

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

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www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vot XXV No. 320, Muharram 05, 1446 AH Friday July 12, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

Pak, Azerbaijan agree to expand investment volume upto \$2 bln

This connection is a big asset, we are brothers, we are friends, and we support each other on every international issue: Aliyev

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Azerbaijan on Thursday agreed to enhance the bilateral investment level of up to US\$2 billion in areas of mutual beneficial projects.

In a joint press stake-out along with Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, after thorough signing of agreements and MoUs in diverse areas between the

two countries, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said "we have discussed an initial figure of \$2 billion investment in areas of mutual beneficial projects".

The prime minister hoped that when he will visit Azerbaijan in November this year, the two sides would be ready to ink agreements worth \$2 billion to

start with, as there was great potential in both sides to multiply this figure in years to come.

"In today's in depth conversation, we have agreed to enhance our bilateral trade besides discussing areas of joint cooperation and joint investments," he added.

The prime minister said, "The bilateral invest-

ment volume of less than \$100 million does not reflect the strength of our brotherhood and friendship in the field of joint investment in areas which are mutually beneficial".

Expressing satisfaction over the bilateral meeting, the prime minister said discussions were held on

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Prime Minister of Pakistan H.E. Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of Azerbaijan H.E. Ilham Aliyev leading their respective delegations during bilateral talks in Islamabad.



QUETTA: A view of tear gas seen during clash between Police and Baloch For Missing Person.

Spokesman Govt of Balochistan maintains: Peaceful protest everyone's right, but no one to be allowed to make Red Zone, state's institutions hostage

Independent Report
QUETTA: The spokesman, Government of Balochistan, Shahid Rind has categorically stated that peaceful protest is right of everyone, however, no one would be allowed to make the Red Zone and the institutions of state hostage all.

In a video message reacting to the protest held by the families of missing persons in Quetta city on Thursday, the spokesman of provincial government said that the protest of families of missing persons was continued on Sariab road for last 10-12 days.

During this period, no action was taken against the

peaceful protest by the state's institutions.

However, the protestors marched towards Red Zone from Sariab road area, he maintained mentioning that the important buildings of High Court, Supreme Court Quetta Registry, Governor House, Chief Minister House, residences of the judges and senior government officials and civil secretariat Balochistan.

As the police tripped to intercept the protestors to enter the Red zone, according to the police, the protestors pelted stones on them (police personnels), the spokesman added.

Shahid Rind said that

the section 144 has already been imposed in Quetta city, but despite this, the protestors tried to enter the Red zone.

He said that the police demonstrated extremely patient and tolerant behaviour with the protestors.

He said that there is clear policy about the Red zone, and no one is allowed to enter it.

The spokesman said that the State has no objection on staging peaceful protest by any person or group, but no one would be allowed to make the Red zone and the state's institutions hostage.

No designs to enter into any talks with TTP: FO

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan says it has no designs to enter into any talks with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan.

At her weekly news briefing in Islamabad Thursday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said the terrorist entity is involved in the killing of Pakistani and foreign citizens inside Pakistan.

The Spokesperson said Pakistan respects Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. She said we expect the Afghan authorities to uphold their sovereignty and take action against terrorist groups which have found sanctuaries inside Afghanistan and using their territory for terrorist attacks against Pakistan.

Responding to a question, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan is committed to implement Illegal For-

eigners Repatriation Plan. She said the first phase of this plan is near completion and alluded to the illegal foreigners including Afghans repatriated to their home countries.

The spokesperson clarified that Pakistan has not given any understanding to the UNHCR for the suspension of the plan. She pointed out that the government has approved one-year extension of the validity of Proof of Registration cards of the Afghan refugees.

To a question, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan and the United States have a multifaceted and a robust partnership. She said we believe that this relationship should move forward on the basis of mutual respect, sovereign equality and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

President criticises PML-N-led govt over its handling of IMF deal and its reliance on loans

'We know how to form and topple governments' Zardari warns PML-N

Monitoring Desk
LAHORE: President Asif Ali Zardari has criticised the PML-N-led government over its handling of International Monetary Fund (IMF) deal and its reliance on loans.

"The IMF loans are a test for the public," Zardari said, accusing the PML-N of failing to manage the government effectively. "We know how to form and dismantle governments," he declared, promising that the PPP would take decisive action.

Party leaders voiced their concerns about the lack of cooperation from the Punjab and federal governments. "We are not getting

our full rights," a leader complained, pointing out that electoral issues remain unresolved.

Zardari assured the leaders of addressing their grievances directly, stating his commitment to active engagement in Islamabad and Lahore. He emphasized the PPP's unmatched capability in Pakistani politics, viewing criticism of the party as a form of recognition. Directing the PPP Punjab leadership to collaborate in resolving internal issues, Zardari affirmed, "We are conducting a test of the people by taking IMF loans. The Muslim League (N) is not in power. We know how to form and

dismantle governments. We will not abandon our people." He urged PPP workers to prepare for intensified efforts ahead, particularly in promoting youth leadership within the party's ranks. Zardari also called for a comprehensive report on the party's organizational structure, emphasizing the need to move beyond the politics of closed rooms and take proactive steps forward.

Previously, President Asif Ali Zardari revealed the government's intention to impose taxes on agricultural income in alignment with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) conditions.



QUETTA: Provincial Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango alongwith DIG Quetta Ittaz Gorya addressing a Press Conference.

Nepra approves electricity tariff increase by up to Rs 7.12 per unit

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on Thursday granted the government's request to raise the basic electricity tariff by up to Rs 7.12 per unit. This increase will be applied nationwide, including in Karachi, with households consuming up to 200 units per month being exempt from the hike for three months. The new tariff structure, as outlined in the notification, will see domestic consumers using between 201 and 300 units per month experiencing a rise of Rs 7.12, bringing the rate to

Rs 34.26 per unit.

Consumers using between 301 and 400 units will face an increase of Rs 7.02, resulting in a new rate of Rs 39.15 per unit. For those consuming between 401 and 500 units, the rate will go up by Rs 6.12 to Rs 41.36 per unit. The tariff for consumers using between 501 and 600 units will increase by Rs 6.12 to Rs 42.78 per unit, and those using between 601 and 700 units will see an increase of Rs 6.12 to Rs 43.92 per unit.

For consumers exceeding 700 units per month, the tariff will rise by Rs 6.12 to Rs 48.84 per unit.

Food crisis looms large as flour mills go on strike across country

LAHORE (INP): A number of flour mills were eventually shut down on Thursday for an indefinite period in various parts of the country after the government failed to redress concerns of the Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) regarding imposition of withholding tax on the commodity.

According to the PFMA, more than 1,500 flour mills across country have halted wheat washing and flour supply after the recent announcement of observing strike. The PFMA demands withdrawal of withholding tax on the flour.

It further said small scale flour dealers were also joining the chorus of millers in lodging their protest against the government.

In line with PFA's orders, as many as 73 flour mills in Gujranwala and more than 60 mills in Multan ceased their operations.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Governor directs VC UoG to make blue economy revenue generation part of strategic plan of University

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has directed to the Vice Chancellor, University of Gwadar to do research on promotion of marine and coastal tourism, bright prospects of blue economy at the coastal belt and establish modern maritime industry so that the federal and provincial governments may be informed about the prospects of economic future.

The Governor stressed that the University of Gwadar should make the blue economy revenue generation part of its strategic plan to ensure bright future of the province.

The Governor was speaking to the Vice Chancellor of UoG, Dr. Abdul Razaq Sabir and Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, who called on him here on Thursday.

The Governor said

that the economic status of the whole region can be ended with functionality of Gwadar port. But, it is our unfortunate that we couldn't benefit much from more than 700 kilometers long coastal belt.

While appreciating performance of the Vice Chancellor of Gwadar University and his whole team, the Governor urged him to expand the process of learning skills to youth of Gwadar and its adjacent areas.

He also stressed on taking effective measures for providing conducive environment to the students at University besides improving it's ranking.

This would help us determine the political and economic priorities of near future, he added.

Apex Court to announce verdict regarding reserved seats today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan would announce its verdict on Friday in appeal of Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) regarding the reserved seats. The Registrar Office of the court has issued the cause list, according to which the decision would be pronounced Friday morning 9:00am. It may be mentioned here that a full court bench, presided by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, reserved the verdict into the case on Tuesday after the respondents' lawyers concluded their arguments.

The Peshawar High Court (PHC) had upheld the verdict of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for not awarding reserved seats to SIC.

Pak-France diplomats review bilateral coop. progress

ISLAMABAD (APP): Additional Foreign Secretary (Europe) Ambassador Shafiq Ali Khan held talks with Director (Asia & Oceania) of French Foreign Ministry Ambassador Benoit Guidée in Islamabad today.

They reviewed the progress made in the implementation of Roadmap of Bilateral Cooperation, signed last year, ahead of the next round of Pak-France Bilateral Political Consultations to be held later this year.

President for timely project completion in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday stressed the timely completion of the ongoing development projects of Balochistan and urged the provincial government to take proactive measures for the province's welfare.

Talking to Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti, President Zardari acknowledged that the provincial government has implemented effective measures for the development and prosperity of Balochistan and emphasized the urgent completion of the Kachhi Canal with

federal support to meet provincial water demands, boost agriculture, and ensure food security.

The President also expressed his satisfaction over the ongoing public welfare projects in the province and the measures taken by the provincial government for maintaining peace and order in the province. Bugti briefed President Zardari on provincial situation during the meeting at Presidency and briefed him on ongoing development projects, the overall law and order situation in the province.



QUETTA: Advisor to CM for Environment Naseem-Rehman Mulakhail meeting with Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

Interior Minister confirms Azm-e-Istehkam Operation not commenced

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi on Thursday stated that the Azm-e-Istehkam operation has neither commenced nor has there been any discussion of operations in specific areas.

He clarified that there was a miscommunication with the media regarding the Azm-e-Istehkam operation, which is part of six points of the National Action Plan (NAP).

The interior minister provided a briefing during a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Interior chaired by Senator Faisal Rahman on Thursday. The meeting was attended by the Secretary of the Interior, IG FC, and Rangers officials.

Mohsin Naqvi emphasised that the discussion was about the implementation of NAP, not about operations in any specific areas. He also

pointed out that prosecution falls under the mandate and authority of the provinces.

He highlighted that law and order control primarily lies with the provinces, which cannot be ignored. The Ministry of Interior oversees targeted operations and border security.

The interior minister mentioned ongoing operations in Punjab and Sindh with support from Rangers, and significant improvements in the security of the Main Super Highway. Naqvi attributed the current terrorism to agreements made by the previous government with the Taliban, which led to the release of terrorists from prisons and the subsequent resurgence of terrorism. The minister noted the formation of groups of 15-20 terrorists and emphasised that ongoing operations are making progress.

IG Police hands over 100 seized illegal vehicles to Customs dept in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): More than 100 vehicles seized in various operations of Quetta Police and Traffic Police of Quetta were handed over to Customs Department on Thursday.

On this occasion, Inspector General (IG) Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh handed over these sized vehicles to the Chief Collector of Customs Balochistan Muhammad Yaqoob Mako.

Senior officers of Balochistan Police and Customs were also present on this occasion.

All these vehicles will be auctioned soon and the money will be deposited in the national exchequer for interest of the country.

IG Police said that such operations against illegal vehicles on behalf of Quetta Police and Traffic Police would continue in the future saying that ac-

tion was being taken against non-custom paid and illegal vehicles as per the rules.

He said that the Quetta Police had taken vigorous action against non-customs vehicles during strict blockades on the entrance and exit routes of the city.

On the special directive of the Balochistan High Court, action has been taken against non-custom paid vehicles, he said.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a group photo with Speakers of Punjab, Sindh, KPK and Balochistan Assemblies along with Speaker of AJ&K and GB Assembly in Parliament House.

PM meets Daanish School's BISE Lahore topper; vows to expand pro-poor education network

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday vowed to expand the Daanish Schools network to Balochistan, AJK, Gilgit Baltistan and Islamabad as he met Ayan Kashif, a student of Daanish School Mianwali, who clinched the first position in the matriculation examination of BISE Lahore.

The prime minister invited the student to the Prime Minister's House to personally meet him and extend greetings on his achievement despite being an orphan with a humble financial background.

The prime minister congratulated the student, his mother and the school principal, also accompanying him, and said such talented youth could guarantee Pakistan's progress as the government was also focusing on their skill and vocational training to make them employable and boost the country's agriculture and industrial production.

He said that the government would build four Daanish schools in Balochistan and also establish the facility in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan, Ex-FATA districts and Islamabad. For the Islamabad campus, the land has been identified and the budget allocated, he added.

Ayan Kashif paid tribute to the prime minister for his vision of Daanish

Schools which enabled him to excel in his studies.

As the prime minister questioned, he appreciated the facilities of the dormitory, uniform, food and stationery being provided there without any charge as his mother also applauded the professionalism and support of the school's teaching staff.

"Daanish is a proud moment for us as children with low-income backgrounds with some being single orphans or double orphans are studying there. For the double orphans, Daanish schools prove to be their only support," the prime minister said before giving away a cheque of Rs1 million and a laptop to the student.

The prime minister told the gathering, also comprising federal ministers and senior government officers, that he got the idea of Daanish Schools as "it always pinched me that on one side the huge iron fences of Aitcheson College are obstructing the entry of poor students for the facility being limited to the children of elite class, landlords and senior officers. The poor can't think of enrolling their children there."

"I think this position goes to you sir," the student said and arose to offer his medal to the prime minister which he returned affectionately amidst the clapping by the participants.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said the government was investing in skill and vocational training of youth to enhance their productivity and employability in multiple fields, like agriculture, information technology, export-based industry, SMEs and freelancing.

To the suggestion of Ayan of elevating the Daanish Authority to the university level, the prime minister assured to convey it to Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz whom he also lauded for carrying forward the vision effectively.

Ayan's mother also thanked the prime minister and said the credit for his son's achievement and her happiness went to the Daanish School and its highly professional faculty.

The prime minister said Daanish School offered market-competitive salaries to the teachers to ensure quality education to the students, despite protests at that time.

"The Aitcheson, Grammar Schools, Lawrence College, Convents and other private institutions charge huge fees from students and their parents can afford that. But if the students from poor families, who might be even more intelligent, remained deprived of quality education just for lacking resources, it would be nothing but the state's failure," he remarked.

PM Shehbaz hoped that the COP29 to be hosted by Azerbaijan in Baku would be a significant international event for all developing countries including Pakistan. "We are confident that under your wise stewardship, COP29 will deliver on the climate change related issues of developing countries like Pakistan."

He said the Government of Pakistan was impressed by the beautifica-



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Ayan Kashif and his family. Ayan Kashif is a student of Daanish School and he secured the first position in the annual exams of Intermediate and Secondary Education Lahore.

Pak, Azerbaijan agree..

Continued from page 1

mutual trust and confidence where both sides expressed their unwavering commitment to move forward and touch higher levels of achievements in the fields of trade and investment.

He emphasized that Pakistan had always supported Azerbaijan's stand while the brotherly country had always supported the cause of millions of Kashmiris who had rendered huge sacrifices for more than seven decades to achieve their right of self-determination as per UN Security Council resolutions.

He recalled the President Aliyev's visit in 2017 during the tenure of then PM Nawaz Sharif saying that history was repeating as Nawaz Sharif's younger brother was now receiving him along with people of Pakistan.

PM Shehbaz hoped that the COP29 to be hosted by Azerbaijan in Baku would be a significant international event for all developing countries including Pakistan. "We are confident that under your wise stewardship, COP29 will deliver on the climate change related issues of developing countries like Pakistan."

