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Quetta

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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

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 Yekjehi Committee.

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

protest. The local leadership of the National Party, BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, and BNP Awami played a key role in mediating the agreement. Assistant Commissioner Gwadar, Mir Javed Zehri, spoke to a private tv channel about the agreement.

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

He clarified that

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

He assured that the current situation is improving, and no harm has come to Mehrang Baloch or any other woman, nor can it. Deputy Commissioner Hamoodur Rehman further stated that the administration respects the Baloch women in Gwadar like their mothers and sisters.



QUETTA: Former Provincial Minister Mujeeb Rehman Hassani and former MNA Ehsan Reki meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

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

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

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

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

He said that the country has come out of the

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

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

The Governor maintained that the political organizations and workers play key role in promoting

collective sense of the rights and duties among masses, boosting social justice and democratic behaviours and ensuring implementation on the public rights.

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

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

NA Body clears Election Act Amendment Bill 2024 amid controversy

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

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

Tensions flared during the meeting as opposition member Ali Muhammad Khan clashed with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Azam Nazir Tarar over the bill. Tarar defended the bill, asserting that the amendments are in line with constitutional and legal standards.



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

Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh assassinated in Tehran

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

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

Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) confirmed the death of

Haniyeh, hours after he attended a swearing in ceremony for the country's new president, and said it was investigating.

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



Revolutionary Guards said. There was no immediate comment from Israeli authorities. The news, which came less than 24 hours after Israel claimed to have killed the Hezbollah commander

it said was behind a deadly strike in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, appears to set back chances of any imminent ceasefire agreement in Gaza.

"This assassination by the Israeli occupation of Brother Haniyeh is a grave escalation that aims to break the will of Hamas," senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told media.

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

Meanwhile, another senior Hamas official, Moussa Abu Marzouk, said

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"Instant restoration of water in Kachhi canal unavoidable": Federation ought to give positive message by paying special heed towards Balochistan, insists CM

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

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

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

And now second and third generation must not

Continued on page 2



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

Two organisations banned for involvement in terrorism

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani government has banned two terrorist organizations involved in terrorism. The National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) has declared Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group and Majid Brigade as proscribed organizations, following approval from the Ministry of Interior.

According to NACTA, both organizations were banned after two years of surveillance. Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group was banned on July 25, while Majid Brigade Group was banned on July 18.

PM Shahbaz vows to make Pakistan leading country in AI infrastructure

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Govt slashes petroleum prices by up to Rs10.86 per litre

The new price of petrol is 269.43 and high speed diesel 272.77 per liter.

ISLAMABAD (INP) – The federal government on Wednesday announced a significant decrease in petroleum prices for the first fortnight of August 2024. The prices were reduced after getting an approval from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, said a notification issued by the Ministry of Finance.

The new prices will come into effect from August 1, 2024.

The petrol price was decreased by Rs6.17 per litre as new price has been fixed at Rs269.43. The price of high speed diesel was reduced by Rs10.86 to Rs272.77.

Similarly, the price of light speed diesel was reduced by Rs5.72 to Rs160.53 per litre. Similarly, the price of kerosene oil dipped by Rs6.32 to Rs177.39 per litre for first half of August.



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

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

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

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

Kurram delegation calls on Naqvi

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

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

The minister expressed concern over the unfortunate incidents in Kurram and discussed a comprehensive strategy to prevent such incidents in the future.

Mohsin Naqvi expressed profound grief and sorrow over the loss of precious human lives and prayed for the swift recovery of the injured. He said that the clash between two groups was given a wrong interpretation.

He emphasized that leading personalities of the area should play their positive role for lasting solution to this issue and the government will provide all possible assistance in this regard.

The minister reiterated that everyone needs to play his role in maintaining brotherhood and harmony in the area.

He also called a meeting with the representatives and leading personalities from both groups.

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

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

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

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

are being included in the Kafalat programme.

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

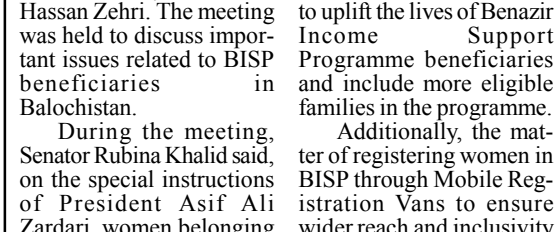
A significant focus was placed on skill development programs aimed at enabling beneficiaries and youth to start their own businesses, thereby helping them rise out of poverty.

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

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Karachians of Jamat e Islami held a protest in Karachi against the Israeli government for the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran. The protesters held a banner with Haniyeh's portrait and demanded justice.



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

'Sports Kits & Track Suits' distribution ceremony held at IMCG F-6/2

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training on Wednesday organised "Sports Kits and Track Suits" distribution ceremony here at Islamabad Model College for Girls, F/6-2.

The ceremony was attended by the Minister for Federal Education Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui as chief guest, while Chairman PCB and Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi as guest of honour. Secretary of Federal Education Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, and a large number of students and teachers were also present on the occasion.

This initiative aims to promote physical education and encourage students to engage in sports activities, fostering a healthy body and mind. Under the project, the students of primary schools to be given track suits to wear during sports activities, promoting unity and team spirit.

"A healthy body is essential for a healthy mind." This initiative is a step towards nurturing well-rounded individuals who excel in both academics and physical activities.

In his opening remarks, Secretary Federal Education Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, emphasized the need to establish such an Eco-system under which besides focusing children's education, their health would also be improved. He said that under the project, around 26 Gyms had been established in schools while 23 outdoor sports facilities had also been provided.

Meanwhile, in his address, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi lauded the efforts of the Federal Education Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui for his commitment of providing quality education to students.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister and Chairman PCB Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi and Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui viewing Sports Kits and Track Suits during distribution ceremony at Islamabad Model College for Girls (IMCG), F-6/2.



QUETTA: A delegation led by President Al-Khidmat Foundation Jameel Kurd meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Youth leadership camp concludes in Swat

By Haroon Siraj

SWAT:- The National Youth Summer Camp 2024, jointly organized by Hawks Youth Vision Foundation and International School of Leadership and Youth Affairs, Swat, concluded on the other day. The four-day camp, held from July 25 to 28, brought together 50 young participants from across Pakistan to develop leadership skills, foster teamwork, and promote community service.

Renowned speakers and experts led engaging workshops and sessions on leadership, social justice, sustainable development, and climate change. Additionally, the camp organized a plantation drive and cleaning activities at Malamjaba and Saidu Sharif, Swat, emphasizing the importance of environmental responsibility.

Participants praised the camp for providing a platform to learn, grow, and connect with like-minded individuals. This camp has empowered me to become a better leader and change-maker, said Vanika, a participant from Sindh.

Sana Ullah Hunain Founder Hawks Youth Vision Foundation said that organization aims to empower young leaders to drive positive change in their communities. The organization plans to organize more camps and initiatives to promote leadership development and youth empowerment, ultimately contributing to a brighter future for Pakistan.

ATC orders to produce Imran, Qureshi through video link

ISLAMABAD (APP): An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Wednesday directed the jail administration to present PTI founder Imran Khan and Shah Mehmood Qureshi through video link in two different cases.

ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Sapa heard the case against the two accused. During hearing the judge questioned that whether Shah Mehmood Qureshi was a convicted prisoner and where he is housed currently.

The PTI's lawyer adopted the stance that Mr Qureshi was not a convict person and he is in Kot Lakhpat Jail Lahore.

Ji puts forward demands before govt committee in second round of talks

ISLAMABAD (INP) - A second round of dialogue was held between Jamaat-Islami and government on Wednesday.

The Ji had put forward its demands before the governmental committee and said it was committed to prolong the peaceful protest.

Talking to the media after the dialogue, Liaquat Baloch said protest and dialogue would go hand in hand as the party enjoyed the support of the masses.

We have repeatedly said the people could not afford to pay the skyrocketing power bills and therefore the government should show some seriousness.

On the occasion, Federal Minister Amir Muqam said the government, too, wanted to reduce the prices of electricity, petrol and flour.

Some of the demands of the Ji are practical and needed to be implemented, he said.

Moreover, PML-N's Tariq Fazal Chaudhary said the dialogue had happened in a pleasant atmosphere and the prime minister also wanted that the people be given relief.

He said the government would serve the people more than the resources it has.

WCL emerges as 2nd most watched franchise cricket across globe

SINGAPORE (INP): The World Cricket League (WCL) has emerged as most-watched global league in India and second most watched league at international level.

The semi final between India and Australia saw the reflection of yesterday's Yuvraj Singh, Pathan Brothers and Harbhajan Singh while the Pakistan-India final was a great trip down the memory lane with more than 30 Million audience experiencing it.

The WCL garnered a staggering 145 million viewers in India alone, of which 75 million unique viewers tuned in on Star Sports, and approximately 70 million engaged through the digital broadcast platforms.

Pakistan also saw impressive numbers, with digital viewership reaching 40 million. The TV ratings for the finals soared to an incredible 4.9, bringing the total reach to 50 million viewers in the country.

