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dailyindisb@gmail.com

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

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Pak Army gives befitting reply to unprovoked Afghan Taliban aggression at Pak-Afghan border

kistan Army killed at least 16 Afghan Taliban as they responded strongly to unprovoked aggression along he Pakistan-Afghan bor-

As per details, Afghan Taliban opened unprovoked fire at Pak-Afghan border on September 7, which lasted till September

Pakistani Army responded strongly to the unprovoked firing from Af-ghanistan and killed 16 Taliban fighters, while 27 were injured, according to were destroyed during the

Security sources have reiterated Pakistan's stance on border security, emphasizing that any unprovoked aggression will be met with a robust response.

The military's swift and effective retaliation underscores its commitment to defending the nation's borders against external

The growing aggression and border violations from the Afghan side have raised concerns over escalating



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with President Awami National Party

Senator Aimal Wali Khan. Public issues can be resolved thru good governance:

Service delivery to be improved by making all departments efficient in Balochistan, vows CM

Mir Sarfraz Bugti takes notice of closure of schools in Pishin; orders to reopen non-functional schools by Dec. 14; assures to develop Pishin as model town

Independent Report JUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has categori-

cally stated that service delivery would be improved by making all government departments efficient in the province. He said that the issues

of people can be resolved through good governance.
The Chief Minister

was speaking to the tribal elders and elites during his visit to Pishin on Tuesday. Also accompanied him were the Provincial Minister for Revenue, Mir Asim Kurd and other high ups. Speaking to them, Mir

Sarfraz Bugti assured that Pishin would be developed

as model town by resolving issues and hardships o the people.

He mentioned that a good and most competent civil officer has been deputed as Deputy Commissioner Pishin. He on the occasion

took notice of the closure of schools in Pishin district and ordered to reopen all of them by December 14.

The Chief Minister also directed to meet shortage of the teachers by recruiting them on contract.

Earlier, he expressed condolence over the death of uncle of Member Provincial Assembly, Asghar Khan Tareen and offered fateha for the departed soul.

PTI introduced tradition of vendetta in politics: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI) leadership had introduced the tradition of confrontation

and vendetta in politics.
Speaking in the National Assembly, the minister strongly condemned the PTI leaders, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, for their abusive used abusive language.

outburst against national institutions, woman political opponents and journalists at the Sangjani meeting.

He said the PTI leaders had been repeatedly asked to be careful in their dealing with other political parties as it was a question of time which ultimately changed.

The minister said that Gandapur vented out his anger against institutions, Maryam Nawaz and the

Inter College Basima's student obtains 3rd position:

BRC Loralai's students clinch top

position as Balochistan Board

announces Inter Exam result

BRC Loralai students Shamraiz & Sharifullah share first position

securing 1051 marks; BRC Loralai & BRC Zhob students Sajjad

Hussain & Muhammad Zahid share 2nd position with 1050 marks

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a meeting about the damages caused due to the recent monsoon rains in

Police enters into Parliament house, arrest several MNAs of PTI

National Assembly speaker vows action over PTI leaders' arrests; Summons Islamabad police chief, DIG, SSP with details of cases against assembly members; Says no compromise on dignity of Parliament; PTI vows nationwide protests after leaders arrested in late-night crackdown; ATC grants 8-day physical remand for PTI leaders in Islamabad rally case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Police has entered into parliament house and arrested several MNAs of were with these PTI lead-

According to sources inside lights of National Assembly (NA) were switched off and police personnel in plain clothes entered into parliament

house.

The police personnel took position outside parliament house. Masked men took PTI MNAs into their custody from within parliament house. Nasim Shah too was arrested.

others were arrested. ers were also arrested. Security personnel were there outside parliament

service centre.

On the other hand information are there Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has reached KP House.

Naeem Panjutha said he would leave for Peshawar along with KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur.

Meanwhile Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, has PTI leaders Sheikh taken notice of the late-Waqas Akram, Aamir nightraid on the Parliament and Parliament Lodges, Sadiq emphasised the Ahmad Chatha, Yousuf those responsible account-

Speaking during Sources added the se- Tuesday's session of the National Assembly, Sadiq said that 'no one will remain silent about the incident and that decisive action will be taken.'
"We will take action on last night's incident and

address it seriously," Sadiq said, adding that he had requested all video footage to identify the responsible

He further stated that, if necessary, an FIR will be filed, and those in-

volved will be named. Recalling previous attacks on the Parliament



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail visiting fire-hit Government Science College

Bill to increase number of **SC** judges tabled in NA

SLAMABAD (INP) The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2024' aimed to increase the number of apex court's judges from 17 to 23, in the National Assembly on Tuesday

The bill was introduced Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) lawmaker Chaudhry.

As per "The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) (Amendment) Bill, 2024", the total number of judges including the Chief Justice will increase from 17 to 23

The bill sought amendment in the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act,

Governor grieved over post-fire state of Science College, assures it's rehabilitation to best

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that all educational institutions of the province are our national assets.

However, the Governor said that he is grieved over seeing the burnt classrooms of the Government Science College in such a state today.

He said that every possible endeavour would be made to rehabilitate the Science College in its previous

These views were expressed by the Governor during his visit to the Sci-

ence College on Tuesday. The Governor maintained that the fire has destroyed an important portion of the College. However, it is a matter of pleasure that the investigations are continued by the committee formed to determine lings in the college.

the real cause of fire erupted in the Science College

He directed to the concerned committee to present the report at the earliest He stressed the need to

conduct structure test of the fire-affected parts of the College in order to ensure safety of its students and staff. He also said that Science College is a prestigious educational institution of the province having history. He mentioned that the Science College has produced several prominent personalities in different sectors of life. He said that we are determined to rehabilitate the institution in it's

previous shape.

Meanwhile, he inspected the ground of Science College and directed to do it's complete renovation and repair besides recycling of water for trees and sap-

Imran Khan 'closes doors to negotiations' with all stakeholders

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former prime minister Imran Khan has announced that negotiations with any party, including the Establishment, will be closed. Speaking to journalists at Adiala Jail on Tuesday, the PTI founder said he had authorised six party leaders to talk to the Establishment.

Regarding the Lahore rally, Imran Khan said that whether permission is granted or not, the PTI would hold the rally in

Lahore on Sept 21. When asked about KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur represented the sentiments of the nation, and he stood with him.

query, the former prime minister responded that those apologising for Gandapur's statement were cowards and should not be

in the party. When asked about Sena-tor Faisal Vawda, Imran Khan stated that everyone knows who Faisal Vawda speaks for, and if the Arshad Sharif murder case is given an open trial, the

Climate change big challenge; need sustainable planning:

CM directs PDMA to prepare effective and viable strategy for minimizing nature of destructions of floods

Independent Report

OUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has stated that climate change is a major challenge and as such there is a need to have sustainable development to cope with it.

The Chief Minister directed to the Director General Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) to prepare effective and viable strategy to minimize the nature of destructions of the floods.

He also directed to release funds on an emergent basis for filling breaches in the Pat Feeder canal and drainage of water from

there.

The Chief Minister was chairing review meetmonsoon rains in Naseerabad Division, here on Tuesday

The provincial ministers and members of provincial assembly belonging to different constituencies of Naseerabad Division highlighted the situation of the flood rain affected areas of the Division

The Provincial Ministers and the members of assembly also presented different suggestions for rehabilitation of the flood affected areas and people.

Present in the meeting were included: Provincial Ministers Mir Shoaib Nausherwani, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani, Mir Saleem Khosa, Sardarzada Faisal Khan Jamali, Nawabzada Tariq Magsi, Mir Asim Kurd,

caused due to the recent Parliamentary Secretaries, Mir Muhammad Khan Lehri, Abdul Majeed Badini, Secretary Irrigation, Hafiz Abdul Majid, Director General PDMA and other concerned high ups.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister said that the flood situation is to face due to extraordinary rains every year and that because of climate changes in majority areas of the province.