He said the Government of Pakistan was impressed by the beautifica-

tion of Baku, therefore it has decided to copy Baku.

Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev said the brotherhood between the two countries was based on deep feelings between peoples of the two sides. "This connection is a big asset, we are brothers, we are friends, and we support each other on every international issue."

He said, "Our state forward support on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, is our commitment to our brotherhood and also our respect to international law, the rights of Kashmiris are ignored and violated for decades."

"But we as brothers and friends will always stand side by side with you, with our brothers in Kashmir, with International Law, with justice and I am sure justice will prevail," he added.

He said the two sides were analyzing the projects for initial investment of \$2 billion. "During our today's conversation, we reviewed several projects in the areas of energy, connectivity, infrastructure, and defence industry," he said adding "we will build strong part-

nership not only on political level that we already had but also on economic and trade investment levels." He said, "Our state forward support on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, is our commitment to our brotherhood and also our respect to international law, the rights of Kashmiris are ignored and violated for decades."

Ulema, Mashaikh united to promote religious harmony in Muharram: Ashrafi

FAISALABAD (APP): PM's Special Representative for Religious Harmony and Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi Thursday said that Ulema and Mashaikh belonging to all schools of thoughts are united for promotion of religious harmony, peace and tranquility during the holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

Addressing a press conference at the committee room in the Deputy Commissioner's office here, he said all religious parties have passed a resolution unanimously for establishing a peaceful atmosphere and better law and order in the country during the holy month. He said that some forces wanted to create anarchy in the name of religion through a false propaganda on social media in the country, but they would never succeed in their negative designs. Release of a three-year-old video on so-

cial media recently was an attempt to mislead the nation, but ulema would ensure national solidarity, peace and harmony by forging unity among their ranks, he added.

He said that committees of religious harmony had always played a positive role whenever any untoward situation arises in the country. "We would have to stop all kinds of sectarianism and extremism through promotion of peace and unity in the country collectively," Ashrafi said.

He said that all schools of thought have respect for each other's sanctities during Muharram-ul-Haram. Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) is the leader of all humanity and not only of Muslims. Muharram days are very holy and respectable for all, he added.

Maulana Ashrafi said that Ulema and Mashaikh were standing unitedly with their armed forces.



ISLAMABAD: NDMA hosted a session on Pakistan Monsoon Proactive Preparedness & Humanitarian Response Coordination Forum at NDMA HQs.

DATE EXTENSION OF TENDERS

Refer advertisement published in newspaper (The Daily Jang Quetta) and hoisted on BPPRA websites (www.bppra.org.pk) on 5 TH July, 2024. Vide TSE- 242507482123, TSE-242507482133, TSE-242507482153 and TSE-242507482163 under PRQ No.110/04-07-2024, wherein the date of opening extended to 29-July 2024. Other term and condition will be same as mentioned in NIT/bidding documents

Executive Engineer (Roads)
CWPP&H Department District Nushki

PRQ No.224/11-07-2024

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TENDER NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRICT KACHHI AT DHADAR Invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following PSDP works for the Year 2024-25 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 Government of Balochistan. Bid Security 2% and Tender Fee Rs.2000/-

S.No	Name of Work's	E/Cost
1.	4000 RFT DRAIN KILLI MARRI MACH CITY DISTRICT KACHHI PSDP No. 3940 TSE-242507495563	40,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents Bidding Procedure: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure Tender Documents: The Bidding document can be downloaded from www.bppra.gov.pk (free of cost) and the same can also be obtained from the office of the under-signed upon Performance Guarantee: Bidder interested in work will have to deposit 10% of contract price as Performance Security in form of Demand draft, which will be paid to the contractor after 60 days of successful completion of the work. Last Date and Time of Bid Submission 31 July, 2024 at 12:00 PM and will be opened on same day at 01:00 PM Address: Office of the Assistant Director, Local Government Department, Dhadar Ph: 0332786891

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT DISTRICT KACHHI

PRQ No.222/11-07-2024

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TENDER NOTICE

Project Management Unit, Education Department GoB invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-242507494711 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Tender Fee Not required

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Manufactured Vehicles & Accessories (Total Item(s) Count: 1)	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 5,000,000 in Previous 3 Years Turn over of at least 3,500,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List. Sales Tax Certificate. The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. JV is not permissible. Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and non-responsive. The Bidder must be registered with SECP. The bidder must be authorised dealer having Sales and Service outlet in Quetta. 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 NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 29 July, 2024 till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System Phone no: 081-2864295 Fax no: 081-286297, Email: pmu.procurement@yahoo.com

PROJECT DIRECTOR PMU

AB No.43/11-07-2024

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, E&M (Workshop) Division Quetta Invites Bids From Eligible Bidders For Execution Of Following Works For The Year 2024-25 Based On Composite Schedule Rates 2023 On Percentage Rates Earnest Money 4% in Shape of Call Deposit, Tender Fee Rs.2000/- and Time limit 12 Months for each work.

S.No.	Name of work	E/Cost
1	BT ROAD AND STREET GATES AND BABATARIF GALI AND GHULSHAN COLONY SARIAB. QUETTA (Z2023.0755) TSE-242507495783	24.752 M
2	REABILITATION OF ROADS LINING AND CATIZES WARDS OF SARIAB QUETTA (Z2023.0756) TSE-242507495173	24.753 M
3	BT ROAD FROM BASHEER CHOWK VIAGEO TO SHAH JEE CHOWK QUETTA. (Z2023.0757) TSE-242507495213	19.815 M
4	BT ROAD FROM KILI SHADI KHAN VIAGEO TO SHAH JEE CHOWK GEO. QUETTA (Z2023.0758) TSE-242507495243	19.813 M
5	BT ROADS AND DRAIN AT SHFI COLONY AND MUHAMMAD SHAH TOWN SARIAB. QUETTA (Z2023.0759) TSE-242507495273	14.858 M
6	BT ROADS AND DRAIN AT KILI NAIK MUHAMMAD LEHRI SARIAB. QUETTA (Z2023.0760) TSE-242507495313	14.86 M
7	BT ROADS AND DRAIN AT RAHEEM COLONY SARIAB QUETTA. (Z2023.0761) TSE-242507495373	14.86 M
8	BT ROADS AND DRAIN AT BASHEER CHOWK QAMBRANI ROAD. QUETTA (Z2023.0762) TSE-242507495453	14.858 M
9	BT ROADS AND DRAIN AT KILI GISKORI SARIAB. QUETTA (Z2023.0763) TSE-242507495493	14.858 M
10	BT ROADS AND DRAIN AT KILI KASMEERABAD - QAMBRANI ROAD. QUETTA (Z2023.0764) TSE-242507495553	14.857 M
11	BT ROADS AND DRAIN AT KILI QAMBRANI SARIAB. QUETTA (Z2023.0766) TSE-242507495653	19.81 M
12	CONST. IMPROVEMENT OF BT ROAD AND SEWERAGE VARIOUS STREETS OF KILI PAIND KHAN QUETTA (Z2023.0812) TSE-242507495683	14.90 M
13	REH: OF BT ROAD AND SEWERAGE AT RAILWAY COLONY, QUETTA (Z2023.0821) TSE-242507495703	19.81 M
14	REH: OF BT ROAD AND SEWERAGE AT RAILWAY COLONY, MIR HOTEL QUETTA (Z2023.0822) TSE-242507495733	19.805 M
15	CONST. IMPROVEMENT OF BT ROAD AND SEWERAGE AT KILI ISMAIL FROM MENGAL STORE TO BUBA CHOWK, QUETTA (Z2023.0810) TSE-242507495753	14.857 M
16	BT ROAD AT USMAN KILLA AND LINK STREET, PASHTOONABAD, ALAMDAR ROAD, QUETTA. (Z2023.0498) TSE-242507495773	24.810 M

The office of the Executive Engineer E&M (Workshop) Division CWPP&H Department Quetta invites technical proposals of Contractors/firms along with sealed financial proposals (Single Stage-Two Envelope Bidding Procedure) for above mentioned work from interested firms / Contractors. All interested bidders are required to submit documents as per following brief in support of their technical/financial proposal: The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Baluchistan Public Procurement Regulatory, Rules 2014 and Pakistan Engineering Council By-Laws. BASIC ELIGIBILITY: (a) The Contractor must have fresh valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in C-6 and above with specialized code in relevant CE-01, CE-09, CE-10, discipline and active registration with tax authorities i.e (NTN, Sales Tax Certificate and BRA). BID SECURITY: The bid must accompany bid security in the form of call deposit or bank guarantee of amount specified above in the name of the under-signed from a schedule bank. TECHNICAL PROPOSAL: Shall consist of the following Documents: - (a). Name of Firm / Contractor with year of establishment along with postal address and telephone number. (b) Name of Technical Supervisory staff / Management Staff along with their qualifications / experience and proof of their stay with the firm, with fresh affidavit as per criteria specified in bidding data. (c). 3 No of Projects, similar nature of work completed during last 5 years. (Details should be given as per criteria specified in bidding documents). (d) 2 No of Projects similar nature and cost in hand. (Details should be given as per criteria specified in bidding documents). (e). Fresh Registration / Clearance from income tax Department and BRA. Original must show on Submission / Opening the technical Proposals. (f). Detail Turnover of at least 29.999 million for the last (3) years showing the financial capacity of firm as per criteria specified in the Bidding Documents. (g). Under taking on judicial stamp paper that the firm was never black listed / no litigation by any Government / Semi Government Organization, separate for each work. (Attach all certificates and the affidavit) attested from first class magistrate. (h). It is mandatory that the Contractor must show the original fresh PEC valid registration i.e 2024-25 with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) on the time of submission / opening the Technical Proposal. (i) Bid Security @ 2% of bid quoted amount must be in the form of call deposit in favor of the office name of the under signed from a scheduled bank of Pakistan. No Cheque will be acceptable. (j) The firm will be non-responsive if any notice, poor performance, blacklisting, and any other court case found against firm. (k) All the pages must be signed and marked from start to end. FINANCIAL PROPOSALS: Shall consist of the following Documents: - (a). Detail BOQ with Quoted Rates in sealed envelope mentioned name & Title of scheme. BIDDING / TENDER DOCUMENTS: The bidders can obtain the bidding document from the address mention above on production of green Challan of an amount of above mention work (Non-refundable) in the head of account C02716 Civil works through Govt. Treasury/National Bank of Pakistan or can be downloaded from the Website of BPPRA (www.bppra.gov.pk), during working hours, from the date of publication of this invitation in newspapers till one day prior to the last date of submission. DEADLINES OF SUBMISSION: Technical and financial proposals from intending contractors/firms sealed in two separate envelopes clearly marked with Work title & type of proposal must be delivered by hand or through registered mail to the address mentioned below on or before 29 July, 2024 at 11:00 Hrs. OPENING: The envelope containing "Technical Bids" will be opened on the same day 29 July, 2024 at 12:00 Hrs. before procurement committee in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend. The Second sealed envelope containing "Financial bids" of technically responsive / qualified bidders will be opened later, the date of which will be communicated after evaluation of the technical bids. Bids Validity: Ninety (90) days. Place: The place of issuance, submission, inquiries and opening will be - The Office of the Executive Engineer, E&M (Workshop) Division Eastern Bypass Quetta, office Phone No. 081-2674143. Email Address: emworkshopquetta@gmail.com.

Executive Engineer E&M (Workshop) Division CWPP&H Department Quetta Phone 081-2674143.

PRQ No.207/11-07-2024

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TENDER NOTICE

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - ROADS CWPP&H DEPARTMENT DISTRICT LORALAI Invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 Bid Security 2% for each work.

S.No	Name of Work's	E/Cost	T/Fee	TSE No.
1	CONSTRUCTION OF BT ROADS, CROSS PIPES DANDA SHINWARI LORALAI 5 KM PSDP 1621 (Z2024.0341) E-Bid	84,150,000	2,000	242507495023
2	CONST: OF BT ROADS, CROSS PIPES KILLI SAGHRI & SHERALI WAHARA LORALAI 4 KM PSDP 1634 (Z2024.0340) E-Bid	74,250,000	2,000	242507495133
3	CONST: OF BT ROADS, CROSS PIPES KILLI MALAK SATKAI GHARA DISTRICT LORALAI 4 KM PSDP 1370 (Z2024.0339) E-Bid	74,250,000	2,000	242507495123
4	CONST. TWO WAY ROAD, SIDE DRAINS AND CROSS PIPES SINJAVI ROAD TO PASHTOON KORAT KILLI PATHAN KOT LORALAI 0.5 KM PSDP 1791 (Z2024.0342)	29,700,000	1,000	242507495063

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility Criteria can be seen in the Bidding Document. Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: Mentioned in the Bidding Documents. Issuance of tender Documents: Mentioned in Bidding Documents. Last Date and Time of Bid Submission 25 July, 2024 at 09:00 AM Tender opening: Mentioned in Bidding Documents. Address: B&R office zhob road loralai Phone no: 0824410031 Email: dawoodtareenx@gmail.com

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EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-ROADS CW PP&H DEPARTMENT LORALAI

TENDER NOTICE

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION MUSA KHAIL 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 2% for each work. Tender Fee Rs.1500/- for each work except S.No.16 & 17 Rs.15PKR for S.No.16&17

