

Independent

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Gwadar

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Mobile network to be restored Govt. reaches agreement with Gwadar protesters, all arrested workers of BYC to be released

Independent Report

GWADAR: Assistant Commissioner Gwadar, Mir Javed Zehri, has announced that the government has reached a successful agreement with the Gwadar protesters. The agreement was reached after negotiations between the government and the Baloch Yekjehti Committee.

According to the agreement, all arrested workers of the Baloch Yekjehti Committee will be released, mobile networks will be restored, and all roads will be opened by removing blockades. The Gwadar BYC has also agreed to end its sit-in protest.

The local leadership of the National Party, BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, and BNP Awami played a key role in

mediating the agreement. Assistant Commissioner Gwadar, Mir Javed Zehri, spoke to a private tv channel about the agreement.

Earlier Deputy Commissioner Hamoodur Rehman has taken swift notice of a video circulating on social media regarding Mehrang Baloch and announced that she is completely safe and engaged in negotiations with the administration.

He clarified that Mehrang Baloch has not been harmed in any way, and the rumors spreading are baseless and false. The Deputy Commissioner termed the news circulating on social media, WhatsApp groups, and other platforms as propaganda aimed at creating chaos in the city.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Asia Internet Coalition calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

“Instant restoration of water in Kachhi canal unavoidable”:

Federation ought to give positive message by paying special heed towards Balochistan, insists CM

Federal Minister Water Resources directs to concerned authorities to take speedy measures for restoration of water in Kachhi canal's phase-I first then work on project of saving from flashflood

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has categorically stated that immediate restoration of water in Kachhi canal is unavoidable. He pleaded to restore water in Kachhi canal under Proposal II made by WAPDA first and then start work on the long-term project.

He also pleaded to start work on the Phase-II and III of Kachhi canal project without any further delay as one generation has already passed in wait of completion of the Phase-I of Kachhi canal.

And now second and third generation must not

be lost while completing the Phase-II and III.

The Chief Minister was speaking at the meeting on the Kachhi canal project chaired by the Federal Minister for Water Resources, Musaddiq Malik in Islamabad, on Wednesday. It may be mentioned here that the Chief Minister, provincial ministers and other concerned high ups participated in the meeting through video link from Quetta.

The Chief Minister told the meeting that the people associated with agriculture are facing hardships due to non-availability

of water in Kachhi canal. As he pleaded to rehabilitate the canal before formulation of the strategy to cope with the flood situation in future, the Federal Minister for Water Resources was agreed with his (CM) proposal and directed to the concerned authorities to take speedy measures for restoration of the water in canal's Phase-I first then work on the project.

He assured that water would be restored in the Kachhi canal immediately before the long-term project of rehabilitation of the canal.

Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh assassinated in Tehran

Deeply shocked by timing; Pakistan condemns assassination of Haniyeh; Political leaders see Haniyeh's elimination as a blow to Palestine cause; UN Security Council to hold emergency meeting over Hamas chief killing

TEHRAN (INP): Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was assassinated in the early hours of the morning in Iran, the Palestinian resistance group Hamas said on Wednesday, describing the strike as a "severe escalation" that would not achieve its goals.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) confirmed the death of Haniyeh, hours after he attended a swearing in ceremony for the country's new president, and said it was investigating.

"Early this morning, the residence of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran was struck, resulting in his and one of his body guards' martyrdom. The cause is under investigation and will be announced soon," the Revolutionary Guards said.

There was no immedi-



ate comment from Israeli authorities.

The news, which came less than 24 hours after Israel claimed to have killed the Hezbollah commander it said was behind a deadly strike in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, appears to set back chances of any imminent ceasefire agreement in Gaza.

"This assassination by the Israeli occupation of Brother Haniyeh is a grave

escalation that aims to break the will of Hamas," senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told media.

He said Hamas would continue the path it was following, adding: "We are confident of victory."

APP adds: Pakistan on Wednesday condemned the assassination of the chief of Hamas Political Bureau Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, expressing serious concern over the growing Israeli adventurism in the region.

"We are deeply shocked by the timing of this reckless act, coinciding with the inauguration of the President of Iran, an event attended by several foreign dignitaries, including the Deputy Prime Minister of Pakistan," according to a Foreign Office press release.



KARACHI: Karachi Jamaat e Islami hold protest against Israel Government after killing of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

PM Shahbaz vows to make Pakistan leading country in AI infrastructure

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that the government was taking all-out measures to provide fast and uninterrupted Internet connectivity to the people.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a three-member delegation of Asia Internet Coalition, headed by Managing Director Jeff Paine, said that the government was implementing a strategy to attract foreign investment in the information technology infrastructure.

The meeting featured the discussion on data security, code of ethics for Internet content, and prevention of electronic crimes.

Prime Minister Shehbaz told the delegation that the government was working to promote a basic infrastructure based on artificial intelligence.

He said the government

was resolved to make Pakistan achieve a distinction in AI infrastructure in the region.

He said under the Digital Pakistan Initiative, the whole system was being digitised and expressed the hope that the digitisation of Federal Board of Revenue would prove to be a milestone towards economic digitisation and automation.

During the briefing, it was informed that consultation with all stakeholders on the draft of Personal Data Protection Bill was in progress.

Prime Minister Shehbaz appreciated the services of Asia Internet Coalition in promoting IT and Internet infrastructure in the Asia Pacific Region.

The delegation members apprised the prime minister of the Coalition's services in Pakistan's IT sector.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti participating in a meeting through video chaired by Federal Minister Musaddiq Malik to review progress on Kachhi canal

Kurram delegation calls on Naqvi

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation from Kurram, led by MNA Hamid Hussain called on Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday.

The delegation included Muneer Hussain, Professor Shabbir Bangash, Muhammad Bashir Bangash, Rahim Gul, and Haji Noor Rahman. Federal Secretary Interior Khurram Ali Agha was also present on the occasion.

The minister expressed concern over the unfortunate incidents in Kurram and discussed a comprehensive strategy to prevent such incidents in the future. Mohsin Naqvi expressed profound grief and sorrow over the loss of precious human lives and prayed for the swift recovery of the injured. He said that the clash between two groups was given a wrong interpretation.

He emphasized that leading personalities of the area should play their positive role for lasting solution to this issue and the government will provide all possible assistance in this regard. The minister reiterated that everyone needs to play his role in maintaining brotherhood and harmony in the area. He also called a meeting with the representatives and leading personalities from both groups.

Zia urges protestors to sort out issue of missing persons sitting with govt instead of lodging protest everyday

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has said that the government is ready to resolve all the issues through dialogue under the law and constitution and urged the protestors to sort out their issue of missing persons sitting with the government instead of lodging protest everyday. He said that the role of women is very important in development of every nation and country, as such he appealed to the women as he called them mothers and sisters to join hands for development and prosperity.

He also appealed to the women to learn lesson of progress, knowledge and books instead of pushing the next generations in the darkness and destructions.

The Provincial Minister was presiding over the meeting on law and order situation in Gwadar on Wednesday.