The Chief Minister also issued directives to complete the rehabilitation projects of breaches and water drainage in the Pat Feeder within two weeks.

He also directed to prepare complete feasibility study of the Naseerabad Division to cope with the flood situa-



ISLAMABAD: Members of National Assembly Muhammad Siddiqui Khan Baloch and Abdul Rahman Khan Kanju call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Quiad-e-Azam's legacy continues to inspire

Pakistanis: CM **Independent Report** QUETTA: Balochistan

Chief Minister Mir Sardar Faraz Bugti said that the personality and character of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah serve as a guiding light for all Pakistanis. In a message on the occasion of September 11, the Chief Minister said that Quaid-e-Azam's tireless effort and sacrifices in the struggle for Pakistan's independence cannot be forgotten.

He emphasized the need to adhere to the principles of unity, organization, and faith, as exemplified by Quaid-e-Azam, in order to build a better Pakistan and provide a bright future for generations to come.

Bugti said that Quaid-e-Azam, upon entering practical politics, prioritized the attainment of a separate homeland for Muslims.

PM, MNAs discuss country's political situation

Members of the National Assembly Mohammad Siddique Khan Baloch and Abdul Rehman Kanjo met Prime Minister Mohammad Shehbaz

Sharif on Tuesday to address issues concerning their constituencies. During the meeting, the overall political situation of

the country was also discussed, a Prime Minister Office press release stated. Meanwhile Member of

ISLAMABAD (APP): Rashid Akbar Nawani and Member of the Punjab As sembly Saeed Akbar Nawani called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday to discuss issues pertaining to their constituencies.

During the meeting, overall political situation of the country also came under the discussion. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah was also Meanwhile Member of the National Assembly Office press release said.

President lauds services of AQ Khan Hospital Trust, assures his support

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday commended the services of Abdul Qadeer Khan Hospital Trust for providing accessible and free medical and healthcare to the needy people and assured of his support to the organisation.

The president expressed these views during a meeting with the delegation of Dr. AQ Khan Hospital Trust, led by Dr. Dina Khan, daughter of Mohsin-e-Pakistan late Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Member of the National Assembly Aseefa Bhutto Zardari was also present during the meeting, according to a President House press release.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq presiding over the meeting of Treasury & Opposition Members in National Assembly at Parliament House.

Interior Minister meets ANP **President**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday met with President Awami National Party Senator Aimal Wali Khan.

During the meeting matters of mutual interest and the overall situation of the country were dis cussed. Both leaders also talked about measures for establishment of peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Nagyi said that terror ism is condemnable in all its forms, and the national narrative against terrorism is the voice of Pakistan. He emphasized that everyone needs to be united against Mehmood Khan Achakzai says:

Be he any general or Shehbaz we will not allow any one to take undemocratic step ISLAMABAD (Online): PPP and PML-N signed

Tahaffuz Constitution of Pakistan (TTCP) Mehmood Khan Achakzai has said be he any general or Shehbaz Sharif we will not allow any one to take

Speaking in National Assembly (NA) Achakzai said I don't want to say any thing emotionally. The democracy was re-

an undemocratic step.

stored after difficulties Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto came to Pakistan along with her children.

Chief of Tehreek-e- an agreement for supremacy of democracy. we all have taken oath of defending the constitution of Pakistan. if there is any price of oath then speak openly on constitutional and non constitutional steps. We all stand with

democracy. Be he general or Shehbaz Sharif we will not allow any one to take unconstitutional step. If you are speaker then deliver the right you

owe to chair.

Independent Report QUETTA: Two students of Balochistan Residential College (BRC) Loralai clinched top position in the Intermediate's annual examinations 2024 of the Balochistan Board of Inter-

mediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Quetta. The BRC students

namely Shamraiz Khan

and Sharifullah bearing Roll No. 250106 secured 1051 marks to stand first in the Intermediate (F.Sc) exami-

Loralai student Sajjad Hussain bearing Roll No. 250059 shared second position with the BRC Zhob's student

bearing Roll No. 250062

Similarly, another BRC namely

Muhammad Zahid bearing Roll No. 650802 obtaining 1050 marks. However, third position went to the female student namely Salma Mehboob from Govt. Inter College, Basima, bearing Roll No. 584249, who got 1049 marks.

This was announced by the Controller Examinations of Balochistan BISE

Gandapur's speech in the Islamabad rally, the PTI founder responded that CM

Replying to another

truth will be revealed the terrorism.

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

Delayed bailout

Is Pakistan's new bailout deal with the IMF in trouble? Is the Fund's Executive Board deliberately stalling the approval of the \$7bn Extended Fund Facility agreed between Islamabad and the IMF mission on July 15? Are there any geopolitical factors at play?

These are the thoughts that come to mind after Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar's fresh critique of the IMF amid delays in disbursement of the much-needed funds by the lender of last resort. Speaking at a Defence Day function in London, the minister mostly recounted his personal experiences of having worked with the Washington-based agency for the revival of a previous 2019 funding plan as the country's finance czar.

In a way, Mr Dar questioned the intentions of the Fund towards Pakistan as he narrated how the agency had continued to stall its financing for eight months, despite completion of the programme review. The lender had eventually substituted that package with a short-term loan of \$3bn to help Pakistan avert looming sovereign default last year, weeks before a caretaker administration was installed to hold elections.

While the unexpected delay in the new IMF programme's approval is already causing anxiety in the markets, the timing of Mr Dar's tirade against the lender is quite confusing. Whether or not it is linked to the current status of the new bailout, it will likely add to existing uncertainties around the early disbursement of fresh IMF funds. More so because the Fund, going by the information Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has divulged to the public in piecemeal fashion, seems to be consistently changing

Or should we assume that the government has yet to fully reveal the conditions agreed with it in the staff-level agreement? Apparently, the delays in the confirmation of the debt rollovers by China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, as well as the failure to arrange for fresh funds to cover the external financing gap of \$2bn for the present fiscal year, are the main reasons for the delayed approval of the IMF Board. Nonetheless, if Mr Dar, who was apparently not given his favourite portfolio in the present administration due to the mistrust between him and the IMF, is to be believed, the Fund might deliberately be deferring disbursements to the country owing to geopolitical reasons — even if this appears to be a farfetched conclusion.

There are already speculations that the Western powers do not want Pakistan to use IMF funds to pay back the Chinese debt, and that the lender has asked Islamabad to, like Sri Lanka, first secure debt relief from Beijing, before it finally releases the promised funds. It is, therefore, crucial for the government and finance minister to clear the confusion rather than let growing uncertainty continue to grip the markets.