S.No	Name of Work's	E/Cost
1	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Zard Lal Muhammad S/O Hayat Khan Rara Sham Tehsil Kingri District Musakhail. (SUPPLYING AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR SYSTEM) TSE-242507492493	2,471,000
2	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Gandera Rara Sham Tehsil Kingri District Musakhail. (SUPPLYING AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR SYSTEM) TSE-242507492483	2,471,000
3.	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Akhtar Jan S/O Haji Gul Dad Tehsil Durug District Musakhail. (CIVIL WORK) TSE-242507492453	1,846,000
4	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Ghulam Ali Shah Kingri District Musakhail. (S/Instt; of Solar System P/Machinery) TSE-242507492443	1,186,000
5	Repair of Existing Filtration Plant Rara Sham Town Tehsil Kingri District Musakhail. (CIVIL WORK) TSE-242507492403	3,864,000
6	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Lal Muhammad S/O Hayat Khan Rara Sham District Musakhail. (CIVIL WORK) TSE-242507492393	1,314,000
7	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Akhtar Jan S/O Haji Gul Dad Tehsil Durug District Musakhail. (SUPPLY OF PIPE) TSE-242507492383	2,171,000
8	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Manzoor Shah Rara Sham Kingri District Musakhail. (SUPPLYING AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR SYSTEM) TSE-242507492353	1,290,000
9	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Ismail Shah Rara Sham District Musakhail. SUPPLYING AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR SYSTEM. TSE-242507492323	2,158,000
10	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Zard Lal Muhammad S/O Hayat Khan Rara Sham Tehsil Kingri District Musakhail. (DRILLING AND DEVELOPMENT OF HAND BORE) TSE-242507491933	1,290,000
11	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Gandera & Killi Munir Abad Burg Pusht Rara Sham Tehsil Kingri District Musakhail. (2- Nos DRILLING AND DEVELOPMENT OF HAND BORE.) TSE-242507491923	2,580,000
12	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Akhtar Jan S/O Haji Gul Dad Tehsil Durug District Musakhail. (S/INSTT; OF SOLAR SYSTEM P/MACHINERY) TSE-242507491903	5,020,000
13	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Akhtar Jan S/O Haji Gul Dad Tehsil Durug District Musakhail. (DRILLING AND DEVELOPMENT OF HAND BORE. (400 feet)) TSE-242507491873	2,918,000
14	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Mohsin Abad Kingri District Musakhail. (S/Instt; of Solar System with Pump) TSE-242507491713	4,400,000
15	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Bukhari Muhallah Kingri District Musakhail. (S/Instt; of Solar System with Pump) TSE-242507491663	4,400,000
16	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Mohsin Abad Kingri District Musakhail. (CIVIL WORK) TSE-242507491653	600,000
17	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Bukhari Muhallah Kingri District Musakhail. (CIVIL WORK) TSE-242507491633	600,000
18	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Manzoor Shah Rara Sham Kingri District Musakhail. (Nos DRILLING AND DEVELOPMENT OF HAND BORE) TSE-242507492293	2,580,000
19	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Ismail Shah Rara Sham District Musakhail. (DRILLING AND DEVELOPMENT OF HAND BORE) TSE-242507492423	1,290,000
20	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Manzoor Shah Rara Sham District Musakhail. (Civil Work) TSE-242507492263	519,000
21	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Ismail Shah Rara Sham District Musakhail. (Civil Work) TSE-242507491003	1,310,000
22	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Taj Muhammad Zamzai Kingri District Musakhail. (SUPPLYING AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR SYSTEM) TSE-242507490843	1,886,000
23	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Sarwar Ibrahimzai Kingri District Musakhail. (SUPPLYING AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR SYSTEM) TSE-242507490783	1,886,000
24	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Taj Muhammad Zamzai Kingri District Musakhail. (DRILLING AND DEVELOPMENT OF HAND BORE.) TSE-242507488553	1,108,000
25	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Sarwar Ibrahimzai Kingri District Musakhail. (DRILLING AND DEVELOPMENT OF HAND BORE) TSE-242507488513	1,108,000
26	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Saifulah Kabalzai Kingri District Musakhail. (DRILLING AND DEVELOPMENT OF HAND BORE) TSE-242507488493	1,268,000
27	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Killi Ghulam Ali Shah Kingri District Musakhail. (DRILLING AND DEVELOPMENT OF HAND BORE) TSE-242507488403	1,108,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents Bidding Procedure: Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure (TSE-242507492493, TSE-242507492483, TSE-242507492453, TSE-242507492443, TSE-242507492403, TSE-242507492393, TSE-242507492383, TSE-242507492353, TSE-242507492323, TSE-242507491933, TSE-242507491923, TSE-242507491903, TSE-242507491873, TSE-242507491713, TSE-242507491663, TSE-242507491653, TSE-242507491633, TSE-242507492293, TSE-242507492423, TSE-242507492263, TSE-242507491003, TSE-242507490843, TSE-242507490783, TSE-242507488553, TSE-242507488513, TSE-242507488493, TSE-242507488403) Tender Documents: The Bidding document can be downloaded from www.bppra.gov.pk (free of cost) and the same can also be obtained from the office of the under-signed upon payment of prescribed tender fee. Last Date and Time of Bid Submission 24 July, 2024 at 10:00 AM and will be opened on same day at 11:00 AM Address: Headquarter Musa Khail city Phone no: 0828611131 Fax no: Email: xerphemusakhail@gmail.com

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EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION MUSA KHAIL

Ayaz for further strengthening Pak-Germany bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday emphasized further strengthening Pakistan-Germany bilateral ties, particularly through expanding cooperation between parliamentary friendship groups and the exchange of parliamentary delegations. He made these remarks during a meeting with the Parliamentary delegation from Germany, who called on him here. Both sides discussed a wide range of bilateral, regional, and global issues. They expressed contentment over the current state of bilateral relations, including parliamentary ties, and reaffirmed their joint resolve to further expand and diversify mutu-

ally beneficial cooperation. The NA Speaker said Pakistan and Germany enjoy a multifaceted friendly relationship marked by shared interests and a common stance on various regional and international issues. "It is high time to further strengthen parliamentary, cultural, economic, and people-to-people connections between the two countries to attain a shared goal of sustainable development," said the NA Speaker. While discussing trade and economic cooperation bilaterally and in European context, Sadiq mentioned Pakistan's proactive efforts in creating a conducive environment for economic and trade activities, providing friendly countries with

significant investment opportunities and mutual benefits. The delegates expressed gratitude to the NA Speaker for the warm welcome and his sentiments for country and its people. They reiterated that Germany views Pakistan as an important regional stakeholder and is committed to further strengthening linkages in all areas of mutual interest, in addition to fostering parliamentary and cultural exchanges. German delegation comprised of Members of German Parliament; Michael Müller, Christoph Schmid and Derya Türk-Nachbaur, Parliamentary officials and representatives of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a group photo with parliamentary delegation from Federal Republic of Germany at Parliament House.

World Population Day: PM stresses importance of joint efforts for resilient future

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday called on government departments, civil society, the private sector, and international partners to collaborate for a resilient and equitable future. In his message on World Population Day being observed on Thursday, (July 11, 2024), he stressed the importance of sustainable population growth to ensure every citizen enjoys dignity, security, and prosperity. "Our government is fully committed in its endeavors of providing quality education and skills

training to this young generation to compete in a rapidly evolving global economy. Additionally, we are creating sufficient job opportunities for the youth to harness their potential and turn this youth bulge into an asset." "I urge all stakeholders - government departments, civil society, private sector, and our international partners - to join hands in our pursuit of a resilient and equitable future. Together, we can build a Pakistan where every citizen enjoys a life of dignity, security, and prosperity by steadfastly pursuing the path of achieving sustainable population growth."

Creating an environment where every Pakistani can thrive requires effective management of our population growth, ensuring a balance between resources and population size to foster economic growth, improve living standards, and reduce poverty, he emphasized. Pakistan's demographic makeup reveals a significant youth majority, comprising over 65% of the population under 30 years old. This dynamic presents dual prospects and difficulties. The nation's youth represent a powerful force for fostering economic growth, innovation, and societal advancement.

Riaz hands over apartment keys to 1-16/3 allottees

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Housing and Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada on Thursday handed over the keys to the allottees of the 1-16/3 apartments in a ceremony held here at the project site. Speaking on the occasion, the minister appreciated the efforts of Pakistan Housing Authority (PHA) officials for the successful completion of the project and for carrying out the best construction work for the apartments. Pirzada expressed concern over the shortage of housing in the country and directed PHA's Foundation management to start work on launching more housing projects to provide shelter to lower-income groups.

The minister said that providing quality and affordable housing to federal government employees was the priority of the government and hoped that the issue of govt employee's plots and apartments would be resolved by September 2024. He directed the PHA foundation officials to complete the plantation of trees at the site and made arrangements for the supply of daily-use items in the newly growing residential area.

On the occasion, the Chief Executive Officer of PHA Foundation Shahid Hussain briefed the minister that PHAF had formally launched the Multi Stories project on 17 acres of land provided by the Capital Development Authority in 2015. He briefed that the project consisted of 672 sq feet of B-type and 912 sq feet of E-type apartments for the general public and federal government employees. Moreover, he briefed that possession of 1063 apartments had been handed over to the owners while 33 families had been shifted. The project has 51 commercial shops of which 23 had been sold through an open auction, he said and added that the project has also 462 parking sites of 290 sq ft for B type and 172 sq ft for E type and was offered on a first come first served basis on the payment of Rs 395,000.

The project has 51 commercial shops of which 23 had been sold through an open auction, he said and added that the project has also 462 parking sites of 290 sq ft for B type and 172 sq ft for E type and was offered on a first come first served basis on the payment of Rs 395,000.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Housing & Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada handing over house keys to the allottees of flats in sector 1-16/3.

Human rights experts demand robust legislation for an autonomous Minorities' Rights Commission

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a press conference organized by the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) and Peoples Commission for Minorities Rights (PCMR) vehemently criticized the private members' National Commission for Minorities Bill, 2024 recently introduced in the National Assembly, which, according to them was in conflict with UN Paris principles regarding National Human Rights Institutions. The panelists urged the Federal government to introduce a treasury bill to create a strong legal basis for an independent,

and mandated of a national human rights institution. He also stressed meritorious appointments on the commission. Dr. A. H. Nayyar, an academic, researcher, and PCMR member, said that the prospective commission should function as an independent human rights institution rather than a religious body. He called for dropping the proposed representation of the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII), the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA), and the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) from the bill, in line with the other national commissions on human rights, child rights, and women's rights constituted through acts of parliament in Pakistan, otherwise, it will remain under the influence of religious bodies, undermining its independence. Nabila Feroze Bhatti referenced the Supreme Court's 2014 directive, which called for the establishment of a minority rights body with a mandate to monitor the practical realization of minorities' rights and provide policy recommendations. He emphasized that the government must constitute an empowered body to fully implement the court's directive.

He observed that the minorities commission should concentrate on protecting and promoting minorities' rights and addressing violations, however, assigning this commission the tasks relating to protection, rehabilitation, and preservation of places of worship will be a departure from the functions



autonomous, and effective National Commission for Minorities Rights. Peter Jacob, Dr. A. H. Nayyar, Shafiqe Chaudhary, Nabila Feroze Bhatti and Fatima Atif were among the panelists at the press conference held at the National Press Club. Peter Jacob, the executive director of CSJ, expressed civil society reservations on the bill introduced by the treasury, noting that it was a counterfeit of the bill passed by the National Assembly and subsequently dropped by the Senate last year, due to inherent flaws. He regretted that the movers ignored the warning about the effectiveness and weak composition of the proposed body. He expressed dismay that MNAs did not consult any competent Civil Society Organizations, hence displaying a lack of seriousness regarding establishing minorities' commissions. He observed that

ET orders RO to file forms 45, 46, 47 in NA-46 rigging case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Tribunal (ET) Islamabad has ordered Returning Officer (RO) to file Forms 45, 46 and 47 in NA-46 rigging case. Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri remarked we will see according to law. What ever happens, we will decide. The appeal plea filed by PTI backed candidate Amir Mughal in NA-46, Islamabad against alleged rigging came up for hearing before Election Tribunal led by Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri Thursday.

PML-N MNA Anjum Aqil Khan appeared before ET along with his counsel. The counsel for Election Commission (EC) told the ET during the hearing of the case copies of petitions have not become available. We have filed forms 45, 46 and 47. Upon it the ET directed the petitions to provide copies to EC. The counsel for Returning Officer (RO) told the court he has been made party a day before. Give me some time I will give reply.

Muqam chairs meeting regarding rightsizing of KA&GB ministry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON, Engr Amir Muqam on Thursday chaired a meeting regarding rightsizing of the ministry of KA&GB and its attached departments at AJK Council. The meeting was attended by Secretary Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry and other officers from ministry, AJK and GB Councils, said a press release.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), conducted a live E-Katcheri session at BISP Headquarters.

Alem directs review of Sialkot-Rawalpindi motorway project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan Thursday instructed a review of the Sialkot to Rawalpindi Motorway project, proposing an upgrade from four lanes to six lanes to meet the future needs of the next 50 years. During a high-level meeting of the National Highway Authority (NHA), Alem Khan said that all motorways should be free of barriers and obstructions for vehicles. He advocated for public awareness through print and electronic media regarding these updates. The Minister reviewed the progress on various NHA projects, including those in Balochistan, Sindh and Gilgit-Baltistan.

He directed the installation of live cameras on all NHA construction projects to enable real-time monitoring. Highlighting the importance of highways and motorways as national assets, he stressed the need to consider future demands due to population growth. The minister prioritized the construction of economically beneficial roads and instructed the NHA to implement the phase-wise construction of the N25 highway in Balochistan, costing Rs. 150 billion. He also called for third-party evaluations of repair projects to ensure the proper utilization of government funds. He urged the NHA to engage with the Gilgit-Baltistan government to resolve communication issues and to address directives from the Balochistan High Court by coordinating with the provincial government. Special instructions were issued regarding the construction of CPEC-linked highways, with NHA required to include plans in a dashboard for reporting to the Prime Minister. He also called for a feasibility report on the shortest routes to access Central Asian countries in the future. The meeting, attended by the Federal Secretary for Communications, Chairman of the NHA, and senior officers.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan presiding over a high level meeting of NHA.

120 Pakistanis receive US Fulbright scholarships

ISLAMABAD (APP): US Ambassador, Donald A. Blome, on Thursday congratulated 120 Pakistani students and scholars on receiving prestigious Fulbright scholarships to pursue Master's and PhD programmes in the United States (US). The group also included participants in the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Programme. The Fulbright Programme is the US government's flagship academic exchange programme, and the Fulbright Programme in Pakistan is one of the largest in the world. Supported by the US government, Fulbright academic exchanges enable students to attend top-tier universities, advance groundbreaking research, share knowledge, and make global connections. To ensure departing students are well-equipped to navigate the academic landscape and immerse themselves in American culture, the United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP) organized a two-day pre-departure orientation here.

The objective of the visit was to conduct spot hiring for civil engineering-related positions at the university, according to a news release. The delegation included Mansou Al Shaghab, ACES Regional HR Manager, and Eng. Ayman Tanninah, Branch Manager for the Tabuk Region. They informed the IIUI President about their visit to Pakistan to hire Civil Lab Engineers, Lab Technicians, Civil Surveyors, HSE Officers, and Geotechnical Drillers. Dr. Alotaibi briefed the delegation on the accreditations and achievements of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FET), highlighting the recent activities and milestones achieved under the newly implemented strategic plan. He emphasized that the IIUI has been witnessing encouraging results, with FET playing a pivotal role in achieving academic excellence and fostering industry-academia linkages. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Khaz Zeb Jadoon, Dr. Rashid Farooq, and other relevant officials.

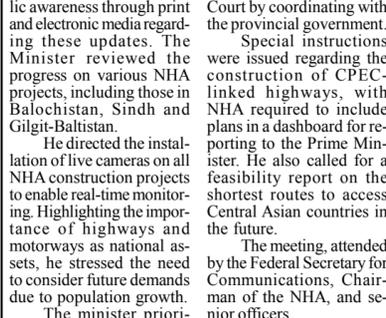
Saudi delegation calls on IIUI president

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Saudi delegation of industrial experts called on the President of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, on Thursday and appreciated the high level of professionalism of the institution. The objective of the visit was to conduct spot hiring for civil engineering-related positions at the university, according to a news release. The delegation included Mansou Al Shaghab, ACES Regional HR Manager, and Eng. Ayman Tanninah, Branch Manager for the Tabuk Region. They informed the IIUI President about their visit to Pakistan to hire Civil Lab Engineers, Lab Technicians, Civil Surveyors, HSE Officers, and Geotechnical Drillers. Dr. Alotaibi briefed the delegation on the accreditations and achievements of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FET), highlighting the recent activities and milestones achieved under the newly implemented strategic plan. He emphasized that the IIUI has been witnessing encouraging results, with FET playing a pivotal role in achieving academic excellence and fostering industry-academia linkages. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Khaz Zeb Jadoon, Dr. Rashid Farooq, and other relevant officials.

MoHR to start mechanism of certificate for PWDs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) moves to digitalize the disability certificate issuance mechanism for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). This initiative aims to streamline the process, reduce delays, and enhance accessibility. A high-level meeting was held to discuss this initiative, attended by representatives from the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, PIMS, Polyclinic, NIRM, Chairman Medical Assessment Board Dr. Faridullah Zimri, and ED SPRC. Key decisions made during the meeting included developing an online application and tracking system to facilitate easier access and progress monitoring for applicants. Digital certificates will be issued to replace traditional physical copies, enhancing efficiency and security. NADRA's database will be integrated for seamless verification, ensuring the authenticity of the information provided, said a press release issued here on Thursday. Collaboration among stakeholders from the healthcare, social welfare, and IT sectors was emphasized to ensure the successful implementation of the digital system. This joint effort aims to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for PWDs in Pakistan.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced admissions for the first phase of the Fall 2024 Semester across the country from July 15 (Monday). The admissions for BS (Face-to-Face), MS, MPhil, and PhD programs will only be conducted through online mode. The admission forms and prospectuses for Matric and FA programs will be available from July 15 at the university's main campus in Islamabad, 54 regional offices across various cities, and Swift Centers. According to the AIOU, the admissions for Matric and FA programs can be processed both online and manually. To guide prospective students, facilitation centers have been activated in all regional offices under the instructions of Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood.



