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Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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Pakistan, Turkmenistan agree to deepen political, economic, defense cooperation

PM invites Turkmen companies to benefit from promising investment climate in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday invited the Turkmen companies to benefit from the promising investment climate of Pakistan and highlighted the role of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in facilitating foreign investors to invest in different sectors.

He also underlined the importance of regional cooperation and connectivity

and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to early completion of TAPI Pipeline as well as working together on other connectivity projects.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov who called on him at the PM House, PM Office Media Wing said in a

press release.

The prime minister expressed satisfaction at the holding of 3rd Round of Pakistan-Turkmenistan Bilateral Political Consultations, led by the two foreign ministers and stressed the need for regular engagements of all the institutional mechanisms between the two countries.

He also highlighted the need for enhanced trade, economic, investment and cultural relations between

Pakistan and Turkmenistan.

The prime minister fondly recalled his meeting with the Grand Leader of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov at Astana earlier this month and said that he was looking forward to welcome him in Pakistan at an early date.

Meanwhile Pakistan and Turkmenistan on Tuesday agreed to intensify their efforts for deepening

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ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan H.E. Rashid Meredov called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.



ISLAMABAD: Members National Assembly of Opposition parties sits outside Parliament House during hunger strike protest in favor of their demands in the Federal Capital.

PTI kicks off hunger strike to demand Imran Khan, other leaders' release

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) set up a symbolic hunger strike camp outside Parliament House in Islamabad.

The hunger strike camp continued from 3pm to 7pm. Opposition Leader in National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan led the camp.

PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar, Asad Qaiser, Shibli Faraz, Latif Khosa, and other central leaders of the party participated in the hunger strike camp. Other leaders of PTI including Sheikh Waqas Akram and Zartaj Gul also

participated. The PTI leaders announced that they would extend the scope of the hunger strike camp.

Shibli Faraz said the scope of the hunger strike camp would be extended to other assemblies. He said their mandate was stolen in the Sindh Assembly and announced a camp there as well.

The purpose of the camp is the release of the PTI founder. He said this was a symbolic protest for the release of the political workers. "They want to tell the world what is happening to them," Faraz said.



QUETTA: Chairman PM Youth Development Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan and Chief Executive Officer PPAF Nadir Gul Bareech distributing matching grants cheques among urban traders. Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani is also present

Pakistan desires peace and stability in Afghanistan: Durrani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador Asif Durrani, Pakistan's Special Representative to Afghanistan at a roundtable on Pak-Afghan relations on Tuesday said, "Pakistan desires peace and stability in Afghanistan."

He was speaking at a roundtable discussion on "Pak-Afghan Relations: Challenges and Opportunities" at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) here, a news release said. Ambassador Durrani stated that Pakistan desires socio-economic and political conditions in Afghanistan that would facilitate the return of over 3 million Afghan refugees currently residing in Pakistan.

He urged the international community, espe-

cially the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to come up with strategies for dignified return of Afghan refugees to their homeland.

He maintained that terrorism emanating out of Afghanistan was a concern not only for Pakistan but other neighbouring countries like China, Iran, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan as well. Therefore, he urged, the Afghan interim administration to take steps against terrorist groups.

Ambassador Durrani shared that Afghan interim administration's efforts for poppy eradication were acknowledged by the stakeholders concerned at the UN Doha meeting that concluded earlier this month.

New gas reserves discovered in Balochistan

QUETTA (INP): In a significant development, Mari Petroleum Company has successfully found new gas reserves from five wells in Balochistan.

The company has completed the testing, production, and transmission of an additional 3 million metric standard cubic feet per day (MMSCFD) of gas.

This development was announced following the submission of detailed reports to the Pakistan Stock Exchange.

According to Mari Petroleum, the natural gas extracted from the Ghazij Gas Field is now being supplied to Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL).

PM welcomes Beijing Declaration on Palestine's Unity govt

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has welcomed the Beijing Declaration, which involves an agreement among prominent Palestinian groups to unify and create an interim unity government.

The prime minister specifically praised the People's Republic of China for achieving this significant diplomatic milestone. In a statement on his official X account, the Prime Minister remarked that the people of Palestine have endured prolonged hardship and suffering.

The prime minister stated that Tuesday's agreement sparks hope for achieving lasting peace. He called for global solidarity with the Palestinian people and urged Israel to cease its aggressive actions, which have devastated Gaza and resulted in the deaths of approximately 40,000 innocent Palestinians over the past ten months.

Pak Navy takes over command of CTF-150 for 13th time

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Navy has taken over the command of Combined Task Force 150 (CTF-150) for the 13th time.

An impressive change of command ceremony was held at Headquarters US NAVCENT, Bahrain. Commodore Asim Sohail Malik of Pakistan Navy assumed the Command from Capt Mathews of Royal Canadian Navy.

Speaking on the occasion, Commodore Asim Sohail Malik assured that his team is fully geared up to efficiently shoulder this prestigious responsibility to contribute towards Maritime Security and Stability in the region.

PPP files review petition against reserved seats judgment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Tuesday filed a review petition to the Supreme Court of Pakistan against the verdict regarding reserved seats.

Advocate Farook H. Naek moved the petition on behalf of PPP and prayed the top court to review its judgment dated July 12.

The petition has named 11 respondents including Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).

Welcomes Chinese investment in Pakistan PM directs GPA to provide all facilities to Chinese companies

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, welcoming the Chinese investment in Pakistan, said that during his recent visit to China, a number of significant bilateral business-to-business agreements between companies of two countries, was a good sign in this regard.

The prime minister was talking to a delegation of Hengeng Trading Company led by Chairman Zhang Bin. The meeting was attended by Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanvir Hussain, Minister of State for Finance Ali Pervaiz Malik and other relevant

senior officials, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister said that Pakistan wanted to seek benefits from the Chinese experience in agriculture sector and directed Gwadar Port Authority for provision of all possible facilities to the Chinese companies. He also asked for ensuring uninterrupted supply of utilities at Gwadar Free Zone.

The prime minister was briefed that Hengeng Trading Company was investing in agriculture, livestock, medicines and other sectors of Pakistan.

The company was also constructing a slaughter house with all the latest facilities at Gwadar, at a cost of \$50 million.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari is signing the Christian Marriage (Amendment) Act 2024 into law in a special ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Signs Christian Marriage (Amend) Act into law President desires enhancement in jobs quota for minorities

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday reiterated that the minority communities living in Pakistan, enjoyed equal rights and stressed upon increasing jobs quota for them in different government departments.

Addressing a ceremony after signing Christian Marriage (Amendment) Act 2024 at the Aiwan-i-Sadr, the president said that he would write to the federal government to enhance the jobs quota in different departments including police, FIA etc, for the minorities.

"I will definitely write to the government and ask them for this," he said, adding there should be a quota for the minorities in every department.

The president said that all the citizens of the country had equal rights and urged the minorities to continue playing their role for the progress and prosperity of the country as this soil and land belonged to them as much as to him.

Mastermind of May 9 conspiracy confesses his crimes: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar Tuesday demanded strict action against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and its founder who, according to him, orchestrated and facilitated the May 9 conspiracy to attack more than 200 military installations, the Corps Commander House Lahore and other important buildings.

He said the PTI sought nothing but violence, chaos and anarchy to do political point scoring on the "dead bodies".



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Sadiq Umrani, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani, Mir Ali Madad Jattak, Parliamentary Secretary Meena Majeed Baloch and MPAs Mir Younis Aziz Zehri, Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch, Mir Zabid Ali Reki, Farah Azeem Shah, Mir Asadullah Baloch, Kalsoom Baloch and Molvi Hidayatur Rehman expressing their views during Balochistan Assembly session chaired by Speaker Captain (retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai

Joint resolution about Women Parliamentary Caucus approved: BA condemns attack Pakistan's consulate in Germany; desecration of national flag

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly has condemned the attack at Pakistan's consulate in Germany and desecration of the national flag there. The members of provincial assembly belonging to both treasury and opposition benches condemned the sorrowful incident and demanded action against those involved in it.

They were in the session of assembly, which was held with Speaker, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai in the chair on Tuesday.

The Speaker gave the ruling to bring joint resolution against the incident of

attack at the Pakistan's consulate in Frankfurt, Germany.

The Member of Provincial Assembly, Ms. Farah Azeem Shah raised the point of order and said that the incident of attack and desecration of Pakistani flag in Germany is sorrowful. She urged the House to unite against those attacked the consulate in Germany and desecrated the national flag there.

The Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Ali Madad Jatak also condemned the desecration of national flag in Germany. On the point, the Member provincial assembly belong-

ing to National Party, Rehmat Saleh Baloch stressed to bring joint resolution on it.

Similarly, the MPA Maulana Hidayatur Rehman Baloch condemned the desecration of national flag in Germany.

He said that he not only condemns the desecration of Pakistani flag in Germany, and so he condemns the police torture on women on sariab road.

He said that the use of might is condemnable whether it may take place. He said that the Minister Home should resign over the Sariab incident.

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Zhob can provide passage to people for other provinces & Afghanistan: Governor

Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail says there's key role of national highways in sustainable development and prosperity of country and Balochistan; expansion and construction of roads is very crucial for linking different provinces and cities of the country with one another

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has categorically stated that there's a key role of national highways in sustainable development and prosperity of the province and country and as such expansion and construction of roads is

very crucial for linking different provinces and cities of the country with one another.

In this regard, Zhob division has immense importance geographically as it can provide passage to whole Balochistan link with other provinces of the country and neighbouring Af-

ghanistan. Zhob is also the shortest and safest travelling passage to the federal capital, Islamabad.

These views were expressed by the Governor while speaking on occasion of the inauguration of Zhob

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Brazilian Naval Chief calls on Defence Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Naval Staff of Brazilian Armed Forces, Admiral Andre Luiz Silva Lima De Santana Mendes called on Federal Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Tuesday.

During the meeting, matters related to regional situation and bilateral cooperation, came under discussion, a news release said.

The Defence Minister said that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Brazil and intended to expand cooperation in all fields. Highlighting Pakistan's role in the region and its relation with neighbouring countries, the Defence Minister dilated on Pakistan's efforts to achieve peace and stability in the region.

Both the leaders exchanged views on enhancing and diversifying defence cooperation for which considerable potential exists between two countries.

The two sides also agreed on the institutionalization of defence cooperation through a Memorandum of Understanding. Moreover, regular exchange of trainees to each other's training institutions also came under discussion.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff of Brazilian Armed Forces, Admiral Andre Luiz Silva Lima De Santana Mendes called on Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

TTP targeting people through propaganda, direct attacks

ISLAMABAD (Online): In the heinous business of spreading unrest in the country, TTP is targeting the people of Pakistan through propaganda and direct attacks.

A series of recent attacks and targeted killing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has revealed the direct involvement of TTP in all such incidents in Pakistan.

In their recent attacks, TTP blew up the building of Government Girls Model School Fazal Elahi Kot in village Zirkai of Mir Ali with explosives. Besides, a teacher

named Meera Jan who has been teaching in the Tank for 26 years, was martyred by the TTP terrorists.

The targeting of schools and government buildings by this terrorist group and the targeted killing of teachers shows that the implementation on the recent secret call of the TTP leader Noor Wali Mehsud has already.

The recent martyrdom of innocent men, women and children by the TTP attack on the rural health center in DI Khan is also a link in this chain.

Intensified CASOs leaving trail of destruction in IIOJK: APMC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has deplored that intensified cordon and search operations by Indian forces in occupied Jammu and Kashmir are leaving a trail of destruction, warranting immediate attention and action from the global community to prevent further human rights abuses and ensure a lasting resolution to the Kashmir dispute.

