Simultaneously published from Quetta, Gwadar, Hub, Karachi, Islamabad

Member APNS & CPNE

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www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vol: XXV No. 337, Muharram 23, 1446 AH Tuesday July 30, 2024 Pages 08, Price Rs.15

CM Bugti authorizes opposition to hold talks with protestors on behalf of govt

Says government believes in dialogue to solve the issues; our doors are always open for those who agreed to set on table with us for any kind of talks in order to maintain peace in the province

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Monday has authorized members of the opposition in Balochistan Assembly to hold talks with Baloch Yakjehti Committee on be-

half of the government. Addressing the assembly session, he said that the government believes in dialogue to solve the issues and

bers to play their vital role in the current situation.

He offered that our doors are always open for those who agreed to set on table with us for any kind of talks in order to maintain peace in the province.

Sarfraz Bugti said that the state would ensure all rights including right to assemble to the people on a development works and MINISTRE OF FUREION AFFAIR

JOINT PRESS STAKEOUT

asked the opposition mem-condition to accept the malign the country interna-ernment affairs in the hand right to organized.

Sarfraz Bugti said the government had held negotiations multiple times to convince the BYC to organized gathering at Turbat instead of Gwadar. He added that the BYC

was decided to hold rally in Gwadar with clear intentions to sabotage the CPEC,

The Chief Minister said foreign delegations are to visit Gwadar in August as the second phase of CPEC is to begin, the government was granted the

permission to organized the gathering at GDA stadium. Sarfraz Bugti said the government cannot give the authority to run the gov-

of Jehtha and would not allow anyone to chock the government machinery and stop the development process in the province. Sarfraz Bugti said that

intelligence driven war is being run against the country and the province. He said that there is

conspiracy against Paki-Continued on page 2

emphasized that the gov-

ernment was working hard

on the economic reforms

agenda, the fruits of which

would surely reach to the

and other international fi-

nancial institutions are im-

portant for the economic

improvement of Paki-

stan, PM Shehbaz said

adding that "we will move

forward with more effort

and passion on the path of

economic improvement of

the country". He hoped that

the new International Mon-

programme would further

improve the economic ac-

The announcement of

tivities in the country.

Fund (IMF)

The reports of Fitch

people soon.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti expressing views in Balochistan Assembly

PM welcomes

Fitch upgrades Pakistan rating to CCC+ following IMF agreement

Independent Report LAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad

Shehbaz Sharif on Monday hailed the upgrading of Pakistan's long-term foreign currency issuer default rating (IDR) from CCC to CCC+ by the Credit Rating Agency Fitch.

Appreciating the efforts of Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and his team, the prime minister said the country and the nation had started receiving the fruits of the government's policy of sac-

rificing politics for the sake of state in the shape of improvement in the country's economy In a statement, he said pgrading of Pakistan's

global rating to CCC+ was the international recognition of the government's right economic policies.

The prime minister

another one percent reduction in interest rate by the State Bank of Pakistan was another sign of economic

etary

Continued on page 2

Soldier martyred, 16 injured as violent mob assaults security forces' personnel in Gwadar

An officer also among injured as mob in garb of "Baloch Raji Muchi" attacked security forces, says ISPR

RAWALPINDI (APP): A violent mob in the garb of so called Baloch Raji Muchi assaulted Security Forces' personnel employed for security duties in Gwadar district that resulted in the martyrdom of a soldier and left an officer and 16 others injured during unprovoked assaults.

The martyred soldier was identified as Sepoy Shabbir Baloch (Age: 30 years; resident of: District Sibi), who embraced shahadat, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

While on the other hand, fake and malicious propaganda is being spread on social media using doctored pictures and videos by the propagandists to

gain sympathy and support for the unlawful violent march, it said. "Security forces have displayed extreme restraint to avoid unwarranted civilian casualties despite provocations. The violent actions of

the mob are unacceptable and those responsible will be brought to justice," the All citizens were urged

not to fall prey to the propaganda, remain calm and peaceful, and to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in maintaining public safety and order, it added.

Security Forces of Pakistan, in step with the Nation, remain determined to thwart attempts of sabotaging peace and stability of cies in maintaining public Balochistan," the ISPR said. safety and order.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The government on Mon-

day strongly condemned

life threats to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez

Isa by a certain group and

announced initiating legal

proceedings so that no one

ould dare to challenge the

course against the elements

behind the provocative and

baseless propaganda cam-

paign against the CJP" said

Defence Minister Khawaja

Asif while addressing a

press conference along with

ederal Minister for Plan-

ing and Development

He regretted that an at-

The law will take its

vrit of the state.

hsan Iqbal.

Moreover, the ISPR said fake and malicious propaganda is being spread on social media using doctored pictures and videos by the propagandists to gain sympathy and support for the unlawful violent march.

'Security forces have displayed extreme restraint to avoid unwarranted civilian casualties despite provocations," it said adding that the violent actions of the mob are unacceptable and those responsible will be brought to justice.

The military's media wing also urged all citizens not to fall prey to the propaganda, remain calm and peaceful, and to cooperate with law enforcement agen-

name of religion for vested

in the finality of the Holy

Muhammad (Peace Be

Upon Him) is part of our

faith. He said that the Su-

preme Court has already

clarified its position on the

out that Qazi Faez Isa is

being targeted for many

years under various pre-

texts. He stated there there

is an ongoing effort to si-

lence a principled and up-

right voice in the judiciary

for the rule of law, Khawaja

Asif stated that the dicta-

Emphasizing the need

The minister pointed

Prophet

He said that believing

Govt condemns life threats

to CJP, adopt legal course

against such tendencies

of connectivity, climate resilience: Dar land after their meeting, said across her eight-year term that Pakistan was also re-

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad

Ishaq Dar alongwith Secretary General of the Commonwealth Patricia Scotland addresses a joint press stakeout at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Pakistan committed to CW agenda

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Monday reiterated that Pakistan remained committed to working with the Commonwealth to promote its agenda of connecclimate resilience.

The deputy prime minpress stakeout with Secre-

solved to support the initiatives aimed at strengthening and modernizing the Commonwealth to meet the 21st-century challenges, besides continuing to play

retary-general, who is on a five-day maiden visit here, tary General of the Com- for serving the organisation monwealth Patricia Scot- with "dedication and grace'

the Commonwealth's values and mission and modernizing the outlook.

The deputy prime minister lauded her contribution to promoting cooperativity, education, youth and an active role in building tion in education, youth women empowerment, and bridges among member empowerment, capacity building, and climate action, He appreciated the sec-besides supporting Pakistan after floods, particularly regarding the appoint-

Continued on page 2

QUETTA: A delegation of Pakistan People's Party meeting with Chief Minis-

Indonesian envoy calls on Jaffar Mandokhail: Governor stresses need to expand relations between Pak & Indonesia in various sectors further

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that deep and pleasant relations are established between Pakistan and Indonesia and there is a need to expand these relations in different sectors further according to the changing circumstances and mod-There would be positive impacts on the bilateral trade

and commerce relations between Pakistan and Indonesia with participation of the people associated with the trade and commerce in the International Business Expo due to



be held in October in Indonesia. The Governor Balochistan was speaking to the Indonesian ambassador to Pakistan Rehmat Hiniarta Kasuma, who called on him here at the Governor's House on Monday.

During the course of meeting, different matters about bilateral relations between Pakistan and Indonesia as well as the potential of investment in Balochistan and others Continued on page 2

SBP cuts policy rate by 100bps to 19.5% as inflation cools down 'slightly'

SBP Governor Jameel Ahmed says inflation rate eased to 12.60%, while external account continues to improve

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Monday reduced the interest rate by 1% or 100 basis points (bps) from 20.5% to 19.5%, the second cut in a row, citing a slight cooling in the inflation rate — a move that is mostly in line with the general market

consensus. Addressing a press conference after the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, SBP Governor Jameel Ahmad said, "We have noted that the infla**Justices Sardar** hoc judges

Pakistan.

Commission of Pakistan

Registrar Supreme Court of Pakistan conducted the proceedings of oath taking ceremony.

Lightning strike claims 8 lives

many as 8 people died as a result of lightning strike during rain in Tharparkar on Monday, while more than 60 cattle were killed in dif-

According to details, six individuals lost their lives when lightning struck Nagarparkar during the rain. The deceased include 20 year old Ramesh Bheel, 17 year old Ranjit Bheel, 40 year old Bhamro Bheel, 14 year old girl Sagna Bheel, Bheel. Another person, shifted to the civil hospital

ter Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti "All protestors dispersed; normalcy returns in Gwadar": Ready for talks according to Constitution: Ziaullah

We can't let anyone to challenge writ of state and

Independent Report

OUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has categorically stated that we are ready for talks according to the constitution of Pakistan, however, can't put the national security at stake on anyone's blackmailing.

He also made it clear that we can't let anyone to challenge writ of the state and harm government prop-

harm government properties under garb of protests

erties under the garb of pro-The Minister Home

was presiding over crucial meeting on law and order situation and other related matters in Gwadar on Mon-The Deputy Commissioner Gwadar, Hamoodur

Rehman, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Makran, Dr Farhan Zahid and other concerned high ups were in attendance.

Continued on page 2

of martyred **FC** official held in Gwadar **By Special Correspondent**

The body of Sabir Baloch was sent to his native area for burial with state

Ziaullah Langau praised the martyrdom and bravery of Sabir Baloch, saying that he was a true patriot who sac-rificed his life for the coun-

Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau said that the government and people of Balochistan stand with the grieving family of Sabir Baloch in this difficult time. He condemned the terrorist attack that led to Baloch's martyrdom and said that the government will take all necessary measures to ensure iustice is served.

Ziaullah Langau also condemned the actions of protesters who failed to respect the dignity and cooperation of the security forces during the protests

Funeral prayer

GWADAR: Funeral prayer was held for Frontier Corps (FC) official Sabir Baloch, who was martyred during protests in Gwadar. The prayer was attended by Balochistan's Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau, DC Gwadar Ahmedullah Larak and other high-ranking civil and military officials.

Home Minister Mir

In a statement, Home

Home Minister Mir

tion of any individual or empt was being made to spread bloodshed in the group will not be accepted.

AHORE: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Chinese Counsel General

One document passport regime to remain enforced at Pak-Afghan border, Brigadier Umar Hayat

Independent Report

OUETTA: The Brigadier Imar Hayat of Frontier Corps (FC) has categorically stated that the one document passport regime would remain enforced at the Pak-Afghan border.

He said that there has been no talk of the higher authorities with the dharna committee about the national identity cards or tazkara for across border movement.

Brigadier Umar Hayat was speaking to the media persons of Chaman at the FC Qila Chaman on Mon-

He said that the antipassport dharna "parlat" had come to an end on resolving the issues of education and health besides increasing the staff of passort and Laghri package.

He made it clear that the passport regime is enforced

at the Pak-Afghan border Chaman and there was no agreement on the identity cards or tazkara.

He said that the committee had demanded the Laghri package and solution to the issues of education and health not the identity card or tazkara.

He also said that the state had not made any commitment about ending the passport policy. He said that the

Chaman parlat earned bad name because of it's antistate narrative and use of political interests. He mentioned that the dharna organizers reiterated that they honour all the laws of state of Pakistan including the enforce-

ment of passport. He said that the dharna organizers also made assurance that they would not become part of any protest against the state laws.

tion is on a declining trend. "The inflation rate has come down to 12.60% from 38% while the external account has continued to improve," the SBP governor said adding, "The reduction in the interest rate reflects our confidence in the current economic trajectory.

Last month, the SBP's MPC trimmed its benchmark interest rate by 150 bps to 20.5%, following a record-high 22% that had been maintained for almost

Continued on page 2

Tariq, Mazhar Alam take oath as SC's ad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Justice Qazi Faez Isa, Chief Justice of Pakistan on Monday administered the oath of offices to Justice Sardar Tariq Masood and Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhel as Ad-hoc Judges, Supreme Court of

A simple and dignified oath taking ceremony was held at Supreme Court of Pakistan in this regard. The judges of apex court, Attorney General for Pakistan, members of Pakistan Bar Council, Supreme Court Bar Association, senior lawyers, law officers and officers of Law & Justice

tended the ceremony.

Tharparkar:

HYDERABAD (APP): As ferent areas.

the village of Akraro in 16 year old Vikram Bheel and 17 year old girl Anita named Tabo was injured and Mithi for treatment.

Govt, Ulema agree to curb religious intolerance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ulema, belonging to different schools of thought, and the government have agreed that nobody will be allowed to take law into hands in the name of religion.

Addressing a joint news conference, along with Ulema, in Rawalpindi today, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar strongly condemned the issuance of fatwas against Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa. He said the Supreme Court, in its Urdu press release, has clarified that believing in the finality of Holy Prophet Hazrat

Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) is part of every Muslim's faith. The Minister said nei-

ther law nor society permits anyone to issue decrees against fellow Muslims' faith. He said a case has been registered against the culprits behind such fatwas, aimed at spreading hatred. He said strict action will be taken in this regard.

He said that the state would respond to the malicious campaign against the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) and no one would be

allowed to decree religious notions against anyone.

QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting

Availability of authentic data, its appropriate use, essential for national development: Ahsan Iqbal

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Igbal said on Monday that the availability of authentic data and its judicious utilization was essential for any country to achieve its goals of development and

'Today, data is driving a strategic revolution worldwide. It is crucial for any economy to prioritize data availability and utilization among its national objectives," he said while addressing the "Dialogue on Data for Development: Enabling People-Centric Development Planning in Pakistan," organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

The minister recalled that it was the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz lighted that the PML-N Pakistan launched its sec-

ISLAMABAD (APP): (PML-N) government government distributed mil- ond communication satwhich established the National Database Organization in the 1998 plan, at a time when the value of creating a citizen data bank was not widely recognized.

He noted that Pakistan became one of the first countries to establish a citizen data bank, which was now known as NADRA [National Database and Registration Authority].

He mentioned that durfor Excellence in Big Data China. and Cloud Computing, National Centers for Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Secu-Satellite Technology and

Additionally, he high-

RAWALPINDI: Pak Army and Rescue-1122 personnel standing high alert

on the bridge of flooded Nullah Lai near Gawalmandi to cope any untoward

agencies deserve apprecia-

tion on controlling situation

creants wanted to spoil law

and order situation in

Gwadar, however, they

faced complete failure in it.

are held in high esteem and

given respect and value ac-

cording to the traditions of

Balochistan, However, the

women are requested to

demonstrate respect during

He said that the women

He said that some mis-

in public and private universities to facilitate Internet access and enable online education, contributing to Pakistan becoming the third-largest freelancing country in the world.

Between 2013 and 2018, the minister said the PML-N government launched 3G and 4G networks, which drove the digital revolution in Pakiing its various tenures, the stan, and also strengthened PML-N government estab- digital infrastructure by exlished the National Center tending fiber optics from

He regretted that after 2018 there was no significant headway in the 'jourrity, Applied Mathematics, nev to development' due to the elements which caused Geographic Information hindrances in national development process.

On May 30 this year,

Fitch upgrades

Pakistan...