ISLAMABAD: Stall holders examine the burnt remains of their stalls which burnt due to yesterday's fire at the H-9 Weekly Bazaar.

Proactive monsoon measures in place: Chairman FFC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Federal Flood Commission, Engineer Ahmed Kamal said on Thursday that rigorous efforts have been made this year to prepare for the monsoon season. Talking to PTV World News, he said that all the federal and provincial organizations were proactively preparing for timely alerts and necessary actions for the monsoon season's flooding. "All federal and provincial organizations start their preparations in January and February each year," he added. Kamal said this year alone, four meetings concerning monsoon preparations were held on March 4, April 26, June 10, and most recently on July 4. In these meetings, detailed directions were issued to all federal and provincial units.

He said letters were sent to the chief secretaries of the provinces regarding river encroachments and critical shore points on river systems to ensure effective flood fighting. The Chairman FFC also addressed the issue of timely repairs to the Sukkur barrage gates with the Sindh provincial irrigation department. He stressed the importance of having concrete contingency plans for all barrages and dams. Kamal said, "We need to have well-prepared, well-knitted, and well-implemented contingency plans in place to safeguard the population, especially in the emergency situations." So far, he said 58 flood fighting plans from various provincial and federal organizations have been received and placed on the commission's website.

Decision on maintainability of petition against appointment of Justice Tariq reserved

ISLAMABAD (Online): Decision on maintainability of the petition against the appointment of Islamabad High Court (IHC) judge Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri has been reserved. The petition filed by Mian Dawood against the appointment of Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Chief Justice (CJ) Aamir Farooq for hearing Thursday. CJ IHC Aamir Farooq remarked during the hearing of the case there are registrar office objections on your petition. Read your plea. The counsel for petitioner Mian Dawood told the court there is objection on making Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) respondent. It is our plea that the learned judge does not come upto the qualification. Please make investigations into it. The court inquired can quo warranto writ be filed against any

judge. The counsel told the court I give replies to both of your questions. He gave reference to decision of Sajjad Ali Shah case 1998. CH IHC remarked you are saying if there is personal matter of judge then it can be seen. The counsel replied yes I am saying this. The counsel requested, his petition is maintainable. Petition has been filed to ascertain the authenticity of letter running on social media. The CJ IHC Aamir Farooq remarked "I have written your points. Thank you. The counsel told the court debate is going on social media and media on university letters. The CJ IHC remarked you should not talk to the extent of merit till now. Give arguments on maintainability. The court later reserved judgment on maintainability of the petition.

AIOU announces admissions for Fall 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced admissions for the first phase of the Fall 2024 Semester across the country from July 15 (Monday). The admissions for BS (Face-to-Face), MS, MPhil, and PhD programs will only be conducted through online mode. The admission forms and prospectuses for Matric and FA programs will be available from July 15 at the university's main campus in Islamabad, 54 regional offices across various cities, and Swift Centers. According to the AIOU, the admissions for Matric and FA programs can be processed both online and manually. To guide prospective students, facilitation centers have been activated in all regional offices under the instructions of Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Faissaleem Rehman, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Interior presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent
Friday July 12, 2024

Population crisis

Pakistan is the world's fifth most populous nation, yet the resources and socioeconomic tools needed to provide for over 240m souls are severely lacking. The only logical measure is to bring down the fertility rate in order to provide a better standard of living to citizens, as well as the generations to come. Unfortunately, successive governments, beyond providing lip service, have failed to act to prevent the population bomb from coming close to detonation. If we continue on this trajectory, the UNFPA projects that Pakistan's population may hit 263m by 2030, which is just around the corner. Does Pakistan have the resources to adequately feed, clothe, educate and house this massive number? The answer is worryingly self-evident.

Therefore, today, as World Population Day is being observed globally, both state and civil society must pledge to address the population issue in a progressive and sagacious manner. This can be done by declaring a 'population emergency', and committing funds and efforts to the cause of addressing the explosive population growth. While some states have taken invasive steps, such as limiting the number of children couples can have, there are better examples in the neighbourhood that do not infringe on personal rights, yet achieve the goal of planned families.

In this regard, UNFPA cites the Muslim-majority states of Turkiye, Iran and Bangladesh, which have managed to implement successful family planning programmes. As per the UN body's research, these countries succeeded because the state was fully supporting policies aimed at reducing population growth, while information and family planning services were easily available to citizens. There is no reason why Pakistan — which in the 1960s had initiated similar plans — cannot learn from these Muslim states, with which we share many cultural similarities. Perhaps the biggest factor that can give a boost to family planning campaigns is unwavering commitment from the state at the federal and provincial levels. There needs to be buy-in from political parties, as well as the clergy.

The fact is that due to the social structures in Pakistan, it is imperative to have ulema, tribal elders and other community leaders on board to successfully implement family planning programmes — from big cities to the furthest hamlets. Both men and women need to be counselled about the options available. Moreover, successful programmes, such as Lady Health Workers, can be utilised to provide information and reproductive health services to women. At the policy level, the skewed weightage given to large populations in the NFC Award formula should be reconsidered, as provincial administrations will continue to ignore rampant population growth in order to secure more funds. For a balanced future where all Pakistanis have access to food, water and basic services, a successful family planning model is essential.

Zeba Sathar

Today is World Population Day and the theme this year is 'Interwoven Lives, Threads of Hope'. While the world is becoming increasingly interconnected, it has, paradoxically, also become vastly inequitable. Many citizens around the world, including those of Pakistan, continue to be highly neglected despite their lives being interwoven with those more fortunate.

UN Secretary General António Guterres has expressed concern over the achievement of the global development agenda outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals, and the collection of data that measures progress towards a better world for all by 2030. A mere six years prior to the SDG deadline, he has highlighted the need for data to capture inequalities in the achievement of universally agreed goals to ensure that no one is left behind. Importantly, while Pakistan may not be recording adequate progress with regard to the SDGs, we certainly collect data to measure inequities in most development outcomes.

The country's official

statistical agency, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, has completed not one but two censuses in the last seven years! PBS also collects annual data through a range of regular surveys — the Household Integrated Economic Survey, Labour Force Survey, the Pakistan Social and Living Standard Measurement survey, and many others. The truth is that PBS seems to have little time to share the heaps of crucial data it collects as it is caught up collecting more.

The data of the 2023 census, which has essential ground-level information on the condition of the Pakistani population, has yet to be released. In general, there appears to be a lack of appetite, awareness and ability in Pakistan to analyse and utilise data especially among those making decisions regarding the employment, health, education and other essential needs of the country's 240 million citizens.

Data reflecting inequities among communities, districts and populations that are being 'left far behind', is, in fact, readily available. What is missing, however, is the will to

analyse the data, prove its veracity and take action accordingly. The Population Council's recent analysis of District-Level Vulnerabilities (based mainly on the PBS Pakistan Mouza Census 2020), shows that the distance to a basic health unit in rural Punjab is seven kilometres, 25km in Sindh, 15km in KP, and 51km in Balochistan. Similarly, the average distance to a girl's secondary school in Punjab is 8km compared to the much higher 38km in Balochistan.

Socioeconomic data is periodically collected by PBS, but barely used. The PBS website is the window to Pakistan's official figures on everything ranging from prices, numbers of animals and acreage of land to education, health, national accounts, etc. It should be making widely available development data on inequities across Pakistan, showing chunks of the population, especially in the districts of rural Balochistan, which are left very far behind.

There is one silver lining in District-Level Vulnerabilities in the area of communications — mobile density is almost 100 per

cent in Pakistan. Undoubtedly, an equaliser, mobile phones make it easier for families to connect with each other and the self-employed to connect with their clientele. Specifically, a large number of migrant families are able to remain regularly in touch with their relatives back home thanks to mobile phones. But, while we remain progressively interconnected through telecommunication, internet and social media, we are drifting apart as a nation, due to the wide disparity of living standards across the population.

We do not need data to recognise the inequality of lives across Pakistan; it is visible around us and just requires a bit of sensitivity and empathy to observe. It is palpable in the lived experience of countless people — a large proportion of whom live below the poverty line. We are surrounded by poverty, discrimination and injustice.

The country's elite need to take a break from their mundane chatter about politics, the heat, and inflation, and focus on the glaring divide between the rich and the poor. In this regard,

the poor treatment of domestic help stands out as a grave issue of concern. Often, these workers who provide household services face humiliation and even violence at work and at home.

Women's empowerment is a priority area of the SDGs and human rights in general. Still, women in Pakistan (with the exception of a privileged few) generally fall in the bottom rung of any socioeconomic metric; they lead a life fraught with difficulty. They are often malnourished and experience frequent and unwanted pregnancies, and have poor access to basic services, such as health and education. Above all, they are generally devoid of any agency to make decisions concerning themselves or their children, and struggle to make ends meet.

Children's rights and welfare is at the heart of the SDGs. In spite of that, a majority of children in Pakistan are denied even their basic rights. We continue to remain complacent about high levels of fertility when out of the 7m babies born each year, about half are either unwanted or mistimed,

and are likely to end up being born in poor households. The vast majority of these children are likely to be stunted and never go to school. Many would be lucky to survive their first birthday.

The poor are berated through remarks such as 'these people have too many children and do not look after their health'. Given the indifference to their plight, there may come a point when the poor are blamed for not wanting to get out of their state of poverty. This attitude is in divergence with the values of a just and humane society. A thread of hope in terms of providing basic needs to the millions being left behind would lie in our state leadership, elites and citizens groups waking up to the situation. A major jolt is required to disturb the prevailing complacency, apathy and lack of conscience that are preventing policies that direct resources towards access to health, education and safe drinking water for millions of Pakistanis. Without immediate course correction, Pakistan is headed towards default on its SDGs by 2030. -- Courtesy Dawn

Pressure building

Khurram Husain

There is no precedent in our history of such a long and intense spell of inflation gripping the country. It has never happened before. Pakistan has had bouts of high inflation, with the last one running roughly from early 2008 to 2010 or so, depending on which metrics you use to measure its rise and tapering off. But the most recent bout began in May 2021 and is continuing unabated, despite what the measurement of the Consumer Price Index might be showing.

That is three continuous years with no end in sight. Not only that, if the last peak that inflation saw was about 20pc, this bout has seen it touch a peak above 30pc. Not only is the present bout of inflation longer in duration than any in the past, it is also more intense.

We have a new situation on our hands, because there is no model, no projection and no way of knowing what such

prolonged exposure to such intense inflationary pressure can do to a populace. Already we are surrounded by anecdotes and stories told by those around us of electricity bills that are in excess of or equal to a household's monthly expenses. But wait till the month of August. That is when the new electricity bills will start arriving, and for those who live on a salary, the new tax deductions will be applied. The pressures on household purchasing power are set to intensify further.

How far will this process go? The state is balancing its books on our backs, yours and mine. It is shedding its deficits and offloading them onto us instead. This is what they call 'stabilisation' in the sterile language of economics. For the rest of us, it simply means a severe eroding of our standard of living.

Since 2008 onwards, Pakistan has been under a virtually continuous stabilisation programme. I say 'virtually continu-

ous' for a reason. There were a few years in between, from 2014 till 2017, and again from around 2021 till 2022, when a brief spurt of economic growth passed through our midst. None of those were real. They were fuelled by heavy borrowing, domestic and foreign, and both played a big role in creating the crash that followed.

I have written a lot about why this has been the case. For now, I want to draw your attention, dear reader, to this simple fact: Pakistan's populace has been subjected now to the longest and most intense bout of inflation that it has ever experienced in its history. And it isn't over yet.

The reason I want you to focus your mind on this is equally simple. We don't know where the breaking point lies, and we certainly don't know what happens when we hit that breaking point. A few countries offer some clues. Kenya, for example, saw the outbreak of large-scale rioting on the streets when the govern-

ment rolled out an IMF-mandated budget laden with taxes and withdrawals of vital subsidies required to keep food prices in check.

But riots need not be the only expression of popular anger and desperation. A rising tide of street crime usually accompanies rising urban unemployment coupled with inflation. But beyond these more traditional outlets for the growing desperation lies a danger zone that we can barely imagine.

Economists do not have the models to tell you what sustained exposure to intense economic desperation can do to a populace. The consequences need not come overnight, as in Kenya where riots broke out almost immediately following the announcement of the budget. The slow burn of inflation can bring changes that we are not equipped to measure or detect. The vote that needed to be suppressed so ruthlessly in February this year is perhaps one example. It is easy to see where

Miftah Ismail is coming from when he says the (real) outcome of the February election was actually driven by prolonged inflation.

But beyond protests and riots and petty crime and votes, the rising arc of desperation can also lead to conflict. People can turn on each other with bizarre justifications that don't seem to connect with their economic circumstances in any rational way. They can turn towards faith healers and other quacks, whether for health advice, or advice on 'get rich quick' rackets, or even political and religious advice. What can follow is a train of consequences that leads in strange directions: the growth of bubbles and pyramid schemes or the spread of bad medicine or rising cases of domestic violence or the growing incidence of lynching and looting and other violent mob behaviour.

The state can no longer rely only on its repressive apparatus to keep the consequences of

inflation in check. The personnel who staff this apparatus are themselves drawn from the general populace, and it is to the same general populace they return when they go home after performing their duties. Whatever happens to the people happens to them, unless the state tries to use its dwindling resource base to secure these personnel from the depredations of inflation. Doing so leaves less behind for others, and makes the situation worse by aggravating the inflationary fire rather than helping put it out. The inflation engulfing the country is no longer just an economic problem. It is a danger to the social order. It is not clear when a tipping point will be reached, nor what it will trigger if and when it does arrive. I do not know any longer who I am writing this for. Those in power cannot be reached, and even if they could, there is not much they can do about it anymore. For the rest of us, however, it is worth bearing in mind that power in Pakistan is losing its grip.

More than change

F.S. Aijazuddin

President Joe Biden insists that he is still running. He has not said in which direction. He needs to decide quickly before someone makes up his mind for him. Some expect the Democratic Party to push him over the edge. Others that his medical team will advise him against subjecting himself to the rigour of a gruelling election campaign. The only person he will listen to is his wife Jill Biden.

It will not be the first time that a spouse has had the last word. In November 1990, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, locked in a leadership contest within her Conservative Party, survived the first ballot. She would have taken the fight into a second ballot — 'to fight on and fight to win' — had her husband Denis Thatcher not persuaded her to quit. He gave her this pithy advice: "Don't go on, love."

In Great Britain's recent general election, the British voters themselves, rather than a furtive cabal of Conservative bigwigs, were invited to decide on the future of PM Rishi Sunak and the party. The results — unequivocal but not unexpected — sent Rishi and the Conservative Party packing.

His successor as PM is Labour's Sir Keir Starmer who won by a landslide. No one can predict how long he will last. It seems the only permanent resident of 10 Downing Street is the photogenic tabby cat which poses artfully on its doorstep.

In the UK, the transfer of power is like the passing of an Egyptian pharaoh, interred with meticulous ceremony and a treasure of memories.

In US politics, a presidential election is not a contest of ideologies. It is a clash of personalities: for example, the winsome John F. Kennedy vs Rich-

ard Nixon with a five o'clock shadow; the dynamic Bill Clinton vs Bob Dole; the underdog Barack Obama vs Mitt Romney; the brash Donald Trump vs Hilary Clinton, and then the corrective Joe Biden vs Donald Trump.