Incidentally these numbers are better than almost all the global leagues broadcasted in both countries.

The WCL's success wasn't limited to the sub-continent. In the UK, the league had great visibility with average daily audience surpassing many concurrent cricket tournaments.

PM lauds Fatima Jinnah's contributions to Pakistan Movement, democracy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday paid tribute to Madra-e-Millat Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah on her birth anniversary, lauding her significant contributions during the Pakistan Movement and for promoting democracy in the country.

"While celebrating Madra-e-Millat Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah's birth anniversary, we reflect on her significant contributions alongside our esteemed founder, Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, during the struggle for independence," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline.

He said that late Fatima Jinnah's commitment to promoting democracy was both remarkable and inspirational. "She remains a respected and beloved role model for all Pakistanis, embodying the spirit of resilience and dedication. The enduring legacy she left behind will continue to illuminate our path forward," he added.

3 policemen killed in Ghotki firing

GHOTKI (APP): Three policemen were killed in a firing incident that took place near Karonti police station area of Ghotki district of Sindh, tv channels quoting SSP reported on Wednesday.

According to SSP Sumair Noor, unknown armed men targeted three police personnel going for duty near Karonti police station located in the vicinity of Ghotki Miami area. As a result of firing, three policemen died on the spot.



LAHORE: Former Justice Nasira Javed Iqbal and other women are cutting the cake on the occasion of Madra-e-Millat Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah's birthday at Awan Karkunan of the provincial capital of Pakistan.

Policemen among three killed in terrorist attack: DPO

PESHAWAR (APP): Three persons including two policemen were killed during terrorists attack on police check point in Khyber tribal district on Wednesday.

District Police Officer (DPO) Khyber, Salim Abbas told journalists that police checkpoint was attacked at Charwazagai area in Landikotal tehsil near the Pak-Afghan border. As a result, two policemen including Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Alamzeb were martyred along with a civilian.

He said that one policeman and a civilian sustained injuries and shifted to hospital.

TENDER NOTICE

The Quetta Development Authority invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composites schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee Rs.3000/- and Bid Security 3% for each work.

S.NO	NAME OF SCHEME	AMOUNT
1	Construction/Black Topping Of 80Ft Road at Zarghoon Housing Scheme, Quetta TSE-242507511673	49,800,000
2	Construction Of Dry Park At Zarghoon Housing Scheme Quetta TSE-242507511653	49,900,000
3	Improvement of Park and Black Topping of Road Near Police Station At Zarghoon Housing scheme, Quetta.PSPD 6663 (2024-25)TSE-242507511743	28,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 35,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm At least one Completed Work order of Park amounting 70% of estimated amount undertaking on Judicial Stamp paper of 100rs that the firm was never blacklisted by any Government /Semi Government organization Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee; Deposit at Call of 3% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed, 3,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 15 August, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 15 August, 2024 till 10:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:00 AM Address: Qda Main Office Saryab Road Quetta.

CHIEF ENGINEERS QUETTA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

AB No.128/31-07-2024

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TENDER NOTICE

TSE-242507511813 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Quetta Development Authority invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates Tender Fee Rs.3000/- and Bid Security 3%

S.No	Name of Works	ECost
1	Installation of Solar Streetlights at Various Streets at Zarghoon Housing Scheme, Block A District Quetta.PSPD 6661 (2024-25)	49,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 35,000,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-5 and above (Upto 65 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE10(i) (General Civil Engineering Works), EE11(i) (Solar), EE11(vi) (General Electrical Works Only), under taking on judicial stamp paper of Rs 100 that firm was never black listed by any Government / Semi Government Organization Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee; Deposit at Call of 3% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed, 3,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 15 August, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 15 August, 2024 till 10:00 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:00 AM Address: Qda Main Office Saryab Road Quetta Phone no: 3018385400 Email: sallooku24@gmail.com

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Federation ought to give....

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be lost while completing the Phase-II and III.

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

The Chief Minister told the meeting that the people associated with agriculture are facing hardships due to non-availability of water in Kachhi canal. As he pleaded to rehabilitate the canal before formulation of the strategy to cope with the flood situation in future, the Federal Minister for Water Resources was agreed with his (CM) proposal and directed to the concerned authorities to take speedy measures for restoration of the water in canal's Phase-I first then work on the project.

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

Earlier, the Chief Minister insisted that the water supply should be restored in the Kachhi canal as the planning of prevention of the flood is a long process.

He also recalled that Kachhi canal project which had been launched in 2002 had been delayed for long. However, work was started on the project in 2013. While irrigation of the unpopulated land measuring around one lakh acre was started under Phase-I of the project, the 2022 flood caused damages to the Kachhi canal suspending supply of water, the Chief Minister added.

Now the situation is that the people of area are not having the water for drinking purposes even, the Chief Minister mentioned adding that migration of the dwellers has been started from the area. Under the situation, he insisted that the water supply should be restored in the Kachhi canal after desalting.

PBBF constitutes new scrutiny committee for KBBA affairs

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) has formed a new scrutiny committee to probe the Karachi Basketball Association (KBBA) and assess its affiliated clubs.

Initially, Mahfooz-ul-Haq was appointed as the chairman of the committee. However, due to personal reasons, he excused himself from the position. Consequently, the PBBF reconstituted the committee, appointing Muhammad Ashfaq as the new chairman. The committee also includes Islam Khan Niazi and Wasim ur Rehman as members.

The newly formed committee has been tasked with thoroughly scrutinizing the operations and governance of the KBBA. The PBBF has expressed confidence that the committee will conduct a comprehensive review and submit its findings in a timely manner.



ZIARAT: Chairman Al-Hijra Trust Abdul Karim Saqib presenting shields to Speaker Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, Secretary Finance Babar Khan and CEO BRSP Tahir Rasheed

Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh...

Continued from page 1

the assassination of Haniyeh is a "cowardly act that will not go unpunished".

Haniyeh, normally based in Qatar, has been the face of the Palestinian group's international diplomacy as the war set off by the Hamas-led attack on Israel on October 7 has raged in Gaza, where three of his sons were killed in an Israeli airstrike.

Appointed to the Hamas top job in 2017, Haniyeh has moved between Turkey and Qatar's capital Doha, escaping the travel curbs of the blocked Gaza Strip and enabling him to act as a negotiator in ceasefire talks or to talk to Hamas' ally Iran.

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

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

Extending condolences to his family and the people of Palestine, the Foreign Office spokesperson reiterated that Pakistan condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations including extrajudicial and extraterritorial killings, irrespective of the motives.

"Pakistan views with serious concern the growing Israeli adventurism in the region. Its latest acts constitute a dangerous escalation in an already volatile region and undermine efforts for peace," the spokesperson added.

Jamat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman, Sirajul Haq, and Pakistan Muslim League-N Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed have expressed grief over the death of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh.

In a message on X, Ji Emir Hafiz Naeem said Ismail Haniyeh's migration and martyrdom was a dedication towards Allah.

He praised Haniyeh by saying that Hamas chief had fought the cruelest power on earth.

Naeem said Ismail Haniyeh, the lion of Allah, had succeeded and made his way towards paradise.

The Ji emir said Israel and its guardians would pay the price for this cruelty.

"Israel's actions have put the world in new challenges, it is evident that this war will no longer be limited to Gaza," he said.

Ex-emir Siraj ul Haq expresses his grief.

Ji's ex-emir Sirajul Haq also condemned the incident and praised Hamas by highlighting their effort toward fighting Israel for the cause of Palestine's independence.

He addressed the Muslim world by saying that the Muslims needed to react effectively and must give a befitting response to Israel.

Haq further said dialogue was not the solution anymore and Israel must exit the Muslim territory.

"Israel is a terrorist who has occupied the Muslim territory. This is not the fight of Gaza or Palestine anymore but the fight of the whole Muslim world," he said.



KHUNJURA: International tourist enjoying their trip and posing for Picture at Pak-China Boarder Khunjra Pass.

TENDER NOTICE

The GOVERNMENT POULTRY FARM QUETTA invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-242507511311 Only electronic bid will be submitted. No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Rs.1000/-

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Animal Food & Medicine (Total Item(s) Count: 1)	170,000 PKR

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 2 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 850,000 in Previous 2 Years Turn over of at least 3,000,000 PKR in 2 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List Sales Tax Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Poultry Feed Layer Mash Samples Submission of the required Bidding document Fee Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of amount 170,000 PKR specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gov.pk Issuance of tender Documents: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gov.pk Last Date of bid submission: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 19 August, 2024 till 03:00 PM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at 04:00 PM on EPPS System Address: Govt Poultry Farm Brewery Road Quetta Near SBK University Phone no: 0819213141 Email: govtpoultryfarmq7165@gmail.com

PRQ No.429/31-07-2024

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NOTICE FOR CANCELLATION

This office tender published under PRQ No.278/18-07-2024 vide TSE No.242507500723 regarding the development work "Construction of BT road and sewerage line at Mir Haqmal Raisani near Irrigation Colony & Mashwani Street, Buledi Street Killi Bangulzai District Quetta PSPD 1851 (Z204.0191)", is hereby cancelled due to some unavoidable circumstances. The next date for re-calling of tender will be communicated through advertisement in News Paper as well as BPPRA website.

