

QUETTA VOICE

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Pinjra bridge swept away traffic between Sindh Balochistan suspended



Govt keeps petrol price unchanged, slashes HSD by Rs5

Thousands of Yatris participating in Hinglaj Mata Festival

Historic Hinglaj Mata festival begins in Lasbela district

Syed Ali Shah

QUETTA-The centuries-old Hinglaj Mata festival kicked off in Balochistan's Lasbela district on Saturday. Thousands of Hindu Yatris from across Pakistan and the world participated in the centuries-old religious festival.

"Pakistan welcomes Yatris from across the globe to celebrate this great event", Senator Danesh Kumar of the ruling Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) said. He said the Balochistan government provided all facilities and security to make sure better arrangements and peace on the eve of the historic meta.

Religious festival kicks off near Kund Malir

Men and women dressed in their traditional dresses participated in the historic festival near Pakistan's famous tourist point i.e. Kund Malir located on the coastal highway.

"Balochistan welcomes #Yatris, arriving to celebrate their great event of Hinglaj #Devi at Hinglaj Mata Mandir", Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili said. Mr. Uqaili took to the social media network Twitter and said that the Yatris were provided all kinds of support and facilities.

The Balochistan Tourism Department has taken various steps to promote the historic religious Hindu festival and facilitate the yatris.



Pakistan a beautiful place for minorities: Khalil Goerge

Balochistan's Minorities Affairs Minister, Khalil Goerge, and Secretary of Tourism, Manzoor Hussain arrived in the Lasbela district and reviewed the arrangements for the historic festival. "Pakistan is a free country for all minorities", Khalil Goerge stated. He said the Balochistan government was spending Rs.300 million on the provision of all basic facilities at the Hinglaj Mata temple.

CCTV cameras were also installed at the temple Hinglaj Mata is one of the five ancient Hindu temples across the globe.

Balochistan government has devised a comprehensive security strategy to ensure peace on the eve of the centuries-old Hinglaj Mata festival. Police have been deployed around the historic temple to ensure peace and facilitate the yatris visiting the temple.

"Police are also facilitating the yatris despite maintaining the order", Khalil Goerge stated. There are here to guide and support the yatris, he concluded.

Balochistan: Why not books, if food can be delivered at homes

Syed Ali Shah:

QUETTA- "Why not books, if food items can be delivered to homes" Shaikoor Baloch, a committed young student said. Mr. Baloch and other youngsters of Quetta's Sarhab Road area have established the "Readers Club" to provide free books to people in general and students in particular. Sitting in a mud and brick-walled room located in one of the congested poor neighborhoods of Quetta, Shaikoor Baloch, Amjad Baloch, and their colleagues are committed to promoting the book-reading culture.

Bicycle is economical, we cannot afford petrol: Amjad Baloch



"We deliver books by bicycle", Amjad Baloch, another student with a black-bushy beard said. Petrol prices are high, we cannot afford fuel and therefore, deliver books on the bicycle, he mentioned.

Reads Club has gathered around 700 books so far. Currently, the club has dropped over 400 books at various homes in various parts of Quetta and Balochistan province. "Our aim is to promote book reading culture and people are excited to read books", Shaikoor Baloch stated.

Volunteers delivering books at homes The number of volunteers for this campaign is around one dozen. Most of them are students and an education lover has temporarily handed over the mud and brick-walled room to ensure the success of the initiative.

No official encouragement or support so far

"No contact by any government official or any political party", Shaikoor Baloch stated. He said the Readers' Club was in dire need of support since the demand for reading books was growing and they were unable to meet in Balochistan. Various organizations have established libraries to promote book reading culture and open new vistas of knowledge and information for the students. Students have already established libraries in the Balochistan district of Kech, Gwadar, and other areas. Daily thousands of students from various parts of the province visit libraries.

Pinjra bridge swept away traffic between Sindh Balochistan suspended

Nashad Baloch

SIBI-Flash floods unleashed by torrential rains swept away the Pinjra bridge in the Bolan mountains. This caused the suspension of traffic between Sindh and Balochistan provinces.

"Teams are working to restore the traffic", Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqaili said. He said traffic has been stopped at Dhadar and Sibi since rains washed away the bridge.

Long queues of vehicles

Long queues of small and heavy vehicles were witnessed on both sides of the road because of the suspension of traffic. "We are here for



the last five hours and there is none to support us", Abdul Hakeem, a truck driver told the Daily Quetta Voice. Like Abdul Hakeem, hundreds of passengers were stuck in the Sibi and Dhadar areas of Balochistan.