Should a US president retire prematurely through death (Franklin D. Roosevelt) or resignation (Nixon), the automatic replacement is the incumbent vice president. Harry Truman replaced Roosevelt; Gerald Ford succeeded Nixon. It is said that during George H.W. Bush's presidency, though, the Secret Service had been instructed that if the president was ever in mortal danger, VP Dan Quayle should be shot first.

If Biden does stumble into premature retirement, his successor would be his Vice President Kamala Harris. She would by default become the US's first female off-white president.

Kamala Harris, like Rishi Sunak, comes from immigrant stock. As did Baroness Sayeeda Warsi (chairwoman of the Conservative Party, 2010-12). Warsi, the first Muslim to serve as a cabinet minister, held two posts: minister of state for the foreign and commonwealth office and simultaneously for faith and communities. She resigned in August 2014, after disagreeing with PM David Cameron's policy relating to the Israel-Gaza conflict.

Ten years later, that Israeli-Gaza conflict is continuing, unresolved. However, her then lone voice has gathered strength. In the new UK parliament, there are 89 MPs from ethnic minority backgrounds, among them 26 Muslim MPs who have made their position on the Gaza conflict clear.

By comparison, in India's current Lok Sabha, there are only 24 Muslim MPs. Congress has seven; Modi's ruling BJP

none. Some BJP cynics have questioned how many true Muslims Pakistan has in its parliament.

Interestingly, in the UK and in India, future policies will be influenced less by ideologies than by changing demographics. The Rev Martin Luther King's dream that humans should "not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character" is being fulfilled gradually. Ask Barack Obama. Ask Mi-chael Jack-son. Ask Meg-han Markle. But in a rainbow world, colour will continue to matter.

This year 2024 will be known as that of general elections. One quarter of the world's population across 97 countries is eligible to vote. They include eight of the most populous — Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Indo-nesia, Brazil, Mexico, Russia, and the US.

Their voters will inevitably have significant, differing expectations of their governments. Over the next four to five years, they want to see not just the change promised during the electoral hustings but a discernible improvement in governance, resource distribution, climate change, etc.

Governments might like to follow these five simplified commandments: Thou shalt not kill (the US); Thou shalt not commit adultery (Donald Trump); Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's goods (Netanyahu); Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour (the Western media); and Thou shalt not steal (Pakistani politicians).

But then leaders are neither saints nor miracle workers. To them, any accountability is best postponed until the time of the next general election or their political death, whichever comes first. -- Courtesy Dawn

Climate diplomacy

Aisha Khan

Climate change is now globally recognised as an existential threat to the planet and all life systems. Diplomacy has been used as a tool for centuries to address geopolitical issues and resolve contentious matters through negotiated agreements.

In today's world and the current global scenario, the overarching threat of climate change makes climate and diplomacy inseparable. The use of one to step up action in the other has played a critical role in moving the needle on climate change from its inception at the Earth Summit in Rio (1992) to the Paris Agreement (2015) that finally succeeded in getting 196 countries to agree on an 'Agenda of Solutions'.

As we move forward into uncharted territory, it is more important than ever before to forge mutually beneficial alliances to preserve nature and invest in sustainable development so that people and nature can thrive in tandem. To this end, the Conference of Parties is held annually to reach agreement on contentious issues within the Paris Agreement on the way forward. Diplomacy is in full swing at these meetings and country delegates from their respective foreign offices play an important role at these multilateral dialogues.

However, while recognising the necessity of multilateralism, it is equally important to acknowledge the need for strengthening bilateral cooperation that can promote dialogue and confidence, thereby contributing to regional stability. Cooperative and coordinated mechanisms are an investment in future peace and crisis management between and among

countries that live in close proximity and are connected by land, air and water. The benefits of an integrated approach include reducing future risks, improving productivity of resources and people, boosting innovation by seeking solutions to new challenges, increasing environmental benefits and improving ecosystems.

South Asia is a complex and dynamic ecosystem with climate hot spots, high mountains, large glaciated areas and a vast coastal belt. It is also the least integrated region in the world with a population of approximately two billion and a large youth cohort. The geography and topography of the region makes each country an upper or lower riparian that derives its waters from the same mountain source. The type of climate-induced disasters and the coping capacity of people also have similarities that go beyond economic indicators to sharing social norms and traditional practices, especially with regard to gender, access and opportunity.

Air pollution is a transboundary issue and a common concern that is rapidly eroding the environmental integrity of urban centres and putting glaciated areas under threat causing damage to human health and accelerating the melting of glaciers. All of the above make a compelling case for collaboration.

Under a rapidly warming world with high humanitarian stakes, it is time for countries in South Asia to prioritise policies based on the urgency of the crisis and plan accordingly. Climate diplomacy is the best tool for re-evaluating and recalibrating relationship dynamics taking into account the scope of the climate threat, its impact on

communities and the capacity of states to manage it on a stand-alone basis. Given the interconnectedness of the landmass, climate impacts will have a spill-over effect making the future risky at best and hazardous at worst.

The recent climate stocktake in Dubai and the post-election scenario in Pakistan, Bangladesh and India present the region with a new opportunity to explore the potential of developing a regional climate vision strategy that offers practical cooperative solutions for safeguarding the natural resources of South Asia and protecting human life.

Given the truncated and traumatic history of the region, this may not be easy but using climate as an entry point and diplomacy as a tool can open windows for constructive conversations.

The courts in Pakistan and India have recognised climate change as a human rights issue and justified this rights-based approach by linking the state's obligation to take precautionary measures to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. This shift in constitutionalising climate change offers a unique opportunity to both countries to address the challenge jointly and use it to deliver on an agenda that is seen not only as an exogenous threat but as a core legal and ethical responsibility of the state towards its citizens. Cooperation and collaboration on approaches that support sustainable development, protect the rights of people and nature, ensure that decisions on climate change are equitable and develop better understanding of the problem and solutions to environmental issues can only be a win for all. -- Courtesy Dawn

Sindh cabinet decides to protect Karoonjhar, designates Khasar as granite mining area

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh cabinet has decided to protect the entire Karoonjhar as cultural and heritage sites, forests and a wildlife sanctuary/Ramsar Site and designated the Khasar as a granite mining area, subject to clearance from the Forest and Wildlife Department. Chaired by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah here at CM House here Thursday, the cabinet meeting was informed that during the caretaker government, a proposal was initiated to launch the Granite Excavation Project at Nagarparkar. According to the Geological Survey of Pakistan's 2015 report, there are around 14 billion metric tons of Granite in Nagarparkar spread over 11 different locations. However, the Mines and Mineral Department mentioned that the Sindh High Court, on October 16,

2023, banned excavation in the Nagarparkar area due to the presence of cultural/heritage sites, forest and a wildlife sanctuary/Ramsar site. The Sindh government has filed an appeal in the Supreme Court, which ordered that any government policy for mining in Karoonjhar hills should consider the competing interests of wildlife/forest, environment, and heritage. As a result, the Cabinet committee identified the Khasar Area, located 25 km away from Nagarparkar, where the potential for granite excavation indicated an area of 3.6 sq km, as per the GSP Report 2015. The committee found that the Khasar Area has no overlapping with forest areas. Subsequently, the cabinet approved Khasar as Granite mining in the area subject to the clearance of Forest and Wildlife Department.

On the recommendation of the health dept the Sindh cabinet approved a Rs 3.84 billion grant-in-aid Patients' Aid Foundation (PAF), for the Procurement of Medical Equipment and supply of utilities for a new 12-storied 532-bedded medical complex including a dedicated floor for cardiology and six-storied 60-bedded government officers' ward at Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC), Karachi. The amount would be released in two installments, Rs 2.13 billion in 2024-25 and Rs1.71 million in 2025-26. The cabinet approved the Amendment in the Provincial Motor Vehicle Ordinance (PMVO) 1965 to ensure swift registration of vehicles, enhance public safety by preventing the misuse of unregistered vehicles for illegal activities.



LAHORE: Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan administered the oath to Chief Justice of Lahore High Court, Justice Alia Neelam here at Governor House. Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif also present on this occasion.

Punjab Governor administers oath to CJ LHC, Justice Alia

LAHORE (Online): Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan today administered the oath to Chief Justice of Lahore High Court, Justice Alia Neelam here at Governor House Lahore. Awareness campaign to prevent increasing trend of using drugs among students and various issues related to the youth were discussed in the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider said that good education and training of the youth is vital to the development of the country. Governor Punjab appreciated the steps taken by the Youth Parliament for the betterment of the youth. He further said that the students should play a positive role in the development of the country. The delegation proposed to allocate credit hours for community service in the universities of Punjab. On behalf of the delegation, an honorary souvenir was presented to Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan.

by President Muhammad Abu Bakar called on the Governor of the Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. Awareness campaign to prevent increasing trend of using drugs among students and various issues related to the youth were discussed in the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider said that good education and training of the youth is vital to the development of the country. Governor Punjab appreciated the steps taken by the Youth Parliament for the betterment of the youth. He further said that the students should play a positive role in the development of the country. The delegation proposed to allocate credit hours for community service in the universities of Punjab. On behalf of the delegation, an honorary souvenir was presented to Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan.

Governor KP says: Pakistani women proved abilities in all fields for country's development

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi here on Thursday said that Pakistani women have proved their skills and abilities in all sectors of life besides significantly contributing to the country's socioeconomic and development process. Addressing national conference on role of women in peace as chief guest at Islamabad, the Governor said that first women prime minister of the Muslim world Shaheed Benazir Bhutto was a role model for women even today due to her matchless services

for empowerment of females, democracy, politics, supremacy of constitution and development of Pakistan. He said that socioeconomic welfare and bringing poor women under national mainstream was the top priority of Benazir Bhutto Shaheed. For ensuring peace, development and mutual coexistence in society, said that Pakistani women have all required skills and abilities to prove their mettle in every sector of life and their services for Pakistan were highly praised and worthy. Faisal Karim Kundi

said the role of women in existence of a peaceful and prosperous family viz a viz society was of paramount significance, and underscored the need for equal opportunities to women folk for establishment of durable peace and harmony in society. Economic empowerment of women and highlighting their potential and talent for betterment of society was his priority," he said, adding Benazir Income Support Program has raised the stature of poor women and dignity in Pakistan.



FAISALABAD: Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council & Special Assistant for interfaith Harmony, Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi addressing a Press conference.

Minister announces comprehensive security arrangements for Muharram

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order, Khawaja Salman Rafique, announced that security arrangements for all 5,235 Muharram congregations and over 600 processions in the city are complete. Chairing a meeting at the Chief Minister's House on Thursday, he stated that security measures for Muharram have been reviewed province-wide. Final arrangements have been made in consultation with the officials of the main processions. Detention orders for 105 individuals in Lahore have been issued to ensure safety. Police,

Rescue, Civil Defense, along with Pak Army and Rangers personnel, have been deployed on duty. The Cabinet Committee on Law and Order conducted a detailed review of security measures in the Lahore Division for Muharram. Provincial Ministers Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, Bilal Akbar Khan, Bilal Yasin, Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani, and Faisal Khokhar were present. Additionally, Members of the Punjab Assembly, including Rana Iqbal Khan, attended the meeting. Senior officials such as Secretary Home Noor-ul-Amin Mengal, IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, Additional IG CTD.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi offering Fataha at the home of martyred DSP Ali Raza.

SACM for ensuring health services to masses

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister (SACM) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for the Population Welfare Department, Malik Liaqat Ali Thursday emphasized that ensuring access to family planning and reproductive health services was the top priority for the provincial government. This initiative aims to curb the alarming increase in the province's population, he said, while addressing a one-day seminar on World Population Day organized by the Population Welfare Department. Malik Liaqat Ali highlighted the need for public awareness regarding population control. He called upon scholars and intellectuals to play an active role in educating the youth about family planning to prevent rapid

population growth. The seminar was attended by Secretary Population Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mutasim Bilah, Director General Population, and other officials from the department, as well as people from various walks of life. In his address, Malik Liaqat Ali said that the main purpose of celebrating this day was to draw the people's attention to the problems arising due to the population growth and lack of resources. The solution to the economic and social problems of the growing population is essential. All efforts for development and prosperity prove futile when every member of society lacks access to basic needs. For Pakistan to develop and stand among the developed countries, sustainable and effective family planning.

Tank police recover bodies of two personnel

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Tank police have recovered the bodies of two security personnel in village Kri Haider area of Shaheed Mureed Akbar (SMA) Police Station, a police official said on Thursday. He said that the police found the bodies of two persons lying in the fields of a man named Muhammad Ayub in Kirri Haider village within the jurisdiction of Shaheed Mureed Akbar (SMA) Police Station, Tank. The bodies were shifted to District Headquarters Hospital Tank for post-mortem where they were identified as Police Constable Habib Khan son of Naseeb Khan, resident of Mohallah Sabir Abad Tank City and Frontier Corps (FC) personnel Inam Ullah, son of Mehrban Shah, resident of Kirri Maruti, Tank. Later, the bodies were handed over to the heirs after completion of legal formalities. According to the Police, both officials went missing the other day. The reason behind the incident could not be ascertained yet while the investigation is underway.

CM stresses balance b/w population, resources on World Population Day

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, in her message on the World Population Welfare Day, said on Thursday that the impact of population growth on resources and environment must be evaluated and comprehended fully. She said, "Maintaining a balance between population and resources is key to prosperity," adding that "Maintaining population growth rate is essential to prosperity and sustainable development." The CM said, "We

must renew our resolve to meet the challenge of growing population." She added, "Population management is not only a responsibility of the government but the entire society is responsible for it." The CM said, "Sustainable growth rate is linked to effective population welfare." She added, "Population welfare is an important factor in economic growth and poverty alleviation." The chief minister noted, "Natural resources and infrastructure cannot withstand increasing population pressure."

5 dead, 1186 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least five people were killed and 1186 injured in 1112 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of whom, 542 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 644 people with minor injuries were treated on the spot by Rescue medical teams. Analysis show that 657 drivers, 41 underage drivers, 134 pedestrians, and 400 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. Statistics show that 218 road accidents were reported in Lahore.

KP government pledges priority to health sector: Swati

Independent Report ABBOTTABAD: Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Babar Salim Swati said that KP government has reaffirmed its commitment to prioritizing the health sector, aiming for excellence in service delivery across all involved parties. Chairing a meeting at his chamber, Speaker issued directives for a comprehensive evaluation of facilities in hospitals located in Manshera, emphasizing the urgent resolution of issues related to the recruitment of technical staff for modern medical equipment. Highlighting the government's obligation to meet the fundamental needs of its citizens, Speaker Babar Salim Swati stressed the pivotal roles of health and education.

He emphasized the necessity of public hospitals, citing the inability of many to afford private medical expenses. The Speaker called for concerted efforts to enhance these facilities, thereby bolstering public confidence in accessing advanced medical treatments within government institutions. Speaker proposed the establishment of a dispensary within the Assembly Secretariat. This initiative aims to provide immediate medical assistance in case of any health emergencies among Assembly members or staff during sessions. Addressing his role as a public representative, Speaker Swati underscored the responsibility to advocate for the populace's concerns.

D&SJ Abher appointed as first female LHC registrar

LAHORE (APP): Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Miss Aalia Neelum on Thursday appointed District and Sessions Judge (D&SJ) Abher Gul Khan as registrar of the court. D&SJ Abher Gul Khan is the first female to be appointed as LHC registrar. Currently, she is serving as the director general of the Directorate of District Judiciary at the high court. Meanwhile, D&SJ/LHC Registrar Ch. Abdul Rashid Abid was transferred and made an officer on special duty at the Sessions Court Lahore.