Executive Engineer
Project Division-I, Quetta.

PRQ No.436/31-07-2024

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TENDER NOTICE

The MANAGER GOVT. DAIRY FARM KOHLU invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-242507510151 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Rs.1000/-

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Animal Food & Medicine (Total Item(s) Count: 3)	2%

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 3,000,000 in Previous 3 Years Turn over of at least 3,000,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List Sales Tax Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan JV is not permissible Submission of the required Bid Security in case Bid Security is not found as required during financial evaluation the bidding firm shall be declared as in-eligible and non-responsive Submission of the required Bidding document Fee All Samples are required at farm before tender opening Feed Will Be sent to Laboratory for Analysing Profile level Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication of NIT to 15 August, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 15 August, 2024 till 11:15 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:15 PM Address: Dairy Farm Kohlu Phone no: 0829667396 Email: livestockklu@gmail.com

PRQ No.430/31-07-2024

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TENDER NOTICE

The MANAGER GOVT. DAIRY FARM KOHLU invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. TSE-242507510151 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Rs.1000/-

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PRQ No.430/31-07-2024

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Pakistan provides remarkable job opportunities to youth: Commonwealth SG

ISLAMABAD (APP): Commonwealth Secretary General Rt Patricia Scotland on Wednesday said that Pakistan under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has remarkably provided opportunities, resources and support to the youth.

She expressed these views while addressing the Young Entrepreneurs Awards distribution ceremony here at the Prime Minister's office.

Under the leadership of Chairman Prime Minister Youth Program Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, this program is taking significant steps to empower the youth, she said.

"There is a need to empower the youth and harness modern technology for the prosperous future of the country and Commonwealth Organization is committed to providing all possible facilities to the innovators," she said.

Patricia said she is grateful to the people and government of Pakistan for their warm welcome and hospitality in the country.

"I have worn a Pakistani dress which proves that I am also a Pakistani. The efforts of the government of Pakistan under the leadership of the Prime

Minister to empower the youth are commendable," she said.

She said the Pakistani government is taking steps to highlight the potential of the youth as per the Chartered Commonwealth of Nations adding efforts to provide employment and business facilities to the youth reflect their commitment.

The Commonwealth secretary said that 60 percent of the youth in the world are below 30 years of age, while 65 percent of the youth in Pakistan are between 18 to 30 years of age.

"Pakistan can lead the country on the path of development by training the youth in modern technology and making them skilled so that they can also play an important role in the development of the world," she said.

She said that the commonwealth recognizes the courage and determination of the youth for country's national and economic development, as young people are the driving force to bring a change.

She also lauded the role of Chairman Prime Minister Youth Program Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan for taking crucial steps for empowering

youth through various initiatives and programmes.

She said that the recipients of the Young Entrepreneurs Awards need to transform themselves in the context of a rapidly changing world through the emerging multi-billion dollar market of artificial intelligence.

Speaking on the occasion, Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan thanked the Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland for her maiden visit to Pakistan for strengthening the relations of Pakistan with the Commonwealth.

He said that Pakistan's ranked as 3rd in the employment and opportunity category of the global Youth Development Index by the Commonwealth is a testament to the incredible potential and resilience of our young entrepreneurs.

This achievement is not merely a statistic but a reflection Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision.

Under the Prime Minister's Youth Loan and Agricultural Scheme, started in 2013, as many as 186 billion had been distributed among more than two lakh eighty thousand young entrepreneurs, creating countless employment opportunities across the nation.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui inaugurated a new building for the Pakistan Education Endowment Fund (PEEF).

Romina says: Pakistan Wildlife Protection Awards honour collective resolve for biodiversity conservation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam on Wednesday said the Pakistan Wildlife Protection Awards conferred upon six exemplary wildlife protectors from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan symbolise the collective resolve for biodiversity conservation.

She was addressing the Pakistan Wildlife Protection Awards as chief guest to mark the World Ranger Day here at the Pakistan National Council of

the Arts (PNCA) jointly organized by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Snow Leopard Foundation, and Devcom-Pakistan with the support of Snow Leopard Trust, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, PNCA, and the provincial wildlife and forest departments of Gilgit-Baltistan, AJK, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Romina Khurshid Alam said these individuals have shown extraordinary courage and dedication in protecting the precious wildlife and natural habitats. "Their efforts remind

us of the crucial role that each of us plays in preserving the biodiversity that sustains our ecosystems. These awards are not merely tokens of appreciation, they symbolize our collective resolve to support and honor those who stand at the forefront of conservation.

We shall not forget the challenges that lie ahead. Climate change poses a significant threat to our ecosystems and the wildlife that inhabit them. It is imperative that we continue to strengthen our conservation efforts," the PM's aide said.

Brussels photo fair highlights Kashmir's plight in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels has organized a week-long photo exhibition to shed light on the suffering of the innocent people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK), as part of the observance of Yaum-e-Istehsaal Kashmir.

Hosted by the embassy of Pakistan in Brussels, the exhibition invites everyone to visit and show solidarity with the people of IIOJK. It serves as a powerful reminder of the ongoing conflict and India's actions that violate United Nations Security Council

(UNSC) resolutions.

The photo exhibition provides a visual narrative of the struggles and hardships faced by the people of IIOJK under occupation. Through compelling images, the exhibition seeks to raise awareness about the human rights violations and the urgent need for international intervention to ensure justice and peace in the region. Ambassador Amna Baloch, during her inaugural address, emphasized the significance of Yaum-e-Istehsaal Kashmir as a day of solidarity with the people of IIOJK.

Iran Embassy pays tribute to Fatima Jinnah on birth anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Iran Embassy on Wednesday paid tribute to Madr-e-Millat, Mohtarama Fatima Jinnah, on her 131st birth anniversary.

The embassy, in a statement, termed her character fully inspiring as a woman and leader.

It quoted Fatima Jinnah as saying: "People of Pakistan are by nature devoted to the cause of peace and goodwill."



ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commission GB Raja Shehbaz Khan is taking his oath of office from Chief Justice Supreme Appellate Court Gilgit-Baltistan Justice Rana Muhammad Shamim Khan, Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan, Federal Minister Engineer Amir Muqam and other distinguished guests are also present. Chief Election Commissioner Raja Shehbaz Khan After the completion of the term, their re-appointment for the next five years has been effected.

Monsoon rainfall to intensify until August 5, Chenab river at risk of flooding: PMD DG

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Director General Mahr Sahibzad Khan Wednesday predicted that the country will experience continued rainfall until 4 to 5 August, with a focus on the Chenab river, which is expected to face an alarming situation.

Talking to PTV news channel, he said the Chenab river will be under significant pressure due to the heavy downpour, posing a risk of flooding in nearby areas, adding, while other rivers are also expected to swell, the Chenab river is of particular concern.

The PMD has advised authorities and residents to take necessary precautions

and remain vigilant in the face of this impending situation, he added.

The continued rainfall is expected to bring relief from the heat, but also poses a threat to infrastructure and human settlements, making it essential for timely action to mitigate potential disasters, he mentioned.

In response to a question, Director General of Meteorology, Mahr Sahibzad Khan, emphasized the importance of staying informed about the latest weather updates, particularly regarding lightning and other severe weather conditions.

He advised all concerned departments and

citizens to regularly check the Pakistan Meteorological Department's (PMD) website for the latest forecasts, warnings, and updates.

By doing so, individuals can stay ahead of potentially hazardous weather situations and take necessary precautions to ensure their safety, he added. The DG Met stressed that staying informed is crucial in minimizing the risks associated with severe weather events, and encouraged everyone to make it a habit to regularly check the PMD website for updates, especially during the monsoon season when weather conditions can change rapidly.

UK-funded A2D Facility launches its first funding call for proposal

ISLAMABAD (INP): The UK-funded Accelerate-to-Demonstrate (A2D) Facility, launched by the UN Industrial Development Organisation, has launched its first funding call for proposal.

The UK's funding of £65.5m is part of its commitment to delivering pragmatic and tangible action to tackle climate change. A2D aims to accelerate the commercialization of innovative clean energy technologies in developing countries, in-

cluding Pakistan, through funding pilot projects that have the potential to have transformational impacts.

The A2D Facility currently focuses on supporting pilot demonstration projects of innovative clean energy technologies in the following key thematic areas: Critical Minerals; Clean Hydrogen; Smart Energy; and Industrial Decarbonization.

For more information and to submit expressions of interest, visit UNIDO portal.

1,00,000 bikers fined over helmet violation

ISLAMABAD (INP): Islamabad Traffic Police issued more than 1,00,000 fine tickets to motorcyclists driving bikes without helmets during the ongoing year, a public relations officer said.

He said that the Islamabad Traffic Police is endeavoring to maintain an onerous traffic system in the city and check those involved in negligence on roads.