The master key

Gulmina Bilal Ahmad

Wednesday September 11, 2024

As both young and old hunt for better employment opportunities, it is worth reflecting on these wise words: "If these wise words: education is the key, technical-vocational education is the master key." Or, in today's digital age, the master code, too. The job market is constantly in flux, with major changes in skills required for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

Understandably, there is an emphasis on IT skills. However, we must not overlook (a) the traditional trades and (b) the changing nature and skill set of traditional trades. Both domestic and international markets still rely heavily on skilled labour, such as masons, plumbers, carpenters, and electricians. These professions remain vital globally and have been simultaevolving neously. For example, work exclusively with traditional systems; they must now be familiar with smart home technologies, which delarly, the job descriptions for carpenters and panded, integrating smart technology and energy-efficient prac-

The common perception is that a lot of particularly for overseas obs. However, data in- about dicates that mid-level experience is in highest demand internationally, with about 52 per cent of employers seeking mid-level experience. Fresh graduates and workers with limited experience follow at 30pc, while only 18pc of the international market demands highly experi- ies across different sec- approach, but is, inenced workers. Domes- tors. Internationally, the stead, sensitive to re-

ence, 29pc entry-level, followed by mainteand less than 1pc highlevel expertise. Interestingly, voca-

tional trades — certified programmes — are the most sought-after skill sets in both markets. In the national labour market, 65pc of jobs require trade certification, while ternational markets indiinternationally, this figure rises to 68pc. In contrast, diploma-level qualifications in health

services have a smaller but notable demand: 7pc domestically and 16pc internationally. Engineering diplomas are consistent demand for more valued nationally among the most in-de-(16pc) than internationally (5pc). Meanwhile, supply of qualified the demand for BTech degrees is 8pc internationally but only 1pc at home. These figures are from 2017, and work is underway to obtain current figures, but the indicative pattern remains the same Speaking of pat-

terns, an unsurprising one is that males domiplumbers no longer nate demand in both domestic and global markets. Internationally, 98pc of skilled labour demand is for men. Domestically, the divide is mand new skills. Simi- slightly smaller but still substantial, with 89pc of the demand for male electricians have ex- workers, 9pc for both genders and only 2pc specifically for women.

Despite these stark figures, the proportion of women in the annual supply of skilled workexperience is needed, ers is around 39pc. This raises critical questions

underutilisation of female workers, especially considering the investments made in their technical and vocational education. Strategies for integrating women into the skilled labour market is a top reform need.

The demand for skilled labour also vartically, the pattern is construction sector gional demands. similar, with 71pc seek-leads the way, account-Courtesy Dawn

ing mid-level experi- ing for 55pc of demand, nance and repair (17pc), services (11pc), and manufacturing (8pc). Domestically, manufacthrough various trade turing is the dominant sector (33pc), followed by services (27pc) and construction (16pc). These discrepancies between national and incate a skills gap in local economies.

Understanding these trends can help us prioritise the right skills development programmes. instan--ce, driving and electricians' work are mand trades, yet the workers in these fields lags far behind. Take driving, for exa-mple, where there is a demand for 82,015 workers, yet only 5,785 individuals are available to meet this need. Similarly, there are considerable gaps in fields such as mechanics, masonry, welding, and machine operation, many of which are either underrepresented in current vocational training programmes or completely absent from Pakistan's TVET system. The National Vocational and Technical Training Commission has a critical role in addressing these imbal-ances and ensuring that the supply of skilled workers matches the demands of the national and international markets. The focus is currently on supply chain adjustments, gender inclusion and adaptation

to economic transitions. More importantly, we need provincial and district-level programmes tailored to meet the specific needs of local economies. The bottom line is to ensure that vocational training is not a one-size-fits-all

Learning focus

Nazir A. Jogezai

With rapid industrial and technological advancements, the educational landscape has evolved to a great extent. But maximum efforts are being made to align the educational system with the needs and demands of the industrial sector. alignment concentrates a standardised curriculum and assessment, alongside homogeneous or one-size-fits-all global education reform initia-

The transformation in industrial trends generates new skills, which leads to new educational goals and learning milestones, making it more of an employment-oriented education system that requires graduates for industrial production. Although job security is the state's responsibility, learning has now become a means to an end make investment to get returns on investment in the form of a job. Individuals are responsible for both success abiding by traffic laws and failure as well as job attainment But the controlled

purpose of learning prevents a broader understanding of and particilogical framework. Education has fundamentally become a private good, determined by the need and satisfaction of private desires rather than a tool of societal progress and evolution.

Educational researcher Gert Biesta has used the term 'learnification' marketised learning, which favours data-intensive practices. Learning has also become unidimensional in the areas of policy, research and practice; 'what' is learnt and 'why' it is learnt are obscured as the purpose is limited to excelling in a

dustrial production. In learnification, the and social benefits.

primary focus is on a procedural array of policies and practices, indidatafication of learning for its development and outcomes is the norm in most relevant examples uniform learning designs on skill-based education, and pedagogies with grades or scores being advancem-e--nt. Inthe focal point of parental, societal and industrial goals, which drive the economic success of rigid testing and aceducation providers. countability met-hods Quantification is the only measure of learning and success in the education

system. categorising learning as an easily quantifiable sphere, we overlook the wider functions of education, such as critical thinking, individual growth, social engagement and societal well-being. quently, a large number of exam toppers are hardly a reflection of social advancement, even in basic forms such as and being punctual.

practices simply transfer a standardised curricua monologue-oripation in a social-eco- ented curriculum with stratified capital resources ignores the ground realities of a diverse educational landscape, yet expects all learners to excel equally. Our pedagogies prepare students for exams rather than nurture them as drivers of social change.

the learnification landscape, our policies and educational management remain more administrative to address diverse socithan academic, trapped in superficial measures of quantification such as staff attendance through biometric attendance to be sensible human systems. Instead, it should analyse and zens and drivers of soparticular skill set and on nourish the academic cial changes. -- Courbeing beneficial for in-rigour, contribution to tesy Dawn

learning improvements

Renowned scholar and cultural critic Henry Giroux, therefore, terms vidual learning and mea- such standardisation surable outcomes. The and quantification of education as 'neoliberal pedagogical terrorism', as it curtails any collecthe post-digital era. The tive struggle to preserve education as the pro-This industry-education are standardised exams, cess of creating critical citizens who contribute social

stead, it has a corporate drive for efficiency through standardisation, privatisa-tion.

While the number of out-of-school children is becoming a national crisis, those in school are left with poor learning.

Moreover, unemployment and the rapid growth in population have become key reasons for the increase in school dropouts.

Societies such as Pakistan, unfortunately, fall into this learnification trap, which is asymmetrical to their societal and structural fabrication. Hence, the country faces The instructional mass joblessness. The state offers extensions in the employment age limit lum to passive learners as a remedy, which further increases the unemployment rate. What is important is a shift in the purpose of learning; it must move away from corporate or industrial uplift and job-oriented perspective to societal well-being, with bottomup education for productive learners as opposed to passive ones.

Education should not only produce skilled human capital but also nurture them holistically etal needs so that they can contribute to the collective social good Potential learners need beings, responsible citi-

Commerce News

Over Rs153 billion tax refunds disbursed to exporters, ensuring market liquidity: Aurganzeb

Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday told the Upper House of the Parliament that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has provided over Rs153 billion tax through FBR had expedited Revenue (FBR) has prorefunds to the exporters ensuring market liquidity.

He was responding during the Questions and Answers session to a supplementary query of Senator Zeeshan Khanzada amid the seventh meeting of the 342nd Senate Session here with Deputy Chairman Senate, Syedaal Khan Nasar in chair.

Senator Zeeshan Khanzada of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in his

LAHORE (APP): While

stressing upon the unity of

business community, Pa-

tron-in-Chief APTMA and

former caretaker federal min-

ister Dr Gohar Ejaz has said

that the business leadership

has the potential to make

Pakistan an economic power.

He was speaking at a recep-

tion organized in the honour

of PIAF Founders LBF Alli-

ance candidates on Tuesday

where APTMA North ex-

tended all out support to the

PIAF Founders LBF Alliance

in the upcoming Lahore Cham-

ber of Commerce & Industry

(LCCI) elections 2024-26.

Patron-in-Chief United Busi-

ness Group (UBG) S M

Tanveer was also present.