Bridge was repaired on the instructions of PM last year

Floods had earlier swept away the Pinjra bridge last year. The bridge was temporarily constructed on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. However, recent rains again washed away the bridge linking Balochistan with Sindh and Punjab provinces.

The passengers stuck in various parts of the highway complained about the skyrocketing prices of food items. They demanded of the government to provide food and shelter and make sure of an immediate reopening of the highway.

Govt keeps petrol price unchanged, slashes HSD by Rs5

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Sunday announced that the price of petrol would remain unchanged at Rs282 per litre for the next fortnight while the price of high-speed diesel was reduced by Rs5 per litre to Rs287.

In a video address today, the finance minister announced that the prices of light-diesel oil and kerosene were being reduced by Rs10 to Rs164.68 and 176.07 per litre, respectively.

Dar said the finance ministry had tried its utmost to settle the matter of price changes in the nation's favour after the recommendation from the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority. He said the final price changes were settled after "many rounds" of discussion.



On April 15, Dar had announced an increase of Rs10 per litre in the price of petrol. The prices of diesel and light diesel oil had remained unchanged at

Rs293 and Rs174.68 but the price of kerosene was increased by Rs5.78 to Rs186.07.

From April 1-15, the daily consumption of petrol in the country was around 20,000 tonnes and that of high-speed diesel was 15,360 tonnes.

It is estimated that around Rs8,000 to 10,000 tonnes of high-speed diesel was being smuggled into Pakistan daily, while the demand for Iranian petrol was less due to its slightly lower quality and the overall reduction in petrol demand Web Des

Maheen Baloch striving to introduce Balochi handicrafts through social media

Chandni Kakar

QUETTA-"Social media is the best platform to introduce ancient Balochi handicrafts globally", Maheen Aslam Baloch, a student of Advanced Diploma of Arts at Quetta's Giris Degree College said. Maheen has been using various social media networks to promote and introduce Balochi handicrafts. Balochi handicrafts are famous on national and international levels. Traditional dress lovers never think about the prices rather they just find and buy Balochi handicrafts.

No more financial dependency: Maheen Says

Unlike the majority of the students, Maheen has no financial dependency on her family and parents in terms of paying for her educational expenses. She launched this online business to meet her growing expenditures and promote the ancient Baloch dress worldwide.

"I receive calls from various parts of the globe for this Balochi ancient



dress", the 21-year-old girl said. Maheen also participates in various festivals organized in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan for the promotion of arts.

Maheen Baloch belongs to Noshki district of Balochistan

She belongs to Noshki, the Balochistan province's Western district towards Iran and Afghanistan. In a strictly-veiled society, Maheen stepped forward and established her own online business. "We should have no educational and financial dependencies", Maheen Baloch said. She is every educated girl has the capacity to launch her own online business to earn money. "This is only about your intention and commitment", she mentioned. Regarding her difficulties, she said, "Initially, the problem that I confronted was from my family. As I belong to a typical Baloch family where business is done by women is not considered appreciable. Baloch women are new to it so this mindset has been a drawback in my journey. Secondly, approaching clients was a hectic job as the majority of the people don't consider buying expensive traditional attire from an online seller, she narrated.

Pakistan Air Force Successfully Evacuates Stranded Pakistanis from Sudan

Pakistan Air Force has successfully completed an evacuation mission from Sudan, which was being ravaged by an armed conflict since mid

April. The PAF C-130 aircraft has landed back in Khartoum carrying more stranded Pakistanis from Sudan raising the total number of fellow

countrymen being airlifted from the conflict-hit area to 35.

Following the directives of Air Chief Marshal Zaker Ul-Masri and Baber Siddiqui, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, the PAF transport fleet is undertaking these challenging evacuation missions with great professionalism with a view to swiftly repatriate the brothers and sisters to their homes. The successful conduct of evacuation missions by PAF aircraft have been highly lauded by the government and the people of Pakistan PR



stood at Rs8.32, which increased to Rs10.92 in 2020, jumping further to Rs20.02 in 2021. However, the EPS declined to Rs14.19 in 2022. These figures suggest that the company has gone through some fluctuations in its EPS.

Ferozsons revenue grows, but profit falls in 1HFY23: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Ferozsons Laboratories Limited (FEROZ) posted an increase of 31.5% and 13.3% in its revenue and gross profit in the first half (July-December) of the fiscal year 2022-23 compared to the same period of FY22, WealthPK reports.