Continued from page 1

improvement, he added. He

said that recent cut in the

interest rate would further

reduce inflation and in-

crease the business activi-

has upgraded Pakistan's

Long-Term Foreign-Cur-

rency Issuer Default Rat-

ing (IDR) to 'CCC+' from

on Monday, the Fitch rat-

ing agency said "The up-

grade reflects greater cer-

tainty over continued avail-

ability of external funding,

in the context of Pakistan's

staff-level agreement (SLA)

with the IMF on a new 37-

month USD7 billion Ex-

tended Fund Facility

formance on the previous

more temporary IMF ar-

rangement helped Pakistan

narrow fiscal deficits and

rebuild foreign exchange

(FX) reserves, and further

improvements are likely

'Nevertheless, Pakistan's

large funding needs leave it

vulnerable if it fails to

implement challenging re-

forms, which could under-

mine programme perfor-

mance and funding," it

Board approval the \$7 bil-

lion, 37-month programme

for Pakistan by August-

end. However, before the

approval, "the government

will have to obtain new

funding assurances from bi-

lateral partners, chiefly Saudi

Arabia, the UAE and China,

totalling about \$4-5 billion

over the duration of the EFF

142.856.407

190.475.822

238,094,612

Fitch expects IMF

It said that strong per-

In a statement released

'CCC'

(EFF).

warned.

Earlier, Fitch Ratings

lions of laptops to youth ellite with assistance from China, aimed at ensuring Internet availability in remote areas of the country

The planning minister stressed the need to increase the country's exports, which required authentic data, saying "The use of data is essential to transforming the country into a knowledge economy because data is the fuel of the knowledge economy.'



QUETTA: A delegation led by President Quetta Bar Association, Advocate Qari Rehmatullah meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

PM directs measures to protect lives, properties amidst heavy rains

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed the authorities concerned to take all possible measures to protect the lives and properties of the citizens amidst heavy rains in different parts of the country.

The prime minister directed the National Disaster Management Authority to take

immediate steps to cope with the emergency and extend support to the provincial governments as well as those of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan.

He instructed the Islamabad city administration to facilitate the residents and ensure proper drainage of rainwater. Prime Minister Shehbaz directed the relevant departments to carry out constant monitoring, take coordinated measures and ensure evacuation of people from low-lying areas and drainage of water.

CM Bugti authorizes opposition...

Continued from page 1 stan, one group is using violence in Balochistan and another group is defaming the state institutions through social media.

He said that some miscreant organizations doing social maneuvering and creating space between the youth and the state institu-

He said terrorists were involved in the killing of over 4000 innocent people. Sarfraz Bugti said that

the digital terrorists spreading fake propaganda want to create space among the state institutions and public and anti-state elements would not succeed in their nefarious designs. He said that the govern-

ment would not use force against the peaceful citizens and would inspired them with good governance.

Bugti said that holding a peaceful protest is the right of every one and the government would also facilitate the protest if it held peacefully and would not give permission of blocking the roads.

The chief minister said that the government would of course take action to dis- ter rights than this?

courage the mob mentality and could not give control in the hands of any Jahtha. He said the government cannot accept the arbitrariness of a group challenging the state writ.

Sarfraz Bugti said he would not compromise on the sake of the country on losing the political capital, adding that Balochistan cannot afford violence any more. He said we do not believes in revenge as strengthening democracy is the best solution of issue. He said that implementing the rules in the interest of the common man and in the national interest is a con-

the government He added that some people want the politics of dead bodies, but we will not give anyone a chance to do politics on dead bodies. There will be no compromised on the writ of the state, he added.

stitutional responsibility of

Sarfraz said, "The people of Balochistan have understood that the development of Balochistan is with Pakistan, when a president of the country is Baloch, then citizens in the implementawhere can Baloch get bet-

Mohsin Naqvi meets Chinese **Consul General** Zhao Shiren

AHORE (INP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren in Lahore Monday.

During the meeting. matters of mutual interest including strengthening of bilateral relations, CPEC projects, security of the Chinese citizens and the ongoing projects were discussed in detail.

On this occasion, the Interior Minister said that CPEC has given a new dimension to the brotherly relationship between two countries and every Pakistani is proud of the endur-

tion the of foolproof secu-

ing friendship with China. He stated that China has stood by Pakistan in every test of time and Both countries have the similar stance on international issues. He emphasized that all humanly possible measures have been put in place to protect the Chinese citizens. He also appreciated the cooperation of Chinese

Aurangzeb terms Pakistan rating upgrade, policy rate reduction 'good news' for economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday termed the upgrade in Pakistan's rating by Fitch, an international credit rating agency, and the policy rate reduction by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), as

"This reflects the journey that this government initiated 4-5 months ago with full vigour to get more permanence in the macroeconomic stability," he said while talking to media after the Fitch upgraded Pakistan's long-term foreign currency issuer default rating (IDR) from CCC to CCC+, and the SBP Monetary Policy Committee reduced the key policy rate by 100 basis points, taking

'good news' for the national

economy.

it to 19.5 per cent. He said the last fiscal year ended on a 'very strong' note as both fiscal and current account deficit sides remained in the 'very much check,' which greatly helped in stabilizing Pakistani rupee against dollar and improving the foreign

Aurangzeb expressed international agencies would also upgrade Pakistan's rating during the current fiscal year on the external financing side "especially now when the staff level agreement has been in

ing positive and going in the right direction," he added.

Vowing to take Pakistan to the international capital markets, the finance which "We have to get into Euro bond and get back to exchange reserves, with the US market.

during cleanliness drive campaign, held in Hub.

cerned law enforcement ditions SBP cuts policy rate by...

situation during heavy monsoon rain in the city.

Ready for talks according....

in Gwadar.

Continued from page 1

The meeting was briefed about overall situa-

tion of Gwadar. It was in-

formed that some elements

want to sabotage the peace

by taking law in their

hands. Action was taken

against those took law in

their hands and some 20

were arrested, it was in-

sion, the Minister Home

said that all the protestors

were dispersed in Gwadar

and situation has turned

He said that all con-

Speaking on the occa-

formed further.

normal there.

The finance czar further stated that "future proiections expect the average inflation rate to stabilise between 23% and 25%, fol-

lowing last year's 23.4%". The central bank in a statement said the announcement of monetary easing showed positive indicators for the national economy citing a slight drop in inflation, a buildup in SBP's foreign exchange (FX) reserves despite repayments of debt, and a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a 37-month extended fund facility (EFF) programme of about \$7.0 billion.

It added that the committee assessed that the external account has continued to improve, as reflected by the build-up in the central bank's FX reserves despite substantial repayments of debt and other obligations.

The developments – along with significantly

Rates. Tender fee 2000/- and Bid Security 2%

(Z2024.0279) TSE-242507508913

TSE-242507508933

PSDP NO:1835 Z2024.0277 **TSE-242507508893**

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ROADS CWPP&H DISTRICT DUKKI

the protests too. onstrating behaviour with the security forces keeping in view the province's tra-

Continued from page 1 positive real interest rates led to the further reduction in the policy rate in a calibrated manner to support economic activity, while keeping inflationary pressures in check.

> Since its last meeting, the committee noted the key developments that the current account deficit narrowed sharply in FY24 and SBP's FX reserves improved significantly from \$4.4 billion at the end of June 2023 to above \$9.0

conducted in July showed a worsening in inflation expectations and confidence of both consumers and businesses, the statement read It adds that interna-

The sentiment surveys

tional oil prices have remained volatile in recent weeks, whereas prices of metals and food items have

Lastly, with the ease in inflationary pressures and labour market conditions. central banks in advanced economies have also started to cut their policy rates.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of

GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to

The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ROADS CWPP&H DISTRICT DUKKI invites bids from Eligible Bidders for

execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage

CONSTRUCTION OF B/T ROAD FROM MAIN MAHROOFZAI ROAD TO KILLI HAJI 190,475,595

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of

Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring

agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have

completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work All other requirement mentioned in the bidding

documents. Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security:

The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee, Deposit at Call of 2 % specified

above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding

Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk Issuance of tender Documents:

Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 15 August, 2024 till 12:00 PM through supplier dashboard.

Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 01:00 PM on EPPS System Address:

KAREEZ ROAD DISTRICT DUKI PSDP NO: 1623 Z2024.0280 TSE-242507508833

NASRULLAH KHAN SATRO KHAN & KILLI SARDAR ASMAT LUNI DISTRICT DUKI

CONSTRUCTION OF B/T ROAD FROM DHAKI CROSS TO MAHI SHAHR VIA

CONSTRUCTION OF B/T ROAD FROM LANDI MIR KHAN TO MAIN KOHLU

ROAD VIA KILLI NAHARAN KILLI AREA DISTRICT DUKI. PSDP NO: 1837

CONSTRUCTION OF B/T ROAD FROM SHADOZAI CROSS TO DISTRICT

COMPLEX U/C MANKI ROAD DISTRICT DUKI PSDP NO:1836 (Z2024.0278)

Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.

HUB: Members of Civil Society are removing garbage from Gadani Beach

Continued from page 1

advisor for Pakistan. Ishaq Dar urged the Commonwealth's role to resolve outstanding disputes among member states with greater urgency and press for implementation of the UN Security Council

of the Commonwealth.

opportunities for collaboration in realizing goals in education, skills, youth and women empowerment, health, and environment preservation.

nitary that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was looking forward to attending the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2024 scheduled to take place in Apia, Samoa in October. Dar said on the sidelines of the Commonwealth foreign ministers meeting in September, he would engage with the participating counterparts.

In her remarks, Secretary-General Patricia Scotland lauded Pakistan's continued support of the Commonwealth particularly during her eight-year term.

She told the media that she was visiting Pakistan to see and celebrate the way Pakistan had arisen from the devastating floods of 2022 that had affected more than 33 million Pakistanis with two million of them lost homes and livelihoods.

The secretary-general

commitment to the Commonwealth principles as the organization strived for a digitized and AI-enabled world. She said that 65% of Pakistan's population under age 30 would not just be the leaders of tomorrow

but would also help the

Commonwealth create a

better future. To a question, Deputy Prime Minister Dar said that Pakistan continued to uphold values like peace and development through dialogue and respecting independence and sovereignty. Pakistan sees the Commonwealth as a forum to forge consensus on

pressing issues, he added. He said that owing to its geostrategic location, Pakistan envisioned itself as a regional hub for trade as regional connectivity would create jobs for young people and create conditions for win-win cooperation. He also appreciated Secretary-General Patricia Scotland's vision of increasing intra-Commonwealth trade to US\$2 trillion by

Responding to a query the secretary-general said the Commonwealth consisted of 2.7 billion people or one-third of the world. She said the trade with Commonwealth states was far faster, cheaper and easier than other countries.

To another question, she explained that the Commonwealth had been challenging and combating all forms of discrimination while mainstreaming fairness and equality for all inappreciated Pakistan's cluding girls and women.

Governor stresses need to... Continued from page 1

Also present on the occasion were famous traders and business personali-Jamaldin Khan Achakzai, Daro Khan Achakzai and Asfandyar

Khan Mandokhail. Speaking on the occa-

sion, Governor said that The Governor said that the close friendship and relations between Pakistan and Indonesia would also cast positive impacts on the sustainable peace in the whole region.

He Balochistan is blessed with natural resources and it is also stated to be the fruit basket due to the fresh and dry fruits produced in its different parts.

Besides, the profitable prospects of investment also exist in the province and the Indonesian investors must benefit from them.

He said that we value a lot the interest of the Indonesian investors in establishing industries at the local level He also said that Paki-

stan desires to deepen co-

operation in education and other sectors with Indonesia further. He said that we are expecting from Indonesia to give special preference to

the students of Balochistan in provision of academic scholarships.

In the end, the Governor and Indonesian ambassador exchanged commemorative shields

more than two-month import cover. Besides, the in-

flation came down from 38 per cent to 12.5 per cent. the confidence that other

"All macro factors look-

Highlighting importance of this upgrading in the rating, he said it was important "If we have to take this programme (IMF) as the last one. There has to be a road to the market, coupled with export-led growth and foreign direct investment, which heavily depend on sovereign rat-

minister said China would support Pakistani in the Panda bonds, following

The Chief Officer District Council Washuk invites sealed tenders on percentage rates based on composite schedule of rates 2023

Government of Balochistanfrom the interested eligible contractors /Firms for the works mentioned below: -. Earnest money 0f 2% in shape of Call Deposit. Time limit 06 months. NO. NAME OF SCHEME Construction of Agricultural Lands through tractor

at Moza Palantakgresha. TSE-242507509393 Construction of Agricultural Lands through tractor 1500000 at MozaSaragi/CHalkiKand and Daarap. TSE-242507509413 Construction of Agricultural Lands through tractor 1500000

at killi Mohammad Gul / Bajak / ShayakKhurmagai TSE-242507509433 Construction of Agricultural Lands through tractor at Phull Abad / Mattan and Rand-e-Miskan

TSE-242507509453 Construction of Agricultural Lands through tractor at 1500000 Nazar / Sorgazo Garang Union Council Garan.

TSE-242507509473 Construction of Agricultural Lands through tractor at Zard / Seenkurri/ Gazzi Damag. TSE-242507509493

Construction of Agricultural Lands through tractor at MozaSajid / ZavakBasima Area TSE-242507509503 Construction of Agricultural Lands through tractor at 1500000 MozaShimshan Union Council HadiNawar.

TSE-242507509543 Construction of Agricultural Lands through tractor at 1900000 MozaJhangian / Jhalwar / Shahogeri. TSE-242507509563

10 Construction of Agricultural Lands through tractor at Union Council Shingir area. TSE-242507509583 11 Construction of Agricultural Lands through tractor at

SaragiMashkel. TSE-242507509603 12 Construction of Agricultural Lands through tractor at 1500000 ZeerukiPalantak. TSE-242507509623

13 Construction of Agricultural Lands through tractor at 1500000 KattikGarangMashkel. TSE-242507509643 14 Construction of Agricultural Lands through tractor at 1500000 MozaLakkurMashkel. TSE-242507509663 15 Construction of Agricultural Lands through tractor at 1900000

Rand-e-NasroiMashkel TSE-242507509673 16 Construction of Agricultural Lands through tractor at MashodiMashkel.ss TSE-242507509683 Construction of Kacha Talab for Agriculture at Bazzag. 500000

TSE-242507509913 18 Construction of Agricultural Lands through tractor at MozaHokiMashkel TSE-242507509693 19 Construction of Protection Band at Tagaz Kand

Mashkel TSE-242507509903 20 Construction of Agricultural Pond (Talaab) at Khurmagai Saadatullah TSE-242507509883 Construction of Agricultural Lands through tractor at

MozaSherenzan/Gorgej. TSE-242507509733 22 Construction of Agricultural Lands through tractor at Patk/Kappar/Mulladooni. TSE-242507509763 23 Construction of Agricultural Lands through tractor at 1300000

Hussainzi/Bidrang/Parr-e-Bijjar. TSE-242507509863 Procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Balochistan Public Procurement Authority (BPPRA) rules 2014 and in accordance with PEC by Laws. Basic eligibility of bidders: The contractor/Firm must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in the relevant category and registration with tax authorities. i.e (NTN and Sales Tax Department, where applicable). The contractor /firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Revenue Authority registration is required. The Contractor / firm must have completed 1 assignment of similar nature of work in last 3 years. Turn-over of last three years showing financial capacity of the contractor / firm. Procedure of Procurement; Single stage Oneenvelope Bidding Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at call of 2% specified above in the name of the undersigned from a scheduled Bank. Tender Documents: The bidding document documents can be obtained from the Office on payment of Rs.1000 as tender fee. (Not refundable). Issuance of Tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 13 August 2024 during office hours on working days.Last date of bid submission: The tenders must be submitted latest by 13 August 2024 till 11.00 PM.All tenders will be

opened on same date at 12.PM. Address: Office of the Chief Officer

AB No.114/29-07-2024

District CouncilWashuk.

