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COAS, Saudi delegation discuss bilateral ties

General Asim underscores deep respect & affection that people of Pakistan hold for the KSA

RAWALPINDI (APP): from King Salman bin Minister of Investment, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Khalid Bin Abdulaziz Al Falih, accompanied by a high-level government cum business delegation, met Pakistan reaffirms the enwith Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir here on Thurs-

The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, particularly initiatives to strengthen ever growing brotherly bilateral cooperation in a variety of sectors, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news re-

The COAS expressed ing support for Pakistan

Abdulaziz Al Saud and the Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman." Manifestation of one of the largest business delegation's visit to during and fraternal ties between Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," he

He underscored the deep respect and affection that the people of Pakistan hold for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The COAS further assured the delegation of Pakistan's full support and commitment and conveyed his optimism for the promhis profound appreciation ising outcomes that would and gratitude for unflinch- mutually benefit both na-



RAWALPINDI: Minister of Investment, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Khalid Bin Abdulaziz Al Falih, accompanied by a high-level government cum business delegation, meet with General Sved Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS).

Kundi emphasizes peace in provincial jirga

Interior Minister represents Federal Govt at Grand Jirga in CM House

ernor Khyber lenges, including the situa-Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim tion in Afghanistan. Kundi, on Thursday highlighted the significance of tragic incident in district peace in the province during a jirga held at the Chief Minister's House.

Addressing the gathering, he expressed gratitude are still considered no-go to the provincial government for organizing the event and to Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi for his presence.

Governor Kundi acknowledged existing political differences and stressed that the safety and prosperity of the province remain the top priorities.

He asserted that negotiations are essential for resolving issues, particularly

PESHAWAR (APP): Gov- in light of ongoing chal-

Referring to a recent Khyber, he underscored the urgency of addressing security concerns, saving that many areas in the province

He called for unity among all stakeholders, including the provincial and federal governments, to establish peace. The Governor empha-

sized the need for dialogue with those who respect the country's constitution and laws, urging participants to collaborate on finding solu-

Continued on page 2



PESHAWAR: Federal Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi participating in Grand Jirga organised by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government.

Reconstruction of Dozan bridge done: Train service to be restored from Quetta to rest of country after one and half month today

Independent Report QUETTA: The train service is due to be restored from Quetta to rest of the country today (Friday) as the reconstruction of Dozan

railway bridge completed in Bolan area. The Pakistan Railway authorities confirmed that the Jaffar Express is scheduled to depart from Quetta Railway Station for Peshawar at 09:00 AM to-

Similarly, the Bolan Mail is scheduled to depart for Karachi from Quetta on

October 13 Meanwhile, the trial of engine and train was done by crossing the same from

Dozan railway bridge. The Divisional Superintendent of Pakistan Railways Quetta, Imran Hayat personally monitored the trial of train at the bridge. As the trial remained

successful, it was decided to restore the train service from Quetta to other parts of the country. It may be recalled that

the Dozań railway bridge was destroyed by some unknown miscreants in subversive act on August 26.

After destruction of the railway bridge, the train service was suspended from Quetta for rest of the



valuing \$2.2bln in multiple sectors

PM terms Saudi delegation's visit as key milestone in strengthening ties

cerity and affection for

people of Pakistan from

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman.

ceremony would lead to

many more such events in

times to come. He ex-

pressed the government's

resolve to implement these

MoUs and to transform

them into agreements in fu-

ture through "hard work and untiring efforts". "Our Saudi brothers

lead by Khalid Bin Abdul

Aziz Al Falih have done

remarkable job to promote

Saudi economy and with his

presence here, we will have

his full cooperation to pro-

mote bilateral investments

and business opportunity,"

he remarked. The prime

minister hoped that in fu-

KARACHI: President Asif Ali Zardari visits the

Chinese Embassy to offer condolences over the

killing of Chinese citizens in a terrorist attack.

President visits China

embassy to condole killing

of Chinese citizens

He hoped that today's

ture there would be many

more such ceremonies both

in Saudi Arabia and Paki-

stan. He assured the Saudi

delegation that the MoUs

signed today would be fully

materialized and there

would be no delay or red

tape-ism in the implemen-

Pakistan had secured the

International Monetary

Fund (IMF) programme which he hoped would be

the last programme. He thanked the Saudi leader-

ship for their support in

having the programme as

without their support, the

programme could not have

materialized. "Finally this

programme is through, but

we hope that this will be the last programme as we have already through a

Recently, he said that

tation process.

managed to improve our

economic indicators, infla-

tion came down from 32%

to 6.9% this month, our

policy rate has come down

from 23% to 17.5%, ex-

ports are increasing, foreign

remittances are also increas-

ing", he said. Additionally,

he said the government was moving towards deep rooted reforms in the

country's economy through

very stringent measures and

there was no compromise

also conveyed his warm re-

gards to the Custodian of

the Two Holy Mosques

His Majesty King Salman

bin Abdulaziz, and His

Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin

SC suspends

order for

re-polling

in PB-45

ISLAMABAD (APP)

The Supreme Court of Pa-

kistan on Thursday sus-

pended a decision regarding

re-polling in 15 polling stations of the PB-45

Balochistan. The court re-

instated the victory of

PPP's candidate Ali Madad

respondents for comments.

tion tribunal for re-count-

Madad Jatak. During hear-

The prime minister

on these decisions.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa- manifestation of great sinkistan and Saudi Arabia on Thursday signed 27 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) valuing US \$2.2 billion in various sectors including industry, agriculture, Information Technology (IT), food, education, mine & minerals, health, petroleum, energy and other areas of mutual cooperation. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif accompanied by Saudi Investment Minister Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Al Falih and Chief of Army Staff Lt. General Syed Asim Munir witnessed the exchange of the signed copies

Addressing on the occasion, the prime minister said the visit of Saudi business delegation was a true

Faith in Khatam-e-Nabuwat integral part of Muslim's definition: SC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan has stated in Mubarak Sani's detailed judgment that complete faith in 'Khatam-e-Nabuat' is an integral part of the definition of a Muslim.

Å three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa ana comprising Justice Amin ud Din Khan and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan issued the order.

Two cops martyred in terrorist attack on police van

TANK (INP): Two policemen were martyred while three were injured in a terrorist attack on a police van in the limits of SMA police station near Pathankot in Tank on Thursday.

According to police, the terrorists made their escape good after committing the crime.

The police said that the van was on a routine patrol when the terrorists targeted the vehicle.

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday visited the Embassy of China here and offered his heartfelt condolences on behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan over the tragic killing of Chinese citizens in a terrorist attack in Karachi that took place on October

Strongly condemning the terrorist attack, the president reiterated the resolve to bring the perpetrators of this heinous crime to justice.

He expressed Pakistan's solidarity with Chinese people in this hour of grief, according to a President House press release.

Talking to Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong, President Zardari said that the Chinese government and people had contributed to the socio-economic development of Pakistan and the enemies of both countries could not want to see the growing bilateral partnership. He stated that such

cowardly acts by the hostile elements could not weaken the bonds of friendship between the two timetested friends. The president reiter-

ated Pakistan's commitment to ensure the safety and security of the Chinese nationals residing in Paki-

Public-private partnership essential to cope with challenges of global warming, emphasizes Governor

Thursday

the meeting.

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has emphasized that public-partnership is essential to move

ahead the public friendly policies and cope with the challenges of global warm-He insisted that the message can be reached to

every homeboy including the subject of environment in curriculum. The Governor was

speaking to a delegation

who called on him under some 8,000 trees and sapleadership of head of FDI, lings planted in the Gover-Ms. Uzma Yaqoob here at nor House is an example the Governor's House on worth following for environmental protection.