The company's revenue increased to Rs4.6 billion in 1HFY23 from Rs3.5 billion over the corresponding period of FY22.

The gross profit increased to Rs1.9 billion in 1HFY23 from Rs1.7 billion in 1HFY22. The profit-before-taxation, however, dropped to Rs267 million in 1HFY23 from Rs490 million in 1HFY22, registering a negative growth of 45%.

Similarly, the profit-after-taxation fell 42% to Rs199 million in 1HFY23 from Rs346 million in 1HFY22.

The company's gross profit and net profit ratios were calculated at 42.19% and 4.32%, respectively.

Ferozsons Laboratories Limited is listed on the Pakistan Stock Exchange under the symbol of FEROZ in the pharmaceutical sector.

shows that FEROZ earned more net profits in the first quarter (July-September) of FY23 than in the second quarter (October-December).

FEROZ - 1QFY23 (July-Sept)

In the first quarter of FY23, FEROZ's sales increased by 35.04% and gross profit by 20.24% compared to the same period of FY22. During this quarter, FEROZ posted sales of Rs2.2 billion, gross profit of Rs993 million and gross profit ratio of 43.46%.

The company posted a net profit of Rs104 million and net profit ratio of 4.59% in 1QFY23.

FEROZ - 2QFY23 (Oct-Dec)

In the second quarter (October-December) of FY23, FEROZ's revenue increased by 28.18% and gross profit by 6.93% compared to the same period of FY22. The company posted revenue of Rs2.3 billion, gross profit of Rs549 million and gross profit ratio of 40.94% in 2QFY23. The company posted a net profit of Rs94 million and a net profit ratio of 4.06% in 2QFY23.

Earnings growth analysis 2019, the earnings per share (EPS) of the company

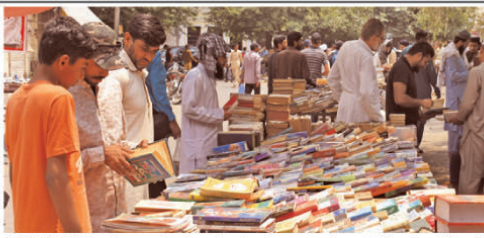
stood at Rs8.32, which increased to Rs10.92 in 2020, jumping further to Rs20.02 in 2021. However, the EPS declined to Rs14.19 in 2022. These figures suggest that the company has gone through some fluctuations in its EPS.

The company's EPS growth has been quite volatile over the past four years. In 2019, this growth stood at 63.39%, but in 2020, it plunged to 31.25%. However, in 2021, the EPS growth posted a significant increase of 83.33%. In 2022, however, it decreased to 29.12%.

Industry comparison

The competitors of Ferozsons Laboratories include Sanofi-Aventis Pakistan Limited, Citi Pharma Limited, AGP Limited and Highnoon Laboratories Limited.

Ferozsons Laboratories Limited has the largest market capitalisation of '718 billion followed by AGP Limited with '151 billion, Sanofi-Aventis '69 billion, FEROZ 'Rs61 billion and Citi Pharma '75.8 billion. The gross profit margin increased from 39.4% in 2019 to 45.06% in 2022, indicating the company has been able to control INP



LAHORE: People are buying books from venter at Service Line Road in Provincial Capital.

Government is committed to providing health and family planning services to the people, Abdullah Khan

QUETTA: The Deputy Country Representative UNFPA Pakistan, Ms. Latika Maskey Pradhan called on Abdullah Khan, Secretary Population Welfare Department, Balochistan. The meeting was held in continuation of the partnership between Population Department and UNFPA for improving reproductive Health and Family Planning services in

Balochistan. The Secretary Population said that the Government of Balochistan is committed to providing reproductive health and family planning services to the people in order to help reduce maternal, newborn, and child mortalities. He said that unless the continuing efforts of UNFPA are ensured, health indicators in Balochistan can not be

improved. The UNFPA Deputy Country Representative said that technical support to the Population Welfare Department Balochistan will be provided for improving coverage and services.

In the meeting, the Regional Head Family Planning Association of Pakistan, DG Population, and others were present. PR

Smart Disaster Prevention moot in Nanjing praises the strength of Sino-Pak ties

BEIJING: The first academic conference of China-Pakistan Belt and Road Initiatives (BRJ) Joint Laboratory on Smart Disaster Prevention of Major Infrastructures was held on Sunday in Nanjing, China, highlighting and praising the collaboration between the two countries.