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PRQ No.398/29-07-2024

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Pakistan committed to CW...

ment of a climate finance

resolutions. Dar said Pakistan's vision of the regional connectivity agenda matched that

He highlighted the vast

He told the visiting dig-

President for enhanced BISP outreach, number of beneficiaries

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday underscored the need for enhancing the outreach of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) as well as the number of beneficiaries for the uplift of underprivileged sections of society.

The President expressed these views during briefing given by the Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Mrs Rubina Khalid, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. He asked the Chair-

person of BISP to establish an office at Gwadar so that BISP in its endeavours to flagship program of BISP,

area could benefit from the Programme. Taking note of the 0.45% service charges by the banks from BISP cardholders, the president said that the service charges needed to be waived off, and in this regard, the State Bank of Pakistan should be approached to ask banks for opening accounts for BISP

He said that the new payment system would also protect BISP beneficiaries from exploitation. He also called for engaging donors and the private sector to support

the deserving people of the provide scholarships to the maximum number of deserv-

> During the briefing, the President was informed about the core initiatives taken by BISP, including the Benazir Kafalat Program, Benazir Taleemi Wazaif Program, BISP Scholarships for Undergraduates Program and Benazir lashounuma Program. Chairperson BISP informed that Rs 598.718 billion had been allocated for BISP during the ongoing fiscal year. She said that Benazir Kafalat was the

cash transfers to eligible women and transgender persons across Pakistan. It was highlighted that Rs 461 billion had been allocated for the Benazir Kafalat Program, during FY 2024-25, for 9.3 million eligible

In order to enhance school enrolment and provide education to children holds, she informed that Rs 77.18 billion had been allocated for the Benazir Taleemi Wazaif which would benefit 9.7 million



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari being briefed about the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) by Chairperson BISP, Mrs. Rubina Khalid at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Mohsin Naqvi directs Chairman CDA to ensure swift water drainage

Senate Committee on

Human Rights meets

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has contacted Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa and directed him to ensure swift drainage of water after torrential rain in Islamabad. The Interior Minister while directing the mobilization of field teams for the drainage of water said that the relevant officers and staff must remain in the field.

He said that all possible resources should be utilized to deal with the situation caused by the heavy rain adding that additional staff and machinery should be mobilized to drainage of water.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Meeting of the Senate Stand-

ing Committee on Human

Rights, chaired by Senator

Samina Mumtaz Žehri, was

held at the Parliament Lodges

and attended by Senator

Mohammad Humayun

Mohmand, Senator Poonjo

Bheel, Senator Dr. Zarga

Suharwardy Taimur, Senator

Syed Ali Zafar, Senator Jam

Saifullah Khan, the Federal

Minister for Law, Justice, and

Human Rights, Senator

Azam Nazeer Tarar, the Sec-

retary of the Ministry of

Human Rights (MoHR), and

senior officials from the af-

filiated Ministry.

ways, and waterways.

The Interior Minister also directed to ensure speedy drainage of water from the underpasses and other places. He further said that the traffic police should perform their duties in an active manner to maintain the flow of traffic. He added that no effort should be spared to resolve the issues being faced by citizens during the rain. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa apprised the Interior Minister regarding

The committee mem-

bers engaged in a comprehen-

sive briefing on the main func-

tions, workings, and institu-

tions of human rights. It was

informed that there are seven

human rights institutions,

namely the National Commis-

sion for Human Rights, the Na-

tional Commission on the Sta-

tus of Women, the National

Commission on the Rights of

the Child, the Zainab Alert

Response and Recovery

Agency, the Child Protection

Institute, Islamabad, the Coun-

cil on the Rights of Persons

with Disabilities and the Se-

nior Citizens Council, with the

latter four based in Islamabad.

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to PM on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid

Alam chairing first meeting of Prime Minister's Committee on COP 29.

the steps taken for the

the PM House on Monday. Ahsan Iqbal said that the PM's programme

hepatitis C in the country. A special task force will be formed to address challenges in health, education, and other areas in collaboration with provinces.

sults of the first digital census conducted in Pakistan indicated that the country's population growth rate has increased from 2.4 percent to 2.55 percent, positioning Pakistan among the 30 fastest-growing nations, with a projected population of 500 million by 2050.

Programme to eliminate **Hepatitis C** large population is chal- ecuted with assistance from lenging and emphasized the 40 non-governmental orga-

Ahsan Iqbal unveils PM's

stable leadership and con-

sistent policies are crucial

for success, citing expert opinions. A total of 26 mil-

lion children are out of

school and realizing the

dream of an educated nation

Force on Hepatitis Elimi-

nation Dr. Saeed Akhtar

said almost 10 million Pa-

kistanis are active carriers

of hepatitis. He stated that

the Executive Committee

of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) has ap-proved a PC1 of 68.25 bil-

lion for the Prime Minister's

Programme for the Elimina-

tion of Hepatitis C in Paki-

stan. The federal share will

be 34.78 billion, while the

provinces will contribute

Member PM's Task

requires enrolling them.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Reform, Prof. Ahsan Igbal stated that the government is committed to eradicating hepatitis C from the country.

He said this while speaking as the chief guest at the launching ceremony of the Prime Minister's Programme for the Elimination of Hepatitis C in Pakistan on World Hepatitis Day themed, "It's time for

Ashan Iqbal formally inaugurated the programme on behalf of Prime Minis-ter (PM) Shehbaz Sharif in

would help in eliminating

He said the initial re-

He stated that managing food, water, education, and employment for such a

need to impose a national nizations (NGOs) as priemergency to control popuvate partnership is key for the success of any lation growth. He said that in April

programme. He said that the 2022, after the Pakistan programme aims to screen Democratic Movement (PDM) government took the entire population and office, they summoned attain hepatitis-free status by December 2029. A PM's 1,000 experts from various portal has been set up for fields to propose solutions to address the significant individuals to self-register for hepatitis virus screenchallenge of saving the country from default. ing, he added. Ahsan emphasized that

He asked people to avoid unnecessary injections and drips, tattoos, and get dental and surgical procedures only from authentic medical facilities with proper sterilisation of instruments, ask barbers to use new blades and in case of blood transfusion make

sure it is screened properly. Prime Minister's Coordinator Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath stated that there are 60 million people worldwide suffering from hepatitis, with 10 million of them in Paki-

Dr. Mukhtar said the PM's Hepatitis elimination program is being launched in collaboration with the federal government and all four provinces. Everyone 33.42 billion for the over the age of 12 will be programme in the next screened, and free treatthree years. The ment will be provided to programme would be ex-

wealth of Nations in a group photograph during visit the National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) at NDMA Headquarters. Robust plan must to showcase Pakistan's resilience-building initiatives at COP29: Romina

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Patricia Scotland, Secretary General of the Common-

Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam said that all-out efforts would be taken to project Pakistan's climate vulnerability and resilience-building measures in different socio-economic sectors, particularly agriculture, water, energy, health, edu-

cation and gender. Chairing the first meeting of the Prime Minister's Committee on the 29the session of the Conference of Parties (COP 29) here on Monday, she urged the meeting participants to come with a concrete plan in close coordination with relevant federal and provinther the country's resilience cial departments to show- against myriad climate risks

The Pakistan Bar Council

(PBC) through its Director-

ate of Legal Education

(DLE) and the Higher Edu-

cation Commission (HEC)

signed a Memorandum of

Understanding on Monday

to streamline efforts to up-

lift the standard and qual-

ity of legal education in the

country. The signing cer-

Federal Minister for Law &

Justice Senator Azam

Nazeer Tarar and Chairman

HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed.

case Pakistan's resilience- through adaptation and implemented by federal government and provinces.

The meeting focused on preparations for the country's active participation in the upcoming COP29, a UN-led annual global climate summit, which is scheduled to kick off from from 11 to 22 November 2024 at Baku, Azerbaijan's capital. "We must come up with a wellthought out plan to showcase the country's resilience-building measures with own resources and highlight the finance, technology and capacity-build-

ing needs to strengthen fur-

cluding Syed Amjad Shah,

Hassan Raza Pasha, Haroon Rashid, Director

(DLE) Barrister Usama

Malik and Director

(Admn./Litigation) HEC

Tariq Iqbal were also

present at the occasion. The

MoU was signed by Prof.

Dr. Anwar Gilani, Consult-

ant (Quality Assurance)

Malik. It aims to enhance

collaboration to revamp the

syllabus and quality of

LLB graduates in Pakistan.

HEC, PBC collaborate

to uplift quality of

legal education

emony was attended by the HEC and Barrister Usama

building initiatives being mitigation measures," she urged the meeting participants. She pointed out that global community is very much cognisiant of the fact that Pakistan is among the few countries most affected by climate change, facing climate change-caused challenges like recurring and intensifying heatwaves and shifting

monsoon patterns. "But, there is pressing need for the country to emphasise the need for financial and technical support needed to cope with these vulnerabilities, protect lives and livelihoods of the communities and socio-Khurshid Alam Suggested.

PTA carries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Zonal Offices Lahore, Faisalabad and Peshawar have conducted a series of raids against franchisees cellular companies, located in Rawalpindi, Sargodha, KotMomin, Kohat and

During the raids, the FIA seized 4 laptops, 1 PC, 12 BVS devices, active SIMs, mobile phones, hard disks, original CNICs with photocopies and soft copies of Afghan passports and POR cards. Fifteen persons working for the franchisees were arrested on the spot and FIRs have been registered by the

NHMP launches Radio FM 95 in 3 major cities

initiative was a significant milestone in promoting road safety education among commuters on national highways.

He said since its inception, Radio FM 95 has been broadcasting informative and engaging content, including road safety tips.



ISLAMABAD (APP): In a determined effort to combat the spread of dengue, the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has intensified operations, resulting in the arrest of four individuals and the closure of three businesses for violations of standard operating procedures (SoPs) set by the government.

ccording to the spokesman of ICT administration, the authority has ramped up their anti-dengue cam-paign, with significant actions taken in Sector F-7.

he Assistant Commissioner (AC) City led an operation that resulted in the arrest of four individuals.

ese arrests were made due to continuous violations of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) designed to curb the spread of dengue.

nree business outlets were also shut down for failing to implement the required anti-dengue measures. These clothe occasion, Deputy Commissioner dengue larvae.

of the city.

importance of keeping citizens informed about ongoing operations and health measures.

to enforcing health guidelines and protecting public health.

significantly

CDA, EOBI collaborate on mega commercial projects in **Islamabad**

ISLAMABAD (APP) The Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) have agreed to collaborate on mega commercial projects in Islamabad.

The partnership aims to enhance revenue generation and contribute to the city's development.

During a meeting between CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa and EOBI Chairman Khaqan Murtaza, on Monday, various commercial ini tiatives and projects were discussed.
EOBI chairman ex-

pressed keen interest in investing in these projects. recognizing their potential for substantial returns.

Chairman CDA said the collaboration will explore new avenues for investment and development within Islamabad, with CDA sharing a basket of projects with EOBI for future collaboration. This strategic partnership marks a pivotal step towards enhancing the infrastructure and economic landscape of Islamabad, reflecting a shared commitment to progress and prosperity.

Islamabad Police ensures safe travel during rain

SLAMABAD: Following

the special directions of Inspector General of Police (ÎGP) Islamabad, Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, Islamabad Police officers are performing their duties in the field regarding cautious driving and road safety during the rains in the federal capital.

The recent spells of intermittent rain continue in Islamabad. Despite the rain and harsh weather, police officers are providing awareness to citizens about road safety and cautious driving during construction work at various locations in the city and provide every possible assistance to ensure the best travel facilities. The citizens praised officers present on site.

this initiative of Islamabad Police, stating that Islamabad Police plays a key role in preventing traffic accidents and maintaining an integrated traffic system in the city.

The citizens are urged to follow traffic laws and ensure the safety of their own and others' lives by driving cautiously during

Moreover, citizens should avoid unnecessary travel during the rains, and if travel is unavoidable, they should take precautionary measures and follow traffic laws, especially maintaining lane discipline and adhering to the instructions of the traffic police



ISLAMABAD: Police personals stands alert and checking vehicles at police check post on Srinagar Highway due to security high alert in the Federal Capital.

PM's Green Youth Movement launches training on climate action education

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Prime Minister's Green Youth Movement (GYM) has launched a four-day training program on Climate Action Education Curriculum and Digital Learning Portal at International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI).

The initiative is a collaboration with British Council Pakistan.

Ms. Noor Amna Malik, Managing Director National Academy for Higher Education-HEC, attended the event as chief guest. She emphasized the importance of equipping youth with knowledge and skills to address climate

The training aims to empower GYM focal persons and oversight committee members with advanced knowledge and practical skills in climate action education. This will enable them to effectively implement environmental initiatives in their universities.

The initiative seeks to create a robust network of informed and proactive youth dedicated to combating climate change. By cascading the training to Green Youth Movement clubs nationwide, GYM aims to promote a culture of sustainability and environmental stewardship.

The training program covers topics such as climate action education curriculum, digital learning portal, and innovative approaches to sustainable de-

Participants will gain hands-on experience in developing effective environmental initiatives and

Higher Education Commission of Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The ceremony attended by Minister for Law & Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar and Chairman Higher Education Commission Dr. Mukhtar. **IESCO** for adopting precautionary measures

in rainy season

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Bar Council through

its Directorate of Legal Education (DLE) and the

ISLAMABAD (APP): meters during the rain.
The Islamabad Electric
Supply Company pliances with wet hands Supply Company (IESCO) has advised power consumers to adopt precautionary measures during the rainy season as fatal incidents.

"As the incessant rains continue in the entire IESCO's Regions, the risk of electrical accidents becomes more prominent," IESCO Chief Director Operation Muhammad Aslam Khan told here Monday. The IESCO requested esteemed custom-

ers to take necessary pre-

cautions to ensure their

safety during rainfall and

keep proper and safe dis-

tance from electrical instal-

lations like transformers,

when your body is wet. He said to prevent

personal and property damage from short circuits little negligence can cause ensure old and faulty wiring is repaired. Do not keep electrical appliances on standby position, avoid ironing clothes barefoot, use rope instead of metal wire to hang clothes, and do not use metal wires for drying clothes, he said.

He said that never touch broken electrical wires and never tie animals to electric poles or under transformers

Additionally, line staff must adhere to all safety equipment and precautionary measures durelectric wires, poles and ing their work.

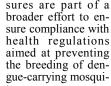


Hangu.
The franchisees were eportedly involved in the illegal issuance of SIMs, often associated with criminal activities such as fraud, identity theft, and other illicit operations.

agency, said a news release.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Inspector General of National Highway and Motorway Police (NHMP) Salman Chaudhry on Monday announced launch of Radio FM 95 transmission in three major cities including Pakhtunkhwa, Sargodha Punjab and Jamshoro for

According to him, the



Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon emphasized the need for city-wide efforts to stop the growth of called for unbiased and

comprehensive inspections to be carried out across all sectors emon also stressed the

The crackdown highlights the city's commitment

The district administra-

tion plan to continue their stringent inspections and enforcement actions until dengue risks are



Rights presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament Lodges.

Daily Joice of Masse Independent

Tuesday July 30, 2024

Constitutional limits

Throughout Pakistan's turbulent history, coup-makers and strongmen have looked to the courts to provide legitimacy to their extra-constitutional forays.

Whenever the courts have obliged, these actions have been justified by the 'doctrine of government summit in of necessity', that odious principle used to legitimise, for example, Ghulam Mohammad's dissolution of the Constituent Assembly, and later the Iskander Mirza-Ayub Khan military coup.

