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Talks with enemies of Pakistan out of question

No leniency to those who sow seeds of hatred in **Balochistan: PM Shehbaz**

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

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

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

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

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

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

He said the Chief Mindevelopment projects in the province.

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

eral government would extend support for capacity building of the Levies force.

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

The Prime Minister said the government is also taking effective measures for development of youth. He said ten percent addiister launched a number of tional quota has been allocated for Balochistan in the schemes like laptops and agricultural training in China. He said the federal government will spend fty-five billion rupees to

Continued on page 2



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

37 casualties reported in Balochistan:

PDMA declares 10 districts of Balochistan calamity-hit in current Monsson rains

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

Independent Report

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

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

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

In the official letter to

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

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

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

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

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

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

Naqvi meets Governor **Balochistan**

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

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

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

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

Constitution of Pakistan.

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



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

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets the President

of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) Maulana Fazal ur Rehman, in the Federal Capital.

Balochistan Disaster Management Commission meets:

CM Bugti directs to make advance necessary measures more effective in case of natural disaster

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

Independent Report

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

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

was chairing the crucial meeting of Balochistan Disaster Management Commission here on Friday. The leader of Opposi-

tion in provincial assembly, Mir Younas Aziz Zehri, Member of the Commission and Member Provincial Assembly, Mir Zafarullah Zehri, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development, Hafiz Abdul Basit, senior Member Board of Revenue, Kambar Dashti, Secretary Communication and Works, Lal Jan Jaffar and other concerned high ups.

The Director General Provincial Disaster Man-Jehanzaib Khan briefed the participants about agenda

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

Besides, he also di-



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

18-inches diameter pipeline swept away:

Sui gas supply suspended to Ouetta, Pishin, Ziarat, Kalat and Mastung

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

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

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

The sources said that the SSGC's teams were dispatched to Mach for repair

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

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

Security forces kill five terrorists in Balochistan

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

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

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

Minister Shehbaz Sharif has appreciated the soldiers and of-

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

the Prime Minister reiterated the resolve to continue the war against terrorism until its complete eradication from the country. The Prime Minister

to spread chaos in the counwill not be spared. Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid tribute to the security forces

of Khwarij elements. "On 28 & 29 August our troops effectively engaged Khwarij locations, where, after intense fire exchanges, twelve Khwarij of Fitna-Al-Khwari In a statement today, [Tehreek-e-Taliban Paki stan (TTP)] were sent to

hell," the statement said. The ISPR noted that these operations have dealt a major setback to Fitna-Al-Khwarij and its affiliates said those who are trying "So far, 37 terrorists have been sent to hell, while 14 terrorists have suffered se-

rious injuries," it added. military emphasised that the IBOs for the successful intelliwill continue until peace is gence-based operation in Panjgur and Zhob on Frifully restored in the area and all Khwarij elements are eliminated.

Interior Minister says

Balochistan attacks aimed at sabotaging upcoming SCO summit

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

said that the horrific attacks in Balochistan, wherein dozens including security personnel lost their lives, was a "plot to subvert" upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit to be hosted by Pakistan next month. "A lot of people are in anguish as they don't want Pakistan to host the [SCO] meeting," he said, adding that the August 26 incident was a "conspiracy to sabotage the summit".

Naqvi further said that

no operation was being launched in Balochistan while "stringent action would be taken against those who did not accept the state and took up arms". APP adds: Minister for

Interior Mohsin Naqvi on Friday said that no operation was going on in Balochistan and stringent

rected to start study in

month of February every

year about the flood situa-

tion caused due to the rains

ing decided that PDMA

would make assessment of

the whole year to handle the

situation in better manner.

to create unnecessary va

cancies in the disaster man-

agement villages established

cided to bring the quaran-

tine centers established dur-

ing COVID-19 in Taftan

under arrangement of

portant decisions were

made about the PDMA af-

PM meets

Maulana Fazal

to discuss political

situation of country

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Sharif on Friday visited the

residence of President of

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F)

Maulana Fazal ur Rehman

e prime minister.

Maulana Fazal ur

The prime minister ex-

During the meeting, the

PM Shehbaz Sharif was

pressed best wishes for

Maulana Fazal ur Rehman.

two sides discussed overall

political situation of the

accompanied by Deputy

Prime Minister and Foreign

Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal

Minister for Interior Syed

Mohsin Raza Naqvi and

Federal Minister for Infor-

mation and Broadcasting

12 more Khwarji

terrorists killed in

'extensive' Tirah

Valley IBOs

RAWALPINDI: At least 12

Khwarji terrorists were

killed in ongoing intelli-

gence-based operations

(IBOs) by security forces

in Khyber district's Tirah

Valley on August 28 and 29, according to a state-

ment from the military on

Friday. The Inter-Services

Public Relations (ISPR)

stated that extensive IBOs

have been underway in the

region since 20 August, tar-

geting the reported presence

Attaullah Tarar.

Prime

Muhammad

fairs in the meeting

Meanwhile, certain im-

The meeting also de-

It was also decided not

Meanwhile, the meet-

in the province.

in the divisions.

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): action would be taken Minister for Interior against those who did not Mohsin Naqvi on Friday accept the State and took up

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



in a meeting with Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail in Governor House Ouetta.

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

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

He said Zhob is an important city of Balochistan, Rehman warmly welcomed which connects it with other provinces through the

national highways. He stressed that timely completion of the bypass is very necessary because

it's own big population. He said that the completion of Zhob bypass would increase access to other provinces, promote

of it's strategic location and

trade activities, improve travelling facilities and ensure smooth flow of traf-

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

He said that we have to provide strong basis to economy, trade, education in the Zhob division in view of the educational development and economic

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



QUETTA: A large number of people standing on gas shop to filling their gag cylinder. According to an SSGC spokesperson, the damage to the pipeline has resulted in the suspension of gas supply to Quetta, Mastung, Kalat, Kolpur Machh, Pishin, and surrounding areas.

Decision makers not worried for country: Imran Khan

RAWALPINDI (Online): four provinces. We can PTI founder Imran Khan has said decision makers have no worries about the country while the secret agencies have been assigned to eliminate PTI.

He said this in an informal talk with the journalists after hearing of 190 million pounds reference against him and Bushra Bibi in Adiala Rawalpindi.

He cautioned there is mammoth threat of provincialism. Protest was got staged in Punjab against terrorism in Balochistan.

Political parties can unite people and not the army. PTI is the only party in the country which is existing in all the

unit the people.

He held those who are

making these decisions they have no worry about country. What largest challenge I am seeing in the country is economy. Earlier I had heard the lowest investment came in the country in 50 years. Now I have come to know that the lowest investment of the history has come in the country this year.

Debt is swelling. The country is heading towards destruction. On the other side terrorism is rising. What situation prevails in Balochistan at present we should take along people Balochsitan.

Five reports laid, two motions adopted by Senate

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Friday adopted by the House after voice voting.

We motions granting extension to two standing committees

Meanwhile, five reports of the standing committees tees for presentation of reports and also witnessed laying of five reports. On behalf of Chairman, Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat, Senator Rana Mahmood Ul Hassan, Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti move a motion under sub-rule (1) of Rule 194 seeking a 60-day extension for the presentation of report of the Committee on the Pakistan Integrity in Public Life Bill, 2024, introduced by Senator Sania Nishtar on 4th March, 2024. The motion was adopted unanimously after voice

voting by the House.

Chairman, Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Senator Zeeshan Khan Zada moved a motion under sub-rule (1) of Rule 194 seeking a 60-day extension for presentation of report of the Committee on The Establishment of Special Court (Overseas Pakistanis Property) Bill, 2024.

The Bill was introduced to establish special courts for adjudication of petitions in respect of immovable properties of overseas Pakistanis. The motion was passed

including the Annual Report 2023 of the Election Comnission of Pakistan was presented in the House.

Chairman, Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research, Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan presented the report of the Committee on the Bill to constitute the Pakistan Animal Science Council in Pakistan introduced by Senators Rana Mahmood ul Hassan and amran Murtaza on 7th August, 2023.

Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti on behalf of Senator Rana Mahmood Ul Hassan, Chairman, Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat, presented the report of the ommittee on the The Civil Servants (Amendment) Bill 2024, introduced by Senator Shahadat Awan on 1st January, 2024. Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti on behalf of Senator Rana Mahmood Ul Hassan, Chairman, Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat, presented the report of the Committee on The Pakistan Commissions of Inquiry (Amendment) Bill, 2024, introduced by Senator Shahadat Awan on 1st January, 2024.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a meeting regarding re-organization of policy board of Balochistan Charities Registration and Regulation Authority



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail presenting a memorial shield to outgoing Inspector General Balochistan Abdul Khaliq

Federal cabinet green lights talks on ML-1 financial agreement

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal cabinet on Friday approved starting negotiations on the Financial Commitment Agreement between China and Pakistan Railways for the up gradation of the ML-1 project, a crucial component of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, instructed that the final agreement (on ML-1) be brought back to the cabinet for approval.

The prime minister briefed the cabinet on his recent visit to Quetta, highlighting ongoing efforts to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies, to Baloch youth.

such as the police and levies, in Balochistan.

The prime minister stated that the entire nation was committed to eliminate terrorism and setting an example by dealing firmly with terrorists. He also praised the

Balochistan provincial gov ernment for its commendable efforts to integrate Baloch youth into the national mainstream, aiming for their development and prosperity. The prime minister stated that the federal government will fully support the Balochistan government in offering world-

PESHAWAR (APP): The Provincial Disaster Man-

agement Authority (PDMA) on Friday in its report regarding losses from monsoon and subsequent rains said that so far 68 people have been killed in the province from rainrelated incidents. In its report the PDMA

Monsoon,

subsequent rains

kill 68 in KP

said the current season's rains have killed 68 people in the province in incidents such as roof and wall collapse and other rain related mishaps. The rains have also caused damage to 786 houses in KP of which 200 were completely destroyed. The majority of those

killed were children as 32 such deaths were recorded from different areas of the KP. The rain related incidents also caused injuries to 117 people, the PDMA said. It further said that there were vital chances of more rains with storms in certain plain and upper areas of the province. The PDMA has advised the general public to take maximum precautionary measures to avert any untoward incident during the rains.

to self-determination ISLAMABAD (APP):

OIC Contact Group reaffirms

support for Kashmiris' right

The OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir reaffirmed its support for the Kashmiri people's struggle for the realization of their right to self-determination, calling for an early and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute as per the UN Security Council resolutions and aspirations of Kashmiri

The Contact Group which met on the sidelines of the 50th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Yaounde, Cameroon, also adopted a

joint communique unanimously, a Foreign Office press release said on Friday. Chaired by OIC Secretary General Hissein Brahim Taha, the meeting

was attended by represen-

tatives from Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, Niger, Azerbaijan, OIC's Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) and True Representatives of the Kashmiri People. The Pakistan delegation to the meeting was led by Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi. The Contact Group

underlined that a durable peace and stability in South Asia remained contingent upon the final settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with UNSC resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri Foreign Secretary Qazi

briefed the Contact Group on the evolving situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

NAB Balochistan organizes awareness lecture at **BAC Quetta**

Independent Report QUETTA: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan organized an awareness lecture at Balochistan Agriculture College Quetta regarding the Role of Students in Eradication of Corruption. Additional Director NAB (Balochistan) Imran Majeed delivered the lecture to a fair gathering of students and faculty mem-

bers of the institute. The interactive session aimed to enlighten and empower students about their pivotal role in combating able society

shared his perspectives on the topic, underscoring the collective responsibility of the youth in fostering a culture of honesty and accountability. He com-mended NAB's efforts in raising awareness and promoting anti-corruption initiatives among the younger

As part of the event, a lively Question and Answer session was conducted, allowing students to engage directly with the NAB representative and seek clarification on various aspects of corruption and its consequences. Additional Direcfor NAB patiently addressed the queries, providing valuable insights and guidance on how students can actively contribute to the fight against corruption in their respective roles as future leaders and respon-

petrol prices on the cards ISLAMABAD (INP):

The federal government is likely to announce a decrease in fuel prices for the third consecutive fortnight, effective September 1.

Small cut in

Sources indicate a potential reduction of Rs3.1 per liter for petrol and Rs2.5 per liter for high-speed diesel (HSD).

This decision is primarily driven by the falling prices of international petroleum prod-

The government is in the process of finalizing the precise figures, considering the current petroleum levy and general sales tax

The altered prices could be as follows:
Petrol: Decrease Rs3.1 per liter, from Rs260.96 to Rs257.86.

High-Speed Diesel (HSD): Decrease Rs2.50 per liter, from Rs 266.07 to Rs 263.57.

Kerosene Oil: Decrease Rs1.39 per liter, from Rs171.77 to Rs170.38.

