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dailyindisb@gmail.com

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

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets the President of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) Maulana Fazal ur Rehman, in the Federal Capital.

Balochistan Disaster Management Commission meets: CM Bugti directs to make advance necessary measures more effective in case of natural disaster

Meeting decides PDMA to make assessment of whole year to handle situation of natural disaster in better manner; quarantine centers established during COVID-19 in Taftan to be brought under arrangement of PDMA

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has directed to the concerned authorities to make the advance necessary measures more effective in case of the natural disaster.

He also directed to ensure protection of the link bridges for maintaining the communication links in case of the natural calamity.

The Chief Minister was chairing the crucial meeting of Balochistan Disaster Management Commission here on Friday.

The leader of Opposition in provincial assembly, Mir Younas Aziz Zehri, Member of the Commission and Member Provin-

cial Assembly, Mir Zafarullah Zehri, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development, Hafiz Abdul Basit, senior Member Board of Revenue, Kambar Dashti, Secretary Communication and Works, Lal Jan Jaffar and other concerned high ups.

The Director General Provincial Disaster Management Authority, Jehanzaib Khan briefed the participants about agenda points.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister directed to make more effective the process of collection of scientific data in order to cope with the situation of natural disasters.

Besides, he also di-

rected to start study in month of February every year about the flood situation caused due to the rains in the province.

Meanwhile, the meeting decided that PDMA would make assessment of the whole year to handle the situation in better manner.

It was also decided not to create unnecessary vacancies in the disaster management villages established in the divisions.

The meeting also decided to bring the quarantine centers established during COVID-19 in Taftan under arrangement of PDMA.

Meanwhile, certain important decisions were made about the PDMA affairs in the meeting.

PM meets Maulana Fazal to discuss political situation of country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday visited the residence of President of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) Maulana Fazal ur Rehman. Maulana Fazal ur Rehman warmly welcomed the prime minister.

The prime minister expressed best wishes for Maulana Fazal ur Rehman. During the meeting, the two sides discussed overall political situation of the country.

PM Shehbaz Sharif was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Interior Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi and Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar.

12 more Khwariji terrorists killed in 'extensive' Tirah Valley IBOs

RAWALPINDI: At least 12 Khwariji terrorists were killed in ongoing intelligence-based operations (IBOs) by security forces in Khyber district's Tirah Valley on August 28 and 29, according to a statement from the military on Friday. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) stated that extensive IBOs have been underway in the region since 20 August, targeting the reported presence of Khwariji elements.

"On 28 & 29 August, our troops effectively engaged Khwariji locations, where, after intense fire exchanges, twelve Khwariji [F i t n a - A l - K h w a r i j [Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)] were sent to hell," the statement said.

The ISPR noted that these operations have dealt a major setback to Fitna-Al-Khwariji and its affiliates. "So far, 37 terrorists have been sent to hell, while 14 terrorists have suffered serious injuries," it added.

The military emphasised that the IBOs will continue until peace is fully restored in the area and all Khwariji elements are eliminated.

Talks with enemies of Pakistan out of question No leniency to those who sow seeds of hatred in Balochistan: PM Shehbaz

Says terrorists to be made an example to accomplish journey of progress; Vows to defeat Pakistan's adversaries through collective efforts

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said talks with the enemies of Pakistan stand out of question.

"The youths of Balochistan are being lured through a narrative. Jawans of Pakistan army are chasing terrorists day in day out, he said this while addressing meeting of federal cabinet here Friday.

I reviewed law and order situation during my visit to Quetta. I met the family members of Shuhada. The family members of Shuhada were in great courage. Corps commander Quetta gave detailed briefing on situation in the province. What hap-

pened in Balochistan it was extreme of terrorism. Khwarij and terrorists are sowing seeds of hatred in Balochistan and are being funded from abroad. But those sowing seeds of hatred will find no place.

He expressed the resolve that enemies of Pakistan will be crushed through collective efforts of the nation, armed forces and the law enforcement agencies.

He said the Chief Minister launched a number of development projects in the province.

He held the announcement of global rating agency Moody's about Pakistan economic outlook reflects that the country's economy is moving towards upwards

trajectory.

He assured that the federal government would extend support for capacity building of the Levies force.

He said the Federal government will implement the proposals put forward by the provincial political leaders.

The Prime Minister said the government is also taking effective measures for development of youth. He said ten percent additional quota has been allocated for Balochistan in the schemes like laptops and agricultural training in China. He said the federal government will spend fifty-five billion rupees to convert agricultural tube wells on solar energy in Balochistan.

Interior Minister says Balochistan attacks aimed at sabotaging upcoming SCO summit

Says no operation underway in Balochistan; Vows stringent actions against those who did not accept state

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Friday said that the horrific attacks in Balochistan, wherein dozens including security personnel lost their lives, was a "plot to subvert" upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit to be hosted by Pakistan next month.

"A lot of people are in anguish as they don't want Pakistan to host the [SCO] meeting," he said, adding that the August 26 incident was a "conspiracy to sabotage the summit". Naqvi further said that no operation was being launched in Balochistan while "stringent action would be taken against those who did not accept the state and took up arms".

APP adds: Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Friday said that no operation was going on in Balochistan and stringent

action would be taken against those who did not accept the State and took up arms.

Speaking at the 342nd Senate session after Senators Jan Muhammad, Dr Zarqa Taimur, Bilal Ahmed Khan and opposition leader Shibli Faraz's different opinions over the Baluchistan issue, he said that the Apex Committee reviewed the decisions of the National Action Plan (NAP) resolutions and coordinated with the federal and provincial institutions, adding "Parliament is supreme and will remain supreme". Giving details of the last day's meeting of the National Action Plan's Apex Committee chaired by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Quetta, he said that dialogues could only be made with those who respect the Constitution of Pakistan and salute the national flag.

Governor calls Chairman NHA, asks to ensure timely completion of Zhob bypass project

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has called Chairman National Highway Authority (NHA) Shehryar Sultan and asked him to timely execute the Zhob bypass project after starting work on it immediately.

He said Zhob is an important city of Balochistan, which connects it with other provinces through the national highways.

He stressed that timely completion of the bypass is very necessary because of its strategic location and it's own big population.

He said that the completion of Zhob bypass would increase access to other provinces, promote

trade activities, improve travelling facilities and ensure smooth flow of traffic.

While speaking to the Chairman NHA over telephone, the Governor said that the geographic importance of Zhob is increasing for the economic development and trade changes taking place in the region.

He said that he wants to provide strong basis to economy, trade, education in the Zhob division in view of the educational development and economic changes.

The Chairman NHA assured the Governor that we would provide good news to the people about construction of Zhob bypass very soon.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over meeting of Disaster Management Commission

37 casualties reported in Balochistan: PDMA declares 10 districts of Balochistan calamity-hit in current Monsoon rains

PDMA authorities request humanitarian partners to remain in coordination while extending support to flood affected areas

Independent Report

QUETTA: As many as 10 districts of Balochistan have been declared calamity-hit in view of the current Monsoon rains.

According to an official notification issued here the other day, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Balochistan has declared the following district calamity-hit.