A vigorous campaign of Islamabad Traffic police had been launched as per the directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, in order to create awareness among citizens about the traffic rules.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar chaired first meeting of the Committee to give recommendations for independent Drug Pricing Body.

Senator Sherry criticizes MoCCE's egregious lack of coordination

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairing a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman along with the Committee members expressed serious concerns about the Ministry of Climate Change's planning, priorities and preparedness in addressing Pakistan's climate and environmental policies. The meeting was attended by key stakeholders, including Coordinator for Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam, the Secretary of the Ministry of Climate Change, and officials from relevant departments.

Senator Rehman expressed her profound disappointment with the

Ministry's presentation on climate change. "I am appalled by the lack of clarity, coordination, and capacity displayed in the presentation. As the Chair of the Standing Senate Committee, I expected to see a clear strategic plan, priorities, and initiatives to address this pressing issue."

Marking the urgency and scale of the challenges Pakistan faces, Senator Rehman said that climate change is a national crisis requiring a coordinated, yet technically proficient response. "I am shocked to see an outdated last century presentation with no clear priorities, no flagship initiatives, and no strategic NDC agenda or updates."

New Energy Nexus, PPSE launch Cleantech forum to focus supporting ecosystem

ISLAMABAD (APP): Renewables First, in collaboration with New Energy Nexus and the Pakistan Private Sector Energy (PPSE) Project, launched a Cleantech Forum on Wednesday focusing on supporting the ecosystem for cleantech startups in the country.

The Forum brought together investors, startups, academia, think-tanks, development partners, and Entrepreneur Support Organizations (ESOs) to discuss the opportunities and challenges for a thriving cleantech ecosystem in Pakistan, said a press release.

New Energy Nexus is expanding its impact in Pakistan through a partnership with Renewables First, the country's leading

think-tank for energy and the environment. This partnership aims to drive economic growth, job creation, and increased international investment in Pakistan's burgeoning cleantech sector. "Our partnership with New Energy Nexus marks a significant milestone in Renewables First's mission of accelerating Pakistan's energy transition," said Zeeshan Ashfaq, CEO of Renewables First.

Stanley Ng, Global Partnerships Director at New Energy Nexus, set the stage by highlighting global programs that support the cleantech ecosystem in various countries. He highlighted New Energy Nexus's global footprint across 15 countries and its success in creating over 8,000 jobs.

AJK Council members call on Muqam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) Council members called on Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engr Amir Muqam at Kashmir Council on Wednesday.

During the meetings, the matters pertaining to Kashmir Council development projects and problems faced by the masses were discussed in detail, said a press release.

They also discussed preparations regarding Youm-e-Istehsal on August 5. The minister said that Youm-e-Istehsal would be observed in an effective manner on August 5. The Council members briefed the minister regarding preparations for August 5 "Youm-e-Istehsal".

The AJK Council members included Khawaja Tariq Saeed Advocate, Raja Shujah Khurshid, Sardar Adnan Khalid, Younas Mir and Hanif Malik.

Law minister chairs meeting of body for drug pricing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Wednesday chaired the first meeting of the committee formed to give recommendations for independent drug pricing in the country.

Under the directions of the prime minister, a committee has been constituted to address drug pricing in Pakistan, said a press release.

The meeting was attended by relevant stakeholders who presented an overview of the operations of independent price authorities and their functions worldwide, highlighting best practices.

The committee deliberated on the best model for Pakistan, considering various viewpoints from all stakeholders. It was decided that a detailed working paper will be prepared for the next meeting. This paper will identify the current issues related to the pharmaceutical industry,

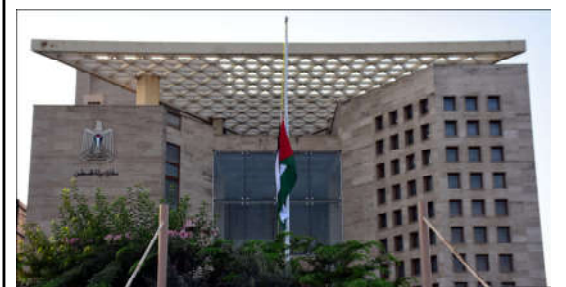
with a focus on pricing in the market.

Key areas to be addressed include, issues related to pricing in the market, medicine imports and the market distortions they cause and categories of drugs that fall outside the domain of government pricing.

Additionally, efforts and plans will be made to create a favorable environment to attract back international pharmaceutical companies that previously operated in Pakistan.

The committee emphasized that the functions of pricing and regulation are distinct. The regulator's role is to ensure the standards of medicine, whereas pricing should be driven by market mechanisms without state control.

Further updates will be shared as the committee progresses in its efforts to improve the pharmaceutical industry's framework in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Embassy of Palestine in Islamabad hoisted the flag at half-mast to mourn the martyrdom of head of the Hamas movement, senior leader Ismail Haniyeh.

Country's economy on right track due to gov't policies: Aqeel

ISLAMABAD (APP): Government's Spokesperson on Legal Affairs Barrister Aqeel Malik on Wednesday said that the economic situation of the country was on way to improvement due to the policies of the federal government.

Addressing a press conference, he said that economic indicators were on positive trajectory, adding that Fitch rating and continuity of IMF programme reflected that economy was on the right track.

Barrister Aqeel said that a party was continuously spreading negative propaganda against the country. "If Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is a political party, it should talk to the political parties. With whom it wants to talk, this facility is not available there," he said.

Barrister Aqeel said that an anarchist group has not spared any effort against the integrity of the country. He said that PTI has not only hurt the country on economic front but also damaged the image of Pakistan internationally.

Adviser on Legal Affairs Barrister Aqeel Malik said that the country's economic situation was on the way to improvement. "The government's initiatives to improve the economy are commendable," he said.

Comprehensive plan will be made to promote sports in Islamabad: Director

ISLAMABAD (INP): The All Islamabad Junior Full Contact Martial Arts Championship successfully concluded at the Capital Arena, Mega Zone F-9 Islamabad.

This event was organized by the Islamabad Sports Board in collaboration with Full Contact Martial Arts Islamabad, boys and girls from various local Martial Arts clubs competed in different weight categories, showcasing their fighting skills and dedication.

The championship was graced by Chief Guest Madam Bushra Iqbal Rao, Director of the Sports

Board and Development Office of the Commissioner Office Islamabad, Sports Secretary Chaudhry Muhammad Afzal and Associate Secretary Ramzan Kasuri.

The event was hosted by Grand Master Muzmal Mehbob and Miss Shimok from the management of Capital Arena, Mega Zone, Sensei Ibrahim from Raisalpur served as the referee with the team of Corner judges included Sajid Hasan, Nauman Akhtar, Ali Khan, and Zia ul Haq, while Senior Master Entakhab Alam led the Supreme Jury.



MUZAFFRABAD: Labourers are busy in construction work with the help of heavy machinery alongside a road in the city.

PIDE Organized Memorial of Dr. Syed Nawab Haider Naqvi

ISLAMABAD: A heartfelt memorial service was held today at the Islamabad Club to honor the life and legacy of Prof. Dr. Syed Nawab Haider Naqvi, a distinguished economist, prolific author, and revered academician.

The event, organized by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), brought together family, friends, colleagues, and former students to pay tribute to his immense contributions to the field of economics and his dedication to education.

Prof. Dr. Syed Nawab Haider Naqvi (July

11, 1935 – July 7, 2024) was a renowned Pakistani economist and scholar, known for his extensive contributions to economic theory and policy. Born in Meerut, British India, he migrated to Karachi, Pakistan in 1950. Dr. Naqvi earned his master's degree from Yale University in 1961 and his doctorate from Princeton University in 1966, followed by post-doctoral research at Harvard University.

Dr. Naqvi served as the director of PIDE from 1979 to 1995. His career also included roles as a senior economic advisor for the National Electric Power



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environment, alongside Sardar Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari, Senator and Wildlife Ambassador, presented awards to the winners of the "Wildlife in Pakistan" Photo-Exhibition during the 6th Wildlife Protection Awards Ceremony 2024 took place at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) in the Federal Capital.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Thursday August 01, 2024

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 Bareilvi 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.

Rafia Zakaria

In between the cat videos and scenes of Bollywood dances dutifully performed at various cousins' weddings are a different set of clips. These clips feature colourised images of some of the first 'films' ever made. Some of them, taken in the 1800s, show people from the Victorian age peering into camera. On the faces of these long dead people is the same expression with which we view the advancements of technology today — a mix of curiosity, wonder and bewilderment. Time travel may not yet have been invented but this sort of recreation provides a glimpse of the people of the past — ordinary like us, unique like us and long dead as all of us will be.

There is a very particular reason I seek out these images of the past. Such is the self-absorbed solipsism of human nature that even as we are certain about our own fi-

nality we sink deep into the quagmire of petty problems. As we drive to work and back home, as we do the many tasks that life requires, we are beset by them. We agonise over what will happen, what will not, why a certain person spoke so rudely and was indifferent, whether our bosses like us, and why our relatives look at us with envy. The list is endless. Small disruptions in our lives, an illness, car trouble, a leaking roof, or water shortage can throw our mental peace off balance. We get frustrated, we are consumed — and most of the time we cannot help it.