Light Diesel Oil (LDO): Decrease Rs1.96 per liter, from Rs157.02 to Rs155.06

These anticipated price reductions are directly linked to the recent decline in global oil prices. Over the last two weeks, crude oil prices have dropped by about \$2 to \$2.30 per

93 Pakistanis heading to UK on Chevening, Commonwealth scholarships

kistani students from every corner of the country have been given British High Commissioner Jane Marriott's top tips for liv-ing in the UK, ahead of a year studying at British universities. This year marks the

65th anniversary of the Commonwealth Scholarship programme and 46 Chevening and 47 Commonwealth scholarships have been awarded to Pakistanis, says the press not issued from British High Commission in Islamabad on Friday

These long-standing programmes have developed a network of over 1,500 Commonwealth and nearly 2,000 Chevening alumni in Pakistan, who regularly meet to discuss ive issues

Scholars come from diverse backgrounds, representing the rich cultural tapestry of Pakistan. This year's cohort come from Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan, Pakistan Administered Kashmir, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, and the Fed-eral Capital Territory. Over 60 percent of this

year's Chevening scholars are women. The British High Commission strongly encourages people from all backgrounds and across Pakistan to apply. British High Commis-

sioner, Jane Marriott CMG OBE, said:

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- programme helps develop a new generation of Pakileaders and changemakers. Many of our alumni have gone one to achieve extraordinary things back home. Not only do they get the benefit of studying at some of the best universities in the world, they also get to experience the best of living in the UK. From climate studies to football coaching, I am looking forward to seeing what they achieve, and encourage all those interested to apply

Fareeha Gull Hashmi, Assistant Manager of Oral History Project Citizens Archive of Pakistan and upcoming Chevening scholar, said, "I am thrilled to be joining the University of Essex for my MA in Heritage and Museum Studies. This programme is exactly what I was looking for to help me on my journey to improve heritage and cultural preservation in Pakistan. I can't wait for my journey to begin.'

The cohort includes those on a scholarship in Football Science, with the support of Swindon Town Football Club. For the first time, this year's cohort also saw an additional scholarship for Heritage and Museum Studies with the support of Essex University. This scholarship will cover tuition fees, living expenses, and travel

Rain dampens first day of second Test between Pakistan, Bangladesh

RAWALPINDI (INP): The tinuing for the last couple first day play of the second and last Test match between Pakistan and Bangladesh in Rawalpindi was abandoned owing to heavy rain on Friday.

Weather intervened for the second time in the current Test series between Pakistan and Bangladesh as earlier toss for the second match was delayed due to rain.

The pitch and the bowling area at the Pindi Cricket Stadium remained under covers around 12

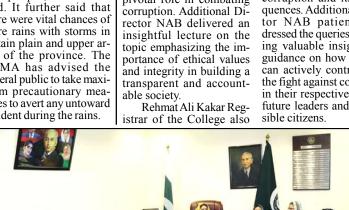
The monsoon spell earlier delayed the start of the first match which Pakistan lost by 10 wickets, giving the Tigers their first victory against the Green Shirts and 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

As intermittent monsoon spell has been conof days, the visitors wil be looking for their first Test series win against one of the cricket heavyweights. They need a draw to claim the series.

Pakistan, on the other hand, will strive to win the Test as their defeat at the same venue earlier this week dented their bid to reach the World Test Championship (WTC) fi-

Pakistan's hopes for an all-out kill have been dashed by the weather in Rawalpindi. Rain had forced cancellation of their practice sessions on Thursday, with forecast for the first day.

To add insult to injury the team has been without spearhead Shaheen Shah Afridi as announced by head coach Jason Gillespie on Thursday.





OUETTA: President PPP Women Wing Balochistan and Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly Ghazala Gola in a meeting with office bearers of the women wing

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Deputy Director Agriculture OFWM Duki invites sealed tender/bids from eligible bidders for execution of following development schemes under Sustainable Development Goals Achievement Programme (SAP) for the years 2024-25. Tender Fee Rs. 1,000/- (for each work) in shape of Green Challan form deposited in head of account (C03136) E/Money 2% of estimated cost (of each work) in shape of Call Deposit and time limit 30-06-2025 for each the work

S#	Name of Work/s	Last Date and Time of Bid Submission	Tender Opening	Tender Cost (In Rs.)
1	CONST: OF WST AND PROVISION OF PVC PIPELINES UNDER THE PROJECT EFFICIENCY ENHANCEMENT OF WATER RESOURCE THROUGH WATER STORAGE TANKS AND PVC PIPES FORFOOD SECURITY UNDER SUSTAINABLE GOALS ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM IN DISTRICT DUKI. TSE No. 242508532793	16-9-2024 09:30 AM	10:30 AM	26,355,209
2	DRILLING OF BORES AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR SYSTEM UNDER THE PROJECT AGRICULTURE PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF BORES AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PUMPING SYSTEM ON BORES FOR LIVELIHOOD ENHANCEMENT UNDER SDG ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM IN DISTRICT DUKI. TSE No. 242508532873	16-9-2024 10:30 AM	11:30 AM	30,481,277
3	CONST: OF MICRO BANDAT & LAND LEVELING UNDER THE PROJECTAGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH CONSTRUCTION OF MICRO BANDATS AND LAND LEVELING UNDER SDG PROGRAM IN UNION COUNCIL SHARQI THAL, UC GHARBITHAL, UC THAL CHUTYALI, UC LAKHI-I, UC LAKHI-I, UC VIALLA DUKI, DISTRICT DUKI. TSE No. 242508533033	16-9-2024 11:30 AM	12:30 PM	42,115,877

Procurements shall be made under BPPRA Rules 2014 Eligibility of Bidders: Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents against above mentioned TSE No(s). Method of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Tender Documents: - The Bidding document can be downloaded from www.bppra.gob.pk (free of cost) and the same can also be obtained from the office of the under-signed upon payment of prescribed tender fee Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security of estimated cost in the form of Deposit at Call of 2% specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. Address: Deputy Director Agriculture On Farm Water Management District Duki. Contact No. 03352278893

Agriculture On Farm Water Management

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - ROADS CWPP&H DEPARTMENT DISTRICT LORALAI Invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2024 based on Composite

SCIR	scriedule rates CSR 2025 biu Security 2% for each wor			
S.N	o Name of Work/s		E/Cost	T/Fee
1	WIDENING/IMPROVEME	ENT/REHAB OF ROAD FROM LORALAI	490,564,000	2,000
	TO DISTRICT DUKI. PSDF	PNO 1427.Z2024.0446 E-Bid		
	TSE-242508533563			
2	CONST/REHAB OF BTR	OAD KATVI MOR TO KILLI KANOBI	227,809,239	1,500
		STRICT LORALAI 10 KM.PSDP 1703,		
	Z2024.0544. E-Bid TSE-2			
3		ROADS, CROSS PIPES DANDA	84,150,000	1,000
		PSDP 1621(Z2024.0341) E-Bid		
	TSE-242508533773			
4		ROAD FROM SANJAVI ROAD TO	34,650,000	1,000
		WAR DISTRICT LORALAI.		
	(LENGTH=1.50KM) PSDF	2 1981 (Z2023-0720)		
ı	TSF-242508533783			

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility Criteria Can be seen in the Bidding Document. Procedure of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: Mentioned in the Bidding Documents. Tender Documents (Manual Bid): The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR Issuance of tender Documents (Manual Bid): From the date of publication of NIT to 18 September, 2024 during office hours on working days Last Date of bid submission (Manual Bid): The Tenders must be submitted latest by 18 September, 2024till 11:30 AM. Tender opening (Manual Bid): All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:30 PM Tender Documents E-Bid: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk Issuance of tender Documents E-Bid: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk Last Date of bid submission E-Bid: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 18 September, 2024 till 11:30 AM through supplier dashboard. Tender opening E-Bid: All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:30 PM on EPPS System Address: B&R office zhob road loralai Phone no: 0824410031

Email: khaliqdadjalalzai.kd@gmail.com EXECUTIVE ENGINEER – BUILDINGS CW PP&H DEPARTMENT DISTRICT LORALAI PRQ No.782/30-08-2024 ▼ @dpr_gob 👩 dpr.gob 👍 @dgpr.balochistan

No leniency to those who... Continued from page 1

convert agricultural tube wells on solar energy in

Balochistan. The Prime Minister said the Federal government will soon unveil its fiveyear home-grown economic revival plan to boosting exports, agriculture, industry, uplift of youth, and to impart skill and vocational

Such an environment was created in Balochistan on 26 as if some movement of separation is running in Balochistan. People of Balochistan are patriotic. Those trying to misguide youths will meet failure.

The enemy wants to create crack in the friendship between Pakistan and China. Balochistan can benefit enormously from China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

I asked during my visit to Balochistan is China friend of Pakistan or not, he said adding all said China is friend of Pakistan. Terrorists don't want to promote CPEC for development of people.

I will soon hold meeting with chief minister

Balochistan. We will do whatever federal government can do.

Modis has admitted

situation in Pakistan. Pakistan will soon stand on its feet and will become economic power,

he reiterated.

betterment in economic

He told the meeting that both federal and provincial governments were taking measures to engage the youth and protect them from being detracted by the anti-state elements. He said a 10% additional quota had allocated for Balochistan in the schemes like laptops and agricultural training in China. Besides, the federal government would spend Rs55 billion

wells in Balochistan. The prime minister said that Moody's has recently upgraded Pakistan's rating to indicate the country's improving economic condition.

to solarise agricultural tube

"This is a long journey. This yet needs more concerted efforts to improve the economy. The whole nation, including the provincial governments, are united on this," he said

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

TSE-242508534744 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. Request for Proposal for selection of Consultancy service invited on Electronic Public Procurement System (EPPS) from well reputed national/International firms (JV) / service provider meeting with eligibility criteria, viz having registration with FBR for Income Tax and BRA and who are on Active Taxpayers List (ATL), and are not black listed in any procuring agancyv or authority for prepration of Hiring of "Consultancy Services from Consulting Firms" Titled as CONSULTANCY FOR "WIDENING / IMPROVEMENT / REHAB OF ROAD FROM LORALAI TO DISTRICT DUKI". PSDP NO 1427.Z2024.0446 Bid Security 2% Detail as under:

E/Cost S.No. Description CONSULTANCY FOR "WIDENING/IMPROVEMENT/REHAB OF ROAD FROM LORALAI TO DISTRICT DUKI". PSDP NO 1427.Z2024.0446

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity Turn over of at least PKR Amount in Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List BRA Registration Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan PEC/PCAD Registration Procedure Of Procurement: Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. The FINANCIAL PROPOSALS shall be opened of those consultants whose technical proposal is considered and approved. The Selection of Consultants shall be made as per Evaluation Criteria method as mentioned in the 'Date Sheet' of this "Request for Proposal" document. The incomplete request for proposal or received after due date mentioned above will not be considered. The RFP Documents can be downloaded from BPPRA Website (www.bppra.gob.pk). Last Date of bid submission: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 14 September, 2024 till 11:30 AM. Tender opening: All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:30 PM Address: Loralai Office B&R Phone no: 0824410031Fax no: Email: dawoodtareenxen@gmail.com

PRQ No.785/30-08-2024

PRQ No.773/30-08-2024

🚭 www.dpr.gob.pk.

CW PP&H DEPARTMENT DISTRICT LORALAI

🤹 www.dpr.gob.pk. 🔻 @dpr_gob 👩 dpr.gob 👍 @dgpr.balochistan

(AG) appeared in the court. AG said both missing

persons are not in the cus-

tody of any institution. The

matter has been put up be-

fore the higher authorities.

Babar Awan should share

information with me. We

will see it further.
The CJ IHC inquired

they went missing from

where. Babar Awan said

wife of Azhar Mashwani

was prevented from going

abroad. It was said to Azhar

Mashwani there is some

material. Delete it. In future

you will not tweet. Counse

Babar Awan read out docu-

ments. Babar Awan said we

resorted to Lahore High Court (LHC) earlier and

then we filed petition here.
The CJ IHC inquired

I have asked only for this

reason either it is in my

powers of jurisdiction or

clear reply that the ab-

ducted persons are not in

the custody of any institu-

therwise. AG has given

Court seeks detailed report

from AG in recovery of

two missing brothers case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) sought detailed re-

port from Attorney General

(AG) on the petition filed

in connection with recov-

ery of two missing broth-

ers of PTI leader Azhar

marked efforts be continued

for recovery of missing

persons and it be informed

when any information is

received. During the hear-

ing of the case Dr Babar

Awan raised the matter of

dacoits of Kacha in the

court Babar Awan said the

dacoits of Kacha have

launched U-tube channel

and said "subscribe to it. The CJ IHC remarked

situation in South Puniab

and other areas is worst.

We are seeing and hearing

about dacoits of Kacha

marks during hearing of the

CJ IHC gave these re-

General

Role of China's

cultural diplomacy in

ce our childhood.

petition Friday.

Attorney

The court has re-

Mashwani till next week.