Today, as extreme political threatens polarisation Pakistan's fragile democracy, and unelected forces tighten their grip, people are wondering whether this doctrine will again be resurrected. In this regard, the remarks made by Supreme Court Justice Athar Minallah at a recent event in the US regarding the judiciary's role in protecting the constitutional order bear repeating.

Justice Minallah urged the courts to remain vigilant where nist applications was to the publicly run Pakidefending the Constitution was concerned. He added that mistakes in this regard had been in the country a luxury for decades. He recalls made by the higher judiciary in the past and that if the SC failed to protect the basic law, then "judges are committing misconduct". These frank admissions and stark warnings should be heeded especially by state institutions. There can be no compromise when it comes to respecting the constitutional order, and their lordships have a duty to protect the document. | lecturer) was dragged out | ing compiled by a leading It seemed that after the epic struggle between Gen Musharraf and justice Iftikhar

Musharraf and justice Iftikhar

Chandhar the document.

It seemed that after the epic struggle between Gen Musharraf and justice Iftikhar

Musharraf and justice Iftikhar

Chandhar the document.

It seemed that after the epic slightly a struggle between Gen litical party that has terrorised Punjab University.

The person's name is livelihoods, and those which will be an integral part of our economic full ture.

Syed Atiq Raza. But how many in Pakistan have ever heard of him or his sitent threats of death achievements? It was of what could have been lively a feet of the could mitigate the aggregate (as well as personal) risks.

For a moment, think

Syed Atiq Raza. But how a feet of the could mitigate the aggregate (as well as personal) risks.

Syed Atiq Raza. But how a feet of the could mitigate the aggregate (as well as personal) risks. Chaudhry, the 'doctrine of necessity' had been buried. Yet, as things have developed since, it is clear that this doctrine has bark on an unknown path. across his remarkable multiple lives. What gives one hope is the fact that conversations about protecting the constitutional order are taking place, even in a suffocating atmosphere. Whether it is Justice Minallah's remarks, the Islamabad High Court judges' letter regarding interference by intelligence agencies in judicial affairs, or Justice Mansoor Ali Shah's comment about the need to create a 'firewall' around the judicial system, these hints from within the judiciary point to a will to resist unconstitutional moves. As some observers have

noted, an unambiguous institutional response is required; undemocratic forces cannot be serve of young and talallowed to exploit divisions within the judiciary. From their lordships in the SC to the magistrates and trial judges, the judiciary as an institution must pledge to uphold the constitutional framework, and refuse to entertain 'requests' from any leaving the country for quarter to subvert the democratic system.

As Justice Minallah suggested, those who fail to defend the Constitution must face the and a brighter future for their children. consequences of their actions. Pakistan's salvation lies in all institutions staying within their sources and help it legal bounds, and letting civilian set-ups govern with freedom. Of course, there are still many pieces missing from this puzzle — a transparent electoral process, maturity and tolerance in political parties for commercialisation of each other, etc — but only if the democratic process is allowed to continue unhindered

can the system correct itself.

Maleeha Lodhi

Prospects for diplomatic engagement between India and Pakistan remain bleak. Any expectation that a multilateral summit that Islamabad will host in October will help to melt the ice between Pakistan and India seems premature in view of the persisting diplomatic stalemate, which neither side has sought to

As rotational chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), Pakistan will convene the heads around three months' time. As part of the seven-member regional grouping, India has of course been invited. While it is too early to say whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate, indications so far are that it is highly unlikely. There has been no development to suggest that either side sees this as an opportunity for bilateral re-engagement. Quite the oppo-

if a diplomatic thaw is on the anvil as it both reflects a softening in position and Prime Minister Shehbaz

paves the way for an easing of tensions. But that front too offers little grounds for optimism. Although cricket diplomacy has played a part in the past to bring the two countries closer, this is no longer the

Pakistan is to host the

ICC Champions Trophy between February and March 2025. The Indian media is already reporting, citing official sources, that due to "strained relations" between the neighbours, the Indian cricket team will not travel to Pakistan. Instead, the Indian cricket board plans to ask ICC for India's matches to be played in Dubai or Sri Lanka. For some years now, the Modi government has barred its cricket team from playing in Pakistan. Even though Pakistan's team played in India in an international tournament in late 2023 the Indian team did not come to Pakistan for the Asia

last September. More importantly, ex-Sports is always a changes between the two useful barometer to assess countries after the Indian elections have been anything but encouraging.

Cup, hosted by Pakistan

Frozen ties

Sharif's congratulatory message to Modi on his reelection elicited a terse response. The reply was wrapped in 'security' language expressing Modi's commitment to "the secu-rity and safety" of Indian citizens. Although PML-N president Nawaz Sharif's message of felicitation to Modi was cast in conciliatory terms, it elicited a similar, terse response with emphasis on security. Moreover, Pakistan was excluded from the list of regional leaders invited to Modi's oath-taking ceremony. In 2014, Nawaz Sharif had attended Modi's first inauguration. But it was Modi's ac-

cusations against Pakistan last week that provided the clearest indicator of his stance. In a speech on the anniversary of the Kargil conflict, he said: "Pakistan has not learned anything from its history. It is trying to keep itself relevant with the help of terrorism and proxy war." He also called Pakistan "masters of terror". Earlier, Indian foreign minister S. Jaishankar used the same old tired rhetoric in his first statement on assuming charge. Spelling out what future engagement

with Islamabad would involve, he said: "We would want to find a solution to the issue of years-old cross-border terrorism.'

A verbal clash between the foreign ministries of the two countries on occupied Kashmir followed in the wake of PM Sharif's China visit in June The Pakistan-China joint statement of June 8 had referred to the need to resolve all outstanding disputes in South Asia with the Chinese side reiterating its prin-cipled stand that "the Jammu and Kashmir dispute ... should be peacefully resolved in accordance with the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements"

Indian external affairs ministry spokesman to criticise the reference claiming it was "unwarranted" and that "the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union territory of Ladakh have been are and will always remain integral and inalienable parts of India". Islamabad dismissed these remarks and reiterated that Kashmir was an interna-

This prompted the

It seems the Modi government's preference is to maintain a strategic freeze on relations with Pakistan. It has shown no interest in resuming dialogue with Islamabad, apparently concluding that this hurts Pakistan, not India. Pakistan-bashing by BJP leaders during the election campaign reflected their animus towards Pakistan. Modi's own statements were extremely provocative. At one point, he compared his muscular response to cross-border terrorism with the infirm approach of his predecessors. saying he will continue to 'hit terrorists in their homes". His reference was to the Indian airstrikes he ordered on Balakot in February 2019 after a terrorist

claims were "unfounded".

neighbours. In recent weeks. there has been a virtual chorus in the Indian media about "foreign infiltrators" in J&K in the wake of a series of attacks on Indian security forces in Jammu. tionally recognised dis-puted territory and Indian referred to so-called Courtesy Dawn

attack in Pulwama in oc-

cupied Kashmir. This had

led to a dangerous confron-

tation between the nuclear

linked to Pakistani militant groups that are carrying out "proxy war", with Jammu as the new theatre of operations. The Hindu called it the "highest recorded militant footprint" in Jammu since 2005. This seems an orchestrated effort to externalise the problem in order to shield the government from blame for the deteriorating security situation. It is also designed to keep Pakistan under pressure. All this makes any chances of resumption of talks between India and Pakistan rather remote. India's obdurate re-

'shadow militant outfits'

fusal to discuss the Kashmir dispute poses a major challenge for Pakistan. Even if talks were to resume down the road it would be impossible for Islamabad to have a formal dialogue minus Kashmir. Indeed, a 'peace' process which doesn't include Kashmir will not go anywhere.

This is not a hard-line view but the dictate of law, principle and reality As for reviving trade between the two countries this too presents challenges.

A laggard's economy

Shahid Mehmood

In the 1970s, a young graduate from Lahore's University of Engineering Technology was on the lookout for a job. One of his first applications was stan Telephone Company, whose monopoly made owning a telephone that there were several hundred candidates who applied for the same post a situation that has worsened over time. He It has the distinction of found it to be a waste of time and talent. Later, he got a job as

a lecturer at Punjab University. After the imposition of martial law in 1977, the intellectual enbegan to deteriorate, ing on the cake was that reaching the point where his name was mentioned one day, his wife (also a in the History of Computsistent threats of death achievements? It was and injury led to the only after his appearance family's flight from Paki- at the PIDE PSDE constan. They left with their ference at Peshawar that meagre belongings to em- I, and many others, came

later, the person is recognised as a pioneer in IT. He is a true reflection of a 'visionary'. One of his early works related to a product design at a company called Trilogy, whose products are a precursor to important software like Nvidia and gaming software and graphics. To demonstrate the extent of his influence, his company NextGen was the first one to truly challenge the monopoly of Intel, a microchip giant. being the first of only 17 companies to be awarded the fitle of 'Cyber Catalyst'. Even Bill Gates and Vinod Khosla found it worthwhile to meet him and acknowledge his stelvironment in universities lar contribution. The ic-

Today, four decades story. To add, a whole chip market was valued at china's Belt and Road protected industries are industry grew out of one \$580 billion in 2022, proinnovation (micro-processors), leading to newer innovations later. It was Apple that invented PCs, which led to the upending of existing technologies of the time. Microprocessors came to be replaced by software that have now become the dominant mode of work, reflected initially in browsers like NetScape, which led to Microsoft's Explorer and Google's Chrome. All these innovative products used research and technological breakthroughs of which Atiq, amongst others,

was a part. Barring any error in the explanation of technical aspects, this was a brief introduction to just one person who has left a substantial imprint on technologies that are now a necessary part of our

of what could have been if Atiq had spent all these years in Pakistan and made the same effort here? Just to give you an idea the semiconductor

jected to reach \$1.1 tril- any push for much-lion in 2032 (CMI). Pa- needed economic ref-orms kistan does not figure as the fiscal and external anywhere in this huge market — our total trade, imports plus exports, does not even amount to \$100bn

The story narrated above is in the context of why Pakistan has been consigned to the status of an economic laggard who finds it difficult to escape the perennial nazuk mor. Moreover, there is this vexing puzzle of why the Pakistani state has never felt the need to retain and nurture its quality human capital. There is no concise answer, but a few probable explainers do a decent job in unlocking this puzzle. Since the country's creation, our decision-makers have always been on the lookout for an external cush-

luck, depending upon one's perspective — circumstances such as the Korean War, Seato/ Cento, Afghan-Soviet war, 9/11, and recently,

financing squeeze was temporarily alleviated. Along the way, rude shocks like the Pressler Amendment failed to push the system towards

transformation. Why? Because this historical trajectory complemented the colonial economic management well. Two basic tenets of this model are: to solve an issue, throw more money at the probally build brick and mortar infrastructure, especially the big-ticket, longgestation items that also bring perks like post-retirement, long-term jobs. The former complements the 'tax more' mantra, al-tal. together obviating the need for curtailing the plush Mughal-style ex-The person's name is which will be an integral ance that could mitigate penses. The latter necessitates the search for an external 'sugar daddy' who can provide dollars. to the capital of a nuclear In between, those who nation, another 'operacall the shots here can (and have) rack up plentiful wealth under official patronage — subsidised

Both of these, though, are discarded strategies that have been thrown into the waste bin of cast-off ideas long ago. But they continue to hold

sway here. Simply put, this model of economic management does not require brilliant, hardworking, innovative people, transformative ideas, creativity or competition. And neither is there an incentive structure — financial or societal — that rewards such traits. The lem; and second, continu- expectation of some external plus divine force relieving us of our troubles is so ingrained at the decision-making level that there is little or no need to retain the country's outstanding human capi-

This, to a large extent, explains why Pakistan is an economic laggard. Meanwhile, with a ragtag band of mediaeval vandals again laying siege tion', and with recourse to the 25th programme, Pakistan's economic goose seems to land allotments and tariff- be well and truly cooked.

Noble profession or not?

Gaitee Ara Siddiqi

It is always encouraging to see the huge pool of resourceful and talented young people that we have in our educational establishments. Having been associated with the field of education for over a decade and a half, this writer has gained immensely from the experience of teaching a large number of students from nearly all walks of life. One of the biggest advantages of this profession is that those who practise it remain young in mind and heart, simply because they are constantly in touch with the younger generations.

As mentioned, Pakistan boasts a huge reented people with immense potential; unfortunately, the country lacks the resources to allow them to exploit their potential to the fullest. As a result, young, bright and ambitious individuals who manage to secure employment abroad are greener pastures. A massive brain drain is in progress, with hordes of young people shifting abroad in search of better standards of living

What can educationists do to retain this vast reserve of human rerealise its maximum potential? The first thing is to be honest with the profession, which is beoming increasingly challenging keeping in mind the rapidly changing environment of educational establishments and the increasing academia. However, there are still a large number of educationists that this writer has en-

to do justice to their profession. That means inculcating a sense of responsibility in their students and nurturing and cultivating them, spotting their potential, and fostering an environment for them in which they can realise their hidden skills and abili-While it is widely

acknowledged teachers are overworked, underpaid and have minimal job security, there is still a huge contribution that they can make, even with their authority curtailed by institutions seeking to win over more 'clients'. By and large, it still remains an extremely respectable profession, especially for females, and most women prefer being associated with academia due to its relatively shorter working hours and other perks, such as concessions on school With a massive in-

crease in population and millions of children out of school, education will remain in demand as the country equips its future generations with the skills and abilities they need to excel and carve out a niche for themselves in the world. With the vast reserves of the young people we have, bright and competent educationists who can use their skills and competencies to groom the generations of tomorrow are direly needed. For that, training needs to be provided and incentives given to encourage more highly educated individuals to join this pro-

Another depressing reality is that individuals from privileged backgrounds do not join this profession. Nearly all of us are here by accident, countered during her and very few out of professional journey choice. This is espe-

who are doing their best cially true for men assosion, who mostly belong to low-income backgrounds and are teaching because they were unable to pursue a profession in a more promising field. Most of them are making just enough spending their days teaching in schools, and their evenings in tuition centres. With the crippling stagflation, the majority is burning the midnight oil but remains unable to make ends meet. As es-sentials become more and more dear, the true ethos of educat-ion is being compromi-sed, like everything else in this Because teachers

shape the future of a nation, the government should make a concerted effort to facilitate them by providing tax exemptions and subsidies on basic expenses. A nation which respects its teachers and aims to make their lives easier prospers, grows and develops. It encourages students to respect and value those who are devoting their lives to enable them to make something of theirs. Let's continue to

keep the flame burning. Those in the profession should keep fighting for their rights. We can do our bit by practising professional honesty to preserve the sanctity and respectability of this occupation, in the hope that it will have a spill-over effect and, in time, the government will start offering incentives to the unsung heroes and heroines of this country who may not be fighting on the borders, but are still waging important battles daily (sometimes at their own expense) to ensure a

bright future for our

coming generations.

Facing homelessness **Arif Hasan**

As you drive along Mauripur Road towards Hawkes Bay, a concrete wall appears about two kilometres from the sea and runs along the road on your left-hand side. After it reaches Hawks Bay Drive, it turns left and continues for another kilometre or so. The area enclosed by the wall contains a number of small fishermen's villages. Roads are being laid within the area enclosed by the wall, and the nullah that flows through this area has been blocked; the space where the water fanned out from the nullah to the sea has been blocked as well. Much of the area has extensive mangrove

The villages within this area and around it are Brahvi- or Balochispeaking. They claim that they had been living here well before the British came. Many of their families own small boats in which they go into shallow waters to fish and then take their fish to the many piers along the bay to sell their catch. Others are boat-hands on larger ships that go out into the deep sea. They are paid on a daily basis, or a percentage of the catch.