The matters about glo-He assured that coopbal warming and climate eration would remain conchange were discussed in tinued for the public friendly endeavours of the Speaking on the occa-Governor House as well as sion, the Governor said promotion of education and that the negative impacts of odern skills. climate change can be re-

The Governor also duced with cooperation of said that every civilized the international institusociety move ahead and promote gender equal-

He said that care of



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presides over the meeting regarding Quetta Master Plan.

Nawaz, Bilawal meet to explore solutions for Pak current situation

Bilawal confident on approval of constitutional amendments by all parties

(SLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Thursday to discuss the

country's current situation and explore solutions to the challenges it faces. The meeting took place at Punjab House, Islamabad, where Pakistan Muslim League-N President Nawaz Sharif warmly welcomed Bilawal Bhutto upon his arrival. The two leaders expressed satisfaction over the inflation rate drop from 32% to 6.9%, the reduction in the policy rate, overall economic progress, and the continuous improvement in economic indicators, including the record \$8.8 billion sent by overseas Pakistanis

pressed optimism about the swift relief for Pakistan Zardari, met with former and its people, calling it an auspicious sign, while also welcoming the arrival of the Saudi investor delegation and the hosting of the the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in the federal capital.

The two leaders agreed that these activities mark a highly positive development for Pakistan's international standing and economic progress. Nawaz Sharif stated that time has proven the 2006 Charter of Democracy (CoD) to be a historic and timely decision. He credited the charter with stabilizing democracy, allowing Parliament to complete its term, and uniting political parties against non-democratic forces.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari meets with President PML-N, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at Punjab House.

Five IPPs contracts terminated to save Rs411 bln: Shehbaz

day announced the termination of the power purchase agreement with five Independent Power Producers (IPPs) which Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said it would provide Rs60 billion annual relief to the electricity consumers and cumulatively save Rs411 billion to the national exche-

Jatak and served notices to The prime minister, in A three-member bench his remarks at the meeting of the federal cabinet he headed by Justice Amin ud Din Khan heard the appeal chaired, said the termination against the decision of elecof agreements, signed between the Task Force on ing in aforesaid constitu-Power Sector Reforms and IPPs owners, was part of ency. The appeal was filed the efforts to reduce the by PPP's candidate Ali burden of capacity payments being borne by the ing, the petitioner's lawver contended that the election consumers and that it would also reduce the electribunal has ordered for retricity prices. polling on contradiction in

The owners of five

ISLAMABAD (APP): IPPs agreed to terminate national interest to their

This is the first raindrop. This will follow the rain to green the whole region," he remarked and thanked his team members including the task force on power sector reforms, President Asif Ali Zardari and Chief of the Army Staff for their efforts and PML-N president Nawaz Sharif for constant push.

He told the cabinet members that the power tariff would be reduced after a gradual review of contracts with other IPPs.

Under the agreement, the IPPs whose contracts had been terminated including Rousch Power, Saba Power, LALPIR, HUBCO and Atlas Power, would be liable to receive their arrears sans mark-up



Yaqoob called on Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail Quetta Master Plan should be completed earliest:

4 khwarij killed in two separate **IBOs in KP**

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Security Forces on Thursday killed four Khwarij terrorists in two separate intelligence-based operations (IBOs) conducted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). On October 9, the Forces conducted an IBO in general area Janikhel Bannu District on reported presence of khwarij, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. During the conduct of the operation, after an intense exchange of fire, two khwarij were killed. In another operation, conducted in gen eral area Hassan Khel North Waziristan District on October 10, the Army troops effectively engaged khwarij location and in ensuing fire exchange, two more khwarij were killed. Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from killed khwarij, who remained actively involved.

Comprehensive planning and coordinated strategy direly needed for sustainable development of any city, CS

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan has stated that comprehensive planning and coordinated strategy is disparately needed for sustainable development and construction of any of city so as to fulfil all needs of the citi-

The Chief Secretary exhorted to all concerned institutions to play their role for providing basic needs and facilities to the new generations by preparing comprehensive planning keeping in view the future requirements.

The Chief Secretary was chairing meeting on Quetta Master Plan here on

Thursday. The meeting was at-

tended by the Secretary Transport, Hayat Kakar, Secretary Urban Planning, Umeed Ali Khokhar, Commissioner Muhammad Shafqaat Director General QDA and other concerned

The Chief Secretary maintained that the provincial government is taking steps to resolve the important and serious issues of Quetta so as to minimize public issues.

He directed to complete the Quetta Master Plan project at the earli-

He said that such steps should be taken for development of the city, which are seen practically on the ground.

Daily soice of Masse Independent

Mental wellness

World Mental Health Day, observed on Oct 10 each year, is an opportunity to focus on an oft-neglected aspect of one's well-being. The theme for 2024, 'Mental Health at Work', highlights the urgent need to address mental well-being within professional environments. With a significant portion of adult life spent at work, creating healthy workplaces becomes not just an ethical responsibility but also an economic necessity. Workplaces that fail to prioritise mental health can contribute to burnout, anxiety, depression, and other serious issues, while those that do foster mental well-being help employees thrive both professionally and personally. Workplace stress and mental health issues have gained increasing attention in recent years across the globe, but the situation is concerning in Pakistan. The prevalence of mental disorders in Pakistan is estimated to be as high as 10pc, affecting approximately 20m people. Despite such staggering numbers, mental health remains a stigmatised topic, particularly in professional settings where discussing mental well-being is often viewed as a sign of weakness. The challenges of job insecurity, excessive workloads, and limited access to mental health resources exacerbate the problem, leaving many employees to struggle in silence.

For a developing country like ours, where the workforce is already strained due to economic pressures, addressing mental health at work is critical. Low wages and poor working conditions, especially in sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, and even the burgeoning digital economy, only intensify the crisis. In many cases, employees hesitate to seek help for fear of being judged or seen as incompetent. This reinforces the cycle of untreated mental health issues that can lead to reduced productivity, absenteeism, and high turnover rates, all of which affect the national

Pakistan suffers from a lack of institutional support and policies that address mental health in the workplace. Unlike many developed nations, where employee assistance programmes, flexible work arrangements, and mental health awareness training are becoming standard, such initiatives are rare in our corporate and industrial sectors. This gap underscores the need for both a cultural shift and legislative reforms to promote mental well-being at work. The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of mental health in every aspect of life, including the workplace. As remote work becomes more common, especially in the IT and services sectors, the boundaries between work and personal life have blurred, leading to heightened stress. The emphasis on mental health at work could not be more timely, urging employers to rethink how they support their employees. On this World Mental Health Day, the message is clear: mental health at work must become a priority. There must be a concerted effort in Pakistan to initiate conversations about mental health in the workplace. It is only by addressing these issues that we can create an inclusive, productive, and healthier workforce.

Stressed hospitality

F.S. Aijazuddin

In Pakistan we plan with finesse, and then execute a mohalla known then as in distress. Some still recall the obstacles placed by the then chief minister Punjab in the way of the Lahore LitFest in ear-Line (a permanent unface of once lovely Lahore), he withdrew perthe mission at penultimate minute for the LLF to be held at the

Lahore Arts Council. Hurriedly, the LLF had to relocate to a local hotel. To the chagrin of like the Indian film star Shar-mila Tagore could noise of generators in makeshift auditoria.