Opposition members protest over empty row of ministers in Senate session

The members of the Opposition Benches on Friday rendered a heated protest over empty row of ministers in the Senate session calling it a disregard to the Upper House of the Parlia-

The second meeting of the 342nd Senate session started 18 minutes late under the chairmanship of Presiding Officer, Senator Irfan Ahmed Siddiqui who initiated the proceedings with the question hour and the debate on the August 26th Balochistan carnage.

However, the question hour was later keeping in view the sense of the House was suspended and the other agenda was taken

Speaking on the occasion, Presiding Officer of the Session, Senator Irfan Siddiqui apprised the House that an emergency cabinet meeting was called at the PM Office, whereas the ministers would be available in the House after the meeting.

He endorsed the point of view of the Opposition Leader and Senator Saifullah Abro and said, "If the first row of the House's treasury benches is empty then it

House. Senator Abro rightly pointed out that the Ministers are the members of the committees but they don't contribute to the committee proceedings and give an ear to the recommendations of the Senators."

While acknowledging concerns and observations of the Senators from the Opposition, he urged them to avoid exchanging harsh words against the members of the treasury benches who were not present in the House.

"We should take up the Balochistan debate and then should proceed to regular agenda and meanwhile the Ministers would join the session," he said.

At the commencement, Senator Palwasha Mohammad Zai Khan of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) raised the matter of irregularities in billing and complaint redressal procedures of the Lahore Electricity Power Supply Company (LESCO).

She cited the example of her maternal home in Lahore, where the LESCO meter reader allegedly made overbilling by erroneously noting the meter reading as

Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support

Programme (BISP), held a meeting with a delegation of Riphah International

terms of offering growth

oriented and modern learn-

private partnership be-

tween Riphah International

various avenues for collabo-

ration, with a particular fo-

cus on skill development

programs and scholarships.

designed to support the

beneficiaries of BISP by

providing them with essen-

tial skills and educational

opportunities, ultimately

contributing to their socio-

economic uplift. Addition-

ally, Senator Rubina Khalid

proposed engaging fresh

graduates of media and

mass communication for

internships in BISP's me-

dia wing. She also sug-

gested organizing a graphic

design competition at the

inter-university level to

raise awareness about

ing the challenges they face in the current media land-

that the PCP is undergoing

a systematic review aimed

at enhancing its role in com-

bating fake news and resolving issues that journal-

tude for the delegation's

visit and reaffirmed the

Council's dedication to

supporting journalistic or-

Arshad Ansari congratu-

lated the chairman on his

lighted the challenges that

Chairman's efforts to revi-

talize the Press Council and

assured the full support of

the journalistic community

in these endeavors.

appointment and high-

journalists face.

ists encounter.

He also highlighted

He expressed his grati-

During the meeting,

He commended the

BISP's mission.

ISLAMABAD: Motorcyclists taking shelter un-

der the bridge of Faizabad Interchange during heavy

PCP chairman reaffirms

commitment to press

freedom, media ethics

Both parties explored

These initiatives are

University and BISP.

University at BISP headquarters Islamabad

Riphah collaborate BISP for

public empowerment through

skills development program

ISLAMABAD (APP): RIPHAH's contribution in

versity held an important ing opportunities to the

meeting with Senator public. The primary objec-

Rubina Khalid, Chairper- tive of this meeting was to

son of the Benazir Income establish a strong public-

Representatives from

Riphah International Uni-

Support Program (BISP),

projects for mutual collabo-

ration aimed at enhancing

public welfare and better-

ment. The Riphah team, led

by Mr. Muhammad Junaid

Khan, included Mr. Mehr

Ali and Mr. Waqar Khan,

were engaged in discussions

with key members of the

BISP team, including Mr.

Idrees Mian, Director Gen-

eral of Complimentary Ini-

tiatives; Mr. Irfan Úllah

Khan, Director of Media;

and Ms. Maryam Sikandar,

Deputy Director of Media.

expressed her keen interest

in the various educational

initiatives of Riphah espe-

cially the recently establish

RIHCA - RIPHAH Insti-

tute of Hospitality and

rain in the Federal Capital.

Chairman of the Press

Council of Pakistan (PCP)

Arshad Khan Jadoon has

reiterated the Council's

strong commitment to safe-

guarding freedom of expres-

sion and upholding media

Arshad Ansari, the Secre-

tary-General of the Paki-

stan Federal Union of Jour-

nalists and President of the

Lahore Press Club, he high-

lighted the Council's ongo-

ing efforts to support and

protect journalists across

to serve the journalist com-

munity and ensure their

initiatives the PCP is un-

dertaking, including re-

search into legal protections

for journalists and address-

well-being," he added.

'Our primary focus is

He outlined several

In a meeting with

ethics.

Culinary Arts.

Senator Rubina Khalid

discuss potential

derides the honour of the 9,000 against the actual reading of 900 units whereas on complaint to the relevant authority the issues was taken up but the official concerned demanded Rs70,000 bribe to resolve the matter. She protested that there was no minister present in the House to take up the matter. However, her matter was referred to committee concerned by the chair. "This is how the common masses are being treated after overbilling of the power supply companies who consider themselves above the law. It must be taken up seriously," Senator Palwasha

> Opposition Leader in the Senate, Shibli Faraz said that the front row was empty and no minister was available, then the question hour session was being done in vain. He endorsed the concerns raised by Senator Palwasha Khan.

Responding to the chair's suggestion to continue the debate on Balochistan, he said, "The matter is not of catharsis on Balcohistan but seriousness of the treasury benches as this House is run under rules and regulations that need to be followed by all.

IRSA releases

276,500

cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP)

Indus River System Au-

thority (IRSA) on Friday

released 276,500 cusecs

water from various rim sta-

tions with inflow of

released by IRSA, water

Tarbela Dam was 1550.00

feet (maximum conserva-

tion level) and was 152.00

feet higher than its dead

level of 1,398 feet. Water

inflow and outflow in the

dam was recorded as

185,600 cusecs and

185,100 cusecs respec-

River Jhelum at Mangla

Dam was 1219.10 feet,

which was 171.10 feet

higher than its dead level of

1,050 feet. The inflow and

outflow of water was re-

corded 50,200 cusecs and

8,000 cusecs respectively.

Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu

and Sukkur was recorded as

201,300, 199,300, 188,000

and 226,300 cusecs respec-

tively. Similarly, from River

Kabul, a total of 32,100

cusecs of water released at

Nowshera and 22,100

cusecs released from River

FCE to hold

Golden Jubilee

convocation

on Sep 5

ISLAMABAD (APP)

ederal College of Educa-

tion (FCE) will celebrate its

Golden Jubilee Convoca-

tion on Thursday, Septem-

ber 5, at the Main Audito-

rium of Allama Iqbal Open

release issued on Friday, the

ceremony will commence at

be graced by Mohyuddin

Ahmad Wani, Federal Sec-

retary, Ministry of Federal

Education and Professional

Training, as the chief guest.

Dr. Nasir Mehmood, Vice

Chancellor of AIOÚ will

serve as the Guest of

Honor. During the convo-

cation, degrees will be con-

ferred upon 63 students of

MA Education, 150 stu-

dents of B.S. Ed. (Hons.)

and six students of B.Ed.

The top-performing students will be honored

with gold, silver, and bronze

medals for their outstand-

ing academic achievements

lege of Education, Profes-

sor Dr. Samia Rehman

Dogar expressed her pride

in the institution's accom-

plishments over the past 50

Director Federal Col-

According to a press

The convocation will

Jniversity

Islamabad.

10:00 AM.

(AIOU).

Chenab at Marala.

The release of water at

The water level in

According to the data

319,100 cusecs.

Altaf Hussain Wani noted

Kashmiri human rights activist and Chairman Kashmir Institute of International Relations in a statement issued here on Fri-

Wani said the issue of enforced disappearances in IOJK is a grave violation of human rights, with over 10,000 individuals reported missing while in custody of Indian forces since 1989. These disappearances have left families shattered, with many parents and relatives enduring years of trauma, searching for answers in the face of government indiffering experienced by these families cannot be overstated; their cries for justice echo in the silence of unmarked mass graves that remain uninvestigated.

Among the most affected are the women who have taken on the heartwrenching titles of "Halfand "Half-Widows" Wives." These women, often left in a state of perpetual mourning, are denied the closure that comes with knowing the fate of their loved ones. They navigate a life

filled with uncertainty, carrying the dual burden of loss and social stigma.

Review petition filed Monal restaurant fixed for hearing

fixed for hearing review petition filed by Monal Res-

SC presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Oazi Faez Isa will hear the review petition on Septem-

Mandokhel and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan will be part of the bench.

ISLAMABAD: Relatives of Missing persons hold placards during protest in favor of their demands outside national press club, in the Federal Capital.

Supreme Court (SC) has

Justice



A 3-member bench of



ment of Baluchistan; and

Rs. 43,597,325/- to finan-

cial institutions/depart-

ments. Whereas Rs.

4,505,668,447/- disbursed

The Excise and Taxation

Department Islamabad has

intensified its efforts to en-

force vehicle regulations

According to the spokesman of Excise de-

partment, daily opera-

tions target fancy nember

across Federal Capital.

driving global ambitions ISLAMABAD (APP): surged by around 3,000%, earning China's growth the

label of a "miracle . Institute, National Univer-As China transitioned from sity of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad, discussing the role of China's

international ties. China's economic transformation since the 1970s and 1980s has been nothing short of extraordinary. The World Economic Forum reports that eco-

China's cultural diplomacy

is more than just a strategic

tool; it's a revival of its his-

torical influence aimed at

reclaiming its global stature.

a century of struggle to a

global powerhouse, cultural

Abdul Salam Khan, a professor at the Confucius

cultural diplomacy in its drive to global ambitions with APP said, "China has The establishment of adeptly used cultural diplothe People's Republic of macy to bolster its global influence. The establishbeginning of a focused ef- ment of Confucius Instifort on economic develop- tutes in over 160 countries plays a pivotal role in spreading the Chinese language and culture, facilitating smoother business interactions, and fostering deeper cultural connec-

> Cultural exchanges, including festivals and educational programs, further enhance China's soft power, with over 400,000 international students benefiting from scholarships in China by 2021."



ISLAMABAD: Passengers stand in line to board Blue Line bus in front of PIMS hospital, in the

IHC summons SP, SHO Recovery of Umar Sultan former security incharge of PTI founder case

Islamabad High Court (IHC) has summoned concerned SP of Islamabad police and SHO Shalimar Police today (Saturday) in the case pertaining to recovery of Umar Sultan former security incharge of PTI founder. Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer Farooq took up for hearing the petition filed by Sultan Javed father of missing Umar Sultan Friday. Raja Qadeer Janjua viding details of arrest orcounsel for the petitioner ders.

ISLAMABAD (Online): appeared in the court taking the plea that Islamabad police arrested Umar Sultan from sector F-10 on August 26 without warrants. Application was filed in police station for recovery of Umar Sultan but no action was taken. The petitioner requested the court to issue order for presenting Umar Sultan before the court besides registering the case and directing for pro-

ECO, ECI heads vow to enhance economic & cultural cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): ies were discussed between Secretary General ECO Asad Majeed Khan and President ECI Saad S Khan on Friday vowed to jointly work for the promotion of economic and cultural cooperation among 10 member states of Economic Cooperation Organization

The strategies for synergizing the efforts of the two sister regional bod-

the two sides, said a press release. Saad Khan said that

the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) was the oldest specialized agency of the ECO, working as the main arm for cultural activities. The President ECI

also welcomed the new Secretary General ECO and wished him all the success during the tenure.



ISLAMABAD: Lt Gen Awais Dastgir, CGS, Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan Dr Mehmet Paçaci, Defence Attache, Brig. Gen. Umut ONOL and others cutting the cake on the occasion of Victory Day ceremony, at a local hotel in the Federal Capital.

International day of enforced or involuntary disappearances

ISLAMABAD (APP): On this International Day of Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, we stand in solidarity with the families and loved ones of the thousands of individuals who have been subjected to enforced disappearances in Indian-Occupied Jammu

and Kashmir (IOJK). This day serves as a poignant reminder of the ongoing plight faced by parents and relatives of victims, who continue to live in anguish and uncertainty, yearning for truth and jus-

This was stated by

The pain and suffer-

NA sub-committee on education visits ICT schools, colleges needed.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prof Engr Abdul Aleem Khanzada, MNA and Convenor of the Sub Committee of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Federal Education & Professional Training, along with other sub-committee members recently visited the schools and colleges in rural and urban areas of the Islamabad Capital Territory

(ICT).

The purpose of the visit was to assess the challenges in the education sector, appreciate the achievements of the Ministry, and for improvement wherever

The Sub Committee aimed to ensure quality education with equity, and this visit was a crucial step in identifying areas that require attention

During the visit, the Sub Committee Members engaged with educators, students, and stakeholders to gain a comprehensive understanding of the education landscape in ICT.