The retail and wholesale trade in fish is big business for the villagers, but given the unequal relationship between the fishermen and the aartis, the villagers remain poor financially, and are burdened with a 'culture of poverty' Most of the villages have no education or health facilities, and those that do, function erratically.

The villagers are terrified. The rumour is that the entire area is part of KDA scheme 42, because of which they will be evicted and their

livelihoods will be taken away from them. As a result, they will not only also paupers. Rumours are that the area enclosed multistoried condominiums, clubs and high-end eating places. They arnew people with different skills will replace related to it.

they mention the fact master plan 2020, which that the agricultural vilthe case of Gadap. The terest was taken to proresidents of Gadap villages have lost everything, including their that the flora and fauna community and their of the area, fishing culture. Many of them communities, lowerhave been killed while and lower-middle-inresisting eviction from their lands. They have become nomads. They claim that they have no one to turn to since these schemes have government, politicians and big money support.

Apart from the livelihood and communityrelated concerns of the fishing community, the environment of the area will be devastated. Mangrove marshes will disappear and with them the wildlife that WWF has been trying to protect. The noise and intensive human activity that will be generated will make it impossible for the green turtle to breed, and they too will disappear like the flamingos, pangolins, storks, and ducks at the Creek and China Sandspit backwaters.

The coast now consists of posh villas which are increasingly being used as hotels. Originally, the bye-laws permitted only a singlestorev hut with a removable roof. This preserved the physical and social environment of the beach. Reverting to this would mean the demoliwhich is not possible.

However, we can still try and salvage the situation and prepare become homeless but special bye-laws and zoning regulations for KDA scheme 42 that by the wall will contain stop it from becoming a concrete jungle and which protects the sanctity of the environment, gue that if this is true, especially of the flora and fauna, and all that is

It is important to Again and again, note that in the Karachi was approved by the lages have suffered, in city council, special intect the sea fronts of the city. It was proposed come Karachiites who throng to the beaches and the persons who serve them, are the major stakeholders of any beach development. Under the KSDP 2020, no reclamation from the sea, mangrove marshes, or mud flats, which are fish and turtle nurseries, and the land they require for survival is permitted. Also, all beaches should be accessible to the fishing communities and the public. No development between the high water mark and 150 metres beyond it, on the seaward side of the coastal road, is permis-

While the KSDP was being framed, a citizen's movement for the protection of the beaches was taking place. It has now fizzled out. People are tired for they cannot indefinitely fight the nexus of developers, politicians and bureaucrats. To save the Karachi coastline and its beautiful environment for the citizens of the city, strong institutional arrangements are required that can fight corruption, which has seeped into tion of tens of villas, every aspect of our lives. -- Courtesy Dawn

OMMERCENEWS

Syed Zahid Raza says Pakistan's engagement with Africa has historical roots

Ambassador designate to Mauritius visits Islamabad Chamber

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's engagement with Africa has historical roots and is characterized by mutual respect and cooperation.

By harnessing mutual cooperation, Pakistan and Africa can unlock new economic opportunities and foster sustainable development. This has been stated by Pakistan's Ambassador designate to Mauritius Syed Zahid Raza during his meeting with former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry here on Monday.

He said that deeper engagements with Africa remains a strategic imperative for Pakistan,

adding that forging a strong nurturing the bilateral and effective partnership for peace, progress and prosperity is an indispensable goal, which should be advanced through a clear vision, consistent policy, and a long-term strategy.

The Ambassador, while appreciating the role of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in advancing trade relations with friendly countries all over the world said that he would do his level best to strengthen the business to business and people to people work with missionary zeal relations with Mauritius and devotion for the alongside the diplomatic

best to organize business business delegations' visits to Mauritius especially the of Pakistan exports and ICCI members for tourism potential.

business relations.

Zafar Bakhtawari apprised the visiting guest that the Chamber is already Africa focused and has recently celebrated Africa Day in a befitting manner for bringing Pakistan and the African countries closer to each other and that the Ambassador to Mauritius who is known as the best friend of Pakistan was also among the attendees.

He said that in the changed circumstances, Pakistan's envoys have to economic betterment of the country and bringing the He said to achieve the countries closer to each objective, he will do his other and strengthening relations especially in the promotion



KARACHI: Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Jameel Ahmad announce Monetary Policy during press conference at State Bank of Pakistan.

SECP initiates consultation to revamp Mutual & **Pension Fund regimes**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of for mutual and pension Pakistan (SECP) on Monday published a consultation alterations to the total expense regime (TER) and distribution paradigm for mutual funds and pension funds.

The problems that the growth is a suggesting alterations to the total expense regime (TER) and guarantee equity and transparency in the expenses of fund managers.

The problems that the growth is a suggesting alterations to the total expense regime (TER) and guarantee equity and transparency in the expenses of fund managers.

The problems that the growth is a suggesting accessible to all Pakistanis by offering affordable and convenient solutions.

The problems that the company's focus on affordability ensures.

to reduce the burden on of the distribution network retail investors, optimize and affected retail their returns, inculcate better saving habits, and increase retail penetration,

said a news release. paper is made available on public feedback and comments from stakeholders. The paper reviews the current regime in three parts including the TER framework for mutual funds, the TER of pension funds, and a review of distribution models.

While evaluating the current TER frameworks funds, the paper suggests ished a alterations to reduce the paper, financial burden on various investors, enhance their

These suggestions aim have impeded the growth penetration are discussed in the third part of the paper. Further, it recommends

The consultation transformative framework to revamp the distribution SECP's website to solicit model and improve its usability and accessibility for average investors.

The changes are designed to align with international best practices and ensure that pension fund participants receive the maximum value from their savings.

Commissioner says Action plan prepared to eliminate encroachments for improved traffic flow in Karachi

measures

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi chaired weekly meeting on Monday to review the progress of the department officials also improvement of traffic attended the meeting and related and other civic

meeting discussed and planned actions to improve traffic flow, eliminate haphazard parking and illegal parking, restore basement parking in commercial buildings, and remove encroachments from footpaths and roads. Important decisions were made to make these actions effective.

Deputy Commissioners attended the meeting. Deputy Commissioner South Altaf Deputy Commissioner Central Fawad Ghaffar Soomro, and Deputy Commissioner Kemari Juned Khan briefed the Commissioner on

various city improvement

respective districts. Other Deputy Commissioners shared their efforts via video link.Food briefed the commissioner on the measures to check the quality of milk and other food items and prevent the sale of adulterated or unhealthy food. The meeting reviewed and decide that Food department officials would check the food quality with

In the meeting, it was decided that Deputy Commissioners will take action to solve the problems encroachments, parking, billboards, and construction materials with comprehensive planning, in coordination with

concerned departments

including with Traffic

the concerned district

administration officials.

'Doorstep Delivery'

Zong launches

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G, the leading telecommunication service provider in Pakistan, on Monday announced the launch of its new "Online Booking Portal and Home Delivery Service"

Zong is committed to making digital services

that everyone can benefit from the power of technology, while its commitment convenience brings services directly to the doorstep,

said a news release. According to the official spokesperson for Zong 4G, "Keeping the evolving demands of our customers, Zong's new Online Booking Portal and Home Delivery Service innovates the customers experience. This is one of the many steps we are taking to digitalize our customers' journey with

Zong."

Through its home step services, Zong's goal directly available to customers' homes and ensure that even those who may have limited mobility or access to physical stores can still benefit from the digital products and

RCCI welcomes interest rate cut

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has welcomed the reduction in interest rate by the State Bank of Pakistan.

In a statement issued here today, the Acting President of RCCI Muhammad Hamza Sarosh has lauded State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) for its decision to reduce the interest rate from 20.5% to 19.5%.He said that the reduction in interest rates will increase business activities. However, he noted that interest rates were still high as compared to the neighboring countries in the region, and underlined the need to further reduction in it.

QUETTA: Special Secretary Finance Habibur Rehman Jamote presiding over meeting of Investment Committee.

day on Friday, the stock market had failed to to As the business was set into motion in the first session, the stocks soared protect the psychological level of 80,000 points, closing the week in the red by 768.61 points or 0.98 percent, taking the benchmark KSE-100 index to 78,798.11 points as 2,100 points. Pakistan fifth among

countries affected with

police

hepatitis: FCCI President FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan is fifth among countries most affected with hepatitis B&C after China, India, Indonesia and Nigeria with a total number of 12.6 million patients suffering from this deadly disease, said Dr Khurram Tariq, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce &

by over 700 points on

Monday as the buyers

kept their eyes on the State Banks of Pakistan's (SBP)

announcement due later

monetary

Industry (FCCI). In a statement on Monday, he said that the prevalence of hepatitis in Pakistan is around 8.64% while it is a whopping high up to 17.77% in Faisalabad alone. However, the ratio of this silent killing disease is much higher in aged persons, he added.

He stressed the need an organized, collaborative and continuous effort to contain this disease in this industrial, commercial and business hub of Pakistan. He said that most of the public sector hospitals have special facilities for the treatment of hepatitis in addition to a dedicated Liver Centre in the Allied Hospital-II Hospital) Faisalabad.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator

Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with the Chairman Prime Minister's

Shares rise as Pakistan

Stock Exchange awaits

monetary policy decision

view that the market was

reacting positively to a

string of factors including

monetary policy decision

and support by China.
On the last trading

Experts were of the

Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan.

KARACHI (INP): The share prices at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) rose compared to previous close of 78,029.50. Experts were of the

However, lamented that there was no facility for liver transplant in Faisalabad as a kidney and liver transplant institute is available only in Lahore.

He said that the Punjab government has established 36 hepatitis filter clinics in different districts and these clinics must be made more proactive to identify patients suffering from this disease.

He urged the health authorities and civil society to create muchneeded awareness among the patients to mitigate the sufferings of the people as well as the government.

rally during the earnings season and hopes of policy rate reduction. **PITB signs** MoU for skills development

LAHORE (APP): The

last week on a highly

bearish note as it nosedived

over 1,600 points owing to high political uncertainty

following the government's

potential move to ban a

major opposition party.

Bulls returned to the

stock exchange on Tuesday as the KSE-100 climbed

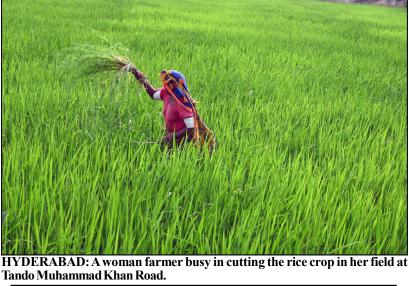
over 400 points. On

Wednesday, the market

extended gains, driven by a

Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) and Cheezious have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to empower women by providing them with necessary skills and training to enhance their employability and entrepreneurship

Islam and other senior | Corrugated Cartons in Asia. officials were also present at the occasion. According to the MoU, Cheezious will provide scholarships to female students enrolled in PITB's SheWins program. In addition to financial support, Cheezious will assist in establishing an IT lab.



Tando Muhammad Khan Road.

PYMA urges PM Shahbaz to abolish RD on yarn, citing threat to textile sector, SMEs

KARACHI (INP): Sohail Nisar, Sr. Vice Chairman of Pakistan Yarn Merchants Association (PYMA), along with Vice Chairman Jaweed Khanani and members of the Executive Committee, expressed deep concern regarding the imposition of regulatory duty (RD) on polyester yarn under HS Codes 5402.3300, 5402.4700, and 5402.4600.

He urged Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Minister Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Industries and

Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, to intervene and rescind the 5% RD on this essential textile raw material, warning of dire consequences for the textile sector and its associated small and enterprises medium

highlighted that both last year and this year, the National Tariff Commission (NTC) had recommended the removal of the 5% RD on Polyester Yarn. Despite meetings within the Ministry of

decision has triggered widespread anxiety within the textile industry, particularly among yarn importers. He emphasized PÝMA office bearers that the 5% RD effectively amounts to 8% due to its compounding impact and called on the government to instruct the Federal Board of Revenue to eliminate this duty. They argued that levying RD on Polyester Yarn is unjustifiable since constitutes

Commerce, it was agreed

to abolish RD; however,

the RD was unfortunately

retained in the new Federal

Budget for 2024-25. This

fundamental raw material essential for affordable fabric production. With rising operational costs, including utility charges, local business activities have stagnated, and industrial operations are running below capacity. Mr. Sohail pointed out that the local textile industry already benefits from an 11% customs duty subsidy. Adding a 5% RD during the import stage pushes the effective duty rate to around 19-20%

Finance Minister lauds PM's Youth **Programme**

appreciated Prime Youth Minister's supporting small and enterprises

During a meeting with the Chairman Prime Youth Minister's Programme, Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, Rana the minister expressed support for the initiative, highlighting its role in stimulating entrepreneurial activity and contributing to economic growth. Rana

Mashhood provided an overview of the Prime across the country.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister's Youth Business Federal Minister for and Agriculture Loan Finance and Revenue Scheme. The scheme Muhammad Aurangzeb p r o m o t e s here on Monday entrepreneurship among youth by providing business loans on simple Programme, recognizing it terms and with less as a valuable scheme for markup through Commercial, Islamic and SME banks.

discussion covered the current structure of the scheme, including its three operational tiers, and explored the potential benefits and logistics of introducing additional tiers. They underscored the government's commitment to enhancing opportunities for the youth and promoting sustainable business development



Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi.

FPCCI seeks industry status for packaging sector

LAHORE (APP): Manufacturers Association Federation of Pakistan (APCCMA) here at Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Regional Chairman and Vice President Zaki Aijaz on Monday demanded of the government to grant industry status to the packaging sector and revise contracts Independent Producers (IPPs).

He said revisiting and renegotiating capabilities.

The MoU was signed by PITB Director General e-Governance Sajid Latif and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Cheezious, Imran Ijaz, here on Monday. PITB Director Freelancing Wing Ahmed Islam and other senior

FPCCI Regional Office. Zaki

emphasized that the packaging sector is the backbone of all industries, and the government should grant it industry status to reap maximum benefits. Zaki Ijaz stressed that

packaging is a significant sector where products inevitably reach local and international consumers.

Minister, WB team discuss green tourism

(APP): discussed. ister for Provincial Minister LAHORE Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora held a significant meeting on Monday with a World Bank team at his camp

The meeting was attended by Kiran Fazal Butt, representing the World Bank, along with the team from the Tourism for Economic Growth Project while Secretary of Human Rights Ali Bahadur, deputy secretary minorities, PS Syed Sajjad Imran Haider, and other relevant persons were also present.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the topics of minority religious tourism green tourism. strategic plan was also

Ramesh Singh Arora said that Pakistan's cultural and religious heritage holds a unique position worldwide and that it should be thoroughly promoted. Partnership with the World Bank will provide opportunities to boost tourism and improve the welfare of minority communities, he added. He said, "We should

also promote green tourism to achieve sustainable development through ecofriendly tourism. With the help of the five-year strategic plan, we will take all necessary steps to achieve the goal.'

Both parties agreed to work together in the future to promote minority Furthermore, a five-year religious tourism and green tourism in Pakistan



the clay ovens (Tandoors) at his workplace Novelty Bridge Samanabad.

DDWPC reviews, approves new schemes LAHORE (APP): A development, roads, higher

significant meeting of the Divisional Development Working Party Committee (DDWPC) was convened on Monday under the leadership ' Commissioner Lahore, Zaid bin Magsood.