The meeting was held in the presence of the Chinese Counselor of Science and Technology at the Embassy of Pakistan in China, Liu Ping, and the Economic Net that the conference discussed new technologies to be used to protect major infrastructures from natural disasters, and featured a number of experts from both

China and Pakistan. This event demonstrates the strength of the bilateral relations between China and Pakistan and their commitment to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). We hope that the joint laboratory can make more contributions to joint researches between China and Pakistan, the promotion and application of smart disaster prevention technologies in major infrastructure, and the joint training of high-end talents," he added. He further said that the Pakistani Embassy in China will further promote more Pakistani universities to join the China Pakistan Belt and Road Joint

Laboratory on Smart Disaster Prevention of Major Infrastructures for further deepening cooperation. It is worth mentioning that the China-Pakistan Belt and Road Initiatives (BRJ) Joint Laboratory on Smart Disaster Prevention of Major Infrastructures is the only joint laboratory of civil engineering discipline among three batches of '53 Belt and Road' joint laboratories. The fruitful sharing, discussion, and exchange at this academic committee meeting will certainly promote the construction and development of the joint laboratory and promote in-depth cooperation INP

Another 139 Pakistanis brought home from Sudan

ISLAMABAD: Another group of 139 Pakistani nationals from Sudan have returned home as people continue to flee the war-torn country.

A special plane carrying 139 passengers and 11 crew members landed at Jinnah International Airport in Karachi.

All of the passengers and crew members underwent tests for coronavirus at the airport.

In line with the directives of PAF's senior leadership, Pakistan Air Force transport aircraft are conducting air evacuation missions to bring back fellow countrymen who were stranded in war-torn Sudan.

The transport fleet of the Pakistan Air Force has always been at the forefront to respond to the call of the Nation during natural disasters and calamities.



PESHAWAR: Pakistani laborers included old man work at a phando vegetable market and brick factory ahead of International Labor Day

Pakistan's embassy in Sudan was in constant touch with the 1500 Pakistanis living in Sudan and was providing them with all possible facilities. The embassy in Sudan had formed a WhatsApp group to take in touch with Pakistanis who were advised to stay at home INP

IRSA releases 139,100 cucecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 139,100 cucecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 135,500 cucecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1441.71 feet and 43.71 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 31,100 cucecs while outflow as 45,000 cucecs.

The water level in River Jehlum at Mangla Dam was 1121.35 feet, which was 71.35 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 53,300 cucecs and 45,000 cucecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Rasul was recorded as 53,700, 14,900, 36,800 and 8,500 cucecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 26,100 cucecs of water released at Nowshera and 14,700 cucecs released from River Chenab at Marala INP

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Solar panels getting popular amid rising tariffs, recurring cuts: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Prolonged power outages and soaring electricity tariffs have forced an increased number of people in both urban and rural areas to go for solarization and rooftop solar systems against the increased power tariffs and recurring shutdowns, especially during the scorching days of summer.

Rooftop solar system has become the best option for domestic consumers and small-scale factories and industries.

Talking to WealthPK, Waqas Khalid, a solar panel retailer in Rawalpindi, said an increasing number of consumers are turning over to the solar energy.

He said the first and foremost benefit of solar energy is that it provides free energy after one-time investment. This can reduce electricity bills to zero and provide free INP

electricity for at least 15-20 years with one-time investment, he added.

Commenting on net-metering, Hanan Butt said this mechanism allows users to exchange surplus electricity with credit units that could be used during off-peak hours. She added that prices of solar panels, she said import restrictions and a LC issue have caused price fluctuation.

Some people are using the name of Balochistan Olympic Association for business interests, General Secretary BOA

QUETTA, Jan-e-Alam, General Secretary, Balochistan Cycling Association (BCA), has called on the authorities under to conduct 34th National Games through a fake body of Balochistan Olympic Association (BOA).

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he said that the present body of BOA does not exist in Balochistan, but he added that surprisingly the mega event of sports, that is, 34th National Games, 2023, supposed to be held in Balochistan in May, 2023, is being arranged through a fake body of Balochistan Olympic Association. He said that three persons namely Shair Muhammad Tarin, Sulaiman Ahmed and Gul Kakar, who are using the name of Balochistan Olympic