The findings of this visit will inform the Sub Committee's recommendations for policy reforms and initiatives to enhance Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan addresses a ceremony to honor Pakistan Street Football team

NAB taking strick action against persons involved in corruption

ISLAMABAD (APP): cial institutions, and 500,000/- to the Govern-The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) is contributing significantly to the national economy by taking strict legal action against persons involved in financial corruption and recovering huge amounts from them in different

In this regard, NAB has achieved a significant success. NAB deposited/ distributed an amount of Rs. 7,089,998,035/- to federal and provincial governaffectees during the short period of January-July 2024 after completing various investigations/through plea bargains, etc., said a press release.

amount, NAB deposited/ disbursed

2,130,341,048/- to the Federal Government; Rs. 259,851,692/- to the Government of Sindh; Rs. 136,611,951/- to the Government of Punjab; Rs. 13,427,572/- to the Gov-

to 21760 affectees in 34 Out of this total cases of cheating public at large. Moreover, NAB is strictly engaged in the investigation process of major corruption cases with a view to bringing the financial culprits before law, recovering the looted funds, and returning the same to the rightful beneficiaries

ments, departments, finan- ernment of KPK; Rs.

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration are fast-tracking the introduction of an e-stamping system, aiming to digitize all stamp paper transactions in the Federal Capital. In an urgent push to modernize revenue operations, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon held a key meeting with revenue

officers, said the spokesman of ICT administration. Representatives from the Bank of Punjab (BoP) and Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) were also present.



and institutions. **Crackdown in ICT:** 340 vehicles fined for token tax evasion ISLAMABAD (APP)

plates, black-tinted windows, unauthorized police lights and vehicles evading token tax. In a widespread crackdown, the Excise officers are actively conducting operations on highways, in busy markets and at key locations throughout Islamabad. These opera-

tions aim to ensure compli ance with excise laws and to hold violators account-On Friday, officers targeted 88 vehicles using black-tinted windows, taking swift action to enforce the law. Additionally, 138 vehicles without proper registration numbers were also penalized.

ISLAMABAD: A man feeding chicken meat to crow on a bridge along Chak Shahzad road, in the Federal Capital.

ICT admin moves to launch e-stamping system

The meeting included briefings on various critical

issues, such as revenue cases, the audit of housing society fees, and the ongoing computerization of revenue records.

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Saturday August 31, 2024

Credit rating upgrade

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

More importantly, this should go a long way in facilito the global bond markets and commercial banks for fresh Faisalabad, Multan, to the global banks for fresh fres funds it aims to raise by the next fiscal year for budgetary support and covering the gross external financing hole, one of external financing hole, one of well. Inough there will be are much better in most of the 'developed' world, so the 'developed' world, so children go to the nearest public school rather than children/parents choosing of the 'developed' world, so children go to the nearest public school rather than children/parents choosing of the 'developed' world, so children go to the nearest public school rather than children/parents choosing of the 'developed' world, so children go to the nearest public school rather than children/parents choosing of the 'developed' world, so children go to the nearest public school rather than children/parents choosing of the 'developed' world, so children go to the nearest public school rather than children/parents choosing of the 'developed' world, so children go to the nearest public school rather than children/parents choosing of the 'developed' world, so children go to the nearest public transport infrastron (cities will become increas-roads, at least in Lahore, instead of investing in public transport infrastron (cities of the 'developed' world, so children go to the nearest public school rather than children go to the nearest public transport infrastron (cities of the 'developed' world, so children go to the nearest public transport infrastron (cities of the 'developed' world, so children go to the nearest public transport infrastron (cities of the 'developed' world, so children go to the nearest public transport infrastron (cities of the 'developed' world, so children go to the nearest public transport infrastron (cities of the 'developed' world, so children go to the nearest public transport infrastron (cities of the 'developed' world, so children go to the nearest public transport infrastron (cities of the 'developed' world, so children go to the nearest public transport infrastron (cities of the 'developed' world, so children go to the nearest public transport infrastron (cities of the the reasons for the delayed IMF

approval.

With a better rating, the government would be able to negotiate less harsh terms and lower interest rates with the foreign commercial banks it is in It is no secret that Pakitalks with for raising \$4bn. That stan faces an existential clisaid, Moody's, like Fitch, has warned that uncertainty per- Global Climate Risk Insists regarding government's ability to maintain temperatures and climateand implement reforms related disasters. The desustainably. It suspects that the coalition government led by lion people and caused the PML-N formed after the economic losses amounting to more than \$15 bil-February elections may not lion—serve as a warning have a sufficiently strong electoral mandate to continually implement revenue-raising fairs, how can one permeasures without stoking social tensions. "... (The potential) mental degradation? Interestingly one plausible and slippages in reform implemen- swer lies in religion, partation could lead to delays in ticularly Islam. This, in or withdrawal of financing support from (multilateral and bi- ideas based on the Quran lateral) official partners," it added. "(This could elevate investment risks) since Pakistan continued to rely on timely and this idea can be traced sufficient disbursement of financing from official partners to philosopher Seyyed fully meet its external debt obligations," it observed.

In other words, the government can ill-afford any digression from the IMF reforms, including revenue-raising measures, if it wants to ensure they do to their fellow timely reviews of the Fund programme, continually unlock ety will face moral degrafinancing from official partners to meet its external debt obligations, and support further "Corruption has appeared build-up of its forex reserves. Pakistan's economy has come the hands of people have a long way from where it was a earned so He may let them taste part of [the conseyear ago. But it still isn't in a quence of what they have position to hold its own without multilateral and bilateral help. done that perhaps they will return [to righteousness]" (30:41).

AI and gender-based violence

Sahar Bandial

It is said that we stand at the cusp of the "fourth industrial revolution". The emergence and proliferation of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine-based learning is set to usher in a new era of productivity, efficiency and governance across public and private sectors.

In recognition of such potential, the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication laid out a draft National Artificial Intelligence Policy last year, which reportedly was to be presented before the cabinet this month. The policy sets out ambitious targets for the use, scaling and proliferation of AI, while recognising though almost in passing the need to ensure its ethiwhich upholds the fundamental rights and privacy of users. Given the state's existing performance on cyber safety, particularly of women, these assurances appear unrealistic.

encompasses the development of computer systems capable of simulating human learning, comprehension, chine learning and deep learning to analyse data (including text and images) to identify patterns, make predictions and generate hu-

man-like speech

ChatGPT may be the most commonly encountered/used generative AI tool. Generative AI generates texts and images in response to commands or prompts submitted by a user. The technology has been put to beneficial use in business settings to, for instance, improve efficiency through automation of simple tasks, synthesise and analyse data to enhance business decision-making, and assist with creative undertakings.

However, there is a flip side. Deepfake technology - a form of generative AI can create realistic but entirely fake images and videos of persons by analysing existing audiovisual data.

Many of us have come across doctored video clips of prominent personalities online — some comical and AI is a broad field that others more pernicious in intent and nature. In fact, the latter are predominant on the web: 98 per cent of deepfake videos are pornographic in problem-solving, decision-making and creativity. It or girls. These statistics are only to create cyber-harass-ment templates, but also to ment templates, but also to ment templates ment

volving deepfake videos (often sexual in nature) targeting women journalists and women politicians have made headlines in Pakistan in the recent past.

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), such as deepfake content, also manifests as image-based abuse and blackmail, misinformation/ defamation, impersonation, cyberstalking and violent threats. While men, too, are subject to cyber violence, it is a gendered phenomenon worldwide. Women are the largest victims of online harassment in Pakistan. According to a Pew Research Centre study, while 26pc of women aged 1824 years experience cyberstalking, only 7pc of men in the same age range do so. Cyberspace is a more unsafe place for

women across the world. AI has now altered the arena where TFGBV plays out, greatly enhancing the apparent authenticity and believability of misinformation and fake news propagated on the internet. This is not just on account of deepfake technology. Generative AI can be used not yet convincing personal histories of women, perpetuating the cycle of misinformation and fake news.

TFGBV violates women's right to dignity, privacy and non-discrimination. Many times, it culminates in physical violence. Issues of consent and intellectual property rights also arise with the (often) nonconsensual use of copyrighted data by AI technologies — a matter that gained prominence last year in the Hollywood strike against the unlicensed use of actors' AI replicas by motion picture studios.

AI regulation is an evolving field. Given the risks that have arisen with the increased deployment of and access to AI technology, there have been efforts worldwide to regulate its

Taking the lead in a human rights-centric approach to AI regulation, the EU Artificial Intelligence Act, 2024, positions safety and compatibility with fundamental rights and freedoms as the guiding principles of AI regulation. It bars the use of AI for bio-

provides that where video, audio or image content is created with deepfake technologies, disclosure regarding such artificial generation/ manipulation be provided (Article 52).

Unesco's Recommendations on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence Use (2023), also stipulate the protection of human rights and freedoms as the first guiding "value" in AI regulation. The US Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights, a white paper published by the White House, articulates certain principles for the protection of civil rights and democratic values in the building, deployment, and governance of automated systems

Pakistan's AI policy also recognises the particular dangers of AI to create fake content such as text, images and videos", and envisions that the AI Regulatory Directorate (ARD) will issue guidelines to address possible spread of disinformation, data privacy breaches and fake news". The exact mechanism of such regulation may be more minutely spelt out in any AI legislation that is

For now, the existing mechanism, under the Cybercrime Wing of the FIA, has largely been ineffective in addressing the countless complaints of TFGBV made by women under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016, which criminalises the transmission of false and defamatory information through an electronic system, distortion of a person's pictures to show her/ him in a sexually explicit position, and cyberstalking. However, as scathingly observed by the Sindh High Court last year, the Cybercrime Wing does not have the "competency to effectively investigate cybercrime, let alone combating th[ese] [offences]". Blocking the flow of

information and traffic on the internet will not serve as a solution.

The state must ensure that any future regulation of AI-led TFGBV - to be laid out by the ARD or enforced by the newly formed National Cybercrime Investigation Agency — is effective and upholds the standards of ethics and human rights that its AI policy espouses. -- Courtesy Dawn

Infrastructure blues

Faisal Bari

Lahore has traffic jams and morning and afternoon; not when offices/businesses open and close, but when school sessions begin and end. Roads are chock-a-block with cars, and vicinities around schools are almost impossible to navigate. Since in the middle of cities and jor traffic issues for most residents around as well.

If Lahore has a population of 14 million people, a good 6-7m children and young people schools in the morning, way home in the afternoon. And since most school start and end times are at, more or less, the same time, this inevitably means jams

Quetta and Peshawar as well. Though there will be are much better in most of

cities and their residents! But is this the situation in all large cities? Actually not. There are three significant differences with some of the more 'developed' countries and cities. One, a lot of cities provide bus transport for taking children to schools. Instead of one or two children per transport, there are 40 odd students in a bus. This reduces congestion, pollution and road rage significantly. And since transport is state

provided, school start/end

times can be staggered as

Two, most large cities have very developed public transport systems. The rest of the world has figured out that large cities cannot function without comprehensive public transport systems. We are still inching our way to-wards that realisation. So, a lot of children, even at primary level, but defi-

Three, public schools

schools that are out of the and health facilities. How Islamabad of tomorrow neighbourhood or on the other side of the city. This allows many children to just walk over to their schools. This cannot happen if quality variance in schools is high and parents have to choose schools that are distant but better quality than schools in the neighbourhood. Have you seen the traffic jam on the Canal and Mall roads when children are being carted to Aitchison College in the morning? I am sure the same is the case with the large Grammars and Beaconhouses of the city. Children come from all over Lahore to Aitchison. The public

schools

viable schooling option for a very large number of parents Do bear in mind this is an issue of choices that we, the society and the state. have made and conchosen to invest in underpasses and widening of

neighbourhood are not a

many underpasses have going to look like? If we you seen in Manhattan or London? Lahore, I am sure, has a lot more! But we are looking at exist the traffic flow better tremely polluted and nonin Lahore? Is Lahore a more livable city? Are pollution levels better in Lahore than London?

The last underpass or set of underpasses were made earlier this year in Lahore. When was the last good school made in the public sector in Lahore? When did we make the last large public sector hospital in Lahore? Was it Jinnah Hospital (which became fully operational in 1996)? Has Lahore's population not increased by millions since 1996?

