denemalent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Hub

ter Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Min-

ister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has

categorically stated that im-

mediate restoration of wa-

ter in Kachhi canal is unavoidable. He pleaded to

restore water in Kachhi ca-

nal under Proposal II made

by WAPDA first and then

start work on the long-term

He also pleaded to start work on the Phase-II and III of Kachhi canal project

without any further delay

as one generation has al-

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 161, Muharram 25, 1446 AH Thursday August 01, Pages 04, Price Rs. 15

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Asia Internet Coalition calls on Prime Minis-

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

The Chief Minister

was speaking at the meet-

ing on the Kachhi canal

project chaired by the Federal Minister for Water Re-

sources, Musaddiq Malik

in Islamabad, on Wednes-

day. It may be mentioned

here that the Chief Minis-

ter, provincial ministers and

other concerned high ups

participated in the meeting

through video link from

told the meeting that the

The Chief Minister

Phase-II and III.

be lost while completing the ity of water in Kachhi ca-

nal. As he pleaded to reha-

bilitate the canal before for-

mulation of the strategy to

cope with the flood situa-

tion in future, the Federal

Minister for Water Re-

sources was agreed with

his (CM) proposal and di-

rected to the concerned au-

thorities to take speedy

measures for restoration of

the water in canal's Phase-I

first then work on the

would be restored in the

Kachhi canal immediately

Kurram

delegation

calls on Naqvi

ISLAMABAD (APP):

on the occasion

The minister ex-

pressed concern over the

unfortunate incidents in

Kurram and discussed a

comprehensive strategy

to prevent such incidents ir

the future. Mohsin Naqvi expressed profound grief

and sorrow over the loss of

precious human lives and

prayed for the swift recov-

ery of the injured. He said

that the clash between two

groups was given a wrong

leading personalities of the

area should play their posi-

tive role for lasting solution

to this issue and the gov-

He emphasized that

He assured that water

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

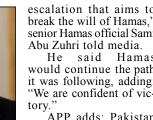
There was no immedi-



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 cording to a Foreign Office Brother Haniyeh is a grave



Abu Zuhri told media. He said Hamas would continue the path was following, adding: 'We are confident of vic-

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

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," ac-



QUETTA: Former Provincial Minister Mujeebur Rehman Hassni and former MNA Ehsan Reki meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan

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 moting trade and economic 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

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

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 pro-

The Governor was Provincial Minister, Mir Mujeebur 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.

activities.

The Governor maintained that the political or-

public rights.

He also stressed that it is responsibility of the elected representatives to formulate such public friendly policies through legislation which may pave speaking to the former the way for protection of public rights and funda-

mental 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 ganizations and workers the need to ensure early play key role in promot- completion of the ongoing ing collective sense of the development projects so rights and duties among that the common men masses, boosting social may benefit from justice and democratic them. There lies secret behaviours and ensuring of strengthening the implementation on the democracy, he added.

NA Body clears Election Act Amendment

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 Committee's session, where the bill to amend the Elections Act 2017 was reviewed. Bilal Azhar Kayani provided a briefing on the proposed amendments.

tiny and re-evaluation. TheElection

outside their purview. Khan further criticized the Election Commission, alleging misconduct and undue influence on political par-

Ultimately, the comthe meeting.

The bill is now set to be Commission's Secretary presented to the National stated that the Commission Assembly for final approval ready passed in wait of completion of the Phase-I people associated with agbefore the long-term project of Kachhi canal. riculture are facing hardof rehabilitation of the ca And now second and ships due to non-availabilthird generation must not

Quetta.

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

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 our 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

H also appealed to the women to learn lesson of progress, knowledge and books instead of pushing

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

While the district and divisional high ups were in the Inspector General of

delegation from Kurram, led by MNA Hamid Hussain called on Minister for Inte-The meeting reviewed rior Mohsin Naqvi on the security arrangements Wednesday. and measures for restora-The delegation in-cluded Munir Hussain, Professor Shabbir Bangash, tion of peace in Gwadar, and important decisions were made. Speaking on the Muhammad occasion, the Provincial Bangash, Rahim Gul, and Minister pointed out that Haji Noor Rahman. Federal the so-called well wishers Secretary Interior Khurram are creating hindrance in Ali Agha was also present 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.

wrong to put blame on the people of Punjab that they are becoming hurdle development Balochistan.

people are responsible for stopping the way of development and prosperity in Balochistan, who are lodging protest and blocking roads without any justifi-

Pakistan leading country in AI infrastructure

PM Shahbaz vows to make

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 infrastruc-

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 re-

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 mile-

stone 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 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

Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunications Shaza Fatima Khawaja, IT expert Tania Aidrus and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.



political chief Ismail Haniveh in Tehran. 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 Commit-

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

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 agree-

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 ad-

Mehrang Baloch has not been harmed in any way, and the rumors spreading are baseless and false. The Deputy Commissioner termed the news circulating social WhatsApp groups, and other platforms as propa-

He clarified that

ganda aimed at creating chaos in the city.