Association for business interests, have brought sports sector of Balochistan province to the verge of ruination, and has the fate of millions of rupees were being released unlawfully by the mentioned persons. He said that the income of BOA is zero. He added that in the presence of Shair Muhammad Tarin, Sulaiman Ahmed and Gul Kakar, sports sector in the province cannot not make headway, adding that take the example of Gul Kakar that besides the affairs of Balochistan Cycling Association illegally. He

said that a fake body of Balochistan Olympic Association is being patronised by Pakistan Olympic Association which has the fate of millions of rupees were being released unlawfully by the mentioned persons. He said that the income of BOA is zero. He added that in the presence of Shair Muhammad Tarin, Sulaiman Ahmed and Gul Kakar, sports sector in the province cannot not make headway, adding that take the example of Gul Kakar that besides the affairs of Balochistan Cycling Association illegally. He

Latest IT solutions to boost Pakistani industrial production: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: Industrial sector of Pakistan can boost its productivity and exports by using the latest information technology (IT) solutions, said Azam, Founder and CEO of Integration Xperts.

Large Scale Manufacturing sector in Pakistan is facing challenges including outdated technology, low productivity, insufficient resources, and lack of research and development. Azam told WealthPK.

He maintained that the use of IT can help address

all these challenges faced by the industry, including low productivity and quality issue.

Azam informed that IT can help the industry manage the entire process, from sourcing raw materials to delivering finished goods to the customers.

"The use of IT helps in managing the business cost and improving efficiency," Azam added.

In a rapidly evolving world, IT has taken centre stage in everyday life affecting work, family and social lives.

"While we have

already been using IT at our workplaces for a few decades, we have become heavily dependent on our computers and IT," he added.

Azam said this shift towards IT has expanded the industry exponentially over the last few years, offering opportunities for developing business and industry. He said that IT can help exporters search for suitable international markets.

"It can help exporters meet the demands of their customers in a timely and cost-effective manner,"

he added.

He said the use of IT in industrial production and exports would help the manufacturers in Pakistan to stay competitive and relevant in the global market. He said that IT can also help in maintaining quality control measures to ensure the products meet international standards.

"The use of various sensors to monitor the production process in real time and using data analysis to identify patterns and trends can indicate potential quality issues," IT Azam maintained.

Moreover, IT can enable manufacturers to sell their products directly to international customers using e-commerce, bypassing traditional distribution channels and reducing costs," he said.

He added that e-commerce platforms can also provide a suitable platform for companies to sense the market trends, demand and preferences. E-commerce can help the industry take the right decisions based on actual knowledge," he maintained. INP

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Deputy Director, Agriculture (On Farm Water Management) Chagn, invites sealed 'Tender/Bid' for execution of various development schemes under the project 'National Program For Improvement of Water Cuses & Water Storage Tanks Phase-I' PDR No. 28 (22/019/1957) from interested contractors/firm with the Bid Security @ 2% of estimated cost/offer rate in shape of Call Deposit (Refundable). The non-refundable Tender Fee to be deposited at the New Bank of Pakistan Branch situated in Balochistan Province through Green Bank Challen in a head of account (CO318) (verified by the District Accounts Officer), Bid Security 2%

S#	Name of Work/Task	E/Cost	T/Coef
1	Cons: Of Water Storage Tanks & Intst: of ROCC Pipeline 222204505883	47,665,756	2000%

Procurements shall be made under BPP Rules 2014. Eligibility of Bidders: Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan. Balochistan Registration is required. The bidder must submit a certificate of assignment of the Government nature of work. Turnover 33,000,000 in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-5 and above (Up to 65million/ Irrelevant Category And Specialized Code is CE04/0) (Irrigation & Flood Control Systems). CE100 (General Civil Engineering Works). Income Tax Registration certificate is required. The bidding firm must submit Income Tax Return of Taxable Year 2022. The Bidding Firm must submit Bid/ Tender/ Award Balance Sheet of FY 2019-20, 2020-21 & 2021-22. The bidding Firm must submit Company's latest Bank Current Statement or Bank Credit Line Certificate. Method of Procurement: Single Stage-Two Envelope Procedure. Bid Security: The bids must accompany Bid Security (2% in the form of Call Deposit or Bank Guarantee (Bank's certificate is mandatory) in the name of the undersigned as per mentioned terms. Tender Documents: The bidding documents can be downloaded from BPP's website. Bid Validity Period: 90 days Issuance of tender Documents: From the date of publication, during office hours of any working day. Last Date of bid submission: From the date of publication of NIT to 18 May 2023 03:00:00 AM during office hours on working days. Tender opening: The Technical Proposals will be opened on same day at 10:30 AM the office of the under-signed as per mentioned terms in bidding documents. Stamp Duty: The successful bidder must submit the Stamp Duty in shape of Demand Draft/ Cash Balance Sheet of FY 2019-20. Tender opening: The bids must be submitted at the office of the Deputy Director Agriculture (On Farm) Water Management/ Bid Evaluation Committee reserves the right (Delegated by the BPPRA Rules 2014) that either accept or reject any or all of the offers/quotations prior to the acceptance of a bid. a) The Contractor/Firm not qualifying the basic eligibility criteria will not be entertained in the bidding process. b) The bidder/ Firm should quote all the rates in EQOs otherwise the bidding would be consider as non-responsive. c) a per policy, the Procuring Agency reserves the right to increase or decrease a quantum of work. Contact No. +3337906494