Businessmen can make

Pakistan an economic

power: Dr Gohar Ejaz

policy and the government stance was shared so far.

refunds and over Rs52 billion were dispersed to the exporters on July 1st, the first day of the fiscal year

He said the federal government was focussing on diversification of exports into agriculture and information and technology (IT) as these two sectors were real channels and levers of growth and a comprehensive policy was in place. The Finance Minister

Dr Gohar Ejaz said a

country can only be power-

ful if it has strong army and

a strong economy. Pakistan

has a strong army and the

business community is

dreaming of securing a

strong economy by forging

alliances right from the

FPCCI to Chambers and

Associations. He said the

country's exports would

have been US \$60 billion to-

day had the business commu-

nity decided to forge unity 10

years back. He said the busi-

ness community has a new

leadership in the form of S M

Tanveer who has united the

business community coun-

trywide and secured two-

thirds majority in the FPCCI.

ISLAMABAD (APP): query noted that the trade in response to another policy imposed in 2019 had expired in 2024 and no new query, said the question is pertinent and agriculture was the real lever of growth in Pakistan that saved the Senator Muhammad country economically Aurangzeb responded that through its 6% growth rate during the past fiscal year that averted default risk.

He assured the mover that the federal government would increase the financing for agriculture sector with large- and small-scale farmer financing including livestock and dairy financing as the latter comprised 60% of country's agriculture sector GDP.

'We are trying to promote dairy and livestock financing through banks and the point of the Member is well noted," he said.

Sohail Pasha

elected chairman

PTEA unopposed

FAISALABAD (APP): Pa-

kistan Textile Exporters As-

sociation (PTEA) has

elected Sohail Pasha as un-

opposed Chairman of

PTEA, whereas Mahmood

Ahmad and Ameer Ahmed

were elected uncontested

Senior Vice Chairman and

Vice Chairman, respectively.

Earlier, twenty-four mem-

bers were also elected un-

opposed for the Executive

Committee seats of PTEA

for the next two-year term.

Member PTEA Election

Commission Rana Javed

Akhtar, declaring unofficial

results, said here on Tues-

day that only three nomina-

tion papers were received for

the office Chairman, Senior

Vice Chairman and Vice

Chairman of the Association.

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with the K-Electric leadership to discuss energy sector reforms and renewable energy transition.

Trade Policy 2025 to be announced soon: Kamal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce and Trade Jam Kamal Khan has said the government was working to announce the Trade Policy 2025 which would be presented to the standing committees of the Parliament

Replying to the questions of Senator Zeeshan Khanzada in the 342nd session of the question and answer session of the House, he said the government was committed to facilitating trade and industry and expanding exports. Kamal said that the Pakistan.

incumbent government was determined to bring institutional and structural reforms, enhance regional connectivity, and diversify exports to ensure sustainable growth and stabilise the

Jam Kamal said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has conducted several meetings with relevant ministries and stakeholders to deliberate upon a range of issues so that a comprehensive strategy could be framed to do away with all the challenges being faced by the business and industry in

tile sector, which constitutes the major portion of the country's exports, was under stress and we are considering different options for developing the

Kamal informed that the present government had appointed a competent Head of the National Compliance Center on September 1. He told the House that textiles and apparel exports slightly increased by 0.93 per cent in the Financial Year (FY) 2023-24 as compared with

FY 2022-23.

Chinese delegation from Shandong CCI visits LCCI LAHORE (APP): A highspecifically acknowledged

level delegation from the Shandong Chamber of Commerce & Industry, China, visited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) here Tuesday. LCCI Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt presented the address of welcome to the delegation led by Li Chong. Shahbaz Siddique, Convener of the Standing Committee on 'Pak-China Business Rela-

tions, was also present. The LCCI Vice President praised the consistent interest of Chinese trade missions in engaging with the LCCI, recognizing it as a pivotal hub for enhancing bilateral trade relations. He the vital role of Li Chong and his delegation in exploring business opportunities that could further strengthen the economic ties between the two nations.

Adnan Khalid Butt underscored the importance of mutual cooperation in various sectors, including Minerals, Steel Structures, Gold Mines, Salt Mines, Construction and Medical Equipment. He emphasized that the Pakistani business community is eager to collaborate with Chinese enterprises in these fields with the aim of fostering long-term partnerships that could lead to significant economic growth.

Rupee gains 09 paisa against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 09 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.61 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.70.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 278.85 and Rs 280.45 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by 70 paisa to close at Rs 307.51 against the last day's closing of Rs 308.21 according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)

promote Islamic banking in country: NA told

Govt. committed to

Minister for Finance and Revenue Ali Pervaiz Malik Tuesday informed the National Assembly that the government is committed to promote Islamic banking in a Calling Attention Notice and Islamabad Metro. in the House, he said that the government plans to launch new Shariah-compliant certificates worth Rs 50 billion under Islamic Finance this month.

He explained that two schemes under the Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) were launched in July 2023, involving Rs 70 billion in instruments, though these schemes were later sus-

The minister high-

cial instruments are assetbacked, with certificates issued against tangible assets. In 2023, certificates worth Rs 80 billion were issued against assets such as the the country. In response to Lahore-Sialkot Motorway

He said that the government has identified new assets valued at Rs 1,000 billion and has secured the necessary approvals to proceed. Consequently, Shariah-compliant certificates worth Rs 50 billion will be issued this month.

The minister also reported a 30 percent increase in Islamic banking accounts and announced plans to issue new certificates based on the recently identified



Sindhu distributes Chief Minister Kisan Cards to farmers by the Provincial government to support and empower the agricultural community.

CCP enforces 'Competition Law', Rs 27 million in penalties recovered ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has successfully recovered Rs27 million in penalties from Reliance Paints and Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) by exercising its authority under Section 40(2)(a) of the Competition Act, 2010, through the attachment of their bank accounts.

These recoveries are part of the CCP's broader strategy to enforce its mandate of ensuring a level playing field across all sectors, demonstrating its commit-

ment to tackling anti-competitive practices, said a press release issued here on uesday.

Over the past year, the CCP has recovered a total of PKR 69 million in penalties, accounting for 25% of the total amount recovered since the Commission's establishment in 2007.

This significant progress underscores the CCP's ongoing vigilance and effectiveness in promoting fair competition and protecting consumer

Asad Isalm Mahni, Additional Secretary Ministry for Industry and Produc-

tion, Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry, CEO NPO in a group photo with the

participants of the International Workshop.

Maryam seeks five-year vision reports from parliamentary secretaries

LAHORE (APP): Punjab ment alone; everyone has to Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday held a meeting with Provincial Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries, and Administrative Secretaries to streamline government af-

The CM directed the authorities concerned to invite parliamentary secretaries concerned to the departmental meetings. She also directed parliamentary secretaries to get details of the projects from their respective departments, and sought five-year vision reports from them.

In her address, the CM emphasized the equal status of parliamentary secretaries, acknowledging their pivotal role in implementing government policies. She underscored the necessity of collective ef-

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)

Chief Minister's recent dis-

paraging remarks directed at

journalists and women,

along with attempts to ex-

ert undue pressure on the

state institutions including

judiciary, have been met with

broad condemnation across

the province. The unjusti-

fied and provocative remarks

made by CM KP during a

public meeting in Islamabad

were described as "irratio-

nal" by politicians and civil

society and demanded of

Gandapur tender uncondi-

tional apology over his ti-

rade against media profes-

Information Secretary for

Pakistan Muslim League-

Nawaz (PML-N) in KP

criticized Gandapur's at-

tack on the media, empha-

sizing that the press had

played a crucial role in pro-

moting the Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

party's popularity during lies or agitation.

Ikhtair Wali Khan, the

sionals and CM Punjab.

work together."