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

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 Balochistan.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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. À 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.

Bill 2024 amid controversy

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Azam Nazir Tarar over the bill's effects, as this falls

Standing

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

bill. Tarar defended the bill, asserting that the amendments are in line with constitutional and legal stan-

In contrast, PTI mem-ties. bers 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 scru-

could not comment on the

mittee 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

prosperity. the next generations in the darkness and destructions.

Wednesday. attendance at the meeting, Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and Additional Chief Secretary Home, Zahid Saleem participated in the meeting

through video link

He said that it is totally

Rather some senseless

cation, the Minister maintained.

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

ernment 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

interpretation.

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

Daily Aoice of Masse, 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 ulema 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 Barelvi 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

Thursday August 01, 2024

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

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

tion to share its oil wealth role, public attacks with its Caribbean neighbours, particularly Cuba. After the popularly backed regime change in Havana in 1959. what' Washington's chief concern — as in Guatemala three years earlier, and in Chile a decade later — was to inoculate its 'backyard' against further outbreaks

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

same instinct kicked in 40

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 democ-

political pressure.

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 tent rival, or how neither New York Times, hardly a fan of socialist experiments, "businessmen and foreign investors had largely made peace with reactionary regime, and [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 disruptor and Maduro Norte-Americano' point controls. The private as a hopeless succesof view was the Chávez sector was given an in- sor. -- Courtesy Dawn

administration's inclina- creasingly prominent against business owners had stopped and hyperinflation and rampant crime subsided some-

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 of social democracy. The 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 op-Edmundo ponent González as a viable option. The former diplomat was reportedly surging in opinion polls after replacing María Corina Machado as the opposi-

tion 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 incompeof them would concede defeat. There is little likelihood that Venezuela would prosper under a no one can say what will emerge from the current protests in Caracas. Ultimately, though, history is likely to see Chávez as a hopeful

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 the University of Punjab 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.

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 fi-

nance 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 ex- Shaukat Tarin, too, had periences mostly in- an MBA from the Uni-

minister Ishaq Dar, who had a similar background though more oriented towards public institutions. Dar graduated with a Bachelor's degree from 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 char-Such remarks beg tered accountants' firm. Additionally, he was director at numerous multilateral organisations including the World Bank and the Asian Development Though he had graduated from a domestic university, his career mostly comprised working in executive abroad. He became as a matter of manipulat-

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 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. Hafeez Shaikh had undergraduate and graduate degrees from Boston World Bank country head in Saudi Arabia. cluded working in execu-versity of Punjab and a tesy Dawn

tive positions. He was career in banking, with preceded by finance the names of Citibank and Habib Bank Limited on his resumé.

The question is whether such finance mi--nisters 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 mon-th, 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 ing numbers on an Excel sheet but for the common person, it is a matter of their standard of

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 largest 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 University and was the understand what the word 'progress' means not to the elite, but the ordinary people of this country. -- Cour-

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 to reducing the inflation incumbent political 2025, and efforts were dispensation. Ever since currently underway to PTI Imran Khan is in jail, achieve this goal. the economy of the Spokesperson

Highlighting some key previous year.

government is committed

He said that the Fund (IMF) programme. country is moving towards Pakistani rupee also betterment," he said while stabilized, and things are the current government has addressing a press moving in a positive a comprehensive plan to conference along with direction. Although it was uplift every sector adding of challenging to stabilize the work on the privatization

indicators, he said that inflation had decreased significant growth in the significantly, falling to 12.6 percent in June 2024 from increase of \$3 billion, fiscal year 2024, with an 38 percent in June of the reaching to a total of \$30 billion while remittances Ihsan said that the were also showing positive growth. Fitch rating has also upgraded the country's put back on track by the rate to a single digit by debt outlook, adding it 2025, and efforts were happened only because of restoration

He emphasized that government on legal affairs, Barrister Aqeel Malik. exchange rate, we've successfully achieved it. work on the privatization and rightsizing of the government was going on.