While the district and divisional high ups were in attendance at the meeting, the Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and Additional Chief Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem participated in the meeting through video link.

The meeting reviewed the security arrangements and measures for restoration of peace in Gwadar, and important decisions were made. Speaking on the occasion, the Provincial Minister pointed out that the so-called well wishers are creating hindrance in foreign and local investment in Gwadar.

He stressed that people of Gwadar have to decide by themselves whether to move forward for development of their area or put their future at stake by falling prey to negative politics.

He said that it is totally wrong to put blame on the people of Punjab that they are becoming hurdle in development of Balochistan.

Rather some senseless people are responsible for stopping the way of development and prosperity in Balochistan, who are lodging protest and blocking roads without any justification, the Minister maintained.

Mir Ziaullah Langove said that the baseless and slushy slogans of separatism are merely for political gains and stopping the way of development of Pakistan.

Political organization has status of vanguard in development of country & nation: Governor

Sheikh Jaffar Mandokhail emphasizes it is social and political responsibility of elected representatives to make conscious efforts for uniting people instead of dividing them

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that the political organization has the status of vanguard in development of the country and nation, as such it is the social and political responsibility of all the elected representatives to make conscious efforts for uniting the people instead of dividing them.

The Governor stressed that elected representatives should wholeheartedly advocate the rights and interests of the voiceless and destitute people of the society.

He said that the country has come out of the economic hardships because of the wise decisions

of the incumbent government and now it is necessary to create other easiness for the people by promoting trade and economic activities.

The Governor was speaking to the former Provincial Minister, Mir Mubeen Rehman Muhammad Hassani, former Member National Assembly, Mir Ehsan Reki and District Chairman, Mir Irfan Reki who called on him here at the Governor House on Wednesday.

The Governor maintained that the political organizations and workers play key role in promoting collective sense of the rights and duties among masses, boosting social justice and democratic behaviours and ensuring implementation on the

public rights. He also stressed that it is responsibility of the elected representatives to formulate such public friendly policies through legislation which may pave the way for protection of public rights and fundamental freedom.

He said that he learnt following affiliation with practical politics for four decades that any political organization surely gets success if ensures transparency, responsibility and answerability.

Besides, he stressed the need to ensure early completion of the ongoing development projects so that the common men may benefit from them. There lies secret of strengthening the democracy, he added.

NA Body clears Election Act Amendment Bill 2024 amid controversy

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs has passed the Election Act Amendment Bill 2024 by a majority vote, despite significant opposition and absence of key parties.

Chairman Rana Aradat Sharif led the National Assembly Standing Committee's session, where the bill to amend the Elections Act 2017 was reviewed. Bilal Azhar Kayani provided a briefing on the proposed amendments.

Tensions flared during the meeting as opposition member Ali Muhammad Khan clashed with Parliamentary Affairs Minister

Azam Nazir Tarar over the bill. Tarar defended the bill, asserting that the amendments are in line with constitutional and legal standards.

In contrast, PTI members voiced strong opposition, with Shahida Akhtar Ali emphasizing the need for thorough examination and suggesting that the amendments could be detrimental. JUI's Shahida Akhtar Ali also criticized the process, arguing that the bill requires more detailed scrutiny and re-evaluation.

The Election Commission's Secretary stated that the Commission could not comment on the

bill's effects, as this falls outside their purview. Khan further criticized the Election Commission, alleging misconduct and undue influence on political parties.

Ultimately, the committee approved the Election Act Amendment Bill 2024 with six votes in favor and four against. Notably, JUI's Shahida Akhtar Ali abstained from voting, citing uncertainty about the bill's restorative effects, and no PPP members attended the meeting.

The bill is now set to be presented to the National Assembly for final approval on Friday.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with a delegation from Kurram led by MNA Hamid Hussain.

Women in Balochistan to be included in Benazir Kafalat programme: Senator Rubina

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid Wednesday said that women belonging to the Balochistan province having PMT score upto 60 are being included in the BISP Kafalat and other programmes.

She was speaking during a meeting with the Advisor to Chief Minister Balochistan on Commerce and Industry, Mir Ali Hassan Zehri. The meeting was held to discuss important issues related to BISP beneficiaries in Balochistan.

During the meeting, Senator Rubina Khalid said, on the special instructions of President Asif Ali Zardari, women belonging to the Balochistan province

are being included in the Kafalat programme.

The meeting discussed several key issues including the challenges faced by women beneficiaries in Balochistan and solutions to improve their well-being.

A significant focus was placed on skill development programs aimed at enabling beneficiaries and youth to start their own businesses, thereby helping them rise out of poverty.

This initiative also aims to uplift the lives of Benazir Income Support Programme beneficiaries and include more eligible families in the programme.

Additionally, the matter of registering women in BISP through Mobile Registration Vans to ensure wider reach and inclusivity was also discussed.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over meeting of Board of Directors of Balochistan Coastal Development Authority

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Extremism unbound

The state finally seems to have woken up from its slumber and, alarmed by the threats made against the country's top judge, has initiated action against the suspects.

On Monday, several federal ministers denounced the shocking threats made against the chief justice by clerics belonging to the TLP, and promised that such incitement to violence would not be allowed. The controversy stems from the recent Supreme Court judgement in the Mubarak Sani case, which has been misinterpreted by extremist elements to forward their dangerous agenda. On a deeper level, aside from the deplorable threat, the matter reflects the existential danger extremist forces pose to the nation, and the weakness of the state before these outfits. At least two TLP men have reportedly been held; hundreds more have been booked for inciting violence.

The reason that Pakistan stands at this perilous juncture today is that for decades, the state has pursued suicidal policies where extremist groups are concerned. Those at the helm have either looked away as jihadi, sectarian and extremist groups have proliferated, or in some cases have actively encouraged such violent outfits. Arguably, in no other Muslim country are vigilantes and extremists allowed such freedom to operate. But in Pakistan, these outfits can effectively blackmail the state, and issue death warrants against the highest officials of the land. The state either meekly asks them to desist, or takes belated action after these groups cross 'red lines'. On the other hand, protests by political parties or marginalised groups are met with the full force of the law. Unless firm action is taken against extremist groups — as envisioned under the National Action Plan — the day may not be too distant when these outfits have the power to set the nation alight, using emotive slogans to misguide radicalised sections of the populace.

The state's primary responsibility here is to bring all those responsible for incitement to deadly violence to justice, and in the long term shut down the outfits fuelling extremism in society. Making one or two arrests is not enough; wider action is needed. Moreover, security for the chief justice should be beefed up.

The ulama also have a major responsibility to restore sanity. Though the Council of Islamic Ideology has condemned the death threats, established scholars, particularly those belonging to the Bareilly school, need to denounce such violent vigilantism. There is religious and legal consensus about the finality of prophethood. Therefore, semi-literate clerics cannot be allowed to exploit this sensitive issue and create further anarchy in society.