We have a population, according to the 2023 census, of some 241m. We are growing at 2.55 per cent per annum. This implies that some six million children are born in Pakistan every year (16.400 increase as well as rural to urban migration (cities

are going to continue the way we have been going, navigable cities, where quality of life is going to be quite poor.
Think of some of the

largest and most densely populated cities in the world, and many of them have water systems where people not only get water supply round the clock but tap water is safe for drinking. In some cities, the local government makes a point of advertising that citizens should not waste money on bottled water (which in some places is just tap water that has been bottled) and should drink tap water. Why is this not possible for cities in Pakistan? The answer is simple: we have

resources only? Not quite. Cities will become increas-

water and sanitation infra-

structure. There are very

also added to the total) than what is spent in other cities with better infrastructure, but we do not spend it on public infra-structure, and our public water and sanitation departments are not getting this funding and do not have the level of expertise and competence they should have. Similar dynamics exist in health, education and transport as well. The total expenditures are comparable or more, but we do not get the requisite quality of service through the public sector. The result is we spend more individually, but get poorer service collectively. How does this make sense from a collec-

tive perspective? What is good for an individual might not mean that the same action done by all leads to a better outnot invested enough in come for all as well. If evervone uses a car/motorcycle to drop their child to school, we will definitely get a traffic and environmental mess. The same is true if everyone starts us-Are these issues of ing bottled water and so on

Islamic environmentalism

Lak | Muhammad Mohad Zulfigar

mate change crisis. Currently ranked fifth in the the dex, we are at severe risk of exposure to extreme structive floods of 2022 - which affected 33 mil-

> In such a state of afstan to mitigate environestingly, one plausible ansimple terms, would mean proliferating a scheme of Often dubbed as Is-

lamic environmentalism, back to a series of lectures Hossein Nasr in 1968 at the University of Chicago. Nasr employed the Sufi concept of unity of the universe to argue that all created beings are interconnected, therefore humans owe a duty to the environment, as much as men. If humans do not live throughout the land and sea by [reason of] what

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

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

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

Similarly, the Afri-

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

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

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

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

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

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

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

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

Second was the lack of knowledge about Balochistan on display. Among other things, the term 'Balochi' was bandied about in reference to the people, whereas the corthere was almost total ne-

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

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

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

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

of political debate. It is also telling how consensuses around matters like enforced disappearances and ethnic profiling dissipate rapidly, rect term is 'Baloch'. Then and so many people outside the ethnic peripher-

The Baloch question glect of the fact that ies start displaying out-Pash-tuns, Hazaras, right racism by calling for Punjabis, Seraikis and othand banishing Baloch students from Punjab.

The obvious tensions which do exist between ethnic-nations in Pakistan should, in fact, make clear that the Pakithe Makran belt in the stani state continues to fail spectacularly in addressing the Baloch and other national questions. The weaponisation of

gion continues to be the calling card of choice, which is why the militants of the TLP and TTP thrive while even entirely peaceful Baloch youth who are demanding accountability of the state are called terrorists.

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

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

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

CM approves Rs 500m to start IT certification by 3 varsities across Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Member Ayaz Uqaili and Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has approved Rs 500 million to start IT Certificate programs to enhance IT skills of students and professionals across the province focusing on poverty reduction strategy. The CM said that the program would provide practical skills and industry-recognized certifications to stand out in a competitive job

market. To this effect, a meeting regarding the signing of memorandum of understanding (MoU) was attended by Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Chairman HEC Prof Tariq Rafi, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary Information, Science & Technology Noor Ahamad Samon, Secretary U&B Abbas Baloch, VC NED University Dr Suresh Lodhi, VC IBA Sukkur Dr Asif Shaikh, VC Mehran University Prof others here Friday. Secretary of IT Noor

Samo briefed the chief minister that the NED University would offer IT courses in Karachi Division and Tharparkar District, Mehran University would cover Hyderabad and Mirpurkhas Divisions and Shaheed Benazirabad, Sukkur and IBA University would cover Larkana Divisions. The program is initially designed to benefit 10,000 youth, with the potential for scaling up. The CM has provided Rs. 500 million to the Sindh IT dept under the 'Initiative of Capacity Building' to the respective universities, he

The chief minister was informed that the IT Certificate program included Certified JAVA Developer, Certified Python Developer, Certified Database Administrator, Certified Graphic Designer, Cer-

tified E-Commerce Professional, Certified Digital Marketing Professional, Certified Web Developer, Certified Mobile Application Developer and Certified Data Scientist.

In response to a question, Secretary IT Noor Samoo informed the chief minister that each certificate had a two-month duration. The certification courses will be conducted five days a week, from Monday to Friday. Each batch will consist of 30 to 35 participants. The program will be conducted in two phases; IT certification in the first phase and incentivization of the selected/top-ranked participants. All IT certifications will be offered physically at the centres, he

At the conclusion, an MoU was signed by the Sindh IT Secretary with NED University Karachi, IBA Sukkur, Mehran University Jamshoro.



MULTAN: People navigate flooded Khuni Burj Road after heavy monsoon

Admin active to handle rain situation: Sharjeel

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Bhutto Zardari and Presi-Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has said that the administration is actively responding to the rain situation across the prov-

Addressing a press conference here Friday, he said that Mayor stayed awake all night to oversee assigned the duties of MPs drainage efforts in Karachi, while the Mayors of Hyderabad and Mirpurkhas were also

present on the spot. Sharjeel said that their MPs and MNAs were on the ground and as long as the situation persists, they would continue to be present. The Chief Minister is personally visiting the rain-affected areas and the Irrigation Minister is also on duty at this time, he

The minister said that the government machinery was functional in all districts, including Karachi. He said that when natural disasters occur, it was not the job of governments to sit back, it was the job of governments to be in the field. PPP Chairman Bilawal

dent Asif Ali Zardari had special instructions that everyone had to be present on the field, he said and added that the entire situation was being monitored by the leader of Pakistan People's Party Ms. Faryal Talpur herself and she had and MNAs from Karachi to remain present in the affected areas of all districts

Sharing the data, he said that the highest rainfall in Sindh had been recorded in Badin district. Shaheed Fazil Rahu of Badin recorded the highest rainfall of 190 mm, 168 mm in Badin, 164 mm in Matli, 190 mm in Shaheed Fazil Raho, 118 mm in Talhar. 101 mm in Hyderabad city and 96 mm in rural areas of Hyderabad, 101 mm in Latifabad, 168 mm in Qasimabad, 157 mm in Mirpurkhas, 159 mm in Degree, 155 mm in Hussain Bakhsh Murree, 145 mm in Shujaabad, 136 mm in Sindhri 127 mm was recorded in Pithoro Umarkot,

120 mm in Kunri and 115

mm in Umarkot.



Nullah at Ghouri Town during heavy rain that experienced in the twin cities.

Sonia Ashir meets Minister

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

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

Friday.

During the meeting,

Arora con-Ramesh Singh Arora congratulated Sonia Ashir on her appointment and extended his best wishes for her future endeavours. He expressed hope that Sonia Ashir would continue to effectively represent minorities and amplify the voice of the Christian community.

5 killed, 987 injured in 962 RTCs in Punjab **Independent Report**

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

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

Furthermore, analysis showed that 552 drivers, 36 underage drivers, 123 pedestrians, and the victims of road traffic crashes.

Federal Ombudsman for improving investigation, ensuring implementation said that federal ombuds-

Independent Report KARACHI: The Federal Ombudsman, Ejaz Ahmed Oureshi, Friday emphasized on improving the quality of investigation of public complaints and further enhancing the ratio of implementation on decided cases so that maximum complainant satisfaction could be achieved.

He was presiding over a meeting held here at Karachi to review performance of ombudsman's regional offices at Karachi, Hyderabad and Mirpurkhas and deliberate on issues being faced by the regional offices.

The meeting was attended by Senior Advisor and In-charge FOS regional office Karachi Syed Anwar Haider, Advisor In charge Regional Office Hyderabad Dr Sved Rizwan Ahmed. Associate Advisor In charge RO Mirpurkhas and other senior officials

Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi, speaking at the occasion,

man secretariat received over 160,000 public complaints in the year 2023 and most of the complaints were investigated and decided within the stipulated time frame of 60 days. The ratio of implementation on decisions and directives has remained above 85 percent,

"In the current year, the number of public complaints filed with the ombudsman secretariat is expected to cross 200,000 and we are determined to maintain the growth momentum while focusing on consolidation and quality," he emphasized.

The ombudsman urged the advisors and other officials to ensure thorough investigation of received complaints, monitor the implementation status and get feedback from the complainants so that maximum possible satisfaction of the aggrieved public could be achieved.

The federal ombudsman expressed satisfaction on overall performance of Karachi and Mirpurkhas regional offices and directed Hyderabad office to further improve their performance while identifying the areas requiring further improve-

Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi, while talking to APP, informed that federal ombudsman secretariat has witnessed a significant growth in number of lodged complaints and we are determined to gear up the investigation process and enhancing the implementation ratio above 90 percent.

The federal ombudsman informed that he had meetings scheduled with Insurance Ombudsman and Banking Ombudsman during his ongoing visit of Karachi in which issues related to public service, reforms, and resolution of public complaints in swift and better manner will be



Chancellor NED University Dr Sarosh Lodhi sign an MOU to start IT Certificate programs. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and others wit-

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

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

She visited various sections of the newly-constructed block and reviewed various medical facilities available there for the paMinister said, "Established in 1871, Pakistan's oldest and largest Mayo Hospital has been serving the public for 153 years. This 300-bed hospital at the time of establishment of Pakistan has become a 2399-bed hospi-Marriyum Aurangzeb

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

ways set new examples of service in the province. Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique said on the occasion that Paeds Surgical Block also has a CSSD. central oxygen supply, a small operation theater, day care centre and pathology lab. He added the wards are named after legendary professors. He highlighted that the number of beds in the oncology, dengue and medical wards of the Paeds Medicine Unit has been increased from 25 to 48. **New US CG**

that Nawaz Sharif and

Shehbaz Sharif, as the chief

ministers of Punjab, had al-

Governor, NED university VC discuss promotion of higher education in Sindh

Vice Chancellor of NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi Professor Sarosh Hashmat called on Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori here at Governor House on Fri-

education in the province, the role of universities, the training of the students and other issues of mutual interest were discussed.

Promotion of higher

Governor Kamran Tessori said that the Fed-Governor's Initiatives.

KARACHI (APP): The eral Government was determined to promote higher education in the province. There is a dire need of preparation of curriculum,

> Kamran Tessori said that NED University has a key role in promoting

> compatible with modern

times, the Governor main-

higher education. The Vice-Chancellor appreciated the process of training the youth in modern IT courses under the

calls on Sindh CM KARACHI (APP): The

new Consul General (CG) of the United States of America Scott Urbom called on Chief Minister of Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah at CM House here on Fri-

to Consul General Urbom, highlighting Sindh's rich cultural heritage.

visit as well as Thar, Ranikot and many other

Chief Minister Shah extended a warm welcome He said that Sindh had many places including Mohan-Jo-Dario to



favor of their demands outside press club, in the Provincial Capital.

Experts urge focus on economic objectives for CPEC success

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

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

development for Pakistan. They revealed that seven terrorist corridors are actively working to sabotage CPEC, but emphasized that China's investments in Pakistan demonstrate its commitment to

country's growth. The experts praised China's friendship, citing the 20,000 Pakistani students studying in China.

They suggested focusing on economic and trade objectives, rather than security and geopolitics, and opening natural east-west corridors for trade pur-

The discussion was

chaired by Professor Dr. Zahid Anwar, former Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dean of Social Sciences, and Director of the China Study Center at Peshawar University. Other speakers included Professor Dr. Adnan Sarwar, former Dean and Chairman of the International Relations Department at Peshawar University; Professor Dr. Ghulam Qasim Marwat, Chairman of the Pakistan Study Department at Qurtuba University; Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Khalil, Chairman of IRS; Engineer Azizul Haq; and Professor Dr. Fazal Rahman Qureshi.



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

IG Punjab meets police officials skilled in fine arts

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

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

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

PHC grants transit bail to Sanam Javed for 10 days

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

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

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

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

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

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

PESHAWAR (APP): Gov- fast asleep last night when a huge avalanche fell on them at Patrak village in the mountainous region.

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

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

Rehman, his sister Dua and son Nasir have also lost battle for life. The Rescue operation has been completed and debris removed after retriev-



FAISALABAD: Leader of PMLN Abid Sher Ali listening problems of people in Khuli Kachehri at his office, in the city

Salman reaffirms commitment to quality, transparency in hospitals revamping project

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

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

During the meeting, the Minister highlighted the recent progress at Jinnah Hospital Lahore, where several key units, including the Peads Emergency, Surgical Unit Two, ICU First Floor, Medical Unit Two, Eye Ward, CCU Second Floor, and Gynecology Ward, among others, have

LAHORE (APP): Punjab vamping. He reiterated the government's commitment to prioritizing the completion of these projects to enhance the convenience and care for patients at government hospitals.

To expedite the completion of the revamping at Jinnah Hospital Lahore, the minister directed contractors to increase their work pace by operating in two shifts. He also instructed the concerned officers to maintain strict and continuous oversight of the ongoing projects in all government hospitals to ensure timely and quality completion.

The meeting included progress by the concerned officers, contractor, and undergone significant re- XEN.

Punjab govt intensifies wildlife protection on CM direction

Wildlife Department on Friday successfully recovered a rare snow leopard skin during a rigorous operation to protect endangered wildlife and arrested the suspect involved in this criminal activity. The snow leopard skin is valued at \$20,000, approximately Rs 5.6 million.

Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb appreciated the Wildlife Department and police teams for their swift action directive and dynamic leadreiterated

LAHORE (APP): The government's zero-tolerance policy on wildlife law violations. She stressed the importance of wildlife and forest conservation in combating climate change.