CM Maryam Nawaz highlighted Punjab's potential as noted by Chinese investors and criticized previous administrations for their inefficiency, which she claims undermined development. She remarked on the extensive work achieved tenure, noting that the progress had been significantly disrupted.

in inflation and improvements in food prices. She said that the price of flour in Punjab is significantly lower compared to other

She announced several initiatives: the distribution of Kisan Cards, a Rs 10 lakh subsidy for green tractors, fort, stating, "No one person can run this govern-Ghar Programme," which

when other political parties

were completely sidelined,

paving the way for PTI

founder to get majority and

became the prime minister

Islamabad rally as a com-

plete failure, the PMLN

leader strongly condemned

Gandapur's illogical state-

ment pertaining to forceful

release of the PTI founder,

adding such premature and

provocative statements was

aimed to place undue pres-

sure on state institutions.

Justice of Pakistan to take

suo moto notice of

Gandapur's derogatory re-

marks, highlighting PTI's

pattern of pressuring insti-

tutions when favorable

judgments are not secured.

stressed that legal pro-

ceedings cannot be influ-

enced through public ral-

The PML-N leader

He urged the Chief

including the judiciary.

Declaring the PTI's

of Pakistan.

CM KP's derogatory remarks

against journalists, women

face widespread criticism

PESHAWAR (APP): The the 2018 general elections

offers loans for home construction. She also mentioned relief measures in electricity bills and the launch of Minority

The CM stressed the importance of fieldwork to address public issues and the ongoing improvement in bureaucratic performance during Shehbaz Sharif's through a new KPI (key performance indicator) system. She urged her team to embrace their responsi-The chief minister bilities in public service and highlighted recent achieve- announced plans to distribments, including a decline ute sweets for Eid Miladun-Nabi (Peace Be Upon

> Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Information & Culture Minister Azma Zahid Bukhari, Provincial Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries attended the meeting. Provincial Secretaries and other relevant officers were also present.

Four killed, two injured in road mishap at Shangla

SHANGLA (APP): Four persons were killed and two injured when a passenger jeep plunged into deep ravine near Leko Kamar area Tehsil Chakaisar,

Four persons including Jamshaid Ali, Imran, Izat Sayed and Umar Farroq were killed in the incident and two sustained injuries.

Mills workers receive financial aid of Rs 4.6m

FAISALABAD (APP) The Labour Welfare Department west region distributed financial aid of Rs 4.6 million among workers of a textile mills from Punjab Workers Welfare Fund, here on Tuesday.

Director Labour West Ghulam Shabir Kalyar gave the cheques to workers by visiting Crescent Textile Mills.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi presides over the 14th BoGs meeting of Edwards College at Governor House.

Kundi chairs BoGs meeting expresses dissatisfaction over delay in minutes

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Tuesday presided over the 14th Board of Governors meeting of Edwards College at the Governor House.

Governor expressed dissatisfaction with the unnecessary delay in the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting, saying that stringent action would be taken in case of further delays in the preparation and approval of minutes from past meetings.

The meeting included a detailed review of the progress on the decisions taken during the last Board of Governors meeting.

PESHAWAR

Government

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Minister of Local Govern-

ment. Elections and Devel-

opment Arshad Ayub Khan

on Tuesday said that the

problems being faced by

the employees of Local

Pakhtunkhwa would be re-

solved as soon as possible.

of Local Government Em-

ployees Federation of

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

House in Islamabad, he said

that establishing a building

control authority was a top

priority of the provincial

Talking to a delegation

A proposal was presented to reduce unnecessary expenses and increase the number of scholarships for students. Under the Ismail Khan. proposal, 14 students from merged districts will receive 100 percent scholarships. Additionally, the proposal included five scholarships

transgender students. The discussion also covered the appointment of a permanent Principal for the college. The Governor emphasized that relevant rules and procedures should be reviewed for this

for disabled students, three

for Hafiz-e-Quran stu-

dents, and three for

appointment. Governor Kundi di-

parks, said a press release issued here.

the KP government was

bringing reforms in the lo-

cal and district institutions

and making the depart-

ments digitised to

strengthen the institutions

mutual consultation, reforms

and transparency would be

brought in all the government

institutions. Earlier, the Gen-

eral Secretary Local Gov-

Salman Khan Hoti informed

the Minister about prob-

Employees

Pakhtunkhwa

He said that through

and eliminate corruption.

The Minister said that

rected that a proposal be prepared for establishing branches of Edwards College in Abbottabad and Dera

He also announced plans to hold a meeting with students and faculty to gather suggestions for the overall improvement of the college.

The Governor in-

structed to expedite work on meeting minutes and other related matters.

Special guests at the meeting included CEO of Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute Shakil Durrani and renowned educationist Dr. Qibla Ayaz, Bishop Peshawar Humphrey Peter.

ATC declares 2 PTI leaders as POs in May-9 case

LAHORE (APP): An anti terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday declared two leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) as proclaimed offenders (POs) in a case of torching police vehicles in Gulberg during the May 9 violence. The court declared the accused, Mian Aslam Iqbal and Khurram Shahzad, as proclaimed offenders. The investigating officer of Gulberg Police Sta-

tion had filed the application for declaring the accused proclaimed offenders. The officer stated that extensive efforts were made to arrest the accused, but they could not be apprehended as they had gone into hiding to

Minister holds PEF 88th BoD meeting

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat chaired the 88th meeting of Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) Board of Directors (BoDs) at the PEF head office, here on Tuesday.

Member Minister's Task Force Muzammil Mehmood participated as a new board member while Secretary Schools Education Khalid Nazir Wattoo, Secretary Literacy and Non-Formal Basic Education Syed Haider Iqbal, Education Expert Asma Waziri, Direc-

Education Dr. Intizar Hussain Butt, Assistant Chief, Planning and Development Department Dr. Saima Malik, Deputy Secretary Technical, Social Welfare Department Muhammad Iftikhar Hussain Bhatti, Additional Finance Secretary Meer

During the session, Malik Shoaib Awan was elected as the new Chairman of the Punjab Education Foundation

Raza and Technocrat Dr.

Basit Khan attended the



LAHORE: Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique, Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat, Vice Chancellor Uzma Qureshi, DG Rescue Dr. Rizwan Naseer inaugurated the Life Saver program on the occasion of World First Aid Day at Lahore College for Women University.

KP to contact Center over financial issues in tribal districts

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to contact the Center and prepared a document with regard to financial problems of the Merged Districts of the province.

According to official sources, the KP government has once again decided to contact the Federal Government for assistance in resolving the financial issues of the tribal districts.

A document written in this regard has demanded establishment of a special 10-year grant with a name of "Pakistan Building Grant" to address the monetary issues of the merged tribal districts.

The document seeking solution to the financia problems in merged districts urged the Federal Government to include these districts in 7th NFC Award and recalculate and reassess its shares.

The provincial government was also seeking to send this document to the NFC as it was a constitutional forum

In this document, the KP government has written that after the merger, tribal districts have been nearly deprived of the development projects as these districts were obtaining an amount of Rs865 billion less than the Baluchistan and other provinces of the country.

International News

government for improving lems of the employees.

ernment

Khyber

Minister assures to

resolve problems of LG

employees on priority basis

(APP):

Khyber

UN chief calls the death and destruction in Gaza the worst he's seen

UNITED NATIONS: The U.N. chief said that the United Nations has offered to monitor any cease-fire in Gaza and demanded an end to the worst death and destruction he has seen in his more than seven-year

Secretary-General António Guterres said in an interview with The Associated Press that it's "unrealistic" to think the U.N. could play a role in Gaza's future, either by administering the territory or providing a peacekeeping force, because Israel is unlikely to accept a U.N. role.