The nation has lost Salmaan Taseer and countless others to assassins and raging mobs motivated by spurious accusations of blasphemy. Unless those who actually control the levers of state act with alacrity, the forces of darkness may be further emboldened.

Caracas conundrum

Mahir Ali

There was barely a peep from the self-ordained paragons of democratic virtue when Paul Kagame was returned to power in Rwanda two weeks ago with more than 99 per cent of the vote, an improvement over his previous scores across the past three decades, after effectively ruling out any serious challenge.

No such luck for Nicolas Maduro, whose claim of a 51pc edge in last Sunday's Venezuelan presidential election is being disputed both at home and abroad.

It doesn't necessarily follow, of course, that either election was credible. What it does demonstrate again is the hypocrisy of the 'international community' — its boundaries determined by the West, and mainly Washington — as it chooses between 'good' and 'bad' autocrats. Occasionally an individual such as Saddam Hussein or Manuel Noriega can serve the American empire in both capacities at various times.

Hugo Chávez never fell in that category. He was pinpointed by the West as a foe soon after he emerged as Venezuela's elected leader at the turn of the century. His several triumphs in further votes made no difference, even after a US-backed corporate coup floundered within days of a popular revolt against the would-be usurpers.

Chávez was detested because he defied North America's global hegemony and also challenged Washington's so-called neoliberal 'consensus' — incubated in Chile under Pinochet — with policies encompassing the redistribution of wealth (to some extent) alongside measures that brought education facilities and healthcare to segments with little experience of either.

Even worse from the 'Norte-Americano' point of view was the Chávez

administration's inclination to share its oil wealth with its Caribbean neighbours, particularly Cuba. After the popularly backed regime change in Havana in 1959, Washington's chief concern — as in Guatemala three years earlier, and in Chile a decade later — was to inoculate its 'backyard' against further outbreaks of social democracy. The same instinct kicked in 40 years later.

But it was a different time, demonstrated not least by huge protests against global capitalism within the US. The advent of what has become known as 'Chavismo' launched a 'pink tide' across Latin America. It was eventually reversed in several nations, partly as a consequence of Washington's opposition, reflected via economic and political pressure.

The tide turned once again. From Honduras through Brazil and down to Chile, left-leaning governments are in power. Argentina is an exception, but hopefully not for too long. Amazingly (or perhaps not), Javier Milei attracts even less opprobrium from the godfathers of democracy.

Maduro, picked by Chávez as his successor not long before he succumbed to cancer in 2013, had working-class credentials as a bus driver, but lacked his mentor's charisma and driving force.

There were, no doubt, flaws in Chávez's conduct of affairs, but nothing approaching what has occurred under Maduro's watch. According to the New York Times, hardly a fan of socialist experiments, "businessmen and foreign investors had largely made peace with [Maduro's] government in recent years. Sanctions imposed by the United States had forced Mr Maduro to ditch some extreme policies like price and currency controls. The private sector was given an in-

creasingly prominent role, public attacks against business owners had stopped and hyperinflation and rampant crime subsided somewhat".

It's only in the NYT's dream world that "price and currency controls" can be described as an 'extreme policy' without raising too many eyebrows. What's more relevant is the hyperinflation and dearth of jobs that have persuaded almost eight million Venezuelans — almost a third of the population — to flee abroad, mostly to Colombia, with many hoping to reach the US. Cue the absurd apocalyptic warnings by Donald Trump and his ilk about murderers and rapists sneaking into their country.

It is not hard to see the various ways in which Maduro has been a disaster for his nation, but it's equally difficult to perceive his chief opponent Edmundo González as a viable option. The former diplomat was reportedly surging in opinion polls after replacing María Corina Machado as the opposition candidate.

Maduro's possibly pyrrhic victory has been greeted by Russia, China, Syria, Nicaragua, Cuba and a few other states, but the likes of Brazil and Chile are wisely holding out for more complete results. It is not hard to imagine how Maduro might actually have been defeated by an equally incompetent rival, or how neither of them would concede defeat. There is little likelihood that Venezuela would prosper under a reactionary regime, and no one can say what will emerge from the current protests in Caracas. Ultimately, though, history is likely to see Chávez as a hopeful disruptor and Maduro as a hopeless successor. -- Courtesy Dawn

Elite finance ministers

Muhammad Usama Shahid

"I completely empathise and sympathise [with the people]," remarked Pakistan's finance minister as the tax-loaded Finance Bill 2024 was passed by the National Assembly. In a country where more than 10 million children are suffering from undernutrition, the finance minister was keen to observe that Pakistan is "making positive progress" before imposing a 'milk tax' on infant formula.

Such remarks beg the question what does the finance minister even mean by the word 'progress'? Is the imposition of exorbitant taxes a way of empathising with the people? To answer such questions, one has to understand the kind of people who become finance ministers in Pakistan in terms of their academic and professional credentials as well as their socioeconomic background. It is through examining these that one can understand their worldview.

Pakistan's current finance minister, Muhammad Aurangzeb, studied at Aitchison and graduated with a Bachelor's degree and an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania. He began his banking career at Citibank and later joined ABN AMRO and RBS International and led their businesses in multiple countries. Subsequently, he became a chief executive at JP Morgan and then president and CEO of HBL prior to becoming finance minister in March 2024. During his time at HBL, he was one of the highest-paid CEOs in Pakistan with a monthly salary of approximately three crore rupees.

However, he is not the only finance minister whose professional experiences mostly included working in execu-

tive positions. He was preceded by finance minister Ishaq Dar, who had a similar background though more oriented towards public institutions. Dar graduated with a Bachelor's degree from the University of Punjab and subsequently became a chartered accountant.

Dar's professional experiences included stints as director of finance at British Textiles Group, a senior auditor in the government of Libya, and a partner of a Pakistan-based chartered accountants' firm. Additionally, he was director at numerous multilateral organisations including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. Though he had graduated from a domestic university, his career mostly comprised working in executive positions abroad. He became Pakistan's finance minister after Miftah Ismail resigned from the position.

Miftah Ismail holds a Bachelor's degree from Duquesne University along with a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania. He initially worked as an economist with the IMF but then returned to Pakistan to work for his family's business — Ismail Industries Limited, which is one of the country's largest confectionary and snack food manufacturers.

This trend of appointing people from elite backgrounds to the post of Pakistan's minister of finance goes back even further. Asad Umar had an MBA from IBA Karachi and was the former CEO of Engro Corporation. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh had undergraduate and graduate degrees from Boston University and was the World Bank country head in Saudi Arabia. Shaukat Tarin, too, had an MBA from the University of Punjab and a

career in banking, with the names of Citibank and Habib Bank Limited on his resumé.

The question is whether such finance ministers with elite backgrounds realise what implication their economic policies have for the people of this country. At the end of the day, the decision to impose a milk tax is as much about making infant formula inaccessible to millions of impoverished babies in the country as it is about improving the country's revenues. While an increase in taxes may not have implications for someone who earned Rs3 crore per month, it definitely does for someone who has to work two jobs just to sustain their family.