This year, the openits definition takes more than a year to plan, fell victim to politics. What should have been a momentous, joyous event for our country was crippled by a dharna by a disgruntled party.

press their views. We might, however, lea-rn a outside the gate. They held placards listing their demands. When asked, they explained that they were on strike on behalf of all their colleagues. There was no need for the rest of the workers to strike. They would con-

interrupted. With us, protest is synonymous with disruption. We cannot complain without causing

chaos Lahore Biennale compressed Lahore's past into its present. It was an art exhibition held in the house off Temple Road where the author Ved

Mehta grew up in the litical dharna, the 1940s. Met-reurous, Ved's family lived in schedule had to be rearranged at short notice. father's house famous tribute to the tenacity of (the gate still has the the organisers. They

Mehta gali. He made his marble plaque bearing the saw Lahore as an artistic name 'Dr. Amolak Ram tapestry, a historical lier years. Annoyed at the Mehta') in his autobiogcriticism of his Orange raphy Face to Face (1957). The house remains as his sightly scar across the family left it in 1947, sans contents and sans its soul

Each room had been converted into a mini gallery, showcasing the talent of individual artists. The inner courtyard where Ved played became a theatre. For an the audience, attractions hour, Lahore's past was recalled by a film — Life in the Walled City of be barely heard over the Lahore — made by Shireen Pasha in 1991.

Shireen studied at the National College of ing of the Lahore Arts, Lahore where her Biennale 2024, which by talent as a painter glistalent as a painter glistened like gold in a class of dark lignite. She leaped from the limitation of a canvas to the big screen, and from there to the welcoming arms of the West.

Her film on Lahore is Kiplingesque. It shows Everyone with an the daily routine of wresopinion has a right to ex- tlers, the round of milkmen, the gleeful, competitive abandon of kite-flylesson from the Japa- ing, the rhythm of worknese. A visitor there once ers hammering silver into noticed a trio of Japanese wafer-thin slivers, the factory workers standing monotony of baking endless moons of naans, and the heavy breakfasts on cold Lahori mornings.

Shireen interspersed these images with recollections by elderly residents of the old city geriatrics to whom the havelis were home and tinue working so that production would not be anything beyond a foreign, inhospitable land. The film concluded with shots of a younger Nusrat Fateh Ali before fame gripped his throat.

Lahore Biennale 2024 criss-A prequel to the crossed Lahore's geography, including events at Sha--limar Gardens, the Lahore Fort, and Brad--laugh Hall which history has forgotten.

met-iculously crafted ranged at short notice. That it was held at all is a continuum, not the stunted span of an elected or selected government.

Participants at another moot — the SCO gathering of biggies in Islamabad — have their own problems, their own variants of dissent. They will though be treated here with liberal hospital-

Flush with the pro-spect of \$7 billion from the IMF, our Foreign Office has asked the Pun-jab government for "15 VVIP vehicles, including bulletproof cars, for dep-loyment with the 12 prime ministers attending the SCO conference". In response, the Punjab government announced plans to purchase "79 new luxury vehicles for provincial ministers, parliamentary secretaries ... and VVIP protocol duties". The cost? A paltry Rs612 mil-

Wasn't it Thomas Jefferson who advised paupers like us: "Never spend your money be-

fore you have it." One recalls the 1974 Islamic Summit in Lahore when Mr Bhutto commandeered the residences of the rich and their luxury cars for visiting VIPs. These included Saudi King Faisal and Libya's Col Qadhafi. They made no complaints. In 2008, before the SCO meeting in Dushanbe, the Chinese gifted the host Tajikistan 105 vehicles, including 80 buses and 20 luxury cars for the visiting heads of state. We still owe the Chinese \$3bn deposited to window-dress our reserves. We did not need to rice-paper our poverty with con-Because of the po- ceit. -- Courtesy Dawn

Gaza's children

Aamnah Arshad Kamal

As we mark one year out sufficient food and since the onset of the water. Before they can conflict in Gaza, the recover from their predevastating toll on children's mental health there continues to unfold. More than 42,000 people have been killed curity. They are in a in Gaza since the start state of toxic stress, as of the conflict, according to the Gaza health stant terror of bombardministry, with the majority of identified victims being women and children. This prolonged conflict, marked by air strikes, displacement, and the loss of family

and the youth. Mental World mental health crisis being faced by children children of Gaza have from 2008 to 2024. The anxiety. current attacks have so rubble. Keeping in mind the demography, we can assume that a little under half the casualties are children. However, it is quite clear that

medical aid, and withvious scars, they are retraumatised — on a daily basis — and are left with no sense of sethey live under the con-

There are many

evidence of mental

ment and firing.

health disorders including stress disorder, anxiety and homes, has left and depression among deep psychological the children. One such wounds on children study, conducted after from losing family past conflicts in Gaza, is the 'Consequences Health Day, observed of war-related traumatic each year on Oct 10, is stress among Palestina crucial time to raise ian young people in awareness about the the Gaza Strip: a scoping review', published in Science Direct. living in war zones. The It concludes that the majority of children in been confined to a narrow strip of land, which toms of PTSD: "The has been blockaded for mental health of chil-15 years, and, along dren and young people with the rest of the in- in the Gaza Strip is a habitants, have faced a pressing public health on discovering their talnumber of intense periods of assault by Israel, PTSD, depression and

Psychologist Iman far proved to be the Farajallah has conmost devastating for ducted a number of Gaza's 2.3 million studies on childhood people. Besides the trauma focused on Palhuge death toll, thou- estinian children. For sands of people are her 2016 doctoral dis-children's mental health missing, many of them sertation titled Children perhaps dead under the of War: Psychological Impacts of War and manage the adverse Post-war Trauma on the Palestinian Children in the Gaza Strip, Dr Farajallah interviewed children and their famiall children in Gaza have lies in the area. She of Gaza's children is experienced the trauma found that anger and of war and it is no won- aggression were comder that the Gaza Strip mon among them as a has been called the result of witnessing Is-"most dangerous place raeli bombings take the the healthcare system in the world to be a lives of close family has collapsed, no treat-child" by Unicef members. Among the ment is even partially spokesperson James signs of mental trauma and PTSD displayed by Large numbers of children were: depreschildren in Gaza are in- sion, anxiety, continu- structure is carried out. jured; they have been ous traumatic stress

left without parents and disorder, hyperactivity, shelter, without vital a preference for being alone, screaming, nightmares and bed-wetting, frightening thoughts and flashbacks of trau-

Watching people around them die, especially parents and close family members and friends, makes the children in Gaza very afraid, lonely and depressed. They do not receive the studies to support the emotional support or psychological care needed, thus these post-traumatic negative feelings exacerbate their mental health issues. The lack of security resulting memb-ers, homes and safe places to live, prolongs the stress they

> Intense conflict has destroyed scho-ols and recreational structures in Gaza, disrupting childr-en's education, which in turn impacts their cognitive development and learning. Besides not being able to go to school, children also lose out ent, interests and skills.

As a result, their future progress is hampered, adding to their feelings of depression and hopelessness.