International Monetary

Shipping activity at

Shipping activity was report the port where fourships, Apllon-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 Terminalrespectively on

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, Endevour and Sea Luck-III are expected to sail on today afternoon.

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



Aurangzeb chairing a meeting of the Committee on the issues of Gilgit-Baltistan.

KPAgriculture Minister assures assistance for agriculture development

Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Agriculture, Major Retired 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

and the province.

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber 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 growth in both the country 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 Trade (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 likely held during the first week of September this year, About 60 stalls regarding attractive sectors of investment wherein local potential sectors of production and particularly crucial sectors of investment would be erected. In this connection, a meeting was held here at the KP-**BoIT** with Special Assistant to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Industries. Commerce and Technical Education, Abdul Karim Wednesday

Khan Tordher in the chair on Besides, the Director General (DG) TDAP Nauman Bashir, Director Business Facilitation (KP-BoIT) Iqbal Sarwar, Chairman All Pakistan Exporters Association (APCEA) Minhajuddin, president Chitral Chamber Commerce Industries (CCCI)

Rupee sheds

09 paisa against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Wednesday depreciated by 09 paisa 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 paisa 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

ISLAMABÂD (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 against Rs 17.615 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

meeting on issues of Gilgit-Baltistan Minister for Finance & outlined the issues faced

Finance Minister chairs

Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb 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 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 infrastructure detailed briefing by the capitalize.

by the GB government. Some of these issues were chaired the meeting of the related to insufficient fund allocations and delays in PSDP projects which lead to employee related and other liabilities. The Chief Secretary advocated for solar power projects designed to address the region's growing energy needs. He also proposed initiatives for the digitization of land records and the expansion of airports to enhance tourism potential. These proposals aim to modernize GB's



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): complaint process, the

Power Regulatory can be reported and Authority (NEPRA) on addressed in the Wednesday introduced a shortest possible time. new mobile application, 'NEPRA Asaan 'NEPRA Asaan NEPRA Approach,' aimed at Waseem improving service for emphasized that the app electricity consumers across Pakistan.

complaints related to nationwide. electricity issues, electrical fires, line faults, and billing discrepancies. streamlining

The National Electric app ensures that issues At the launch event, NEPRA Chairman

is a crucial component of NEPRA's strategy to is offer multi-channel The app is offer multi-channel designed to allow users service delivery to to quickly register electricity consumers

criticisms regarding including power criticisms regarding outages, fluctuations, NEPRA's efforts to enhance facilities and highlighted By the app as a step the towards better service.

S&P Global keeps Pak rating at 'CCC+' ISLAMABAD (Online): outlook.

HYDERABAD: Labourers busy in preparing the

wooden boxes at his workplace.

S&P Global Ratings has term sovereign credit rating external between the challenges extent posed by Pakistan's anticipated continued support from multilateral and bilateral partners over the next 12 months.

challenges, international support and fiscal measures provide a degree estimate will exceed 45% of stability to the of government revenues country's financial over the next few years.

affirmed Pakistan's long- ratings if Pakistan's indicators at 'CCC+' and short-term rating at 'C', maintaining a deficits widen to exceed the stable outlook. This domestic banking system's decision reflects a balance financing capacity, to the that government's willingness external liquidity and fiscal or ability to service its performance, and the commercial debt is diminished," S&P said in its statement. One potential indication of domestic financing stress

"We could lower our

Despite economic would be further increases in the government's interest burden, which we

Port Qasim

KARACHI 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.

Cargo volume of 122,590 tonnes,

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 bilateral relations in the fields of education, culture and trade during a meering at the Governor's House here on Wednesday. Governor Saleem Haider Khan, on the 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 Raisi during his last visit and Iran. He said work was informed about the ease of travel facilities for foundation for new of delegations of students Pakistani pilgrims under

and Chairman of the

Cabinet Committee on

comprehensive

arrangements are in place

to tackle flood risks in

made during a meeting of

the Disaster Management

Committee held at the

This statement was

vulnerable districts.

by road. He also thanked understanding (MoUs) their help and unwavering support for the suffering Palestinian Muslims

Governor Saleem Haider said Pakistan and Iran are bound together by martyrdom religion, culture and 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 Pakistan-Iran relations.

memorandum

Khawaja Salman ensures

preparedness for flood risks

LAHORE (APP): The Management Authority Dera Ghazi Khan which

emphasized the importance

Khawaja Salman Rafique schemes which will be district administrations to

detailed model study. This

study will include an

In the meeting, he

that approved following a remove encroachments

assessment of the affected citizens about the risks of

population, agricultural rains and floods. He

land, and the economic stressed the importance of

situation in the regions at using mosques and other

proactive measures taken disseminate information,

risk. He highlighted the local resources

Disaster by the administration of urging district revenue.