The meeting focused

reviewing oving 19 approving development schemes across various sectors. The new development schemes for Lahore, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, and Kasur districts were evaluated.

The commissioner thoroughly examined the details of the proposed schemes, which spanned areas such as urban

and special education, and local government Followinga comprehensive review, the committee granted approval to all the presented projects, marking a crucial step in advancing regidevelopment efforts. regiona The meeting featured

presentations ` Director Development Javed Rashid Chohan and Assistant Director Hafiz Muhammad Iqbal, who outlined the specifics of each scheme. The meeting saw participation from Deputy Directors across all districts as well as representatives from pertinent departments.

Govt taking measures to combat environmental pollution: CM

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that all possible measures are being taken to eliminate environmental pollution in

In a meeting with British High Commissioner in Pakistan Jane Marriott to discuss promotion of mutual cooperation in education, health and other sectors, here on Monday, the CM added, "We are providing solar panels to people for economic relief." The solarization project will be started in Punjab from August 14, she mentioned

transparency and merit would be ensured in the bidding of solar panel project, adding that British companies are welcomed

to participate in the project. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif briefed British High Commissioner Jane Marriott that the Punjab government was taking all possible measures for the protection of women and children. She apprised her about the establishment of first Virtual Women Police Station and Virtual Child Safety Center in Punjab. The British High

Commissioner appreciated the implementation of the Sikh Marriage Act in Punjab, and termed the Child Marriage Bill an exemplary initiative of the The CM said that Punjab government. She said the Punjab government was taking unique and historic steps for the protection of women and



LAHORE: British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott meeting with Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan.

KP assembly passes **Provincial Ombudsman** (Amendment) Bill 2024

PESHAWAR (APP): The corruption complaints Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from citizens.

(KP) Assembly on The KP Zakat and Monday proceeds the Light (Amondment) Bill Monday passed the Provincial Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill 2024 while Khyber KP Zakat and Ushr (Amendment) Bill 2024, the Provincial Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2024, and the KP Police (Amendment) Bill 2024 were introduced in the

Employees Terms and Conditions of Service Bill 2024 was also presented. proposed amendments to The passage of the Police Act 2017, Provincial Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill aims to recruitment process for enhance accountability in Assistant Sub-Inspectors the province. The bill, and increasing the quota for introduced by Law Minister Aftab Alam, passed with a majority vote. It stipulates that the adopted Ombudsman will serve a three-year term, with a Parliamentary Leader maximum age limit of 60 Ahmad Kundi highlighted years, and will have the the deteriorating law and

Ushr (Amendment) Bill 2024 facilitates the collection of Ushr from landowners, lessees, or occupants. The Assembly Secretariat Employees Terms and Conditions of Service Bill 2024 was referred to the Select Committee, chaired by Law Minister Aftab Alam, with the Deputy Speaker and Advocate General as members.

The government police martyrs' families from 5% to 12.5%.

The Assembly also resolutions. authority to address order situation.

Investigation into Janikhel incident referred to KP **Standing Committee**

Assembly has referred the Aftab Alam clarified that investigation into the Jani Khel incident, in which the Standing Committee.

The Assembly session, presided over by Speaker Babar Saleem Swati, began with a delay of two and a half hours.

During the session, MPA Adnan Khan of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) party questioned the Home Department about the 2021 incident in Jani Khel, Bannu, where four bodies were found.

He inquired about the actions taken since the importance of addressing agreement made with the then-Chief Minister but received an unsatisfactory response from the tackle these issues. department.

demanded that the matter be referred to the Standing Minister Aftab Alam Committee, citing the government's lack of had no objections.

Provincial Minister for Public Health mentioned that talks with the affected families were planned and a package would be announced soon. Adnan Khan persisted in Standing Committee.

Swati emphasized the the security concerns of lawmakers and suggested forming a committee to

Khan referred to the Standing Committee, with Law stating that the government

PESHAWAR (APP): The concrete steps to address Khyber Pakhtunkhwa the issue. Law Minister the agreement was made the district four people were killed, to administration, not the Chief Minister, and a package was announced for

Speaker Babar Saleem

The matter was then



his request for the matter to be referred to the



LAHORE: Blind persons hold a protest in favor of their demands outside press club in the Provincial Capital.

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi presides over the 4th senate meeting of the University of Agriculture D.I.Khan at Governor House.

Chairs 18th Senate meeting of Gomal University Governor stresses for improvement in quality of education, finance

Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday chaired the 18th Senate meeting of Gomal University Dera Governor House and of the varsity to bring improvement in quality of education and in finance.

During the meeting, the annual budgets for the fiscal years 2023-24 and conditionally approved, subject to a re-evaluation

committee. Faisal Governor

IGP releases

Rs2m for

medical

treatment

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr Usman Anwar on Monday released over Rs2 million

for providing medical

facilities to police employees in Lahore as well as other districts.

According to the details provided by the

IGP office, Constable Shifa Ullah Khan from DG Khan was granted Rs500,000 for

knee and leg surgery; Office

Superintendent

Muhammad Shafiq Awan Rs500,000 for brain

haemorrhage treatment;

Security Constable Muhammad Awais Butt

from the Special Protection Unit Rs200,000 rupees for

lung treatment; Sub-Inspector Waheed Iqbal,

Special Branch, Rs200,000

for brain injury treatment.

Constables Irfan Ali from

Lahore and Muhammad

Farooq from Gujrat have

also been provided Rs100,000 each for treatment. Whereas, Constables—Muhammad

Naseer Khawar and Javed

Iqbal—from Toba Tek

Singh were granted Rs100,000 for medical

treatment. Head Constable

Muhammad Hussain and

Naib Qasid Ali Haider

Hashmi have each been

given 100,000 rupees for

their families' medical

treatment. Additional IG

Welfare and Finance Riaz

Nazir Gara chaired the

welfare management

committee, which reviewed

the applications received

from across the province.

On the recommendations

of the committee, IGP

Punjab Dr Usman Anwar

issued orders to release.

LAHORE

to all universities to conduct a third-party audit within six months.

He advised Gomal Ismail Khan here at University to complete its third-party audit process stressed the administration within two months instead of one and to inform the Chancellor's Office in

writing.
The Governor also directed for details regarding the university's

The Governor emphasized the need to make every effort to secure the necessary funds and mentioned discussions solarization plan. An allocation of 80

million rupees has been set by the Senate's standing aside for this purpose, with 40 million rupees provided by the Higher University administration

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a

Training, Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, on

Monday said we have to move forward by

equipping ourselves with

modern technology and

artificial intelligence.

He said that our all-

time tested friend China

invested at right time in

right place and took it's

poor people out of poverty

level. While addressing a

cheque distribution

ceremony of Nursing and Arts and Culture Students

by Pakistan Education

three-member delegation,

led by Yang Yundong, the Consul General of the

People's Republic of China

in Karachi, met with Additional IGP Karachi Javed Akhtar Odho at the

Karachi Police Office on

Monday. According to the Karachi Police

spokesperson, the meeting

with the Karachi Police

Chief covered the overall

security situation in the

city and other related

appreciated the formation

of Youth Assembly at Muhammad Nawaz Sharif

University of Agriculture

Multan and stated that

youth were future of

Pakistan and it could play

role in promotion of civic,

social justice and gender equality. He said this while

addressing ceremony of Youth Assembly, held

under auspices of

also lauded the active role

of the varsity. He hoped

that youth assembly would

surely play its role for

We have to move forward

with latest tech, artificial

intelligence: Siddiqui

KARACHI (APP): The Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr Khalid developing in spite of the more population in our neighboring countries. He said that they did not make

Endowment Fund (PEEF) was innovation in these at National Academy of countries and those Performing Arts (NAPA), countries needed our

Chinese Consul

General meets

Karachi Police Chief

he said that our region was manpower.

the population a liability.

but made it their asset and

China was the best example

of it.The Education

Minister said that the youth

of the country were our assets. Dr Khalid Magbool

Siddiqui said that NAPA

was an institution for the

promotion of intellectual

freedom and art. He said

that the students were

important to us. He further

said that most of the

countries had high

population level, but there

informed the police chief

about the challenges faced

by Chinese citizens in

Karachi, to which the

police chief assured

prompt action for their

the meeting, Additional

IGP Karachi presented

honorary shields to the

Chinese Consul General

and the other members of

that US would continue to

Andrew Schofer stated that he was first time

visiting Multan. He however added that he was

very happy to visit the city

of the people who were

sweet like mangoes and soft

like cotton. Dean Environmental Science

Shafqat Saeed also spoke

and stated that the youth

assembly would serve as

nursery to promote leadership skills amongst

the student. The students

would be able to resolve

their issues by raising their

voice in effective manner.

support such initiatives.

At the conclusion of

resolution.

the delegation.

US Deputy Chief Mission

appreciates formation of

Youth Assembly

MULTAN (APP): US
Deputy Chief of Mission
Andrew Schofer students. He also pledged

joint Agriculture and Irrigation department meeting, held at CM House.

occasion issued directives (HEC) and the remaining information promptly to amount to be covered by the university's own set an exan resources, briefed the institutions. Governor.

"A total of 480

the complete solarization of the university.

mentioned discussions with State Life Insurance to develop a scheme for universities.

university

pension fund, noting a current need of 1.7 billion He urged Gomal to become self-reliant and

PESHAWAR (APP): Karim Kundi on this Education Commission to provide the required

million rupees is required contribute regularly to its

facilitate the process and set an example for other

said that climate change is

He said that technical issues were noted in the budget preparation, and the committee will review the transparency of the statistics.Governor Faisal Kundi stressed that the should

rupees solely for pension payments. He expressed the desire for universities

increase their resources

British High Commissioner, Governor discuss climate change, bilateral issues

Independent Report

AHORE: The British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott called on Governor of Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan and discussed ways to strengthening bilateral relations and tackling challenges of climate change during a meeting at the Governor's House here on Monday.

Governor Sardar Saleem Haider said Pakistan attaches great importance to relations with Britain, adding that the British government's cooperation in education, health, social and other sector is commendable.

He said climate change is a global issue, stressing despite having minimum contribution in carbon emissions climate, Pakistan has suffered a lot due to climate change. He

also having adverse effect on the agricultural sector of

Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said federal and provincial governments are working on various projects to deal with the issue of climate challenge. He said Pakistan has plenty of renewable energy resources. He said that there is a need to bring people towards solar energy to deal with the energy crisis. The Governor informed the British High Commissioner about the efforts to solarize the Governor House Lahore and universities of Punjab.

He hailed the British government for the water management program started in different districts of Punjab.

British Commissioner Marriott, speaking on the



PESHAWAR. Activists of Human Rights Association hold protest outside PPC.

CM Sindh to provide small growers with agri equipment, tube wells, smart systems to boost sector

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM), Syed Murad Ali Shah presiding over a joint meeting of agriculture and Irrigation departments has decided to facilitate small and medium-level farmers and landholders by providing through the Agriculture Department agricultural equipment, machinery, tubewells, solar systems, and smart irrigation systems at subsidised

The meeting was held attended by Minister P&D Mohammad Bux Mahar, strengthening

Shah, PSCM Agha Wasif, SMBR Baqaullah Unar, Secretary Agriculture Rafiq Buriro, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoi, and other concerned officers. The CM said that he

wanted to facilitate small and medium-level farmers and landholders by providing agricultural equipment, machinery, tubewells, solar systems, and smart irrigation systems at subsidised rates. "Farmers will pay only a small share of the at the CM House and was total cost of the facilities so that they could own Nasir Shah, Minister them, utilise them for financial implications so

briefed the CM about the measures taken to boost the agriculture sector. He said that the provision of agriculture equipment and solar systems for tube wells to the growers would support agricultural productivity.

The CM directed the

Minister Agriculture

Mohammad Bux Mahar

Secretary Agriculture Rafiq Buriro to submit to him a detailed proposal of the growers that may be targeted under the provision of equipment. We have to work out its Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro, their benefit and that necessary funds can be Minister Agriculture Sardar ultimately contribute to arranged apart from the allocations made in the current budget", he said.



RAWALPINDI: People wade through a flooded street at Raja Bazaar amid heavy rainfall, in the city.

Intense rains, RCB personnel put on high alert

RAWALPINDI (APP) Rawalpindi Cantonment Board has put its filed personnel on high alert after the city has witnessed intense rain with gusty winds on Monday. Since the MET Office has predicted more rain during the current monsoon spell in Punjab province, the RCB's filed teams have been tasked to be vigilantly prepared to respond with full magnitude.

Rawalpindi Cantonment Board's CEO Syed Ali Irfan Rizvi had issued instructions to all the officers to stay in the field in this regard.
The CEO said that

staffers deployed for drainage in low-lying areas were engaged in draining water. Arrangements are complete in view of any flooding situation, he said.

The spokesman RCB, Rasheed Saqib informed that both the Additional CEOs were present in the field and monitoring the developing situations in low lying

areas and the nullahs. Drainage is being ensured by the personnel under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Officer, he said. Additional CEO Umair Mehboob visited different areas of the Cantt early in the morning and reviewed the the application filed by the entire situation.

Court adjourns hearing of Punjab Assembly illegal recruitment case

Assembly illegal recruitment case until September 4 and gave a final opportunity to former chief minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi to appear on the next date of the proceedings during which accused Muhammad Khan Bhatti was produced

LAHORE (APP): An anti- appeared and marked their corruption court on Monday adjourned the hearing of the Punjab Assembly illegal appeared and marked disc. appeared and app stating that his client had not recovered from a fracture yet and that doctors had advised him to rest. He pleaded with the court to exempt Parvez the hearing. Anti-Corruption Court Judge Safdar Ali Bhatti conducted However, the court However, the court expressed annoyance at the non-appearance of Chaudhry Parvez Elahi and after being brought from reminded the counsel that it was giving the last The other accused opportunity for Parvez who were on bail also Elahi to appear.

LHC dismisses Azam Swati's application to transfer bail cases

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday dismissed an application filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf for the transfer of his interim bail applications from an anti-terrorism court (ATC) to another court. The single bench, comprising LHC Chief Justice Aalia Neelum, heard PTI leader

Swati's argued before the court that his client had obtained interim bail in the May 9 cases from the ATC in (PTI) leader Azam Swati Lahore. He submitted that the ATC judge had disclosed a bias against the petitioner during a recent hearing of the interim bail applications.

However, the Chief Justice observed that Azam Swati had not yet joined the investigation.

US upgrades military

command structure

in Japan

Monitoring Desk

The announcement

followed security talks in

Tokyo between US

Secre-tary of State Antony

Blinken and Secretary of

their respective Japanese

Japan to a joint force head-

counterparts,

Western powers, UN warn Tel Aviv against escalation

Monitoring Desk MAJDAL SHAMS: While Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant on Sunday vowed to "hit the enemy hard", raising fears that the Gaza conflict will spread after a rocket attack on Golan Heights, the European Union as well as Lebanon called for an independent probe into what hap-

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the Western powers, including the US, Britain France and Germany condemned the attack and appealed for calm, as Iran warned Israel any new military "adventures" in Lebanon could lead to "unforeseen consequences"

Israel's army called it "the deadliest attack on Israeli civilians" since October 2023 and blamed Lebanon's Hezbollah movement for firing the rocket but the Iran-backed group that has targeted Israeli military positions in the past in response to illegal occupation of territory and unabated strikes on

connection" to the latest incident.

The rocket hit Majdal Shams, whose population are Arabic-speaking Druze. Many residents of the Druze town have not ac-Prime Minister Ben-

jamin Netanyahu, who returned early from the US and went immediately into a security cabinet meeting, said: "Hezbollah will pay a heavy price" for the attack, "a price it has not paid before". Earlier, Netanyahu had told the US Congress that Israel would do "whatever it must" to secure its northern border.