But he said "the U.N. will be available to support any cease-fire." The United Nations has had a military monitoring mission in the Middle East, known as UNTSO, since 1948, and "from our side, this was one

"Of course, we'll be ready to do whatever the international community whether the parties would whether Israel would ac-

Israel's military as-Hamas' attacks in southern Israel on Oct. 7, has stretched for 11 months. with recent cease-fire talks failing to reach a breakthrough and violence in the West Bank reaching new

Stressing the urgency of a cease-fire now, suffering we are witnessing in Gaza is unprecedented in my mandate as secretarygeneral of the United Nations. I've never seen such of the hypotheses that a level of death and destruc-

we've put on the table," he tion as we are seeing in Gaza

in the last few months. The war has killed over 40,900 Palestinians. according to Gaza's Health asked for us," Guterres Ministry. The ministry, said. "The question is part of Gaza's Hamas government, does not differenaccept it, and in particular tiate between fighters and civilians in its count though it says about half of the dead have been women and sault on Gaza, triggered by children. Israel says at least 17,000 militants are among the dead.

The war has caused vast destruction and dis-placed around 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people, often multiple times

Israel's U.N. Ambassador Danny Danon reacted Guterres said: "The level of to Guterres' comments saying, "It is disappointing to see the U.N. advocate for a cease-fire without mentioning the hostages and without condemning

Nine migrants perish off Senegal's coast

people died after their boat sank off the coast of Senegal, the navy said on Monday, in the latest migration-linked tragedy to occur off West Africa.

a post on X.

The search is ongoing along the coast. Onlookers and relatives of the victims gathered on the shore for news of the missing.



ing displaced people, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, at the Al-Mawasi area in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip.

China announces joint naval, air drills with Russia

Monitoring Desk BEIJING: China's Defense Ministry on Monday announced joint naval and air drills with Russia starting this month, underscoring the closeness between their militaries as Russia presses its grinding invasion of Ukraine. The ministry said the 'Northern United-2024" exercises would take place in the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk farther north, but gave no details.

It said the naval and air

drills aimed to improve stra-

tegic cooperation between the two countries and "strengthen their ability to jointly deal with security threats." The notice also said the two navies would cruise together in the Pacific, the fifth time they have done so, and together take part in Russia's "Great Ocean-24" exercise. No details were given. China has refused to criticize Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, now in its third year, and blamed the U.S. and NATO for provoking President Vladimir Putin.

RSF paramilitaries kill 31 in Sudanese city of Sennar, activists say

Monitoring Desk DUBAI: At least 31 people have been killed and 100 wounded since the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces

renewed an assault on the city of Sennar in southeastern Sudan on Sunday, a legal activist group said.

Several parts of the

city including the main market have been targeted by RSF artillery fire, said Emergency Lawyers, which has monitored civilian deaths and other humanitarian violations.

half of the country, has slowed in the southeast as heavy rains have made movement difficult.

Its war with Sudan's army has created the world's largest hunger and internal displacement crises, killing tens of thousands of civilians and destroying most of Sudan's infrastructure

Emergency Lawyers said the army had killed at least four people in al-Souki, a town near Sennar, during

UN convoy in Gaza released after being detained by Israel

Monitoring Desk UNITED NATIONS: A convoy of United Nations vehicles and staff detained for more than eight hours by Israel in northern Gaza on Monday has been released, the head of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) said.

The Israeli military said on Monday it detained the convoy after receiving intelligence indicating that a number of "Palestinian suspects" were aboard and that it wanted to question

Bangladesh to seek Hasina's extradition from India **Monitoring Desk**

DHAKA: Bangladesh's war crimes tribunal is to seek the extradition of ousted leader Sheikh Hasina from neighbouring India, its chief prosecutor has said, accusing her of carrying out "massacres"

Weeks of student-led demonstrations Bangladesh escalated into mass protests last month, with Hasina quitting as prime minister and fleeing by helicopter to old ally India on August 5, ending her iron-fisted 15-

Ukraine attacks Russia with 144 drones, killing one and closing airports

MOSCOW: Ukraine on capital was partially closed. Tuesday struck Moscow and western Russia in one of its biggest ever drone attacks, killing at least one woman, wrecking dozens of homes and forcing the closure of major airports in the capital, Russian officials

Ukraine launched swarms of attack drones over the world's biggest nuclear power. Russia said it destroyed at least 20 over the Moscow region, which has a population of over 21 million, and 124 more over eight other regions.

Three of Moscow's four airports were closed attacks, Russia's aviation authority Rosaviatsia said.

The drone attacks damaged at least two highrise apartment buildings in the Ramenskoye district of the Moscow region, setting flats on fire, Moscow's governor Andrei Vorobyov

A 46-year-old woman died and three people were injured in Ramenskoye, orobyov said.

He added that 43 people were evacuated to temporary accommodation

Social media videos showed flames bursting out of windows of a multistorey residential building, for air traffic following the saying that dozens of flats were damaged in the

Israeli defense chief says a temporary truce with Hamas is possible

Monitoring Desk TEL AVIV: Israel's de-

fense minister says the window is closing on an opportunity to reach a temporary cease-fire deal with the Hamas militant group that he believes could also bring calm to the country's volatile northern border with Lebanon. Speaking to report-

ers, Yoav Gallant said that conditions are ripe for at least a six-week pause in fighting that would include the release of many of the hostages held in Gaza. However, he would not commit to a permanent end to the fighting, as Hamas has demanded, raising questions about the feasibility of a deal.

"Israel achieve an agreement that will bring about a pause for six weeks and bring back hostages," he said. After that period, he said, "we maintain the right to operate and achieve our goals — including the destruction of Hamas.'

The United States, along with mediators Egypt and Qatar, has been

working for months to broker a cease-fire to end the devastating war between Israel and Hamas. A main area of disagreement has been Hamas' demand for an end to the nearly year-old war and a full withdrawal of all Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip.
Israeli Prime Minis-

ter Benjamin Netanyahu has raised a new sticking point in recent weeks, saying that Israel must remain stationed in a strategic corridor along Gaza's border with Egypt indefi-

Gallant has been quoted in Israeli media as saying that Israel could withdraw from the corridor for six weeks — to allow hostages to go free without risking Israel's security. The two men reportedly got into a heated shouting match at a recent Cabinet meeting where ministers overwhelmingly sided with Netanyahu.

During Monday's meeting with foreign journalists, Gallant was asked about his relationship with the prime minister.

US and Britain accuse Iran of sending Russia missiles to use in Ukraine **Monitoring Desk**

LONDON: The United States and Britain formally accused Iran on Tuesday of supplying short-range ballistic missiles to Russia to use in the war in Ukraine and will take measures to punish those involved. U.S. Secretary of State

Antony Blinken, speaking alongside British Foreign Secretary David Lammy during a visit to London, said that sanctions would be announced later Tuesday. "Russia has now received shipments of these

ballistic missiles and will likely use them within weeks in Ukraine, against Ukrainians," Blinken said. "The supply of Iranian missiles enables Russia to use more of its arsenal for targets that are further from the front line." It comes as Blinken and Lammy are preparing to make a joint visit escalating the conflict.

Wednesday to Ukraine, where they will meet President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other senior officials to discuss bolstering the country's defenses. The Kremlin is trying to repel Ukraine's surprise offensive that has claimed hundreds of miles of territory in Russia's Kursk region.

The accusations about Iranian missiles could embolden Zelenskyy to further ramp up pressure on the U.S. and other allies to allow Ukraine to use Western-supplied missiles to strike deep inside Russia and hit sites from which Moscow launches aerial attacks. President Joe Biden has allowed Ukraine to fire U.S.-provided missiles across the border into Russia in self-defense but largely limited the distance over concerns about further

Monitoring Desk MBOUR: At least nine

The pirogue, which was "involved in irregular emigration", capsized on Sunday off the coast of the western town of Mbour, the navy said in

The navy said it had launched a search involving three vessels and a Spanish maritime patrol aircraft. "Nine lifeless bodies were discovered and three survivors identified An unknown number of people have been rescued by local fishermen", it said, without giving the number of missing.