APHC spokesman advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas in a statement issued in Srinagar said, the world's most militarized zone is witnessing a surge in CASOs, with districts like Rajouri, Poonch, Doda, Kathua, Samab, Reasi and Kupwara bearing the brunt of the brutal operations. Indian troops' actions have become the norm, with Kashmiris facing brutalization daily.

He said, the so-called CASOs have turned into a pretext for Indian forces to

kill, subdue, and intimidate the local population. Residential houses are regularly destroyed, and human rights violations are rampant.

The APMC spokesman said, the ongoing CASOs are widely seen as a revengeful policy aimed at silencing Kashmir's voice of freedom. The Modi regime's brutal measures have further worsened the already grim situation in the occupied territory. Despite the odds, Kashmiris remain determined to pursue their freedom struggle. He urged the international community to take notice of the Indian onslaught and intervene to rescue Kashmiris from oppression.

Meanwhile, APMC leader Shaikh Abdul Majid in a statement strongly condemned the Indian government's nefarious plan to allocate thousands of kanals of land in different districts of Kashmir to non-state subjects under

the guise of 'investment and industry'.

This move is a clear attempt to alter the demographic composition of the territory and marginalize the indigenous population. Besides being a blatant violation of the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, Shaikh Abdul Majid said, this scheme is designed to dispossess the local population and dilute their unique cultural and demographic identity.

Hurriyat leader urged the international community to force the Indian government to desist from such actions that threaten the peace and stability of the territory. He called upon all stakeholders to unite and raise their voices against this unjust and dangerous Indian plan. The Modi regime's brutal measures have further worsened the already grim situation in the occupied territory. Despite the odds,



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain and Ambassador of Egypt, Dr. Ihab Abdel Hamid along with others cutting the cake to celebrate the National Day of Egypt at Federal Capital.

Senate Committee reviews audit reports, calls for Adherence to transparency standards

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Senate Functional Committee on Devolution, chaired by Senator Dr. Zarqa Suhrawardy Taimur, convened today at the Parliament House.

The meeting discussed in detail the audit report regarding Federal Education and Professional Training, National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination. The chairperson of the committee pointed out that although the audit department raises valid objections, there is no action on those objections, the elephant is in the room. The officials maintained that once they

identify a glitch, they forward their observations to the administrative authorities.

Moreover, the officials from the audit department reported that the total number of audit paras printed in the audit reports of Federal Education, Professional Training, National Heritage, and Culture from 2010 to 2024 is 1,131, out of which 271 have been examined by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). Of these, 98 are settled, whereas 860 audit paras are pending. Similarly, in audit reports (compliance), the total number of audit paras printed is 905; of these, 254

audit paras have been examined, 97 are decided, and 651 are still pending. Furthermore, the officials, while reporting on the audit reports (compliance) of National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, stated that the total number of audit paras printed is 327, out of which 98 audit paras have been examined by the PAC, 29 are settled, and 229 audit paras are still pending. Additionally, the total number of audit paras printed in audit reports for special projects is 161, out of which 5 have been examined and 156 are pending.

CJ IHC unhappy over arrest of people without FIR

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice Islamabad High Court (IHC) Aamer Farooq on Tuesday expressed annoyance over arresting of citizen without any FIR and remarked that the court would pass an order regarding the matter. The Chief Justice remarked that an arrest couldn't be made mere on the wish of investigation officer, adding that whether someone could be arrested without any proof. He asked that whether it was necessary to arrest all the people sitting at PTI secretariat and if it was crime to sit in that office.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq gave these remarks during hearing of a case filed by PTI's activist Memon Kamal. DIG Operations Islamabad Police, Director Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and Additional Attorney General

appeared before the court. During the course of proceeding, the Additional Attorney General said that the FIA had registered a case against 12 accused including two women. The other people were released on personal sureties, he said.

The Chief Justice remarked that 32 people were arrested while the case was registered against 11. He said that 21 people were kept in illegal custody for ten hours. Whether all arrested people were wanted, he questioned.

The FIA's officials said that the mobile devices of ten persons were in its custody for technical analysis. The court questioned that under what law the mobiles were taken from the people who were not under arrest.

Further hearing of the case was then adjourned.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan, Dr. Ihab Mohamed Abdelhamid Hassan calling on Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain.

Pakistan, Egypt agree to enhance cooperation in religious education

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Tuesday said Pakistan intended to strengthen its relationship with Egypt in multiple areas of mutual interest, including religious education. He said this during a meeting with Egyptian Ambassador, Dr. Ihab Mohamed Abdelhamid Hassan who called on him at his office.

The two sides discussed ways to further enhance bilateral relations between Pakistan and Egypt.

Both the dignitaries also discussed to exchange mutual studies in enhancing the Masjid roles as center of religious, spiritual, social guidance and social services.

The ambassador informed about establishing an institution in Punjab affiliated with Al-Azhar University to impart religious education. He informed that 11 professors of Egypt were already teaching in different faculties in International Islamic University, Islamabad.

CDA, FCDO collaborate to transform Islamabad into a modern city

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman CDA Mohammad Ali Randhawa Tuesday met with FCDO British High Commission Development Director Joe Mayur and his delegation to discuss potential areas of cooperation for the development of Islamabad.

The meeting aimed to transform Islamabad into a brand city through various initiatives.

The CDA briefed the delegation on proposed projects to modernize Islamabad, including digitization of infrastructure and services, large-scale plantation to increase green cover,

digital parking management, and digital billboards for outdoor advertising.

It was decided to digitize property tax collection for increased efficiency and transparency.

The meeting also gave consent for technical assistance for obtaining carbon credits and formation of a joint working group to enhance cooperation and develop multi-term goals.

Chairman CDA Mohammad Ali Randhawa emphasized the importance of collaboration for sustainable and efficient projects to modernize and prosper Islamabad.

Resolving public issues purely on merit is our foremost priority: IGP

ISLAMABAD (APP): According to the details, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir

grievances on merit within the stipulated time frame and report back to the Central Police Office.

He directed all SDPOs



Rizvi, held a Khuli Katchery at the Central Police Office Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

During the katchery, he listened to the issues of citizens and police officers and issued directives on the spot for their resolution.

He said that, resolving citizens' issues on merit is our top priority. Negligence and carelessness in duties will not be tolerated. Any citizen facing any issue related to the police can come to the Khuli Katchery. My office is always open for my citizens, the IGP said.

IG Islamabad further directed the concerned officers to resolve the citizen

and SHO to adhere to the designated office hours and prioritize resolving citizens' issues. He strictly directed the officers to continue the crackdown against land grabbers and bring them to justice.

On this occasion, the IG Islamabad said that the Islamabad Police are taking various measures for the facilitation of citizens. The daily holding of Khuli Katchery helps in resolving issues on a priority basis, he added.

Moreover, all zonal officers and SHOs are directed to meet citizens during the designated office hours and resolve their issues promptly and on merit.



ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Standing Committee Meeting on Maritime Affairs under the Chairmanship of Abdul Qadir Patel, Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Federal Secretary Maritime and senior officials of Ministry and KPT were present.

NA body on Maritime Affairs on song to bridge gap between KPT, KDLB

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Maritime Affairs in its meeting held here on Tuesday under the Chairmanship of Abdul Qadir Patel in the Parliament House invited the representatives of the joint action committee of Karachi Dock Labour Board (KDLB) to resolve their issues with Karachi Port Trust (KPT).

The committee took serious view of the KDLB workers sit-in staging in front of KPT headquarters in Karachi. After listening the demands raised by KDLB protesters Standing Committee directed the Ministry of Maritime Affairs to prepare a new SRO through which the members of DOK workers in KDLB Board may be increased up to 5 to maintain a balance in the Board as per past practice.

The committee recommended that the Ministry of Maritime Affairs should arrange a meeting of KDLB representatives with the Minister for Maritime

Affairs and all other stakeholder in KP within 2-3 days to resolve their genuine demands and for ending their protest in front of KPT headquarters Karachi.

The committee noted that the term of Executive Officer of KDLB has been expired and strongly recommended that in order to bring transparency in the KDLB affairs. A fresh advertisement for the post of Executive Officer of KDLB may be published in leading newspapers across the country.

The committee deferred the remaining agenda for the next meeting.

Besides, Chairman of the Standing Committee Malik Shakir Bashir Awan, Kesoo Mal Kheal Das, Jam Abdul Karim Bijar, Syed Rafiullah, Sardar Nabil Ahmed Gabol, Hassana Sabir, Pullain, Syed Shah Ahad Ali Shah, Shahid Ahmad, Muhammad Arshad Sahi, Khurram Munawar Manj and Muhammad Usman Badini, MNAs also attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan Ex-Servicemen Society (PESS) retired Lt-Gen. Abdul Qayyum Adhry addressing a press conference at press club in the city.

Police to form special squads for action against signal violators

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police has decided to accelerate efforts to ensure implementation of traffic laws and take strict action against those involved in violation of red-signal, a public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Police have decided to constitute special squads for taking stern action against those violating red signals.

A special campaign is underway to check violations while various squads are performing duties at main roads and boulevards of the city and taking action against the violators. Efforts are underway to ensure a disciplined traffic

system in the city. Islamabad Police personnel have been directed to ensure implementation on traffic rules and regulation irrespective of status and rank and demonstrate patience and politeness while issuing traffic violation tickets to the road users.

The Islamabad Police are utilizing all available resources to facilitate the general public. The force issues traffic violation tickets not as a punitive measure but the purpose is to ensure a safe road environment in the capital and secure the lives of the people.

The education wing is also directed to give awareness to the road users about traffic laws and Islamabad Police FM Radio 92.4 to air special programs in this regard.

IHC removes objection on plea for restoration of PTI's website

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday removed the objection of Registrar office on a petition against the blockage of PTI's official website.

The court instructed the Registrar office to fix the case again for hearing on July 26.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case along with the objections of Registrar office. The petition was filed by PTI's leaders including Omar Ayub and Shibli Faraz.

The petitioners had adopted the stance that the official website of PTI has been blocked. The purpose of the website was to keep the public updated about the activities of PTI, it said.

It said that the website was carrying the manifesto of PTI and information about the leadership. The public were given the information about the candidates of PTI through this website, it said.

The petition prayed the court to issue directives for the restoration of the website.

IFA cracks down on poor sanitation in city hotels

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) on Tuesday took a strict action against the hotels of the Federal Capital and sealed a kitchen of a famous hotel for violating sanitation standards.

Talking to APP, Deputy Director Operations (DDO) of IFA, Dr Tahira Siddique said that during the inspection, the food safety teams (FSTs) found the hotel's kitchen in poor sanitary condition. The team discovered fungus-tainted meat and rotten vegetables being used for food preparation. The kitchen was also infested with cockroaches, posing a significant health risk to customers.

Dr Tahira Siddique, who leads the IFA's operations, stated that these inspections are part of a broader initiative to ensure all food establishments in Islamabad maintain high standards of cleanliness and food quality.

She emphasized that providing safe and quality food to citizens was the authority's top priority.

The IFA was committed to continuing its rigorous checks across the city to safeguard public health and ensure that all food outlets comply with hygiene regulations, she added.

Naqvi directs CDA to ensure timely drainage of Water from low-lying areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Following heavy rainfall in Islamabad, Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to remain alert.

Minister called CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa and directed him to expedite the drainage process under his supervision, ensuring timely drainage of water from low-lying areas. He also directed that relevant officers and

staff must remain in the field until the drainage work is completed.

While directing regular monitoring of Islamabad's streets, drains, and waterways, he emphasized ensuring water drainage at underpasses and other locations. He also instructed traffic police to proactively perform their duties to maintain traffic flow. He stated that additional resources should be deployed in the water drainage efforts.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja chairing Executive Committee meeting on Islamabad digitalization plan.