A banker, accountant, or economist might analyse Pakistan's economic instability simply as a matter of manipulating numbers on an Excel sheet but for the common person, it is a matter of their standard of living.

The intention here is to neither question the professional acumen of these finance ministers nor argue that somehow having a finance minister from a non-elite background would automatically resolve Pakistan's economic issues. Instead, the aim is to analyse the analytical framework through which these finance ministers analyse Pakistan's economy and their blind spots due to their own elite background. Only when we have finance ministers who understand as well as relate to the implications their economic policies have for the common people, can we bridge the feeling of alienation in the people of Pakistan. Only then can we understand what the word 'progress' means — not to the elite, but the ordinary people of this country. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Government steers economy back on growth path: Ihsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Industry, Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan said here on Wednesday that the country's economy, left reeling by the previous Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government, has been put back on track by the incumbent political dispensation. "Ever since PTI Imran Khan is in jail, the economy of the country is moving towards betterment," he said while addressing a press conference along with Spokesperson of government on legal affairs, Barrister Aqeel Malik.

Highlighting some key indicators, he said that inflation had decreased significantly, falling to 12.6 percent in June 2024 from 38 percent in June of the previous year.

Ihsan said that the government is committed to reducing the inflation rate to a single digit by 2025, and efforts were currently underway to achieve this goal.

He said that the Pakistani rupee also stabilized, and things are moving in a positive direction. Although it was challenging to stabilize the exchange rate, we've successfully achieved it.



HYDERABAD: Labourers busy in preparing the wooden boxes at his workplace.

S&P Global keeps Pak rating at 'CCC+'

ISLAMABAD (Online): S&P Global Ratings has affirmed Pakistan's long-term sovereign credit rating at 'CCC+' and short-term rating at 'C', maintaining a stable outlook. This decision reflects a balance between the challenges posed by Pakistan's external liquidity and fiscal performance, and the anticipated continued support from multilateral and bilateral partners over the next 12 months.

Despite economic challenges, international support and fiscal measures provide a degree of stability to the country's financial

The country's exports have also shown significant growth in the fiscal year 2024, with an increase of \$3 billion, reaching to a total of \$30 billion while remittances were also showing positive growth. Fitch rating has also upgraded the country's debt outlook, adding it happened only because of the restoration International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme.

He emphasized that the current government has a comprehensive plan to uplift every sector adding work on the privatization and rightsizing of the government was going on.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where four ships, Apollon-D, Elim Grace, Kouros Queen and Butinah carrying Container, Palm oil and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminals and Multi-Purpose Terminal respectively on Tuesday.

Meanwhile three more ships, MSC Roma, YE CHI and Pacific Tulip carrying Container, Gas oil and Coal are also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim during last 24 hours.

A total of nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them Gas carrier 'Epic Sunter' left the port on today morning while three more ships, Apollon-D, Endeavour and Sea Luck-III are expected to sail on today afternoon. Cargo volume of 122,590 tonnes, comprising 62,651 tonnes imports cargo and 59,939 tonnes export cargo carried in 2,470 Containers (980 TEUs Imports & 1,490 TEUs Export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chairing a meeting of the Committee on the issues of Gilgit-Baltistan.

KP Agriculture Minister assures assistance for agriculture development

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Agriculture, Major Retired Sajjad Barakwal, emphasized the critical role of agriculture in the nation's economy, highlighting that "22 percent of the country's GDP is dependent on agriculture." He underscored the necessity of adopting modern technology and research in the agricultural sector to drive economic growth in both the country and the province.

Addressing the attendees as the chief guest on the concluding day of the three-day international seminar organized by Bacha Khan University Charsadda at Nathia Gali, Minister Barakwal conveyed the directives of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mr. Ali Amin Khan Gandapur. The Chief Minister has mandated the utilization of all available resources and the removal of obstacles to advance the province's agricultural development.

KP-BoIT, TDAP to organize expo-investment conference in Chitral

Independent Report CHITRAL: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment & Trade (KP-BoIT) in collaboration with Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) is organizing an Expo and Economic Development Conference in Chitral for showcasing the local economic and trading sectors to attract investors to invest in the potential sectors of the valley.

The proposed Expo & Economic Development Conference will be held during the first week of September this year. About 60 stalls regarding attractive sectors of investment wherein local potential

Rupee sheds 09 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Wednesday depreciated by 09 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.74 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.65.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 279.3 and Rs 280.5 respectively.

The price of Euro came down by 14 paise to close at Rs 301.43 against the last day's closing of Rs 301.57, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

PSX stays bearish, loses 741 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bearish trend on Wednesday, losing 741.82 points, a negative change of 0.94 percent, closing at 77,886.99 points against 78,628.81 points on the last working day. A total of 382,597,400 shares were traded during the day as compared to 313,085,457 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 14.638 billion on the last trading day. As many as 442 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 118 of them recorded gains and 254 sustained losses.

Finance Minister chairs meeting on issues of Gilgit-Baltistan

ISLAMABAD (Online): Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the meeting of the Committee on the issues of Gilgit-Baltistan. The meeting was attended by Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan Engr. Amir Muqam, Minister for Finance-GB Muhammad Ismail, Minister for Agriculture-GB Mohammad Anwar, Ex CM GB Hafiz Hafeez Ur Rehman, Chief Secretary GB, Member WAPDA and other officials from relevant Ministries. The meeting commenced with a detailed briefing by the



LAHORE: Paper flags of Pakistan are being printed at the printing press in preparation for Independence Day celebrations.

NEPRA launches 'NEPRA Asaan Approach' mobile app for electricity consumers

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Wednesday introduced a new mobile application, 'NEPRA Asaan Approach,' aimed at improving service for electricity consumers across Pakistan.

The app is designed to allow users to quickly register complaints related to electricity issues, including power outages, fluctuations, electrical fires, line faults, and billing discrepancies. By streamlining the

complaint process, the app ensures that issues can be reported and addressed in the shortest possible time.

At the launch event, NEPRA Chairman Waseem Mukhtar emphasized that the app is a crucial component of NEPRA's strategy to offer multi-channel service delivery to electricity consumers nationwide.

He addressed criticisms regarding NEPRA's efforts to enhance consumer facilities and highlighted the app as a step towards better service.

Pakistanis has strong bond of love and respect with Irani people: Saleem

Independent Report
LAHORE: Consul General of Iran to Lahore Mehran Movahed Far called on Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations in the fields of education, culture and trade during a meeting at the Governor's House here on Wednesday. Governor Saleem Haider Khan, on the occasion, offered condolence over the martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh, head of the political bureau of Hamas, during the meeting with Iranian Consul General Mehran Movahed Far.

The consul general congratulated the governor on assuming office. He informed about the ease of travel facilities for Pakistani pilgrims under the new policy of travelling by road. He also thanked the Pakistani nation for their help and unwavering support for the suffering Palestinian Muslims.

Governor Saleem Haider said Pakistan and Iran are bound together by religion, culture and historical ties. He said that Iran is a brotherly Islamic country and Pakistanis has strong bond of love and respect with Irani people.