The arrested individual was involved in the illegal trade of endangered animal skins on social media. Punjab is now enforcing strict wildlife protection laws and has initiated digital mapping of forests and wildlife under CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif's the ership



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

Director General assures PDMA's readiness to face tropical cyclones

KARACHI (APP): Director General Sindh PDMA, Syed Salman Shah Friday has expressed confidence in the agency's capability to handle tropical cyclones, stating that their preparedness is far better than in 2022 and assured that PDMA has fully equipped to tackle any situation that may arise. Talking to PTV news, DG PDMA urged people in Sindh and Balochistan to remain alert and take necessary precautions as a tropical cyclone is expected to hit

the coastal areas. The DG PDMA advised people living in lowlying areas and near the coast to take necessary precautions, including evacuating to safer locations if needed. He also advised fishermen to avoid venturing into the sea until the cyclone passes. The DG PDMA urged

people to stay informed about the latest weather updates and follow instructions from local authorities. He also advised people to stay away from flooded areas and avoid travelling unless necessary. The Director General

emphasized that safety is the top priority, and everyone should take necessary precautions to protect themselves and their loved ones. Responding to a query, Director General PDMA Sindh, Syed Salman Shah, said that the agency is also expecting the cyclone move towards Balochistan, and has alerted PDMA Balochistan to stay vigilant and take all necessary

precautionary measures. He assured that PDMA Sindh is in close coordination with PDMA Balochistan to ensure a unified response to the cyclone threat

LCCI, PSQCA step

into partnership by signing MOU

Lahore Chamber of Com-

merce & Industry and Pa-

kistan Standards and Oual-

(PSQCA) have signed a Memorandum of Under-

standing (MoU). This stra-

tegic partnership is poised

support and resources to

the businesses for enhancing their ability to compete

by LCCI President Kashif

Anwar and Director Gen-

The MOU was signed

on a global scale.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Zimbabwe to Pakistan, Titus M.J. Abu Basutu on Friday said that the existing bilateral trade between Pakistan and Zimbabwe stands at \$ 30 million in FY 2023 less than its potential, which needs to be increased to \$100 million in the coming three

The target is to take the volume of bilateral trade up to 100 million in the next three years till FY 2026, the role of the private sector and chambers of commerce and Industries is significant and the Zimbabwean embassy in Islamabad will provide full support to the exporters and traders and businessman's in this regard, Ambassador of Zimbabwe to Pakistan, Titus M.J. Abu Basutu told APP

The Ambassador said that Pakistan's current export volume to Zimbabwe is \$20 million and Pakistan's imports from Zimbabwe are \$10 million,

potential, which can be inpate in it. creased over time to strengthen economic ties.

He said that Zimbabwe imports from Pakistan mainly agricultural goods including rice, tractors and other sectors like light engineering, electronics, medical equipment, sports equipment, safety tools and

While Pakistan imports from Zimbabwe including chemicals, tanning dying tobacco and cotton from Zimbabwe. The Ambassador said that at this time Zimbabwe prioritized promoting economic and trade relations with Pakistan and increased bilateral trade volume on priority, for which, "We encourage the business communities of both sides to exchange mutual business delega-

that Zimbabwe is having a Trade Expo' in April 2025, where industrialists and traders from all over the world will participate and

Apart from this, there is a tourism summit in Zimbabwe from coming September 12, 2024, in which tourism experts and leaders from all over the world will gather and present feasible plans for the promotion of tourism in Zimbabwe.

He said that there will be an agriculture show in the coming months of September, where a forum will be organized regarding Zimbabwe's agriculture and ts potential.

At this time, the government of Zimbabwe wants to bring reforms and modernize in the agricultural sector in his country,

Zimbabwean envoy said that there is a lot of potential in the pharmaceutical sector and medical equipment in Zimbabwe The ambassador said and in both potential sectors; Pakistan's industrialists need to work with Zimbabwean relevant sectors. He said that Zimba-

bwe is a member of a sig-



with the Sectoral Council for Engineering, highlighting the need for strategic reforms and government support to elevate Pakistan's engineering industry to compete globally Islamabad.

Macroeconomic indicators show resilience: Report

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the first month of the current financial year, key macroeconomic indicators demonstrated resilience, with consumer-based inflation decreasing, the current account balance improving, and revenue collection surpassing targets.

According to the 'Monthly Economic Update and Outlook August 2024', issued by the Ministry of Finance on Friday, the agricultural credit disbursement recorded an increase of 24.8 percent during fiscal year 2024 to Rs 2,216 billion compared to the last year.

A significant rise in the import of agriculture ma-

during the first-half of the

year 2024 has achieved Rs

2.6 billion profit before tax,

which was up by 788 per-

cent as compared to the

corresponding period of the

(TMB) in its meeting ap-

proved the bank's financial

results for the half year

ended June 30, 2024, said a

press release issued here

ported exceptional financial

performance for the first

half of 2024, achieving a profit before tax of Rs 2.6

billion, a staggering 788%

increase compared to first

half of 2023 Rs 0.3 billion

and equity touching Rs 10

billion, solidifying its posi-

tion as a pioneering force in

Pakistan's fintech land-

and advances have demon-

Customer deposits

The TMB has re-

The Board of Bank

122.8 percent to \$ 91.3 million during the period under review indicates a continued boost in investment in farming technology, paving the way for enhanced productivity and efficiency in the agriculture sector

The Large Scale Manufacturing Sector registered positive growth of 0.9 percent in fiscal year 2024 against the contraction of 10.3 percent last year. CPI inflation recorded at 11.1 percent on Year-on-Year basis in July 2024 as compared to 12.6 percent in previous month, and 28.3 percent in July 2023. On a month-on-month

(M-o-M) basis, it increased

comparison with first half of 2023 Rs 55.3 billion and

advances climbing to Rs

22.9 billion, growing by 59%, Rs 14.5 billion.

maintained a robust Capi-

tal Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 26.9%. This achieve-

ment underscores TMB's

exceptional ability to scale

operations and sustain

growth simultaneously.

The significant increase in

loans and advances,

coupled with excellent prof-

itability, further highlights

the bank's strong financial

performance and an effec-

tive digital-first strategy in

the challenging economic

performance, Amin Sukhiani, Chief Financial

Officer, Telenor Bank/

easypaisa, said, "As we

move into the second half

Commenting on the

landscape.

of 2024.

The bank has also

TBM achieves

Rs 2.6 bln profit before

tax in first-half of 2024

I S L A M A B A D strated remarkable growth,

(APP): Telenor with deposits reaching Rs Microfinance Bank (TMB) 67.0 billion up by 21% in

compared to an increase of 0.5 percent in the previous

The government managed to reduce the fiscal deficit to 6.8% of GDP in FY2024, down from 7.8% last year. The primary balance showed a surplus of 0.9% of GDP, in contrast to a deficit of 1.0% of GDP in FY2023. The fiscal performance remained robust due to the prudent mea-

Total revenues grew by 38.0 percent due to a notable increase in both tax and non-tax collection, whereas the non-tax collection grew by 75.4 percent to Rs 3183.3 billion in fiscal 2024 against Rs.1814.8 billion last year.

OGDCL makes hydrocarbon discovery in Sindh

and Gas Development nounced to make a discovery of hydrocarbon deposit at the Baloch-2 well

"Based on the results of wireline logs interpretation, Drill Stem Test-3 in the Sembar Formation has tested 6.8 Million Standard Cubic Feet per Day (MMSCFD) of gas and 388 Barrels of Condensate per Day (BCPD) through Head Flowing Pressure (WHFP) of 2180 Pounds per Square Inch (Psi)," the company said in a news re-

The discovery of the result of a joint venture at Sinjhoro Block among OGDCL operating with 76 percent, Orient Petroleum 19 per cent and Government Holdings (Private) Limited (GHPL).

ISLAMABAD (APP): Oil (OGDCL) on Friday anin the Sanghar district of

eral PSQCA Taufique Ali Abbasi. This agreement marks the beginning of a collaborative effort to streamline access to standardization and conformity assessment services for CCI members

A cornerstone of this partnership is the establishment of a dedicated PSQCA Information Desk at LCCI. This desk will serve as a one-stop resource center where businesses, entrepreneurs and traders can seek guidance on standards, regulations and best practices. The Information Desk will be staffed by nominated officials from PSQCA to provide expert advice and assistance.

Kashif Anwar high-lighted the importance of this initiative stating that this MoU is more than just ity Control Authority a formal agreement; it is a strategic alliance aimed at empowering our members with the knowledge and resources they need to meet to provide comprehensive global standards.

He said that the estab lishment of the PSQCA Information Desk at LCCI will provide the members with direct access to the expertise required to navigate the complex landscape of standards and regula-

The LCCI President said that in today's highly competitive global market, the ability to meet and exceed international standards is not just an advantage but it is a necessity. This part-nership will help the industries innovate, improve product quality and ultimately enhance their competitiveness on the world stage. Kashif Anwar informed the DG PSQCA that the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry has inked numerous MOUs with hospitals, diagnostic laboratories, educational and various other institutions



FAISALABAD: Daily wages laborers unload sacks of potatoes from a delivery truck at a bustling veg-

US, UAE and UK top 3 destinations of Pakistani exports during July 2024 ISLAMABAD (APP): exports to Germany were

The United States (US) re-recorded at US \$135.463 mained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first month of the current financial year 2024-25, followed by the the exports to Holland were United Arab Emirates recorded at \$124.547 mil-(UAE) and United Kingdom (UK). Total exports to the US during July 2024 were recorded at US \$476.017 million against the exports of US \$443.789 million during July 2023, showing an increase of 7.26 percent, ac-

of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by the UAE, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$216.918 million against the exports of US \$201.319 million last year, showing

cording to the State Bank

an increase of 7.74 percent. UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$183.303 million during the month under review against the exports of US \$151.554 million, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani exports to China stood at US \$160.100 million against US \$153.745 million last million against US \$131.079 million last year, During July 2024-25,

lion against \$110.059 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$96.024 million against \$89.297 million. Pakistan's exports to

Spain were recorded at \$106.706 million against the exports of US \$115.691 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$88.065 million against \$ 46.262 million last year.

The exports to Bangladesh stood at US \$57.866 million against US \$60.772 million.

Similarly, the exports to France during the month under review were recorded at US \$41.862 million against US \$43.678 million while the exports to Belgium stood at US \$59.674 million against US \$50.351 million. Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia were recorded at US \$57.445 million during the current year compared to US \$49.084 year, showing an increase million last year whereas the of 4.13 percent while the exports to Turkiye.

Short-term inflation eases further by 0.62% ISLAMABAD (APP): 44,175 and above Rs

The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed further decrease of 0.62 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on August 29, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the abovementioned group was recorded at 319.73 points as compared to 321.72 points during the past week.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 15.34 per cent. The weekly SPI with

the base year $20\tilde{1}5-16=100$ covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. Likewise, SPI for the

lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732, however witnessed an increase of 0.24 per cent and went up to 310.80 points from last week's 310.29 points.

The SPI for consumption group of Rs 17,732 to 22,888 also witnessed an increase of 0.11 percent. However the SPI for the consumption groups of Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-

44,175 decreased by 0.64 percent, 0.86 and 0.58 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 17 (33.33%) items increased, 10 (19.61%) items decreased and 24 (47.06%) items remained stable.

The items, which re corded major decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included chicken (3.02%), bananas (2.35%), chilies powder (1.42%), wheat flour (0.85%), pulse masoor (0.68%), bread (0.56%), pulse mash (0.53%) and sugar (0.49%).

The commodities which recorded major increase in their average prices on week-on-week basis included tomatoes (8.03%), onions (6.53%), pulse gram (2.20%), garlic (1.76%), potatoes (0.63%), eggs (0.55%), LPG (0.51%), gur and rice basmati broken (0.41%) each, firewood (0.12%) and shirting (0.07%). On-year basis, the commodities that witnessed decrease included wheat flour (36.73%), chilies powder (18.94%), electricity charges for q1 (16.91%), sugar (16.08%), cooking oil 5 litre (11.32%), petrol (10.07%), diesel (9.22%), rice basmati broken (8.81%).

which is less than the bilathe invites the Pakistani businificant African regional eral economic and trade ness community to partici-

Team ONIC comes together for a group photo to mark the First anniversary

ONIC sets groundbreaking telecom benchmarks with digital connectivity

Independent Report pioneering digital telco brand that launched just a year ago, has made a remarkable impact on Pakistan's telecom industry. It started as a bold vision, which has become a thriving reality through transforming how people connect and setting new standards for the future. Since its inception, ONIC has experienced remarkable growth in digital-first subscribers, solidifying its unique position in a historically traditional telco market. This surge in subscribers highlight the brand's strong appeal and the effectiveness of its segmented approach, inspiring com-

petitors to follow suit. ONIC is about more than connectivity; it's about convenience and innovation. With a fully digital onboarding process and advanced online payment options like a pinless wal-

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rev-

enue Authority (KPRA)

opened a Sub-Office in

Kohat on Friday to facili-

tate taxpayers of the south-

ern region of the province.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kohat Abdul

Akram Chitrali formally

inaugurated the Sub-Office

along with KPRA team. The

office is located in KDA

opened on the directives of

Chief Minister Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin

Khan Gandapur and Min-

ister Finance Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa Aftab Álam

Afridi to facilitate taxpay-

ers of Kohat and its adja-

cent areas. Director General

(DG) KPRA Fouzia Iqbal

in her statement said that

The Sub-Office was

Complex B-Block.

company notable acco- nications landscape." lades, including Best Mo-bile App and Digital Am-

Pakistan Digital Awards. ONIC's unique brandwith brands like Careem, foodpanda, and Golootlo, have further cemented its role as a leader in the industry with exclusive deals for its users, showcasing ONIC's dedication to creating value.