The districts are included: Kalat, Kachhi, Ziarat, Jaffarabad, Sohatpur, Usta Muhammad, Lasbela, Awaran, Loralai and Chaghai.

In the official letter to the humanitarian partners, the PDMA official said that

although the government of Balochistan is in position to handle the current emergency situation in all the above-mentioned districts, and so far, has not requested the humanitarian partners' support.

However, few humanitarian partners have already extended their support to mitigate the sufferings of the flood affected communities in close coordination with PDMA Balochistan.

The PDMA official further said that such kind of support is encouraged by PDMA Balochistan, however, the humanitarian partners are strongly requested to remain in close coordination with PDMA while extending support to the flood affected areas.

Naqvi meets Governor Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail at the Governor's House Quetta on Friday.

During the meeting, the interior minister and Governor Balochistan condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan and expressed solidarity with the families of the martyrs.

The interior minister said that immediate measures would be taken at all levels to establish peace and security in Balochistan. He highlighted that the Apex Committee has decided to hold talks only with those who lay down their arms and recognize the Constitution of Pakistan.

13 of family die as landslide fall on house at Dir Upper

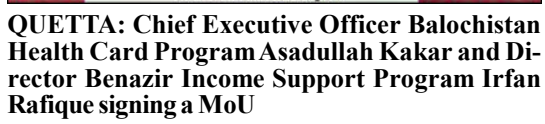
DIR UPPER (APP): At least 13 persons of a family died after a huge landslide fell on their house at Patrak village in Dir Upper district. According to police and Rescue 1122, the families of Naushad Khan along with his two brothers were fast asleep last night when a huge avalanche fell on them at Patrak village in the mountainous region. As a result, Naushad's wife, daughters Samina, and Yamin and sons Tayyab and Umar have died. Four family members of Khan Badashah, the brother of Naushad Khan including his wife, daughter Taqwa, sons Saeed and Rohan also expired.

Pakistan, Bangladesh agree to work closely for South Asia's progress

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday held a telephone conversation with Chief Adviser of Bangladesh government Professor Muhammad Yunus wherein two leaders agreed that there was a need to work closely for the progress and prosperity of the people of both countries.

During the conversa-

tion, both leaders also agreed that greater regional cooperation could play a vital role in uplifting the lives of the people of South Asia, a PM Office press release said. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated Professor Muhammad Yunus on assuming the office of Chief Adviser and lauded his contribution to the socio-economic development of Bangladesh.



QUETTA: Chief Executive Officer Balochistan Health Card Program Asadullah Kakar and Director Benazir Income Support Program Irfan Rafique signing a MoU

18-inch diameter pipeline swept away: Sui gas supply suspended to Quetta, Pishin, Ziarat, Kalat and Mastung

Independent Report

QUETTA: The sui gas supply was suspended to Quetta as well as Pishin, Ziarat, Kalat and Mastung after the gas pipeline swept away in the Mach area on late Thursday night.

The sources of Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) told that the 18-inch diameter inch gas pipeline was swept away in the flashflood in the Mach area.

The situation caused gas suspension to Quetta and different other areas of the province from Mach area.

The sources said that the SSGC's teams were dispatched to Mach for repair of the damaged gas pipeline.

The General Manager of SSGC, Farooq Ahmed informed that the repair work would be started on the damaged pipeline after improvement in the weather conditions and security clearance.

He said that the repair of the gas pipeline could take few days. It may be mentioned here that the other gas pipeline coming to Quetta is already shut due to the repair work.

Security forces kill five terrorists in Balochistan

RAWALPINDI (Online): Security forces have killed five terrorists and three others injured during three intelligence based operations in Kech, Panjgur and Zhob districts of Balochistan.

According to ISPR, sanitization operations will continue until all perpetrators, facilitators and abettors of cowardly acts of 26th August are brought to justice.

Security forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has appreciated the soldiers and of-

ficers of the Pakistan Army for sending five Khwariji to hell and arresting them after injuring them in Panjgur, Kech and Zhob districts of Balochistan.

In a statement today, the Prime Minister reiterated the resolve to continue the war against terrorism until its complete eradication from the country.

The Prime Minister said those who are trying to spread chaos in the country will not be spared.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid tribute to the security forces for the successful intelligence-based operation in Panjgur and Zhob on Friday.



KARACHI: A view of sea waves seen from a residential apartment, following reports from the Pakistan Meteorological Department of a potential cyclonic storm that could develop over the Arabian Sea, at Clifton Beach, in the city.

No NRO to be given to PTI founding Chairman: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal on Friday reiterated that no National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) would be given to the founding Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan and he had to prove his innocence in the courts of law. Responding to various points raised by Leader of Opposition Omar Ayub Khan in the National Assembly, the minister said almost all PML-N senior party leaders remained in jails and proved their innocence before the courts. PTI leadership during their rule always asked for receipts from PML-N leaders but now they were not providing their receipts to the courts in corruption cases like 190 million pounds.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Credit rating upgrade

The decision by Moody's to upgrade Pakistan's long-term sovereign credit rating from Caa3 to Caa2 could not have come at a better time. The agency has also revised its outlook for the country's beleaguered economy from stable to positive. The rating upgrade, which comes after a similar announcement by Fitch, is inspired by Pakistan's improving macroeconomic conditions, especially liquidity and its external position, which have improved from very weak levels amidst a staff-level agreement with the IMF for a fresh \$7bn bailout. Despite the upgrade, the new rating still remains within the agency's "speculative grade" band and continues to reflect the nation's "very weak debt affordability that drives high debt sustainability risk". Yet the agency has noted that Pakistan's default risk has reduced even though the nation's interest payments would continue absorbing about half of government revenues over the (next) two to three years. The improvement in the country's investment risk profile, as reflected by the rating upgrades by two major agencies within a month, must help reduce Pakistan's country risk premium and elevate investor confidence. The stock market perked up on Thursday as Moody's elevated confidence in this economy substantially wiped clean uncertainty around the IMF loan approval delays.

More importantly, this should go a long way in facilitating the government's return to the global bond markets and commercial banks for fresh funds it aims to raise by the next fiscal year for budgetary support and covering the gross external financing hole, one of the reasons for the delayed IMF approval. With a better rating, the government would be able to negotiate less harsh terms and lower interest rates with the foreign commercial banks it is in talks with for raising \$4bn. That said, Moody's, like Fitch, has warned that uncertainty persists regarding the government's ability to maintain and implement reforms sustainably. It suspects that the coalition government led by the PML-N formed after the February elections may not have a sufficiently strong electoral mandate to continually implement revenue-raising measures without stoking social tensions. "... (The potential) slippages in reform implementation could lead to delays in or withdrawal of financing support from (multilateral and bilateral) official partners," it added. "(This could elevate investment risks) since Pakistan continued to rely on timely and sufficient disbursement of financing from official partners to fully meet its external debt obligations," it observed.

In other words, the government can ill-afford any digression from the IMF reforms, including revenue-raising measures, if it wants to ensure timely reviews of the Fund programme, continually unlock financing from official partners to meet its external debt obligations, and support further build-up of its forex reserves. Pakistan's economy has come a long way from where it was a year ago. But it still isn't in a position to hold its own without multilateral and bilateral help.

