of the economy, especially the agricultural sector, needed to be developed along modern lines. He added that the government was planning to tax agricultural income as per the International Monetary Fund's conditions, however, the provincial governments would be leading the initiative to tax large land-holding farmers in accordance with their profitability and expenditures.

The President gave these remarks while addressing the Professor Waris Mir Memorial Seminar, in Lahore, on Tuesday. A large number of journalists, academicians, political workers, and members of the civil society attended the event. Speaking on the occasion, the President highlighted that the media had given power to the people by amplifying their voices, however, recent years had also witnessed a grouping in the media.

He cautioned that a strong religious lobby in the world was manipulating and managing perceptions aiming to sow divisions in Muslim societies. He said that he was a supporter of the freedom of press and had always tolerated harsh criticism from the media. He said that societies needed to be careful against agenda-driven information.

The President highlighted that one had to face trials and tribulations in life, however, one needed to stay steadfast in the face of challenges. He paid rich tribute to the political struggle and sacrifices of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed for democracy, saying that Pakistan People's Party had a history of facing pressures and assassinations, however, continued its struggle for the cause of democracy in Pakistan. He said that assassination attempts and political pressures could not deter us from our mission as we firmly believed that life and death were in Allah's hands. The President also paid rich tribute to the services and contributions of Late Professor Waris Mir towards democracy and journalism.

He also appreciated Faisal Mir and Hamid Mir for taking forward the legacy of their father. Senior Journalist Hamid Mir, while speaking on the occasion, called for putting an end to the culture of political victimization and upholding the 1973 Constitution in its true spirit. Senior Journalist Sohail Warraich paid tribute to the services of the late Professor Waris Mir for journalism and democracy. Appreciating the political wisdom and the reconciliatory role of the President, he said that the country was in dire need of political reconciliation and the President could play an instrumental role in addressing the political and economic issues.

## PM says: Int'l community must recognize Pak for hosting huge refugee population

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday urged the international community to recognize the burden being shouldered by Pakistan while hosting such a large refugee population and demonstrate collective responsibility.

The prime minister, in a meeting with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Filippo Grandi at the PM House, reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to address the protection and safety needs of people in vulnerable situations and underscored that the international community needed to be mindful of the socio-economic challenges and security threats being faced by Pakistan in this regard, according to a PM Office press release.

While recalling Pakistan's longstanding partnership with UNHCR, the prime minister appreciated the UN agency's support to Pakistan in hosting Afghan refugees for over four decades. He noted that despite numerous challenges, Pakistan had hosted Afghan refugees with exemplary respect and dignity.

He sought UNHCR's support in mobilizing adequate resources to supplement Pakistan's efforts in this regard and urged the UN body to play its role in promoting durable solutions to address the situation of Afghan refugees.



ISLAMABAD: UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

## Khair Jan to lead Committee on Education: Chairmen of standing Committees of BA elected

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The Chairmen of four standing committees were elected in meetings of the respective committees held here on Tuesday.

According to the official release, the standing committee for Information, Sports, Culture, Tourism and Libraries was held with all its members in attendance.

The committee unanimously elected MPA Rehmat Saleh Baloch as chairman of the standing committee Information, Sports, Culture, Tourism and Libraries.

Similarly, MPA Prince Ahmed Omar Ahmedzai was elected as chairman of the standing committee for Irrigation, Energy, Environment, Forests and Wildlife in the meeting of respective standing committee held the same day.

Besides, Dr. Muhammad Nawaz was elected chairman of the standing committee for Public Health & Population Welfare.

Moreover, MPA Khair Jan Baloch was elected as chairman of the standing committee for Education.

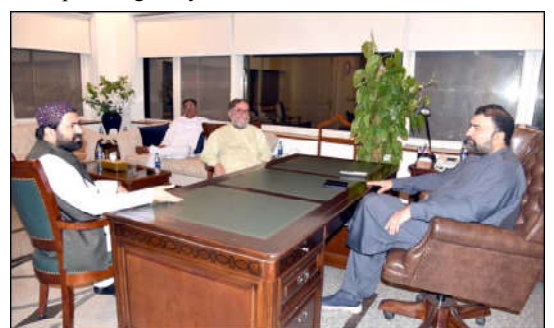
## Pakistani coast guards seize over 15,000 liters of smuggled Iranian diesel

QUETTA (INP): Pakistan Coast Guards seized over 15,000 liters of Iranian diesel being smuggled into the country through the southwestern Balochistan province in two separate operations, state media reported on Tuesday.