The progress of the RSF, which already controls

Loss-making SOEs bleeding one trillion rupees of national exchequer, Senate told

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday informed the Upper House of the Parliament that the loss-making state-owned enterprises were bleeding one trillion rupees of the national ex-

He was responding to the questions during the question hour session of the seventh meeting of the 342nd Senate session here.

Senator Aurangzeb said the federal government had completed its work on rationalisation of six ministries, whereas under the PWD discussion servants package was on the cards whereas change in legislation was needed as without changing it would not be able to move forward. "The treasury benches need the support of the house to enact this critical legislation austerity and privatization, whereas pen-

ISLAMABAD (APP): sion is a ticking bomb and contributory define contributions are under discussion for public servants that will be proceeded," he said.

Replying another query, he said the debt to GDP ratio scenario in June 2020 was 77% and in June 2024 it was at 67% whereas its gradient was on right track alongwith its rate of growth declining gradually Moreover, he said in Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) increase in debt percentage was 30% that had reduced to 15% indicating all indicators in positive direction, he added. Commenting on the pull the economy out of debts, the Finance Minister said, "Its road to market and we have to change our DNA of economy from import-led to export-led and the federal government are incorporating FDI and financing into exports that will further strengthen the



MPAAsghar Khan Tareen receiving Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti upon

Noorzai vows to take concrete steps to improve literacy rate in province

Independent Report QUETTA: In a bid to tackle the challenges of education in Balochistan, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Welfare Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai has vowed to take concrete steps to improve the literacy rate in the province.

Speaking at a ceremony to mark International Literacy Day, Noorzai acknowledged that Balochistan lags behind in education, with 300,000 reiterated the government's faces significant challenges ensuring that education reaches every household.

Noorzai also ex-

in political rallies and promised swift legal action against such practices. He emphasized the importance of education as the greatest wealth and the key to unlocking the future of Balochistan's youth.

The Balochistan government has already taken steps to send over 3,000 children abroad for education, a move aimed at bridging the education gap in the

With a population of children out of school. He 1.5 million, Balochistan non-functional schools and tion to its citizens. However, with the government's renewed focus on education, hopes are high for a



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Mir Barkat Rind and Secretary Hafiz Abdul Majid meeting with Provincial Minister Mir Sadiq Umrani

CM to preside over meeting on judicious distribution of water between Sindh, Balochistan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti is scheduled to preside over meeting on the issue of judicious distribution of water between Sindh and Balochistan

(Wednesday). The Provincial Minister Irrigation Sindh, Jam Shoro would be participating in the meeting convened on directives of Chairman, Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on the important matter.

The Cairman IRSA, man PPP.

Abdul Hameed Mengal Secretary Balochistan, Hafiz Abdul Majid, Chief Engineer Canals, Nasir Majeed, Secretary Irrigation Sindh, Zarif Khodo, Chief Engineer, Mukhtar Abro and other concerned high ups would also be attending the meeting. The meeting is aimed at adopting same stance on formula of distribution of water by Sindh and Balochistan at IRSA platform following the sincere efforts made by the Chair-

Chinese business delegation visit SIFC

ISLAMABAD (APP):A Industry, and policy level high-level Chinese business delegation, comprising Xinjiang Iron Brothers Co Ltd with four other prominent Chinese business entities Tuesday visited Special Investment Facilitation

Council (SIFC). The delegation was headed by Mr Yuan Jianmin (Senior and renowned Economist) along with members representing various business enterprises, said a press release issued

The delegation was warmly received by officials of SIFC and comprehensive briefs were given covering potential and investment opportunities in priority sectors including Agriculture/ Livestock, IT, Energy, Minerals, Tourism,

measures being undertaken to improve the overall investment climate in the country. The visit of delegation will further catalyze the ongoing engagements between Pakistan and China under Business-to-Business framework.

The delegation was also briefed about salient features of industrial development in Pakistan.

delegation The showed keen interest for investments in key sectors under SIFC and relocation of Chinese industries to Pakistan including Gilgit Baltistan The visit of delegation will further catalyze the ongoing engagements between Pakistan and China under Business-to-Business framework.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Dr. A.Q.Khan Hospital Trust, led by the Chairperson of the Trust, Dr. Dina Khan, call on the President Asif Ali Zardari, at

Pak calls for mechanisms enabling UN peacekeepers to foster peace among conflicting parties

Monday's Council

At the outset, Ambas-

meeting was organized by

Slovenia as the rotating

President of the UN Secu-

rity Council for the month

sador Akram said Pakistan

has a long and close involve-

ment with United Nations

peace operations. Pakistan,

he said, is host to one of

the first United Nations

missions — the UN Mili-

tary Observer Group in In-

dia and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), which was

established in 1949 to moni-

tor the ceasefire along the

line of control (LoC) in dis-

puted Jammu and Kashmir.

peacekeepers in 46 mis-

sions and has lost 181

peacekeepers in the service

of international peace and

security, Ambassador Akram added. In today's

day and age, he said, United

Nations peacekeeping mis-

sions find themselves fac-

ing new and growing chal-

In a meeting chaired by

Federal Minister for Plan-

ning, Development and

Special Initiative s Ahsan

Iqbal, it was decided to ex-

pedite the process of trans-

ferring ongoing develop-

ment projects under the

dissolved Public Works

Department (PWD) to the

Planning and senior offi-

cials from various prov-

inces. It was agreed that the

Public Sector Development

Program (PSDP) projects

would be transferred to the

provincial governments as

soon as possible so that

work on these projects

could continue without any

hindrance. Planning Minis-

ter Ahsan Iqbal said that

only the projects are being

transferred to the provinces

The meeting was attended by the Secretary of

provincial governments.

For its part, Pakistan

chaos spread by terrorists,

involvement of organized

criminal networks in illegal

extraction of resources and

criminal activities; external

interventions in local con-

flicts; limitations imposed

on the resources for UN

peacekeeping and erosion

of unified support from

member States, especially

the Council's permanent

members. The international

community, especially the

United Nations and the Se-

curity Council, must extend

full support to those re-

gional organizations — like

the African Union — who are prepared to take more

robust operations where

necessary to enforce peace,

Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN Un-

der-Secretary-General for

Peace Operations, under-

scored the need for greater political support and resources for UN peacekeep-

ing mission to carry out their

duties safely as conflicts

these projects under the

PSDP will continue. He di-

rected all provinces to in-

form within a week, the

names of the ministries to

which these ongoing

projects will be transferred.

projects in the federal capi-

tal will also be transferred

to the CDA and the relevant

ministries. He clarified that

the ongoing projects under

the PWD are not being ter-

minated but are merely being transferred to different

institutions. Ahsan Iqbal

Balochistan has completed

its work in this regard first

and the remaining provinces

should also provide com-

plete details within a week.

He said that the purpose of

this committee was to re-

solve the difficulties faced

according to the law.

appreciated

The ongoing PWD

grow more complex.

OUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela

Hameed Khan Durrani meeting with Governor

Ahsan accelerates transfer

of PWD Project to province

Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Opening the debate,

Ambassador Akram said.

(APP): Pakistan has called for strengthening the role and capacity of UN peacekeeping in hotspots around the world, proposing that the Security Council should create effective political mechanisms to promote peace agreements among parties to the conflict.

Speaking in the 15member Council as it reviewed UN peacekeeping operations, Ambassador Munir Akram pointed out that such a mechanism would require greater cooperation among Security Council members, especially the permanent ones, notwithstanding their geopolitical rivalries

The Pakistani envoy has also deployed 230,000 said that peacekeeping missions should also put greater emphasis on promoting local peace arrangements at the community level to reduce violence, citing the successful efforts of the Pakistani peacekeepers in restive Abyei, an area disputed by South Sudan

Gillani challenges NAB jurisdiction in **Toshakhana** vehicles' case

ISLAMABAD (APP) Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani on Tuesday challenged the jurisdiction of the Accountability Court in hearing the the Toshakhana vehicles reference filed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) against him.