NCSW hosts conference on women with disabilities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) on Tuesday hosted a groundbreaking national conference on women with disabilities as part of its esteemed series, "The Next Horizon".

This significant event convened experts from across Pakistan to chart a progressive path forward for the empowerment of women with disabilities.

Chairperson NCSW, Nilofar Bakhtiar in her opening remarks, underscored the pressing need to address the challenges faced by differently abled women in Pakistan. She highlighted the critical importance of making public spaces universally accessible and ensuring comprehensive support in health and education sectors.

Deputy Representative of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Latika Maskey Pradhan lauded NCSW's efforts and reaffirmed UNFPA's commitment to

empowering all women in Pakistan, advocating for a healthier and more inclusive society.

Senator Mahesh Kumar, the chief guest of the inaugural session, pledged his unwavering support for the empowerment of differently abled women in Pakistan. He emphasized the need for societal reforms to foster inclusivity and equality.

Federal Secretary for Law and Justice, Raja Naeem Akbar, reiterated the ministry's dedication to providing equal opportunities for all citizens. Federal Secretary for Education, Mohyuddin Wani, expressed his commitment to crafting inclusive education policies.

Federal Secretary for Human Rights, Allah Dino Khawaja, announced the forthcoming launch of the Integrated Social Welfare System, a groundbreaking initiative designed to provide comprehensive support to persons with disabilities.



ISLAMABAD: People standing under the bus shed at Expressway to take shelter during rain that experienced the Federal Capital.

IRSA releases 320,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 320,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 323,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1515.60 feet and was 117.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 181,500 cusecs and 190,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam



ICT admin ramps up efforts to combat dengue threat

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a bid to combat the rising threat of dengue fever, the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration has launched a city-wide surveillance and crackdown operations to prevent the spread of the disease.

Under the direction of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, all the Assistant Commissioners have been deployed across the city to conduct intensive dengue surveillance activities.

The ICT's administration spokesman said the district administration is working to eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites and ensure hospitals are equipped to handle dengue cases.

Low to medium flood likely in rivers Chenab, Ravi in next 36 hours

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Flood Forecasting Division (FFD) has said that low to medium flooding is expected in the river Chenab at Marala, Khanki and nullahs of the river Ravi during the next 36 hours due to wet spell.

Similarly, medium level flood is also expected in Rivers Jhelum and Chenab, including nullahs of River Chenab during Wednesday to July 30 due to moderate to very heavy rainfall.

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Frankfurt vandalism

The state needs to seek serious answers from the German authorities regarding the July 20 mob attack targeting Pakistan's consulate in Frankfurt. A crowd of around 400 protesters — some holding aloft tricolour Afghan flags used before the Taliban takeover — had descended on the consulate in the German city. Later, protesters stormed the premises, "endangering the lives of ... consular staff", as per the Foreign Office. There were also reports of protesters trying to remove the Pakistani flag and pelting the mission with stones. German state media has said the demonstrators were highlighting "complaints" against Pakistan's defence institutions. As the government has pointed out, under the relevant Vienna Conventions, it is the responsibility of the host government to protect foreign missions on their soil. If, for example, a foreign mission had been stormed in Pakistan, all hell would have broken loose, and Pakistan would have been derided for its 'poor' security protocols. Therefore, the German authorities need to explain how a mob of hundreds was able to descend on a foreign mission and storm it relatively unhindered. They must also ensure that such ugly attacks, which endanger lives, are not repeated.

Segments within Afghan society have for decades harboured an anti-Pakistan bias, and it is likely the protesters were inspired by them. Pak-Afghan relations have been testy since independence — Afghanistan voted against Pakistan's entry to the UN — while matters have turned more complicated over the years as Afghanistan has suffered from internal unrest, foreign invasions, insurgencies and terrorism. There is little doubt that Pakistan's own record vis-à-vis Afghanistan has hardly been stellar. Past mistakes and flawed policies must be acknowledged and avoided. Moreover, Pakistan should never again allow itself to be sucked into the proxy war of global powers. The legacy of war, following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, left Pakistan with millions of Afghans on its soil. Each new conflict has compounded the issue. Aggressive international diplomacy is now needed by Pakistan to address the problem of refugees as well as to improve ties with Kabul — in the latter case, through a frank discussion about the past and present and the need for both sides to cooperate to contain violence. Unfortunately, a long history of hate and mistrust — which underpins both Pakistan's ties with Kabul and the violence of the (anti-Taliban) protesters in Frankfurt — will be difficult to overcome.

Arifa Noor

Much has been predicted on TV this past week about the dark fate awaiting the PTI. There was a lot of finger-wagging as those in the know made dire predictions about Imran Khan not being acceptable (been there); the party not being given its reserved seats (done that) and also being banned (here we go again).

This may make for repetitive television, but the party's real challenge is different; in order to understand it, one should pay attention to KP. Here the party enjoys unprecedented popularity. But it now faces growing pressure of the workers, who are said to be getting impatient. After all, the party's support base withstood months of suppression to stand victorious in an election.

But it has little to show for this victory. For months now, there have been whispers that the party's rank and file is getting worked up — over kidnappings and disappearances still taking place in Punjab, with at least one reported case in

KP; over Imran Khan's incarceration; and over the KP government's inability to hold accountable officials who had spent months and weeks before the elections hounding the PTI. (The incident in which party workers nearly attacked Omar Ayub the day the iddat case verdict was announced, and Khan and his wife were not released is a case in point.)

Such is the pressure that it is repeatedly mentioned that Khan is not happy with his chief minister because he has been unable to institute a commission to look into May 9. More serious still, rumours have begun of how the chief minister won the election and made it to the province's hot spot not only because he was Khan's choice but also the establishment's.

As time passes and the provincial government is unable to cater to the people's interests, these rumours will not just undermine his authority, they might make him unpopular with the party base. This will create problems for the party. To some extent, this was

at display during the Bannu incident.

Once the protest by the people ended in violence, the initial reaction from the provincial government was vague and anodyne. First Barrister Saif, an aide to the chief minister, announced a committee followed by a commission to determine what happened. After this came a two-page statement from the provincial home department, which seemed to have all the facts at its disposal and that laid out the events of July 19. Whether these facts were determined by the committee or the commission is hard to tell from the press release, which says a formal inquiry will be held.

According to this press release, on July 19 some "miscreants" pelted stones and "set ablaze the tents" and "resorted to Small Arms fire", because of which the "Police ... endeavoured... to take them out of the sensitive area". Then we are told, "during this melee, 01 individuals [sic] regrettably lost his life".

But the matter didn't end here, for late

at night on the same day, the chief minister issued a video statement, which is about as clear as the Jan 13 Supreme Court judgement on PTI's symbol. Its interpretation, like beauty, might lie in the eye of the beholder.

The chief minister spoke of how he had told the police to not spare those armed people who pretended to be associated with sarkariidaaray. He added that he, his police and the ordinary people had reservations about these 'elements' or armed people.

Interestingly enough, the jirga (comprising those who were protesting in Bannu), which was to meet the chief minister on Monday, released its set of demands. The list is rather long so I will reproduce the first few demands. The first rejects Operation Azm-i-Istehkam; the second asks that centres established by 'good and bad Taliban' should cease to exist; the third asks that police be allowed to patrol at night.

Suffice it to say the video statement seems to be a bid to appease the

people, who continue to believe that good and bad Taliban exist, though few believe the police will be able to do all that the chief minister ordered.

But I digress. The point I wanted to make was that the chief minister and his government face the same problem in Punjab and at the centre. Staying in power means not going against the powers that be. This lack of space eventually pushes a wedge between the political parties in power and the people; the distance between the latter and the state is growing wider by the day.

Indeed, the grip of the establishment is so tight that there is little left for parties to govern or to decide on. And those left to wear the crown of thorns are accused of being pliant, or worse, puppets. This is true of Shehbaz Sharif at the centre and it is also being said of Ali Amin Gandapur in Peshawar.

Another way of explaining this is to rewind to the PTI decision to dissolve the Punjab and KP assemblies. Even though

the party itself accepts that it was a mistake, it is noteworthy its leadership had said more than once before the dissolution that it enjoyed little power then. But had it not done so, chances are it would have lost credibility with the voters who would have been angry at the party for being too willing to enjoy power, perks and privileges while failing to deliver anything to the people. The reason for its performance on Feb 8 was because it was out of power.

This is not to say the party should resign again and go home, but to point out that the state needs to heed this crisis of distrust. It has to provide space to the political parties, allow them to act independently and take steps to address the people's concerns.

Otherwise, all the political parties will either become irrelevant or be forced to take an anti-state position. Both paths lead to more political instability and violence. The choice is for the state — and less so, the parties — to make. -- Courtesy Dawn

The people's distrust**Communalism and the budget**

Jawed Naqvi

There was a time in India when the display of wealth and conspicuous consumption was frowned upon as an immorality associated with parvenu classes. Leaving food on the plate was similarly considered sinful. There were good reasons. Shiploads of wheat and milk powder were procured from the US under the PL480 deal paid for in rupees. Not being wasteful was also a way of teaching the young to be sensitive about the visitations of the manmade Bengal famine, triggered by the siphoning of food for Britain's war effort.

The stock market too was seen as villainous, and it was censured persuasively in popular poetry and movies. Dev Anand's Kaala Bazar, Raj Kapoor's Shree 420 and Dilip Kumar's Footpath shone at the box office as successes that projected the lure of easy money as a social evil. Food adulteration and spurious medicines marketed by unscrupulous magnates were condemned as obstacles to nation building, as was the widespread stealing of the

peasant's land by moneylenders. Since Nehru fired his finance minister over allegations of corruption, levelled by his own son-in-law, the public was sanguine about the government's probity. Ministers like Lal Bahadur Shastri set the bar high by example. He quietly resigned as railway minister owning responsibility for a fatal train accident, unthinkable today.

The budget was presented in the Lok Sabha at 5:30 pm in keeping with a British tradition. Its highlights came unburied as headlines in the morning dailies. Yes, a day before the budget, cigarette shops would remove the more popular brands from the shelves and put them back at marginally higher prices a day later to accord with the new taxes. The overnight hoarding would fetch the vendors a small windfall. Likewise, suspending the sale of vegetables, dairy items, bread, etc. ahead of the budget would produce a small gain for the vendors. Police would raid ration shops if hoarding of essential commodities was suspected.

In the corridors of the parliament house, reams of

budget papers were packed securely in unwieldy gunny bags weighing several kilos. As the finance minister finished the speech, couriers would line up with special tokens, would rush the sacks to the news editor's room of business dailies or to the offices of magnates where expert teams pored over the fine print to take a quick profitable call.

Manmohan Singh's embrace of the free market economy in 1991 tipped the social balance in favour of tycoons and punters who were until then kept on a short leash. Nehru had jailed the most prominent of business magnates. Indira Gandhi nationalised their banks, and Rajiv Gandhi forbade the lot against "riding on the backs of Congress workers". Which explains the business-backed Narendra Modi's call to rid the country of the Congress party. It also explains Rahul Gandhi's persistence in projecting the underclass, the indebted peasants, the unemployed youth, students traumatised by a dubious system for competitive tests to professional colleges, and of course, runaway food prices, as

areas needing urgent redress.

A curious feature of Manmohan Singh's pro-business budgets and those of his successors has been that they were seldom discussed threadbare as budgets ought to be. The key reason was that Singh's advent as a globally applauded economic wizard and L.K. Advani's rise as a Hindutva rabble-rouser arrived intriguingly together.

In the run-up to the demolition of the Babri mosque in 1992, few noticed that the Rao government had bribed a group of MPs from Jharkhand to vote to pass Singh's budget. The bribe-takers were later jailed but only after the completion of the pro-market Rao government's term. The budget speech became more sacrosanct as it began to be televised to world markets. A debate on the budget, if any, hardly made it to the headlines.