Interventions that focus on reducing the effect of war on are crucial to helping the affected youngsters psychological effects in the long term. However, effective intervention and treatment of the mental health problems only possible when there is peace in the region and the infrastructure is restored. Since possible until the war completely stops and reconstruction of infra--- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Saudi Minister highlights Pakistan as "prime investment destination" at Business Forum

Saudi Minister for one-stop shop, a single-Investment, Sheikh Khalid window system, and the underway. The minister encouragement. Bin Abdul Aziz Al Faleh, on Thursday said that Facilitation Council (SIFC) Ministry of Commerce's Pakistan has the potential to become a high-return, low-risk investment destination, making it optimism about the 27 bilateral trade has already highly attractive for Saudi

Speaking at the signed during the ongoing Pakistan-Saudi Arabia forum, with many more Business Forum, the currently minister commended negotiation reforms, highlighting the agreements

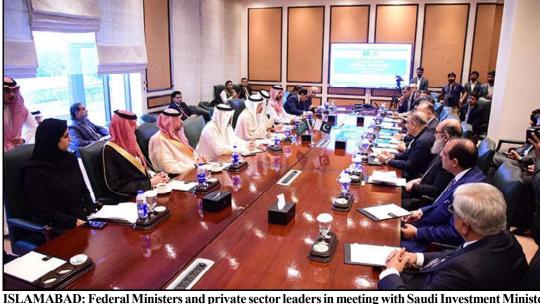
window system, and the Special Investment acknowledged the sheikh Special as pivotal factors in commitment to enhancing streamlining investment trade relations between the agreements, amounting to

Pakistan's initiatives and emphasized that these

processes. He expressed two countries, noting that surged by approximately \$2 billion, expected to be 80 percent, rising from \$3 billion in 2019 to \$5.4 billion today. He also under highlighted the significant He increase in Pakistani investment licenses, which emerged have more than doubled,

ISLAMABAD (APP): establishment of a special organically, reflecting the demonstrating the Saudi

expressed enthusiasm about the announcement from the Saudi Crown Prince regarding a \$5 billion investment in Pakistan, revealed during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit shortly after he took office. "I'm delighted to have the Public Investment Fund (PIF) represented among us," he



ISLAMABAD: Federal Ministers and private sector leaders in meeting with Saudi Investment Minister H.E. Eng. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih to discuss enhancing trade and investment.

Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal meeting with delegation from the China Asia Economic Development Association (CAEDA) here in Islamabad.

Provision of affordable electricity to consumers govt's top priorities: Awais

ISLAMABAD (APP): per unit for which Minister for Power agreements Division Sardar Awais Independent Ahmed Khan Leghari on Producers (IPPs) were Thursday said that mutually revised and reduction in power tariff and provision of He said the prime electricity to the people at minister set up a National affordable price were Task Force to bring reforms government's top in the power sector. Five priorities. Addressing at IPPs were identified and press conference here, the negotiation were started minister said that various with them, he added. pragmatic measures were being taken to slash electricity prices in order thoroughly studied and

to the masses. He said the electricity power price should reduce Rs 10

Power

reassessed. He said the prime

He said every section of the agreements were to provide maximum relief then mutually reached at an agreement to terminate the power purchase agreements with 5 IPPs.

PSX loses 216 points ISLAMABAD (APP): The

100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend, losing 216.06 points on Thursday, a negative change of 0.25 percent, closing at 85,453.22 points against 85,669.28 points on the last trading day. A total of 503,750,595 shares were traded during the day as compared to 596,052,076 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 27.912 billion against Rs. 31.341 billion on the last trading day. As many as 313 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 115 of them recorded gains and 189 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 9 companies remained unchanged.

more investments into Pakistan ISLAMABAD (APP): investors will be Federal Minister for encouraged to invest in

Reforms to encourage

and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan, said here on Thursday that the institutional and policy reforms introduced by the incumbent government would further encourage more Saudi investor to invest in Pakistan.

"I am confident that with institutional and policy reforms, we have introduced, more Saudi to offer.

Investment, Privatization Pakistan," the federal minister said while addressing Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Business Forum.

He said, the business forum provides unique opportunity to build deeper commercial ties between the two brotherly countries and invited Saudi Businessmen to explore wide rage investment opportunities Pakistan has

CM Maryam focusing to ensure agriculture development: Kirmani

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Agriculture Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani said on Thursday that till now 1.25 million farmers had got their registration done for obtaining Punjab Chief Minister's Kisan Card. He said this while presiding over the meeting held in Deputy Commissioner's Toba Tek Deputy Singh office, said a press release. The meeting reviewed arrangements

regarding Punjab Chief

Minister's visit to Toba

Tek Singh and kisan card

activation ceremony. The

minister said that after printing of kisan card its provision was ongoing. He further said that Punjab Chief Minister was taking all possible measures to ensure agriculture development.

He said that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz would be chief guest of Kisan Card launching ceremony in Toba Tek Singh. Kirmani said that under the scheme, a subsidy of Rs 1 million would be provided to farmers for getting tractor under green tractor scheme.

Pakistan at good place on economic front, open for business, Finance Minister ISLAMABAD (APP): Aurangzeb highlighted Business-to-Business

Federal Minister for government policies aimed Finance and Revenue, at strengthening the Senator Muhammad private sector to lead the significant progress in Aurangzeb here on country's business and macroeconomic stability Thursday expressed economy. The minister over the past 12-12 optimism about Pakistan's emphasized that the months. Pakistan achieved prospects, stating the country was at a good place on economic front and open to business.

Business

government's role was not a primary surplus, reduced to do business but to its current account deficit facilitate the private sector. to less than \$1 billion,

Addressing the Arabian delegates to increased foreign exchange Pakistan Saudi Arabia promote trade and reserves to cover two investment through a months of imports.

He welcomed Saudi stabilized its currency, and

ANF seizes 65 kg drugs in four operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting four operations managed to recover 65 kg drugs worth Rs 5.2 million and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He said, in an operation, 13.2 kg hashish was recovered from a rickshaw intercepted near Sangjani toll plaza and two accused were arrested. 308 grams hashish was recovered from an accused netted near a major educational institution in Karachi

Chinese PM's visit to boost economic prospects: LCCI

Lahore Chamber of (LCCI) has expressed the optimism that the Chinese Prime Minister's visit will boost economic prospects of Pakistan.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman and Vice President Shahid and manufacturing. Nazir Chaudhry said, "The visit signifies a critical opportunity to boost

LAHORE (APP): The more Chinese investment." They said that the Commerce and Industry relationship between Pakistan and China had been marked by strong economic ties but this visit takes it a step further.

> They added that the business community expect to see a wave of investment in critical sectors such as energy, technology, infrastructure

They further said that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Pakistan's economic had already laid a solid prospects by attracting foundation.

Empowered women play vital role in development of any society: Governor

Independent Report LAHORE: A delegation of HER Market Place Leaders Club led by Founder President Leaders Club, Sana Khan, called on Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. During the meeting, Sana Khan informed the Governor of Punjab about the initiatives taken by the Leaders Club regarding financial independence and business

development. Talking on this asion, Governor occasion, Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that empowered women play an important role in the development of any society. He said that women are not only take care of their families, but

Secretariat in Lahore.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Centre of Excellence on

Extremism (KPCVE) on

Thursday organized a one-

day seminar at Government

College Peshawar on the

issue of drug abuse and the

social problems arising

from it. The seminar was to

develop strategies to

prevent drug addiction and

raise awareness among Peshawar.

to the society by working shoulder to shoulder with shoulder to shoulder with men in various fields. Governor Punjab said that women are proving their mettle in various fields.

He appreciated the providing business said that Leaders Club is business opportunities to

Governor Punjab about HER Marketplace and Second Emerging Women Awards 2024. The delegation also invited the Governor of Punjab as a special guest at the Women

LAHORE: Members of All Pakistan Clerks

Association (APCA) are holding protest demonstration

against massive unemployment, increasing price of

daily use products and inflation price hiking, at Civil

KPCVE organizes

seminar on prevention

of drug abuse

PESHAWAR (APP): The students and the broader

Violent

Club to be held at Aiwan i Iqbal Complex, Lahore on 16 November. Dr. Aamir Khan,

Founder Leaders Club,

Anam Tariq Khan, Dr. vision of Leaders Club to Humayun Iftikhar, Dr. Ijaz empower women by Sindhu and Irfan Khan were also present on this opportunities to them. He occasion. In addition, Governor Punjab Sardar playing a positive role in Saleem Haider Khan the development of the attended the Chehlum country by providing ceremony of his mother in law in Malal, Attock District and prayed for the On this occasion, the higher ranks of the of the delegation briefed the deceased. On this occasion, former Federal Interior Minister, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, Sardar Muhammad Ali . Sardar Faizan Haider, Sardar Hasan Ali and a large number of local dignitaries were present.