Iranian petroleum products are regularly smuggled into Pakistan through Balochistan as Iran offers the world's cheapest petrol and diesel due to low production costs, international sanctions and weak currency.

The illegal activity takes place regularly as Iran and Pakistan share a 900-kilometer (560-mile) porous and largely lawless border, where militants and smugglers operate with impunity.

"Pakistan Coast Guards seized 10,370 liters of illegal Iranian diesel from two vehicles at Uthal check post during routine checking," state broadcaster Radio Pakistan said in a report. It added that 5,270 liters of diesel were also recovered from three vehicles in another operation between Balochistan's Lasbela and Hub districts.



QUETTA: MNA Mian Khan Bugti and Wadera Kalpar Bugti meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

## Bilawal launches first travelogue on China by columnist from KP

PESHAWAR (APP): First travelogue by any columnist from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa focused on China, now featured by China Window, a cultural center in Peshawar promoting Sino-Pak friendship is launched here on Tuesday.

The unveiling ceremony at the Governor's House, graced by Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Governor KP Faisal Karim Kundi, and President of Peshawar Press Club Arshad Aziz Malik, highlighted the significance of columnist, Naz Parveen's work.

Titled "Xinjiang kay Khushaal Uyghur," which translates to "The Happy Uyghur of Xinjiang," the travelogue offers a heartfelt narrative of Parveen's journey through China's Xinjiang province.

Through vivid descriptions and personal encounters, she portrays the real stories of Muslims living in Xinjiang who are thriving and content amidst their cultural heritage.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretaries and MPAs meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

## AJK govt plans to settle post-1990 Kashmiri refugees on permanent basis: Anwar

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Prime Minister, Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq on Tuesday said that permanent settlement of post 1990 Kashmiri refugees, pouring in from illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) into AJK, was his government's priority.

"The AJK government in collaboration with the government of Pakistan, will use all resources for the resettlement of the Kashmiri refugees," he said this while speaking the inauguration and foundation stone laying ceremony regarding the construction of 750 houses for the post 90s refugees in the state metropolis.

Reiterating his com-

mitment of rehabilitating the Kashmiri refugees, the prime minister said the government would never leave in lurch the members of the migrant community who were forced to leave their homes and hearth by the Indian occupation forces.

"Refugees are our brothers. Providing all the basic facilities to the them is our first priority", he said.

He said, "We salute the people of Occupied Kashmir for their courage and resilience in the face of Indian oppression".

Anwar ul Haq said that the government and people of Azad Kashmir would continue to support their brethren till they achieve their cherished goal of freedom.

## IHC allows Fawad to go abroad for two weeks

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has allowed former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry to go abroad for two weeks.

Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamir Farooq took up for hearing Fawad Chaudhry petition seeking removal of his name from Passport Control List (PCL).

During the hearing of the case the court ordered to remove name of Fawad Chaudhry from PCL for two weeks.

The court has maintained Fawad Chaudhry can go abroad from August 10 to 24.

## Mobile phone prices hit record high after 18% GST in budget

ISLAMABAD (INP): Following the imposition of an 18% GST in the federal budget for 2024-25, mobile phone prices have surged to unprecedented levels, causing widespread concern among consumers.

This drastic rise in prices is expected to heavily impact consumers and the mobile phone market.

The most significant and alarming increase is seen in phones priced at Rs 200,000, which are now shockingly Rs 36,000 more expensive.

As per the channel report, those costing Rs150,000 have not been spared either, with prices soaring by Rs 19,000.

## Poliovirus 'detected' in sewage samples of three districts

ISLAMABAD (INP): The poliovirus has been detected in sewage samples of three districts across Pakistan.

According to sources, the Type-1 Wild Poliovirus was found in sewage lines. The affected districts include Karachi South, Korangi and Dera Bugti, Balochistan, the sources said.

The samples were collected for poliovirus testing between 11 and 13 June.

The number of positive sewage samples has risen to 214 in 2024 after detection of three new samples, the sources said. Sampling for polio testing was conducted in the affected districts from June 6 to 11.

Pakistan has reported eight cases of poliovirus in 2024 so far.