This overwhelming sense of unease is compounded if decision-making is even more momentous: which career to choose, to migrate or not, to marry this one or that. The significance of these choices weighs heavily upon us and quickly gets inflated and becomes a do-or-die moment. Such are the games that our minds play on us that we narrow our perspective to

our small enclosures, our families, our little worlds; against them these questions appear large and looming.

This is where aper-tures into the past can help us. In moments where I have felt the great stress of big decisions or the myriad small stresses of life in general, I turn to what I call 'big history'. I use the term to reference the lives of people who lived thousands of years ago. The earliest agricultural settlements of the Neolithic age showed up around 10,000 years ago. One such settlement that included thousands of people can be found in Turkey. Catalhöyük had up to 8,000 people living there for centuries. The carefully reconstructed homes of the people here show small rooms with walls decorated with geometric mosaics. Interior decor, therefore, was a thing that long preceded later civilisations. Human beings were living in homes and trying to make them beautiful.

As they are for us, the myriad petty problems of life, who got a larger share of the hunt, whose house was more beautiful, and who had more animal skulls to display, were likely concerns for the people of this ancient agricultural settlement.

There are a lot of questions about the residents of this settlement: what they ate, how they lived, what prompted them to bury their dead under the floors of their homes, why the openings of their homes were closer to the roof than to the ground, etc.

These answers are not well known, but the real magic of the stories of these people lies in their similarity to our lives, even though they dwell in a past that is almost unimaginable to us. Scientists have shown that the human genome has not changed much at all since those days. In evolutionary terms, our ways of thinking, of processing information are not very different.

The benefit of immersing yourself in epochs long gone, particularly those stretching

many centuries into the past, is that it immediately changes the scale at which we assess our own lives. Like the people of the past, there are little emblems: why we bury our dead the way we do, why we wear loose tunics and trousers, adorn our faces with different kinds of paint, etc.

When we investigate the past, we see ourselves from the vantage point of our future and realise how trivial our daily concerns and consternations really are. Such is the power of scaling up our perspective. When we consider the trivialities of these past lives, we realise that the decisions and choices facing us, the judgement calls, the suffering and pain of life, are just as humdrum as they have always been. When we consider the lives of those who lived 10,000 years ago, the total of our civilisation seems like the tiniest blip in the story of human existence.

Scale then delivers its own kind of freedom. When we keep the tremendous brevity of our

moment in time in mind, we realise that nothing that we do is really that important beyond the meaning and import that we bestow on it ourselves. All achievements, all wins, and all losses will dissipate when we do. Our children and grandchildren may remember who we are but a few generations after that we would have been forgotten, our peculiarities, our singularities will all be gone.

If we can only get through life without causing hurt and pain to others then that is in itself enough. Knowing that our particular lives only really bear importance for the smallest aperture in the history of humankind makes us free, less afraid of making poor judgement calls and mistakes. Suddenly, as if by magic we realise how truly insignificant in the grand scheme of things our fears and concerns really are. In that knowledge there is sweet and forgiving deliverance from the inexorable march of life. - Courtesy Dawn

Trouble in Balochistan

Zahid Hussain

Events in Balochistan have been extremely disturbing of late. The past few days alone have brought tensions in the troubled region to a head. The brute force used by the authorities to stop a peaceful protest rally has inflamed an already volatile situation. The province stands dangerously polarised. Yet, those in power seem to have no realisation of the gravity of the situation.

Thousands of people from across the province have gathered in Gwadar, protesting not only against enforced disappearances but also for their democratic rights. A number of people, including security personnel, have reportedly been killed or injured in the clashes. Scores of marchers have been detained and roadblocks placed in many parts.

All the administration's efforts, however, have failed to stop the rally which has been organised by the Baloch Yakjehti Committee and is supported by some Baloch nationalist parties. It was not the

first such protest against enforced disappearances in the province and outside, but it has certainly been the most consequential in recent years. Led by Mahrang Baloch, the young firebrand medical doctor, the BYC has emerged as the most powerful voice against state oppression.

Angry protesters have brought life to a halt in all major towns in southern Balochistan, which has become the centre of discontent. The use of violence by the administration and roadblocks to stop the march have further infuriated the public. Anti-establishment protests have spread to a large part of the province. They reflect the growing alienation of the Baloch population, which has long been deprived of its fundamental rights.

A large number of the demonstrators are women, whose family members have either been missing for years or have been killed, their cruelly tortured bodies found dumped. It is alleged that they had been picked up by security personnel. Mahrang Baloch her-

self has experienced this. Her father was abducted in 2009 and his tortured remains were recovered in 2011. These events propelled her to become an activist for the Baloch.

The persecution of male political activists has forced their women relatives to take to the streets and lead the movement. The number of enforced disappearances and incidents of judicial killings have increased, with the state facing growing separatist militancy. The main objective of the peaceful protest is to draw attention to the plight of the hapless population.

Unfortunately, their cries for justice have fallen on deaf ears; the authorities, instead of assuaging their woes, are stifling the protesters' voices. We hear the same old mantra of anti-state elements being behind the protests. There is no realisation of the widening divide between the Baloch people and the state. The people have no trust in the manipulated political system imposed on the province through rigged elections. The authority of the state is now being increasingly chal-

lenged by people's power in retaliation to the suppression of the democratic process.

Balochistan has witnessed a low-intensity conflict for several years now, with the latest phase beginning some two decades back after relative peace from 1980 to 1988 — the latter was the year that civilian rule was restored after the Zia era, and Baloch nationalists began to be reintegrated into the political mainstream. But that uneasy calm ended when, during Gen Musharraf's rule, the tribal chief Nawab Akbar Bugti was killed in an army operation in 2006. Simmering discontent once again spilled over as fresh hostilities began. Instead of finding a political solution to end the growing public discontent, the state adopted the kinetic option.

Baloch grievances are very real and of long standing. Yet force has been used to crush the people's voice. Despite its natural wealth, the province is the most underdeveloped region in Pakistan, and is ranked low on social indicators. Even the much-touted de-

velopment under CPEC has done little to rescue Balochistan from poverty.

Balochistan's Gwadar seaport, which is supposed to be the flagship project of the multibillion-dollar CPEC, has unsurprisingly become the main centre of public unrest. While the local population is living in absolute poverty, with few education and healthcare facilities available to them, prime real estate on the coast is being allotted to outsiders. The town has been the venue of many protests in recent years. But the BYC was not given permission to arrange a rally in the town for 'security reasons'.

It is in such circumstances that many Baloch youth, who had lost hope in the flawed democratic political process, have been inclined to join militant groups. Extrajudicial killings and the illegal detention of political activists have pushed many educated and disgruntled youth to the wall. A large number of Baloch students have been picked up allegedly by security agencies from university campuses in the country. The

fear is that they will never come home.

Such draconian measures and denial of democratic rights have been the major reason behind the rise of separatist militancy in the province. Surely, there is some truth to the allegation of external support for Baloch militant groups, but the real cause of the militancy is rooted in state repression and the denial of democratic rights. The state crackdown is providing ready recruits to militant groups. The authorities cannot control the growing public discontent by resorting to brute force. As the events of the past week have shown, repressive action cannot work to crush the people's struggle.

One has to listen to what Mahrang Baloch and other Baloch leaders are saying. They just want the state to stop enforced disappearances and give the Baloch people their democratic political rights. They also want the Baloch people to get their due share of development and local economic resources. If these saner voices are suppressed, there will be no hope for the future.

Caracas conundrum

Mahir Ali

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maduro, picked by Chávez as his successor not long before he succumbed to cancer in 2013, had working-class credentials as a bus driver, but lacked his mentor's charisma and driving force. There were, no doubt, flaws in Chávez's conduct of affairs, but nothing approaching what has occurred under Maduro's watch. According to the New York Times, hardly a fan of socialist experiments, "businessmen and foreign investors had largely made peace with [Maduro's] government in recent years. Sanctions imposed by the United States had forced Mr Maduro to ditch some extreme policies like price and currency controls. The private sector was

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

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

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

Maduro's possibly pyrrhic victory has been greeted by Russia, China, Syria, Nicaragua, Cuba and a few other states, but the likes of Brazil and Chile are wisely holding out for more complete results. It is not hard to imagine how Maduro might actually have been defeated by an equally incompetent rival, or how neither of them would concede defeat.

There is little likelihood that Venezuela would prosper under a reactionary regime, and no one can say what will emerge from the current protests in Caracas. Ultimately, though, history is likely to see Chávez as a hopeful disruptor and Maduro as a hopeless successor. -- Courtesy Dawn

Elite finance ministers

Muhammad Usama Shahid

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

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

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

However, he is not the only finance minister

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Murad, WFP country chief agree to strengthen disaster response, climate change adaptation

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and United Nations World Food Program (WFP) Country Director Ms Coco Ushiyama in their meeting agreed to strengthen their collaboration in Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Mitigation, Climate Change Adaptation, Acute Malnutrition & Stunting, School Meals, and expanding Food Silos under WFP's five-year Country Strategic Plan.