LAHORE: Punjab Ministers Salman Rafique, Bilal Yasin, Ashiq Kirmani, Secretary Home Noor-ul-Amin Mengal, IG Usman Anwar, Commissioner Zaid Bin Maqsood and others inspecting the central procession route for Ashura and reviewed security arrangement.

Speakers say: Hazrat Imam Hussain (R.A) raised the flag of truth and righteousness in Karbala

MULTAN (APP): Speakers in a seminar titled "Salam Ya Hussain" (RA) said that Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) raised the flag of truth and righteousness in Karbala by sacrificing his life and ensured the eternal vitality of Islam. They stated that the eternal and great sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) was not just for Muslims but for all religions of the world, spreading the message of true peace, equality, and brotherhood. The life of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) serves as a guiding star for us, and by following it, we can achieve both worldly and religious success. Muharram teaches us about brotherhood and unity of the Ummah. The seminar was organized by the Young Pakistanis Organization and Royal Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) College here.

Among others guests included custodian of the shrine of Hazrat Dawood Jahaniyan, Makhdoom Shoaib Akmal Hashmi, former District Officer Special Education Multan Mian Muhammad Majid, Dean of RIMS College Dr. Nisar Rahman, Director of RIMS College Azhar Abbas Khokhar, and President of Young Pakistanis Organization Naem Iqbal Naem. Speaking on the occasion, former Speaker National Assembly Syed Fakhar Imam said that Muslims constituted 22 percent of the world population, with 1.5 billion Muslims in a total population of eight billion. Despite having 57 Muslim countries and some of the richest individuals in the world, we lack leaders like those of Karbala who can sacrifice and serve the nation with integrity. Today, no one raises their voice against Israel's atrocities in Gaza.

WMFP strongly condemns the assault on anchor Ayesha Jahanzeb

Independent Report LAHORE: Ayesha Jahanzeb, Lahore-based anchor, accused her husband, Haris, of domestic violence. Ayesha filed a police report, after which her husband was taken into police custody and presented in court. The alleged abuse case surfaced after a video went viral on social media that showed a bruised and injured Ayesha claiming her husband had beaten her up on July 10. Ayesha said in the video that her husband had secretly remarried, and the torture was because of this. She added despite her efforts to mend her marriage, he had been abusing and torturing her for a year, he had assaulted her several times before. According to a Dawn.com report, "The FIR [first information report] said Jahanzeb's husband Haris Ali habitually tortured her and was abusive since the beginning of their marriage.

Firing incident claims four lives amidst child-related quarrel

LARKANA (APP): Four people were killed in the firing incident following a dispute over children in Naich village of Rashid Wagan police station near Larkana city on Thursday. According to the report, a fight broke out between two factions of the Zangija caste, escalated from a seemingly innocuous disagreement into a deadly confrontation. The conflict erupted over a minor issue involving children, culminating in the deaths of

Ali Hassan Zangajo (40 years old) and his young brother Ali Akbar (7 years old). On information, the police reached the spot and shifted the bodies of the deceased to Chandka Hospital for post-mortem. The injured were admitted in the trauma center for treatment. Zareena Zangajo, a grieving family member of the deceased Shaman Ali Zangajo told the media that last day there was a quarrel over the children trivial matter.



KARACHI: Sindh Government Spokesperson and Sukkur Mayor Barrister Arsalan Shaikh addressing a press conference regarding monsoon rains at Karachi Press Club.

Minister directs drainage completion ahead of expected rains

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee for Disaster Management, Khawaja Salman Rafique, has instructed the administration to expedite the completion of drainage arrangements along the routes of upcoming Muharram processions in anticipation of rains. Emphasizing the importance of de-silting, he

underscored the need for proactive measures to mitigate the risks of urban flooding. In a meeting held at the Secretariat Durbar Hall on Thursday, the health minister, along with Finance Minister Mujtaba Shujaat Rahman, highlighted the necessity for protective measures during Muharram processions, considering the potential severity of weather conditions.



HYDERABAD: Members of Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum block road as they are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, outside Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA) building in Hyderabad.

PM stresses using technology for effective enforcement of customs duties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday emphasized the importance of taking comprehensive measures to eliminate corruption in customs operations. He stressed the need to remove unnecessary hurdles and utilize modern technology, including artificial intelligence and advanced equipment, to ensure the full enforcement of customs duties.

Chairing a meeting

focused on the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and Pakistan Customs, the prime minister described the customs sector as the backbone of the country's economy. He stated that reforms within the FBR and complete digitization would secure economic stability.

Prime Minister Shehbaz instructed the relevant authorities to ensure a third-party audit of reform initiatives in the FBR and other

departments, consolidating all such projects under a single framework.

He directed efforts to increase revenue collection through enhanced enforcement measures and called for the establishment of a project management unit dedicated to reforms in the customs sector.

Addressing issues related to mis-invoicing, he stressed the need to resolve these problems and eliminate under-invoicing to protect Pakistan's

industries and products. He also requested detailed reports on revenue collection resulting from enforcement actions and called for the establishment of a regulatory framework for the operations of the shipping industry.

The prime minister emphasized the need for a third-party audit of the web-based one-customs system (WeBOC). During the briefing on customs operations, it was reported that Pakistan Customs



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding the Federal Board of Revenue.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chairing the Advisory Committee Meeting on Release of International Mobile Telephony (IMT) Spectrum for Next-Generation Mobile Broadband Services in Pakistan.

Govt committed to boost cotton production: Tanveer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Industries, Production and National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday reiterated the government's commitment to promote the cotton industry. He said this while addressing the meeting of the Pakistan Central Cotton Committee's governing body, said a news release.

The minister stressed that Pakistan's economy heavily relies on cotton production and textile industry growth is linked to good cotton yields.

"The textile industry has been granted Rs 10 per unit subsidy on electricity,

which will significantly alleviate its financial burdens and alleviate its difficulties to a great extent," he added.

He said that research and development must be prioritized, and the government is committed to providing comprehensive support to farmers, ginners, and all relevant stakeholders.

The minister said the country's annual cotton production currently stands at 8.4 million bales, aiming to increase 15 million bales by 2025.

The yield per acre can be increased with modern agricultural practices and technology.

Speakers highlight potential, challenges in IT, Telecom sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): The speakers at a public-private dialogue on Wednesday called for strategic collaborations and rationalized spectrum and licensing mechanisms to address challenges and unlock potential in the Information Technology (IT) and Telecommunication sector.

The dialogue, organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)'s study group on IT and Telecommunication, focused on the state of competition in the telecom sector and ways to promote it.

Brig © Muhammad Yasin Senior Advisor

Emeritus at SDPI, highlighted the critical role of the telecom sector as the backbone of the country's economy, impacting education, health, industry, defence, and agriculture. He emphasized the need for a robust and competitive environment, meaningful regulations, and collaborations among service providers to foster sector development. He also noted that infrastructure sharing among telecom operators could reduce business costs and improve service delivery, especially in rural areas where competition has dwindled the number of internet service providers from six to three.



MULTAN: Students visiting different stalls during the Tech Expo 2024 organized by the Institute of Computer Science and Information Technology at the Jinnah Hall.

WUM hosts TECHEXPO on modern advancement

MULTAN (APP): Students of 10 universities of exhibited their projects at one-day TechExpo, hosted by WUM Institute of CS & IT on modern advancements which included several educational and technological advancements.

This expo and poster exhibition was the first of its kind at WUM featuring different modules in disciplines such as computer science, engineering, applied sciences, AI intelligence, and healthcare.

A total of 38 projects were displayed showcasing a broad spectrum of academic and practical skills. A Poster competition was also

organized by final-year students from different universities.

The expo attracted participants from 10 universities, which made it an gathering of academic minds. Students from the BZU, Emerson, Air Universities, NCBA, Times, MNSUA, NUML, NFC and Education University.

This diversity of participation enriched the event, fostering a spirit of academic exchange and collaboration.

Women University Multan (WUM) Dr Kalsoom Pracha stressed upon the importance of technological and academic advancement in today's world while speaking at the event.

Gold rates up by Rs.1,200 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of per tola of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.1,200 and was sold at Rs.246,800 on Thursday against its sale at Rs.245,600 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.1,029 to Rs.211,591 from Rs.210,562 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.193,959 from Rs.193,016, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.2,900 and Rs.2,486.28 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$10 to \$2,382 from \$2,372, the Association reported.

Rupee sheds 09 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exchange rate of the Pakistan rupee witnessed a devaluation of 09 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading on Thursday and closed at Rs 278.60 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.51.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market, however, were Rs 279.50 and Rs 281.25 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 72 paise to close at Rs 302.01 against the last day's closing of Rs 301.29, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.72, whereas an increase of Rs 2.17 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 358.57 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 356.40.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal also increased by 03 each to close at Rs 75.85 and Rs 74.28 respectively.

ERDA organizes capacity building workshop for Agri input dealers

PESHAWAR (APP): The USAID's Economic Recovery and Development Activity (ERDA) here on Thursday organized a one-day workshop for the capacity building and business-to-business networking of the agriculture inputs dealers from different parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including the Merged Districts.

The workshop also provided a platform to some of the leading national and multinational agriculture input providers participating from across the country. Titled as "Building Capacities and Creating Partnerships.

Advisory Committee discusses release of IMT Spectrum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Finance Minister, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday chaired the meeting of Advisory Committee on Release of International Mobile Telephony (IMT) Spectrum for Improvement of Next Generation Mobile Broadband Services in Pakistan.

According to press release issued by finance ministry, the meeting was attended by Minister of State for IT and Telecom, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Chairman P a k i s t a n Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and senior officials from relevant ministries and departments.

The key stakeholders from the telecommunication sector and regulatory authorities briefed the minister on the strategic plans for the

allocation and utilization of the IMT spectrum.

It was mentioned that the release of this spectrum is expected to significantly improve connectivity, enhance Internet speeds, and meet the increasing demand for high-quality data services.

The auction process, technical specifications and the time-line for the spectrum release were discussed in the meeting.

The Advisory Committee also considered the way forward to promote technological advancements and create an environment conducive to investment and growth in the telecommunications sector.

This meeting underscores the government's commitment to advancing digital infrastructure and supporting the country's economic growth.

OGRA organizes seminar on "Safe Use of LPG, 'Zero' Fatal Accident"

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) here on Thursday organized a national seminar on "Safe Use of LPG - 'Zero' Fatal Accident" to address the need for enhanced safety measures in the use of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

The seminar was attended by senior officials from the Petroleum Division, Islamabad Police, Motorways Police, Civil Defense and CEOs of leading LPG sector companies.

Chairman OGRA Masroor Khan along with Member Oil, Member Finance and the senior team from OGRA's LPG and Enforcement Departments, were also present on the occasion.

Masroor Khan said that the increasing use of LPG across the country, from urban centers to remote villages demanded urgent need for robust safety protocols.

He said that the seminar aimed to address these safety concerns by bringing together industry leaders, policymakers,



LAHORE: People are buying used items from a roadside vendor at Shadman area in the Provincial Capital.

Indonesia to promote industry, trade, tourism with Pakistan

PESHAWAR (APP): Indonesian Charge d Affaires, Rahmat Hindiatra, and Economic Attache, Axelsyah R Miraza has expressed the desire to promote industry and trade, as well as youth and cultural tourism, with Pakistan, particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

They conveyed their commitment to future collaboration during a meeting at the residence of former caretaker provincial minister Adnan Jalil.

Welcoming the Indonesian delegation, Adnan Jalil was joined by former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali, former caretaker provincial minister and industrialist Haji Fazl Elahi, former presidents of the Sarhad Chamber, Ishaq Khan and Sirajuddin, along with Rashid Awan from SMEDA and other notable figures.

The meeting involved a thorough discussion of the successful sectors in

both countries and concluded with a decision to work together to strengthen Pakistan-Indonesia relations.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the prospect of enhancing trade, industry, and youth and cultural tourism to foster closer ties and pave the way for economic stability. The Indonesian delegation invited former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali, Adnan Jalil, and other participants to visit Indonesia, an invitation that was warmly appreciated by the hosts.

Rahmat Hindiatra, and Economic Attache Axelsyah R Miraza praised the hardworking and dedicated people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and expressed eagerness to collaborate with them.

They emphasized the need for both countries to exchange experiences in industry and trade to strengthen and expand their commercial relations.

Govt making concerted efforts to reduce electricity prices: Awais Leghari

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari has apprised the National Assembly Standing Committee on Energy (Power Division) that the Power Division was making concerted efforts to reduce the price of electricity by intensifying anti-theft campaigns and reducing line losses.

The committee which met with Muhammad Idriss in the Chair and was attended by MNAs; Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Raja Qamer ul Islam,

Chaudhry Naseer Ahmed Abbas, Rana Muhammad Hayat Khan, Khurshid Ahmed Junejo, Syed Waseem Hussain, Junaid Akbar, Malik Anwar Taj, Sher Ali Arbab, Haji Imtiaz Ahmed Chaudhry and Ali Afzal Sahi, Muhammad Iqbal Khan. The senior officers from Ministry of Energy (Power Division) and its attached departments also attended the meeting. The Secretary, Ministry of Energy (Power Division) briefed the Committee on working and performance of the Ministry and its attached

departments. The Secretary informed that the Power Division dealt with the matters relating to development of power resources of the country, electric utilities, liaison with international engineering organization in power sector, federal agencies and institutions for promotion of special studies in power sector etc. He further apprised that the Ministry had plans for development of large scale alternative renewable energy (ARE) projects including hydro power projects.

PSX gains 150 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Thursday gained 150.80 points, a positive change of 0.19 percent, closing at 79,992.35 points against 79,841.56 points on the last working day.

A total of 389,024,310 shares were traded during the day as compared to 495,910,236 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 20,924 billion against Rs 22,116 billion on the last trading day.

Around 445 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 181 of them recorded gains and 212 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 52 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Agritech Limited with 22,041,367 shares at Rs 24.24 per share, Hub Power Company with 18,624,585 shares at Rs 163.75 per share.



SIALKOT: Assistant Commissioner Miss Anam and Chairperson of Women's Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Maryam Nauman addressing a seminar "No to Plastic campaign" on the initiative of Chief Minister Punjab organized by WCIS.

CDNS accomplish Rs 1.742 trillion targets in fresh bond in FY 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has realized a target of Rs1.742 trillion in fresh bonds and 100 percent of the annual target in the last fiscal year 2023-24, from July 1 to June 30th.

The National Savings has set an annual target of Rs 1.742 trillion for the year 2023-24, it is encouraging that 100 percent of the target has been achieved, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Thursday.

The CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the fiscal year 2022-23, he said.

He said this was an Rs 200 billion additional annual target than the

target of Rs 1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22.

The CDNS has set a reviewed saving target of Rs 1.4 trillion for the financial year (2021-22) which will promote savings culture in the country, he said. Given the current market trend in the country the ambitious target had been set to improve the savings culture further, he added.

The official said that work was being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations were being introduced. At this time Automated Teller Machine (ATM) has also been introduced in CDNS which will provide enough facilities to the users," he added.

FPCCI stresses on FTA with Indonesia to enhance, diversify bilateral trade

Independent Report KARACHI: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Thursday, emphasized the need of entering into a free trade agreement with Indonesia to enhance and diversify bilateral trade while rectifying trade imbalances.

President FPCCI, Atif Ikram Sheikh, in a statement, stressed that Pakistan needed to work with Indonesia to formulate a free trade agreement

Pakistan in the Southeast Asia region," he suggested.

Senior Vice President FPCCI, Saquib Fayyaz Magooni, said that ASEAN countries can be a huge export market for Pakistan as it has a population of over 600 million with a very strong middle-class. Their collective GDP in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP) has well surpassed \$10 trillion, he added.