Islamic environmentalism

Muhammad Hayat Lak | Muhammad Mohad Zulfiqar

It is no secret that Pakistan faces an existential climate change crisis. Currently ranked fifth in the Global Climate Risk Index, we are at severe risk of exposure to extreme temperatures and climate-related disasters. The destructive floods of 2022 — which affected 33 million people and caused economic losses amounting to more than \$15 billion — serve as a warning of what the future might hold.

In such a state of affairs, how can one persuade the people of Pakistan to mitigate environmental degradation? Interestingly, one plausible answer lies in religion, particularly Islam. This, in simple terms, would mean proliferating a scheme of ideas based on the Quran and Sunnah aimed at the conservation of the environment.

Often dubbed as Islamic environmentalism, this idea can be traced back to a series of lectures delivered by the Iranian philosopher Seyyed Hossein Nasr in 1968 at the University of Chicago. Nasr employed the Sufi concept of unity of the universe to argue that all created beings are interconnected, therefore humans owe a duty to the environment, as much as they do to their fellow men. If humans do not live up to this duty, then society will face moral degradation and crises as a direct corollary of our actions. As the Quran states, "Corruption has appeared throughout the land and sea by [reason of] what the hands of people have earned so He may let them taste part of [the consequence of] what they have done that perhaps they will return [to righteousness]" (30:41).

Recently, through its judgment in Amer Ishaq and others v. Province of KPK, pertaining to air pollution caused by stone crushers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Supreme Court has placed special emphasis on Islamic environmentalism. The court — while referring to Hossein Nasr's work — has explored the idea on the basis of six fundamental principles: 1) Tawhid, that Allah is the Creator of all and hence all that created are interconnected. 2) Stewardship, that man, as the khalifa, must adopt a responsible attitude towards managing natural resources. 3) Balance, that the natural balance or meezan of Earth shall not be interfered with. 4) Avoiding waste, that Islam advocates the idea of moderation, especially in relation to consumption; the Quran commands, "O Children of Adam! ... Eat and drink, but do not waste. Surely, He does not like the wasteful" (7:31). 5) Justice, that climate change hurts the poor the most even though they may have contributed the least. 6) Hima, that natural resources and biodiversity shall be conserved.

In countries across the globe, Islamic environmentalism is being used for community engagement to deal with climate-related issues. In Zanzibar, for years fishermen used to dynamite coral reefs to catch fish. Despite successive attempts, the World Wildlife Fund was unable to persuade them otherwise. Eventually, Fazlun Khaled, founder of the Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences (IFEES), was brought in. Khaled dealt with dynamite fishing by engaging local fishermen, imams, and political leaders in community workshops. Khaled emphasised — much like

Nasr — that all of creation is connected, therefore harm incurred to one part of it necessarily affects the others. This proved to be a hugely successful exercise, and the use of dynamite fishing plummeted.

Similarly, the African Muslim Environment Network is playing an active role in dealing with the perils of climate change. It utilises zakat and other charities' money to spread environmental education and finance sustainable ventures. Malaysia also provides a practical example of Islamic environmentalism, where more than 400 mosques have joined hands to counter poaching and promote the conservation of turtles. In 2015, the IFEES launched the Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change, aimed at educating Muslims across the world about the harmful impacts of climate change. The declaration stressed the moral and religious duty of all Muslims to adopt sustainable practices to counter climate change.

In order to mitigate damage and promote sustainability, the government must draw from these examples and employ Islam as the basis for wider community engagement on the environment. As a deeply religious country, the people of Pakistan will be more receptive to the idea of environmental conservation as a religious duty.

Stakeholders from across the board — academic experts, religious scholars, and socio-political leaders — must come together to form a consensus against environmental degradation. As one fisherman from Zanzibar put it: we can break the laws of government, but not of God. -- Courtesy Dawn

The Baloch question

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

It is not as if we have not been here before. Balochistan has bled for so long that the mainstream Pakistani consciousness has tuned it into the background. Yet every so often, the Baloch national question is thrust into the spotlight and everyone suddenly becomes an expert on everything Balochistan.

What has transpired after the gruesome killing of civilians in Musakhel — most of them reportedly of Seraiki and Punjabi backgrounds — is a microcosm of everything that is wrong about the way most Pakistanis, particularly in the core regions of our highly fragmented country, conceive of the Baloch question.

First came the frenzied demands for retribution. Expressing outrage at the killings is one thing, but giving the state license to crush terrorism is another thing altogether. The current insurgency in Balochistan has raged for almost two decades, and was originally triggered by the dictatorial regime of General Pervez Musharraf, who, some readers will remember, publicly announced "they won't know what hit them".

Ever since, Baloch youth have been criminalised to no end, thus providing further fuel to the insurgency. Even staunch Pakistani nationalists have, on occasion, acknowledged that insurgencies, past and present, represent a failure of state policy. Militarisation of the Baloch question has not worked before, and will not work now.

Second was the lack of knowledge about Balochistan on display. Among other things, the term 'Balochi' was bandied about in reference to the people, whereas the correct term is 'Baloch'. Then there was almost total neglect of the fact that Pash-tuns, Hazaras,

Punjabis, Seraikis and others also call Balochistan their home. They do not all hold the same political opinions just because of their ethnic backgrounds. Indeed, the Baloch people are extremely diverse — the Makran belt in the south, for instance, comprises a distinct social formation to the northeastern parts of the province, including the Bugti, Mengal and Marri heartlands as well as Balochistan's 'green belt' on the Sindh border.

Finally, there was the reduction of the entirely organic Baloch national question to great games and international conspiracies. It is certainly not implausible that there are regional and global players active in Balochistan, but the concerns that many Baloch have vis-à-vis the grand 'developmental' claims of projects like CPEC are long-standing and undeniable.

Gwadar's historic fishing communities, for example, have seen their livelihoods destroyed by corporate trawlers, while the wider population has been ravaged by state and private profiteers, who have made a killing through bogus real estate schemes.

Yet all of this seems to matter little in a social media universe where nuance, history and facts count for little. It is certainly true that social media has provided impetus to peaceful movements such as the Baloch Yakjehti Committee, but recent days confirm how the Facebook and Twitter algorithm as well as the statist trolls and bots ensure the de-intellectualisation of political debate.

It is also telling how supposedly broad-based consensus around matters like enforced disappearances and ethnic profiling dissipate rapidly, and so many people outside the ethnic peripheries start displaying outright racism by calling for a boycott of Quetta cafes and banishing Baloch students from Punjab.

The obvious tensions which do exist between ethnic-nations in Pakistan should, in fact, make clear that the Pakistani state continues to fail spectacularly in addressing the Baloch and other national questions. The weaponisation of religion continues to be the calling card of choice, which is why the militants of the TLP and TTP thrive while even entirely peaceful Baloch youth who are demanding accountability of the state are called terrorists.

Thirty years ago, Eqbal Ahmad delivered a lecture entitled 'Terrorism: Theirs & Ours', which many 'experts' should listen to. In it, he meticulously outlined the manner in which the term 'terrorism' was instrumentally used by states to pursue their narrow, cynical interests. Of all the forms of political violence that can viably be called 'terrorism', it is the modern state, in fact, that has perpetrated the most terror.