The chief minister recognized the enduring partnership between the Sindh government and WFP in addressing humanitarian and development challenges in the province.

The meeting was held at the CM House and was attended by Chairman P&D Najam Shah, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh and WFP representatives here on Wednesday.

Murad Shah mentioned the successful collaboration with WFP in conducting the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and the formulation of the 4RF (Resilient, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework) for sustainable recovery in alignment with the Sindh Strategic Action Plan for Flood 2022. WFP is also involved in disaster preparation, mitigation and reduction in Sindh. Additionally, WFP and its partners implemented a \$200,000 Disaster Risk and Reduction Management Programme benefiting over 51,000 people in Dadu and Qambar-Shadkot districts in 2023.

He said that provincial government with the support of WFP, under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), was providing various services, including nutrition, health and social behaviour change to pregnant and breastfeeding women and their children enrolled in the program. To date, over 830,000 individuals in 140 Static and Mobile Facilitation Centers across 30 districts have been enrolled in the program.

WFP also supports the Adolescent Girls Nutrition Programme and is expanding its wheat flour fortification initiative using small-scale wheat mills under the Chakki Fortification Programme in eight districts of Sindh.

Regarding Food System Strengthening, the chief minister expressed the need to enhance wheat storage capacity in the province.

He said that WFP, through the International Financing Corporation (IFC), was supporting the provincial Food Department to construct strategic grain reserves with a total capacity of 1.085 million MT through a Public Private Partnership to modernize storage infrastructure for efficient management of wheat reserves.



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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tessori expresses condolence on demise of over 230 people in Ethiopian landslide

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor Sindh, Kamran Khan Tessori on Wednesday visited the Ethiopian embassy to express condolence on demise of over 230 people in landslide incident, in Gofa Zone of the Southern part of Ethiopia.

Upon arrival at the embassy, Special Envoy, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia Jemal Beker Abdula, received the Governor Sindh.

The Governor Sindh expressed solidarity with the government and people of Ethiopia over the tragic incident and sympathized with the bereaved families.

He expressed his support and commitment to jointly work with the government of Ethiopia in addressing the climate change issues.

Ambassador Jemal Beker briefed the governor about relief and rescue efforts of the government of the Ethiopia being carried out for permanent relocation of the affected persons in sustainable manner.

The ambassador also highlighted the Green Legacy Initiative of Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Dr. Abiy Ahmed which was aimed at combating climate challenges and ensuring food security in the country and region as well.

He informed the Governor that Ethiopia had planted more than 40 billion seedlings of indigenous plants of fruits, vegetable and animal feed in the last four years through massive mobilization of the masses.

Ambassador Jemal Beker expressed his commitment to work with the Government of Pakistan for addressing the climate change issues through joint initiatives under the Green Legacy Initiative. The matters of mutual interests including bilateral and multilateral cooperation also came under discussion during the meeting.



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

Artificial price hikes intolerable: Maryam

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has emphasised that artificial price increases could not be tolerated. During a crucial meeting here on Wednesday, she discussed a comprehensive strategy to control prices of daily-use items, focusing on commodities such as chicken and milk.

This was the second such meeting within a week aimed at formulating a robust mechanism to curb price manipulation.

The CM instructed authorities concerned to launch a special campaign against milk adulteration and enhance the system for price monitoring and stabilisation. Maryam Nawaz stressed the need for all stakeholders to collaborate in improving supply chain performance. She highlighted that leveraging modern technology is essential to achieving price stability.

Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, and Price Control Task Force Chairperson Salma Butt were present at the meeting. Also in attendance were Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Secretary Agriculture Iftikhar Sahoo, Secretary Food Moazzam Sipra, Secretary Livestock Masood Anwar, Principal Secretary to the CM Sajid Zafar Dal, and other relevant officials.

Sukkur-Karachi air ambulance service in pipeline: Kumail Shah

SUKKUR (APP): The eighth budget meeting for the fiscal year 2024-25 was convened at the District Council Hall, presided over by Chairman Syed Kamal Haider Shah.

During the session, council members tabled various proposals, which were subsequently approved by a majority vote. Key approvals included a grant of Rs 20 million for free medical treatment of underprivileged patients at Sukkur Blood Bank Hospital, as well as Rs 5 million for the construction of an additional emergency ward at Sukkur Civil Hospital.

The meeting gave the green light to a proposal to levy new taxes on industrial establishments, cold storage facilities, fueling stations, LPG outlets (registered), poultry farms, and other commercial ventures in Sukkur.

Furthermore, the meeting approved a revision of the existing tax structure and rental fees for shops of District Council. It also approved to establish mud checkpoints to enhance the security of police personnel. A proposal for transportation facilities for students from rural areas enrolled in Aror University's Art and Architecture programs was presented in the council.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi in a group photo with the faculty and students of the Department of Arts & Design, University at Governor House.

Chairman HEC Sindh emphasizes significance of collaboration among universities

KARACHI (APP): Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Sindh, Prof. Dr. Tariq Rafi on Wednesday observed that only a select few universities have undertaken significant IT initiatives and emphasized the importance of collaboration among universities.

He was speaking at the chief guest in an event hosted by Institute of Business Management (IoBM), New Horizon and Huawei Technologies to showcase how the newly deployed IT infrastructure is transforming the work environment.

Prof. Dr. Tariq Rafi said that scenario in education requires all stakeholders to serve in harmony because working in silos will not yield meaningful results. "Even with technological advancements, human interaction remains essential," he added.

He said that things across the globe are changing in front of our eyes and skills are more important in present era and if anyone possessed skills, he will be welcomed.

The event highlighted IoBM's leadership in digital transformation, with Huawei Technologies as the technology provider and New Horizon deploying the IT infrastructure.

The objective of the initiative was to streamline day-to-day and strategic objectives, make IoBM a paperless institution, enhance its LMS software, improve data security, facilitate remote learning, enable efficient resource management, and support innovative teaching methodologies.

Governor grieves over attack on check post in Landikotal

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday strongly condemned the attack on police check post located at Pak-Afghan road Landikotal district Khyber.

In a condolence message, the Governor expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of three persons including two policemen.

Governor prayed Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and early recovery of the injured and grant courage to bereaved family members to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude.

ANF recovers 242 kg drugs in 7 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations across the country recovered 242 kg drugs and arrested 10 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday.

He informed that 2.5 kg ice was recovered from a parcel booked for New Zealand at a courier office in Rawalpindi. 96 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up near a restaurant in Quetta.

64 intoxicated tablets were recovered from an accused arrested near GCP Chaman. Over 40 kg hashish and 30 kg opium were recovered from 2 suspects netted in Sheikhpura.

PDWP approves 7 development schemes worth Rs 8.974bn

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

CS takes report on price difference in districts

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

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

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

He said that there was no justification for the clear difference in the prices of potatoes, onions and other vegetables in different districts, adding that the prices fixed in the markets of the districts should be compared and the report should be sent on a daily basis.

The Chief Secretary said that implementation of the notified prices was the responsibility of the administration. He directed the deputy commissioners to take action against the price magistrates who are not performing their duties.

KPITB's MD Government committed to vision of digital KP

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

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

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

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

Bismah Mirza, Executive Director of RED International, praised KPITB's efforts, stating, "We have conducted these camps in several districts of the province and have trained 250 youth so far."

RED Director Abid Hussain expressed gratitude on behalf of his team to the US Consulate Peshawar, KPITB, Akif Khan, Shoaib Yousafzai, and Durshal Coordinator Hanif Jang.

During the camp, participants worked on innovative solutions to challenges such as climate change, disabilities, health, women empowerment, and inclusive products.

The speakers emphasized the importance of initiatives like the BEST boot camp for empowering the youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with digital skills and fostering their ideas and guidance.

Khawaja Salman ensures preparedness for flood risks

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Health Minister and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Disaster Management Khawaja Salman Rafique announced that Management Authority (PDMA) on Wednesday.

In the meeting, he emphasized the importance of river erosion prevention schemes which will be approved following a detailed model study. This study will include an assessment of the affected population, agricultural land, and the economic situation in the regions at risk. He highlighted the proactive measures taken by the administration of Dera Ghazi Khan which provided a briefing on preparations for possible flooding in hill torrents.

The minister directed district administrations to remove encroachments from river basins and channels and to educate citizens about the risks of rains and floods. He stressed the importance of using mosques and other local resources to disseminate information, urging district revenue.

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

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

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

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

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

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



HYDERABAD: Opposition members of district government are holding protest demonstration against Districts Councils Budget 2024-25 during district assembly annual budget session presided by Mayor Kashif Shoro held in Hyderabad.