VP FPCCI, Aman Paracha, stated the



(FTA) in order to rectify bilateral trade deficit of up to \$3 billion. "We should work on Brand Pakistan through single-country exhibitions; exchange of trade delegations; cultural & student exchanges and projecting soft-image of

importance of diversifying imports from Indonesia beyond palm oil and exploring opportunities for Pakistani exports in diverse sectors. He announced FPCCI's plans to organize single-country exhibition in Indonesia.

China tells NATO not to create chaos in Asia and rejects label of 'enabler' of Russia's Ukraine war

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China accused NATO on Thursday of seeking security at the expense of others and told the alliance not to bring the same "chaos" to Asia, a reflection of its determination to oppose strengthening ties between NATO members and Asian nations such as Japan, South Korea and the Philippines.

The statement by a Foreign Ministry spokesperson came a day after NATO labeled China a "decisive enabler" of Russia's war against Ukraine.

"NATO hyping up China's responsibility on the Ukraine issue is unreasonable and has sinister motives," spokesperson Lin Jian said at a daily briefing. He maintained that China has a fair and objective stance on the Ukraine issue.

China has broken with the United States and its European allies over the war in Ukraine, refusing to condemn Russia's invasion

or even to refer to it as an act of aggression in deference to Moscow. Its trade with Russia has grown since the invasion, at least partially offsetting the impact of Western sanctions.

NATO, in a statement issued at a summit in Washington, said China has become an enabler of the war through its "no-limits partnership" with Russia and its large-scale support for Russia's defense industrial base.

Lin said China's trade with Russia is legitimate and reasonable and based on World Trade Organization rules.

He said NATO's "so-called security" comes at the cost of the security of other countries. China has backed Russia's contention that NATO expansion posed a threat to Russia, whose attack on Ukraine has only strengthened the alliance, leading to Sweden and Finland becoming formal members.

China has expressed

concern about NATO's budding relationships with countries in the Indo-Pacific region. Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea sent their leaders or deputies to the NATO summit this week.

"China urges NATO to ... stop interfering in China's internal politics and smearing China's image and not create chaos in the Asia-Pacific after creating turmoil in Europe," Lin said.

Chinese troops are in Belarus this week for joint drills near the border with Poland, a NATO member. The exercises are the first with Belarus, an ally of Russia, with which it shares a single-party system under President Alexander Lukashenko, whose regime cracked down brutally on 2020 mass protests against his rule. Lin described the joint training as a normal military operation that is not directed at any particular country.



Police stand guard at Ashley Close in Bushey in the borough of Hertfordshire, north of London, UK.

Kenyan president sacks cabinet, bowing to pressure from protests

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: Kenyan President William Ruto on Thursday fired his entire cabinet apart from the foreign minister, bowing to pressure from nationwide protests that have created the biggest crisis of his two-year presidency. The youth-led protests against planned tax hikes started off peacefully but turned violent, killing at least 39 people in clashes with the police last month. Some demonstrators briefly stormed parliament, before Ruto abandoned the new taxes. "I will immediately engage in extensive consultations across different sectors and political formations and other Kenyans, both in public and private, with the aim of setting up a broad-based government," Ruto said in a televised address to the nation, adding that he

would announce additional measures later.

He also dismissed the attorney general but said the office of the deputy president was not affected. The sweeping cabinet changes were what Kenyans have been asking for, veteran anti-corruption activist John Githongo told Reuters. "Let us see what happens now if the new ministers deal with big issues around corruption and just the arrogance and excess of his administration and the fact that a lot of Kenyans died during the demonstrations," he said. "Hopefully this should temporarily calm things."

Ruto has been caught between the demands of lenders such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to cut deficits and a hard-pressed population reeling from rising cost.

Russia declares newspaper The Moscow Times 'undesirable' amid crackdown on criticism

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: The Russian prosecutor general's office on Wednesday declared The Moscow Times, an online newspaper popular among Russia's expatriate community, as an "undesirable organization."

The designation comes amid a crackdown on critical news media and the opposition. It means the newspaper must stop any work in Russia and it subjects any Russian who cooperates with the paper to up to five years in prison.

It is a more severe measure than the "foreign agent" designation applied to the news outlet in November, which subjects individuals and organizations to increased financial scrutiny and requires any of their public material to promi-

nently include notice of being declared a foreign agent.

The Moscow Times already moved its editorial operations out of Russia in 2022 after the passage of a law imposing stiff penalties for material regarded as discrediting the Russian military and its war in Ukraine.

It publishes in English and in Russian, but its Russian-language site was blocked in Russia several months after the Ukraine war began.

In an editors' note on the decision, the newspaper said "the labeling of The Moscow Times as 'undesirable' is the latest of many efforts to suppress our reporting on the truth in Russia and its war in Ukraine. ... This designation will make it even more difficult for us to do our jobs.

Migration boosts EU population again in 2023

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: Migration into the countries of the European Union boosted its total population in 2023 even as births there continued to be outweighed by deaths, EU data released on Thursday showed.

After declines in 2020 and 2021 that were linked to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 27-country EU saw its population rise for the second consecutive year from 447.6 million to 449.2 million people over the course of last year. Net inward migration notably included the arrival of displaced people from Ukraine fleeing the war with Russia, EU statistics arm Eurostat said in a news release.

UK police detain crossbow attack suspect after 3 women killed

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: UK police said on Wednesday that a 26-year-old man was in custody after the wife and two daughters of a horse racing radio commentator were killed with a crossbow in a suspected "targeted" attack.

Kyle Clifford, 26, from Enfield in north London, was wanted in connection with the deaths of the three women in the town of Bushey, north of London, on Tuesday night.

The victims were Carol Hunt, the 61-year-old wife of BBC Radio and Sky Sports racing commentator John Hunt, and their two daughters, Louise, 25, and Hannah, 28, the broadcasters said. In a statement on Wednesday, police said Clifford, who was found by officers in Enfield, "was known to the victims" and no additional suspects were being sought.



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Luxembourg's Prime Minister Luc Frieden gather as they attend a meeting at NATO's 75th anniversary summit in Washington, U.S.

Spain PM at NATO summit rejects 'double standards' on Gaza

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Wednesday (Jul 11) urged the West to reject "double standards" regarding the conflict in Gaza as he joined NATO leaders in supporting Ukraine.

Spain under Sanchez has infuriated Israel's right-wing government by recognising a Palestinian state and criticising Israel's conduct in its war against Hamas.

"If we are telling our people that we are supporting Ukraine because

we are defending the international law, this is the same to what we have to do towards Gaza," he said at NATO's 75th anniversary summit in Washington.

The socialist leader said there should be a "consistent political position" in which "we don't have double standards".

Sanchez said the world needed to press to "stop this terrible humanitarian crisis" affecting the Palestinians and called for an international peace conference to push for a Palestinian state.

Lightning kills 38 in India's Uttar Pradesh state

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: At least 38 people have been killed across Uttar Pradesh state due to lightning during the last 24 hours, Indian media reported on Thursday.

The deaths have been reported as the state grapples with flooding, which brought normal life to a standstill.

With 11 deaths, Pratapgarh accounted for the most fatalities due to lightning strikes, followed by seven in Sultanpur, six in Chandauli, five in Mainpuri, four in Prayagraj.

Ukraine creates 'legion' to recruit men abroad to fight

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: The Ukrainian military has launched a new initiative to entice fighting-age men living abroad to enlist, as Kyiv desperately tries to replenish its depleted forces on the front lines.

The establishment of the so-called Ukrainian Legion comes after more than two years of fighting, which has seen heavy casualties drain the military of manpower needed to battle Russia's advancing forces.

Israeli army orders evacuation of devastated Gaza City

Monitoring Desk
GAZA STRIP: Israel's army dropped thousands of leaflets over war-torn Gaza City on Wednesday, urging all residents to flee a heavy offensive through the main city of the besieged Palestinian territory.

The leaflets, addressed to "everyone in Gaza City", set out designated escape routes and warned that the urban area, which had a pre-war population of over half a million, would "remain a

dangerous combat zone".

The warning came as Israeli troops, backed by tanks and aircraft, have fought Hamas and Islamic Jihad fighters in the heaviest combat the city has seen in months in the war raging since October 7.

In one operation, the army said it had killed fighters and found weapons inside the long-vacated Gaza City headquarters of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA.



Supreme Court clerks catalogue the documents received after human rights advocates filed an appeal against a ruling by a lower court that upheld a draconian anti-homosexuality law which includes the death penalty for certain same-sex acts at the Supreme court in Kampala, Uganda

Peter Welch becomes first Democrat senator to call on Biden to withdraw from presidential race

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US Senator Peter Welch on Wednesday became the first Democratic senator to call on US President Joe Biden to withdraw from the 2024 presidential race after his poor performance in his first debate with Donald Trump last month.

"We cannot unsee President Biden's disastrous debate performance. We cannot ignore or dismiss the valid questions

raised since that night," Welch wrote in a Washington Post op-ed.

Noting why he understands President Biden's desire to run, he said: "He saved us from Donald Trump once and wants to do it again."

"But he needs to reassess whether he is the best candidate to do so. In my view, he is not. For the good of the country, I'm calling on President Biden to withdraw from the race," he added.

China is building two-thirds of new wind and solar globally, report says

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Almost two-thirds of big wind and solar plants under construction globally are in China, where surging renewable capacity has squeezed coal's generation share to new lows, research released on Thursday showed. China is building 339 gigawatts (GW) of utility-scale wind and solar, or 64% of the global total, a report from US-based think tank Global Energy Monitor (GEM) found. That is more than eight times the project pipeline of the second-place US, with 40 GW.

China's pace puts the global goal to triple renewable capacity by the end of 2030 "well within reach" even without more hydro-

power, the report's authors said, calling on China to lift its targets in climate pledges to the UN next year.

Beijing is also on track to meet its own 2030 goal to install 1,200 GW of wind and solar by this month - six years early - Sydney-based think tank Climate Energy Finance said last week. Absorbing the boom in renewables remains a challenge for China's coal-centred grid and faster development of transmission lines is needed, GEM research analyst Aiqun Yu said. Still, the new capacity pushed renewable generation to record highs recently, according to a separate analysis published by Carbon Brief on Thursday.

Sister of Sicilian Mafia boss Messina Denaro gets 14-year sentence

Monitoring Desk
ITALY: The eldest sister of late Sicilian Mafia boss Matteo Messina Denaro has been sentenced to 14 years in prison for aggravated mafia association and receiving stolen goods, a judicial source said on Thursday. Messina Denaro was Italy's most wanted man until his arrest in January last year. He had spent three decades on the run, during which he was judged guilty of multiple murders, and died of cancer last September. His sister Rosalia was arrested in March 2023, and put on trial as prosecutors accused her of covering up for her fugitive brother.

BBC commentator's wife, two daughters murdered near London

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: British police launched a massive manhunt on Wednesday after three women, the wife and daughters of a BBC horse racing commentator, were killed in a leafy town outside London in an incident believed to have involved a cross-bow.

Officers discovered the three victims, aged 25, 28 and 61, with serious injuries at the house in Bushey, 20 miles northwest of London, on Tuesday evening. They died at the scene a short time later.

US to resume shipping 500-pound bombs to Israel, US official says

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden's administration will resume shipping 500-pound bombs to Israel but will continue to hold back on supplying 2,000-pound bombs over concerns about their use in densely populated Gaza, a US official said on Wednesday.

The US in May paused a shipment of 2,000-pound and 500-pound bombs due to concern over the impact they could have in Gaza during the war that began with Hamas' deadly Oct. 7 cross-border raid.

The administration's particular concern had been use of such large bombs in Rafah, where over one million Palestinians had taken refuge.

"We've been clear that our concern has been on the end-use of the 2,000-lb bombs, particularly for Israel's Rafah campaign which they

have announced they are concluding," a US official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

One 2,000-pound bomb can rip through thick concrete and metal, creating a wide blast radius.

The US official said the 500-pound bombs were put together in the same shipment with the larger ones that were paused and therefore got held up.

"Our main concern had been and remains the potential use of 2,000 lb bombs in Rafah and elsewhere in Gaza ... Because our concern was not about the 500 lb bombs, those are moving forward as part of the usual process," the official added.

The US has notified Israel that it is releasing the 500-pound bombs but keeping the hold on the larger ones, a person familiar with the matter said.

Dozens of int'l news groups urge Israel to allow Gaza access

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: More than 60 news organizations, including some of the world's largest, signed an open letter Thursday calling on Israel to immediately end restrictions on international media entering and reporting on Gaza.

CNN, the BBC, Agence France-Presse and the Associated Press were among 64 media groups demanding greater access to the enclave that has faced a withering assault by Israel since Hamas' deadly October 7 assault.

"We, the undersigned, request that Israeli authorities end immediately the restrictions on foreign media entering Gaza and grant independent access to international news organizations seeking to access the territory," states the letter, organized by the non-governmental Committee

to Protect Journalists.

"Nine months into the war, international reporters are still being denied access to Gaza except for rare and escorted trips arranged by the Israeli military," it adds.

"This effective ban on foreign reporting has placed an impossible and unreasonable burden on local reporters to document a war through which they are living."

More than 100 journalists have been killed since the start of the war, and those still covering the situation on the ground in Gaza "are working in conditions of extreme deprivation," it says.

"The result is that information from Gaza is becoming harder and harder to obtain and that the reporting which does get through is subject to repeated questions over its veracity."

Libya's High State Council rejects Parliament budget

Monitoring Desk
TRIPOLI: Libya's Tripoli-based High State Council (HSC) on Thursday rejected a budget approved by the eastern-based parliament, warning of more partition and wasting of public money. The rejection came in a letter from Council head Mohamed Takala to the House of Representatives speaker Aguila Saleh in Benghazi.

The House approved the budget in two different sessions, one at the end of April worth 90 billion Libyan dinars (\$18.5 billion) and another one on Wednesday called it an additional budget of 88 billion Libyan dinars.

The budget is for the Benghazi-based government of Osama Hamad, who came to power in March 2023 and is allied with the military

commander Khalifa Haftar, who controls the east and large parts of the southern region of Libya. The Council warned of what it described as "the House of representatives' persistence in its transgressions and managing public affairs by its sole will will only lead to more division".

A budget of about 179 billion Libyan dinars "is an unprecedented amount of money," the Council said.

Libya has had little peace since the 2011 NATO-backed uprising against Muammar Gaddafi and it split in 2014 between warring eastern and western factions. In Tripoli, there is the Government of National Unity headed by interim Prime Minister Abdulhamid al-Dbeibah, who was installed through a UN-backed process in 2021.

Bangladesh's top court suspends job quotas after student protests

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Bangladesh's top court on Wednesday temporarily suspended quotas for coveted government jobs after thousands of students staged nationwide protests against what they call a discriminatory system, lawyers said.

The quota system was abolished in 2018 after weeks of protests, but reinstated in June by Dhaka's High Court, sparking fury from students.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday suspended that order for a month, said lawyer Shah Monjurul Hoque, who represents two students seeking to end the quota system.

Hoque said that Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan had also requested that students return to class. Despite the call, student groups continued to block key highways and railway tracks, bringing traffic movement in much of the capital Dhaka and several major cities to a halt.

The quota system reserves more than half of well-paid and massively over-subscribed civil ser-

vice posts, totalling hundreds of thousands of government jobs, for specific groups including children of liberation heroes.

Students launched protests earlier this month, demanding a merit-based system, with demonstrations on Wednesday blocking highways and railway lines. "We will not return to classrooms until our demand is met," protest leader Rasel Ahmed of Chittagong University said.