The governor said the last visit of late president Ebrahim Raisi to Pakistan was a historic and memorable visit. He paid tributes to late Raisi for his role in strengthening Pakistan-Iran relations.

The governor said the late president Ebrahim Raisi during his last visit to Pakistan laid the foundation for new projects by signing various memorandum of understanding (MoUs) between Pakistan and Iran in various fields.

He said that the Pakistani government and people were shocked and saddened by the martyrdom of late President Ebrahim Raisi. He assured Irani consul general of considering steps to promote Persian language as chancellor of public and private varsities in Punjab.

Consul General Mehran Movahed Far said the Islamic Republic of Iran is trying to facilitate Pakistan pilgrims in their travel to sacred places in Iran. He said that there is a need to expand trade relations between Pakistan and Iran. He said work was being done on the exchange of delegations of students and teachers between Pakistan and Iran.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain Presented a Memento by the Director General of Department of Plant Protection.

KPITB's MD Government committed to vision of digital KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Managing Director of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board (KPITB) Akif Khan on Wednesday said that the government was committed to achieving its vision of "digital Khyber Pakhtunkhwa."

He expressed these views while addressing the three-day interactive Build Entrepreneurship Skills Training (BEST) boot camp organized by Research Education Development (RED) International with the support of the US Consulate Peshawar and the KPITB.

The boot camp was held at KPITB's incubation center, Durshal Peshawar, aiming to enhance the capabilities of entrepreneurs on concepts such as design thinking, business model canvas, finance, legal, and marketing.

During the training camp, 18 startups were screened, and participants were enabled to improve their business plans and prepare their sales pitches.

Governor grieves over attack on check post in Landikotal

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday strongly condemned the attack on police check post located at Pak-Afghan road Landikotal district Khyber. In a condolence message, the Governor expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of three persons including two policemen. Governor prayed Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and early recovery of the injured and grant courage to bereaved family members to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude.

PDWP approves 7 development schemes worth Rs 8.974bn

LAHORE (APP): The Provincial Development Working Party Punjab (PDWP), in its 11th meeting of current financial year, approved seven development schemes of roads, and P&S HC sectors worth more than Rs. 8974.993 million [Rs. 8.97 billion], here on Wednesday. Presided over by P&D Board Chairman Barrister Nabeel Ahmad Awan, the meeting approved the following schemes: 1) Rehabilitation of Shujabad Jalapur Pirwala Length = 48.50 Km, District Multan at the cost of Rs 2700.697 million. 2) Dualisation of Metalled Road from Thalli Chowk Rahim Yar Khan to Iqbalabad (N-5) District R.Y.Khan at the cost of Rs 1025.247 million. 3) Rehabilitation of road from Kasur to Raiwind, Length 25.48 Km in district Kasur at the cost of Rs 2095.294 million. 4) Rehabilitation of metalled road from Shoria Gilania Chowk (N-55) to Samina Sadat Length = 8.80 Km at the cost of Rs 418.345 million. 5) construction of Fly over at Jhal road railway crossing to Sahiwal City at Rs 914 million.



LAHORE: Iran Consul General in Lahore Mehran Movahedfar meeting with Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan.

CS takes report on price difference in districts

LAHORE (APP): Taking notice of the difference in rates of vegetables in some districts, Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman sought a report on the comparative evaluation of the prices.

The Chief Secretary chaired a video link meeting of all divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners to review the prices and availability of food items. The participants discussed various proposals to improve the price control mechanism such as mapping of shops in critical markets.

The Chief Secretary ordered the Agriculture Department to prepare SOPs for correct determination of price of commodities in the auction process.

He said that there was no justification for the clear difference in the prices of potatoes, onions and other vegetables in different districts, adding that the prices fixed in the markets of the districts should be compared and the report should be sent on a daily basis. The Chief Secretary said that implementation of the notified prices was the responsibility of the administration. He directed the deputy commissioners to take action against the price magistrates who are not performing their duties.

Khawaja Salman ensures preparedness for flood risks

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Health Minister and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Disaster Management Khawaja Salman Rafique announced that Management Authority (PDMA) on Wednesday. In the meeting, he emphasized the importance of river erosion prevention schemes which will be approved following a Dera Ghazi Khan which provided a briefing on preparations for possible flooding in hill torrents.

The minister directed district administrations to remove encroachments



comprehensive detailed model study. This study will include an assessment of the affected population, agricultural land, and the economic situation in the regions at risk. He highlighted the proactive measures taken by the administration of from river basins and channels and to educate citizens about the risks of rains and floods. He stressed the importance of using mosques and other local resources to disseminate information, urging district revenue.

While among injured, six are men, three women and six children, adds the PDMA report issued here on Wednesday.

Torrential rains coupled with speedy wind storm damaged 61 houses in the province among which 37 are partially and 24 are fully.

The damage to life and property due to extreme weather events were received in districts including Kohat, Bajaur.

19 die, 15 injured due to rains, flash floods during last couple of days in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Around 19 persons died and 15 received injuries due to rains, flash floods and wind storms during the last two days in different parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to a report issued by Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), among the dead around four are men, four women and 11 children.

ANF recovers 242 kg drugs in 7 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations across the country recovered 242 kg drugs and arrested 10 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that 2.5 kg ice was recovered from a parcel booked for New Zealand at a courier office in Rawalpindi. 96 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up near a restaurant in Quetta.

International News

Khan Yunis in ruins after Israeli assault kills 300

Monitoring Desk
GAZA STRIP: Gaza's civil defence agency said on Tuesday that an Israeli operation in and around the territory's second city of Khan Yunis killed about 300 people since it began last week, while the army claimed it had "eliminated 150 terrorists".

"Since the beginning of the Israeli ground invasion of the eastern part of Khan Yunis province, the civil defence and medical teams have re-covered approximately 300 bodies of martyrs, many of them decomposed," agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal said.

The Israeli military launched the assault on July 22 to halt what it called rocket fire from the area, which already saw heavy fighting earlier this year.

Last week, it said troops had retrieved the bodies of five Israelis from the area.

They had been killed during the Hamas attacks of October 7 and their bodies taken back to Gaza, the military said.

Thousands of Palestinians returned to their damaged or destroyed homes in Khan Yunis after Israeli troops ended their attack and vacated the area.

Palestinian health officials said rescue workers had so far recovered 42 bodies of Palestinians killed in the Israeli incursion into eastern Khan Yunis. Gaza's Civil Emergency Service said search was underway with 200 people still reported missing.

After the Israeli forces left, people streamed back to their homes on foot and with donkey carts carrying their belongings. Many found their houses damaged or destroyed.

Witnesses said army forces had bulldozed the main cemetery in Bani Suhaila, the town on the eastern outskirts of Khan Yunis that was the main focus of the raid, as well as houses and roads nearby.