PM satisfied with 27.5m metric tons bumper wheat production

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday attributed production of 27.5 million metric tons record bumper wheat crop in the country to government's efforts at timely decisions, provision of quality seed, uninterrupted supply of fertilizer and Kissan package.

Expressing his satisfaction over the country's produce which surpassed production during the previous ten years, the prime minister thanked Allah Almighty for the Blessing.

The prime minister chaired a meeting to review countrywide wheat procurement drive at the official level, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was informed about the production of wheat in the current year, its available stock, carry forward stocks and the procurement targets of the federal and provincial departments.

The meeting was attended by Minister for National Food Security Tariq Bashir Cheema, PM's Adviser Ahsan Khan Cheema, Special Assistant Tariq Bajwa, Caretaker Punjab Minister for Industries SM Tanveer and other senior authorities.

The prime minister congratulated the minister for food security and other relevant authorities and appreciated their steps.

He said that despite heavy rainfalls and floods in last year, achieving bumper wheat crop was the result of the incumbent government's timely decisions and the best governance.

Felicitating the nation on achieving the milestone, the prime minister said that the government was formulating a strategy for achieving enhanced production next year.

Due to mismanagement of the previous government, Pakistan became a wheat importing country, he said,

adding the farmers were made to wait in long lines for the whole day to get fertilizers.

He said that the provincial and federal departments should directly purchase wheat from farmers to provide them benefits. They should also increase the procurement targets of wheat, so as to ensure its uninterrupted supply throughout the year, he added.

The prime minister also directed for strict action against hoarders.

He also directed for provision of required resources through banks to get specified quantity of wheat.

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PESHAWAR: Pakistani laborers included old mans work at an phando vegetable market and brick factory ahead of International Labor Day in Peshawar.

Pakistan highly values deep rooted cordial ties with Iran: Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar has said that Pakistan highly regards its deep rooted cordial relations with Iran, based on age old common religious and cultural similarities.

Talking to the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan H.E. Seyed Mohammad Ali Hossieni who called on at Finance Division on Sunday, the minister warmly welcomed the Ambassador and extended compliments on successful completion of his tenure in Pakistan.

Ishaq Dar also highlighted economic outlook of the country in Pakistan. He said that despite economic challenges, the country is destined to progress and development. He also thanked the Ambassador's contributions in enhancing and cementing the decades old brotherly ties and fostering economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Appreciating the tenure of the Iranian Ambassador in Pakistan and the Finance Minister bid farewell to him and extended best wishes and good luck on behalf of people and government of Pakistan for his future assignments.

H.E. Seyed Mohammad Ali Hossieni also stressed upon the potential held by both countries for mutual cooperation and appreciated the cooperation and support of the present government in enhancing the bilateral relations in various fields. He also thanked the Finance Minister for his support and cooperation in strengthening economic and trade relations between the two countries during his tenure in Pakistan.

The Ambassador expressed good memories of his stay in Pakistan and support of the people and government of Pakistan in shaping his tenure successful INP.

All set to observe International Labour Day in AJK on Today

MIRPUR: Like the rest of the world, all is set by the labourers to observe the International Labour Day across Azad Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, 1st May to pay rich tributes to those workers and labourers who laid down their lives for the achievement of their rights on this day 136 years ago in Chicago city of the United States of America.

The International Labour Day is observed globally on May 1 every year. The day spreads awareness about the workers' rights and also recognizes their accomplishments. The Labour Day or May Day has stories of different origins in different countries. But the common thing is that the Day focuses on the achievements and contributions of workers. It spreads awareness about the rights and opportunities of every worker which should gear up for their welfare and betterment. Working class observe 1st May every year the world over to commemorate the supreme sacrifices of the labourers who laid down their lives while struggling for the achievement of the rights of their colleagues in Chicago, besides paying tributes to them.