Police arrest 21 outlaws in DIKhan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Dera police during the successful operations against the criminal the criminal elements arrested atleast 21 outlaws and recovered weapon, and drugs from their possession in the limits of Paharpur and Shorkot police stations here on Thursday. According to the police spokesman, on the direction of District Police Officer, Dera Nasir Mahmood, operations against criminal elements are going on indiscriminately

throughout the district. Shorkot police station led by SDPO Imranullah Khattak along with SHO Manzoor Khan conducted a search and strike operation in different

localities. During the raid the police team arrested the accused Muhammad Salim son of Falakshir resident of Mandran Kalan, who was wanted in the murder case. The police recovered 9mm bore pistol with ammunition from the possession of Nimatullah. Saver Program, both of the chief guest.



President Leaders Club, Sana Khan, in a group photo with Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

Senior minister meets WB carbon consultant

LAHORE (APP): Senior Minister Marvam Nawaz Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb met with World Bank Carbon Consultant Mr. Morton, on Thursday.

On this occasion. bilateral discussions were held regarding important measures regarding green carbon credit, industrial emission control system, development domestic carbon credit and anti-smog program. Senior Provincial

has been taking steps for six months to protect her people from the negative effects of smog. Punjab is currently going through a transition phase. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif wants to invest in the development of energy, transport and forests, she added. She said that with the support of Australian firm, discussions are also going on about bio-refinery

1 for environmentally Minister Marriyum friendly destruction of Aurangzeb said that Chief crop residues. The senior

MRS responded to over 2.6 mln emergencies in 7 years in punjab LAHORE (APP): Provincial which beneficial for the

Minister for Émergency Services Khawaja Salman Rafique congratulated all District Emergency Officers and the staff of the Motorbike Rescue Service (MRS) on completing seven successful years of service.

Speaking at the cakecutting ceremony for the 7th anniversary of the Motorbike Rescue Service, of the the minister praised Rescue 1122 as one of the most disciplined organizations. He commended the Rescue 1122 team, under the leadership of Dr. Rizwan Naseer, for swiftly launching the Air Ambulance Service and the Pak Life

people of Punjab. He further said that Rescue 1122 not only provides a sense of safety to the people of Punjab but also extends its expertise through the Emergency Services Academy, which has trained over 26,000 emergency professionals from across the country, to establish the

neighboring provinces. On the completion of 7 vears of Motorbike Rescue Service, a ceremony was held at the Command and Control Centre. Lahore in which Provincial Minister for Emergency Services, Khawaja Salman Rafique was

emergency system in

Three shot dead over enmity

FAISALABAD (APP) Three people were killed over enmity near Tandlianwala on Thursday. According to Rescue-1122, Haq Nawaz s/ o Sakhawat, Maqsood s/o Alam Sher and Waqar s/o Muhammad Azam (rickshaw driver) were on their way to the court to appear in a case when armed rivals opened fire on them. As a result, they all died on the spot. Rescue team moved the bodies to Tandlianwala city police.

Two dead **bodies found** in Karak

PESHAWAR (APP): Two dead bodies were found in the Sirajkhel area of tehsil Takht Nusrati in district Karak on Thursday. Local police said some

unknown accused dumped the bodies of the girl and a boy after killing them somewhere else. Police said the incident was likely to be the result of an honor

Motorcyclist killed in road accident

CHICHAWATNI (APP): A motorcyclist died in a road mishap on GT Road here on Thursday. According to a police spokesman, a 50-year-old man, namely Rustam, was riding a bike on GT Road when a truck hit his bike. A result, he died on the spot.

CM KP authorized to hold jirga for solution of all matters with peaceful negotiations

PESHAWAR (APP): The provincial peace jirga including Aimal Wali Khan attended by the leadership of ANP, Professor Ibrahim provincial peace jirga attended by the leadership and representatives of all religious and political parties here Thursday authorized the Chief Minister Khyber Pakthunhwa to hold a Jirga for resolution of all matters through peaceful negotiations.

The Spokesman of KP Government in a statement here said the grand provincial jirga was attended by Federal Minister for Interior Syed Mohsin Naqvi, Khyber Pakthunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, CM KP Ali Ameen Gandapur Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam, Speaker KP assembly Babar Salim Swati, leaders and representatives of religious

Khan of Jumat e Islami, Mohsin Dawar, Mian Iftikhar Hussain of ANP, Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha of PPP, Sikandr Hayat Sherpao QWP, Dr Ebad Khan of PMLN and others here at Chief Minister House. Provincial

Page 03

The Assembly including leadership of all religiouspolitical parties assigned CM KP the responsibility of conducting a peace jirga with concerned for solution of all matters through consultation and peaceful means. The CM KP has accepted the responsibility of conducting a peace jirga and thanked the participants for reposing trust in him.



LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique watching the stalls on the eve of World Mental Health Day ceremony at Punjab Institute of Mental Health.

KMU hosts ceremony for **MDCAT 2024 toppers**

of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Finance, Muzammil Aslam government. He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of a five-week universities and an event profession.

PESHAWAR (APP): The honoring the top position Adviser to the Chief Minister holders of MDCAT 2024 organized by Khyber Medical University (KMU) on Thursday emphasized Peshawar. He remarked that that health and education are today's event is a clear the highest priorities of the testament to the provincial government's commitment to elevating the health sector to international standards. training program for The introduction of British-provincial nurses in level nursing training will collaboration with the significantly enhance the provincial health department quality of nursing, fostering and a consortium of British overall growth in this vital

International News

US calls out Israel at UN for 'catastrophic conditions' in Gaza

community about its

dangers and consequences.

from various fields, including

Deputy Director HED

Zakaria Khan, Professor Dr

Nadia Khan Betani, KPCVE

Principal Research Officer

Chairman of the Islamic

Studies Department at

Muhammad

Government

Prominent experts

UNITED NATIONS: Israel needs to address urgently "catastrophic conditions" among Palestinian civilians in the besieged Gaza Strip and stop "intensifying suffering" by limiting aid deliveries, its ally the United States told the UN Security Council on

Wednesday. Referring to reports of squalid conditions in south and central Gaza, US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield said: 'These catastrophic conditions were predicted months ago, and yet, have still not been addressed. That must change, and now." "We call on Israel to take urgent steps to do so," she said in a blunt statement.

The 15-member Security Council met over the humanitarian crisis a year said. after a deadly attack by

on southern Israel sparked the war in Gaza. Israel has since laid to waste much of entire population of 2.3 million has been displaced.

Israel says Hamas killed some 1,200 people on Oct. 7, 2023, while health authorities in Gaza say nearly 42,000 people have been killed so far during Israel's retaliation.

Thomas-Greenfield also addressed a recent Israeli order for civilians in Gaza's north to evacuate able to return to communities to rebuild.

demographic or territorial change in the Gaza Strip, including any actions that businesses. reduce the territory of Gaza," Thomas-Greenfield

Philippe Lazzarini,

Palestinian militants Hamas the head of the UN Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA, told the Security Council: "Hundreds of the enclave and almost the thousands of people are again being pushed to move to the south, where living

conditions are intolerable. "Yet again, Gazans are teetering on the edge of a man-made famine," he said. The UN has long com-

plained of obstacles to getting aid into Gaza and distributing it during the war. Reuters reported last

week that food supplies to Gaza have fallen sharply in again, saying they must be recent weeks because Israeli authorities have introduced a new customs rule on some "There must be no humanitarian aid and are separately scaling down deliveries organized by

"We need to see fewer barriers to the delivery of aid, not more of them,' Thomas-Greenfield said.

Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy shake hands on the day of a bilateral meeting inside 10 Downing Street in London, Britain.

At least 192 killed in wave of violence between drug gangs in northwest Mexico

Monitoring Desk CULIACAN: At least 192 people have been killed in a wave of violence that began last month between warring drug gangs in Mexico's northwestern state of Sinaloa, the State Public Security Council, a local civilian-led watchdog,

The council, which consists of members of Sinaloan society such as academics, business representatives and nonprofits, said that to date, nearly 200 mur-

ders and 226 disappearances have been reported since the onset of the violence on September 9. Around 200 families have fled the violence, with 180 businesses closing and 2,000 jobs lost amid the armed conflict between the leading factions of the Sinaloa Cartel.

Following the arrest of notorious drug kingpin and Sinaloa Cartel co-founder Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada

before age 18, UNICEF says

Monitoring Desk

children's agency said on Wednesday. The number rises to 650 million, or one in five, when taking into account "non-contact" forms of sexual violence, such as online or verbal abuse, UNICEF reported, in what it called the first global sur-

"The scale of this human rights violation is overwhelming, and it's been hard to fully grasp because of stigma, challenges in measurement, and limited investment in data collection," UNICEF said in releasing the report. It comes ahead of an inaugural Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against

Russia says 'Nuclear Five' states to meet soon in New York **Monitoring Desk**

MOSCOW: A group of five nuclear weapons states will hold a meeting in New York in the next two weeks, Russian state media quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov as saying on Thursday. The group brings together Russia, the United States, China, France and Britain, all of which are nuclear-armed states and permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.Ryabkov did not announce a specific date or say what level of officials would attend.

Overshooting 1.5C risks 'irreversible' climate impact Monitoring Desk

PARIS: Any breach of what climate scientists agree is the safer limit on global warming would result in "irreversible consequences" for the planet, said a major academic study published on Wednesday.

Even temporarily exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius before bringing temperatures back down — a scenario known as an "overshoot" — could cause sea level rises and other disastrous repercussions that might last millenia.

EU must unite entire continent, says Zelensky

Monitoring Desk
DUBROVNIK: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Wednesday called on the European Union to "unite the whole continent" as he pushes for more military aid to repel Russian forces. But a key meeting with international allies planned for Saturday was postponed after US President Joe Biden called off a planned European visit to focus on the threat from Hurricane Milton to

The EU must "unite the whole continent, all of Europe's democratic nations including your countries", Zelensky told the start of the summit in Dubrovnik.

united today it won't be peace closer.

peaceful, so that integration processes that have begun must reach their result." he said pleading the case for his country and several Balkan states to be allowed into the bloc.

Heads of state, premiers and foreign ministers from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkiye joined Zelensky and Croatia's Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic at the talks. Önly Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Romania and Slovenia are EU mem-

Zelensky said earlier the summit "will discuss "If Europe is not international efforts to bring

Biden, Netanyahu speak, Israel vows lethal retaliation against Iran

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTŎN:

President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had a call on Wednesday (Oct 9) amid tensions with Iran, while Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant promised an Israeli strike against Iran will be "le-ended: "Whoever attacks thal, precise and surpris-

The 30-minute call was the first known chat since August and coincides with a sharp escalation of Israel's conflict with Iran and the Iranbacked Lebanese Hezbollah, but with no Lebanese sign of an imminent ceasefire to end the conflict with Iran-backed Hamas in Gaza.

The call was "direct and very productive", White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters while acknowledging the two leaders have disagreements and are open about them. The Middle East has been on edge awaiting Israel's response to a missile at-

carried out in retaliation for Israel's military escalation in Lebanon. The Iranian attack ultimately killed no one in Israel. After describing Iran's Oct 1 missile attack as a failure, Gallant said in a video issued by his office after the us will be hurt and will pay a price. Our attack will be deadly, precise and above all surprising, they will for Biden and Netanyahu not understand what happened and how it happened, they will see the results.

Netanyahu promised that arch-foe Iran will pay for its missile attack, while Tehran has said any retaliation would be met with vast destruction, raising fears of a wider war in the oilproducing region which could draw in the United States.

The United States has said it supports Israel going after Iranbacked targets like Hezbollah and Hamas but has tried, unsuccessfully, to stem rising conflict, to tack last week that Tehran broker a ceasefire in Gaza.

US warns Israel not to repeat Gaza ruination

Monitoring Desk JERUSALEM: The United States warned Israel on Wednesday against any Gaza-like military action in Lebanon after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu threatened it with "destruction" like that in the Palestinian territory.

But armed forces chief Herzi Halevi vowed to keep up Israel's intensive bombing of Hezbollah targets, "without allowing them any respite or recov-

ery".

The comments came after a much anticipated phone call between Netanyahu and US President Joe Biden, which had been expected to focus on Israel's response to last week's missile barrage by

The White House said the 30-minute call was "direct", "honest" and "productive"

"We're going to continue to have those discus-

sions with Israel on how they're going to respond,' Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said.

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, who had been due to discuss Israel's response in US before the last-minute postponement of his visit, pledged: "Our attack on Iran will be deadly, precise and surpris-

Iran fired some 200 missiles at Israel in retaliation for the killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh. Biden has cautioned

Israel against attempting to target Iran's nuclear programme and is also against striking the country's oil installations. Hezbollah said its

fighters were locked in clashes with Israeli troops in southern Lebanon, using rocket-propelled weapons to repel Israeli attempts to breach the border

Han Kang of **South Korea** wins Nobel literature **prize 2024** Monitoring Desk STOCKHOLM: South

Korean author Han Kang won the 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature for "her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life", the award-giving body said on Thursday.

The prize is awarded by the Swedish Academy and is worth 11 million Swedish crowns (\$1.1 mil-

"She has a unique awareness of the connections between body and soul, the living and the dead, and in her poetic and experimental style has become an innovator in contemporary prose,' Anders Olsson, chairman of the Academy's Nobel Committee, said in a

on July 25, a violent shift in the power dynamics of the cartel founded by Zambada. One in eight girls and women raped or sexually assaulted

UNITED NATIONS: More than 370 million girls and women alive today, or one in every eight worldwide, experienced rape or sexual assault before the age of 18, the United Nations

vey of the problem. The report said that

while girls and women were worst affected, 240 to 310 million boys and men, or around 1 in 11, have experienced rape or sexual assault during childhood.

At UN, Pakistan demands probe

into 'theft and illicit sale' of

3.4 trillion Sales Tax evasion uncovered

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said here Thursday that there was about Rs 3.4 trillion Sales Tax evasion out of a total Rs 7 trillion tax theft in different sectors of

The minister was addressing a press conference along with the Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Rashid Mahmood Langrial, to discuss a study conducted by FBR on sales tax evasion. The study found that only 14% out of 300,000 manufacturers liable to register have done so, and many registered entities misreport turnover, claim excess input tax, and use fake invoices.