The national budget presented on Feb 28, 2002, by the Vajpayee government underscored a tragic disconnect between the ruling elite and a troubled country. Involved TV discussion on the priorities for the markets led

up to the finance minister's speech. Both kept up the pretence until then as if nothing was happening in Gujarat, where mobs had a free run of towns and villages attacking Muslim shops and homes, raping and killing at will under the government's nose. The moment the speech was over, the cameras panned to the billowing smoke in Ahmedabad, which was in fact set off very early in the morning.

Headlines anticipating today's (Tuesday) budget were therefore unsurprising. The opposition would corner the government over two issues, they said, both unrelated to the budget. The spike in fatalities of troops in Jammu in clashes with armed men is on the agenda. The opposition says the encounters belie claims of normalcy in the Himalayan region the government claimed would come with the 2019 abrogation of Kashmir's special status. The police chief has added fuel to the inferno, accusing pro-Delhi mainstream politicians of helping militants.

The second distraction for the opposition from the proposed bud-

get is also not original. Shiva-worshipping kanwariyas, so-called for the two pots of sacred Ganga water they carry by foot to distant temples, do the pilgrimage this time of the year. Their march over several weeks through crowded cities like Delhi causes serious traffic disruptions. The BJP government in UP has made it worse.

Food vendors along the route were ordered to display their names so that the Hindu kanwariyas would not accidentally eat food from a non-Hindu vendor. The supreme court on Monday stalled the nefarious order, but the polarising fiat has done its bit for the ruling party ahead of crucial by-polls to the state legislature due later this year. And so, the top one per cent of people, comprising India's super-rich, continue to hold 53pc of the nation's wealth. The bottom 50pc owns a miserable 4.1pc, and over 810 million people survive on five kilograms of free grain distributed by the government. Communalism is prospering, as are free market buccaneers.

On the edge, again

Dr Niaz Murtaza

We are at a familiar spot today — on the edge of a deep precipice where we land every few years during intra-elite conflicts where some elites act unconstitutionally. We are there for the third time in three years due to the same PTI-establishment tussle as no side has won and imposed order.

The last such long tussle was in the 1950s between political parties and the bureaucracy, which ended in 1958 when our alpha institution trumped both to impose its hegemony till today. It now faces a broad middle-class axis led by the PTI. It has not been able to crush the PTI, despite the no-trust vote, crackdown, rigged polls and false cases. The PTI has been reduced to waging mental warfare since May 9 — gung-ho talk from jail, social media abuse and global cribbing — as against its disruptive street war earlier. Yet, even mere mental sledging is giving powerful people sleepless nights.

Court verdicts have hurt too as they have showed spine on PTI cases, buoyed by strong currents flowing in its favour. The Supreme Court rightly undid the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) original sin in misreading its order on just denying the party its electoral symbol to actually barring the PTI totally from polls, treating its candidates as independents and depriving it of regular and reserved seats. Yet, ignoring this, the PML-N alleges that the court rewrote the Constitution to give the PTI unfair benefit that it didn't even seek and when it wasn't even a party to the case. But no law bars the apex court

from giving relief that no one seeks or to a third party. It has done both, as in suo motu cases and the 62(1)(f) case where Nawaz Sharif profited too. Doing so, using the 'complete justice' clause (187), also makes eminent sense when all pleas of parties to a case violate laws and/or do substantive injustice, as in this case.

Giving reserved seats to the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) violates the law that parties must submit their reserved seats lists before polls and overly rewards a small party adopted by the PTI only due to the ECP's fault. Giving them to other parties violates the law on awarding them in line with parties' Assembly strengths and creates the injustice of rewarding some parties who many say plotted to keep the PTI out of polls. Even leaving them vacant violates the constitutional clause on the number of such seats for women and minorities and deprives weak groups of full representation.

Thus, it gave a verdict that ensured justice, since the seats are fairly PTI's, and violated no law, even if it helped a third party (that is actually seeking such relief from the court in cases like the bat case review). The Supreme Court simply reversed the ECP's wrong act and extended the deadline for independents to join a party as the ECP's wrong bar on the PTI from polls didn't let them run on PTI tickets or join the party during the initial deadline for independents, forcing them to join the SIC.

Such legitimate extensions fall under Article 254 and happen when people can't use their rights by a deadline (for example, due to ex-

ternal factors such as floods). In the PTI no-trust case too, the Supreme Court extended the voting deadline. Thus, the PML-N has itself benefited often from court decisions it now calls unfair.

An angry PML-N says it will work to ban the PTI and file Article 6 cases against it. This reflects its apprehension that two bigger decisions may be delivered that could cause its set-up to fall: free Khan and decide Form 47 cases. But its panic is creating instability. It must remain calm and keep delivering in case there are early polls. The main issue now is not reserved but regular rigged seats; the main target now is not the PTI but the courts; the main concern is not Islamabad but Pindi. We are again at the edge of an abyss as legal lines might be crossed to banish the PTI if legal and borderline ways fail.

This conflict offers little to the masses. Whoever wins — the PML-N, PTI or the establishment — will rule as badly as before. The establishment's new hybrid set-up, like the PTI one, is failing as political and economic stability and security remain elusive due to misrule, the TTP and delayed Gulf billions. It is high time it quit politics. Politicians too must act maturely and jointly pursue political legitimacy via fair polls.

While all of them are inept, regular polls may force them to do well or lose to better new parties.

Punjab's politics especially has become truly competitive with two major parties that can't afford not to perform. Thus, the public mandate must be allowed to cleanse politics. -- Courtesy Dawn

Animal farm

Shahzad Sharjeel

What is common between Jackie Kennedy, Melania Trump, and Princess Nefertitabet who lived more than 4,000 years ago in Egypt? All three are known to have draped themselves in leopard print dresses. Only the pharaohs were old money and did not mind faux over fur as leopard spots; to be precise, rosettes were commonly printed and woven into fabric in ancient Egypt.

According to an NYT story, Ms Kennedy's jacket was made from pelts of many wild leopards killed for their lustrous coat. Estimates indicate that some 250,000 leopards were killed in the fashion frenzy ignited by Jackie's sartorial choice.

Appalled by the ever-increasing list of endangered animals, conservationists, fashionistas, and animal rights activists have launched a movement calling for royalties for the species appropriated in any commercial product. The royalties, even if levied in pennies, can raise millions that can be directed towards the well-being of the species.

The leopard print is also a favourite in Pakistan; we call it the 'cheetah print', as it is an oft-used misnomer for a whole range of the Panthera family. If the royalties for appropriation trend catches on, owls, billy goats, and jackasses will stand to benefit the most here.

Not sure how many readers remember the anthropomorphic mascot of a US tobacco company, Joe Camel, aka Old Joe. Created for an advertisement campaign in France and later used in the US, the company stopped using it in 1997 after the Journal of the American Medical Association published a study that led to a lawsuit claiming the mascot made smoking popu-

lar among children.

Fast forward to the camel criminal who went about ordering the mutilation of an animal for trampling on his crops recently. This barbaric act has been wrongly described in the media as an amputation that is usually carried out under strict medical supervision, ensuring against pain and a series of measures to deal with PTSD.

Our diminishing faith in humanity was somewhat restored by offers that poured in to provide medical aid, a prosthetic limb for the leg chopped below the knee, and permanent shelter for the poor animal. The accused has so far faced no serious accountability. Some strawmen have been produced as the executors of this atrocity. While it remains to be seen if the real culprit will ever be awarded a punishment in keeping with the heinous nature of the crime, the accused now has the prefix of 'wadera', a much-maligned honorific, courtesy of its caricatures in the media, added to his name. In the good old days, the title referred to a family or community elder; its feminine, 'waderi', though much less used, does exist.

Historically, cruelty to animals has evoked consequences both divine and temporal. According to the scriptures, an entire nation paid the price for the ill treatment of the prophet Saleh's she-camel.

The British colonialists may never have had any qualms about mistreating an entire people living under their yoke, but they did initiate animal rights legislation in the subcontinent. Our subsequent masters have shown similar disdain for the masses; however, the same degree of empathy for the four-legged creatures has been

missing.

This brings to mind an English sahib named Eric Blair. His father was an opium agent in India. Born in Bengal and raised in Bihar, Eric oversaw floggings and hangings as a 19-year-old policeman in Burma. After returning to England, it seems he got in touch with the more humane side of his character and authored that most quoted line, "All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others". Yes, this is the same man the world came to know as George Orwell of Animal Farm fame.

It is hard to talk of 'wadera' and leave out the 'waderay ka beta' (son of the wadera), another archetype of a spoilt brat of privileged ancestry. This tragicomic caricature was made famous by a rap artist who pointed out that not just the lord himself but his dog demands to be treated like a lord.

Not too long after the song was released, a brown sahib lost his dog on a foreign assignment to Pakistan.

Many a serf who never bothered to refill a birdbath trudged to the sahib's mansion to offer condolences on the junior lordship's demise.

For weeks, a pall of gloom hung over the mansion, and all people could talk about was the spiritual experience of attending the junior's last rites, complete with sitting on the ground around incense-burning censers, flower petals, and wreaths covering the soon-to-be cremated remains. The mansion's lawn was turned into a temporary crematorium. Environmental and social safeguards are for the less equal farm animals.

Who knows, maybe this sahib too may have found his humane side; it gives an entirely new meaning to Orwellian, no? -- Courtesy Dawn

KhUJ office bearers call on Governor; pledges to enhance journalists' skills, resolve problems

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday reaffirmed his commitment to address the province's challenges as well as the problems of journalists community.

He said this during a meeting with the delegation of Khyber Union of Journalist (KhUJ) led by President Nasir Hussain, Senior Vice Presidents Abdul Baseer Qalander, Bukhar Shah Bacha, Muhammad Naem and others.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi emphasized the importance of constructive criticism in fostering societal improvement, stating that prioritizing peace is essential for economic progress. He urged the chief minister to convene cabinet and apex meetings regarding recent incidents of lawlessness, stressing that security is paramount for development.

Highlighting the significance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he acknowledged the adverse conditions around the Dera Ismail Khan economic zone, proposing enhanced economic zones near CPEC routes. Governor Faisal Kundi commended KP athletes for their achievements across various fields, citing PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's recent visit to Peshawar as a morale booster for provincial sports. He underscored empowerment for women and youth as crucial for fostering progress.

He pledged to enhance journalists' skills and resolve their problems on priority basis.

Governor Faisal Kundi also expressed his intent to collaborate closely with the federal



PESHAWAR: A delegation of Khyber Union of Journalists meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi.

CM directs admin, WASA to remain in field till complete drainage of rainwater

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed district administration and Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) officials to reach the field and take immediate steps to drain out rainwater in all cities including Lahore.

She said that continuous work should be done for the drainage of rainwater from roads and low-lying areas, adding that after rain, water should not be seen in the streets and markets.

The CM said traffic police should clear roads at the earliest to avoid traffic jams. All necessary steps should be taken to manage traffic in Lahore and other cities. She directed traffic wardens to actively perform duties in the field to facilitate citizens.

CM Maryam Nawaz said that administration and residents should be active and all resources should be used for the drainage of rainwater, adding that timely transfer

Now entire nation knows about digital terrorists: Azma

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Information and Culture Azma Bokhari has said that the entire nation now knows who digital terrorists are and who is behind them.

In a press statement issued here on Tuesday, she said the younger generation is being incited against the country's security institutions through systematic planning. "The children of the person conspiring against the country are living a luxurious life in London. Pakistan's youth should stay away from the agenda of this disruptive party," she added. She mentioned that parents should learn a lesson after the events of May 9.