There is little evidence that the master strategists who run this country are interested in genuinely resolving the eight-decade-old Baloch question. Those who claim to be on the side of the people, particularly those in the core regions of the country, must not do their bidding, and at the very least use critical analytical lenses to make sense of what is going on in Balochistan.

Working people from Punjab to Balochistan are not perpetrators of hate. They can, however, become conveyor belts for the politics of hate. It is this which must be resisted at all costs. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Zimbabwean ambassador set a target for increasing bilateral up to \$100 million

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Zimbabwe to Pakistan, Titus M.J. Abu Basutu told APP here. The Ambassador said that Pakistan's current export volume to Zimbabwe is \$20 million and Pakistan's imports from Zimbabwe are \$10 million, which is less than the bilateral economic and trade potential, which can be increased over time to strengthen economic ties. He said that Zimbabwe imports from Pakistan mainly agricultural goods including rice, tractors and other sectors like light engineering, electronics, medical equipment, sports equipment, safety tools and machinery.

While Pakistan imports from Zimbabwe including chemicals, tanning dyes and cotton from Zimbabwe. The Ambassador said that at this time Zimbabwe prioritized promoting economic and trade relations with Pakistan and increased bilateral trade volume on priority, for which, "We encourage the business communities of both sides to exchange mutual business delegations." The ambassador said that Zimbabwe is having a "Trade Expo" in April 2025, where industrialists and traders from all over the world will participate and he invites the Pakistani business community to participate in it.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan holding a virtual meeting with the Sectoral Council for Engineering, highlighting the need for strategic reforms and government support to elevate Pakistan's engineering industry to compete globally Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan holding a virtual meeting with the Sectoral Council for Engineering, highlighting the need for strategic reforms and government support to elevate Pakistan's engineering industry to compete globally Islamabad.

LCCI, PSQCA step into partnership by signing MOU

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This strategic partnership is poised to provide comprehensive support and resources to the businesses for enhancing their ability to compete on a global scale. The MOU was signed by LCCI President Kashif Anwar and Director General PSQCA Taufique Ali Abbasi. This agreement marks the beginning of a collaborative effort to streamline access to standardization and conformity assessment services for LCCI members.

A cornerstone of this partnership is the establishment of a dedicated PSQCA Information Desk at LCCI. This desk will serve as a one-stop resource center where businesses, entrepreneurs and traders can seek guidance on standards, regulations and best practices. The Information Desk will be staffed by nominated officials from PSQCA to provide expert advice and assistance. Kashif Anwar highlighted the importance of this initiative stating that this MoU is more than just a formal agreement; it is a strategic alliance aimed at empowering our members with the knowledge and resources they need to meet global standards.



FAISALABAD: Daily wages laborers unload sacks of potatoes from a delivery truck at a bustling vegetable market.

TBM achieves Rs 2.6 bln profit before tax in first-half of 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Telenor Microfinance Bank (TMB) during the first-half of the year 2024 has achieved Rs 2.6 billion profit before tax, which was up by 788 percent as compared to the corresponding period of the last year. The Board of Bank (TMB) in its meeting approved the bank's financial results for the half year ended June 30, 2024, said a press release issued here Friday. The TMB has reported exceptional financial performance for the first half of 2024, achieving a

profit before tax of Rs 2.6 billion, a staggering 788% increase compared to first half of 2023 Rs 0.3 billion and equity touching Rs 10 billion, solidifying its position as a pioneering force in Pakistan's fintech landscape. Customer deposits and advances have demonstrated remarkable growth, with deposits reaching Rs 67.0 billion up by 21% in comparison with first half of 2023 Rs 55.3 billion and advances climbing to Rs 22.9 billion, growing by 59%, Rs 14.5 billion.

SBP injects Rs9.2trln into market

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) injected Rs9,218 billion in the market on Friday through reverse repo purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operation (OMO). According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on August 30, 2024 for 7-day and 28-day tenors and accepted 32 bids cumulatively amounting to Rs9,103 billion. The central bank received 31 bids for 7-day tenor cumulatively offering an amount of Rs9,287.3 billion.

Macroeconomic indicators show resilience: Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the first month of the current financial year, key macroeconomic indicators demonstrated resilience, with consumer-based inflation decreasing, the current account balance improving, and revenue collection surpassing targets. According to the 'Monthly Economic Update and Outlook August 2024', issued by the Ministry of Finance on Friday, the agricultural credit disbursement recorded an increase of 24.8 percent during fiscal year 2024 to Rs 2,216 billion compared to

the last year. A significant rise in the import of agriculture machinery and implements by 122.8 percent to \$91.3 million during the period under review indicates a continued boost in investment in farming technology, paving the way for enhanced productivity and efficiency in the agriculture sector. The Large Scale Manufacturing Sector registered positive growth of 0.9 percent in fiscal year 2024 against the contraction of 10.3 percent last year. CPI inflation recorded at

11.1 percent on Year-on-Year basis in July 2024 as compared to 12.6 percent in previous month, and 28.3 percent in July 2023. On a month-on-month (M-o-M) basis, it increased by 2.1 percent in July 2024 compared to an increase of 0.5 percent in the previous month. The government managed to reduce the fiscal deficit to 6.8% of GDP in FY2024, down from 7.8% last year. The primary balance showed a surplus of 0.9% of GDP, in contrast to a deficit of 1.0% of GDP in FY2023.



Team ONIC comes together for a group photo to mark the First anniversary of digital Telco.

Short-term inflation eases further by 0.62%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed further decrease of 0.62 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on August 29, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 319.73 points as compared to 321.72 points during the past week. As compared to the

PSX gains 138 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with Bullish trend on Friday, gaining 138.55 more points, showing a positive change of 0.18 percent, closing at 78,488.22 points against 78,349.66 points on the last working day. A total of 680,810,524 shares were traded during the day as compared to 599,820,775 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 21,186 billion against Rs 20,409 billion on the last trading day.

FPCCI, SECP organize seminar on new portal 'eZfile'

LAHORE (APP): The Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) organized an awareness seminar regarding SECP's new portal 'eZfile'. 'Companies Regulations 2024' and Company Regularization Scheme (CRS) at FPCCI Regional Office, here on Friday. Vice President and Regional Chairman FPCCI Zaki Ajaz highlighted that the objective of the session is to educate private lim-

ited, listed and non-listed companies about the new rules and regulations of the SECP, so that the participating companies could better fulfill their legal requirements. Vice President Zaki Ajaz said that FPCCI aims to provide a vibrant platform for its member companies and business community to enhance their knowledge and also to aware them with contemporary business techniques. He emphasised that the SECP plays a crucial role in the economic development of Pakistan.

CM leading a revolution to modernize entire health system in Punjab: Marriyum

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif is leading a revolution to modernize entire health system in Punjab, said Punjab's Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb while inaugurating, on Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's direction, a newly-constructed block at Mayo Hospital Lahore, equipped with modern facilities for the treatment of children.

She visited various sections of the newly-constructed block and reviewed various medical facilities available there for the patients.