Management Authority (PDMA) on Wednesday. In the meeting, he emphasized the importance of river erosion prevention schemes which will be approved following a detailed model study. This study will include an assessment of the affected population, agricultural land, and the economic situation in the regions at risk. He highlighted the proactive measures taken by the administration of Dera Ghazi Khan which provided a briefing on preparations for possible flooding in hill torrents. The minister directed district administrations to remove encroachments from river basins and channels and to educate citizens about the risks of rains and floods. He stressed the importance of using mosques and other local resources to disseminate information, urging district revenue.

Govt pursuing vision of transforming Pakistan into a hub of innovation: Rana

Export of manufactured Toyota vehicles started in Pakistan

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Rana Tanveer Hussain, on Wednesday, said that the government was vigorously pursuing the vision of transforming Pakistan into a hub of innovation and self-reliance with commitment to strengthen the domestic industry.

The minister, while addressing a ceremony held here to mark achievement of significant milestones of export of vehicles from Pakistan and localization of production by Toyota

Indus Motor Company (IMC), said that the government aims to boost the automotive sector by encouraging the export of localized parts and vehicles. He felicitated the company on achieving remarkable milestones that resonate with the nation's aspirations and said that reaching an impressive 64% localization in operations through integration of local content into production processes was a remarkable accomplishment of the company that demonstrate

a commitment to strengthening our domestic industry and underscore their pivotal role in the growth of industrial sector of Pakistan. IMC has invested over \$ 700 million to expand its production capacity to 76,000 units, making it the largest sheet metal part producer in Pakistan, Rana Tanveer said and added that contribution of Rs258 billion to the national exchequer was a testament to the company's unwavering commitment to national development.

Emphasizing the

significance of contributory efforts for building a resilient economic framework and paving the way for future progress and prosperity, he said "Such contributions are crucial in supporting our economy, fostering sustainable growth, and enhancing the quality of life for our citizens." The minister stressed the need of adopting a proactive approach to address environmental challenges by embracing eco-friendly technologies and lauded the IMC's initiative of introducing Hybrid Electric.



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



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain, is cutting the ribbon to inaugurate the vehicle export section at Toyota Indus Motors Company in Karachi.

KP Agriculture Minister assures assistance for agriculture development

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Agriculture, Major Retired Sajjad Barakwal, emphasized the critical role of agriculture in the nation's economy, highlighting that "22 percent of the country's GDP is dependent on agriculture."

He underscored the necessity of adopting modern technology and research in the agricultural sector to drive economic growth in both the country and the province.

of university-level research in agriculture, supported by the provincial government and the relentless efforts of agricultural scientists, as a means to prevent future food shortages in the province. He highlighted that communicating research findings and advancements to farmers at the grassroots level is crucial for the agricultural sector to significantly contribute to the country's development.

The seminar saw the participation of Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Zahid Hussain and Vice Chancellors from various universities. National and international agricultural experts, including Bacha Khan University Registrar Dr. Aizaz Ahmad Khan and conference focal person Dr. Wajid Ali Shah, discussed innovations in agriculture and the necessity of policy formulation for the sector.

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

Minister Barakwal emphasized the importance

The seminar's sessions focused on bringing innovation to the agricultural sector at the government level.

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

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

the KP-BoIT with Special Assistant to Chief Minister on Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Abdul Karim Khan Tordher in the chair on Wednesday.

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 of Commerce and Industries (CCCI) Sartaj Ahmad Khan, Provincial Chief Small & Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) Rashid Aman, the representatives of KP Economic Zones Development and Management Company (EZDMC), Small Industries Development Board (SIDB).

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

As many as 442 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 118 of them recorded gains and 254 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 70 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 81,162,958 shares at Rs 1.25 per share, Kohinoor Spinning with 24,698,541 shares at Rs 4.08 per share and TLP Properties with 19,693,668 shares at Rs 7.94 per share.



LAHORE: General Secretary, Akbari Mandi Traders, holding a press conference against the government's illegal withholding tax on food items in the provincial capital.

Finance Minister chairs meeting on issues of Gilgit-Baltistan

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

Chief Secretary, who outlined the issues faced by the GB government. Some of these issues were 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 infrastructure and capitalize.



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

Telemetry System WAPDA awards Rs. 21.534b contract for installation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Water and power Development Authority (WAPDA) has awarded contract worth Rs. 21.534 billion for installation of telemetry system at 27 key points on Indus Basin Irrigation System (IBIS) for real-time discharge monitoring. The contract has been awarded to a Joint Venture (JV) comprising CDigital and HBCC along with Siemens as Sub-Contractor in the JV. As per the contract, the telemetry system, after the installation, will be commissioned in December 2026, said a press release issued on Wednesday.

Ali and Chief Executive Officer CDigital, Muhammad Ahsan Bashir signed the agreement on behalf of WADA and the JV respectively. Member IRSA (Punjab), WAPDA's Member (Finance), Member (Water), Member (Power), General Manager (Hydro Resource Management) and representatives of 45 Engineering Division, the Consultants and the Contractors also attended the ceremony. It is important to note that the Ministry of Water Resources has entrusted WAPDA with the crucial task of implementing a Telemetry System on Indus Basin Irrigation System in order.



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

Mobilink Bank launches Pakistan's first women-led incubator program

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank strengthens its commitment to women's economic empowerment with the launch of Pakistan's first-ever industry-specific incubation program designed exclusively for women entrepreneurs.

literacy and marketing. The graduating startups will gain access to a professional network and guaranteed Binte-Hawwa loans to fuel their ventures. The most promising startups will compete for a PKR 4 million investment to bring their startup ideas to life.

This initiative falls under the umbrella of the Bank's ongoing Women Inspirational Network (WIN) program said a news release.

The WIN Incubator program aims to empower 25 women entrepreneurs by equipping them with knowledge in core business areas including idea planning, business management, financial

Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and digital services to nearly 160 million customers in six dynamic markets that are home to 7% of world's population.

Sumera Abbasi, Executive Director of TIE Islamabad and a recognized leader in the Pakistani startup ecosystem.

Government steers economy back on growth path: Ihsan

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gold rates up by Rs.1,200 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of per tola of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.1,200 and was sold at Rs. 253,500 on Wednesday against its sale at Rs.252,300 on last trading day.

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

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs. 1,029 to Rs. 217,335 from Rs. 216,306 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs. 199,224 from Rs. 198,281, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola silver increased by Rs.40 to Rs2,900 whereas that of ten gram silver increased by Rs.28.30 to

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

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

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

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

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



SIALKOT: Chairman Sial Hasan Ali Bhatti, President Chamber Abdul Ghafoor Malik is addressing the executive body meeting.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

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

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

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.

ISLAMABAD (Online): S&P Global Ratings has affirmed Pakistan's long-term sovereign credit rating at 'CCC+' and short-term rating at 'C', maintaining a stable outlook.

This decision reflects a balance between the challenges posed by Pakistan's external liquidity and fiscal performance, and the anticipated continued support from multilateral and bilateral partners over the next 12 months.

"We could lower our ratings if Pakistan's external indicators deteriorate rapidly or fiscal deficits widen to exceed the domestic banking system's financing capacity, to the extent that the government's willingness or ability to service its commercial debt is diminished," S&P said in its statement.

One potential indication of domestic financing stress would be further increases in the government's interest burden, which we estimate will exceed 45% of government revenues over the next few years.

A total of nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them Gas carrier 'Epic Sunter' left the port on today morning while three more ships, Apollon-D, Endeavour and Sea Luck-III are expected to sail on today afternoon.

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

Cargo volume of 122,590 tonnes, comprising 62,651 tonnes imports cargo and 59,939 tonnes export cargo carried in 2,470 Containers (980 TEUs Imports & 1,490 TEUs Export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

FAISALABAD (APP): Agricultural experts have advised farmers to take precautionary measures and adopt regular pest scouting for controlling pest attack on cotton crops especially during monsoon rainy season.

There are 06 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships, YE CHI, Pacific Tulip and MSC Roma & two more ships.

A spokesman for the Agriculture (Extension) Department said on Wednesday that cotton crop was passing through an important stage of budding and flowering and

this stage attract the pests as moisture increases in the air due to rains.

He said that boll weevil, whitefly, pink bollworm (Gulabi Sundi), Lepidopterous insect (Lashkari Sundi), American Sundi are the main pests which cause heavy damage to the cotton crops.

The boll weevil attacks on flowers and bolls and destroys the cotton lint with its feces and consume.

Khan Yunis in ruins after Israeli assault kills 300

Monitoring Desk

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

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

The Israeli military launched the assault on July 22 to halt what it called rocket fire from the area, which already saw heavy fighting earlier this year. Last week, it said troops had retrieved the bodies of five Israelis from the area.

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

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

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

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

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

"I am coming back and I have faith in God. I don't know whether we

will live or die, but it is all for the sake of the homeland," said Etimad Al-Masri, who had walked for at least five kilometers back to her home.

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

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

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

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



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

Israel targets Hezbollah commander in Beirut strike

Monitoring Desk

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

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

where the children were killed on Saturday.