Thousands of students on Wednesday threw up barricades across key intersections in Dhaka, as well as blocking major highways connecting the capital to other cities, police said.

Hemayetul Islam, deputy police chief in the northwestern city of Rajshahi said that "at least 200 students" blocked the highway to Dhaka.

"Brilliant students no longer get the jobs they want because of this quota system," said Halimatul Sadia, a protester and physics student at Chittagong University.



Students block a rail track as they protest to demand a merit-based system for civil service jobs in Dhaka.

All IMF conditions already met, Pakistan eyes \$6b bailout program: FM Aurangzeb

Says consultations with provinces on about tax on agricultural income

ISLAMABAD (INP): Finance Minister Aurangzeb has said that Pakistan wanted to get \$6 billion bailout package from the IMF as Islamabad has already met all IMF conditions.

Talking to media after attending a meeting of National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance, the Finance Minister said new loan program will be finalized this month.

He said climate change issues will also be discussed after the first review mission of the new loan program. The Finance Minister said climate financing funding was not being negotiated in current negotiations with IMF.

He said progress has also been made on improving income tax collections on agriculture and the consultations with provinces regarding agricultural income tax were underway.

Earlier, the National

Assembly Standing Committee on Finance meeting was held under the chair of MNA Syed Naveed Qamar to review the performance of the Finance Ministry.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb gave a briefing to the committee about the government's various initiatives to boost economic recovery.

Finance Minister Aurangzeb told the participants that all economic indicators remained positive during the last financial year 2023-2024 and foreign exchange reserves touched over 9 billion dollars while the inflation rate also declined gradually.

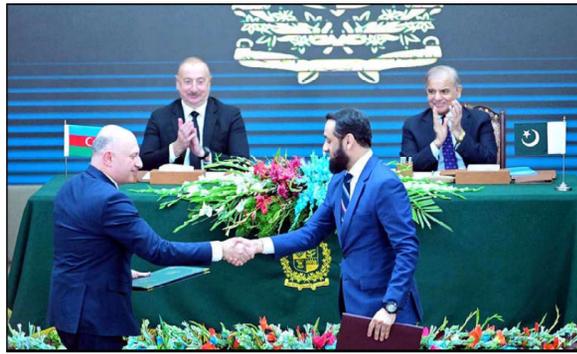
He said currency remained unstable due to a delay in IMF bailout program in 2023 but after the agreement, economic conditions improved, profits and dividends of foreign companies were being paid.

The Finance Minister claimed that due to the IMF program, the government was getting funds from other institutions. He said now World Bank has approved funding of 1 billion dollars for the Dasu Dam.

Aurangzeb claimed that nothing was being controlled artificially by the government, adding that there are no restrictions on imports and the assumptions about the value of the dollar were a thing of the past.

He said the value of the dollar will remain stable and the assumptions that the dollar will cross 400 were over. The Finance Minister said builders and developers were being taxed and the registration of retailers has started.

Aurangzeb said all four provincial ministers have agreed to agricultural income tax.



ISLAMABAD: President of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev and Prime Minister of Pakistan H.E. Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnesses the signing of MoUs and Agreements in various sectors between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan sign 15 agreements, MoUs to enhance bilateral cooperation in diverse fields

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Azerbaijan on Thursday signed 15 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) and agreements to promote bilateral cooperation in a range of fields including trade, commerce, tourism, mines & minerals, science technology, law & justice and cultural exchange programs.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev witnessed the signing ceremony held here at the PM House.

Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Azerbaijan Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Samir

Sharifov signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan on Consular Affairs. Preferential Trade Agreement between the government of Azerbaijan and the government of Pakistan was signed by Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan and Deputy Minister of Economy Azerbaijan Sahib Mammadov.

Similarly, an MoU on the cooperation between the Ministry of Economy of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Privatization of Pakistan in the field of

privatization of state property was signed by Minister for Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan and Deputy Minister of Economy Azerbaijan Sahib Mammadov. Another agreement on Transit Trade between the governments of Azerbaijan and Pakistan was also signed between the two countries. The two sides also agreed on a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Ministry of Justice of Azerbaijan and Minister of Law and Justice of Pakistan. The MoC was signed by Minister for Law Azam Nazeer Tatar and Azerbaijan Minister for Defence Industry.

Pakistan, Germany share rich history of diplomatic relations: Senate Chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani Thursday said that Pakistan and Germany share rich history of diplomatic relations founded in mutual trust, cooperation and a commitment to global peace and development.

"Germany is a valuable partner of Pakistan bilaterally and in the EU context and we are keen to further strengthen this partnership" he expressed these views in a meeting with a three member German parliamentary delegation led by Michael Muller, MP, German Bundestag.

The Chairman Senate specially mentioned the high level contacts and said

that Pakistan desires to promote more interactions at all levels, said a news release.

He also underscored the need to promote parliamentary exchanges between the two countries and said that high level political contacts help bring people closer.

He informed that the Senate of Pakistan was working on establishing friendship groups to promote people to people contacts for better understanding.

While appreciating the development cooperation, he expressed the desire to continue efforts for tackling climate change related challenge.



BEIJING: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Mr. Khalil Hashmi and Former Ambassador to China Naghmana Hashmi at welcome banquet hosted for dignitaries attending the high-level forum on the Action Plan for Global Development and a Shared Future organised by CIDCA.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani in a meeting with German Parliamentary delegation headed by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) at Parliament House.

MPA Maulana Hidayat elected as Chairman of Standing Committee for Fisheries, Food

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Member Provincial Assembly and Head of Haq Do Tehreek, Maulana Hidayatur Rehman was elected as the Chairman, Standing Committee of Balochistan Assembly for Fisheries, Food, Agriculture, Livestock, Dairy Development and Cooperative Society, here on Thursday. The election of Maulana Hidayatur Rehman as Chairman of the Standing Committee was held in its meeting at the Provincial Assembly with its members in attendance.

The members of Standing Committee unanimously elected as its chairman.

It may be mentioned here that chairmen of different Standing Committees of the provincial assembly have already been elected by their respective members.

The members of Provincial Assembly Fazal

Qadir Mandokhail, Syed Zafar Ali Agha and Mir Ghulam Dastagir Badini were elected as Chairmen of different standing committees of provincial Assembly on Wednesday.

The Standing Committee on Social Welfare, Women's Development, Zakat, Ushr, Hajj, and Auqaf Affairs met with its members in the attendance.

The members elected Fazal Qadir Mandokhel as Chairman of the Standing Committee. Similarly, the Standing Committee on Law, Parliamentary Affairs, Prosecution, and Human Rights held its meeting in the Provincial Assembly, electing Syed Zafar Ali Agha as Chairman while the Standing Committee on Industry, Labour, and Mineral Development held its meeting in the Provincial Assembly, electing Mir Ghulam Dastagir Badini as Chairman.

Naqvi visits Karachi, meets Dawoodi Bohra community leaders

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Naqvi visited Karachi and met with Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, the leader of the Dawoodi Bohra community, at the Burhani Palace.

He also visited the Shah Shaheedan Imam Bargah in Soldier Bazaar and reviewed the arrangements.

During the meeting with Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, his son Shahzada Hussain Burhanuddin was also present.

Interior Minister expressed good wishes for Saifuddin saying, "We welcome you to Pakistan with an open heart."

Your arrival is an honor for us. We have a relationship of respect and admiration with you, which will always remain the same." He added that the Dawoodi Bohra community is a peaceful and loving community.

Rapidly increasing population creating numerous problems in country, says Minister

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Livestock and Dairy Development, Bakht Muhammad Kakar has noted with concern that our country has become fifth most populous country in the world. There's no denying the fact that rapidly increasing population is creating numerous issues in the country including shortage of food, lack of accommodation, education and health facilities besides other basic amenities which otherwise are essential.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, the Provincial Minister referred to a recent report which mentioned that the population of world has increased to 8 billion. And if the population of world continued to increase with this proportion, then 2 to 4 billion people would be increased on globe in next 50 years.

He said that every possible steps are being taken by the provincial government to expand the circle of facilities of public healthcare and reproductive health at the grassroots level, adding he stressed.

He said that it is necessary to highlight the trends of increasing population in urban as well as remote areas of the province.

Youth kills stepmother, sister over domestic disputes

PANJGUR (INP): A pitiless youth gunned down his stepmother and sister over domestic disputes here on Thursday, police said.

According to detail, the incident took place in Sarkoran Paire Jhalag area of district Panjgur of Balochistan where an accused identified as Hayat opened fire at stepmother and stepsister after exchange of hot words over domestic issues.

As a result of firing, both mother and sister died on the spot and culprit fled the scene after committing dual murder.

The bodies were shifted to hospital for post-mortem and police after registering a case into the incident started raids to arrest the culprit.

DC Sibi chairs meeting on Solarization of tubewells

Independent Report

SIBI: A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Sibi, Jahanzeb Sheikh, to discuss the solarization of tubewells in the district. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Sibi, Jarallah Khan, Assistant Commissioner Lehri, Liyakat Jatoi, Deputy Director Agriculture Extension, Ghulam Mustafa, Deputy Director Agricultural Statistics, Iftab Rind, SDO KESCO, Amir Hamza, and others.

Khuzdar police meet with citizens action body

Independent Report

KHUZDAR: SSP Abdul Aziz Jakhri met with the new cabinet and council members of the All Parties Citizens Action Committee at the Municipal Rest House. The meeting aimed to discuss key issues and congratulate the newly elected officials. The attendees included committee members and police officers. The agenda focused on: Enhancing the traffic system, Combating drug abuse, Prohibiting aerial firing at celebrations, Taking action against nighttime troublemakers and groups, Banning the display of weapons

Tehsildar injured in Turbat firing

TURBAT (APP): Tehsildar of Turbat area was injured in a firing incident that occurred in Turbat, an area of Balochistan province, tv channels quoting police reported on Thursday evening. According to details, Tehsildar Sharijan was walking outside when unidentified persons opened fire. As a result, Tehsildar Turbat received bullet injuries.

DG BFA describes licenses essential for food business, directs concerned to ensure implementation

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Director General of Balochistan Food Authority (BFA) Attiquallah Khan has stated that acquisition of food business license is essential for the related business.

He said that the presence of food business license guarantees the business to be according to the law.

The DG directed to the people associated with the food business to get the licenses on priority basis and renew the existing licenses, otherwise they should be ready to face legal action.

The DG was presiding over the meeting about the initiatives of BFA at its headquarters on Thursday.

The matters about crackdown of teams in districts, overall performance of the operation and licensing wing and issuance of licenses of the food business licensing were discussed and reviewed in detail.

Directors, Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors of different departments participated in the meeting through video link.

Addressing the meeting, DG BFA directed to the Operation Wing to expedite activities against those doing food business without licenses.

He also directed to keep strict vigil on the outlets established at the main highways in order to ensure quality food to the passengers.

He also directed to accelerate action to stop supply of poor quality food to the people.

Jirga of Sanarzai tribe held in view of tribal enmity in Ziarat

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Sanarzai tribe held a tribal jirga in Killi Chawatra of Ziarat the other day.

The jirga was held in view of the existing tribal enmity in the area.

The tribal elders as

well as religious leaders and youngsters belonging to the Sanarzai tribe participated in the jirga.

After long discussion, it was decided to form 25-member committee which would prepare future course of action.

Commissioner Kalat directs to ensure foolproof security during Muharram in Hub

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Commissioner Kalat Division, Muhammad Naem Bazai has directed to the concerned high ups to ensure foolproof security during Muharramul Haram in Hub.

He said that foolproof security would be ensured to the Muharram processions and gatherings in the industrial city.

The Commissioner Kalat was presiding over meeting about security arrangements in Hub on Thursday.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Inspector General of Police, Kalat Range, Munir Sheikh, Deputy Commissioner Hub, Rohana Gul Kakar, SP Hub, Maroof Usman, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ali Raza Khosa, AC Hub, Muhammad Ali Durrani, AC Windar, Muhammad Hamza and other concerned officials.

During the meeting, security plan was discussed about security arrangements in Hub.

It was informed that comprehensive strategy has been prepared for security of Muharram processions and gatherings (majalis).

Addressing the meeting, Commissioner Kalat announced that there would be no permission to take out procession and hold gatherings except the approved routes and venues.

DIG Police said that personnels would be deployed according to the number of processionists.

He said that the special branch, traffic police and other field formations would perform their duties during Muharramul Haram.

The Commissioner and DIG Police directed to ensure implementation of the security SOPs as already devised by the Home department.

Besides, there would also be strict vigil on the movement of people included in the fourth schedule during Muharram.



QUETTA: Commissioner and Administrator Hamza Shafiq addresses during Ulema Workshop on Role of Ulema in Polio Eradication organized by Pakistan Polio Ulema Committee, held at Quetta press club.

Mir Jan Bugti terms missing persons issue a conspiracy against state

Independent Report

QUETTA: Tribal and political leader Mir Jan Muhammad Bughti has stated that while the issue of missing persons exists, many facts remain hidden. He expressed that protest is a democratic right, but using it as a cover for damaging public property and harming citizens is unacceptable. Bughti remarked that individuals who have gone into self-exile are also

being counted among the missing persons. He alleged that some missing persons have been found involved in terrorist activities. Bughti claimed that external agendas are being pursued under the pretext of missing persons, and conspiracies are being hatched to spread chaos in the country. He noted that anti-state slogans during protests reveal the true intentions of the conspirators.

The Commissioner expressed concern over the non-availability of blood grouping screening test in the laboratory, which is causing difficulties for patients and their attendants.

He directed the MS DHQ to arrange for the necessary equipment for the test immediately.

During the visit, the Commissioner also inspected the newly constructed building of the intensive care unit and directed the concerned authorities to complete the remaining work, including the installation of air conditioners, to make the facility functional.

Commissioner Sibi visits district HQs Hospital

Independent Report

SIBI: Commissioner Sibi Division, Syed Zahid Shah, visited the District Headquarters Hospital Sibi and inspected various wards, including the emergency ward, nursery ward, operation theater, OPD, dialysis unit, laboratory, and pharmacy. He also inquired about the medical care and treatment of patients in different wards.

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Commissioner urges scholars to play role for ending polio disease

Independent Report

QUETTA (APP): Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafiq urged the scholars, stakeholders and civil society members to play their role for the elimination of polio disease in order to save future of new generation.

He expressed these views on Thursday while addressing at a ceremony organized under the auspices of Rotary International regarding the role of

scholars in the eradication of polio. Addressing at the ceremony, Commissioner Quetta Hamza Shafiq said that the polio was such a deadly disease that if a child was infected once it becomes disabled for life.

He said that India, a country with a population of one and a half billion has eradicated polio disease in five years adding that many countries including Iran, Malaysia, Indonesia.

DC chairs meeting to discuss payment of compensation

Independent Report

JHAL MAGSI: A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Jhal Magsi, Syed Rahmatullah Shah, to discuss the payment of compensation to landowners and resolve other issues related to the OGDCL project in Jhal Magsi.

The meeting was attended by various officials, including Assistant Commissioner Jhal Magsi Faisal Shah Rashdi, SP Jhal Magsi

Subhan Ali Magsi, Tehsildar Gandawah Hadi Bakhsh Phoro, Tehsildar Jhal Magsi Arbab Khan Magsi, and Regional Coordinator (OGDCL) Akramullah Kasi, among others.

During the meeting, effective strategies were discussed to address the installation of gas pipelines, compensation for landowners, and other issues related to the OGDCL project in Jhal Magsi.



QUETTA: Inspector General Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh handed over these sized vehicles to the Chief Collector of Customs Balochistan Muhammad Yaqoob Mako during various operations by Quetta Police and Traffic Police.