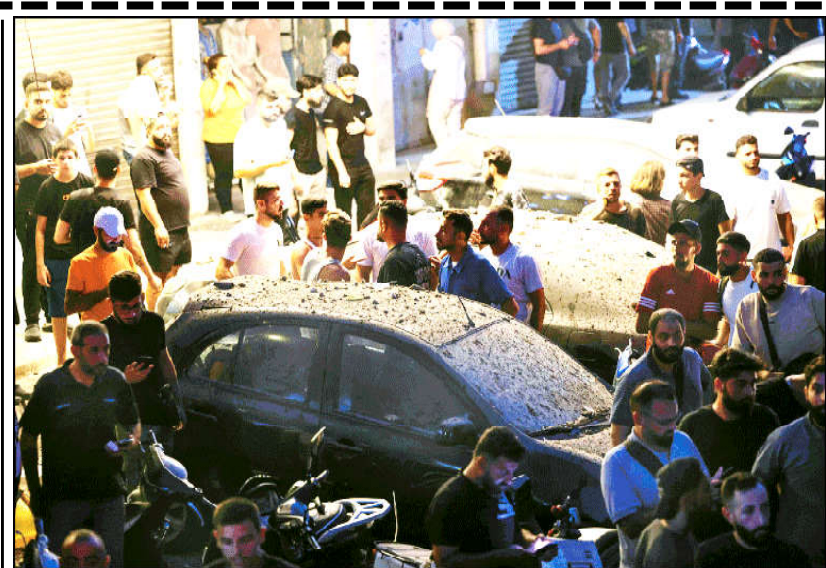
"I am coming back and I have faith in God. I don't know whether we will live or die, but it is all for the sake of the homeland," said Etimad Al-Masri, who had walked for at least five kilometers back to her home.

"Despite the suffering, we are patient and God's willing we will have victory," Many residents said they had been displaced from their homes several times.

"We hope there will be a ceasefire and calm. We hope that they act on a ceasefire so that we can live in security and safety," said Walid Abu Nsaira, holding some of his belongings on his shoulder as he walked back home.

Ten months into the war, Israeli forces have largely completed their storming of nearly the entire Gaza Strip and have spent the past several weeks launching new assaults on areas where they had already claimed to have rooted out Hamas.

Thousands of people have been ordered to evacuate their homes, most of them previously displaced several times already.



Bystanders surround vehicles covered in debris near the site of an Israeli strike on Beirut's southern suburbs.

Israel targets Hezbollah commander in Beirut strike

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Israel struck Hezbollah's stronghold in southern Beirut on Tuesday in retaliation for rocket fire from Lebanon that killed 12 children over the weekend, saying it had targeted the commander responsible for the attack.

"The IDF (army) carried out a targeted strike in Beirut on the commander responsible for the murder of the children in Majdal Shams and the killing of numerous additional Israeli civilians," the military said in a statement, referring to the annexed Golan Heights where the children were killed on Saturday.

A source close to the Hezbollah group confirmed that "a leading commander" was the target of the strike, which hit near the group's decision making body, the Shura Council.

The source added that two people were killed in the strike, but was unable to confirm if the commander was among them.

Minutes after the explosions rocked Beirut, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant posted on social media site X that "Hezbollah crossed the red line".

Philippines, US navy hold joint exercise in South China Sea

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: The Philippines and United States navies conducted on Wednesday a joint maritime exercise in the South China Sea, the Philippine armed forces said.

The activity, held inside the Philippines' exclusive economic zone, included two vessels and was designed to enhance communication and operational coordination between the two navies, the military said in a statement.

Spanish PM files lawsuit against judge leading wife's graft probe

Monitoring Desk
MADRID: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Tuesday filed a lawsuit against a judge who summoned him to testify in a probe into alleged influence-peddling by his wife, accusing him of violating the law.

The lawsuit filed by Spain's state legal services argues the judge and others may have committed "criminal acts" in his summons by not allowing Sanchez to testify in writing as requested by the Socialist leader, according to the complaint.

Israel's atrocities 'outshine Hitler': Erdogan

Monitoring Desk
ISTANBUL: Türkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday said the Gaza Strip has become the "world's largest extermination camp," and Israel has committed an atrocity that will "outshine Hitler."

"Western leaders and organisations whose duty is to ensure international security have only watched this brutality from afar for almost 300 days," Erdogan said in a speech in the capital Ankara.

"How many more children need to die to see that Israel's invasive policies endanger the entire region? Look, this is not a path that can continue," he added. Israel has killed more than 39,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, in Gaza since Oct. 7.

The Turkish president said Israel is the only country in the region that seeks its security through "aggression, massacres and land seizure," acting like a "terrorist organization."

He said the "lawless Israeli state is a threat not only to Palestine and Lebanon but to humanity as a whole, to the entire world at this point."

"Hitler had been stopped, even if belatedly, by the alliance of the US and the Soviet Union. This genocide, savagery, and barbarism must also be stopped immediately by the alliance of humanity before it is too late," Erdogan added.

"Those pulling the strings of the Netanyahu administration must say 'stop' to this massacre network without delay. We are aware of what the murderer called Netanyahu is seeking to achieve, what kind of a catastrophe he is trying to drag our region and the entire world into," he said.

"We also know very well the true motive behind his attempts to spread the fire in Gaza to the whole region."

Iran's Khamenei says avenging Haniyeh's killing is Tehran's duty

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Avenging Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh's assassination is "Tehran's duty" because it occurred in the Iranian capital, Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei said in his message on the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh.

He said Israel had provided the grounds for "harsh punishment" for itself.

Newly elected President Masoud Pezeshkian has issued a statement saying Tehran will defend its territorial integrity and dignity.

"Today, dear Iran is mourning its sharer of sorrows and joys, the constant and proud companion of the path of resistance, the brave leader of the Palestinian resistance, the martyr of al-Quds, Haj Ismail Haniyeh. Yesterday I raised his victorious hand and today I have to bury him on my shoulders."

"Martyrdom is the art of men of God. The bond between the two proud nations of Iran and Palestine will be stronger than before, and the path of resistance and defense of the oppressed will be followed stronger than ever."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will defend its territorial integrity, honour, dignity and pride, and make the terrorist occupiers regret their cowardly action," the president's statement concluded.

Hamas's armed wing said that the killing of its political leader Ismail Haniyeh takes the "war" with Israel to "new levels," warning of repercussions for the entire region.

"This assassination ... takes the war to new levels and will have enormous consequences for the entire region."

Germany accuses China of conducting 2021 cyberattack on cartography agency

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: Germany accused China on Wednesday of having been behind a 2021 cyberattack on the federal cartography agency for espionage purposes and summoned Beijing's ambassador to Berlin to complain.

China's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"We call on China to refrain from, and to prevent such cyberattacks," Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said in a statement, adding that the incident had shown just how big a threat such attacks now posed.

The German government was able to attribute responsibility for the cyberattack to Chinese state actors based on information from its intelligence services, the ministry statement said.

The hackers compromised the end devices of private individuals and companies, it added.