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

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

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

Philippines, US navy hold joint exercise in South China Sea

Monitoring Desk

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

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

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

Monitoring Desk

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

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

Israel's atrocities 'outshine Hitler': Erdogan

Monitoring Desk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monitoring Desk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"This assassination ... takes the war to new levels and will have enormous consequences for the entire region," the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, whose fighters are engaged in fierce battles with Israeli troops in Gaza, said in a statement.

Germany accuses China of conducting 2021 cyberattack on cartography agency

Monitoring Desk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We are therefore resolutely countering these threats and have significantly increased our protection," Faeser said.

Israel used dogs, waterboarding on Palestinian detainees from Gaza, UN report says

Monitoring Desk

GENEVA: Thousands of Palestinians have been forcibly removed from Gaza, sometimes from bomb shelters, and dragged into detention in Israel where some have been tortured and dozens have died, according to a UN human rights office report on Tuesday.

Many of those seized in Gaza since the war began on Oct. 7 were taken at checkpoints as they fled Israel's military offensive or from the schools and hospitals where they were sheltering, said the 23-page report based primarily on interviews with released detainees and other victims and witnesses.

Often, they were blindfolded and shackled before being transported to Israel and placed in "cage-like" military centres and forced to wear nothing but diapers for prolonged periods, it said. The UN report said 53 detainees died in custody.

"The testimonies gathered by my Office and other entities indicate a range of appalling acts, such as waterboarding and the release of dogs on de-

tainees, amongst other acts, in flagrant violation of international human rights law and international humanitarian law," said United Nations High Commissioner Volker Turk in a statement accompanying the report.

He called for their immediate release as well as the release of the remaining hostages from among the 253 kidnapped in Israel in the Oct. 7 attacks in which 1,200 people were killed.

The Israeli military has said it is investigating allegations of mistreatment of detainees at facilities in Israel but has declined to comment on specific cases. It plans a phase out of the Sde Teiman camp in the Negev desert which was cited both in the UN report and by Palestinians rights group as a location of detainee abuse.

Reports of mistreatment of detainees in Israeli prisons have been growing in recent months.

Generally they were held in secret, without being given a reason for their detention or access to a lawyer, the report said.



Palestinians attend a protest in Nablus in the Israeli-occupied West Bank following the assassination of the chief of the Palestinian Hamas group.

Landslide toll hits 160 as rain hampers rescue work in India's Kerala

Monitoring Desk

WAYANAD: Relentless downpours and howling winds hampered Wednesday's search for survivors of landslides that struck Indian tea plantations and killed at least 160 people, most believed to be labourers and their families.

Days of torrential monsoon rains have battered the southern coastal state of Kerala, with blocked roads into the Wayanad district disaster area complicating relief efforts.

Heavy rain in Kerala, one of India's most attractive tourist destinations, led to the landslides early on Tuesday, sending torrents of mud, water and tumbling boulders downhill and burying or sweeping people away to their deaths as they slept. Senior police officer

M.R. Ajith Kumar told AFP that around 500 people had been rescued since successive landslides struck before dawn on Tuesday. "So far we have got more than 150 bodies," he said. "Still large areas are to be explored and searched to find out whether live people are there or not."

The local Asianet news TV channel put the death toll at 177.

It was the worst disaster in the state since deadly floods in 2018. Experts said the area had been receiving heavy rain in the last two weeks which had softened the soil and that extremely heavy rainfall on Monday triggered the landslides. The only bridge connecting the worst-hit villages of Chooralmala and Mundakkai was washed away.

Macron's office censured over lavish banquets for Modi, Charles

Monitoring Desk

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron's office spent nearly one million euros on two lavish banquets for Britain's King Charles III and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country's top auditors said as they urged the Elysee Palace to tighten its belt.

The Cour des Comptes (Court of Accounts), which keeps an eye on state budgets, lamented a "sharp rise" in presidential spending last year, shooting up to 125.5m euros (\$135m) — 8.5m more than its budget.

Jamaat faces ban in wake of Bangladesh student unrest

Monitoring Desk

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

Representatives of Bangladesh's governing coalition "unanimously decided to ban Jamaat and Shibir, taking into consideration their past and present activities," said Quader, who is also general secretary of the ruling Awami League.

Jamaat is already banned from contesting elections but the new order would outlaw the party and prevent it from holding any public gatherings. Party leader Shafiqur Rahman condemned the order as "illegal, beyond jurisdiction and anti-constitution".

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 on 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 monopolise the process of

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, deputy spokesman for the Russian foreign ministry, said. "The parties continue to raise the stakes."

"It is obvious that the organisers of this political assassination were aware of the dangerous consequences this action is fraught with for the entire region."



People take part in a protest march outside the high court building demanding justice for the victims arrested and killed in the recent nationwide violence in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

US anti-Muslim incidents rose about 70pc in 2024

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: Discrimination and attacks against Muslims and Palestinians rose by about 70 per cent in the United States in the first half of 2024 amid heightened Islamophobia due to Israel's aggression in Gaza, the Council on American-Islamic Relations advocacy group said on Tuesday.

Human rights advocates have reported a global rise in Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian bias and antisemitism since the eruption in October of the Is-

raeli invasion which has killed tens of thousands and caused a humanitarian crisis.

In the first six months of 2024, CAIR said it received 4,951 complaints of anti-Muslim and anti-Palestinian incidents, a rise of nearly 70pc compared with the same period in 2023.

Most of the complaints were in the categories of immigration and asylum, employment discrimination, education discrimination and hate crimes, CAIR said.

UN express concern over human rights violations in India

Monitoring Desk

NEW YORK: United Nations has expressed its concerns over continuous human rights violations in India. The United Nations Human Rights Committee has expressed concern over human rights violations against Muslim, Christian and low caste communities in India. The UN also voiced concerns over enforcement of terrorism laws in Occupied Jammu Kashmir, Assam and Manipur.

The UN rights committee demanded immediate suspension of discriminatory laws. The UN also suggested India to train their civil servants, security forces, judiciary, and community leaders in a way

that human rights are not violated in the society.

The UN also declared India's anti-terrorism laws and Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act contrary to International Laws.

The UN has asked the Indian Lawmakers to abide the anti-terrorism laws by the international laws.

The UN human rights committee also observed that the undue use of power in Jammu Kashmir, Assam and Manipur has resulted in unconstitutional killings, imprisonments, sexual assault, forced disappearances, and violence.

The committee has also suggested India to form a mechanism to identify the human rights violators.



Army soldiers help trapped people to cross a temporary bridge at a landslide site after multiple landslides in the hills in Wayanad district, in the southern state of Kerala, India.

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

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

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

In his keynote address

on CPEC Phase 2.0, Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal emphasized that CPEC has been a transformative force for Pakistan's economy, shifting it from the brink of collapse to an attractive investment destination.

He highlighted the strong bond of trust and shared vision between China and Pakistan, which has enabled them to overcome initial challenges. Now, as they enter the second phase of CPEC, the focus will be on industrial collaboration, regional connectivity, and socioeconomic development.

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 commitment to reforms. CPEC 2.0 aims to enhance technol-

gies, create job opportunities, and ensure food security through agricultural mechanization. As we embark on this journey, it represents a critical opportunity for Pakistan to build a brighter future for generations to come. We must unite as one nation and one team to ensure the success 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 Pakistan's 2025 goals and China's 5Cs framework.



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

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

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

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

several months.

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

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

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

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

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

He said that Pakistan



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

US offers scholarships to 30,000 Pakistani students

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

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

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

In his addressing during ceremony, the US diplomat stated that he was much impressed to witness the cultural performances of the students. About English Access Scholarship programme, he hinted that the students would surely upgrade their English linguistic skills. "We want the students should succeed", he maintained.

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

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



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

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

Independent Report QUETTA: Two Levies personnel martyred in terrorists attack at Levies check post in Killa 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 Killa Haikalzai while Abdul Qadeer was buried in the native Killa Malezai's graveyard.

The Deputy Commissioner Pishin Jumma Dad Mandokhail, SSP Manzoor Buledi, Director General Levies staff, assistant Commissioners, other district official as well as tribal and political leaders participated in the funeral prayer and burial of the Levies cops.

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

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

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

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

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



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

In a briefing to the prime minister about the polio eradication, he was

apprised of two, four and six-month plans.

It was told that nine polio cases had been reported in 2024 and that countrywide polio vaccination drives would be launched in September, October and December this year. The prime minister was told that the data of the children missed from polio vaccination had been digitised to ensure their vaccination through digital tracking.

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 Mehbob and National Coordinator on Polio Eradication Muhammad Anwarul Haq attended the meeting.



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

Chinese embassy pledges 20,000 health kits for Balochistan schoolgirls

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

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

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

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

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also expressed optimism about the future of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

(CPEC), anticipating a surge in new projects and collaborations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kaiser asks opposition for addressing challenges mutually

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

Talking to a Private news channel, he stressed that the government is willing to listen to the opposition's ideas and work together to find solutions that benefit the people, adding, in the leadership of Mian Shabbaz 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.



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 notice.

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.



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.