"A specific group and their facilitators are causing unrest, disorder, and divisive politics in Pakistan under their agenda. A progressing and developing Pakistan is not acceptable to this group. They continuously create new obstacles against the country's security and development. The PTI started different movements against the country including resignations from assemblies, jail bhara movement, and hunger strikes. The failed movements of the 'Nakaam' Khan have become a source of disgrace and embarrassment for him. All the narratives of this group have failed just like their politics. The people of Pakistan should recognize their real enemies. The public was deceived in the name of a Naya Pakistan. People should stay away from this disruptive group," she maintained.



KARACHI: IBA cleared teachers are protesting in favor of their demands outside press club in the Provincial Capital.

IGP inaugurates model police station Timergara

DIR LOWER (APP): Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan visited Lower Dir and inaugurated the newly constructed Model Police Station Timergara.

On this occasion, Regional Police Officer Malakand Range Muhammad Ali and District Police Officer Lower Dir Rai Mazhar Iqbal welcomed the IGP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

During the inaugural ceremony, the young daughter of martyr Israr Ahmed presented a bouquet of flowers to the IGP, and a smartly turned-out contingent of Lower Dir saluted him.

The IGP inspected the building of the Model Police Station, equipped with modern facilities, and received a detailed briefing from the DPO Lower Dir. On this occasion, IGP Akhtar Hayat Khan stated that the establishment of the Model Police Station would prove to be a milestone in providing facilities to the local people.

Later, the IGP presided over a high-level meeting regarding law and order at the DPO office, where a comprehensive briefing on the overall security situation of the district was given.

The IGP expressed satisfaction over the law and order situation in the district and met with police officers injured in the Maidan operation, praising their bravery in confronting anti-peace elements.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with a delegation of Blind Professional Association of Punjab at Governor House.

3-days training workshop by ICIMOD on cryosphere monitoring in Pak kicks off

PESHAWAR (APP): A three days training workshop by International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), in collaboration with the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC), and the National Centre of Excellence in Geology (NCEG) on cryosphere monitoring has been kicked off on Tuesday.

According to a press release issued here, the workshop aims to enhance the capabilities of participants from various institutions and universities across Pakistan, enabling them to conduct independent research and monitoring of glaciers, snow, and permafrost.

Participants are introduced to methods and tools for collecting and analyzing data on glaciers, snow, and permafrost, utilizing both fieldwork and advanced satellite remote sensing technology.

The cryosphere, including glaciers, snow, and permafrost in High Mountain Asia, supplies water to approximately one-fifth of the world's population.

Monitoring these components is crucial for assessing meltwater, especially during dry seasons, and for evaluating cryosphere-related hazards such as avalanches, landslides, and debris flows.

In the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region, including the Karakoram, long-term monitoring of glaciers, snow, and permafrost is sparse.

Given the large spatial coverage of the cryosphere in the HKH, it is vital to understand how it is changing in response to climate change.

FIA arrests two human smugglers

LAHORE (APP): Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Tuesday apprehended two members of a group involved in human smuggling and visa fraud here from Laxmi Chowk.

According to a spokesman for the agency, the suspects, identified as Malik Naveed and Khalid Munir Bhatti, were arrested during a raid. The authorities recovered three Pakistani passports, fake passports of Iran and Italy, and counterfeit immigration arrival stamps of various countries, including a fake immigration arrival stamp of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). Additionally, fake residence cards of Italy and immigration stamps of Greece and Iran were also seized from the suspects. The arrested individuals have been taken into custody for investigations.

Tree plantation drive inaugurated in Dir Lower

DIR LOWER (APP): The district's youth office in collaboration with the district administration and the forest department has launched a plantation campaign titled "Green Growth Strategy - Billion Tree Plus Plantation Drive," to make the area clean and green.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Plantation (General) and Focal Person of the initiative Bashir Khan inaugurated the drive by formally planting a sapling. As many as 1,000 saplings were distributed among the youth of Dir Lower, emphasizing the importance of environmental conservation and community involvement.

Political representatives besides officials including DFO Asif Khan.

Commissioner Karachi chairs meeting to review price control campaign

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi, Syed Hassan Naqvi on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the price control campaign, at his office here.

All Deputy Commissioners, Additional Commissioner Karachi Abdul Hannan Bhatti, Assistant Commissioner Headquarters Commissioner Karachi Office Rabia Syed, and others attended the meeting. The Deputy Commissioners briefed the meeting on the efforts made by Assistant Commissioners to check prices and enforce official rates in their respective sub divisions.

The meeting took notice of the increase in prices of tomatoes, onions, and other few vegetables.

The Commissioner directed Deputy Commissioner East, Shehzad Fazal Abbasi, to make the market committee transparent, hold a meeting with the market committee, and take steps to ensure transparency in the auction system at Sabzi Mandi.

The meeting also reviewed efforts to check prices of all essential food items, including fruits, vegetables, chicken, eggs, and grocery items.

The Commissioner instructed the Deputy Commissioners to strictly enforce official prices, monitor the price control campaign themselves.

ANF seizes 330 kg drugs in 9 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 9 operations across the country managed to recover 330 kg drugs and arrested 8 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed that 826 grams ice was recovered from a passenger going to Qatar at Islamabad Airport. 900 grams heroin was recovered from a parcel booked for the UK at a courier office in Lahore.

12 grams weed was recovered from a parcel sent from UK at courier office in Rawalpindi.

250 kg hashish was recovered from Parni road area in Balochistan and 7.2 kg opium, 2 kg heroin and 36 kg hashish were recovered.



FAISALABAD: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Nacem-ur-Rehman addressing the lawyers at District Bar Association Faisalabad.

Matiari district sets target of planting 100,000 trees to combat climate change

HYDERABAD (APP): The district administration Matiari set a target of planting 100,000 trees to address climate change. A meeting chaired by the Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Yousuf Shaikh decided to launch a large-scale tree plantation campaign to mitigate the effects of climate change, especially during the summer season. The initiative will involve government and non-government organizations as well as civil society groups.

According to a handout issued on Tuesday, the meeting was attended by DHO Pir

Two bodies recovered from dump in Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Two bodies of a woman and a baby girl were recovered in a garbage dump near Korangi in Karachi, a private news channel reported on Tuesday.

As per the details, as soon as the incident was reported, police and rescue teams reached the spot and moved the bodies to the hospital for a postmortem.

In its initial statement, the police stated that the victims were killed through torture. The identities of the two bodies have not yet been established.

LDA seals another 15 properties

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Development Authority (LDA) teams, during an on going operation against commercialization fee defaulters, sealed another 15 properties in the Sabzazar Scheme here on Tuesday. On the directions of Director General LDA Tahir Farooq, the teams sealed properties including Plot No. 120 Block A, Plot No. 41 Block G, Plot No. 59 Block G, Plot No. 51 Block C, Plot No. 54 Block C, Plot No. 22 Block C, Plot No. 9 Block E, Plot No. 170 Block C, Plot No. 766, 768, 782, 851, 994 in Block H, Plot No. 324 in Block N, and Plot No. 10 in Block P.



RAWALPINDI: A view of rain water accumulated in the street at Imambara Mohallah after rain that experienced the Twin Cities.

DC stresses for collective work of departments for development of district

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Newly appointed Deputy Commissioner Sarah Rehman on Tuesday underlined the need of collective work among all the departments and administration for the development and prosperity of the district.

While chairing an introductory meeting of line departments held here at her office, the deputy commissioner said that achievement of the goals would be her priority. The cooperation of all the departments was of utmost importance for the purpose, she added.

She said the departments should perform their duties diligently and make all efforts for the development and prosperity of the area and better provision of facilities to the people.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) General, ADC Relief, assistant commissioners of different departments including C&W, Agriculture, NHA, Labour, Fisheries, Rescue 1122, MTI, Livestock, Local Government, Civil Defence, TMOs, Irrigation, Education, Water Management, Forest, Public Health Engineering, Health, PESCO, Environment and others. The deputy commissioner was informed about the resources and performances of the departments. Sarah Rehman instructed all the departments to cooperate with the administration to ensure not only the achievement of the goals but also ensuring the development and prosperity of the district and the provision of better facilities to the people.

Later, a detailed briefing was given by the Forest Department regarding the current monsoon plantation.



LAHORE: Employees of the Water Management Department protesting for their restoration during the protest sit-in of water management department.

SDMA warns people to refrain from visiting streams, rivers

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): Seasonal nullahs, besides rivers and streams, flowing in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), including in Mirpur division, were flooded after the upper reaches - besides various ground parts of the state lashed with first heaviest rainfall since the wee hours on Tuesday.

The AJK State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) has warned people living near the seasonal nullahs and streams to refrain from visiting the flooded ponds, rivers and streams as the main spell of the torrential rains reported in various parts of the State today.

The Mirpur district and outskirts lashed with much awaited heavy rains that opened the advent of the monsoon rains which also hit various other parts of the liberated state.

Various parts of the AJK state lashed with first heaviest rainfall that affected various areas including Mirpur district causing partial loss to the material - especially in the New City and various adjoining slums areas of this district.



GILGIT: Rescue 1122 crew in action, expertly lifting a car from the ditch after an accident.

RWMC appoints additional workforce to ensure sanitation during rains

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) has deputed additional sanitary workers to clean and dredge major drains to avoid urban flooding.

According to the RWMC spokesman, the RWMC carried out the cleanliness of nullahs and choked drains during rainfall on Wednesday late at night to ensure sanitation in several city areas. He said that additional staff had been assigned duties to ensure cleanliness round the clock so that some sanitation-related problems could not become hurdles in the smooth flow of water.

He informed that RWMC workers removed hundreds of tons of waste in the Rawalpindi city areas while drains blocked during the rain had been opened immediately to have no problem with drainage in the city.

He said that complaints received on social media platforms were also being addressed promptly.

PM gives \$60b target for country's annual exports in three years

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the National Export Development Board wherein he tasked the authorities concerned to take the country's annual exports to \$60 billion within three years.

The prime minister asked the commerce ministry and other relevant departments to take all necessary measures to achieve the given target.

He said the country's exports crossed the \$30 billion mark during the previous fiscal year, and

the government's policies also took the IT exports to over \$3.2 billion.

The prime minister asked the ministry to resolve the issues pointed out by the exporters and present a report within two weeks. He said that he would personally chair the National Export Development Board meeting every one-and-a-half months.

Calling for collective efforts for the country's development, he paid tribute to the business community and investors for their role in increasing

exports despite tough circumstances.

Prime Minister Shehbaz asked the commerce ministry to finalise the policy proposals, in coordination with representatives of the potential export sectors. He also tasked the Ministry of National Food Security to improve extension services, in coordination with provinces, to enhance agricultural exports.

He instructed for exporting of quality seeds and agricultural products after further processing and

taking measures to introduce crop varieties with high yields.

He said that the delivery time of Pakistani goods to Europe and America should be reduced by solving the problems related to the shipping of exports immediately. Similarly, the commerce ministry and Board of Investment should ensure cooperation regarding the transfer of Chinese export industries to Pakistan.

He also called for carrying out research and development, innovation and brand development.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of National Export Development Board (NEDB).



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a virtual meeting with the Representatives from Moody's Ratings.

Indonesian diplomat for collaboration to increase mutual trade

LAHORE (APP): Charge d' Affaires of Indonesia Rahmat Hindiartha Kusuma has said that this is time of collaboration to bring the trade between the two countries at a par with the potential.

Talking to the business community here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Tuesday, LCCI President Kashif Anwar welcomed the diplomat and highlighted the trade and economic ties between the two countries. LCCI Executive Committee Members Raja Hassan Akhter and Mian Attiq ur Rehman were also present.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar expressed LCCI's eagerness to learn from Indonesian technology and advancements. He agreed with the diplomat on the

significance of economic stability and the low cost of doing business. He urged LCCI members to participate in the 39th Trade Expo-Indonesia, scheduled from October 9 to 12, 2024.