Sales Tax in Pakistan is collected through VAT mode, relying on businesses to collect tax from buyers. However, this trust has been breached on a massive scale, the minister said and

shared findings from five sectors including Iron and Steel, Cement, Beverages, Batteries, and Textiles. He said, malpractices

were widespread, with most entities claiming excess input tax. In iron and steel sector, 33 large businesses, representing over 50% of total sales, evaded sales tax by claiming Rs 29 billion in excess input tax, mainly through scrap metal and coal purchases

Likewise, in battery sector, six active cases, representing 99% of total sales, claimed Rs 11 billion in excess input tax, primarily through lead purchases while in cement sector, 19 active cases claimed Rs 18 billion in excess input tax

in FY23-24, mainly through coal purchases. In addition, beverages sector with 16 active cases, representing 99% of aerated water sales, claimed Rs 15 billion in excess input tax, mainly through sugar, plastics.



QUETTA: Chairman PAC and MPA Asghar Ali Tareen meeting with Provincial Minister for Finance Mir Shoaib Nosherwani.

Timely completion of uplift projects top priority: Lal Jan

Balochistan Secretary Communications and Works (C&W) Lal Jan Jafar on Thursday said that the timely completion of all ongoing development projects in the province and transparency of them are the first priority. He expressed these views while chairing a meeting related to the ongoing development projects of the building sector included in the convergence of B Areas into A Areas schemes. The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer Roads Quetta, Faiz Mohsin, Chief Engineer Building Khuzdar, Sibi, Quetta AIG Development Ahmed Sultan and other concerned officials.

concerned official said that the total number of schemes is 358 in which 230 schemes have been handed over to the concerned department after completion and the rest of the projects are in progress. Addressing the meet-

ing, Secretary C&W Lal Jan Jafar gave clear instructions that quality and transparency should be the first priority for all ongoing development projects in the province. He said that effective and strong infrastructure is the guarantee of development

Balochistan He said that the committee should submit its report to the Secretary's office within two weeks to clear any obstacles regard-Giving a detailed briefing to ing the remaining schemes the meeting on the ongoing and solve them and com-



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Dr. Rubaba Buledi addressing on ceremony to mark World Mental Health Day organized by Balochistahn Psychologist Association.

Birth registration would ensure legal status to rights of children, says Secretary LG&RD

Independent Report QUETTA: The Secretary Local Government and Rural Development, Abdul Rauf Baloch has stated that protection of rights of children as well as their well being and their safe childhood is their basic right, and their rights would have legal status with their birth registration.

He said that the provincial government is ensuring provision of birth registration in Basic Health Units (BHUs) at the lower level and in the educational institutions

He said that the government considers registration of birth of the children and acquirement of the legal documents its responsibility. In this regard, the strategy is being prepared

Independent Report

OUETTA: The Finance De-

partment, Government of

Balochistan has released the

funds amounting to Rs. 1.458

billion on account of the gran-

in-aid for further distribution

among 11 public sector uni-

versities of the province and

cial notification issued here

by Finance Department, the

grant-in-aid released as sec-

ond quarter out of remaining withheld budget of Rs. 4,375

million on account of the

gran-in-aid would be distrib-

Balochistan University

sub-campus

According to the offi-

for entry of the complete digital data with cooperation of NADRA.

He said that it is impossible to acquire national identity cards and other legal documents without birth registration. He said that birth registration is the basic and legal identity and right of every child, so patents must register their children well in time, adding he stressed

The Secretary Local Government was presiding over important meeting about increasing registration of births of children here on Thursday

The Secretary Board Local Government and Rural Development, Shujaat Ali, Admin Officer, Abbas Agha and other concerned high ups were in attendance.

Finance Department releases grant

of Rs. 1.458 billion for 11 public

sector universities of Balochistan

ince as per the new formula.

As per the notification, the

University of Balochistan

Quetta would get Rs. 322.46

million while its sub-campus

located in Kharan would get

Information Technology,

Engineering and Manage-

ment Sciences (BUITEMS)

Quetta would get Rs. 273.58

billion, Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University

(SBKWU) Quetta would get

The Lasbela Univer-

Rs. 143.36 million.

Rs. 10 million

Similarly. Balochistan University of

tor universities of the prov- and Marine Sciences

(LUAWMS)

reaffirm deepening economic cooperation ISLAMABAD (APP): Paerly nations further closer. kistan and Saudi Arabia on President Zardari reaf-Thursday reaffirmed their firmed Pakistan's deep respect for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques commitment to enhancing cooperation in key areas including economy, agricul-King Salman bin Abdulaziz ture, mining and informa-Al Saud, and reiterated

ISLAMABAD: A Saudi delegation led by Minister for Investment, Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih called on the President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia

In the meeting be-tween President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting Saudi delegation led by Saudi Minister for Investment Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih here at the Aiwane-Sadr, both sides underlined the need to work together to build a prosperous and peaceful future for the region as well as for the Islamic World, according to a President House press

tion technology.

Welcoming the delegation, the president emphasized the longstanding and time-tested relationship between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

the bilateral ties into a longterm strategic and economic partnership, underscoring that such collaboration would bring the two broth-

CEO says:

Govt committed

to provide

health aids to

people without

financial burden

QUETTA (APP): Chief

Executive Officer (CEO) of

Health Card (HC)

Balochistan Dr Samiullah

Kakar on Thursday said

that the government is com-

mitted to providing com-

prehensive health facilities

without putting any finan-

cial burden on the patients

ing on the occasion of his

visit to Khalifa Bin Zayed

Hospital Saryab Road and

Children Hospital Quetta.

also held separate meetings

with Chief Executive Officer

Sheikh Zayed Bin Hospital

Quetta, Dr Zulfiqar, CEO of

Children's Hospital Quetta.

Prof Dr Habibullah Babar,

and inspected the health

card counters established in

the hospital and asked the

patients and their families

bout their health and get

information about the card.

said that Health Card is run-

ning successfully in both

hospitals since the program.

Dr. Rubina

appointed

as acting VC of SBKWU

Independent Report

QUETTA: The senior edu

cationist Professor Dr.

Rubina Mushtaq has been

appointed as the acting

Vice Chancellor of Sardar

Bahadur Khan Women Uni-

versity (SBKWU) with

an official notification is-

fication, the Governor

Balochistan, who also hap-

pens to be the Chancellor

of University, has made the

appointment with prior

approval of the provincial

would get Rs. 156.85 mil-

lion while Bolan University

of Health care and Medical

Sciences Quetta would get

Rs. 86.84 million, Univer-

sity of Loralai would get Rs.

59.11 million, Mir Chakar

Khan Rind University Sibi

would get Rs. 61.53 mil-

lion, Balochistan University

of Engineering and Technol-

ogy, Khuzdar would get Rs.

132.05 million while Uni-

versity of Turbat and Uni-

versity of Makran at Panjgur would get Rs. 95.71

million and Rs. 47.39 mil-

sued here on Thursday.

This was announced in

According to the noti-

immediate effect.

Dr Samiullah Kakar

He said this while talk-

Dr Samiullah Kakar

Pakistan's unwavering commitment to stand in solidarity with Saudi

He also praised the visionary leadership of Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman Al The president also

highly commended the remarkable progress Saudi Arabia was making under Vision 2030 and expressed gratitude for the Kingdom's continued support to Pakistan during challenging times. The president said that he was happy to witness the progress and pros-perity of Saudi Arabia.

Engr. Khalid bin expressed Abdulaziz Al-Falih said Pakistan's desire to elevate that Saudi Arabia recognised the strategic geographical significance of Pakistan and its potential for natural resources and renewable en-

Saudi Arabia had planned to invest in the infrastructure and mining sectors of Pakistan and, in this regard, his delegation would sign 25 agreements in different sectors to boost economic cooperation between the two brotherly nations.