The Senior Provincial Minister said, "Established in 1871, Pakistan's oldest and largest Mayo Hospital has been serving the public for 153 years. This 300-bed hospital at the time of establishment of Pakistan has become a 2399-bed hospital today."

Marriyum Aurangzeb said the health of women and children is the top priority of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. She added, Madam Chief Minister's vision is to make Punjab an exemplary province in terms of education, health, public service, infrastructure, environment and

governance. She highlighted that Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif, as the chief ministers of Punjab, had always set new examples of service in the province. Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique said on the occasion that Paeds Surgical Block also has a CSSD, central oxygen supply, a small operation theater, day care centre and pathology lab. He added the wards are named after legendary professors. He highlighted that the number of beds in the oncology, dengue and medical wards of the Paeds Medicine Unit has been increased from 25 to 48.



LAHORE: Employees of a local hotel rescue customer during fire in hotel at Australia Chowk in the Provincial Capital.

Experts urge focus on economic objectives for CPEC success

PESHAWAR (APP): Experts at a roundtable discussion in Peshawar have hailed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a game-changer for Pakistan's development, despite attempts by hostile forces to undermine it.

Experts at a roundtable discussion titled "CPEC: Opportunities and Challenges," organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Peshawar, in collaboration with the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, highlighted that CPEC is a project of construction and development for Pakistan. They revealed that

seven terrorist corridors are actively working to sabotage CPEC, but emphasized that China's investments in Pakistan demonstrate its commitment to the country's growth. The experts praised China's friendship, citing the 20,000 Pakistani students studying in China. They suggested focusing on economic and trade objectives, rather than security and geopolitics, and opening natural east-west corridors for trade purposes.

The discussion was chaired by Professor Dr. Zahid Anwar, former Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dean of Social Sciences.

Sonia Ashir meets Minister

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz Sharif, has approved the appointment of parliamentary secretaries, assigning Sonia Ashir as the Parliamentary Secretary for Human Rights and Minority Affairs.

In this regard, Sonia Ashir met with the Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs, Ramesh Singh Arora at his camp office on Friday.

During the meeting, Ramesh Singh Arora congratulated Sonia Ashir on her appointment and extended his best wishes for her future endeavours.

5 killed, 987 injured in 962 RTCs in Punjab

LAHORE: Five persons were killed and 987 injured in 962 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

Out of these, 407 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 580 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals.



MULTAN: People navigate flooded Khuni Burj Road after heavy monsoon rain in the city.

Salman reaffirms commitment to quality, transparency in hospitals revamping project

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique has emphasized that there will be no compromise on quality and transparency in the ongoing hospitals revamping project across the province.

He made these remarks while chairing a meeting at the Department of Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education on Friday.

During the meeting, the Minister highlighted the recent progress at Jinnah Hospital Lahore, where several key units, including the Paeds Emergency, Surgical Unit Two, ICU First Floor, Medical Unit Two, Eye

Ward, CCU Second Floor, and Gynecology Ward, among others, have undergone significant revamping. He reiterated the government's commitment to prioritizing the completion of these projects to enhance the convenience and care for patients at government hospitals. To expedite the completion of the revamping at Jinnah Hospital Lahore, the minister directed contractors to increase their work pace by operating in two shifts. He also instructed the concerned officers to maintain strict and continuous oversight of the ongoing projects.

IG Punjab meets police officials skilled in fine arts

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police Punjab, Dr. Usman Anwar, met with talented police officers skilled in fine arts at the Central Police Office here on Friday.

Traffic Warden Imtiaz and Dolphin Officer Gul Zain presented their artwork to the IG.

Dr. Usman Anwar congratulated them on the outstanding reception of their artwork received at the National College of Arts (NCA) exhibition. He also announced commendation certificates for both officers.

PHC grants transit bail to Sanam Javed for 10 days

PESHAWAR (Online): Peshawar High Court (PHC) has granted transit bail for 10 days to PFI leader Sanam Javed.

Justice Dr. Khurshid Iqbal heard the transit bail applications of Sanam Javed Friday. The court granted 10 days transit bail to Sanam Javed. Ali Zaman advocate counsel for Sanam Javed said two FIRs are registered against Sanam Javed one in Lahore and one in Mianwali. Justice Khurshid Iqbal inquired from the counsel her residence is in Lahore and what is she doing in Peshawar.

Governor Kundi grieved over demise of 12 of family members at Dir Upper

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of 12 persons of a family who died after a huge landslide hit their house at Patrak village in Dir Upper district.

In a condolence message, the governor prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed souls in eternal peace and grant courage to bereaved family members to bear this irripable loss with fortitude.

According to police and Rescue 1122, the families of Naushad Khan along with his two brothers were

fast asleep last night when a huge avalanche fell on them at Patrak village in the mountainous region.

As result, Naushad's wife, daughters Samina, Yamin, sons Tayyab and Umar have died.

Four family members of Khan Badashah, the brother of Naushad Khan including his wife, daughter Taqwa, sons Saeed and Rohan were also expired.

Similarly wife of Wali Rehman, his sister Dua and son Nasir have also lost battle for life.

The Rescue operation has been completed and debris removed after retrieving the bodies.



LAHORE: An artist painting a motivational wall mural on the Government Kinnaird High School wall to capturing the students' attention.

PPP leadership stresses consensus in selection of new party officials

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Punjab President Raja Pervaiz Ashraf emphasized the importance of consensus and consideration of party interests in the selection of new party officials.

He made these remarks during a meeting focused on the reorganization of the PPP's Faisalabad Division and district chapters. The meeting, which was conducted via video link from the PPP Secretariat in Lahore on Friday, was presided over by PPP Central Punjab General Secretary Syed Hassan Murtaza.

In his address, General Secretary Syed Hassan Murtaza underscored the need for party unity and collaboration. He stressed that candidates proposed for new party positions should be capable of working harmoniously towards the party's goals.

He also highlighted the importance of involving youth in the party's new organizational structure, calling for committed young individuals to be given key roles.

Participants from the Jhang, Chinot, and Toba Tek Singh districts presented proposals and highlighted ongoing organizational activities.

International News

Xi says China committed to good ties with US

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping told top White House aide Jake Sullivan on Thursday that Beijing remained committed to good ties with the United States, despite "great changes."

Sullivan, the first US national security adviser to visit China since 2016, met Xi as he wrapped up three days of talks in the Chinese capital which also saw him meet Foreign Minister Wang Yi and other high-ranking officials.

Sullivan's visit comes as China is embroiled in security rows with US allies Japan and the Philippines.

But state broadcaster CCTV said Xi told Sullivan that in spite of "great changes", China and the US could still enjoy good ties.

"China's commitment to the goal of stable, healthy, and sustainable development of China-US relations hasn't changed," Xi said. "We hope that the US will work with China to meet each other halfway," he added, according to CCTV.

Sullivan said US President Joe Biden is looking forward to talks with Xi Jinping in the "coming weeks".

Sullivan told Xi that Biden "looks forward to engaging with you again in the coming weeks".

"President Biden is committed to responsibly managing this consequential relationship to ensure that competition does not veer into conflict or confrontation, and to work together where our interests align," he said.