Rahmat Hindiartha Kusuma emphasized the importance of collaboration to elevate the trade between Indonesia and Pakistan to its full potential. He said that Indonesia is the largest economy in Southeast Asia, with stable economic growth. "Indonesia, with a GDP exceeding \$1 trillion, is the world's 16th largest economy and is projected to be the 7th largest by 2030," he stated. He highlighted that Indonesia's economic growth has remained stable at around 5% annually over the last two decades.

Minister vows to ensure stable sugar prices

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday directed the chief secretaries to take all possible measures to ensure stable retail prices of sugar across the country.

The minister chaired the Sugar Advisory Board meeting to review the availability of sugar stocks and price trends, said a news release.

The minister said that ex-mills prices of sugar have remained stable in recent months.

He directed the provinces to strictly monitor retail sugar prices, as maintaining sugar prices was the primary responsibility of the government.

He warned that any increase will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

According to a press release issued by the spokesman for department, the region has been facing monsoon weather besides receiving moderate to heavy rains.

"Although light rain causes benefits to standing crops of cotton," he said, adding that however, cotton growers would have to adopt preventive measures during heavy rains. He said that cotton growers would have to drain out accumulated rainwater from their fields within two to three days if heavy rain lashed their areas.

Cotton growers urged to adopt preventive measures

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Agriculture Department has advised cotton growers to pay special attention towards their standing crops during recent heavy rains.

According to a press release issued by the spokesman for department, the region has been facing monsoon weather besides receiving moderate to heavy rains.

"Although light rain causes benefits to standing crops of cotton," he said, adding that however, cotton growers would have to adopt preventive measures during heavy rains. He said that cotton growers would have to drain out accumulated rainwater from their fields within two to three days if heavy rain lashed their areas.

LESCO collects over Rs 4.32m from 130 defaulters in 24 hours

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has recovered more than Rs 4.32 million from 130 defaulters in all the five districts- Lahore, Sheikhpura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Okara- on the 26th day of its recovery campaign.

The LESCO spokesman told media here Tuesday that on the 26th day, SE (Superintending Engineer) Nisar Sarwar has recovered outstanding dues of Rs 0.32 million.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan, chairman senate standing committee on national food security and research presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

FM meets virtually with the Representatives from Moody's Ratings

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb had a zoom meeting with the representatives from Moody's Ratings at Finance Division today.

The meeting was also attended by senior officials of the Ministry.

The Federal Minister commenced the session by giving an update on Pakistan's economic outlook. He highlighted the foreign exchange reserves surpassing USD 9 billion, stable CPI inflation at 12.6%, and a robust 7.7%

increase in foreign remittances, reflecting economic resilience. He emphasized a 30% rise in tax collection in FY 2024 and outlined reforms to broaden the tax base, including new agricultural taxes and digital initiatives at the FBR. He also noted that over 150,000 retailers have registered as first-time taxpayers, marking a significant stride towards broadening the tax base.

The Minister mentioned the ambitious targets aimed to increase revenues by 3% of GDP by FY 2027, with plans for a primary surplus of 1% of GDP,



FAISALABAD: President of the Central Organization of Traders Pakistan Kashif Chaudhary addressing a press conference at a local hotel in the city.

US, China, and UAE top destinations for Pak exports during FY 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the fiscal year 2023-24, followed by China and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Total exports to the US during July-June 2023-24 were recorded at US \$4,322.929 million against the exports of US \$ 5,932.358 million during July-June 2022-23, showing a decline of 8.41 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$2,707.225 million against the exports of US

\$2,025.741 million last year, showing an increase of 33.64 percent.

UAE was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$2,082.206 million during the year under review against the exports of US \$1,475.832 million, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to United Kingdom (UK) stood at US \$2,012.643 million against US \$1,968.432 million last year while the exports to Germany were recorded at US \$1,512.458 million against US \$1,600.413 million last year, data said.

CDNS successfully implements reforms, automation program

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has successfully implemented the reforms and automation program in the institution and reforms agenda to be completed soon after which the entire institute will be digitized.

The Automated Teller Machine (ATM) facility has been afford in CDNS which is successfully continued its services for the convenience of the customers, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Tuesday.

At this time Automated Teller Machine (ATM) has also been introduced in CDNS which will provide enough facilities to the users," he added.

The official said that work was being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms

and innovations were being introduced.

The official said that lot of work was being done on institutional reforms in the CDNS.

Given the current market trend in the country, an ambitious target had been set to improve the savings culture further, he added.

Replying to another question, he said that the CDNS has set an annual target of Rs 1650 billion for the current Fiscal Year, 2024-25, which will promote the saving culture in the country.

He said that the CDNS has realized a target of Rs1.742 trillion in fresh bonds and exceeded 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 1.7 trillion for the year.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain chaired a meeting of the Sugar Advisory Board.

Senate body on National Food Security & Research convenes

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Senate Standing Committee on National Food Security & Research convened today under the chairmanship of Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan. The inaugural session included a comprehensive briefing on the roles, functions, and performance of the Ministry of National Food Security & Research and its affiliated departments.

Present at the committee meeting were Senators Danesh Kumar, Dost Muhammad Khan, and Poonjio Mal Bheel, alongside the Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research and senior officers from related departments.

The committee members engaged in an extensive interactive session discussing the ministry's operations, with each department outlining its responsibilities.

During deliberations, the committee raised concerns about the ministry's human resource strength, noting 40 vacant positions which they highlighted as impacting operational efficiency.

Budgetary allocations were also a focal point, with a total of PKR 43,809,325,000 earmarked for the fiscal year 2024-25. The committee sought clarification on allocations to provincial governments and inquired about the budget required for solarizing tube wells.

with him a wealth of leadership experience from global blue-chip organizations like JP Morgan Chase & Co., one of the largest global financial services institutions, where he spent twenty years. Irfan Wahab Khan, SVP Head of Portfolio Development Telenor Asia and Chairman of the Board, said that after a thorough and wide-ranging selection process, the board has appointed Jahanzeb Khan to lead Telenor Microfinance Bank. Commenting on his new appointment, Jahanzeb Khan said that he is thankful to the board and shareholders for providing the opportunity to lead this prestigious organization.

Telenor Microfinance Bank appoints Jahanzeb its new President, CEO

ISLAMABAD (APP): Telenor Microfinance Bank, operator of Pakistan's leading digital financial services platform easypaisa, has appointed Jahanzeb Khan as President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the bank. Jahanzeb is an accomplished executive with over 25 years of global banking experience and expertise in leading organizational transformation, said a press release issued here Tuesday. He has demonstrable success in areas such as digital banking, payments, fintech, M&A and business growth across North American and Asian markets. Jahanzeb brings



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain chaired a meeting of the Sugar Advisory Board.

Social media provides modern information to farmers: Secretary

PESHAWAR (APP): Secretary Agriculture Muhammad Javed Marwat on Tuesday said that through social media, information related to the agriculture and modern methods of cultivation could be provided to the farmers and landowners. In this connection landowners can also take benefit from it because this is the age of social media. Through YouTube channel, farmers will have easy access to timely, useful and actionable information related to farming, modern technology and agricultural research, he while speaking

PSX gains 447 points to close at 78,987.09

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 447.90 points, a positive change of 0.57 percent, closing at 78,987.09 points against 78,539.19 points on the last working day.

A total of 316,245,462 shares were traded during the day as compared to 375,599,184 shares the previous day,



SIALKOT: Farmers cultivate rice crops by hands in the fields on the outskirts near the border.

Over Rs 80 bln disbursed among beneficiaries under Benazir Kafaalat scheme

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has disbursed over Rs.80 billion among over 76,00,000 beneficiaries from across the country so far under the Benazir Kafaalat quarterly payments (April-June).

"Till July 22, over Rs. 80 billion has been disbursed among over 76,00,000 beneficiaries which make 81 per cent of the total beneficiaries", said an official source.

The disbursement of the quarterly tranche (April-June) of Benazir

Kafaalat cash assistance to the beneficiaries is continued across the country to disburse Rs. 10,500 per household among over nine million registered beneficiary families.

The beneficiaries can receive their payment through the nearest centers after receiving the message from 8171. The beneficiaries, in case of any complaint, can approach the nearest BISP Tehsil offices or call the toll-free helpline number 080026477 of the Benazir Income Support Program.

South Punjab Secretariat embraces AI to improve governance, agri sector

MULTAN (APP): In a revolutionary move towards improved governance, the South Punjab Secretariat, under the direction of Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, Fuad Hashim Rabbani, started use of artificial intelligence (AI) in public service delivery.

This innovative step positions the Southern Punjab Secretariat as Pakistan's first government body to employ Artificial Intelligence applications to enhance efficiency in various departments.

To kick start this initiative effectively, an awareness session was conducted on Tuesday,

educating all secretaries and special secretaries of South Punjab on the application of AI. The session, presided over by Fuad Hashim Rabbani, featured a demonstration by AI consultant Dr. Athar Mansoor. Key attendees included Secretary of Agriculture Saqib Ali Ateel, Secretary of Services Engineer Amjad Shoaib Khan Tareen, Emerson University Vice-Chancellor Muhammad Ramzan, some agricultural experts, and students. Prominent professors from Nawaz Sharif Agricultural University and Bahauddin Zakariya University also participated.

Gazans flee after Israel orders safe zone evacuation over rockets

Monitoring Desk

KHAN YUNIS: Hundreds of panicked Gazans fled after the Israeli military on Monday ordered the evacuation of part of a humanitarian zone, warning it was preparing to launch an operation in the area.

The military had declared Al-Mawasi, along the Gaza coast between the cities of Khan Yunis and Rafah, a humanitarian zone in May, and told Palestinians to go there for their own safety.

But it has now ordered people to leave part of the zone in eastern Khan Yunis that it says militants have been using to launch attacks on Israeli targets.

The military said the evacuation was due to "significant terrorist activity and rocket fire toward the state of Israel from the eastern part of the humanitarian area," making it too "dangerous" to remain.

In a statement, it urged people to relocate from eastern Khan Yunis to the

west of the "adjusted humanitarian area of Al-Mawasi" that runs along the Gaza coast.

Many Gazans are hesitant to join the swelling tent camps in Al-Mawasi, however, after a recent attack on the zone killed at least 92 people and wounded more than 300, according to figures from the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory.

"No place is safe," said Yussef Abu Taimah, from the town of Al-Qarara in Khan Yunis, as he prepared to relocate his family for the fourth time since the Gaza war broke out in October.

"We left in the middle of ongoing air and tank shelling, and drones firing shots," said the 27-year-old, who witnessed dead and wounded people being transported to Nasser Hospital by tuk-tuks and donkey carts.

Abu Taimah said his family was heading to Al-Mawasi, but expected to

find no space in the crowded, makeshift encampment.

"We will stay on the street," he said. "Even the sidewalks are full of people and tents. We are tired and fed up. Enough of this displacement."

Ahmed al-Bayuk, 53, said each of his three displacements has been harder than the last.

"We barely settle for a few days before the army comes, bombs, displaces us and destroys more," he said. "Where should we go? Every place is at risk of bombing."

In recent months the Israeli army has launched intense military operations in several areas of Gaza that were previously declared free of Hamas militants.

Earlier this year it carried out a sweeping operation in Khan Yunis for months that reduced swaths of the city to rubble and displaced tens of thousands of people.



Palestinians flee the eastern part of Khan Yunis as they travel in an animal-drawn cart after they were ordered by Israeli army to evacuate their neighborhoods, amid Israel-Hamas conflict, in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip.