He expressed the hope that the signing of the agreements would mark a new era of economic cooperation between the two countries. Both sides emphasized to increase collaboration in the areas of agriculture and information technology.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Petroleum Senator Musadik Masood Malik, Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Minister for Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan, Minister for Interior Senator Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain and Senator Saleem Mandviwalla. Saudi Ambassador in Islamabad Nawaf Saeed Al Malki was also present in the meeting



OUETTA: A delegation meeting with Provincial Minister for Communication and Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa

CM, Dy Speaker BA grieved over death of

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Deputy Speaker Provincial Assembly, Ms. Ghazala Gola have expressed deep grief and sorrow over death of the senior politician and former Speaker National Assem-

bly, Elahi Bakhsh Soomro. In their separate condolence statements issued here on Thursday, the Chief Minister and Deputy Speaker Provincial Assembly paid rich tributes to Elahi Bakhsh Soomro on his political services in the

The Chief Minister

said that he is grieved over

National Assembly. He said that we share grief and sorrow of death

of late Soomro with his be-Similarly, Deputy Speaker of provincial assembly also paid tributes to

the late senior parliamen-She said that services of late Elahi Bakhsh

Soomro would always be remembered. They also prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into Its eternal peace and give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear the tragic loss of his death.



Development Zahoor Ahmed Buledi meeting with Provincial Minister for Health Bakht Muhammad

Foolproof security to be provided to teams: 5-day anti-polio campaign to begin from October 28 in Quetta district

Independent Report QUETTA: Five-day antipolio campaign is scheduled to begin from October 28 in Quetta district. Over 424,000 children below five years of age would be administered anti-polio vaccine in the campaign.

Foolproof security arrangements would be made for the immunization campaign for around 1600 police personnels would perform the security duties.

These details were shared during a meeting chaired by the Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Lt. (Retd) Saad bin Asad about the upcoming anti-polio campaign in Quetta on sues of security.

Health Officer Quetta,Dr Farhan, Dr Safdar, Assistant Commissioners as well as the concerned officials and representatives of the WHO and Unicef participated in the meeting.

The religious leaders especially participated in the meeting. The meeting was briefed about performance of the teams in previous polio immunisation campaign and coverage.

Addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner said that foolproof security arrangements would be made in the areas where there are the is-

nuclear materials in India NATIONS member states to take spe- rity Council demands that (APP): Pakistan has called on the UN Security Coun-

the "recurring" incidents of theft and illicit sale of nuclear and other radioacmaterials neighbouring India. A recent Indian media report said that police had arrested three smugglers in the western Gopalganj district of Bihar with a rare Californium stone which is in India in 2021 highly radioactive and

international market. 'The Security Council should be deeply concerned at the recurring incidents of theft and illicit sale of nuclear and other radioactive materials in our Eastern neighbour," Ambassador Munir Akram, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told a committee established by the 15-member Council pursuant to its resolution 1540 that requires UN

fetches a high price in the

cil to thoroughly investigate

proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

"In the latest incident last August 2024, a group was found in illegal possession of a large quantity of highly radioactive and toxic substance Californium, worth US\$ 100 million," he said, adding that three incidents of theft of Californium were reported also

These incidents, Ambassador Akram suggested the existence of a black market for sensitive materials.

At the same time, the Pakistani envoy said, 'While preventing nonstate actors from acquiring sensitive materials, rights of States to peaceful use of dual-use technologies must be safeguarded. Exportcontrol regimes should not actively, in the formulation serve as tools of coercion and discrimination."

resolution 1540, the Secu- under it.

cific steps to prevent the all States refrain from providing any form of support to non-state actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer, or use nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist pur-

The resolution requires all States to adopt and enforce appropriate laws to this effect as well as other effective measures to prevent the proliferation of these weapons and their means of delivery to nonstate actors, in particular for terrorist purposes.

In his remarks, Ambassador Akram told the committee that Pakistan, as a responsible nuclear weapons state, had participated and negotiation of UNSC's Resolution 1540, and Under the terms of implemented its obligations



Aurangzeb, along with Chairman FBR, Mr. Rashid Mahmood Langrial, addresses a press conference to brief about the study conducted by FBR regarding sales tax evasion across different sectors of the economy.

Old manual arms licenses to be computerized: Second phase of computerized arms license begins in Quetta, says Deputy Commissioner

Saad bin Asad maintains manual arms licenses to be computerized in two months; DG NADRA says Authority to extend full cooperation in computerization of arms licenses

Independent Report QUETTA: The Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Saad bin Asad has announced that the second phase of computerized arms licenses has been started in Quetta. In second phase, the old manual arms licenses would be computerized in two months, therefore, all the should get them computer-

Addressing a joint press conference along with the Director General NADRA, Muhammad Kashif Igbal at his office on Thursday, the Deputy Commissioner said that the

President arrives **Ashgabat** to attend **Intl Forum**

ASHGABAT President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday arrived here for a two-day visit to Turkmenistan.

Upon arrival at Ashgabat Airport, the President was welcomed by Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers/ Deputy Prime Minister of Γurkmenistan

Dr Rubaba expresses grief over death of Soomro

Independent Report QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi, expressed deep sorrow and grief over the passing of senior parliamentarian and former Speaker of the National Assembly, Elahi Bakhsh Soomro. In her condolence mes-

sage, she paid tribute to the late Soomro's national services, stating that his demise is a great loss to Pakistan's parliamentary Ďr. Rubaba Khan

Buledi further extended heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family during this time of grief and prayed that Allah grants the deceased forgiveness and a high place in Jannat-ul-Firdous.

old manual arms licenses are being computerized from today. He said that the system would not be ended, however, all the arms license holders should get their licenses computer-

ized, adding he stressed. fraudulent practice would censes. be ended with issuance of same arms license holders the computerized arms li-

creating awareness among general public about computerized arms licenses. In

this regard, the Computer-

ized Arms License Act has also been made, he added. Speaking on the occa-

Muhammad Kashif Iqbal said that NADRA is extending full cooperation to the administration regard-He said that the ing computerized arms li-

said that the NADRA would also provide guidance to the people He said that we are at every forum. Afterwards, an Application would also be introduced in this regard, the DG NADRA main-



QUETTA: Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Saad Bin Asad and Muhammad Kashif Iqbal, DG NADRA addressing a press conference, at DC Office in Quetta.

Crackdown starts against illegal rickshaws plying on roads of **Quetta city: Commissioner**

Independent Report QUETTA: The crackdown has been started against the illegal and unauthorized auto rickshaws plying on roads of Quetta city.

According to the Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Shafqaat, around 40,000 rickshaws are plying in Quetta city. However, licenses have been issued to only 8,000 out of these rick-

This means that remaining 32,000 rickshaws are not having licenses and thus illegal. He said that in view

of the situation, the action has been started against the unlicensed rickshaws in

The Commission also mentioned that Green Buses are the best transport facility for the commuters, however, there is a need to increase number of

Health Minister directs to provide medical facilities to sick girl

Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar took immediate notice on the special directive of Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti to virally on social media 4year-old Rehana Bibi who is suffering from congenital intestinal malignancy. According to press release issued here,

QUETTA (APP): Provincial Rihanna Bibi has already had one operation and now another is required but the girl's father could not afford to pay for it. On the appeal of the girl's father, Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar issued a directive that complete treatment of Rehana Bibi would be done at the government's expense.



OUETTA: Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani presides over the meeting regarding three dams.

sity of Agriculture, Water lion respectively. uted among the public sec-Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah printed at Independent Printers Querry Road Quetta and Published from Akbar News Agency, Airport Road, Gwadar Ph. 2842938 Fax: 2842941 Cell No. 0331-8383955 E.mail: dailyindisb@gmail.com. Quetta Office: Al Syed Building Jinnah road, Quetta, Phone 2842938 Fax: 2842941