Special programs to commemorate and increase the awareness have been chalked out by the representatives of various labor organizations. Unveiling the May Day programmes in AJK, a spokesperson of the laborers organizations told APP here on Sunday that like all previous years, the May Day will be observed across the AJK and across the LoC by the laborers. The day will be hosted jointly with other labor organizations and personalities belonging to the working class in all ten districts of AJK as well as tribal headquarters. INP

Drop in Current Account Deficit at cost of economic growth not acceptable: Chairman BMP

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Businessmen Panel (BMP) and former president FPCCI Mian Anjum Nisar has said that the country has registered a current account surplus of \$654 million in March 2023, first time after Nov 2020 and drop in Current Account Deficit at the cost of economic growth not acceptable as there is no benefit of economic stability at cost of halt in industrial growth.

Mian Anjum Nisar noted that a statement issued on here on Sunday, the Chairman BMP said that the current account deficit reduction should be based on growth in exports, resulting into expansion in industrial production as well as employment generation.

Nisar said that the current account deficit declined to \$3.4 billion dollars Jul-Mar 2023, against a deficit of \$13 billion of same period but this macroeconomic stability has been achieved at the cost of

Drop in Current Account Deficit at cost of economic growth not acceptable: Chairman BMP

halt in industrial growth and import restrictions which is not acceptable. Unfortunately the present turnaround is largely due to the fall in imports that has accompanied by sharp slowdown in growth after the currency devaluation and gradual increase in interest rates, which sent shockwaves through the economy.

Nisar said that the shift from deficit into surplus should have been due to recovery in exports and increase in domestic demand. He said that the support from policies and administrative initiatives of the government is not the fact, unfortunately the fact is that the massive decline in imports has slowed down overall economic activities, ultimately hitting the GDP growth rate, the business leader said adding the drop in current account deficit is a big achievement as a sign of macroeconomic stability but it is never beneficial for industrial INP.

Khawaja Asif castigates ex-CJP Saqib Nisar over audio leaks

SIALKOT: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Sunday lambasted the former chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar over the audio leaks, saying that recordings have exposed the former judge's enmity towards the incumbent Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif.

Addressing a press conference in Sialkot, the defence minister noted that there was no greater honor than the chief justice for the Supreme Court.

Former chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar went too far in his enmity with Nawaz Sharif, he said, lambasting the former justice over recent audio leaks. Nisar admitted on TV about his son's recent audio leak, the minister said.

Khawaja Asif further said that the leaks have not only exposed the former chief justice but also Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership, adding that staying away from power is setting up Iran from within.

The federal minister pointed out that the judiciary's job was to make decisions as per the Constitution and the law, not to hold a microphone over 51,000 cases as it is still pending in Supreme Court, he said, adding people in Pakistan were still waiting for justice INP.

FPCCI to sign trade accords with Ethiopian counterpart

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry will sign agreements with its counterpart from the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) in May to that huge potential for business, trade and investment in diverse sectors of their economies.

Ethiopia and Pakistan had minimal trade despite such a huge potential, he said while expressing the hope for a significant boost in bilateral trade in the coming months especially in the backdrop of a recent visit of a big business delegation from Pakistan. He said the Pakistani business community was keen to increase bilateral trade between the two countries since the ongoing development in Ethiopia's diverse economic sectors has really impressed them during their visit to the FPCCI city Addis Ababa. FPCCI Senior Vice President Muhammad Saleem Chawla assured the ambassador of their full support in organizing INP.

Pakistan's first two monkeypox patients recover from disease

ISLAMABAD: Federal Ministry of Health said Sunday that the first two monkeypox patients in Pakistan last week have recovered from the virus. The person, who was on the same flight and quarantined at his home, was said to be in a stable condition after testing negative INP.

Meanwhile, the other person, who was on the same flight and quarantined at his home, was said to be in a stable condition after testing negative INP.

RAWALPINDIA labor is pulling loaded hand cart at City Sadr Road to earn daily wages for the livelihood of his family, unaware from the International Labor Day,

RAWALPINDIA: A laborer was seen pushing a heavily loaded hand cart along City Sadr Road in Rawalpindi, unaware that it was International Labor Day. The man, who appeared to be struggling under the weight of the cart, was a daily wage earner supporting his family. The image highlights the harsh working conditions and the unawareness of labor rights among some workers in the region.