Death toll from Ethiopian landslides jumps to 229: official

Monitoring Desk

GOFA ZONE: The death toll from two landslides in southern Ethiopia has jumped to 229 and could rise further as the search for survivors and casualties continued into a second day, a government official said on Tuesday.

A landslide buried people in the Gofa zone in Southern Ethiopia regional state on Sunday night, and then a second one engulfed others who had gathered to help on Monday morning.

"I don't know when it will stop. We are still recovering bodies," Markos Melese, head of the National Disaster Response agency in Gofa Zone, told Reuters by phone.

"We are still digging," Melese said.

On Monday, an official said at least 50 people had died and children and police officers were among the dead. Footage shared by the local administration showed people digging up bodies with shovels and bare hands.

"The death toll surged after the people who came to rescue also got trapped," said Gofa district administrator Misikir Mitiku.

Russia says intercepted US bomber planes 'approaching' its border in Arctic

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: Russia on Sunday said two US bomber planes had approached its border in the Arctic and that it had scrambled fighter jets to make them turn away.

Moscow has previously accused the United States of making reconnaissance drone flights over neutral waters in the Black Sea to help Ukraine, and has said it could lead to "direct confrontation" between Russia and NATO.

Russia said Sunday that it scrambled fighter jets to prevent two US strategic bomber planes from crossing its border over the Barents Sea in the Arctic.

The US military routinely carries out flights over international waters, operations that it says are conducted in neutral airspace and in accordance with international law.

But Moscow has responded more aggressively to the exercises in recent months, warning in June that US drone flights over the Black Sea risked leading to a "direct" military clash.

Five residents and one employee were dead after the gunman entered the private nursing home in the eastern town of Daruvar and went on a killing spree, according to the police.

The gunman then fled the scene and was later arrested at a cafe, where he was carrying unregistered firearms. The man had a previous police record for disturbing public order and domestic abuse.

Harris has become the party's presumed nominee after President Joe Biden withdrew from his re-election campaign on Sunday, following weeks of party acrimony and internal polls showed his support collapsing in a battle against Republican rival Donald Trump.

Less than 36 hours after Biden endorsed Harris, she secured the nomination on Monday night by winning the pledged support of a majority of the party's delegates who will determine the nomination, the campaign said.

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US Secret Service director Kimberly Cheatle resigns after Trump assassination bid

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: US Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle resigned on Tuesday, a day after acknowledging that the agency failed in its mission to prevent an assassination attempt against Donald Trump.

Cheatle was facing bipartisan calls to step down after a 20-year-old gunman wounded the former Republican president and current White House candidate at a July 13 campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.

"It is overdue, she should have done this at least a week ago," Mike Johnson, the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, told reporters. "I'm happy to see that she has heeded the call of both Republicans and Democrats."

President Joe Biden thanked Cheatle for her nearly three decades in the

Secret Service and said she had "selflessly dedicated and risked her life to protect our nation throughout her career."

"We all know what happened that day can never happen again," Biden said in a statement. "As we move forward, I wish Kim all the best, and I will plan to appoint a new director soon." Cheatle appeared before a congressional committee on Monday and said the attack on Trump, who was slightly wounded in his right ear, represented a failure by the Secret Service.

She called it "the most significant operational failure of the Secret Service in decades." Both Republicans and Democrats called on Cheatle to resign. She drew the ire of lawmakers from both parties by refusing to provide specific details about the attack, citing the existence of multiple active investigations.

Kamala Harris closes in on US presidential nomination with delegates secured

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Vice President Kamala Harris will campaign in the critical battleground state of Wisconsin on Tuesday for the first time as a US presidential election candidate after enough Democratic delegates pledged to endorse her, clearing her path to the nomination.

Harris has become the party's presumed nominee after President Joe Biden withdrew from his re-election campaign on Sunday, following weeks of party acrimony and internal polls showed his support collapsing in a battle against Republican rival Donald Trump.

Less than 36 hours after Biden endorsed Harris, she secured the nomination on Monday night by winning the pledged support of a majority of the party's delegates who will determine the nomination, the campaign said.

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The aftermath of a landslide in Gofa zone in Southern Ethiopia regional state.

Israeli MPs vote to declare UN relief agency a 'terrorist' body

Monitoring Desk

JERUSALEM: The Israeli parliament gave preliminary approval on Monday to a bill that declares the main United Nations relief organization for Palestinians a "terrorist organisation" and proposes to sever relations with the body. The vote against the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) is the latest step in an Israeli push against the agency, which Israeli leaders have accused of collaborating with Hamas in Gaza.

The bill was approved in a first reading and will be returned to the foreign affairs and defence committee for further deliberation, the Knesset information service said.

The bill's sponsor, Yulia Malinovsky, was

quoted as describing UNRWA as a "fifth column within Israel".

The agency provides education, health and aid to millions of Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. It has long had tense relations with Israel, but relations have deteriorated sharply since October and Israel has called repeatedly for UNRWA to be disbanded.

"It's another attempt in a wider campaign to dismantle the agency," UNRWA spokesperson Juliette Touma said. "Such steps are unheard of in the history of the United Nations." Israel has alleged hundreds of UNRWA staff are members of "terrorist groups", including Hamas and Islamic Jihad, but has yet to provide evidence to a UN-appointed review.

surrounded the National Unity Platform offices ... he said. "The cowardly regime is so afraid of the people because they know how much they have wronged them!"

Police spokesperson Kituuma Rusoke did not immediately respond when sought for comment about the reported arrests.

Wine, 42, a pop star turned politician, has in recent years emerged as the biggest challenger to veteran President Yoweri Museveni, 79, who has led the East African nation since 1986. Ugandan youth who have spearheaded recent protests are planning to march to parliament on Tuesday in defiance of a ban on the demonstration, which is intended to denounce alleged widespread corruption and human rights abuses under Museveni's long-time rule.

IMF to review Kenya's revised economic plan at end of August

Monitoring Desk

NAIROBI: Kenya expects the International Monetary Fund to review its revised fiscal repair plan at the end of August, the country's chief minister has told a parliamentary panel.

President William Ruto's cash-strapped government has been forced to draw up new spending cuts in recent weeks after widespread youth-led protests against previously proposed tax hikes left at least 50 people dead.

Kenya's Chief Minister Musalia Mudavadi said that the Treasury "has had a very robust engagement with the International Monetary Fund" despite the setbacks.

US journalist jailed in Russia for six years

Monitoring Desk

MOSCOW: A Russian court has sentenced US-Russian journalist Alsu Kurmasheva to more than six years in prison for violating strict military censorship laws, a ruling her employer slammed as a "mockery of justice".

Kurmasheva, 47 was convicted on Friday in a secret trial that was not announced in advance — the same day a separate Russian court sentenced US journalist Evan Gershkovich for 16 years on espionage charges. Both journalists have rejected the charges against them as baseless.

Kurmasheva, an editor with the US-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) outlet in Prague, was arrested last year while travelling to Russia to see her sick mother.

She had her passports confiscated for not declaring her dual citizenship, was then arrested for not registering as a "foreign agent".

Iraq hangs 10 'terror' convicts; rights group calls for end to death penalty

Monitoring Desk

NASIRIYAH: Iraq hanged 10 "terror" convicts on Monday, officials said, in the fourth such execution in three months, prompting a rights group to call for an end to the death penalty.

Courts have handed down hundreds of death and life imprisonment sentences in recent years to Iraqis convicted of "terrorism", in trials rights groups have denounced as hasty.

Under Iraqi law, terrorism and murder offences are punishable by death, and execution decrees must be signed by the president. A health official said 10 Iraqis "convicted of terrorism crimes and of being members of the militant Islamic State group were executed by hanging" at Al-Hut prison in the southern city of Nasiriyah.

A security source confirmed the executions. They were hanged under Article 4 of the anti-terrorism law and the health department.

South Africa passes its first sweeping climate change law

Monitoring Desk

JOHANNESBURG: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has signed into law a broad climate change act that will set caps for large emitters and require every town and city to publish an adaptation plan.

The Climate Change Bill aims to enable South Africa to meet its emissions reduction commitments under the Paris climate agreement, the presidency said in a statement on Tuesday.

South Africa, which is the world's most carbon-intensive major economy and among the top 15 greenhouse gas emitters, is on track to miss those targets because of its heavy reliance on coal for electricity.

"This is very significant in that it's the first time that our climate change response is directly brought into domestic law," said Brandon Abdinor, a lawyer at South Africa's Centre for Environmental Rights, a non-profit organisation.

"A lot of work needs to be done, but this act puts the basic architecture in place for that to happen."

Atlanta: Delta Air Lines cancelled more than 600 flights on Monday, as the US air carrier continued to struggle to restore operations after last week's global cyber outage, even as other airlines were recovering from the incident.

About 16 per cent of Delta's flights had been canceled as of 7am EST, according to data from FlightAware, out of roughly 1,100 flights to or from the United States overall, the web site said.

Barcelona cannot absorb infinite tourism growth, needs curbs, mayor says

Monitoring Desk

BARCELONA: Barcelona cannot absorb an ongoing, unbridled growth in the number of tourists and has to impose restrictions so as not to become a "theme park" without residents, the mayor of Spain's most visited city by foreigners told Reuters on Tuesday.

Last month, Barcelona pledged to shut all short-term lets by 2028 to contain soaring rental prices for residents. And earlier this month, images of an anti-tourism protest went viral after a few protesters used water guns to spray tourists amid growing rallies against mass tourism in Spain.

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Barcelona pledged

President for expanding ties with Turkmenistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has called for expanding bilateral ties with Turkmenistan across all areas of mutual interest and reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to its relationship with Turkmenistan.

The President expressed these views while talking to the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Rashid Meredov, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President said that Pakistan-Turkmenistan relations were based on a common vision for peace and prosperity in the region. The exchange of high-level visits between the two countries signified the mutual desire to further strengthen bilateral understanding and cooperation.

Welcoming the Minister, the President urged the need to enhance connectivity and communication between Pakistan and Turkmenistan, saying that Gwadar port offered great opportunities for promoting regional trade and Turkmenistan should benefit from the port.

The President stressed the need for continued exchanges and dialogue at all levels and enhanced trade, economic, investment and cultural relations for the prosperity of the two countries. He offered that Turkmen students could seek education from the medical institutions of Pakistan. The President noted the importance of the Third Round of Bilateral Political Consultations held today by two Foreign Ministers.

The Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan said that Pakistan and Turkmenistan enjoyed cordial relations. He stated that his country would continue to promote economic, cultural and educational cooperation with Pakistan.

He highlighted the importance of constructing motorways and railways, through Afghanistan, to connect the two brotherly countries. Foreign Minister Meredov conveyed the greetings of the leadership of Turkmenistan to the President.

The President reciprocated the sentiment and said that he was looking forward to welcoming the Grand Leader of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in Pakistan.



QUETTA: Chairman PM Youth Development Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan visiting GI Lab established in Balochistan University

Senate body on petroleum deliberates on Pakistan Minerals Regulatory Authority Bill, 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum on Tuesday deliberated on the "Pakistan Minerals Regulatory Authority Bill, 2024". The meeting, chaired by Senator Umer Farooq, was informed that the primary objective of the bill is to create cohesion between the federal and provincial governments to fully utilize and transform the potential of the minerals sector into a value-added commodity for the national economy.

Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir, the bill's mover, noted that despite the country's vast mineral reserves, a lack of coordination between federal and provincial governments has hindered their full benefit.

Secretary Petroleum Momin Agha apprised the Committee that the ministry is working on the "Har-

monization of Minerals Laws" with the provinces, with the implementation plan expected to be finalized by the end of September 2024. The Committee was briefed on the roles and functions of the ministry and its attached departments. Secretary Petroleum Division Momin Agha informed the Committee that thirteen companies fall under the ministry's ambit.