Accountability Court Judge Abida Sajjad, who commitment to activating in providing quality educanon-functional schools and tion to its citizens. However, the comments from NAB.

During the course of proceedings, Gillani's lawver pleaded that the reference did not fall in the jurisdiction of NAB after restoration of amendments in the NAB law.

At this, the court served notices to the respondents and adjourned the case till September 26.

Two bills including SC (Amendment) **Bill introduced** in NA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Two bills including the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the Pakistan Environmental Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2024 were introduced in the National Assembly on Tuesday. Danyal Chaudhary sought the leave to introduce the bill to further amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1997 [The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment) Bill, 2024] in the House while Nuzhat Sadiq moved the bill to further amend the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997 [The Pakistan Environmental Protection

(Amendment) Bill, 2024]. Tarar visits residence of Asma Shirazi to condole her

brother's death SLAMABAD (APP) Federal Ministèr for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday visited the residence of Hum News Senior Anchor Person Asma Shirazi to express his condolences on demise of her brother. The minister extended his heartfelt condolences to the family on the death of Asma Shirazi's brother Mohsin Shirazi and recited Fateha for the departed soul. Minister's Coordinator Badr Shehbaz Waraich, Information Secretary

Ambreen Jan, Joint Secre-

tary Ministry of Informa-

tion and Broadcasting and

Principal Information Of-

following

ISLAMABAD (INP): The spective ministries and di-

federal government has formally eliminated 150,000 Each division is responsible for issuing a vacant regular posts across notification to close the various ministries and divivacancies within their According to the resub-departments, and port, the Establishment Dithey must also send comvision has issued an official prehensive information, directive to all secretaries of along with the notificaministries and divisions, tion, to the Establishment Division by September

recommendations The Establishment from the High-Powered Right Sizing Committee, Division and the Finance says in media reports. Division are tasked with The decision to aboloverseeing the implemenish these posts aims to tation of this decision, en-

QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary for Transport

Abdul Majeed Badini meeting with Provincial Ad-

Govt eliminates 150,000

vacant regular posts in

federal ministries, divisions

visor Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi

suring that the federal streamline government onerations and reduce unneccabinet's directive is effecessary expenditures. Actively carried out. cording to the official let-To facilitate institutional coordination, Shahid authority to eliminate

Nawaz has been appointed as the focal perthe posts has been delson by the Establishment egated to the principal accounts officers of the re-Division.

Following Quaid's guiding principles vital for a strong, prosperous Pakistan: Zardari

PM calls on nation to renew commitment for building Pakistan as per Quaid's vision

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has urged the nation to fol-Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's principles of "unity, faith and discipline" emphasising their significance as a beacon for the country's development. "I am sure that by acting upon his (Quaid-e-Azam) teachings and advice, we can make Pakistan strong and prosperous," the president said in his message to the nation on the occasion of the 76th death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah annually observed

president said that the Pakistani nation was indebted to him for his efforts and contribution to the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-

live with dignity and exercise their political, cultural,

Calling him a visionary leader, who united the Muslims of India under one banner, the president said the whole nation was proud of Quaid-e-Azam's untiring struggle and unwavering commitment to the right to self-determination that shaped the destiny of millions of Muslims. 'Quaid-e-Azam's vi-

sion for Pakistan was fun-

damentally democratic as he

on September 11. Paying tribute to Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the

and religious rights.

firmly believed in a state where all citizens, irrespective of religion, would be equal before the law. Muhammad Ali Jinnah's struggle not only laid the foundation of Pakistan's democratic system but continues to influence our aspirations for parliamentary democracy and communal

continent where they could harmony," he remarked.

President Zardari said that Quaid-e-Azam successfully steered Indian Muslims through the complex political landscape of India while maintaining an unyielding stance on the rights of Muslims.

He said that Jinnah had envisioned a Pakistan based on Islamic principles of democracy and socioeconomic justice. "It was due to his sheer will, hard work and successful advocacy of the cause of Muslims that the partition of India became a reality. On this day, we not only honour his efforts but also recommit ourselves to the values and ideals that he championed,' the president added. Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif called on the nation to renew the commitment for building a Pakistan having peace.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary for Social Welfare Department Balochistan, Haji Wali Muhammad Noorzai presenting shield to participants during the seminar on the eve of International Literacy Day held in Quetta.

Advisor for Women Development emphasizes: Improving transportation facilities inevitable to enhance women's access to education & service

Independent Report QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister of Balochistan for Women Development. Dr. Rubaba able, and convenient trans-Khan Buledi, emphasized the importance of improving transportation facilities need for special buses for ernment of Balochistan is

province. She expressed these views during a meeting with Parliamentary Secretary for Transport, MPA Abdul Majeed Badini, here on Tuesday.

ment opportunities in the

Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi stated that in order

PTI loses another seat in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lost another seat won in the February 8 general elections after a vote recount.

According to details, PTI's Sarbuland Khan lost to Asif Moosa of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) from Sindh Assembly constituency PS-112 after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) held a vote recount.

After a notification issued by the ECP, PPP's Asif Moosa took oath as a member of the Sindh Assembly. After the revised results, PPP's Asif Moosa secured the seat with 11,724 followed by PTI's Sarbuland Khan who bagged 9,943 votes.

Repatriation of illegal Afghan nationals continues

ISLAMABAD (Online) The process of repatriation of the illegal Afghan nationals to their homeland is underway in a dignified man-

According to latest statistics, the total number of illegal Afghan nationals who were repatriated till vesterday has reached more than seven hundred thirteen thousand. Twenty-one thousand one hundred and ninety three Afghan nationals including 7843 men. 6012 women and 7338 children left the country from 17th August to 09th of September.

Balochistan Assembly Ghazala Gola

to ensure women's education and training in the province, it is essential to provide them with safe, reliportation services.

to enhance women's access to education and employmale students, and called address women's issues. for fare reductions, stressing that such measures Rubaba Khan Buledi reitwould help women achieve greater success in both educational and professional fields.

to empower women, all rel-

women's rights. Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi assured full cooperation regarding women-specific initiatives in the transport sector and She highlighted the reaffirmed that the Gov-On this occasion, Dr erated that Balochistan's development is not possible without ensuring women's inclusion, and the government is commit-

She further added that



QUETTA: National Champion Martial Arts Sher Baz Marri meeting with Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan

No decision made to shut down Utility **Stores: Rana** ISLAMABAD (APP):

Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain informed the National Assembly on Tuesday that no decision has been made to shut down Utility Stores.

In response to a Calling Attention Notice, he said that restructuring of the organization would be carried out in consultation with all stakeholders, including employee representatives from the

Rana Tanveer said that Utility Stores Corporation (USC) is a crucial organization providing essential services, and efforts are underway to improve its opera-

He highlighted that the ordinance concerning stateowned enterprises clearly mandates that essential institutions will not be priva-

tized or shut down. The minister reiterated that the USC, estab-

Ali Bhutto, was designed to provide relief to the com-

mon people. He said that, alongside programs such as the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), which now has a budget close to Rs 600 billion, the government has approved a Rs 60 billion subsidy for Utility Stores to ensure the provision of affordable and quality goods to the

The minister that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Prime Sharif is personally committed to provide maximum relief to the masses and is taking steps to improve Utility Stores as well as other public sector institu-

Regarding the Public ks Department (PWD), the minister said that the government has decided to shut down PWD and transfer repair works to the Capital Development lished by Shaheed Zulfikar Authority (CDA).