Provincial govts directed to complete field verification of population, housing census by May 15

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal has directed the provincial governments to complete the field verification/coverage of 7th Population and Housing Census by May 15, 2023. He said that the census is a critical exercise as it provides the base data for policy-making and development planning. He directed the provincial governments to ensure that the census is conducted in a fair, transparent, and unbiased manner. He also directed the provincial governments to ensure that the census is conducted in a timely and efficient manner. He said that the census is a critical exercise as it provides the base data for policy-making and development planning. He directed the provincial governments to ensure that the census is conducted in a fair, transparent, and unbiased manner. He also directed the provincial governments to ensure that the census is conducted in a timely and efficient manner.

He issued the directives while chairing a follow up meeting with provincial chief secretaries held here on Sunday in pursuance of the 12th meeting of the Census Monitoring Committee. Demographers and Political parties, to discuss the nomenclature for completion of fieldwork of the 7th Population and Housing Census, where gaps have already been highlighted using the digital systems architected by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics for the first-ever digital census.

He stressed that special efforts should be made in urban areas of Punjab, Sindh and KP and ICT to counter-balance the repeated exercises of the traditional form data-driven policy must be adopted to conclude the field enumeration in all provinces. Strict monitoring of fieldwork and daily sharing of progress with the headquarters for onward submission by the Minister PD & SI, must be adopted to fill the gaps and successfully concluding this exercise.

The Minister Planning and Development further shared that along with under-enumeration, the digital system has also identified over-counting and cases where census data is being manipulated or tampered which has resulted in abnormal trends. He strongly directed concerned teams to address such cases as they are a matter of national policy. He also once again stressed on the completion of the exercise on 15th May, 2023 for timely handing over data to the Election Commission of Pakistan.

Secretary PD & SI, Syed Zafar Ali Shah informed Pakistan Bureau of Statistics and stakeholders to redouble their efforts to complete the exercise till 15th May, 2023 and adopt a strict policy in all blocks throughout the country to complete the exercise.

Chief Census Commissioner, Dr. Naem uz Zafar, presented the latest updates and recommendations for the completion of the exercise within the stipulated time. He requested that for addressing gaps and timely completion of exercise the support of provincial governments in monitoring and deep surveying of field exercise, along with the support of law and order agencies for provision of security to enumerators is critical. He further added that there is a need to make efforts to ensure full coverage of restricted areas, collective residences and gated communities. Daily progress sharing with PBS head office and sharing of under coverage and no coverage complaints by civil society and stakeholders to respective provincial governments will play an effective role in quick decision-making and monitoring the gigantic activity of field enumeration. INP

Haji pilgrims must strictly follow Saudi Arabia laws: Iqar Ahmad

LAHORE: Haji Iqar Ahmad said that pilgrims must strictly follow Saudi Arabia laws. He said that the pilgrims should be aware of the Saudi laws and regulations and should strictly follow them. He said that the pilgrims should be aware of the Saudi laws and regulations and should strictly follow them. He said that the pilgrims should be aware of the Saudi laws and regulations and should strictly follow them.

SCC hails govt's decision of importing oil from Russia

ISLAMABAD: The President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ifthikhar Ali Malik Sunday hailed government's decision to import crude oil from Russia in currencies of friendly countries as mutually agreed by the two countries. He said that the decision is a win-win for both countries and will help in strengthening economic cooperation and bilateral relations. He said that the decision is a win-win for both countries and will help in strengthening economic cooperation and bilateral relations.

Sugar mills reject prices fixed by govt

LAHORE: The Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) has rejected the ex-manufacture and retail price of sugar fixed by the federal government. The association said that the fixed prices are not fair and will lead to economic losses for the mills. The association said that the fixed prices are not fair and will lead to economic losses for the mills.

IMF delaying loans to weaken Pakistan, CPEC its actual target: Chairman PEW

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) Brig (ret'd) Aslam Khan has said that International Monetary Fund (IMF) is delaying loans to weaken Pakistan economically and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is its actual target. He said that the IMF is delaying loans to weaken Pakistan economically and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is its actual target.

First shaft penstock successfully installed at Suki Kinari HPP

ISLAMABAD: In another major development at the Suki Kinari Hydropower Project (SKHPP), a team of Chinese engineers has successfully installed the first shaft penstock, which will provide a solid foundation for the water storage and power generation of the hydropower station. Penstocks are pressure vessels that carry water from the source to the turbine for power INP.

Energy-efficient fans to help Pakistan save Rs700bn annually: WealthPK

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani government's initiative to ban the manufacture and use of traditional fans and electricity consumption fans is expected to help save \$8,000 million and Rs700 billion per annum. The initiative is being implemented by the government. The initiative is being implemented by the government.

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