Earlier in the day, Sullivan met senior Chinese army chief Zhang You-xia at the Beijing head-quarters of the Central Military Commission, where the two discussed Taiwan and other flashpoint issues.

The two officials agreed to hold a call between the two sides' theatre commanders "in the near future", a read-out from the White House said.

Ukraine says US experts are helping figure out why a Ukrainian F-16 crashed in the war with Russia

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: U.S. experts have joined a Ukrainian investigation into why an F-16 warplane that Ukraine received from its Western partners crashed earlier this week during a Russian bombardment, the country's air force commander said Friday.

Commander Mykola Oleshchuk said on Telegram that "a detailed analysis is already being conducted" into why the fighter jet went down on Monday, when Russia launched a major missile and drone barrage at Ukraine.

"We must carefully understand what happened, what the circumstances are, and whose responsibility it is," Oleshchuk wrote in the post.

The crash was the first reported loss of an F-16 in Ukraine, where

they arrived at the end of last month. At least six of the warplanes are believed to have been delivered by European countries.

Military analysts say the planes won't be a game-changer in the war, given Russia's massive air force and sophisticated air defense systems.

But Ukrainian officials welcomed the super-sonic jets, which can carry modern weapons used by NATO countries, for bringing an opportunity to hit back at Russia's air superiority.

Russia's army is making slow but gradual progress in its drive into eastern Ukraine, while Ukraine's forces are holding ground in the Kursk border region of western Russia after a recent incursion.

Israel, Hamas agree to three-day pause for polio vaccination

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The Israeli military and Hamas have agreed to three separate, zoned three-day pauses in fighting in the Gaza Strip to allow for the vaccination of some 640,000 children against polio, a senior World Health Organisation (WHO) official said on Thursday.

The vaccination campaign is due to start on Sunday, said Rik Peepers, the WHO's senior official for the Palestinian territories.

He said the agreement was for the pauses to take place between 6:00am and 3:00pm local time.

He said the campaign would start in central Gaza with a three-day pause in fighting, then move to southern Gaza, where there would be another three-day pause, followed by northern Gaza.



Palestinians carry their belongings salvaged from the debris following Israeli strikes in eastern Deir Al Balah, central Gaza Strip.

Japan's defense ministry seeks record budget as it faces growing threat from China

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japan's Defense Ministry on Friday sought a record 8.5 trillion yen (\$59 billion) budget for the next year to fortify its deterrence on southwestern islands against China's increasing threat.

Defense officials were also focusing on unmanned weapons and artificial intelligence to make up for the declining number of servicemembers as a result of the country's shrinking

population. The ministry's request for 2025 marks the third year of Japan's rapid five-year military buildup plan under the government's ongoing security strategy.

Japan aims to spend 43 trillion yen (\$297 billion) through 2027 to double its annual military spending to around 10 trillion yen, making it the world's No. 3 military spender after the United States and China.

Germany deports first Afghan nationals since Taliban govt took control

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: Germany said it carried out on Friday the first deportation of Afghans back to their home country since Taliban authorities took power in August 2021, as Berlin faces pressure to crack down on migration.

"These were Afghan nationals, all of whom were convicted offenders who had no right to stay in Germany and against whom deportation orders had been issued," government spokesman Steffen Hebestreit said in a statement.

A chartered Qatar Airways flight bound for Kabul took off from Leipzig airport just before 0500 GMT with 28 Afghans on board, Der Spiegel magazine said, citing security sources.

The operation was the result of two months of "secret negotiations" in which Qatar acted as the go-between between Berlin and the Taliban authorities, Spiegel reported.

Hebestreit said Germany had "asked key regional partners for support in order to facilitate the deportations", without giving more details.

Yemen's Huthis blew up stranded oil tanker

Monitoring Desk
SANAA: Yemen's Iran-backed Huthi rebels announced Thursday they had booby-trapped and detonated the Greek-flagged oil tanker Sounion, stranded in the Red Sea after a drone and missile attack earlier this month.

The group's leader said the operation took place earlier this week. Since then, the rebels have agreed to allow rescue teams to access the ship. A video shared on the rebels' media outlets showed masked men planting explosives on the vessel and then detonating them, causing several fires on board.

Czech police safely detonate World War Two bomb at oil refinery

Monitoring Desk
PRAGUE: Czech bomb disposal experts on Friday detonated a World War Two bomb found on the site of an oil refinery, causing no major visible damage to the Polish-owned plant that has halted operations since the discovery last week, police said.

Police had prepared for the controlled explosion for several days.

Israel kills 16 Palestinians in West Bank attacks

Monitoring Desk
TULKAREM: Israel on Thursday pressed a large-scale military operation in the occupied West Bank, leaving at least 16 Palestinians dead in two days despite UN concerns it was "fueling an already explosive situation".

The "counter-terrorism" operation underway across the northern West Bank since early Wednesday has killed 16 Palestinians, the Israeli military said.

The Palestinian health ministry gave the same figure, after both revised earlier tolls.

The raids on several towns and refugee camps were launched as violence raged on in the war-battered Gaza Strip, the besieged Palestinian territory separated from the West Bank by Israel.

In the West Bank, columns of Israeli armoured vehicles backed by troops and aircraft were sent in before soldiers encircled refugee camps in Tubas and Tulkarem, as well as Jenin, and exchanged fire with Palestinian fighters.

The army said it killed seven on Thursday, including five fighters in the Tulkarem refugee camp.

A military statement said one of the five was Muhammad Jaber, also known as Abu Shujaa, who Palestinian group Islamic Jihad said was its commander in the nearby Nur Shams refugee camp.

Two other fighters were killed in Jenin on Thursday, the army said.

UN aid official questions world's 'humanity' as Gaza war rages

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: A top UN aid official on Thursday questioned "what has become of our basic humanity," as the war in Gaza rages and humanitarian operations struggle to respond.

Joyce Msuya, acting head of the UN's humanitarian office (OCHA), said that "we cannot plan more than 24 hours in advance because we struggle to know what supplies we will have, when we will have them or where we will be able to deliver."

"Citizens are hungry. They are thirsty. They are sick. They are homeless. They have been pushed beyond... what any human being should bear," she told the Security Council.

Msuya's comments came after the UN had to halt the movement of aid and aid workers within Gaza on Monday due to a new Israeli evacuation order for the Deir al-Balah area, which had become a hub for its workers. "More than 88 percent of Gaza's territory has come under an (Israeli)

order to evacuate at some point," Msuya said, adding that civilians, "in a state of limbo," were being forced into an area equivalent to just 11 percent of the Gaza Strip.

"The evacuation orders appear to defy the requirements of international humanitarian law," she added.

Israel's war against Palestinian militant group Hamas has come under increasing scrutiny as the civilian death toll rises, but international powers including the United States have failed so far to help negotiate a ceasefire.

The current fighting was sparked by Hamas's October 7 attack on southern Israel, which resulted in the deaths of 1,199 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures.

Israel's retaliatory military campaign has killed at least 40,602 people in Gaza, according to the territory's health ministry. The UN rights office says most of the dead are women and children.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

Senators call for dialogue with stakeholders to stem terrorism in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The members of the Upper House of the Parliament on Friday urged the government to initiate dialogue with the relevant stakeholders including protesting women, girls and youth demanding rights to stem terrorism in Balochistan.