The ministry's primary role is to facilitate collaboration between these companies to meet the country's oil and gas demand and to oversee their affairs, formulating policies for their smooth functioning. The Committee raised objections over the prolonged vacancy of the Managing Director (MD) position at OGDCL and directed the provision of details on vacant MD and Board of Directors (BoD) positions in these companies.

The Committee was informed about the current usage and demand for oil and gas in the country.

The Director General (DG) Gas reported that the country's daily consumption of gas and oil is around 3,200 MM CFT and 7,000 million barrels, respectively. However, the total reserves of oil are approximately 192.93 million barrels, and gas reserves are about 18,108.77 BCF.

According to the 2023-24 data (as of May 2024), Sindh holds the highest share of gas at 64%, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has a 42% share in oil. Secretary Petroleum Division Momin Agha highlighted that of the total 3,200 MM CFT of gas, 200 MM CFT is used for production.

Rubaba Buledi says: WDD to provide support to resolve key issues affecting female students of BMC

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Advisor to the Chief Minister of Balochistan for Women Development Department, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi met Principal Bolan Medical College (BMC), Dr. Raza Muhammad Kakar on Tuesday.

During the meeting, several points related to welfare of medical students of the province were discussed.

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi stated that "Our female medical students are the future of healthcare in

Balochistan. It is imperative that we provide them with a conducive learning environment, adequate facilities, and support to help them thrive. She assured that women development department will provide complete support to resolve key issues affecting Female Medical Students of Balochistan Medical College. Dr. Raza Muhammad Kakar expressed his gratitude to Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi for her unwavering support and dedication to resolve the issues faced by medical students



QUETTA: Principal Bolan Medical College Dr. Raza Muhammad Kakar meeting with Provincial Advisor for Women Development Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi

NA body informed Spectrum auction for 5G to be completed by March 2025

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunications on Tuesday informed that the Spectrum auction for 5G is under consideration and expected to be completed by March 2025. The Committee, chaired by Syed Amin ul Haq, recommended that the ministry require service providers to ensure proper 5G services in major cities without compromising quality after the auction.

The Committee advised that the ministry incentivize service providers in the 5G spectrum auction and ensure these incen-

tives are properly spent on infrastructure improvements to guarantee uninterrupted 5G services in the country. The Committee also discussed "The Establishment of Telecommunications Appellate Tribunal Bill, 2024" in detail. According to the bill, a tribunal will be established to expedite pending cases in the telecom sector, which are currently delayed in the High Court. Once established, the tribunal will be bound to decide within 90 days. Currently, 71 cases are pending before the High Court and will be transferred to the tribunal upon the bill's passage.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan, Mr. Rashid Meredov, called on the President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Deputy Prime Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, was also present on the occasion.

Balochistan product will be showcased in International Expo: Rana Mashood

QUETTA (APP): Chairman PM Youth Development Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan, admitting the decade-long deprivations of Balochistan, reiterated incumbent government's resolve to heal the wounds of the country's largest province and bring economic stability. He expressed confidence that Balochistan will soon become Pakistan's most developed province and will serve as a role model for the world through unity and cooperation.

He was addressing a cheque distribution ceremony for farmers and SMEs organized by the EU funded Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) in collaboration with Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Program here Tuesday.

He asserted that those opposing Pakistan's

progress are its enemies, and Balochistan's proud youth will respond to these adversarial forces through their development.

Rana Mashood said despite being considered Pakistan's most backward province, the youth of Balochistan have a distinct enthusiasm for advancement, wishing to see their region and province developed compared to other provinces.

Stressing the need for unity and cohesion, he urged thinking like Pakistanis and healing Balochistan's wounds. He announced that the federal government would organize an international expo in Islamabad to improve the economic condition of Balochistan's people by exporting its dates, grapes, and other products to global markets.

The Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Program emphasized the role of youth and small businesses in economic development. He said, "Uplift of Balochistan is the development of the country. The federal government is committed to bring economic revolution in Balochistan, and the day is not far when Balochistan will serve as a role model for the world through unity and cooperation".

He praised the concrete steps taken by PPAF in reducing poverty and enhancing economic activities in Balochistan, noting that while no foreign investment came to Pakistan from 2017 to 2024, this trend has now reversed thanks to the efforts of the PML-N led government.

He asserted that those opposing Pakistan's progress are its enemies, and Balochistan's proud youth will respond to these adversarial forces through their development.

Ahsan chairs meeting on transfer of PSDP projects executed by Pak-PWD

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday chaired a meeting to address the matters related to the transfer of Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) projects being executed by Pak-Public Works Department (PWD) to provinces and various federal government entities.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Housing & Works, members of working groups and senior officials from the Ministry of Planning, who deliberated on the optimal redistribution of these projects,

a news release said. Out of the 162 PSDP projects managed by Pak-PWD, as many as 138 projects are attributed to provinces and 24 to federal entities. The minister underscored the pivotal role of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) in this process, emphasizing that all PSDP projects must be presented before the CDWP forum before any transfer decisions were made. He directed the departments concerned to compile comprehensive "Position Papers" outlining each province's projects for consideration during upcoming CDWP meetings.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar holds talks with Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Pak digitisation, end to gender digital divide PM's top priority: Shaza Fatima

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Tuesday said Pakistan's digitisation and end to the prevailing gender digital divide is the top priority of the Prime Minister whereas the digital ecosystem diagnostic report is the guiding document for the government's vision.

She was addressing the launching ceremony of the Country Digital Ecosystem Diagnostic Report jointly prepared by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) under the title Pakistan's Transformative Digital Future: Growth Strategy and Roadmap here.

Shaza Fatima Khawaja congratulated the team SDPI and ADB for preparing a comprehensive analytical report and termed such reports evidence providing baseline data helpful in setting future KPIs and goals in the field of digitisation.

She announced that the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication would focus on implementing most of the Report's recommendations. "The IT sector exports surged to record \$3.2 billion this year which is the highest ever. The Prime Minister has strong focus on digitisation of the country as the IT exports are breaking records every month. The prime minister vision and target is \$25 billion in IT exports, and we are striving to meet it," she added.

The minister said Information Technology is a resilient and robust sector that is growing with every passing year, whereas the PM has not slashed the budget of the IT sector and therefore was given the highest budgetary allocations in the ongoing fiscal year.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah on Tuesday called upon all political parties to foster greater unity and harmony to achieve much-needed national development and prosperity. In a statement, Shah emphasized that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) should abandon its negative politics and engage in positive and constructive activities that benefit the country. He believed that the PTI founder had laid the foundation of the politics of hatred and violence in Pakistan.

Shah alleged that the prevailing economic situation in the country was a result of PTI's wrong policies at both national and international levels.

Gilani extends warm wishes to Egyptian parliament, people

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Tuesday extended heartfelt congratulations and warm wishes to the Egyptian parliament, people, and government.

In his message on Egypt's National Day, he highlighted the enduring friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and the Arab Republic of Egypt, expressing the desire to further strengthen ties between the two brotherly nations. The Chairman also conveyed prayers for Egypt's continued progress and prosperity.

Khurshheed urges political harmony for national development

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Govt. taking steps for provision of basic facilities to people on priority basis: Ali Madad Jatak

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Ali Madad Jatak has stated that the incumbent government is taking steps for provision of basic facilities to people on priority basis. In this regard, practical steps have been started.

Ali Madad Jatak was speaking to different delegations who called on him in his office here on Tuesday.

The delegations included the people from Quetta, Loralai, Pishin, Loralai, Mastung, Kalat and

Nation stands united with one voice against terrorism: Aleem Khan

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Isteekam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) and Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Tuesday said the whole nation stands united with one voice against terrorism and it is needed to fully implement the National Action Plan.

Talking to President of Awami National Party (ANP) Senator Aimal Wali Khan who called on him here, the minister said that there was a dire need for taking strict action against the facilitators of terrorists, said a press release.

President IPP Abdul Aleem Khan congratulated Aimal Wali Khan on the success of ANP in the recent by-election at Bajaur. He said that for the development of the country, political harmony among parties was of utmost importance to ensure stability of political policies on a long-term basis. He said that the construction of the motorway from Mansehra

to Babu Sir Top in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province was his top priority because he believed that the fastest road network from Mansehra to Gilgit would be a game changer for the entire province. He said that the entry of overloading trucks and trawlers on the motorways has been prohibited to protect the national highways from vandalism and accidents.

President ANP Senator Aimal Wali Khan discussed the current domestic and political situation with President IPP and Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan and pointed out some problems related to their area. Moreover, the Member of National Assembly of Pakistan Muslim League-N from Mansehra, Sardar Muhammad Yusuf, also called on President of the Isteekam-e-Pakistan Party and Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan and invited him to visit Mansehra.

He discussed with the federal minister about the political situation of KPK province in particular.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Hangeng Trade Company calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Historic city Zhob to be made hub of modern education, trade and tourism, vows Governor

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that Zhob division has key importance due to its geographical location, archeological sites and tourism places.

He said that the historic city of Zhob would be made the important hub of modern education, trade and tourism soon with the support and cooperation of federal and provincial governments.

He also announced that we would also be hearing the good news of establishment of a modern and standard university in the Zhob division.

He directed to the district administration to take concrete measures for complete protection of life and property of the people.

He asserted that no negligence would be tolerated regarding public welfare.

The Governor was addressing a big public gathering in Zhob on Tuesday. The Provincial Ministers Mir Asim Kurd and Noor Muhammad Dummer were also accompanied with the

Governor. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that the NADRA office would be expanded in Zhob very soon so as to provide all the basic facilities at their doorstep.

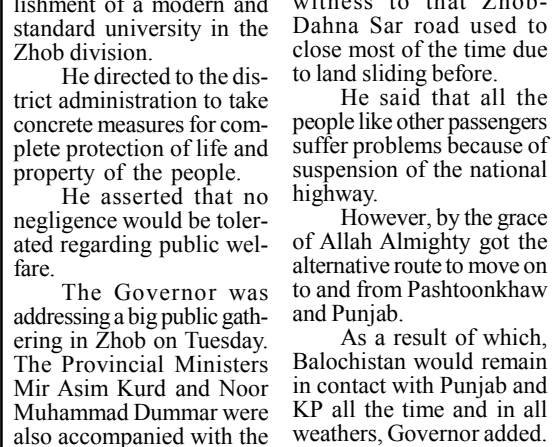
He said that the long-standing demand of people of Zhob and other districts has been met with inauguration of Zhob-Wana road. The Governor said that it has become an important source of linking the people of Zhob with other provinces and cities.

The Governor asked the people that they are witness to that Zhob-Dahna Sar road used to close most of the time due to land sliding before.

He said that all the people like other passengers suffer problems because of suspension of the national highway.

However, by the grace of Allah Almighty got the alternative route to move on to and from Pashtoonkhaw and Punjab.

As a result of which, Balochistan would remain in contact with Punjab and KP all the time and in all weathers, Governor added.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Sadiq Umrani in a meeting with Provincial Advisor for Trade and Industry Mir Ali Hasan Zehri

Contracts with IPPs: FPCCI's to move SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Caretaker Commerce Minister Dr Gohar Ijaz has said that FPCCI has decided to approach the Supreme Court against the contracts of IPPs.

In his tweet on Twitter X, he has said that the Chambers of Commerce has decided to go to the Supreme Court against the IPPs. CI will formally petition the Hon'ble Supreme Court to intervene in this intolerable situation which affects the right to life of every Pakistani. Gohar Ejaz said that under the IPP agreements, Pakistan pays billions of rupees to companies that do not generate electricity. Expensive electricity has become unaffordable for all Pakistanis.



QUETTA: Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoab Nausherwani and Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani presiding over a joint meeting regarding financial issues of public sector universities