"ONIC's rapid growth and market success within its first year is a testament to our commitment to digital innovation and customer-centric solusaid Hatem tions," Group CEO of PTCL & Ufone 4G. He further let journey and auto-re-newal features, ONIC is ONIC's achievements and tomer service.

Office in Kohat is to facili-

tate taxpayers of Kohat and

an Assistant Collector along

with a facilitation officer

will be present in the Sub-

Office to address the issues

of taxpayers on-the-spot

for which they had to travel

to KPRA regional office lo-

cated in Bannu," she said.

The taxpayers are

'Our staff, including

its nearby areas.

KPRA opens Sub-Office

to facilitate taxpayers

of southern region

PESHAWAR (APP): The the aim of opening the Sub-

redefining seamless cus- look forward to continuing tomer experience. This our journey of transformcommitment has earned the ing Pakistan's telecommu-"ONIC's success re-

flects our dedication to debassador of the Year at the livering unparalleled digital experiences to our customers," said Omer Bin Tariq, ing activities, such as a Country Head Pakistan prominent feature on Times ONIC. He further stated Square during the Cricket "We are excited about the World Cup 2024, and its future and remain committrendsetting partnerships ted to pushing the boundaries of digital innovation in Pakistan. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated team, whose hard work and commitment over the past year have been instrumental in building ONIC into the success

it is today. Launched in 2023. ONIC a pioneering digital telco brand of Pak Telecom Mobile Limited (PTML) in Pakistan, is on a mission to lead Pakistan's telecom sec-Bamatraf, President and tor into a new era of digital transformation. With its focus on innovative solutions and outstanding cus-

SBP injects Rs9.2trln into market

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

our stakeholders and we Rs9,103 billion. would do our best to facili-The central bank retate them as much as possible to make tax payments and monthly returns filing easier for them," she said and added that the Sub-Office will also help KPRA in improving tax compliance in Kohat, Hangu and Karak and the nearby areas and will also result an increase in the tax.





PESHAWAR: Laborer sorting plastic bottles at a scrap godown on Ring Road for recycling purposes.

FPCCI, **SECP** organize seminar on new portal 'eZfile'

LAHORE (APP): The Federation of Pakistan Champorary business techber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) organised an awareness seminar regarding SECP's new portal 'eZfile', 'Companies Regulations 2024' and Company Regulariza-tion Scheme (CRS) at FPCCI Regional Office,

here on Friday. Vice President and Regional Chairman FPCCI Zaki Aijaz highlighted that the objective of the session is to educate private limited, listed and non-listed companies about the new rules and regulations of the SECP, so that the participating companies could better fulfill their legal requirements.

Vice President Zaki Aijaz said that FPCCI aims to provide a vibrant platform for its member companies and business community to enhance their knowledge and also to

porary business techniques. He emphasised that the SECP plays a crucial role in the economic development of Pakistan. The FPCCL in collaboration with the SECP, organizes sessions that are vital for betterment of the corporate sector. The SECP not only regulates the legal affairs of companies but also plays an important role in improving the business environment in the country. Joint Registrar (SECP) Saboohi Israr along with Additional Joint Registrar (SECP) Ali Wahid also spoke. The session attracted huge interest from diverse stakeholders comprising representation from

Saboohi Israr briefed the audience about the new interface named eZfile designed to enhance user experience by simplifying navigation through the registration process

companies and young en-

trepreneurs.

PSX gains 138 more points

ISLAMABÂD (APP) The 100-Index of the Paki stan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with Bullish trend on Friday, gaining 138.55 more points, showing a positive change of 0.18 percent, closing at 78,488.22 points against

A total of 680,810,524 shares were traded during the day as compared to trading day.

with 38,685,354 shares at Rs 9.34 per share.

PESHAWAR: Workers busy in crafting bridal dresses at their workplace in

78,349.66 points on the last working day.

599,820,775 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 21.186 billion against Rs 20.409 billion on the last As many as 545 companies transacted their shares in the stock market.

214 of them recorded gains and 180 sustained losses. whereas the share price of 60 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Hascol Petrol with 63,106,709 shares at Rs 7.90 per share, Kohinoor Spinning with 44,638,709 shares at Rs.11.84 per share and Symmetry Group Limited

Xi says China committed to good ties with US

that Beijing re-

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

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

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

Sullivan said US President Joe Biden is looking forward to talks with Xi Jinping in the "coming agreed to hold a ca

with you again in the out from the White coming

Monitoring Desk But state broad- "President Biden is BEIJING: Chinese caster CCTV said Xi committed to re-President Xi Jinping told Sullivan that in sponsibly managing told top White spite of "great this consequential House aide Jake cha-nges", China relationship to en-Sullivan on Thursday and the US could sure that competistill enjoy good ties. tion does not veer mained committed to good ties with the mitment to the goal frontation, and to United States, de- of stable, healthy, work together where our interests align," he said.

Earlier in the day, Sullivan met senior Chi-nese army chief Zhang You--xia at the Beijing head-q-uarters of the Cen-tral Military Commission, where the two discussed Taiwan and other

The two officials agreed to hold a call between the two Sullivan told Xi sides' theatre com-that Biden "looks manders "in the forward to engaging near future", a readweeks". House said.

Israel, Hamas

agree to three-day

pauses for polio

vaccination

Monitoring Desk

UNITED NATIONS: The

Israeli military and Hamas

have agreed to three sepa-

rate, zoned three-day

pauses in fighting in the

Gaza Strip to allow for the

vaccination of some

640,000 children against

polio, a senior World Health

Organisation (WHO) off

campaign is due to start

on Sunday, said Rik

Peeperkorn, the WHO's

senior official for the Pal-

was for the pauses to take

place between 6:00am and

would start in central Gaza

with a three-day pause in

fighting, then move to

southern Gaza, where there

would be another three-day

pause, followed by north-

estinian territories.

3:00pm local time.

The vaccination

He said the agreement

He said the campaign

cial said on Thursday.



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

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

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

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

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

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

Germany deports first Afghan nationals since Taliban govt took control

Monitoring Desk BERLIN: Germany said it

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

"These were Afghan nationals, all of whom were convicted offenders who had no right to stay in Germany and against whom deportation orders had been issued," government spokesman Steffen Hebestreit said in a statement. A chartered Qatar Airways flight bound for Kabul took off from Leipzig

airport just before 0500

GMT with 28 Afghans on

board, Der Spiegel magazine

said, citing security

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

Hebestreit said Germany had "asked key regional partners for support in order to facilitate the deportations", without giving more details. Germany completely stopped deportations to Afghanistan and closed its embassy in Kabul following the Taliban administration taking power in 2021. Friday's deportation comes as the German government faces growing calls to curb illegal migration and take tougher action against dangerous and convicted asylum seekers.

Yemen's **Huthis blew up** stranded oil tanker

Monitoring Desk SANAA: Yemen's Iranbacked Huthi rebels announced Thursday they had booby-trapped and detonated the Greek-flagged oil tanker Sounion, stranded in the Red Sea after a drone and missile attack earlier this month. The group's leader said the operation took place earlier this week. Since then, the rebels have agreed to allow rescue teams to access the ship. A video shared on the rebels' media outlets showed masked men planting explosives on the vessel and then detonating them, causing several fires on board.

Czech police safely detonate World War Two bomb at oil refinery **Monitoring Desk**

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

Police had prepared for the controlled explosion for several days, creating a wall of sandbags around the bomb at the Litvinov refinery, which is operated by Orlen Unipetrol, a Czech unit of Polish refiner Orlen (PKN.WA).

Israel kills 16 Palestinians in West Bank attacks **Monitoring Desk** rated from the West Bank by Israel.

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

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

The Palestinian health ministry gave the same figure, after both revised ear-

The raids on several towns and refugee camps were launched as violence raged on in the war-battered Gaza Strip, the besieged Palestinian territory sepa-

vehicles backed by troops and aircraft were sent in before soldiers encircled

In the West Bank, columns of Israeli armoured refugee camps in Tubas and Tulkarem, as well as Jenin, and exchanged fire with Palestinian fighters.

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

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

were killed in Jenin on Thursday, the army said.

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

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

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

understand what happened, what the circumstances are, and whose responsibility it is," Oleshchuk wrote in the

16 in Ukraine, where they month. At least six of the warplanes are believed to have been delivered by European countries.

Military analysts say the planes won't be a gamechanger in the war, given Russia's massive air force and sophisticated air defense systems. But Ukrainian officials welcomed the supersonic jets, which can carry modern weapons used by NATO countries, for bringing an opportunity to hit back at Russia's air superiority.

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

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

Monitoring Desk in Gaza rages and humanitarian operations struggle to

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

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

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

order to evacuate at some JNITED NATIONS: A point," Msuya said, adding top UN aid official on Thursday questioned "what has become of our beside hyperatics" and the civilians, "in a state of limbo," were being forced into an area equivalent to be a limbo, and the civilians to the just 11 percent of the Gaza

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

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

negotiate a ceasefire. The current fighting was sparked by Hamas's October 7 attack on southern Israel, which resulted in the deaths of 1.199 people. mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on

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

Biden restarts immigration program for 4 countries with more vetting for sponsors

WASHINGTON: The Biden administration is restarting an immigration program that allows migrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela to come to the United States, and it is including "additional vetting" of their U.S.based financial sponsors

Monitoring Desk

The Department of Homeland Security had suspended the program earlier this month to investigate the concerns but indicated that an internal review found no widespread fraud among sponsors.

following fraud concerns.

"Together with our existing rigorous vetting of potential beneficiaries seeking to travel to the United States, these new procedures for supporters have strengthened the integrity of these processes and will help protect against exploitation of beneficiaries," the agency said.

The program launched in January 2023 and is a major piece of the Biden administration's immigration policies that create or expand pathways for legal entry while restricting asylum for those who cross the

border illegally. The policy is aimed at

countries that send large numbers of people to the United States and generally refuse to accept those who are deported. It is paired with commitments from Mexico to take back people from those countries who cross the U.S. border ille-

Under the program, the U.S. accepts up to 30,000 people a month from the four countries for two years and offers eligibility for work authorization. To qualify, migrants must have a financial sponsor in the U.S. who vouches for them and fly into an American airport at their own expense, rather than crossing at the southern border. Those acting as sponsors and the migrants hoping to come to America

land Security. Republicans have repeatedly criticized the program as an end-run around immigration laws.

undergo vetting by Home-

They immediately attacked the administration when the program was suspended early this month, pointing to it as further validation of their concerns about whether migrants were properly vetted



Monitoring Desk TAIPEI: China lacks the ability to "fully" invade Taiwan as it does not have the equipment, but is bringsuch as inspecting foreign argo snips, the island

defence ministry said. China, which views democratically-governed Taiwan as its own territory, has ramped up military and political pressure over the past five years to assert its claims, which Taipei

strongly rejects. China has never renounced the use of force to bring Taiwan under its control. The government of the defeated Republic of China fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war with Mao Zedong's commu-

Monitoring Desk

ALEPPO: Four historic

souks in northern Syria's

Aleppo, heavily damaged

during some of the most in-

tense fighting of the 13-year

civil war, reopened this

week following their resto-

old shop, following the

renovation of the market, I

felt my spirit return with

it," said merchant Omar al-

Rawwas, 45, who inherited

his family's carpet business

at the revived Saqtiya 2

bustling markets and old

citadel, Aleppo's Old City

was rendered almost

unrecognisable by some of

the worst violence in

Syria's conflict between

government forces and

rebels that began after mass

Aleppo, which lasted until

2016 when Damascus re-

The fighting in

protests in 2011.

Once famous for its

"After I reopened my

or armistice has ever been

In an annual threat assessment of China sent to lawmakers on Friday, a ing on line advanced new copy of which was reweapons and has other op- viewed by Reuters, tions to threaten Taiwan, Taiwan's defence ministry said Beijing continues to command operations.

"However, the use of tactics and strategies against Taiwan is still limited by the ment and logistic capabilities. hensive invasion of Taiwan"

natural geographical environment of the Taiwan Strait and insufficient landing equipit said. China "is not yet fully possessed of the formal combat capabilities for a compre-But China is speeding up development of a slew of new weapons, such as the H-20 bomber and hypersonic mis-

siles and beefing up the numnists, and no peace treaty ber of nuclear warheads.