Taking the floor, Senator Bilal Ahmed Khan of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) said Balochistan was the most impacted province from violence and terrorism was casting negative effects on the masses minds.

The decision makers and stakeholders should join heads to devise solutions for addressing the issue in Balochistan.

Senator Dr Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) said unless the stakeholders were not taken onboard by the government including the women and children of Balochistan facing neglect, the issue of terrorism would continue to

harm the peace and stability of the region.

Senator Kamran Murtaza of Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan (JUI-P) said during the apex committee meeting held the other day, nine more innocent people were killed in Balochistan in two different areas.

Senator Jan Muhammad of National Party said the Baloch nation has its own code of conduct in politics, social life and matters of serious concern based on honour, integrity, courage and respect towards others.

He said dialogue is must to end terrorism in Balochistan.

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar proposed that the discussion should continue on Balochistan and the interior minister would brief the House after conclusion of his meetings at the highest forum with relevant stakeholders and state entities.

Govt officially confirms installation of 'web monitoring system'

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistani government has officially confirmed the installation of a web monitoring system to manage online content. The Cabinet Division has formally informed the National Assembly of the system's implementation.

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has deployed the web monitoring system to manage online content. The Cabinet Division confirmed that the system has already begun blocking websites and applications within Pakistan.

According to the Cabinet Division, the PTA has blocked 2,369 URLs and 183 mobile applications through the web monitoring system. Sources indicate that the PTA is now self-sufficient in content blocking following the upgrade of the web monitoring system (WMS).

Ali Zafar says: Government has no two-third majority for constitutional amendment

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader and lawyer Barrister Ali Zafar the chapter of constitutional amendment by the government had been closed as the government had no two third majority.

Talking to media at Lahore High Court (LHC), he berated the incumbent government saying it's all efforts went in vain as it has no backing of two third majority required in the Parliament for constitutional amendment.

He highlighted that the government had not held any consultation on constitutional amendment and PTI members couldn't cast votes cooperating with the government. Talking about speculations of PTI founder Imran Khan, he stressed to challenge the military trial of Imran Khan as civilians couldn't be a military trial. Responding to the appointment of a new Chief Justice of Pakistan, he suggested Justice Mansoor Ali Shah must be CJP. He also clarified that the judicial system must be amended but the government should take matters with due diligence and patience.

tee Kharan, Dr Mubarak Ali Badini in the office of Deputy Commissioner Kharan on Friday.

The Deputy Commissioner Kharan, Munir Ahmed Soomro and other concerned senior officials were present on the occasion. Mir Sarfraz Bugti maintained that the federal and provincial governments are making every possible endeavours to provide special relief to the farmers for development of the agriculture sector under leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti respectively.

Meanwhile, the zamindar leaders thanked the Minister Finance Mir Shoaib Nausherwani for taking special interest in resolving their issues.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Education Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani meeting with Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti

Govt. taking wholehearted steps to provide special relief to zamindars: Nausherwani

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Finance, Mir Shoaib Nausherwani has stated that the incumbent government is taking wholehearted steps for providing special relief to zamindars of the province.

The Minister said that the government took steps on emergent basis to shift the agricultural tube wells on solar energy.

He said that the orders have been issued to district administration and Agriculture department for survey of the losses caused to the zamindars due to the flash floods and rains.

The Minister Finance was speaking to the representative delegation of zamindars who called on him under leadership of General Secretary of Zamindar Action Commit-



QUETTA: A representative delegation of Zamindar Action Committee meeting with Provincial Minister Mir Shoaib Nausherwani

Seeks cooperation of GIZ CM Focal Person for comprehensive social protection programmes

Independent Report QUETTA: The Focal Person of Chief Minister for Balochistan Health Card Programme, Noorul Haq Baloch has underlined the need for launching comprehensive social protection programmes in the province seeking cooperation of the German Development Cooperation (GDC) in this regard.

Mr. Noorul Haq Baloch also stressed the need to create awareness among the families living in

the remote areas of the province about the Health Card Programme.

He was addressing the policy workshop on Health Card Programme organized in collaboration with the German Development Cooperation GIZ here on Friday. Those who were present on the occasion were Secretary Health, Saleh Muhammad Baloch, Chief Executive Officer of Health Card Programme, Asadullah Kakar, Senior Policy Advisor of GIZ Pa-

kistan, Dr Franzon, Dr Imran Durrani, besides the experts and representatives of the Benazir Income Support Programme, State Life Insurance and Health Department.

The Focal Person of Chief Minister said that Health Card Programme is a new hope for the poor people of the province.

He mentioned that the people of the province can get free treatment in more than 1200 hospitals of the country.



QUETTA: A group photo of participants of policy workshop organized in joint collaboration of Balochistan Health Card Programme and German Development Cooperation GIZ

At OIC CFM Pakistan calls for united efforts to rid Palestine, IIOJK of foreign occupations

YAOUNDE (APP): As the foreign ministers of the OIC member states gathered here in the capital city of Cameroon, for a two-day 50th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, Pakistan called for unity and resolve to address the challenges confronting the Islamic Ummah including the ongoing foreign occupation of Palestine and IIOJK, terrorism and Islamophobia.

Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi, who led the Pakistani delegation at the CFM, highlighted the oppressive foreign occupation of Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir, and the conflicts across the world, fueled by endemic poverty, terrorist and extremist groups and external interventions.

He told the gathering that over 40,000 Palestinians, the majority of them women and children, have

been martyred and nearly two million displaced by Israel's genocidal war in Gaza. The foreign secretary called for developing a clear and bold plan to secure the implementation of the goals and objectives agreed upon by the OIC leaders at the 15th Islamic Summit in Gambia and last month's extraordinary OIC Executive Committee meeting in Saudi Arabia.

"We must urgently secure an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and the West Bank; ensure unrestricted humanitarian aid to Gaza; prevent the spread of the conflict to the entire Middle East, while holding Israel accountable for its criminal assassinations and violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iran, Lebanon and other States; admit Palestine as a full member State of the United Nations; and establish a vi-

able, secure, contiguous, and sovereign State of Palestine based on pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital," he said. Highlighting the Kashmir dispute, he called for its resolution for a durable peace in South Asia. He said since August 5, 2019, India initiated unilateral steps to annex occupied Jammu and Kashmir and impose what India's leaders ominously call a "Final Situation" for Kashmir.

The foreign secretary said the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) remained one of the most heavily militarized zones in the world, where the Indian occupation forces continue to impose draconian measures including extra-judicial killings, collective punishments, incarceration of Kashmiri leaders as well as demographic changes to transform Kashmir from a Muslim-majority



QUETTA: A delegation of representatives of different regional blood centers led by Dr. Usman Waheed meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

National Jirga to be called on interests of people of Chaman: Grand protest demonstration held against enforcement of passport policy at Pak-Afghan border

Independent Report QUETTA: A grand protest demonstration was held against the enforcement of passport policy of the government in Chaman on Friday.

A large number of people belonging to the All parties, traders and general public belonging to different shades of life participated in the protest demonstration.