Germany's cartography and geodesy agency (BKG) plays an important role for multiple state and private organizations, including those involved in critical infrastructure, it said.

Security services expect China to further intensify its state-run espionage activities, the ministry said.

Tensions over Chinese espionage in Germany and other Western countries have increased in recent months, particularly after the high-profile arrest of a European Parliament aide in April.

Jamaat faces ban in wake of Bangladesh student unrest

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Bangladesh will ban the country's largest religious party Jamaat-i-Islami and its student wing Shibir in the wake of this month's deadly nationwide unrest, road transport minister Obaidul Quader told reporters on Tuesday.

Representatives of Bangladesh's governing coalition "unanimously decided to ban Jamaat and Shibir, taking into consideration their past and present activities," said Quader, who is also general secretary of the ruling Awami League. Jamaat is already banned from contesting elections but the new order would outlaw the party and prevent it from holding any public gatherings.

Gilani says: Pakistan's stance on Kashmir issue consistent, resolute

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Wednesday reiterated that Pakistan's stance on the Kashmir issue has been consistent and resolute. He condemned Indian brutal use of force against the innocent Kashmiris. He was leading a delegation of the members of Senate and National Assembly which held a meeting with UK based representatives of Jammu & Kashmir Self Determination Movement, International Lobby on Kashmir and International Students Society based in UK.

Yousaf Raza Gilani said that Indian army has blatantly violated international law by denying the people their just right. He acknowledged the efforts of the UK based platforms working for raising voice for Kashmiri people. He said that Pakistan

has highlighted the Kashmir issue at all international forums such as the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and other global platforms to garner international support and put pressure on India to address the human rights violations in the region.

The Chairman Senate said that Pakistan's commitment to the Kashmiri cause is a central element of its foreign policy, and it continues to seek a peaceful resolution based on international law, the UN Security Council Resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. The Kashmiri delegation included Raja Najabat Hussain, Chairman Jammu & Kashmir Self Determination Movement International, Former Lord Mayor of Manchester Councillor Yasmin Dar Chairperson International Lobby.



ISLAMABAD: Mir Ali Hassan Zahri, Advisor to Chief Minister Balochistan on Trade and Industry met with Senator Rubina Khalid Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme at BISP Headquarters in Federal Capital.

US offers scholarships to 30,000 Pakistani students

ISLAMABAD (INP): US Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Schofer said on Wednesday that US government provided support to 30,000 students to improve their English language skills across the Pakistan.

He said this while talking to journalists after attending ceremony of "Access" Scholarship Programme, which is especially introduced for English language learning.

Andrew Schofer stated that US government was offering scholarships to students for last 20 years. He stated that the US government was supporting in some other programmes also to develop leadership qualities and improve professional skills. About his ongoing visit to Multan, he remarked that he was very happy to visit Multan.

In his addressing during ceremony, the US diplomat stated that he was much impressed to witness

the cultural performances of the students. About English Access Scholarship programme, he hinted that the students would surely upgrade their English linguistic skills. "We want the students should succeed", he maintained.

Andrew added that the programme was being run since 2004 and so far 30,000 students got the scholarships for language learning.

Pinning high hopes from the new batch of 300 students, he stated that they would be able to speak English in near future. English Access Scholarship Program is one of the highlights of the longstanding cooperation between the United States and Pakistan Vice Chancellor Education University Asim Saeed also spoke and it was highly beneficial programme. It will not only help educate the kids but 300 families too. He also assured of all possible cooperation for the success of the programme.



QUETTA: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Provincial Chief, Maulana Abdul Wasay addresses to media persons during press conference, at JUI-F Provincial Secretariat in Quetta.

Terrorists attack at Levies check post: Martyr Levies personnel laid to rest with full official honour in Pishin

QUETTA: Two Levies personnel martyred in terrorists attack at Levies check post in Killi Malezai were laid to rest with full honour in their native villages on Wednesday.

The Levies cop Yasir Ilyas was laid to rest in the ancestral graveyard of Killi Haikalzai while Abdul Qadeer was buried in the native Killi Malezai's graveyard.

The Deputy Commissioner Pishin Jumma Dad Mandokhail, SSP Manzoor Buledi, Director

General Levies staff, assistant Commissioners, other district official as well as tribal and political leaders participated in the funeral prayer and burial of the Levies cops.

Earlier, the smartly turned out contingent of the Levies and Police presented salute to the coffins of the martyrs.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Manzoor Buledi said that the morale of jawans would not be down because of the cowardly acts and attacks of the terrorists.

Balochistan Govt taking steps for welfare of labourers' children: DC

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Quetta Lieutenant @ Saad Bin Asad said that Balochistan government was taking all possible measures for welfare of the labourers' children and for the education and training of their children which would help in improving their standard of living. He expressed these views on Wednesday while chairing meeting regarding

giving scholarships to the children of workers under the Worker Welfare Board.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner (City), Assistant Commissioner (Sadar), Assistant Commissioner (Kachlak) and Assistant Commissioner (Sariab). Scrutiny of the submitted documents was done in the meeting which totaled 1101 applications.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Muddasaq Malik, Governor Sindh Kamran Tesuri, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco Mohamed Karmoune and others cutting cake to celebrate the Fifth Anniversary of the Accession to the throne of His Majesty of the Kingdom of Morocco at a local hotel in the Federal Capital.

UNSC report spotlights TTP-Afghan Taliban collaboration in growing attacks inside Pakistan

UNITED NATIONS (APP): A new United Nations Security Council report has underscored the grave threat to Pakistan's security posed by the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), saying there is an increased collaboration between the TTP and Afghan Taliban in the cross-border terrorist attacks mainly against Pakistani military posts.

"With Taliban acquiescence, and at times support, TTP has intensified attacks inside Pakistan primarily targeting military installations," said the report from the Council's Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaeda and associate groups, pointing out that Pakistan suffered more than 800 attacks in the past

several months.

"TTP camps with Al-Qaeda and Taliban involvement focus on training local Afghan fighters and TTP operatives," it said, noting that TTP has 6,000 and 6,500 fighters who continue to use NATO weapons obtained in Afghanistan, while also emphasizing the role of night vision capability. "Al-Qaeda is funding purchases of weapons and suicide vests for TTP," the report added. "The terrorist threat emanating from Afghanistan is causing heightened concern in many (UN) member states," according to the report. Pakistan has consistently drawn the attention of the international community to the security threat it faces from the TTP terrorists who it says also have external support.

The report said, "There is heightened concern among member states about the terrorist threat emanating regionally from Afghanistan from ISIL-Khorassan and Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in particular, new inward travel to Afghanistan of some Al-Qaeda personnel and training, recruitment and reorganization activities." It cites several UN member states as saying that the Al-Qaeda figure Abu Ikhlas-al Masri was actively collaborating with Jamaat-ul-Ahrar in providing suicide bomber training to TTP in Kunar Province, with two states holding TTP responsible for the March 26 attack against Chinese nationals working on a hydropower dam project near Besham in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Mir Niamatullah Zehri meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

Dr. Rubaba encourages active participation of minorities' women in Balochistan's progress

QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister Balochistan on Women Development, Dr. Rubaba kham buledi has assured that Women development department is dedicated to creating an inclusive environment where women from all communities can contribute to the progress of Balochistan.