Moscow's support, de-

stroyed many of the famed

markets in the city previ-

ously considered Syria's

Four souks in the Old

economic capital.

War-damaged souks Peeperkorn added that there was an agreement to extend the humanitarian reopen in Syria's Aleppo pause in each zone to a ourth day if needed. captured the area with

Danish court rules arms to India

City restored through combined public and private efforts, reopened Wednesday evening—drawing officials, residents, and char-

ity representatives to the celebration. "Thank God, things have improved and the country has gotten better," Rawwas told AFP, noting that some of his business that his rights would be viois from people returning to Aleppo since calm re-

"Today, expatriates return from abroad to their homes, finding their rugs damaged by moths. They have them repaired because some of these rugs hold personal

special value to them.

memories and others have

Monitoring Desk

Niels Holck, 62, has admitted to parachuting four tonnes of weapons into the state of West Bengal to help locals fight government authorities. New Delhi has relentlessly pursued attempts to have him stand

smuggler cannot be extradited

COPENHAGEŇ: A court in Denmark said on Thursday that a Danish arms smuggler who airdropped weapons to Indian villagers in 1995 could not be extradited to India, citing the risk

trial in India and the affair has been a stumbling block in Danish-Indian relations.



Members of the media stand outside Koh Samui Provincial Court on the ruling day for the trial of Daniel Sancho Bronchalo, who is accused of killing Colombian plastic surgeon Edwin Arrieta Arteaga on the island of Koh Pha Ngan.

German Justice Minister Marco Buschmann and German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser present a security package, including tougher knife laws, in Berlin. Russia uses Telegram boss Pavel Durov's case to rally doubters against West

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russians who still share Western values are being told to choose sides and support their warring homeland or risk

being victimised by the West, in the same way that Telegram boss Pavel Durov was supposedly victimised by being arrested in France. The Russian-born tech entrepreneur, with his multiple passports and glo-

bal ambitions for his mes-

saging platform, was once

Russians who, before the Ukraine conflict, bet their future on ties with the West, working in multinational firms and travelling the globe. After Moscow sent troops into Ukraine in Feb-

ruary 2022, many lost their jobs as multinational businesses pulled out, and hundreds of thousands fled Russia to build a new life elsewhere. But prominent Russian leaders have long told them that they made

idolised by cosmopolitan the wrong choice. Brazilian family left homeless by floods finds refuge under road bridge

Monitoring Desk PORTO ALEGRE: Four months after devastating flooding wrecked their house in southern Brazil, Milton do Nascimento and his family still have no permanent home and are sleeping rough under a highway

The Nascimento family includes three pigs, 24 goats, two boars, five horses and 10 dogs - complicating their search for a new place to live. "If it weren't for the animals, I'd be living somewhere else. But we have to look after them. My belongings are stored away safely. but not the animals," the

58-year-old said. Nascimento, his wife Gabriela and his stepdaughter live just 300 meters (984 ft) from their house which was destroyed in the unprecedented flooding that hit the city of Porto Alegre and surrounding areas in May, killing more than 180 people and driving half a million more from their homes.

The family's house remains uninhabitable and there is no prospect of returning. But they have refused to leave their spot under the bridge, despite the availability of shelters, fearing the house will be looted.

ered on nearby land.

Nascimento

Then there is the matter of the 44 animals, which are living in makeshift pens beneath the bridge or teth-

Thailand court jails Spanish actor's son for life in murder case

Monitoring Desk KOH SAMUI: A Thai court on Thursday jailed a famous Spanish actor's son for life for the grisly murder of a Colombian plastic surgeon on a tropical holiday island, in a lurid case that has gripped Spain.

Daniel Sancho Bronchalo, a 30-year-old chef, was found guilty of the premeditated murder of Edwin Arrieta Arteaga on the tourist island of Koh Phangan last year. The case has generated enormous interest in Spain because the defendant's father Rodolfo Sancho is a well-known actor, and scores of Spanish reporters have flown in for the trial.

Hong Kong news editor found guilty of sedition

Monitoring Desk HONG KONG: While on trial for sedition, Hong Kong editor Chung Puikuen became the defiant face of the city's media over his leadership of Stand News, a now-shuttered news outlet accused of inciting hatred against Beijing.

The 54-year-old served as editor-in-chief of the popular online news portal, which gained prominence for its coverage of Hong Kong's democracy protests in 2019, as well as the government's ensuing

At OIC CFM Pakistan calls for united

efforts to rid Palestine, **IIOJK** of foreign occupations

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

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

He told the gathering that over 40.000 Palestinians, the majority of them

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

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

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

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



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

National Jiga to be called on interests of people of Chaman:

Grand protest demonstration held against enforcement of passport policy at Pak-Afghan border

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

people belonging to the All parties, traders and general public belonging to different shades of life participated in the protest dem-

carrying the placards and banners inscribed with the Pak-Afghan border. slogans against the onedocument regime of the federal government at Pak-Af-

Independent Report

QUETTA: MPA and Chairman Standing Com-

mittee for Housing and

Physical Planning, Haji Mir

Zabed Ali Riki, inspected

the substandard road con-

struction in Zard Shahogirdi, Washuk Dis-

trict, upon a public com-

plaint. He declared the road

construction as substan-

quiry into the matter.

dard and announced an in- able.

ghan border in Chaman. The member of central Muhammad Yousaf led the living at the border. protest demonstration.

road and turned into a big public meeting at the DC

ering and rejected the one ation. document regime at the

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

sure that the construction

work is done according to

standards. He added that the

people of Zard Shahogirdi

deserve a well-con-

structed road and he will

make sure that their rights

if any contractor is found

involved in corruption,

they will be held account

He also warned that

He emphasized that

are fulfilled.

They termed it an unshura of Jamiat Ulema-e- fair and highhandedness Islam (JUI), Maulana Hafiz with thousands of people

> ends meet due to the enforcement of one-document

other discussion in the Jirga except the interests of people of Chaman and their livelihood.

Zardari expresses sorrow over landslide tragedy

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari regret and sorrow over the

on Friday expressed deep loss of lives caused by landslides in the Dir Bala dis-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to a press release from the President's House, the president extended his condolences to the families of the deceased. The president expressed his sympathies to

the families of the deceased

They said that it has **QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Education** Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani meeting with Chief

The procession become difficult for the A large number of marched through the Taj people to make their both become difficult for the

The political, tribal, social and traders' leaders addressed the public gath-

There would be no

tee Kharan, Dr Mubarak **Independent Report** QUETTA: The Provincial Ali Badini in the office of Deputy Commissioner Minister for Finance, Mir Kharan on Friday. Shoaib Nausherwani has The Deputy Commisstated that the incumbent

Govt. taking wholehearted

steps to provide special relief

to zamındars: Nausherwanı

sioner Kharan, Munir government is taking whole-Ahmed Soomro and other hearted steps for providing concerned senior officials were present on the occasion. Mir Sarfraz Bugti The Minister said that maintained that the federal the government took steps and provincial governments on emergent basis to shift are making every possible the agricultural tube wells endeavours to provide spe-He said that the orders cial relief to the farmers for have been issued to district

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meet-

harm the peace and stabil-

Murtaza of Jamiat Ulema-

e-Pakistan (JUI-P) said

during the apex committee

meeting held the other day,

nine more innocent people

were killed in Balochistan

Muhammad of National

Party said the Baloch na-

tion has its own code of

conduct in politics, social

life and matters of serious

concern based on honour,

integrity, courage and re-

must to end terrorism in

mentary Affairs, Senator

Azam Nazeer Tarar pro-

posed that the discussion

should continue on

Balochistan and the inte-

rior minister would brief

the House after conclusion

of his meetings at the high-

est forum with relevant

stakeholders and state en-

He said dialogue is

Minister for Parlia-

spect towards others.

in two different areas.

Senator

ity of the region.

ing of the Federal Cabinet.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

The members of the Upper

House of the Parliament on

Friday urged the govern-

ment to initiate dialogue

with the relevant stakehold-

ers including protesting

women, girls and youth de-

manding rights to stem ter-

tor Bilal Ahmed Khan of

Pakistan Peoples Party

Parliamentarians (PPPP)

said Balochistan was the

most impacted province

from violence and terrorism

was casting negative effects

and stakeholders should

join heads to devise solu-

tions for addressing the is-

Suharwardy Taimur of Pa-

kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

PTI) said unless the stake-

holders were not taken

onboard by the government

including the women and

children of Balochistan fac-

ing neglect, the issue of ter-

rorism would continue to tities.

Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

The decision makers

Senator Dr Zarqa

on the masses minds.

sue in Balochistan.

Taking the floor, Sena-

rorism in Balochistan.

Senators call for dialogue

with stakeholders to stem

terrorism in Balochistan

development of the agriculture sector under leadership Minister Prime Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti respec-

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



Seeks cooperation of GIZ

CM Focal Person for comprehensive

special relief to zamindars

administration and Agricul-

ture department for survey

of the losses caused to the

zamindars due to the flash

was speaking to the repre-

sentative delegation of

zamindars who called on

him under leadership of

General Secretary of

The Minister Finance

of the province.

on solar energy.

floods and rains.

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

Riki said that he will not not be wasted on substan-

tolerate corruption and en- dard construction work.

Haji Mir Zabed Ali the people's money will

QUETTA: Chief Collector Customs Balochistan

Muhammad Yaqoob Mako meeting with Inspector

General of Police Balochistan Moazzam Jah Ansari

Reki inspects substandard

road construction

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

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

ment data on the damages caused by the rains.

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

The rescue operation, conducted by the district administration, Levies, and police, successfully brought the stranded fam-

social protection programmes **Independent Report** the remote areas of the kistan, Dr Franzon, Dr QUETTA: The Focal Per-

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

Mr. Noorul Haq Baloch also stressed the need to create awareness among the families living in province about the Health Card Programme. He was addressing the

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

Policy Advisor of GIZ Pa-

Imran Durrani, besides the experts and representatives of the Benazir Income Support Programme, State Life Insurance and Health De-

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

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



Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan. Sheikh Jaffar

Khan Mandokhail has stressed the need to expand the services of blood donations in the province.

that modem science has

made lot of progress in sav-

ing the human lives through the blood donations. He said that it has been made possible to save lives of several people at the same time through the blood do-

Govt officially

confirms

installation

of 'web

monitoring

system'

ISLAMABAD (INP): The

Pakistani government has

officially confirmed the in-

stallation of a web monitor-

ing system to manage online

content The Cabinet Divi-

sion has formally informed

the National Assembly of

the system's implementa-

communication Authority

(PTA) has deployed the

web monitoring system to

manage online content. The

Cabinet Division confirmed

that the system has already

begun blocking website and applications within

According to the Cabinet Division, the PTA has blocked 2,369 URLs and

183 mobile applications

through the web monitor-

ing system. Sources indi-

cate that the PTA is now

self-sufficient in content

blocking following the up-

grade of the web monitor-

were reportedly involved in

exposing citizens' personal data, while the blocked ap-

plications were linked to the

public disclosure of citi-

zens' identification infor-

Ali Zafar says:

Government

has no two-third

majority for

constitutional

amendment

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Ìnsaf (PTI) se-

nior leader and lawyer Bar-

rister Ali Zafar the chapter

of constitutional amend-

had been closed as the gov-

ernment had no two third

majority.

The blocked websites

ing system (WMS).

The Pakistan Tele-

tion.

Pakistan.

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

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

The Governor said meeting were the Directors of RBC from Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhaw. They stressed the need

Also present in the

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

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



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

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

Independent Report compromise on the integrity of Pakistan and the motives behind the ongoing terrorism in Balochistan will soon be brought in front of the nation and many faces will be exposed in this. Senior leader of Pakistan Peoples Party, Spokesman of President Asif Ali Zardari and Provincial Advisor on Industries and Trade Mir Ali Hassan Zehri expressed these

views in a statement. recent days in Balochistan, stroyed and the brave soldiers of the Pakistan Army

He said that behind the incidents of terrorism in

the evil intentions behind the scenes have been deand other security forces that now sympathy has ment by the government | have sacrificed their lives to | come in his heart on this protect the country and the issue.

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

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

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

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

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

She expressed these views while briefing to media regarding situation Hub She that the recent

monsoon rains in Sindh and Balochistan has significantly increased the water level in the Hub Dam.

The DC said that the reason for the increase in the reservoir water level of the dam was heavy rains in the catchments areas of the district Hub and Khuzdar of Balochistan and the catchments areas of the

cowardly enemy and the heinous ambitions of their instrumentalists were crushed

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

He said that why Dr. Malik did not solve this problem during his two and a half years in power. Why did they not solve the burning problems Balochistan? It is amazing



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

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

Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal on Friday informed the National Assembly that the government has launched an initiative for uplifting of 20 poorest districts of the Responding to a ques-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

tigation into the matter has not been made pub-

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



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