Punjab Health Minister (PDMA) on Wednesday.

Disaster Management of river erosion prevention

the Pakistani nation for between Pakistan and Iran in various fields. He said that the

Pakistani government and people were shocked and saddened Ebrahim President historical ties. He said that Iran is a brotherly Islamic country and Pakistanis has 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 tributes to late Raisi for his Pakistan pilgrims in their role in strengthening travel to sacred places in Iran. He said that there is a The governor said the need to expand trade late president Ebrahim relations between Pakistan to Pakistan laid the being done on the exchange projects by signing various and teachers between

provided a briefing on

preparations for possible

The minister directed

flooding in hill torrents.

from river basins and

channels and to educate

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

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 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)

PESHAWAR (APP): 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 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 International with the prepare their sales pitches.

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

PESHAWAR 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.

(APP): six are men, three women and six children, adds the PDMA report issued here on Wednesday.

Torrential 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 While among injured, including Kohat, Bajaur. restaurant in Quetta.

Governor grieves over attack on check post in Landikotal

PESHAWAR 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 lose with fortitude.

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 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

PDWP approves 7 development schemes worth Rs 8.974bn

Provincial Development Working Party Punjab (PDWP), in its 11th meeting of current financial year, approved 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

Jalalpur Pirwala Length = at the cost of Rs 2700.697 million.

LAHORE (APP): The million. 2Dualisation 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)

onstruction of Fly over at Jhal road railway crossing 48.50 Km, District Multan to Sahiwal City at Rs 914



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

CS takes report on price difference in districts

LAHORE (APP): Taking SOPs notice of the difference in determination of price of 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 food items. The participants discussed various proposals to improve the price control mechanism such as mapping of shops in critical markets.

Department to prepare duties.

for correct 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 The Chief Secretary price magistrates who are ordered the Agriculture not performing their

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-cov-ered 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 alre-ady saw heavy fighting earlier this year.

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

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

tinians retu-rned 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 Ser-vice said search was underway with 200 people still re-

ported 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 dam-

aged 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

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.

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 Druze Arab town in

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

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 influencepeddling by his wife, accus-

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

side the Philippines' exclu-

sive economic zone, in-

cluded two vessels and was

designed to enhance com-

munication and operational

coordination between the

two navies, the military

said in a statement.

The activity, held in-

ing 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

'outshine Hitler': Erdogan **Monitoring Desk** ISTANBUL: Türkiye's 'terrorist organization.'

Israel's atrocities

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 region.

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

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 pro-"harsh punishment" for it-

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

"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 to-

day 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 Repubvided the grounds for lic 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

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

sador to Berlin to complain. China's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for com-

summoned Beijing's ambas-

ment.
"We call on China to refrain from, and to prevent such cyberattacks," Înterior Minister Nancy Faeser said in a statement, adding that the incident had shown just how big a threat such at-

The German government was able to attribute responsibility for the cyberattack to Chinese state actors based on information from its intelligence April

tacks now posed.

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 infra-

structure, 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

Jamaat faces ban in wake of **Bangladesh** student unrest

Monitoring Desk DHAKA: Bangladesh will

ban the country's largest religious party Jamaat-i-Islaami 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

"The IDF (army)

the annexed Golan Heights crossed the red line" Russia says the Middle East is teetering on the brink of war

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia said on Wednesday that the Middle East was teetering the brink of a major war and that key players were continuing to raise the stakes. "The region is currently balancing on the brink of a global conflict," Andrei Nastasin, deputy spokesman for the Russian foreign ministry, said. "The parties continue to raise the stakes." Russia said the "manic desire" of the United States to

political settlement in the Middle East had led to this situation. "We strongly condemn the murder of the head of the political bureau of the Hamas movement, Ismail Haniyeh, as a result of a rocket attack on his residence in Tehran," Andrei Nastasin, Nastasin told reporters. "It is obvious that the organisers of this political assassination were aware of the dangerous consequences this action is fraught with for the entire monopolise the process of



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Mussadaq 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

UNSC report spotlights TTP-AfghanTaliban collaboration in growing attacks inside Pakistan

(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

"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

"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 emvision 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 at-

tention of the international

community to the security

threat it faces from the TTP

terrorists who it says also

"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 phasizing the role of night 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



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

Independent Report 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 Sachdav, 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.