QUETTA: Advisor to CM for Labour and Manpower Baba Ghulam Rasool Umrani meeting with Provincial Minister for Livestock and Dairy Development Bakhat Muhammad Kakar

## IHC dismisses plea seeking review of court orders for deciding central appeal pleas

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has dismissed the plea seeking review of the court orders to decide the central appeal pleas in iddat case within one month.

The court upheld the order that Sessions court should decide the appeal pleas within month.

High Court has already directed sessions court to decide appeal pleas within a month.

## Secretary finance visits Quaid-e-Azam public library in Ziarat

QUETTA (APP): Provincial Secretary Finance Babar Khan on Tuesday visited Quaid-e-Azam Public Library in Ziarat.

The focal person of the library, Abdul Manan Sarangzai briefed the Secretary about the library.

Provincial Secretary Finance said on this occasion that former Deputy Commissioner Ziarat Hamood-ur Rahman built a library under his help and in a very short time that he gave a great gift not only to Ziarat but to the people of Balochistan as a whole.

He said that now it was the responsibility of the people of Ziarat to expand the library and open books and read them to get important knowledge while book-friendship was very important, book-friendly nations were ruling the world.

## Solarization of over 27,000 agri. tube wells in Balochistan: Joint strategy to be prepared with zamindars for implementation on project, assures Chief Minister

BUGTI SAYS LEGISLATION TO BE MADE FOR ENDING ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS; ZAMINDAR ACTION COMMITTEE HIGHLY APPRECIATES CM AND MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL CABINET ON SUCCESS OF SOLARIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL TUBE WELLS IN PROVINCE, DESCRIBES PROGRESS ON PROJECT HISTORIC

INDEPENDENT REPORT QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has announced that joint strategy would be prepared in collaboration with the zamindars for implementation on the project of solarization of agricultural tube wells in the province.

He said that it is our utmost endeavour to complete the project within one month.

The Chief Minister was speaking to the representative delegation of Balochistan Zamindar Action Committee, who called on him here at the CM's secretariat on Tuesday.

Besides the office bearers of Zamindar Action Committee, the provincial ministers, parliamentary secretaries of different departments, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan and other concerned high ups were also present in the meeting.

The members of delegation highly appreciated the Chief Minister and members of provincial cabinet on success of the project of solarization of agricultural tube wells in the province.

They also appreciated the wholehearted and active role played by the Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan regarding implementation on the vi-



QUETTA: A delegation from different walks of life meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

## ECNEC clears construction of Dadhocha Dam, other water, transit projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) on Tuesday met under chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

The meeting considered and approved four water sector projects including Government of Punjab's project namely "Construction of Dadhocha Dam (revised)" on "The project will help bridging water deficiency in Rawalpindi through supply of 35 MGDs of water." Office of the Deputy Prime Minister said in a press release.

The Upgradation of Pakistan Railways existing Main Line-1 (ML-1) was approved at re-modified scope, with directions that the Phase I of the Project i.e. 929 km from Karachi to Multan will be taken up as priority.

The ECNEC also considered and approved project titled "Flood Response Emergency Housing Project (Phase-I), to be funded through a loan from the Asian Development Bank.

The project aims to support the flood affected people in Sindh through the community-led reconstruction of more than 250,000 flood resilient houses.

Other water sector approved projects included Gomal Zam Multipurpose project, Raising of Mangla Dam project and Golen Gol Hydropower project. All three projects are now moving towards closure.

"Development of Integrated Transit Trade Management System" was also approved by the forum.

The project envisages construction and developing of state-of-the-art border crossing points at Torkham, Chaman and Wahga, establishment of Land Port Authority, digital end-to-end tracking of containerized cargo etc.

ECNEC further approved "Karachi Neighborhood Improvement Project (KNIP)" and extended its implementation period by six months to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

## Economic diplomacy vital in Pak foreign policy: Dar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister has said economic diplomacy is a major constituent of Pakistan's foreign policy.

The FM remarked that Pakistan's economy has shown some positive signs over the past few months and it may come out of the woods soon.

He said all the efforts to isolate Pakistan at the international stage have been failed and the country has been regaining its status internationally.

The deputy premier added that inflation has come down to 11 percent from 38 percent and the country has been playing its active role to counter Islamophobia.

Your next read: Pakistan to implement five-year roadmap for economic turnaround

On the Gaza war, he said Pakistan has played a crucial role to highlight the atrocities committed by Israel.



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presides over the meeting regarding shifting of Agricultural Tubewells on solar.