Blaming Hezbollah for "crossing all red lines", Israel said it hit Hezbollah targets "both deep inside Lebanese territory and in southern Lebanon'

Syria denounced Israel's "false accusations" against Hezbollah and said Israel was looking for "pretexts to enlarge its aggres-

Palestinians said it had "no sion". Also, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani warned Israel "any ignorant action of the Zionist regime can lead to the broadening of the scope of instability, insecurity and war in the region" cepted Israeli nationality and Israel would be then since Israel seized the responsible for "the unfore-Golan Heights from Syria seen consequences and reactions to such stupid behaviour"

Tuesday July 30, 2024

Lebanon's Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib on Sunday called for an "international investigation or a meeting of the tripartite committee held through UNIFIL to know the truth" about who was responsible for the attack and "called for the complete and comprehensive application" of UN Security Council Resolution 1701 that ended a 2006 war be-Israel

In a statement on X,

Hezbollah. The tripartite committee refers to military officials from Lebanon and Israel along with peacekeepers from the UN Interim Force in Lebanon



Palestinians carrrying their personal belongings flee the al-Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip.

mission within the Philip-

pines' exclusive economic

zone is a credit to the pro-

fessionalism of the men and

ment of Foreign Affairs,

the Philippine Foreign Af-

fairs Department said

without providing other

A top Philippine security official told The As-

sociated Press that the

Chinese and Philippine

coast guards communi-

cated for coordination

Saturday, and their ships

did not issue two-way ra-

dio challenges like in the

Global comparable

sales fell one per cent in

the second quarter, com-

pared with the analysts'

average estimate of a

0.5pc increase. Overall

launched a \$5 meal deal in

June at most of its US lo-

cations. It was set to ex-

tend that offer into August

to lure back customers

who have cut back on fre-

McDonald's is the low-in-

come consumer has really

cut back on visits and that

is more than offsetting the

typical trade down McD

normally sees in tougher

economic times," said Ed-

"The biggest hit for

quent restaurant trips.

McDonald's

revenue rose 1pc.

details

McDonald's sales fall

globally for first time

in over 3 years

Philippine forces sail to hotly disputed shoal without incident for first time since deal with China

Monitoring Desk MANILA: Philippine government personnel transported food and other supblies Saturday to a fiercely women of the Philippine disputed shoal occupied by navy and the Philippine a Filipino navy contingent coast guard and the close but closely guarded by Beijing's forces in the National Security Council, South China Sea and no confrontations were reDefense and the Department of National Defense and the Departported, Philippine officials

It was the first Philippine government supply trip to the Second Thomas Shoal, which has been the scene of increasingly violent confrontations between Chinese and Philippine forces, since the Philippines and China reached a deal a week ago to prevent clashes, the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said in a statement.

in a statement.
"The lawful and rou"The lawful and routine rotation and resupply shoal immediately.

Monitoring Desk

WASHINĞTON:

McDonald's reported a sur-

prise drop in sales world-

wide on Monday, its first

decline in 13 quarters, as

deal-seeking consumers shy

away from higher priced

menu items, including Big

forced lower-income con-

sumers to shift to more af-

fordable food options at

home. That has prompted

fast food chains such as

McDonald's, Burger King,

Wendy's and Taco Bell to

lean on value meals to

ficer (CEO) Chris Kempczinski said there is

a lot more deal-thinking

from consumers who have

become "very discriminat-

Chief Executive Of-

spark customer traffic.

Persistent inflation has

Indian PM Modi likely to visit Ukraine in August **Monitoring Desk**

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Ainister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Ukraine next month, a local media report said, his first visit to the country since its war with Russia began and just weeks after he met Russian President Vladimir Putin in

Ukraine's embassy in New Delhi said it had no information to share immediately. There was no immediate response from India's foreign ministry.

Western countries have imposed sanctions on Moscow following its allout invasion of Ukraine in 2022, but "friendly" nations such as India and China have continued to

No one has full picture of airport assault, says Manchester mayor

Monitoring Desk LONDON: New footage has surfaced showing the alleged assault of three poment in most of our major markets remains low," he lice officers at Manchester airport, followed by an officer kicking a man in the head. The chaotic scenes, captured in the video obtained by the Manchester Evening News, depict an officer kicking and stamping on the head of a man

lying face down on the floor. A Greater Manchester Police (GMP) officer was suspended after the video was widely shared on social media, sparking protests in Rochdale and Manchester city centre. The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) announced that the officer is now under criminal investigation for assault. The next steps involve determining whether to refer the case to the Crown Prosecution Service and deciding if the

ward Jones analyst Brian officer should face disci-"Consumer senti-Yarbrough. plinary proceedings.

A view shows people near derailed carriages of a passenger train after a collision with a truck in the Volgograd Region, Russia.



ister Yoko Kamikawa address a press conference.

Five killed in Israeli strike on Gaza camp

Monitoring Desk GAZA STRIP: The civil defence agency in Hamasrun Gaza said an Israeli strike Sunday hit tents at a declared safe zone in the Palestinian territory's south, killing at least five

A witness said a newborn was among the dead in Al-Mawasi near Khan Yunis city, where tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians have sought refuge from the war, now nearing its 11th month. Since Monday, Israeli forces have operated in and around Khan Yunis including in parts of the coastal area of

Miriam al-Astal who lives in Al-Mawasi said a newborn baby was killed. "We were sitting in the tents... when suddenly we heard an explosion," she said. "I swear" there was no militant activity in the area, she said.

Israel had warned on Monday its forces would "forcefully operate" in the Khan Yunis area — from which troops withdrew in April — and on Saturday the civil defence agency said that 170 people have been killed by the renewed fighting and military operations. The military said its latest operations there were to prevent rocket fire.

French minister says foreign involvement not ruled out in rail sabotage

Monitoring Desk

PARIS: France's interior minister said on Saturday he could not rule out foreign involvement in an attack that sabotaged signal stations and cables on the country's high-speed rail network, causing travel chaos on the opening day of the Olympic Games.

Friday's pre-dawn attacks damaged infrastructure along the lines connecting Paris with cities such as Lille in the north, Bordeaux in the west and Strasbourg in the east. Another attack on the Paris-

Marseille line was foiled, SNCF has said. There has been no

sponsibility. "Who is responsible? Either it's from within, or it's been ordered from abroad, it's too early to say," Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin told France 2 television.

He added: "We have uncovered a certain number of elements which lead us to believe that we will know fairly quickly who is responsible.

Iran's Khamenei grants Pezeshkian presidential powers

TEHRAN: Iran's supr-eme leader Ayatollaĥ Ali Khamenei gave on Sunday his official endorsement of Dr Masoud Pezeshkian as the country's ninth president, following snap elections won by the reformist camp's candidate.

pointing him as the presi lic of Iran."

Yemenia Airways to resume flights to Cairo and **India from** Yemen's Sanaa

immediate claim of re-

Yemen's decade-old civil war

quarters with expanded **Monitoring Desk** missions and operational responsibilities," Austin told reporters after the sosignificant change to US of others.

In a message read by the director of Khamenei's office, the supreme leader said: "I endorse the vote (for) the wise, honest, popular and scholarly Mr Pezeshkian, and I am apdent of the Islamic Repub-

Monitoring Desk

CAIRO: Yemenia Airways announced on Sunday that commercial flights from Yemen's Sanaa to Egypt and India will resume starting Sunday evening, Yemen's state news agency SABA said. Return flights to Cairo will operate once daily, while flights to India will run twice weekly. The resumption in flights are diplomats of world powers part of an agreement between have gathered ahead of two Saudi Arabia and Yemen aimed at calming hostilities in



Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado and opposition presidential candidate Edmundo Gonzalez react after the electoral authority announced that Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has won a third term, during the presidential election, in Caracas, Venezuela.

Yellen launches **Amazon basin effort to** disrupt nature crimes

Monitoring Desk BELEM: US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen launched on Saturday a new effort with Amazon basin governments to disrupt illicit finance that fuels nature crimes, including illegal harvesting of trees and other plants, minerals and wild-

Yellen said the initiative aims to increase cooperation among finance ministries, law enforcement agencies and other entities from Brazil, Colombia, Ec- ence in 2025.

uador, Guyana, Peru Suriname and the United States, to improve training to detect illicit finance networks operating in the re-

The efforts could lead to sanctions on groups responsible, cutting them off from the dollar-based financial system, Yellen said in announcing the collaboration in Belem, Brazil's Amazon gateway city that will host the COP 30 climate confer-

Russian warships make routine visit to Cuba

Monitoring Desk HAVANA: Havana resi-

dents watched from shore on Saturday as Russian warships arrived for the second time in as many months, in a visit that Cuba called routine.

Cuban authorities fired shots into the air to signal their welcome, while curious fishermen watched from Havana's waterside promenade as the ships advanced up the bay. Russian residents were also among the few up early to see the fleet's arrival.

The patrol ship Neustrahimiy, training vessel Smolniy and support vessels, all from the Baltic Fleet, are scheduled to depart on Tuesday.

A brief statement by the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces described their arrival as routine.

A Russian nuclear submarine, frigate and support ships in June also flexed Moscow's muscles in the port of Havana, less than 100 miles (160 km) from Florida. 'Russia's deploy-

ments in the Atlantic pose no direct threat or concern to the United States," a U.S. Northern Command spokesperson said, adding the command monitored all approaches to North America, flour Tensions between the United States and Russia have increased since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, and Russian naval activity - though routine in the Atlantic - has ratcheted up because of U.S. support for Ukraine.

Russian shelling kills five in Ukrainian regions, one dead on Russian side of border **Monitoring Desk**

KYIV: Russian shelling killed at least five civilians on Saturday in separate regions of Ukraine, officials said. In the Kherson region, in Ukraine's south, officials said three people were killed, one in the administrative centre also called Kherson, one outside the city and one near the city of Beryslav, to the north.

Kherson region was occupied in the first days of Russia's February 2022 invasion, but Ukrainian troops recaptured large swathes of it later in the year. Russian troops continue to shell Ukrainianheld areas from new posi-

In the northeastern Sumy region, a border area frequently under Russian attack, a 14-year-old boy was killed and 12 other people wounded in a rocket attack on the small town of Hlukhiv, the Ukraine prosecutor's office said.

The attack on the town near the Russian border hit apartment blocks, houses, an educational institution, a shop and vehicles just after noon. Six of the wounded were chil-

In Kharkiv region, another frequent Russian target further east, Governor Oleh Syniehubov said one person was killed when a private home near the city of Chuhuiv came under fire.

Forces Japan since its creation and one of the stron-TOKYO: The United States gest improvements in our on Sunday announced military ties with Japan in plans for a major revamp 70 years." The ministers said in a joint statement that of its military command in Japan to deepen coordinathe new command struction with its ally's forces, ture would be implemented as the two countries labelled in parallel with Tokyo's China the "greatest strateown plans to establish a gic challenge" facing the rejoint command for its forces

by March 2025. The overhaul is among several measures taken to address what the countries said was an "evolving security environment", noting Defence Lloyd Austin and various threats from superpower China. The statement criticised what it Kamikawa and Minoru called Beijing's "provoca-Kihara.
"The United States will upgrade the US Forces tive" behaviour in the South and East China Seas, joint military exercises with Russia and the rapid expansion of its nuclear weapons arsenal. Beijing's "foreign policy seeks to reshape the international order for its called "2+2" talks. international order for its own benefit at the expense

China's foreign minister warns Philippines over US missile deployment

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has warned the Philippines over the U.S. intermediate-range missile deployment, saying

such a move could fuel re-

gional tensions and spark an

arms race.

The United States deployed its Typhon missile system to the Philippines as part of joint military drills earlier this year. It was not fired during the exercises, a Philippine military official later said, without giving details on how long it would stay in the country. China-Philippines relations are now at a crossroads and dialogue and consultation are the right way, Wang told the Philippine Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo on Friday during a meeting in Vientiane, the capital of Laos where top

between the countries are facing challenges because the Philippines has "repeatedly violated the consensus of both sides and its own commitments", according to a Chinese foreign ministry statement.

"If the Philippines introduces the U.S. intermediate-range missile system. it will create tension and confrontation in the region and trigger an arms race, which is completely not in line with the interests and wishes of the Filipino people," Wang said. The Philippines' mili-

tary and its foreign ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Wang's remarks.

China and the Philippines are locked in a confrontation in the South China Sea and their encounters have grown more tense as Beijing presses its claims to disputed shoals in waters within Manila's its ex-Wang said relations clusive economic zone.

Hungary's Orban says Russia stands to gain as 'irrational' West loses power

Monitoring Desk Prime Minister Viktor Orban said on Saturday Russia's leadership was "hyper rational" and that Ukraine would never be able to fulfil its hopes of becoming a member of the European Union or

Orban, a nationalist in power since 2010, made the comments during a speech in which he forecast a shift in global power away from the "irrational" West towards Asia and

"In the next long decades, maybe centuries, Asia will be the dominant centre of the world,' Orban said, mentioning China, India, Pakistan and Indonesia as the world's future big powers.

"And we Westerners pushed the Russians into Crimea in 2014.

this bloc as well." he said in the televised speech before ethnic Hungarians at a festival in the town of Baile Tusnad neighbouring Romania.

Orban, whose country currently holds the rotating EU presidency, has sharply differed from the rest of the bloc by seeking warmer ties with Beijing and Moscow, and he angered some EU leaders when he went on surprise visits to Kyiv, Moscow and Beijing this month for talks on the war in Ukraine.

He said that in contrast to the "weakness" of the West, Russia's position in world affairs was rational and predictable, saying the country had shown economic flexibility in adapting to Western sanctions since it invaded

California wildfire explodes, becomes largest in US

Monitoring Desk CHICO: Thousands of firefighters were battling a rapidly growing wildfire in northern California on Saturday after the blaze more than doubled in size in a 24hour span.

The Park Fire had burned more than 350,000 acres (141,640 hectares) about 90 miles (144 km) north of the state capital city of Sacramento as of Saturday evening, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire.

Cooler temperatures and more humid air were expected in the region, potentially helping efforts to slow the spread of the fire, which was 10 per cent contained as of Saturday evening. The fire has destroyed 134 structures, authorities said.

Evacuation orders and warnings were issued for multiple communities in several counties, including a warning for Paradise, the town that was devastated by the 2018 Camp Fire, the deadliest in the state's his-

US President Joe

Biden has been briefed on the fire and has directed his team to do everything possible to support efforts to fight it, a White House official said. A man was arrested on

Thursday on suspicion that he started the Park Fire by pushing a flaming car into a gully on Wednesday after-The fire was the larg-

est of dozens of active blazes across the country that have burned more than two million acres, according to the National Interagency Fire Centre.

In Oregon, several fires were burning, including the Durkee Fire, which had scorched more than 288,000 acres in the east-ern part of the state, authorities said.

A firefighter died after single-engine tanker crashed near the Falls Fire in southeastern Oregon, the US Forest Service said in a statement on Friday.

A fire raging out of control in northern California has rapidly become among the biggest ever in the western US state, authorities said Saturday.

We are determined to provide relief to common men under guidance of Chairman PPP, says Chief Minister

Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti says 70 percent approved development projects made part of annual budget for the first time; projects being made compatible with public needs

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically stated that we are determined to provide relief to the common men under guidance of Chairman Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

He said that the development projects are being made compatible with the public needs. In addition to this, steps are being taken to provide basic amenities of life including health and education to the people. The Chief Minister

was speaking to the delegation of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), who called on him under leadership of the senior leader of party and Senator Sardar Umar Khan Gorgej here at the CM's secretariat on Monday.