Education Dept deducts salaries of 100 teachers on negligence of duties in Kohlu

QUETTA (APP):Kohlu Education Department on Wednesday deducted salaries of 100 teachers on negligence of their duties while show cause notices were issued to 90 teachers during taking action against absent educators. According to the report, in the light of the decision made by the Department of Education in the meeting of the District Education Group, the salaries of more than one hundred male and female absent teaching and non-teaching staff have been deducted and 90 employees were also asked to answer through issuing show cause

According to District Education Officer (DEO) Hafeezullah Marri, action has been taken against the absent employees in the education department in the light of the meeting of

the District Education Group. Answers have also been sought from the employees including deduction

of salaries, he said. He said that in case of non-satisfactory response, the concerned absentee employees would be subject to other departmental action including dismissal.

He said that the functioning of all educational institutions across the district was the first priority for interest of students' future saying that in this context. with the support of the Deputy Commissioner and the district administration, the education department was taking vigorous steps to activate all the inactive schools and continue the education. On the other hand, departmental actions have also been intensified against the absent teaching

staff, he noted

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

DC Jhal Magsi

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 Rehmatullah Shah assured to solve all the problems under an effective

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 customon 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

Studies (IRS) on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and emerging opportunities under the title, *CPEC 2.0: Prospects and

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. Ashfaque 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

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.

The minister also asserted that for CPEC to be successful, it is crucial to establish peace, political stability and continuity of policies while demonstrating a continuous commit-

ISLAMABAD (APP): A seminar was organized by the Institute of Regional emphasized that CPEC has e rity through agricultural mechanization. As we embark on this journey, it represents a critical opportunity for Pakistan to build a brighter future for genera tions to come. We must unite as one nation and one team to ensure the succes of CPEC 2.0. Earlier, in his welcoming remarks, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem President of the IRS, stated that the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China had reached new heights with the launch of CPEC 2.0, which focuses on high-quality development, technological innovation, and sustainable growth. The upgraded vision prioritizes clean energy IT, and agriculture amongst other things aligning with



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.

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 tered 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 meeting.

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 a meeting with a polio vaccination had been eradication team, said every child should be adminis-vaccination through digital vaccination through digital

tracking. Coordinator to Prime Minister on National Health Dr Malik Mukhtar Ahmed, PM's Focal Person on Polio Eradication Dr Ayesha Raza Farooq, Secretary National Health Dr Nadeem Mehboon and National Coordinator on Polio Eradication Muhammad Anwarul Haq attended the



QUETTA: Commissioner Quetta and Administrator Metropolitan Corporation, Hamza 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-Pa(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).

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 overbill ing consumers. In response, the authority has demanded explanations from these companies and decided to issue directives to address the issue.

According NEPRA's instructions, bills charged on an estimated basis due to lower-thanscheduled 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 Mari time 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 deepseated 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 (T.st) here at Gilgit Baltistan Council. The oath taking ceremony took place here at Gilgit-Baltistan Council Secretariat was attended by distinguished guests.



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.

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

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 son International Lobby.

ISLAMABAD (INP): has highlighted the Kashmir Chairman Senate Syed 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 Yasmine Dar Chairper-

US offers scholarships to 30,000 Pakistani students

ISLAMABAD (INP): US the cultural performances 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 "Ac-Scholarship cess' 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 will not only not pedicate the kids but 300 families too. He also assured of all possible cooperation for the

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 scholar-ships 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 high-lights 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

much impressed to witness success of the programme. Terrorists attack at Levies check post:

Martyr Levies personnel laid to rest with full official honour in Pishin

Independent Report 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 Commis-

sioner Pishin Jumma Dad Mandokhail. Manzoor Buledi, Director rorists.

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

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 ter-

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

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

QUETTA (APP): Deputy giving scholarships to the

Commissioner (DC) Quetta Lieutenant ® Saad Bin Asad said that Balochistan government was taking all possible measures for welfare of the labourers's children and for the education and training of their children which would help in improving their standard of living. He expressed these chairing meeting regarding

cial Secretariat in Quetta.

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 views on Wednesday while meeting which totaled 1101