The participants were carrying the placards and banners inscribed with the slogans against the one-document regime of the federal government at Pak-Af-

ghan border in Chaman. The member of central shura of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), Maulana Hafiz Muhammad Yousaf led the protest demonstration.

The procession marched through the Taj road and turned into a big public meeting at the DC complex.

The political, tribal, social and traders' leaders addressed the public gathering and rejected the one document regime at the Pak-Afghan border.

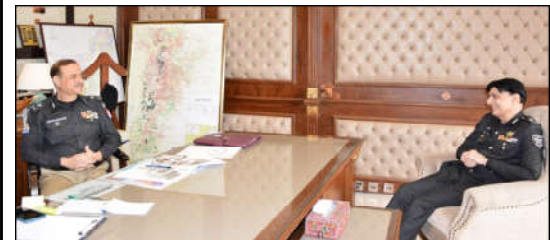
They said that the enforcement of one-document regime is not acceptable at

all. They termed it an unfair and highhandedness with thousands of people living at the border.

They said that it has become difficult for the people to make their both ends meet due to the enforcement of one-document regime.

They announced that an organized national Jirga would be called on the situation.

There would be no other discussion in the Jirga except the interests of people of Chaman and their livelihood.



QUETTA: Chief Collector Customs Balochistan Muhammad Yaqoob Mako meeting with Inspector General of Police Balochistan Moazzam Jah Ansari

Reki inspects substandard road construction

Independent Report QUETTA: MPA and Chairman Standing Committee for Housing and Physical Planning, Haji Mir Zabeed Ali Riki, inspected the substandard road construction in Zard Shahogirdi, Washuk District, upon a public complaint. He declared the road construction as substandard and announced an inquiry into the matter.

He also warned that if any contractor is found involved in corruption, they will be held accountable.

He emphasized that the people's money will not be wasted on substandard construction work.

To deal emergent situation during rains DC Loralai directs deptts to take precautionary measures

LORALAI (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Loralai, Mehran Baloch, said on Friday that the government machinery had remained alert due to continuous heavy rain, which generated flooding and battered different areas of the district.

The DC has issued directions to all relevant departments to take timely and precautionary measures to deal with any emergency, start rescue operations, and collect the assess-

ment data on the damages caused by the rains.

He said that a family, including women and children trapped in the flood water of the river near Zangiwal village, were rescued at 3:30 last night and provided essential foods and other relief items.

The rescue operation, conducted by the district administration, Levies, and police, successfully brought the stranded family to safety.

Zardari expresses sorrow over landslide tragedy

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday expressed deep regret and sorrow over the loss of lives caused by landslides in the Dir Bala district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to a press release from the President's House, the president extended his condolences to the families of the deceased. The president expressed his sympathies to the families of the deceased during this difficult time.

The president prayed for the deceased's forgiveness and beseeched the Almighty to grant the bereaved families the strength to endure their loss with patience.

DC Hub directs to remain alert to cope excessive water of dam

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Hub Ruhana Gul Kakar on Friday directed the concerned department to remain alert to control excessive water level of Hub Dam which was increased due to recently rain.

She said that the situation of Hub Dam was being monitored and control room was set up on emergency basis to tackle the increasing water level of it due to recently rain.

She expressed these views while briefing to media regarding situation Hub Dam. She said that the recent monsoon rains in Sindh and Balochistan has significantly increased the water level in the Hub Dam. The DC said that the reason for the increase in the reservoir water level of the dam was heavy rains in the catchments areas of the district Hub and Khuzdar of Balochistan and the catchments areas of the dam.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan in a meeting with Inspector General National Highways & Motorway Police (NHMP) Salman Chaudhry at Parliament House.

Governor stresses need to expand services of blood donation across Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stressed the need to expand the services of blood donations in the province.

The Governor said that modern science has made lot of progress in saving the human lives through the blood donations.

He said that it has been made possible to save lives of several people at the same time through the blood donation.

He also called for establishing the branches of the Regional Blood Centers (RBCs) in order districts of the province.

The Governor was speaking to Director of RBC Quetta, Professor Dr Hanif Mandokhail who called on him here at the Governor House on Friday.

Also present in the meeting were the Directors of RBC from Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

They stressed the need to promote mutual cooperation for meeting the needs of blood donations.

He said that the patients suffering from Thalasemia and Congo virus can also be benefited from the services of blood donations besides the normal patients who need blood in emergency.

Mir Ali Hassan Zehri says: Terrorists from Balochistan will be wiped out very soon

Independent Report QUETTA: There will be no compromise on the integrity of Pakistan and the motives behind the ongoing terrorism in Balochistan will soon be brought in front of the nation and many faces will be exposed in this. Senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party, Spokesman of President Asif Ali Zardari and Provincial Advisor on Industries and Trade Mir Ali Hassan Zehri expressed these views in a statement.

He said that behind the incidents of terrorism in recent days in Balochistan, the evil intentions behind the scenes have been destroyed and the brave soldiers of the Pakistan Army and other security forces have sacrificed their lives to protect the country and the

cowardly enemy and the heinous ambitions of their instrumentalists were crushed.

Mir Ali Hassan Zehri said that at present some people in Balochistan are playing both sides to shine their failed politics. He said that Dr. Malik is also seen as opposed to the incidents of terrorism and on the other hand, he supports such people in private gatherings and has a soft spot in his heart for them, which shows his double standard politics.

He said that why Dr. Malik did not solve this problem during his two and a half years in power. Why did they not solve the burning problems of Balochistan? It is amazing that now sympathy has come in his heart on this issue.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with chairman special committee on Kashmir Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon, at Parliament House, in the Federal Capital.

Govt launches initiative for uplifting of 20 poorest districts: NA told

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal on Friday informed the National Assembly that the government has launched an initiative for uplifting of 20 poorest districts of the country.

Responding to a question during Question Hour, the minister said that the said initiative would be completed with the cooperation of the provincial governments. 50 per cent cost would be provided by the federal government while remaining would be bore by the respective pro-

vincial governments, he added. He said on the directives of Prime Minister a programme has also been included in annual Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for urban Sindh which would be carried out with the consultation of the elected representatives of the province.

He said volume of PSDP has already been shrunk to Rs 1100 billion from Rs 1400 billion due to fiscal constraints. Around 60 per cent share of total revenue was given to the provinces under NFC award.

Mir Pohlean Baloch: Solution to Balochistan's problem is political dialogue, not military operation

Independent Report QUETTA: National Party's elected member of the National Assembly, Mir Pohlean Baloch, addressed the National Assembly, saying that the solution to Balochistan's problem is not a military operation but a political dialogue.

He suggested convening a grand jirga comprising all representative political parties of Pakistan to discuss and find a solution to the problem. He criticized a former military ruler for igniting a fire in Balochistan, which everyone is cursing.

Mir Pohlean Baloch mentioned a recent tragic incident in Mastung where the Deputy Commissioner of Panjur was killed and the district chairman was injured, who is still under treatment.

However, the investigation into the matter has not been made public.

He also condemned recent incidents of terrorism in which civilians were targeted, reiterating that killing anyone on linguistic basis is not justified, whether they are Baloch or anyone else.