These remarks were given by Dr. Rubaba Khan buledi during an insightful meeting with Sanjay Kumar Panjwani, Parliamentary Secretary for Minorities, and Ujala Sachdai, a social activist from the Hindu community. The meeting focused on the challenges

faced by working women from minority communities in Balochistan and explored avenues for their greater involvement in the province's development.

During the meeting, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi expressed her commitment to supporting minority women and ensuring their active participation in various roles within the province. Dr. Buledi emphasized the importance of addressing the specific challenges faced by minority working women. "We recognize the unique issues that minority women encounter in their professional lives, and we are committed to

providing the necessary support and resources to overcome these challenges. Their contributions are invaluable to the socio-economic growth of our province," she said. Encouraging women from minority communities to take on active roles, Dr. Buledi highlighted the significance of diverse perspectives in driving progress. "The participation of women from minority communities in various sectors will bring fresh perspectives and innovative solutions to the table. Their involvement is crucial for the holistic development of Balochistan," she added.

DC Jhal Magsi visits National Bank Gandawa

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Jhal Magsi Syed Rahmatullah Shah paid a surprise visit to National Bank Gandawa branch area of the district on Wednesday.

On this occasion, Khalid Hussain Rind, manager of the bank gave him about detailed briefing regarding the non-availability of the bank's building and other problems.

DC Syed Rahmatullah Shah assured to solve all the problems under an effective strategy.

While issuing instructions to the concerned bank staff on the occasion of his visit to National Bank Gandawa, he said that the best service should be provided to government employees and other customers on a priority basis.

Keeping in view the hot weather, provision of cool water and shade should be ensured for the users.



HUB: View of destruction at Hub River Causeway road once again due to floods causing of poor sewerage system creating problems for commuters and residents, after heavy rainwater flowed in area due to heavy downpour of monsoon season, showing negligence of concerned authorities, in Hub.

CPEC 2.0 is making Pakistan an attractive investment destination, Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): A seminar was organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and emerging opportunities under the title, "CPEC 2.0: Prospects and Challenges".

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary was the Chief Guest on the occasion while Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed along with Minister Counsellor of Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, Yang Nuo, eminent economist Dr. Ashfaq Hasan Khan and other distinguished experts comprised the panel at the discussion attended by diplomats, academicians, intelligentsia and researchers, said a press release issued here on Wednesday.

In his keynote address on CPEC Phase 2.0, Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal emphasized that CPEC has been a transformative force for Pakistan's economy, shifting it from the brink of collapse to an attractive investment destination. He highlighted the strong bond of trust and shared vision between China and Pakistan, which has enabled them to overcome initial challenges. Now, as they enter the second phase of CPEC, the focus will be on industrial collaboration, regional connectivity, and socioeconomic development.



Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani while leading a delegation of the members of Senate held a meeting with UK based representatives of Jammu & Kashmir self-determination movement, International Lobby on Kashmir and International Students society based in UK London.

NEPRA says: All power companies, K-electric involved in over billing

ISLAMABAD (INP): NEPRA officials have submitted a report to the authority detailing incidents of overbilling from April to June 2024, implicating all distribution companies, including K-Electric.

The report reveals that all distribution companies, including K-Electric, were involved in overbilling consumers. In response, the authority has demanded explanations from these companies and decided to issue directives to address the issue.

According to NEPRA's instructions, bills charged on an estimated basis due to lower-than-scheduled readings from April 2024 to June 2024 will be adjusted to reflect actual recorded units. Consumers unable to pay bills based on estimated readings will not incur late payment surcharges, and those who have paid such surcharges will receive adjustments.

Qaiser asks opposition for addressing challenges mutually

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh Wednesday has made a heartfelt appeal to the opposition parties to join hands with the government and work towards healing the nation's deep-seated wounds.

Talking to a Private news channel, he stressed that the government is willing to listen to the opposition's ideas and work together to find solutions that benefit the people, adding, in the leadership of Mian Shahbaz Sharif, the government is fully determined to bring betterment in the economy of the country and we are working day and night to achieve our target goals.

Raja Shah Baz takes oath as CEC of GB

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Judge of Gilgit Baltistan Supreme Appellate Court Hon. Justice Sardar Muhammad Shamim Khan administered the oath of newly appointed Chief Election Commissioner Gilgit Baltistan Judge (R) Raja Shah Baz Khan (Tst) here at Gilgit Baltistan Council. The oath taking ceremony took place here at Gilgit-Baltistan Council Secretariat was attended by distinguished guests.

PM Shehbaz emphasises utilising all-out resources for polio eradication

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressing concern over Pakistan being one of the two countries in the world facing the challenge of polio, directed the authorities concerned to utilise all-out resources to rid the country of the crippling disease.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a polio eradication team, said every child should be administered polio vaccine in the areas facing security challenge. He said Pakistan made a significant headway in polio eradication consequent to the dedication of the front line workers, determination of the government and cooperation by the partners.

In a briefing to the prime minister about the polio eradication, he was apprised of two, four and six-month plans. It was told that nine polio cases had been reported in 2024 and that countrywide polio vaccination drives would be launched in September, October and December this year. The prime minister was told that the data of the children missed from polio vaccination had been digitised to ensure their vaccination through digital tracking.



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta and Administrator Metropolitan Corporation, Hanza Shafqat and Israr Kakar, President of London Oxford University Union are presenting certificate among participants during a ceremony held in Quetta.

Chinese embassy pledges 20,000 health kits for Balochistan schoolgirls

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Embassy of China on Wednesday announced to donate 20,000 health kits for the schoolgirls in Balochistan with an aim to ensure their well-being.

Under the inspiring theme of 'She Power', the noble initiative aims to significantly promote the use of essential hygiene products, and foster a culture of health awareness. The launching ceremony, held here at the Chinese embassy was graced by distinguished guests, including Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Ambassador of China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong.

Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq commended the embassy's initiative, which he said, would have a profound and far-reaching impact on the health of women.

He also mentioned the generosity of the Chinese government in donating a solar system to the parliament and implementing various other initiatives.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also expressed optimism about the future of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), anticipating a surge in new projects and collaborations.

In his remarks, he also praised the visionary leadership of President Xi Jinping and acknowledged China's unwavering commitment to strengthening bilateral ties and fostering sustainable development in Pakistan. Ambassador Jiang Zaidong said distribution of health kits would be a pivotal step towards achieving the goals of improved health facilities.

He highlighted the strengths of both Chinese and Pakistani women and acknowledged their vital role in bolstering economic stability. He reiterated China's commitment to intensifying cooperation with Pakistan, aligning with the recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China and his productive meeting with the Chinese leadership.

The Ambassador underscored the significance of agriculture exports in fortifying Pakistan's economy and highlighted various projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).