The delegation was comprised the candidates contesting general elections on the party tickets from different constituencies of the province. The Chief Minister said that implementation has been started on the development projects from first month of the new financial year.

time, 70 percent approved development projects were made part of the budget. He said that new era of development would start with implementation on development projects. With this, the standard of living of common men would also be improved in the province, he added.

He on the occasion urged the PPP workers to use their capabilities for serving the general public. He also urged them to highlight the public issues

so as to ensure implementation on the suggestions

Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Gilani expresses govt's desire to expand bilateral relations with UK

LONDON (APP): Chair- Faisal Salim Rehman, man Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Monday said that Pakistan greatly values its bilateral relations with United Kingdom (UK) and desires to further expand the bilateral relations to new levels for mutual benefit. The Chairman Senate expressed these views in a meeting here with Speaker of the House of Commons Lindsay Hoyle during his visit to the UK.

The Chairman Senate, along with a delegation of Senators, is visiting UK to explore opportunities for further strengthening bilateral, multilateral and institutional cooperation in diverse sectors.

Chairman Senate was accompanied by Senators
Agha Shahzeb Durrani, partnership.

Ashraf Ali Jatoi and Members of the National Assembly, Syed Abdul Qadir Gilani and Syed Qasim Ali

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC)

led by the senior member Akbar Hussain Durrani called on President Asif

In his opening remarks, the Chairman Senate highlighted the historical and cultural ties that both sides have enjoyed since long and said that the historical bond between the two has paved the way for deepening political, diplomatic, economic ties and people to people contacts.

He further observed that these ties were further strengthened by Pakistani diaspora, which was acting as a bridge between Pakistan and UK, thus providing solid foundation for a

the departed soul rest in eternal peace," he prayed. Govt not to offer PTI **Opposition to** for talks on various protest against the **implementation** issues: Irfan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) in the Senate, Senator Irfan Siddiqui on Monday said the government would not offer to Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) for talks on various issues anymore. Talking to media out-

side the Parliament House, he said that it was now time for PTI leadership to request the government for the negotiations to settle down the matters. Irfan Siddiqui said that said that there was no re-

earlier, the government's striction and curbs on doors were opened for the dreaming.

PTI leaders to initiate dialogue with it, adding that the opposition party had always showed reluctance, non-seriousness and immaturity. He said the coalition government would complete its five years constitutional tenure as it was effectively working for the welfare and economic stability of the country.

Commenting on Asad Qaiser's statement about PTI will come into power in December, Irfan Siddiqui



QUETTA: MD Balochistan PIA Abdul Ghaffar Miankhail meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

NP members stage walkout in assembly over Gwadar violence

Independent Report QUETTA: National Party members in the Balochistan Assembly staged a walkout during Monday's session to protest the use of force against peaceful protesters in Gwadar, resulting in violence and the arrest of party leader Mir Ashraf Hussein and his sons.

During the session, members Khair Jan Baloch and Kulsoom Naz Baloch condemned the incident and criticized the government for its actions. The members also expressed solidarity with the people of Gwadar and demanded immediate release of the arrested leaders. The walkout was a show of protest against the government's handling of the situation in Gwadar, where peaceful protesters were met with force, leading to injuries and arrests. The National Party has demanded an explanation from the government and sought action against those responsible for the

BFA foils big attempt to supply 2400 kg unhealthy chicken meat to Quetta

Balochistan Food Authority (BFA)'s team on Monday foiled a big attempt to supply unhealthy meat of

Director General of BFA Ateequllah, on tip-off, BFA team led by Deputy Director of Operations checked a suspected truck coming from Multan at Khanuzai area and recovered 2400kg unhealthy chicken meat worth million of rupees from it. According to the laboratory report, the seized meat worth million was

man consumption after testing samples of meat. Moreover, under the supervision of the BFA team, a large quantity of unsanitary chicken meat was destroyed outside the city at a safe place. On the direction of Director General BFA, further legal action was initiated against the elements involved in the supply of defective meat. DG, BFA said that the authority was active 24 hours a day to check the supply and supply of substandard meat including substandard meat.



the roof and walls of a house in village Karak collapsed due to rains in the past few days

President for enhanced representation of women, minorities in govt jobs

President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday called for greater representation of women and minorities in government jobs to enhance their inclusion in the mainstream of society.

The president, talking to a delegation of Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC), led by the senior member Akbar Hussain Durrani, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, said that the Commission should find ways and means to further improve the civil service recruitment process to select the right person for the right job, according to a President House press release.

PM deeply

grieved over

demise of Saudi

Prince Abdullah

bin Khalid

bin Turki

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif on Monday ex

pressed grief over the death

of Prince Abdullah bin

Khalid bin Turki bin

Abdulaziz bin Turki Al

The prime minister, in

social media post on X,

conveyed his condolences

to Custodian of the Two

Holy Mosques King Salman

bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and

Crown Prince Mohammed

bin Salman bin Abdulaziz

Al Saud of the Kingdom o

the royal family and the

people of Saudi Arabia ii

this moment of grief. May

of Article 6

ISLAMABAD (Online)

The session of the National

Assembly will be held to-

day at five o'clock in the

evening under the chairman-

ship of Speaker National

Assembly Sardar Ayaz

Sadiq. The opposition to

protest against the imple-

mentation of Article 6

against former President

Arif Alvi, former Deputy

Speaker National Assem-

bly Qasim Suri, while the

government is likely to

present important bills re-

garding legislation in the National Assembly. There

is also a possibility that a

privilege motion will be

presented in the National

ssembly session regard

ing the media reports re-

garding the use of free elec-

tricity by the parliamentar-

ians and false propaganda by the Ministry of Energy.

TLP senior

leader arrested

for threatening

CJP Isa

LAHORE (INP): Deputy Amir of Tehreek-e-Labbaik

Pakistan (TLP) Pir Zaheer

ul-Hassan Shah has been

arrested in Okara for issu-

ing death threats to Chief

Justice of Pakistan (CJP)

and party workers were

earlier booked for issuing

death threats to CJP Isa.

The case was filed at the

Qila Gujjar Singh police sta-

TLP deputy amir include

sections of the Anti-Terror-

ism Act (ATA), inciting re-

ligious hatred, causing pub-

lic disorder, intimidating the

judiciary, threatening the

judiciary, interfering in of-

ficial duties, and obstruct-

during a protest outside the

Press Club, Pir Zaheer

Hassan Shah incited hatred

against the judiciary and

announced a reward of

Rs10 million for anyone

who brings the head of CJP Qazi Faez Isa.

ADC Sibi provides

relief materials

to affected man as

his house damaged

in rain

QUETTA (APP): Addi-

tional Deputy Commis-

sioner (ADC) General Sibi

Asghar Magsi on Monday

provided relief material to

affected man on behalf of

Balochistan government.

whose house was damaged

According to the FIR,

ing legal functions.

The charges against

The TLP senior leader

Qazi Faez Isa.

"My heart goes out to

Saudi Arabia.

Saud of Saudi Arabia.

He said that FPSC had an important responsibility of recruiting civil servants to improve service delivery and promote good governance in the country

He urged the need to make the recruitment process more efficient and transparent by adopting modern technology and new methods, particularly com-puterized testing, that would help in the selection of qualified and efficient civil servants.

The president said that candidates securing high marks during the written examination should be fairly evaluated.

Akbar Hussain Durrani briefed the president about the role and function of the FPSC in recruiting government servants. He also highlighted certain issues being faced by the Commission.

President Zardari assured the delegation of his support and guidance in the resolution of problems and improving the recruitment system.



QUETTA: Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly Ghazala Gola and Provincial Minister Mir Shoaib Nausherwani talking with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

PM commends security forces for successful operation against terrorists

ISLAMABAD (APP): during fight against the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday commended the officers and personnel of security forces for launching successful operations against terrorists at three separate places in Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa. In a statement, the prime minister said the security forces fought bravely with Khawarij terrorists in Mohmand, Dera Ismail Khan and North Waziristan Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and killed

five of them. He paid tribute to PoFitnah-al-Khawarij terror-

He prayed to Allah Almighty to elevate the ranks of the departed soul in Jannah and to grant patience to the family members of the martyr to bear this loss with courage

The joint operation of the security forces proved that the terrorists cannot escape from the officers and soldiers who are determined to defend their homeland, the prime minister added. He said the nation

stood by its security forces until the menace of terrorlice Constable Ibrar Hussain ism was completely upwho embraced martyrdom rooted from the country.

Five terrorists gunned down in three **KP IBOs: ISPR**

RAWALPINDI (INP): The security forces gunned down five terrorists in three different intelligence-based operations (IBOs) conducted in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Monday.

In a statement, the military's media wing said that the security forces also destroyed the terrorists' hideouts during the IBOs.

'Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorists," SPR added.

The military's media wing said that a killed terrorist Sifatullah was involved in the suicide attack in Daraban on 12 December 2023 and other criminal

activities. Another terrorist was gunned down in the IBO conducted in North Waziristan. "Pakistan forces are determined to eradicate the scourge of terrorism from the country. Pakistan Army is fighting against terrorism alongside law enforcement agencies, the ISPR added.

Earlier on July 16, the ISPR reported that Pakistan security forces killed 10 terrorists who attacked Bannu Cantonment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ISPR. According to military's media wing, the attackers attempted to infiltrate the Bannu cantt but were repelled, leading them to detonate an explosiveladen vehicle against the perimeter wall.



Islami (JI) are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products and inflation price hiking of electricity and petrol, at Liaquat Bagh

CII chairman rejects extrajudicial declarations of death

ISLAMABAD (APP): Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) Chairman, Dr. Raghib Hussain Naeemi on Monday declared that labeling an individual as deserving of death is both un-Islamic and illegal. He, in a video statement, emphasized that such emotional actions harm the cause of the Fi-

nality of Prophethood. Ďr. Raghib said Pakistan, as a constitutional and Islamic state, has established punishments for all types of crimes within its legal framework, administered through the courts. 'No individual, group, or mob has the religious or legal authority to set up courts and

death," he added. Dr. Raghib said the council has repeatedly stressed that incitement declarations of apostasy, and threats to government, state officials, or ordinary citizens contradict the clear teachings of the Holy Quran and Sunnah. He said the unanimous statement of the "Paigham-e-Pakistan" national narrative, endorsed by esteemed religious scholars and leadrs of all sects, established that it is the duty of Ulema and Muftis to provide religious awareness and the correct Islamic solutions to issues

issue Fatwas (religious de-

crees) or orders for someone's

He said that for the first for their solution. Speaker BA slams interference of BYC in Govt. affairs

Says roads closures, strikes not solution to any issue

Independent Report OUETTA: The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai has strongly condemned the interference of Baloch Yekiehti Committee (BYC)

in the government affairs. In an official statement issued here on Monday, the Speaker said that the steps taken by what it termed

challenging writ of the government. He said that the closure of roads and observing strikes are not solution BYC should hold constructive talks with the govern-

"unregistered" BYC are other tribes. to any issue as such the Balochistan is such a prov-

of roads and strikes have paralyzed routine life of all people of the province. Immense hardships and disturbance have caused to the comment. He insisted that tion, he added. The Speaker said that the representatives

Naval Chief takes

up maritime

security during

Romania visit

ISLAMABAD (INP):

Chief of the Naval Staff

Admiral Naveed Ashraf

mania and held a joint meet-

ing with the Chief of De-

fence Staff of Romania and

the Chief of the Romanian

statement released on

Monday, they discussed

issues relating to regional

maritime security and sta-

bility, bilateral military co-

operation and professional

matters of mutual interest

Besides, Admiral Naveed Ashraf also deliv-

ered a lecture on the "Joint

Maritime Defence" at the

National Defense Univer-

the joint role of naval forces

in resolving issues in the

maritime domain, he

stressed the need for collec-

tive efforts by the naval

forces to enforce law at the

sea. The recent visit of the

Naval Chief to Romania will

further promote and expand

relations between the two

Expressing his views on

sity of Romania.

According to an ISPR

ince which doesn't belong of Baloch people are already to Balochs only rather this present in the provincial assembly of Balochistan province also relates to

QUETTA: Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma talking to media during visit Quetta Press Club.

Balochistan's trade connection to CARs pivotal in Pak-Indonesia bilateral trade

QUETTA (APP): Charge with his economic team. d'Affaires of the embassy a to Pakistan, Rahmat said that Balochistan's trade connection with the Central Asian states (CARs) will prove to be important in the mutual trade between Indonesia and Pakistan.

Similarly, due to its location, Balochistan is important in the economy and trade of Pakistan, he said in press release issued here on

Charge d'Affaires of the embassy of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan, Hindiarta Kusumahas said this while visited Federation Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and (FPCCI) Balochistan Office along

Meanwhile on the ocof the Republic of Indone- casion Charge d'Affaires of the embassy of the Repu Hindiarta Kusumahas has lic of Indonesia and his team were received by Senior Vice Chairman of FPCCI, Haji Jamaluddin and President Zhob Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the industrialists and business leaders of Balochistan.

The envoy said that due to its location, Balochistan is close to the Central Asian states on the one hand, and on the other hand, it is also connected with the Middle East, which is very important in its future trade. He said that this province of Pakistan can play an important role in the geo economy of Pakistan by using its



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta and Administrator Metropolitan Corporation, Hamza Shafqat in a meeting with a delegation of Metropolitan Grand Alliance held in Quetta.

Senate body on Foreign Affairs convenes

ISLAMABAD (Online): The meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Chaired by Senator Irfan ul Haq Siddiqui, held today at Parliament House.

The Committee reviewed the performance of the Foreign Services Academy, (FSA) Institute for Regional Studies, (IRS) and the Institute for Strategic Studies (ISS). The committee also reviewed the number of Pakistanis imprisoned in foreign jails, including the names of the prisoners, the crimes committed, the periods of imprisonment, and the steps taken by the government for their release.

During the meeting, the chairman and members expressed their displeasure over the non-participation of the heads of the relevant institutions regarding the performance ssues of FSA, IRS and ISS. Members emphasized that Parliament is the su-

the heads of these institutions must ensure their participation in committee briefings. The chairman demanded an explanation for the absence of the institution heads and questioned whose responsibility it was within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure their atten-

Senator Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar remarked that institutions should not adopt such an attitude, asserting that Parliament is the supreme institution. Senator Sherry Rehman added that the committee is important, and the heads of the relevant institutions should have ensured their participation and provided necessary information. The chairman expressed disappointment and directed that the briefing agendas for these institutions be postponed until the next meeting to ensure

preme institution and that

countries in general and naval forces in particular. Cut in petrol and diesel prices proposed

ISLAMABAD (INP): There is a suggestion to slash petroleum products' (POL) prices following a drop in their prices in the international market during the last two weeks.

Sources said that a proposal had been floated to reduce petrol's price by Rs5.50 per liter; that of high-speed diesel (HSD) by Rs11 per liter; kerosené oil by Rs5.84 per liter and one liter of light-speed diesel by

If approved, the price of one liter of petrol will come down from Rs275.50 to Rs270.10, while that of HSD from Rs283.63 to

Experts, on the other hand, have said that the strengthening of the Pak Rupee's value has also increased the prospects of a reduction in petroleum products' prices.

(APP): found to be harmful for hu-QUETTA

chicken to Quetta city. On special directive of



ISLAMABAD: Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.